

Information Sheet:

Carson River Trail System Phase II Project

What is the history of this project?

- **1996 – Carson River Master Plan.** Among the objectives of the Carson River Advisory Committee was the establishment of recreational goals for the Carson River area. The plan, which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors, created recommendations for trails and how they should be constructed.
- **2001 – Fee-title purchase of 61+ acres along Carson River Road.** Carson City and the Bureau of Land Management partner on a complex land acquisition project to prevent residential development on east side of the Prison Hill Recreation Area.
- **2006 – Unified Pathways Master Plan (UPMP).** A comprehensive plan for non-automobile travel routes around Carson City. The project trails were envisioned in the UPMP when it was adopted by the Board of Supervisors.
- **2006-2008 – Carson City’s Lands Bill.** At least 15 public meetings and workshops were held regarding the potential disposition and acquisitions of City and federal lands located within the Carson Range, Virginia Range, Carson River, and City environments, through Congress and the Federal Lands Bill process. The “Carson City Vital Community Act of 2008” bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate.
- **2008 – Creating a Community Vision: Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River.** With an assistance grant from the National Park Service, the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch led a process to gather community-wide ideas and incorporate them into a comprehensive plan for Silver Saddle Ranch and adjacent areas. The report summarized the need for multi-use trails around Prison Hill and along the Carson River.
- **2009 – Creating a Community Vision: Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River.** The Board of Supervisors accepted the recommendations in the report regarding the planning vision for public recreation and open space opportunities on the Silver Saddle Ranch, Prison Hill Recreation Area and along the Carson River.
- **2010 – Old Buzzy’s Ranch (Jarrard fee-title purchase)** by Carson City Open Space. The purchase and sale agreement for 369 acres of agricultural land identified Carson City’s desire to construct a trail along the Carson River corridor.
- **2015 – Prison Hill Recreation Area and Silver Saddle Ranch were conveyed to Carson City from the Bureau of Land Management.**
- **2015 – Open Space Advisory Committee and Parks & Recreation Commission.** The formation of “working groups” consisting of committee members and several public meetings to identify a project for funding through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA).

- **2016 – Open Space Advisory Committee and Parks & Recreation Commission.** Recommended to the Board of Supervisors the submittal of a grant application to SNPLMA for the Carson River Trails Project.
- **2016 – Board of Supervisors.** Authorized submittal of the grant application.
- **2017 – Eagle Valley Trails Committee: Community Trail Inventory, Review, Evaluation and User Needs Assessment Report.** This comprehensive report was the result of a multi-year project by a volunteer community-based group that involved extensive public input. The report identifies the need for the project trails.
- **2017 – Board of Supervisors. Accepted a \$1.8 million funding award from SNPLMA.**
- **2019 – Through a competitive process, Lumos and Associates was selected as design consultant.**

What is SNPLMA and how is this project funded?

- **The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA)** became law in October 1998. It allows the Bureau of Land Management to sell public land within a specific boundary around Las Vegas, Nevada. The revenue derived from land sales is split between the State of Nevada General Education Fund (5%), the Southern Nevada Water Authority (10%), and a special account available to the Secretary of the Interior for:
 - Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas
 - Capital Improvements
 - Conservation Initiatives
 - Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)
 - Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions
 - Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
 - Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project
 - Lake Tahoe Restoration Projects
- This project is funded by a \$1.8 million dollar grant from SNPLMA and a small match from the Carson City Quality of Life Initiative.
- If Carson City had not applied for and received this grant then it is likely that another community in Nevada would have obtained the funds instead.

Where will this trail be located and what kind of trail will it be?

- One segment will extend along the east side of Prison Hill from near the 5th Street to Silver Saddle Ranch. A second segment will go through Silver Saddle Ranch. A third segment will cross Carson River Road at Carson River Park and continue north near the west side of the Carson River to connect with Riverview Park (see map).

- It will be a Multi-Use trail, which means it is intended for non-motorized use by pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians. It will be 10 – 12 feet wide with a firm (but not paved) surface. It is being designed to AASHTO bicycle standards.

Have environmental considerations been addressed?

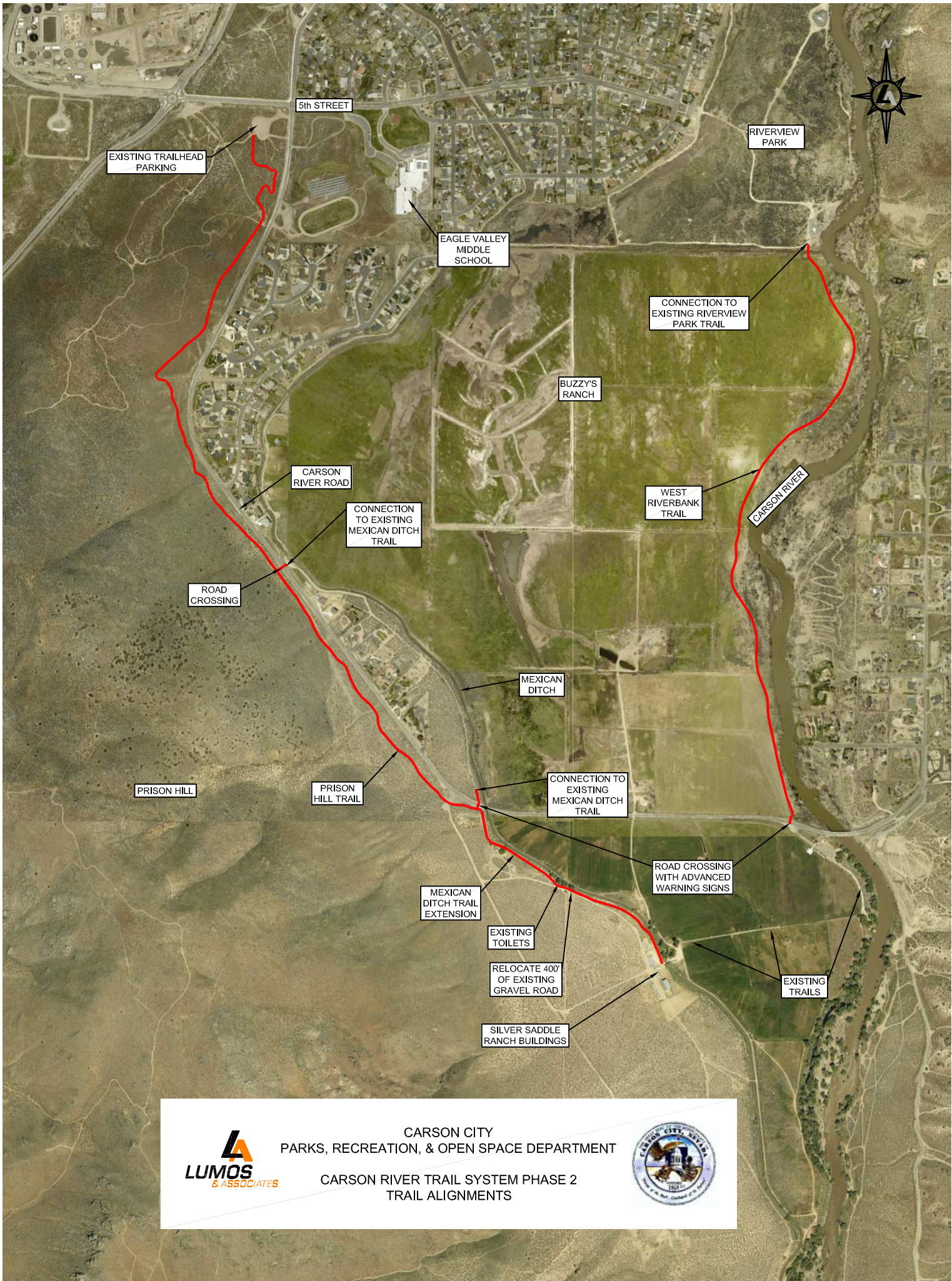
- Design components included environmental studies (wetland delineation as well as biological and botanical review), field visits and alignment review, geotechnical investigation and floodplain analysis. In addition, staff conducted bird surveys and have been working on a conservation plan for the grazing operations on the Old Buzzy's Ranch. Planning also considered buffer zones along the Carson River as recommended in the Carson River Master Plan.

Have public suggestions and concerns been addressed?

- All public input to date has been logged and reviewed. In some cases public suggestions have been reflected in the design. For example, relocating the proposed alignment further from private property near the river, minimizing cut and fill, eliminating crosswalk flashing lights from the design near homes, eliminating an option to take the trail underneath Lloyds Bridge and minimizing narrowing the footprint of the connection to the Mexican Ditch Trail.

Why build trails?

- **Increased property values.** Studies show that property values near trails increase and businesses near trails flourish (American Trails).
- **Physical health.** For every dollar spent on trails, there is a three dollar savings in healthcare costs. Cardiovascular benefits are seen across all trail user types (American Trails).
- **Mental health.** Many doctors are now prescribing walking and spending time outdoors as a way to combat depression, anxiety, and other health related issues (American Trails).
- **Trails connect people.** According to AARP, trails promote respect for diversity and promote inclusiveness. According to Psychology Today, loneliness and trail use are inversely related.
- **Safety.** Trails remove pedestrians and bicyclists from dangerous vehicular traffic.
- **Preservation of our cultural heritage.** Often, trails provide a connection to history, such as the Silver Saddle Ranch.
- **Community.** By building trails a community is investing in its future, its citizens, its economy, its well-being, and its culture.



EXISTING TRAILHEAD
PARKING

5th STREET

EAGLE VALLEY
MIDDLE
SCHOOL

RIVERVIEW
PARK

CONNECTION TO
EXISTING RIVERVIEW
PARK TRAIL

BUZZY'S
RANCH

CARSON
RIVER ROAD

CONNECTION TO
EXISTING
MEXICAN DITCH
TRAIL

WEST
RIVERBANK
TRAIL

CARSON RIVER

ROAD
CROSSING

MEXICAN
DITCH

PRISON HILL

PRISON
HILL TRAIL

CONNECTION TO
EXISTING
MEXICAN DITCH
TRAIL

ROAD CROSSING
WITH ADVANCED
WARNING SIGNS

MEXICAN
DITCH TRAIL
EXTENSION

EXISTING
TOILETS

RELOCATE 400'
OF EXISTING
GRAVEL ROAD

EXISTING
TRAILS

SILVER SADDLE
RANCH BUILDINGS



CARSON CITY
PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

CARSON RIVER TRAIL SYSTEM PHASE 2
TRAIL ALIGNMENTS

