

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: April 7, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3B

STAFF: Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator

REQUEST: **For Possible Action:** To support the efforts of the Eagle Valley Trails Committee regarding their work with the community and land management agencies to improve the trail systems within the Eagle Valley area.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The Eagle Valley Trail Committee (EVTC) is a community-based non-formal group primarily focused on providing non-motorized passive recreation opportunities for the general public.

The Committee is made up primarily of community members from different user groups: runners, equestrians, mountain bikers, hikers, and walkers. These members represent local non-profits and social groups such as Friends of Silver Saddle, Muscle Powered, Tahoe Mountain Milers, Sierra Front Recreation Council, and High Desert Horseman. The motorized members are primarily represented by the Pine Nut Mountain Trails Association.

The Committee is working on a Community Trail Inventory, Review, and Evaluation Project which seeks to improve the range of opportunities for residents and visitors by identifying non-motorized routes for greater trail connectivity, while supporting the existing motorized trail elements. The Committee will assess needs for the non-motorized trails and trailheads including signage, trail re-alignment, maintenance, and other improvements.

Currently, the Committee is meeting with various land management agencies to introduce the project and identify comments, questions, and concerns.

Mr. Mark Kimbrough will present the project updates.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to support the efforts of the Eagle Valley Trails Committee regarding their work with the community and land management agencies to improve the trail systems within the Eagle Valley area.



Eagle Valley Trail Committee

Community Trail
Inventory, Review and Evaluation
Project



Eagle Valley Trail Committee [EVTC]

The Eagle Valley Trail Committee is a community-based non-formal group primarily focused on providing non-motorized passive recreation opportunities for the general public. The Committee also has collaborative representation from the motorized community to insure open discussion on areas in Eagle Valley that have both motorized and non-motorized recreational activities. In addition to attending regular meetings, Trails Committee members work together for community outreach and research.

The Committee is made up primarily of community members from different user groups: runners, equestrians, mountain bikers, hikers and walkers. These members represent local non-profits and social groups such as Friends of Silver Saddle, Muscle Powered, Tahoe Mountain Milers, Sierra Front Recreation Council, and High Desert Horseman. The motorized members are primarily represented by the Pine Nut Mountain Trails Association. The Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department also is an active supporting member of this Committee. Membership is voluntary.

The Vision

A trail network that primarily provides passive healthy recreation opportunities, including collaboration with the motorized community, that connects the Carson City community with the surrounding land managed by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Parks, Carson City and other local entities.

The Mission

To work with the community and land management agencies to implement a trail system inventory, review and analysis;

AND

To work with the community and the appropriate land management agencies to implement agency approved plans to improve the trail systems within the Eagle Valley area.

The EVTC Community Trail Inventory, Review and Evaluation Project

There are many amazing trails in the Eagle Valley area. The Eagle Valley Trail Committee Community Trail Inventory, Review and Evaluation Project seeks to improve the range of opportunities for residents and visitors by identifying non-motorized routes for greater trail connectivity, while supporting the existing motorized trail elements. The Committee will assess needs for the non-motorized trails and trailheads including signage, trail re-alignment, maintenance and other improvements.

A current concern for many agencies is that there are many single track trails in the urban interface that have been developed by the public without permits that are not considered "system" trails by the agencies. These trails will be evaluated in this project. The trail evaluations, review and inventory will also address access for interconnection to the adjacent US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management or Nevada State Park public lands. It is important to note that motorized trails and trailheads will not be evaluated with this planning effort.

Trail Project Study Area

The Project area include the area within these boundaries:

The Tahoe Rim Trail to the West; the BLM lands primary electric transmission line to the East; Washoe Lake State Park to the North and the Carson River to the South.

Project Primary Objectives

The project primary objectives are:

- ☞ To respect private property rights
- ☞ To inventory, review and evaluate the non-motorized trails in the study area
- ☞ To advocate for the adoption and creation of a network of sustainable system trails
- ☞ To make recommendations to land management agencies to improve the trail system
- ☞ To work with the agencies to implement committee recommendations as required by NEPA
- ☞ To work with the agencies in support of the maintenance of the trails
- ☞ To collaborate with the motorized recreation community and support their efforts identified during consensus approved planning.
- ☞ To improve quality of life and enhance tourism in the community

The project findings will help the community to begin to work toward the goals and vision. The implementation of the trail recommendations will be contingent upon attracting outside funding sources such as grants and donations, motivating local volunteers, and building stakeholder consensus. Many of the existing trails may just need some minimal work to bring up to standard or just signage to be a part of the proposed trail system. Creating the entire trail network will be gradual and incremental. Most importantly, the process will involve the input of local citizens, businesses, and landowners.

Action Plan

Mapping

Inventory and map the study area engaging the community volunteers as much as possible.

- ☞ The DRAFT map will include proposed new trails and any necessary re-alignments where the existing trails are in very poor repair or do not meet agency trail specifications.
- ☞ The DRAFT map will only include trails on public properties unless a specific trail intrudes on private property where the owner supports that trail or might be open to an agreement for its use
- ☞ The DRAFT map will include existing public land access points and trailheads in the community and identify land ownership.
- ☞ Two track trails [roads] will be identified and labeled appropriately for motorized, non-motorized or multi use for both user groups.

Agency Coordination

The Trail Committee will communicate the project action plan and objectives to the land management agencies and invite them to participate with the process.

Stakeholder and public review

- The Committee will hold at least two public sessions, after review by the land management agencies, for community input to the DRAFT map with Committee recommendations for the trail system.
- Presentations will be made to the appropriate Carson City boards/committees.
- Other stakeholder presentations may be made by the Committee as needed.
- The Committee will gather community ideas and feedback on the DRAFT map.
- The comments received will be reviewed and documented.
- The land management agencies will be given the opportunity to review the survey form to be used by the Committee for public comments.

Project Recommendations

The findings from the project will be presented and discussed with the land management agencies. The presentation will include recommendations to the agencies in order to meet the project's mission and vision. As stated in the objectives, the Committee will support the agency, as needed, to implement the plan.

The recommendations will include but are not be limited to:

- Proposed new trail alignments
- Proposed new trailheads and/or amenities
- Proposed existing trails that are not considered "system trails" to be adopted by the agencies. The Committee will support the agency in the process to bring the trails into the authorized trail system.
- DRAFT recommended standards for the community for trails, trailheads and signage within the agency guidelines
- Use several guidelines for non-motorized trail user recommendations:
 - Circulation
 - Trail sustainability
 - Geologic conditions
 - Impacts to the land management agencies operations
 - Safety
 - Soils
 - Impacts to the resources
- A volunteer trail maintenance plan for the agencies
- DRAFT consensus approved recommendations for the motorized elements of the trail plan