

# APPENDIX F:

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## 5/08/08 Public Workshop Summary



**CREATING A COMMUNITY VISION:  
SILVER SADDLE RANCH AND THE CARSON RIVER AREA**  
*A Community Design Charrette*

*Summary: Public Workshop #2*

May 8, 2008

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Carson City Senior Citizens Center

The meeting began with an overview of the first public workshop which took place April 24, 2008. The input received was reviewed and a draft vision statement and goals based on that input was presented for comment. The vision and goals were revised during the meeting based on comments to read:

**Vision**

The Silver Saddle Ranch and Carson River area provides close-to-home, natural, open space that contributes to quality of life for residents and visitors. This historic landscape helps to preserve Carson City's rural heritage while providing a variety of passive recreation and trail uses that are balanced with existing agricultural uses and protection of the Carson River ecosystem and its associated values.

**Goals**

1. Preserve and enhance the area's scenic natural, undeveloped character.
2. Protect and enhance the Carson River ecosystem, including associated upland areas.
3. Provide for a variety of trail uses, passive recreation opportunities and events that are compatible with preserving the character of the area and protecting natural resources.
4. Enhance access to the Silver Saddle Ranch and Carson River area, including Prison Hill.
5. Preserve the area's cultural heritage and resources.
6. Improve on-site educational and interpretive opportunities.
7. Manage the area for improved safety, resource and private property protection.

Following review of vision and goals, workshop participants were asked to divide into six small groups and discuss the following questions:

- Where would you implement the goals and how?
- Are there areas where more intensive uses/limited development could happen? What criteria would be used to determine those areas?
- Identify potential:
  - Land uses
  - Trails/trailheads/access points
  - Specific projects/programs within those areas
  - What types of characteristics you need for your facilities (i.e. what makes a good trailhead/staging location? We will figure out potential suitable locations and provide an opportunity for you to review)

Input was recorded by each group (*Attachment A: Small Group Discussion Notes; Attachment B: Mapped Small Group Discussion Notes*). At the end, each group was asked to share a summary of their group's ideas.

**Possible project area names:**

During the course of the workshop, several people noted that the name for the project area does not adequately convey that other areas besides Silver Saddle Ranch and Carson River are included in the planning area. As such, people were asked to develop alternatives if they had any. Proposals included:

- Greater Silver Saddle Ranch, Prison Hill and Carson River Corridor Area
- Carson River Open Space
- Carson River Park of Carson City
- Pinon Pine Recreation Area
- Eastside Open Space
- Carson River Corridor Public Lands

## Attachment A: Small Group Discussion Notes

The following is a summary of the small group discussions that took place during the May 8, 2008 public workshop for the "Creating a Community Vision: Silver Saddle Ranch and Carson River" planning process. Additional notes were provided on maps and are summarized as a separate document.

### Group A

#### Goals:

1. Try to get water rights  
-Preserve area's scenery "as is"
2. Plant more trees along river corridor (native, survives well in our environment, creates shade, habitat for wildlife)
3. Allow for primitive campground at north end of project area or on BLM land just outside project area  
-Shared use trails as opposed to each activity with separate trails (equestrian, mt bike, hiking)
4. Connected trails with signage to inform of useage/private land  
-Trails map published for further information for public
5. Small interpretive center at SSR. "White House" location. Built to reflect historical look of existing buildings

#### **General comments on map (that do not related to a specific site)**

- Small unobtrusive interpretive signage for education purposes
- Shared trails for hikers, equestrians, etc. (entire planning area)

### Group B

1. Name the entire area "Pinon Pine Rec Area"
2. "Eastside Open Space" (a broad-type name)
3. Enforcement an important goal
4. Rules/regs must be enforceable. Resources to do it. Rangers, law enforcement, volunteers, reserves?
5. Noise pollution an issue with motorized activities
6. Educate public—etiquette, rules, etc.—signage?
7. Citations, penalties for violators--\$\$\$--make it hurt
8. Specific signage important
9. Fire danger an issue (wild horses to manage veg!)
10. License or certify to use ATVs???
11. Foster public ownership!!
12. Good planned trails—connectivity! Well defined!!
13. North end of Prison Hill non motorized
14. Portage at Mexican Dam for canoeing, rafting
15. "Put-in" at south end of Prison Hill
16. No user fees
17. Identify running/track areas
18. Make sure developed trail system is "equestrian friendly"
19. Connectivity from bike paths to trail heads
20. Develop as "working ranch" type environment at SSR
21. Better parking on edges—leave rest natural
22. Sanitation/health issues with lack of restrooms
23. ADA compliance—accessibility important and still keep natural

- 24. Safe freeway crossing for equestrian access important
- 25. Development intensity related to recreational experience

**Group C**

Idea	Goal it applies to...						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Acquire Jarrard property	x	x					
Keep cows away from River and other waters	x	x					
Maintain resource values in irrigated ag areas	x	x					
Maintain access for wild horses to cross river			x		x		
Naturalize area along river when irrigation ceases	x	x					
Maintain west side of Prison Hill as open space (no R&PP)-equestrian bridge over freeway			x	x			
Protect natural character of Prison Hill	x						
Create buffers between OHV area on Prison Hill and private residences							x
Move OHV use east into Pine Nut Mts or Hot Sp. Mts. Create pass through access	x	x	x				
Limit size of Prison Hill OHV area to avoid residents. Focus use on a smaller play area	x	x					x
Consider events that raise funds for management (candy dance)							x
Improve access across Mexican Ditch within SSR. Not safe							x
Develop a trail system that protects the natural setting- "don't love it to death"	x	x		x			
Signs and interpretive features needed				x			
Separate uses (OHV, equestrian, hikers)				x			x
Manage to control noxious weeds (can be toxic to horses)	x	x					x
Area should be kept safe for all family members							

**Group D**

- Mark boundaries on Prison Hill south side vs. north side (OHV)
- Anderson property—undisturbed/as is or working ranch
- Prison Hill west side-Dog leash restriction. Signage at trail head
- Current use/status quo Prison Hill Westside
- Equestrian use to stay at SSR and other existing riding trails
- Preserve Horse T.H. access pt. PH area. See map for example
- Wildlife corridor habitat enhancement
- Pedestrian/bicycle/horse bridge (2 locations see attached map, comments in blue)
- Horses continue to be permitted in Riverview Park
- OK for appropriate events (size/type) for ranch
- Facility that fits the SSR for the use of ed/historical/cultural resources
- Volunteer coordinator for projects
- Maintain trails (garbage/fences) use of neighbors parking
- Law enforcement (ordinances) increased to protect resources including signage
- Status quo-PH keep/preserve
- No hunting in PH
- No trapping (commercial or recreational)

## Group E

- Concern expressed regarding getting over extended—projects that have been pending but have not yet happened
- Focus of planning needs to be wider than “Silver Saddle” and a new project name is needed
- Active recreation vs. passive recreation—river access points focus of active recreation. All other forms such as organized sports (football, etc.) wouldn’t be okay
- Pedestrian, bike and equestrian uses are all compatible—OHV use is not.
- Planning should be a public process at the community level and a long range plan is important
- Complete loop around river
- Define OHV use area

## Comment Cards

### Card 1:

- Equestrian access to and across river (increase)
- Need better signage for allowed uses (better signage where motorized area boundaries are)
- Preserve equestrian uses in all areas
- Continue to allow OHV recreation on south end of Prison Hill and east side of river
- Adequate parking for equestrian events and Silver Saddle
- Shared use trails—hikers, bikes and equestrian

### Card 2

- Ensure irrigation of SS hayfield—use waste water
- Limit river side development; keep it natural; small events;
- Connect the trails N & S ends of Mexican ditch, possible campground at N end.
- Signage indicating trail use—connectionsk, private property
- Agricultural use should be maintained
- Small visitors center at SS—what about sewer/water?
- Fire management plan, weed control
- Ranger or police?
- City can’t afford to protect SSR and Prison Hill

### Card 3

- I’m offended by idea of restricting horses to east. Horses should be allowed on both sides E & W
- Try to acquire more H2O rights or reclaimed H2O for irrigation
- Do work days—plant willows, cottonwoods/with schools but not close areas
- Consider campground and disc golf
- Maintain shared trail use for hikers, equestrians and mountain bikes
- Equestrian trails are appropriate and in keeping with historical use and should be encouraged
- Only small and unobtrusive education signs
- Dogs should be allowed

### Card 4

- Prison Hill west—should be designated as open space
- South Prison Hill should be kept for offroad vehicle
- Connect the Carson River Corridor throughout include bike path throughout
- Rebuild McTarnahan Bridge to allow mt. bike and pedestrian access to Douglas Co.

### Card 5

- Would like to be sure that no structures can be built in the Prison Hill Koontz Lane H2O tank area. Leave that area as is—open space—not paved, no parking lots paved-very rural. No 52,000 sq. ft. nonprofit buildings!!!! Trails OK, South Prison Hill off road OK

#### Card 6

- Any already partially developed area should have further dev. Controlled
- Increase law enforcement along riparian corridor—currently unsafe shore
- Shared trail use, hike, bike, horse
- Carson River Park site where development has already been started

#### Card 7

- Want to keep all property open to horse
- Ride to places that have tables and tie rails

#### Card 8

- Please keep equestrian use wherever it is present at this time
- Organized events are fine if they are compatible with the area: equestrian, etc. No motorized use
- Continue with horse and people (foot) traffic—it is good for horses to meet people along trails
- Realize that horses are “passive” users of the trails and area

#### Card 9

- This goal (1?) is imperative. No impinging development That includes “parks”
- Do not “enhance” the river as in developing it for activities
- Separate hiking trails from OHV areas enough that hikers don’t get OHV noise
- Not more than 4 additional accesses to the area. 2 for ranch, 2 for river
- Interpretive history, ethnicity, signs as part of education and interpretive opportunities
- A well developed center with adequate parking to be provided on the North and near hwy 50
- This needs to be managed within City/County code and regulations

#### Card 10

- The city should purchase Anderson Ranch ASAP and leave as is. Leave the mustangs alone!

#### Card 11

- Prison Hill and all access points; sign city ordinance on dog control-leash; voice control.
- Preserve current use on Koontz Ln access point from Edmunds east

#### Card 12

- Please keep all areas open to horses, hiking and biking. Keep access open on the Westside of Prison Hill

#### Card 13

- We would very much like to see the equestrian use currently going on preserved, including access points.

#### Card 14

- “Silver Saddle Ranch and Carson River Area” not inclusive of planning area—need better name
- Whole planning area is not just Silver Saddle Ranch—should be called “Carson River Corridor Public Lands”
- Regarding #4 under goals—“enhance access” can be interpreted as making more roads into the ranch. I would be strongly opposed to that. If the “horse people” are concerned about access to Prison Hill from the west, then that is a city issue (i.e. freeway, roads leading to the Silver Saddle Ranch. I suggest that changing wording to allude to freeway/horse access problems does not belong in the goals
- Some of uses for Silver Saddle Ranch will/should be moved to other areas within the planning area—eg put some uses on Ambrose, Riverview, Jarrard and Anderson ranch lands
- Passive activities should be weighted by sensitivity of habitat eg possibly no mtn bikes or horses or dogs in certain areas near the river
- No bleachers, no pavilion, no events, no increased parking or roads, no horse arena (already taken out two arenas/corrals on the ranch). No events
- Passive activities also (as in #4) should be weighted by speed and distance needs ie humans range is limited (one step is maybe 2.5 feet, a dog will run 3 feet at a step, and OHVs 15 feet in the same time. Slow vs. fast &



- long distance uses should be considered
- The broad spectrum of public/gov. input should make this a 30 year plan—not one that can be changed without public process
- Trailheads further developed and maintained for OHV and horses in east side on Carson River

#### Card 15

- Enforcement is an issue. Need money! Need enforcement personnel—city budget? Rules—e.g., who yields to the other? E.g. horses/pedestrians, hikers with dogs/and with out dogs, bicyclists/hikers/horses/etc.
- A corridor loop coursing entire planning area

#### Card 16

- Equestrian use through this entire planning area is vital. Education of all users (equestrians included) would be a benefit—how to share the trail. Organized events at the Silver Saddle Ranch would be okay, such as trail trials, but they need to be sensitive to resources. They may also be a means of providing additional money for ranch maintenance. A working ranch with irrigated fields moving the Mexican Ditch trail away from the backyards would be great! And weed control is vital!
- Should be an important element in all future planning. If funding is needed possibly coming up with additional activities that are low impact but could generate funding would be okay—a necessary evil perhaps.
- Riverview Park also needs to remain open to horses.

#### Card 17

- I am interested in keeping the Prison Hill side (near water tank) wild and natural for hikers and horseback riders/dogs on leash or within voice control

#### Card 18

- To address goals 1,2 & 4, I'd suggest improving the parking at the Carson River Rd. entrance to SS Ranch then close the ranch (dirt) roads to motor vehicles and make non-vehicle access 24-7
- I agree that it is very difficult to identify private property in bounding areas such as South Prison Hill and east SS Ranch by the river. On specific objective I'd support is better signage to ID private property boundaries.
- Motorized vehicles (OHV by your design team) are not compatible with the goals 1 & 2. I think since some areas are already designated OHV (eg South Prison Hill) we are likely stuck with that. But let's enforce the "no OHV" areas and then efforts to restore the damage they've done to those "no OHV" will be effective. BTW, if we can rid the fragile areas of Prison Hill and SS Ranch of OHV, I'd love to work on the restoration.

#### Card 19

- Keep root cellar and red house available for group uses
- Enforced non motorized area throughout project area
- A Team—penning practice facility at SSR-0-could be a nice attraction for visitors wanting to see real ranch activity
- Wagon-carriage driving trail opportunities would be nice

#### Card 20

- There needs to be an active program to deal with invasive plants and animals within the area and particularly along the Carson River. The current riparian corridor is under siege by beavers.

#### Card 21

- I am most familiar with Riverview Park and Silver Saddle Ranch. I would like these areas to remain pretty much the same. I would be in favor of any recreational uses that:
  - o Do not make horse end
  - o Do not involve use of motorized vehicles

#### Card 22

- Concerning the Carson City River frontage—this entire area needs to be kept commercial free, park like environment. Some playground equipment type things to be encouraged. The area near the houses in Silver

Saddle Ranch would make a good park. There is no access between Silver Saddle Ranch and the Riverview Park. There needs to be another bridge built across the Mexican Ditch of the land along the river purchased.

- Concerning the Silver Saddle Ranch area and Prison Hill:
  - o Access is very limited---fires could be a disaster. Trails that are designed to be useable for everyone will help hand crews etc. to fight fires and maintenance.
  - o Access needs to be designed to prevent erosion and those type of problems. The present roads are eroding the area and area an eye sore. A designed progression of trail building so that volunteers can be encouraged/organized to complete the task. The process would not cost a great deal of money. There is probably already the needed expertise already working for Carson City.

#### *Card 23*

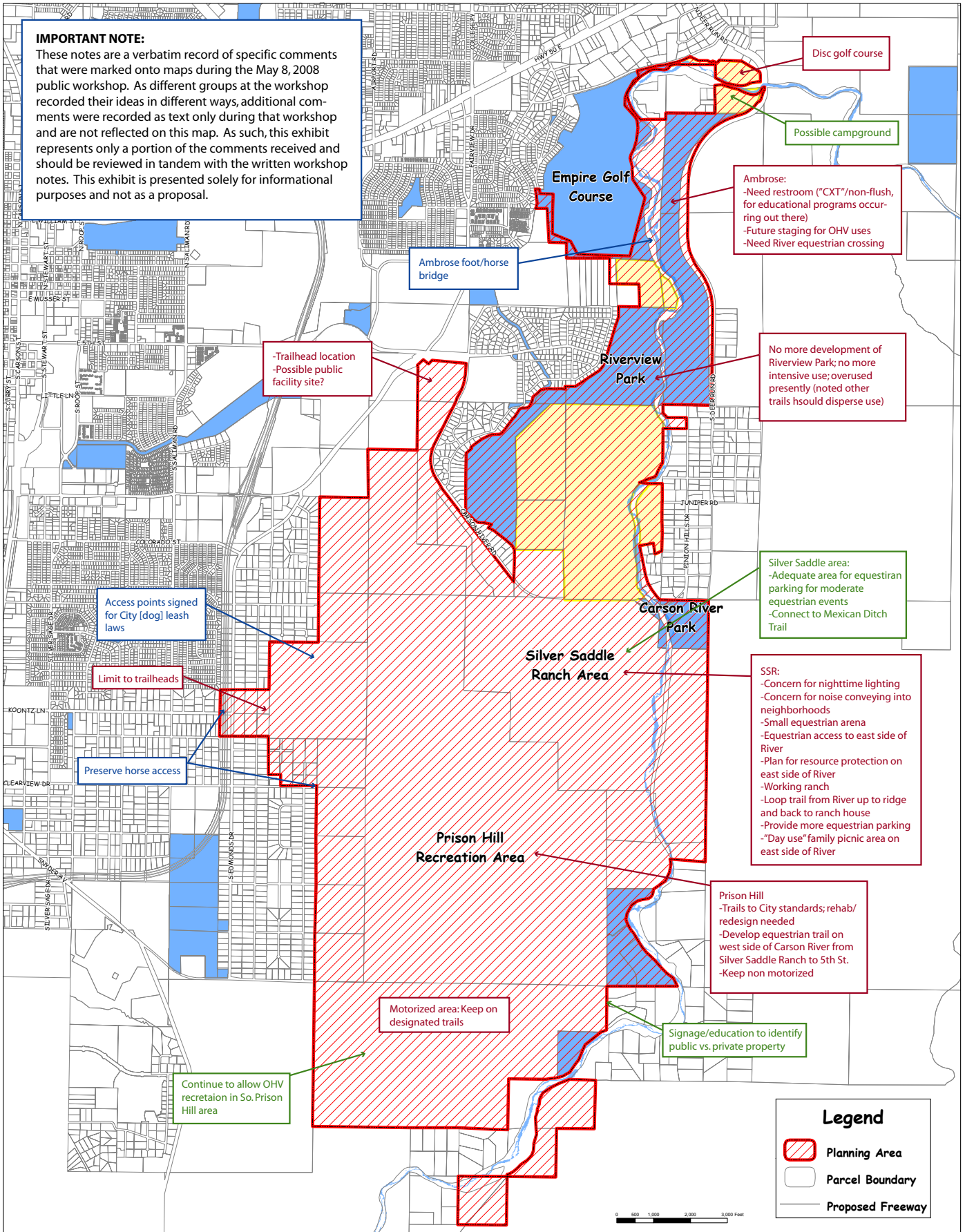
- Don't micromanage it
- Don't discriminate against equestrian usage
- Loop trails should be developed—different lengths
- Loop trail at Silver Saddle from river, Mexican Ditch, add bridge across irrigation ditches and up ridge back to ranch house
- No further development in Riverview, Ambrose and north past Empire golf trail. Already too densely used.
- "Swim park" picnic area on east side of river across from Silver Saddle

#### *Card 24*

- Put in a disc golf course where trees (shade) is available at least in some of the area. Make sure the area is located in such a place where it is not encroaching on other multiple use areas, i.e. equestrian, mountain biking, bird watching, etc. Some suggestions are near the Ambrose area closer to the Empire Ranch Golf Course, North Deer Run Road, somewhere near the BLM bulding.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

These notes are a verbatim record of specific comments that were marked onto maps during the May 8, 2008 public workshop. As different groups at the workshop recorded their ideas in different ways, additional comments were recorded as text only during that workshop and are not reflected on this map. As such, this exhibit represents only a portion of the comments received and should be reviewed in tandem with the written workshop notes. This exhibit is presented solely for informational purposes and not as a proposal.



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 CARSON CITY, NEVADA  
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**Creating a Community Vision:  
 Attachment B: Mapped Small Group Discussion Notes**

**Legend**

- Planning Area
- Parcel Boundary
- Proposed Freeway

