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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 12, 2022 3:44 PM

**To:** Jennifer Budge <[JBudge@carson.org](mailto:JBudge@carson.org)>

**Subject:** Painted rocks

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July 12, 2022

To: Members of Open Space Advisory Committee and Parks & Recreation Commission

Re: Placement of ornamental painted rocks in Carson City parks, trails and open space

My comments are solely my own. I did not start the placement of rocks along the masonry wall of the V&T trail but enjoyed seeing the variety of rocks that persons had spent quite a lot of time creating. My husband and I began seeing the painted rocks early in the pandemic and the thoughtful and caring quotes and paintings were a pleasant reminder that we could continue to enjoy our small part of the world. Over the next year and a half, my family contributed to the painted rocks. The V&T is a trail that we frequently walk with our dogs, one of which is disabled and requires a dog stroller. Using a stroller requires that we stay on a paved path so the V&T which is near our home is very easy to access.

You can imagine my surprise and outrage when I came upon a man who identified himself as a city employee, his first day on the job, clearing out all the painted rocks. When I asked him what he was going to do, he nastily replied, "Take them to the dump!" I actually knew this man from walking on the V&T for years and didn't believe his statement that he worked for the city.

I am not one to place painted rocks on natural trails. I, too, like to hike in the outdoors and wouldn't deface nature. However, I don't see the beginning of the V&T as a natural place. It is a masonry wall beside an asphalt path against a chain link fence. The placement of rocks were always against the masonry wall and when the wall ended, the rocks stopped.

My comments only pertain to the masonry wall area of the V&T trail. I don't use other city trails and have no knowledge of their use. I would love to see the placement of painted rocks continue along the V&T's masonry wall. It's an opportunity for citizens to share their creativity and kind thoughts to others who walk the trail. I would like to see the placement of painted rocks on the V&T and possibly other walking trails in Carson City and would hope that a policy would be created so painted rocks could continue.

Thank You,

Ilona Strull

## Open Space Painted Rocks Comments

July 18, 2022

I am a Mutt Mitt Volunteer since inception of the program a few years ago. I have taken various classes offered through the Parks and Open Space about our natural areas and am concerned about retaining our natural environment by educating unknowing public about practices which can harm that environment.

I became aware of a comment on the NEXTDOOR social media site of people who were upset their labor intensive painted rocks were being removed by some unknown parties, taking away their handmade beauty on the trail from those walking it.

I informed those artists that because that property is owned by Parks and Open Space, it was violating the Leave no Trace practice and likely removed by the Rangers. I confirmed it had been and was told by Rangers it was becoming an ongoing problem, and causing labor intensive removal for them when they had much more urgent matters to take care of.

I suggested some options to the local rock artists, somewhere they could have their art reach even more people in the community, which they flatly refused.

I was surprised at this, as artists in my family love to share their work, to the public even better.

1. Contact The Greenhouse Project Carson Tahoe Cancer Center site, , Will Pierz. I spoke with him and he would love to have painted rocks as part of the Serenity Garden Walk.
2. Contact Local businesses in uptown area to see if they would like to have displays along the street.

### **RESOLUTION IDEA**

My suggestion is that an event or class be given to ask rock artists come to place their work on the Serenity Garden Walk, and possibly an open invitation to continue to "Grow" the walk with new art. I believe there should be guidelines to the art, just like any art situation in regards to size and subject matter. I have no idea who would determine that . I would be happy to organize, network, attend the event.

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