

**City of Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: January 28, 2014

Agenda Date Requested: February 6, 2014

Time Requested: Consent

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Parks and Recreation Department – Open Space Division

Subject Title: For possible action to approve a recommendation from the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee naming the open space acquisition located along the Carson River and west of the Deer Run Road bridge, APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92, as Morgan Mill Preserve Open Space.

Staff Summary: During the Open Space Advisory Committee meeting on December 16, 2013, the Committee approved a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to name the open space acquisitions as Morgan Mill Preserve Open Space. This recommendation was made on a 7-0 motion.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

- ☐ Resolution ☐ Ordinance
☒ Formal Action/Motion ☐ Other (Specify)

Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Recommended Board Action: I move to approve a recommendation from the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee naming the open space acquisition located along the Carson River and west of the Deer Run Road bridge, APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92, as Morgan Mill Preserve Open Space.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: In May 2013, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2013-R-19 which established the policies and procedures for the naming of open space properties. Staff has proceeded with the process and is bringing the next nominations forward. On November 2, the Nevada Appeal published a short article notifying the public that the Open Space Program was receiving proposals for the naming of two open space properties. Staff also announced the application period at the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 21, 2013 and posted a notice on the Parks and Recreation Department Facebook page (viewed by 267 people, as of December 2, 2013). One nomination was submitted from Open Space Advisory Committee Member Margie Evans and one nomination was submitted by staff. The Open Space Advisory Committee considered the nominations during their regularly scheduled meeting on December 16, 2013. Through motion and a vote of 7-0, the Committee recommended naming the open space acquisition as Morgan Mill Preserve Open Space. In keeping with the policies for the naming of open space properties, Morgan Mill refers to the first name applied to the historic stamp mill operated on/near the north parcel during the Comstock mining era.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation:

- Carson City Municipal Code 13.06.060
- Carson City Resolution No. 2013-R-19

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Explanation of Impact: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Alternatives:

1. Deny the recommendation of the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee and select another name for the park.
2. Deny the recommendation of the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee and direct the Commission to consider another name.

Supporting Material:

- Resolution No. 2013-R-19
- Naming Packet / Property Information
- Historic Photo
- Open Space Advisory Committee, December 16, 2013, Staff Report, Agenda Item 3C

Prepared By: *A. Bollinger* Date: 1/28/2014
Ann Bollinger, Natural Resource Specialist

Reviewed By: *R. Moellendorf* Date: 1/28/14
Roger Moellendorf, Parks & Recreation Director

Robert S. Marena Date: 1/28/14
for Marena Works, Interim City Manager

[Signature] Date: 1/28/14
District Attorney's Office

[Signature] Date: 1/28/14
Finance Department

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____ 1: _____ Aye/Nay

2: _____

(Vote Recorded By)

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-R-19

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE NAMING OF OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES WITHIN CARSON CITY

WHEREAS, the Open Space Program was created through a voter-approved ballot initiative in 1996, often referred to as Question 18; and

WHEREAS, Carson City Charter Provision 2.230 empowers the Board of Supervisors to regulate public parks, buildings, grounds and rights-of-way within the City; and

WHEREAS, Carson City Charter Provision 8A.030 defines open space as real property that is undeveloped or partially developed natural landscape, including, but not limited to, ridges, stream corridors, natural shorelines, scenic areas, watershed areas, viewsheds, agricultural or other land devoted exclusively to open-space use, conservation easements and easements devoted or connecting to open-space use; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors desires to establish policies and procedures for the naming of the open space properties within Carson City;

NOW, THEREFORE, this Board hereby resolves to adopt the following:

POLICIES

1. Names should provide some form of individual identity to the property or specific part of any owned property.
2. If possible, names should be related to the unique natural landscape, geographic or topographic features, indigenous plants or wildlife, cultural or historical heritage.
3. The naming for individuals and/or families should be reserved as an incentive towards significant donations of land and/or endowments. It is encouraged that any recommended name be designated posthumously.
4. Individuals and organizations should be encouraged to submit nominations to the Parks and Recreation Department.
5. Due to their familiarity with the individual properties, committee members and staff may submit nominations.

PROCEDURES

1. After the City has acquired title to the property, the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible to solicit nominations.
2. The Parks and Recreation Department will publicize the open period including the deadline for nominations.
3. A formal nomination and justification must be submitted, in writing, to the Parks and Recreation Department.
4. The Parks and Recreation Department staff will review and research the nomination(s). Staff will prepare a written summary for the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC).
5. The Open Space Advisory Committee will review the nomination(s) for consideration at a regularly scheduled meeting. Upon OSAC recommendation, Parks and Recreation Department staff will forward to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
6. Upon Board of Supervisors' approval, the name shall be identified on open space signage and materials.

Upon motion by Supervisor John McKenna, seconded by Supervisor Brad Bonkowski, the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted this 2nd day of May, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor John McKenna
Supervisor Brad Bonkowski
Supervisor Karen Abowd
Supervisor Jim Shirk
Mayor Robert Crowell

NAYS: None.

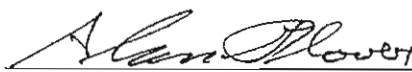
ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.



ROBERT L. CROWELL, Mayor

ATTEST:

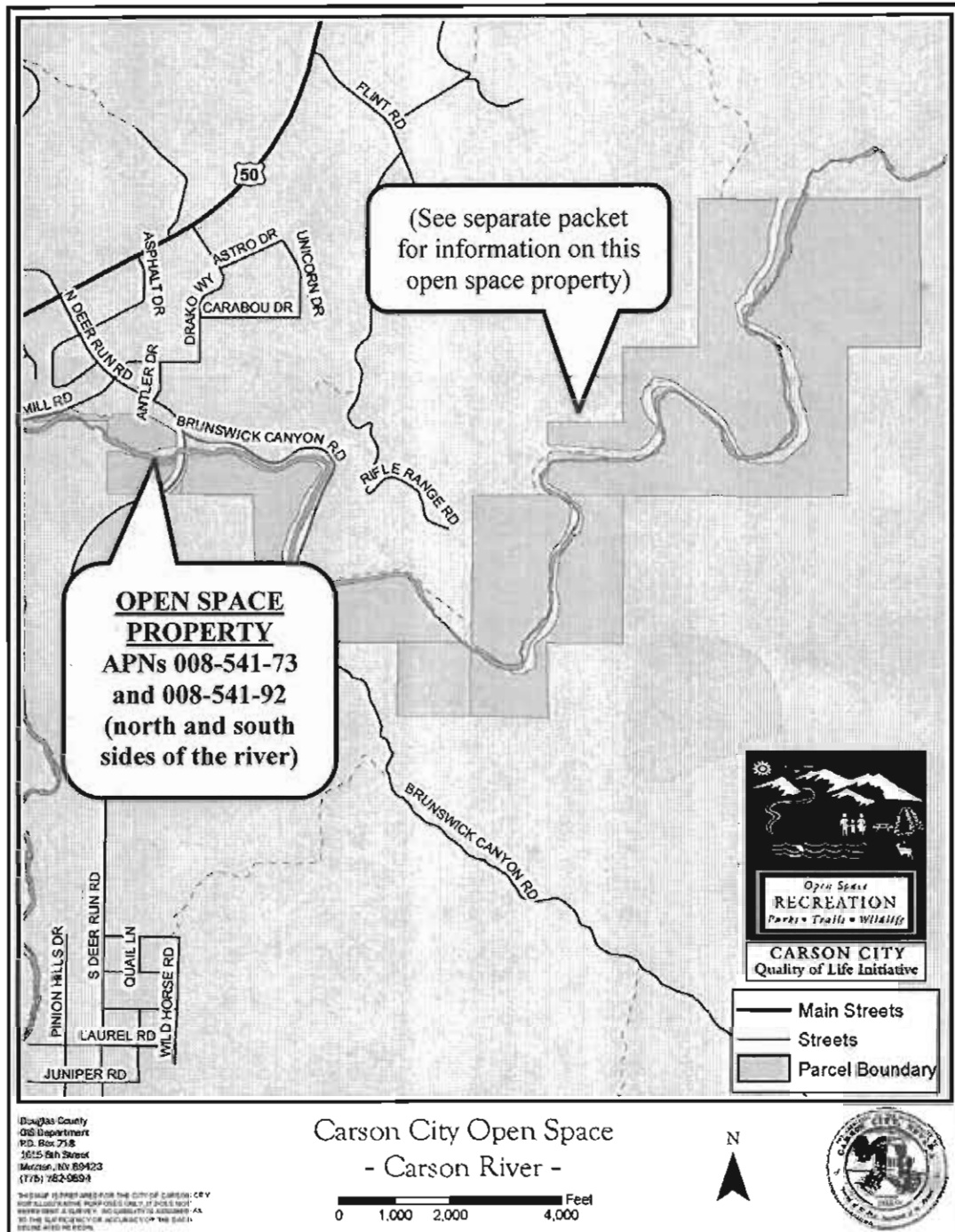


ALAN GLOVER, Clerk - Recorder

Carson City Open Space

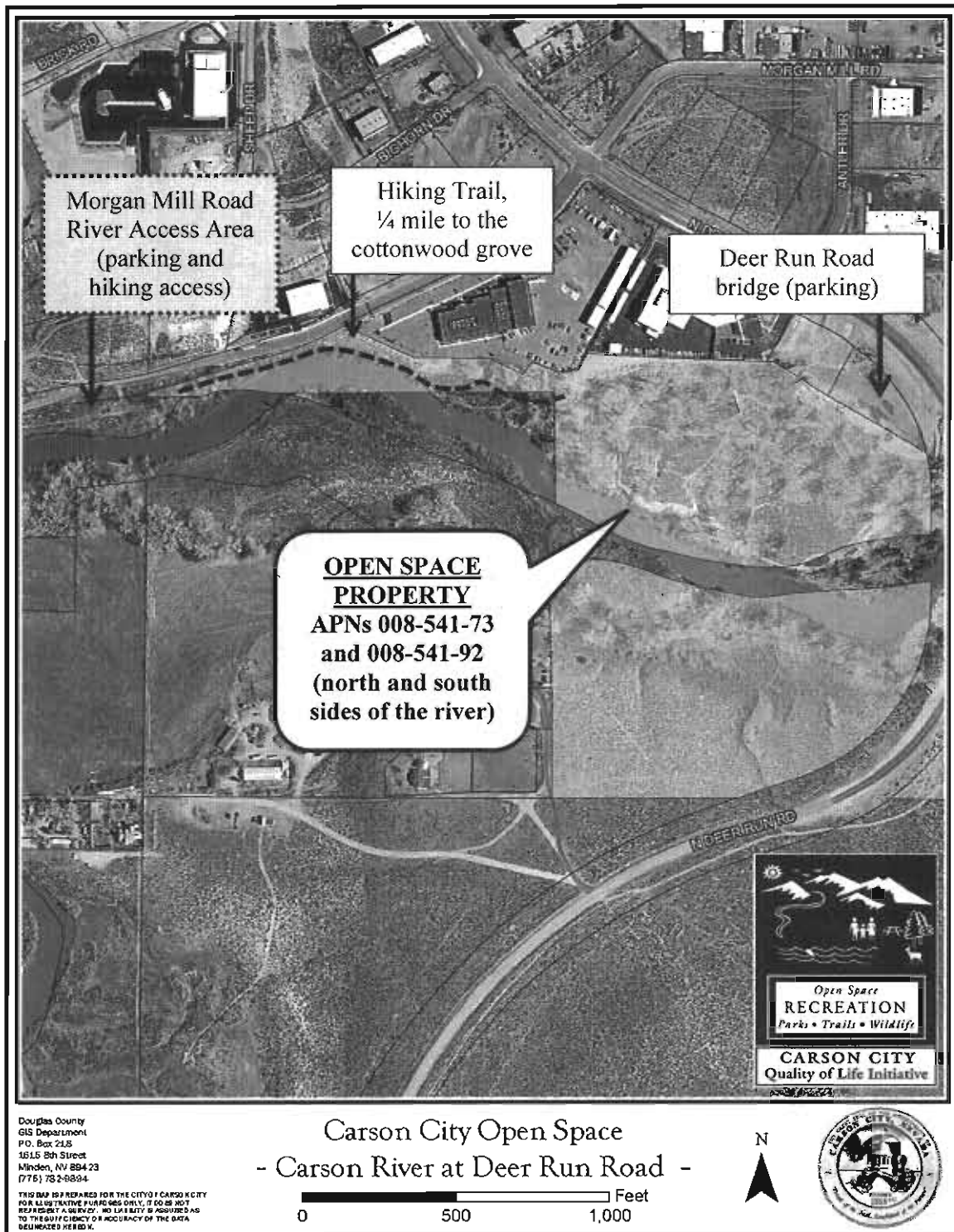
APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92, west of Deer Run Road bridge

32 acres



Carson City Open Space

APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92, west of Deer Run Road bridge



Carson City Open Space
APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92, west of Deer Run Road bridge

Location

There are two parcels under consideration within this one nomination. The subject property(ies) is located on the east side of Carson City, along the Carson River. The property is bordered to the east by Deer Run Road; to the north by federal offices (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Geological Survey) and vacant industrial parcels; to the west by the Carson City Morgan Mill Road River Access Area; and to the south by public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Access

From the Deer Run Road bridge, the subject property can be seen on the northwest and southwest corners. The large cottonwood grove on the northwest corner is the most accessible and popular area. To access this parcel, visitors can park at the Carson City Morgan Mill Road River Access Area and hike for ¼ mile towards the east on a new single-track trail leading through the willows to the cottonwood grove. Alternatively, visitors may park in the vacant parcels on Deer Run Road and hike down the service road. Numerous unmarked trails (old roads) traverse the parcel.

The parcel located on the southwest corner of the bridge currently does not offer road or trail access.

Neither parcel is open to public vehicular access.

Background

Purchase Date: January 2011
Purchased From: John C. Serpa / Sierra Clouds LLC
Funding Source: 1) Carson City Open Space, Quality of Life Sales and Use Tax Funds
2) Nevada Division of State Lands, Question 1 Program

Physical Characteristics

Historic / Cultural: Beginning just upriver, this section of the Carson River played a very prominent role during the mining days of the Comstock Era. After ore was mined in Virginia City, it was transferred to any of the great number of stamp mills located along the river. The Carson River provided a water source which was necessary in the ore extraction process. This property(ies) is within the vicinity of the historic Morgan Mill, but no artifacts seem to remain.

The Morgan Mill, afterwards known as the Yellow Jacket, on the Carson River, at Empire City, was built as a custom-mill, with 20 stamps, by James Morgan in 1864. It was sold to the Yellow Jacket Mining Company in 1865, and enlarged to 40 stamps, 20 of which weighed 1050 pounds each. In 1871, it passed into the hands of the Nevada Mill Company who worked ores for this company until 1875, when it was purchased by the Pacific Mill Company. (Amalgamation at the Comstock Lode, Nevada. 1890)

As a consequence of the ore extraction process and widespread occurrence of mercury, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared much of this area as a federally listed Superfund site in August 1990. Referred to as the Carson River Mercury Superfund Site, the primary concerns reside in contaminated soils and waterways at or near former mill sites. Along the Carson River, the site extends from the Empire Ranch Golf Course in Carson City and continues downstream for 50 miles to the Lahontan Valley. This particular site has not been tested by the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department for contaminants.

Landform / scenic quality: Located on the north and south sides of the Carson River, both parcels lie within the floodway and the floodplain. The northern parcel is fairly level. The southern parcel contains a slope and an upper bench above the floodplain. There is not much variation in the elevation profile, generally ranging from 4,600' to 4,640'.

Plant communities: Riparian species are the dominant vegetation type. Mature cottonwoods are common throughout the parcels whereas coyote willow is common along the river's edge and Wood's rose is found in a few pockets. Sagebrush is located in the upper, drier areas.

Water Resources: The Carson River flows between the two subject parcels.

Wildlife: The Carson River and diverse plant communities should provide habitat for many species of wildlife. The Carson River Master Plan, dated 1996, identifies fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds throughout the river corridor, but not specific to this property.

Photo 1: Overview of the property, looking east from Morgan Mill Road. From the Morgan Mill Road River Access Area, visitors can hike for ¼ mile along a single-track trail to the cottonwoods.



Photo 2: An alternative access is from Deer Run Road. Visitors may park in the vacant industrial parcels and hike down the service road.



Photo 3: From the Deer Run Road bridge, one parcel can be seen towards the southwest. This parcel currently does not offer road or trail access.



Source: <http://wnhpc.com/details/watkins1079>



THE MORGAN MILL—CARSON RIVER.

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 16, 2013

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3C

STAFF: Ann Bollinger, Natural Resource Specialist

REQUEST: For Possible Action: To recommend to the Board of Supervisors a name for the open space acquisition APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92 west of Deer Run Road bridge.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: On November 2, 2013, the Nevada Appeal published a short article notifying the public that Carson City was receiving proposals for the naming of two open space properties (Exhibit A). Staff also posted a notice on the Parks and Recreation Department Facebook page (viewed by 267 people, as of December 2, 2013). The deadline set by our department for receiving proposals was 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 27. No names were submitted as a result of this outreach. Rather, one name was submitted by OSAC Member Evans and one name was submitted by staff. The submitted names are listed in alphabetical order (Exhibit B):

- Morgan Mill Fremont Gove
- Morgan Mill Open Space

After the Committee takes action to name the property, our department will forward that recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration. Staff is anticipating an agenda item at the Board of Supervisors meeting in January 2014.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the name for open space acquisition APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92 west of Deer Run Road bridge should be called ____

_____.