



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: October 18, 2021

Staff Contact: Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator, gberggren@carson.org

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Trails Coordinator Report - Activities related to trail projects managed by the Open Space Division, including updates on the Capital to Tahoe and Lincoln Bypass trails, Kings Canyon Trailhead, national recognition for the 5th Street Trailhead and Trails project, Prison Hill Recreation Area, V&T Trail, and National Public Lands Day. (*Gregg Berggren*)

Staff Summary: See below.

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 15 minutes

Capital to Tahoe/Lincoln Bypass Trails

The four-mile Lincoln Bypass Trail is over 80% complete. Much of the trail is being constructed by a professional trail builder, and Muscle Powered is working on some components including a challenging section of rock work through a large drainage and along a steep side-slope. This trail will likely be finished before the end of the year.

Some work has begun on the Capital to Tahoe Trail, but completion is expected sometime in 2022. We are still working on obtaining an easement for a preferred alignment of a short segment of this trail that will cross private property. A less desirable alternative will remain on U.S. Forest Service lands.

Together, Lincoln Bypass and Capital to Tahoe will add over 13 miles of new trail to Carson City.



View of Borda Meadow from the Lincoln Bypass



A completed segment of Lincoln Bypass



Volunteers moving boulders on Lincoln Bypass

Kings Canyon Trailhead

Construction is well underway on the new Kings Canyon Trailhead. This long-awaited and badly needed project incorporates several design changes that resulted from public and committee comments. Design element changes include one-way access through the parking lot which will reduce the overall footprint and the required excavation, reduction of the number of parking spaces to 25 vehicles (from 30), relocation of the vault toilet and trailhead to be at the south end of the parking lot where it will be furthest from homes, addition of curb and gutter as well as 'no parking' signs to restrict parking outside of the parking lot, and new driveway connections to adjacent properties.

The parking lot is scheduled for completion in mid-November. However, supply chain issues are affecting delivery of the vault toilet which will not be installed until several weeks later.

Throughout construction the Kings Canyon road and the trailhead are closed.



Kings Canyon TH 2017



Same photo angle September 2021

5th Street Trailhead and Trails Project Wins National Recognition!

We are delighted to announce that the Coalition for Recreational Trails has chosen the ***Prison Hill Recreation Area - 5th Street Trailhead and Trails project*** as the winner of the CRT's Annual Achievement Award for outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program funds in the **Community Linkage category**. The nomination for this award received support from Congressman Amodei. A virtual award's ceremony will take place on November 10th.

This highly successful project transformed about 60-acres on the north end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area into a very popular trailhead. The area was once seldom used by the public, and in fact many people avoided the area because of difficult access and undesirable activities. The project constructed a parking lot which includes ADA parking spaces and an ADA accessible toilet, and an ADA accessible picnic shelter. The project also included construction of three easy, natural-surface loop trails that are accessible to 3-wheel adaptive mountain bikes and are perfect for families and people of all abilities to hike or ride.

This trailhead is centrally located near several neighborhoods and affords year-round access to over 14 miles of multi-use pathway in our Carson River Trails System, and to over 25 miles of paved trails that provide links to Carson City's downtown core. All of these trails are accessible to persons with disabilities. Staff is currently working on a new RTP grant to construct a single-track connection between the 5th Street Loop Trails and the Prison Hill North Loop, further expanding trail linkage from this trailhead.

An especially important component of this project was the involvement of so many agencies and organizations. In addition to contributions from Parks, Recreation & Open Space staff, Public Works did the parking lot design, Muscle Powered helped with trail design, two different Boy Scout Eagle Projects placed benches and signage, and the Nevada Conservation Corp completed most of the trail construction.



The 5th Street Trailhead hosts many events, like a Carson High School Cross-Country race and Muscle Powered "River Cruise" bike ride, both pictured above.

Prison Hill Non-Motorized Trails

The field work for Section 106 Cultural Surveys have been completed for multiple locations within the non-motorized portion of Prison Hill. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act is a requirement that was agreed to when Prison Hill was conveyed from the Bureau of Land Management to Carson City in 2015. Some areas have been previously surveyed, like the North Loop for example, but many other areas have not. We expect to submit the finished report to SHPO in November, and once we receive SHPO concurrence we will be able to perform maintenance activities, including minor realignments and upgrades, on a number of existing trails. We will also be able to construct several new trails, including better connections from the Koontz TH to the saddle, from the saddle to Dead Truck Canyon, and from the 5th Street Loop Trails to the North Loop.

Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Program Recreation Technicians

The Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Program this year hired two temporary OHV Program Technicians. Kaden Barmore and Joe Steele have been assisting multiple land management agencies on a variety of projects, and we are fortunate to be included in the program. We have utilized these technicians on project work in the Prison Hill OHV area, including installation of fencing and signage, and rehab work. They have also done clean-up projects along the OHV road through the Voltaire Canyon Open Space.

National Public Lands Day

Muscle Powered and the Open Space Division sponsored a clean-up of two washes in East Silver Saddle Ranch on the east side of Sierra Vista Lane. Fifteen volunteers more than filled a 20-yard dumpster with trash.



Volunteers stand in front of their second of three trailer loads!

V&T Trail benches and Interpretive Signs

A generous donor is funding the purchase of four benches and three interpretive signs for the V&T trail on the Lakeview Grade as a memorial to his late wife. We recently placed two of the signs. The Historic Virginia and Truckee Trail group envisions many more informational signs along the entire trail, running from Reno, through Carson City, and then to Minden and Virginia City.



“Moving Through Time”, is located on the old RR grade above Coombs Canyon. Several historic locations and moments are identified, including the Gumalonga Trail (namesake for the newly named Gumalonga Open Space), ancestral lands of the Washoe People, the arrival of the V&T Railroad, the first air flight in Nevada, and the 1919 Transcontinental Convoy which was led by Lt. Colonel Dwight Eisenhower, who later as President initiated the Interstate Highway System, a segment of which is also visible from this location.



Lyndsey Boyer applies finishing touches to the “Lakeview” sign, located at the trailhead on Hobart road at the Lakeview Estates entrance, along with accompanying bench. This sign describes the former V&T Station that was once located here, the Marlette Flume to Virginia City, historic logging in the Carson Range, and the emergence of cars and trucks.

Nevada Regional Trails Training Program

American Trails and Nevada State Parks, with support from a Recreational Trails Program grant, recently sponsored several training workshops in the Reno/Carson City area. Workshops covered a variety of topics, including Crew Leader Training, Trail Construction, and Trail Accessibility. On October 2nd, Open Space staff hosted one of the workshops at the Prison Hill OHV area. The workshop included OHV site design, development, and construction techniques.