

## APPENDIX J:

---

# Trails & Passive Recreation Team Original Notes and Drawings



## Trails & Passive Recreation Team Notes:

---

### *Themes*

- History (mining, ranching, Native American)
- Geology
- Biology and ecology
- River corridor and its influence on the project area

### *Management and Policy*

- Adopt existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Pursue mutual agreement with the BLM and Parks and Recreation Dept.
- Use volunteers
- Start a trails association
- Signs should be low maintenance; difficult to destroy, easy to change elements (i.e. panels, mileage markers) later
- Most difficult topic to address!
- BLM has low staff resources
- Adopt a trail/resource/area/etc.
- Cheap labor available at the prison
- Sponsors, running clubs
- Review from a business perspective
- Custom-designed signs, built by prisoners. Sell nationally, produce locally.
- Designate the area officially as open space, not as a park.
- Neighbors have "deep pockets", may be able to make contributions
- Ask people to include donations to the Ranch in their wills
- What is the "big idea"? Carson River and Carson City, "A Living River: Lifeblood of the Community".
- Concept based on river as the common thread:
- Living dynamic system
- Interface man/environment
- Focus: education and environmental interaction
- Yesterday: prehistory, Native American occupation, settlement including mining, V&T, ranching, etc.
- Today: Urbanism, education, mechanized recreation, non-motorized recreation, return to environmental concern for environmental participation/interaction
- Tomorrow: sustainable design, green building prototypes, solar/electric transportation system onsite, living laboratory, prototype demonstrations of solar/wind/water harvesting/other scientific/reclaimed water. Enhanced educational opportunities for outreach and tourism
- Needs: Sustaining the "Big Idea":
- Administrator or manager: workshop elements as advisory committee
- Marketing plan draft: packaging, grant writing, funding including local education leaders
- Storyline: who, what where, why-yesterday, today, tomorrow
- Program scope
- Natural resource management
- Partnership/grants
- Purpose description in lands bill

### ***Trail Connectivity***

- Identify connections to new areas
- Reexamine master plan
- Connect across new pieces as acquired (i.e. along river)
- Buy the Girard property on the west side of the river!
- Public education would unify users. What do people expect for each segment of the trail? Disperse uses and direct people to appropriate locations to recreate.
- Connect trails to nearby counties
- Signage – use various types. Unify the area, tell people what is not allowed, and include interpretive signs.
- Connect to Prison Hill from the west after the freeway is constructed.
- Non-motorized connections from town to the planning area is important; don't depend on people driving.
- Reduce the number of trails
- Conduct a new inventory (if needed, determine data needs)
- Use natural resource data, avoid these areas
- Hells Bells – identify a trail to get closer to the river
- Loop trail
- Access by adjacent homes
- Platforms with views, tell stories at each viewing area
- Prison Hill – trail from water tank to the Carson River
- Trail surrounding all of Carson City
- Potential river crossings needed at the south

### ***Access Points and Trailheads***

- Add an access point to the river at the south
- Determine size and amenities for trailheads
- Consider financing options – how will they be built?
- Parking for trailers – identify a location (graded and appropriate sizes). Identify 1-2 sites for parking. Link signage, etc. at parking areas to overall theme.
- Determine surface materials – DG, asphalt, or what?
- The Carson River right-of-way and environmental right-of-way issues may result in a setback zone from the river corridor. Coordinate on these issues.
- What trails do we not need? Evaluate what we want to have decommissioned.

### ***Public-Private Land Interface***

- Fencing of private land should be up to the landowner. Agencies should not be responsible for installing fences. Post private land instead. But, there aren't a lot of trespassing problems.
- Standard demarcation (fences) should be maintained by landowners.
- People want to respect private property but don't know where the boundaries exist. Existing signs are too small.
- Educate with signs on both public and private lands.

## ***OHV Use***

- Users should stay in the OHV area\
- Increase education
- Adopt an OHV area!
- Smart design for this area, no dead ends
- Advocate for permits – fees could be used
- Local ordinance could be written
- Identify good trail alignments, durable and long-lasting
- If trails removed, what do you do? Can these areas be re-vegetated? If so, need to identify funding source.
- Use examples from other communities (east side of Tahoe Rim Trail has addressed similar issues). Learn from other examples, don't reinvent.
- Stop use at discontinued trails
- Define the OHV area by a trail or other feature
- Add signage in the OHV area
- OHV use occurs outside of legal Prison Hill area

## ***Specific Use Areas***

- Anderson & Gerard properties – what will the use be? Possible uses: wetlands, integrated passive use, trails, horses and pastures.
- Educate re: reclaim water use and safety issues.
- Is using gray water (reclaimed water) worse than mercury?
- Include disc golf at Morgan Hill and Deer Run area
- Designate safe swimming areas
- Identify a small facility for meetings
- Use "Green" design standards, may lead to grant eligibility (GREEN = GRANTS)
- Include history, cultural information, and trail maps at the interpretive center
- Amphitheater

## ***Passive Recreation – Other Uses***

- Existing passive recreation: hiking, dog walking, horseback riding, biking, geo-caching, fishing, rock climbing, birding, rafting, canoeing, kayaking, stargazing, picnicking, hanging out, meditating, beer drinking, par course, environmental education programs, cultural heritage programs
- Existing motorized recreation: motorcycles, quads/ATV, jeeps
- Community garden
- 10k marathons
- Disc golf – brings tournaments, money and people to the area
- Rock climbing
- Determine the number of people that will use each activity/amenity; base amenities developed on levels of use
- Geocaching
- Dog park
- RV park
- Senior Center outings ("going back in time" for seniors)

- Boy and girl scouts – bird box building events/outings
- Training facility to Sheriff’s office
- Birding
- 4H, public groups, elder hostel, weddings
- White water rafting
- Mexican Dam – keep it open for water
- Define passive recreation for the area, what does this mean?

### ***Educational and Interpretive Signage***

- What educational programs currently exist (i.e. Carson Middle School)?
- Divide the area into subsections, determine history, wildlife and interpretation for each
- Sign types:
  - 1) Regulatory
  - 2) Interpretive
  - 3) Maps
  - 4) Directional
  - 5) Mileage markers
- Get others involved in sign design (i.e. kids, NV history classes, school groups). In Virginia City, signs were created by high school students.
- Make the signs long-lasting
- Create a parallel website

### ***Signage***

#### *Types*

1. Informational Signs
2. Interpretive Signs
3. Combination informational and interpretive signs

#### *What do we need to communicate?*

- Directional signs - entire system
- Allowed used

Signs need a unified theme – design theme and conceptual theme

Conceptual theme can change

Thematic example: “A Canyon in Time”

#### *Ideas for themes:*

- River is a key element, it is the reason that everything in our area is there.

Recommendation: Develop an overarching theme for signs.

Spanish Spring canyon used “A Canyon in Time”.

### *Theme*

- Ranches – Silver Saddle
  - Geological features
  - History of Prison Hill
  - Ambrose – wildlife
- 
- River, Silver Saddle and Prison Hill.
  - Describe human and natural history.

- Signs need to be tied to something physical.

Signs have a unified look.

Background photos may be different; like the agenda.

Transparency within overall look repeated over and over.

Use silhouette photos.

Use something subtle in the background.

### *Informational*

“Overall” signs at beginning of the trails.

Include these at all of the entry points.

Official access points – at trailheads, river access points, and all entry points

### *Concept – hit people right away when they enter the area*

- Provide a picture of the entire trails system
- Locate where you area on the system
- Welcome, you are here
- Allowed uses

Separate system for specific trail information

Creates an expectation of what to look for

People know what to look for; use the same signs used in other parts of Carson City

Installed in 45 minutes, costs \$25, easy to replace

Use all recycled materials (TREX), more expensive but reduce O&M costs later

Trail Access Signs at intersections of the trails

\*\* Develop trail names and loops, be able to develop where you are and where (visitor safety)

Need to close down many of these trails.

Dynamic river corridor, keep paved infrastructure away from this area. Allow the river to migrate somewhat.

Keep signs out of the 150' setback (this number from Carson River master plan, which is 20 years old!).







