

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 22, 2016

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3G

STAFF: Rich Wilkinson, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

REQUEST: **For Possible Action:** To provide comments regarding trailhead improvements on the north end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area for a grant application to the Recreational Trails Program

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Staff has been working on necessary information needed to submit a grant application to the Nevada Division of State Parks, Recreational Trails Program (RTP). This grant would allow staff the opportunity to install a formal trailhead with amenities at the corner of 5th street and Carson River Road. This trailhead is identified in the Unified Pathways Master Plan (UPMP) for Carson City. The Carson City Board of Supervisors approved the submission of the grant application to the RTP on February 4, 2016. Staff time has been allocated to starting the Section 106 cultural review process and hiring a consultant to complete the process with the State Historic Preservation Office per the terms of the Programmatic Agreement for these lands conveyed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Staff has worked on the scope of work, cost estimates and a budget for the RTP grant application. The project cost estimates are still being determined although it is anticipated to cost around \$150,000. Staff has hired Design Workshop to help design the layout of the trailhead and parking area. At minimum, the dirt parking area will need to be improved – possibly with a compacted gravel base. Staff will work with the Carson City engineer and others to determine whether a different surface will be required. Additionally, per the UPMP, a restroom, a dog waste disposal station, trash can(s), and rules and regulations should be included. Shade structures with benches which offer relief from the summer sun and shelter from inclement weather are recommended at the trailheads of heavily utilized trails. The Management Plan identifies additional amenities such as bicycle racks and picnic tables. A kiosk with a trail map and other information is also recommended.

It is anticipated that a design will be presented at the next meeting of the Committee. Muscle Power has looked at the existing roads and trails to help determine which roads will be closed and which will remain open as a part of the trail system. (See attached map)

In summary, staff is seeking the input on what amenities should be considered in the design of the trailhead on the north end of Prison Hill.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to provide comments regarding trailhead improvements on the north end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area in preparation for a grant application to the Recreational Trails Program.

9.2.3 TRAILHEADS

The plan designates three types of trail heads: trailheads with parking, trailheads with equestrian trailer parking, and non-parking access points. Trailheads that offer parking are typically located outside of the urban area near trails that are heavily utilized. The amount of parking offered at these trailheads is dependent on trail usage and space availability. Parking may consist of on-street parking or a small parking lot.

Trailheads with equestrian trailer parking are proposed in areas where there are a number of equestrian trails. Parking at these trailheads consists of a small parking lot that is large enough to accommodate the parking and maneuvering of horse trailers.

Non-parking access points are typically located in neighborhood areas. Since these trailheads are located in residential areas, they do not provide parking.

- ⌘ **Rules and Regulations:** Rules and regulations should be located at all trailheads. The regulations should include trail etiquette, trash pickup, animal waste clean up, warnings about potential safety hazards, and which uses are permitted in the area.
- ⌘ **Trash Cans:** By providing a number of conveniently located trash cans, the amount of litter along Carson City's pathways can be greatly decreased. Trash cans should be located at all City-maintained trailheads. They should also be placed along the heavily used pathways located within the City's urban area.
- ⌘ **Dog Waste Disposal Stations:** One of the most effective ways to decrease the amount of dog waste along pathways is by providing dog waste stations. On pathways where dogs are allowed, dog waste stations should be provided at all trailheads. They should also be provided along pathways located within the City's

urban area.

- ☞ **Shade Structures with Benches:** Shade structures offer relief from the summer sun and shelter from inclement weather. Where possible, shade structures should be located at the trailheads of heavily utilized trails. The City may also wish to consider placing smaller shade structures along some of its heavily utilized urban pathways.
- ☞ **Lighting:** In areas likely to receive use at night, pathway lighting helps users avoid conflicts at intersections and allows users to better observe trail direction, surface conditions, and obstacles. Lighting can also increase the sense of security along a pathway. Lighting use may vary from no lighting on rural soft surface trails to full coverage lighting in promenade areas.
- ☞ **Restrooms:** A number of Carson City's trails are located in the outskirts of the City, away from restroom facilities. The City should do a demonstration project to test the level of use and service costs of temporary restrooms at the trailheads of its heavily used trails.

Trailhead and Trail Access Areas

The term “trailhead” is a combination of the definitions and elements described in the UPMP, Charrette and the Carson River Master Plan. A Trail Access Area usually has none or very few amenities. As funding allows, trailheads should include the following components:

- Benches
- Bicycle racks
- Dog waste disposal stations, where dogs are allowed, and strategically placed along the trails, where feasible.
- Parking, paved or unpaved, designed to restrict OHV use outside of the parking area
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms, either permanent or temporary
- Signage
- Trash cans. At remote locations, signage should inform visitors to “Pack It In, Pack It Out.”
- Equestrian facilities:
 - > Adequate, unpaved pull-through parking for horse trailers

- > Hitching posts and/or rails at trailheads, destinations, and rest areas along the trails
- > Mounting blocks
- > Water troughs or other facilities for clean drinking water, where practical

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Feet

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— Other trails
— Existing to Remain
— New Proposed Trails Constructed
— To Be Removed

Name

Trailhead Access
 Trailhead with Amenities
 Potential Vista with Benches

Township 15N, Range 20E
 Project Area: 481.42 Ac

