



Quality of Life in Carson City

Advisory Board on Outdoor
Recreation

March 26, 2025

Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager
Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator



Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department



Our Mission:

To provide exceptional parks, open space, and diverse recreational opportunities to enhance the quality of life in Carson City while preserving our natural resources for future generations.

Our Vision:

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space will be a trusted, community partner providing essential recreational services for community residents of all ages and abilities today and for generations to come.



Strategic Planning in Carson City

A history...



- 1994 – Carson River corridor vision planning
- 1995 – Eagle Valley Trail Plan
- 1996 – Passage of Q18, Quality of Life Initiative
- 1996 – Carson River Master Plan
 - 1994 – 2013: Carson River Advisory Committee
- 2000 – Open Space Master Plan
- 2000 – 1st Open Space acquisition (Moffat Open Space)
- 2006 – Unified Pathways Master Plan
- 2008 – Silver Saddle Ranch and the Carson River: A Community Design Charrette
- 2009 – Omnibus Public Lands Management Act
- 2015 – Federal land transfer executed
- 2017 – Eagle Valley Trail Committee Report
- 2018 – Unified Pathways Master Plan – updated
- 2023 – Prison Hill Master Plan
- 2026 – Carson River Master Plan Amendment



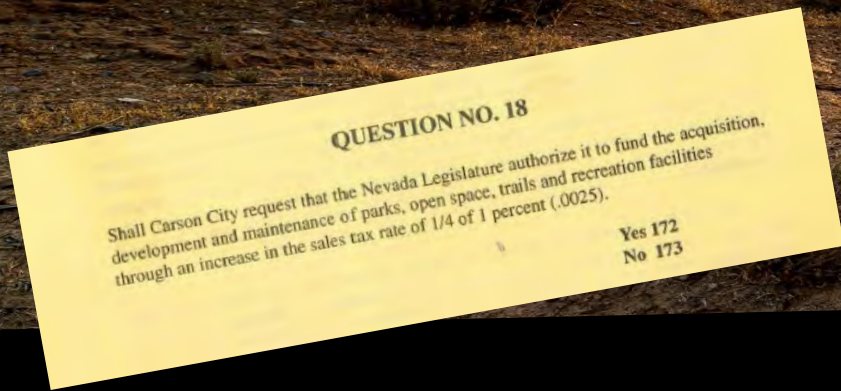


CARSON CITY
Quality of Life Initiative

Quality of Life Initiative “Question 18”

- Passed by Carson City voters in 1996
- Increased sales tax by $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1%
- Provides dedicated funding to acquire/maintain open space and develop/maintain certain parks and recreation facilities.
 - 40% - open space
 - 40% - parks capital
 - 20% - park maintenance

Question 18, Quality of Life Initiative



Unique program – no other county in Nevada has been able to pass the same type of initiative!

- Douglas County and Washoe County have both tried, and they have not been passed.

Open Space Program

est. 1996



Open Space

noun

1. undeveloped land having significant natural resources important to the quality of life in our community.

\$71,578,592

Total tax and interest
Revenue



\$14,229,270

Grant funds leveraged



\$1,758,000

Boys and Girls
Club of Western
Nevada



2,200 acres

acquired w/ Q18,
8,000+ acres total



**30 years
of**

Quality of Life

**90+ miles
of Trails**



13,000

visitors/year

Rifle and Pistol Range



12,000 visitors/year

Robert "Bob" Crowell Multi-
Purpose Athletic Center



140,000

visitors/year
Aquatic Facility





Using this Quality-of-Life funding, Carson City has been able to purchase and preserve over 7,000 acres of undeveloped natural areas and open space, while maintaining 1,000 acres of parks and playgrounds for all residents and visitors of Carson City to enjoy.

Open Space Program

est. 1996



Floodplains



Agricultural lands



Viewsheds

Open Space Program

est. 1996

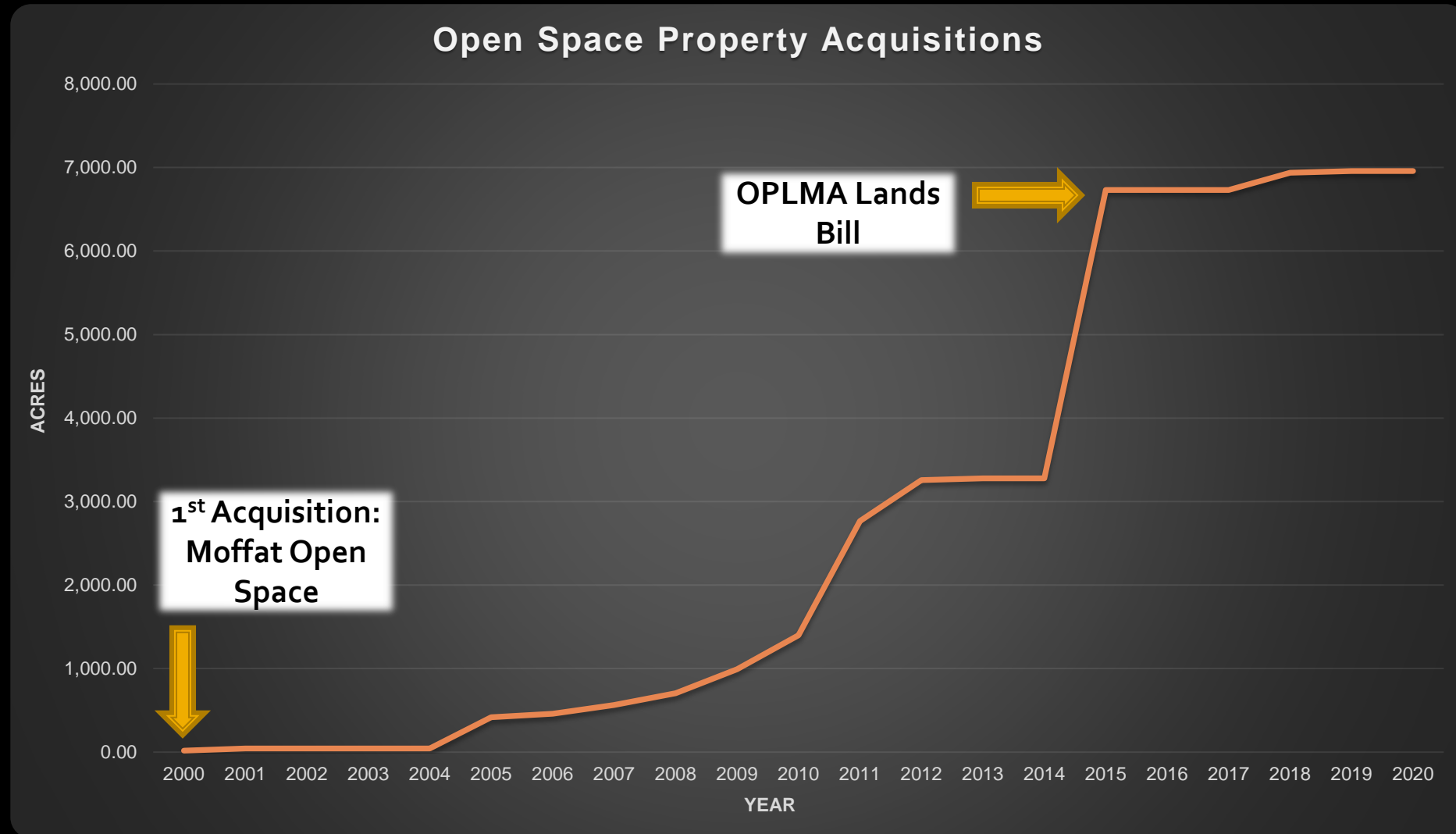


- Land has been preserved through a few mechanisms:
 - Fee title acquisition
 - Q18 funds
 - Grants
 - \$14,229,270!
 - Generous donations
 - Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (OPLMA)
 - Conservation Easements



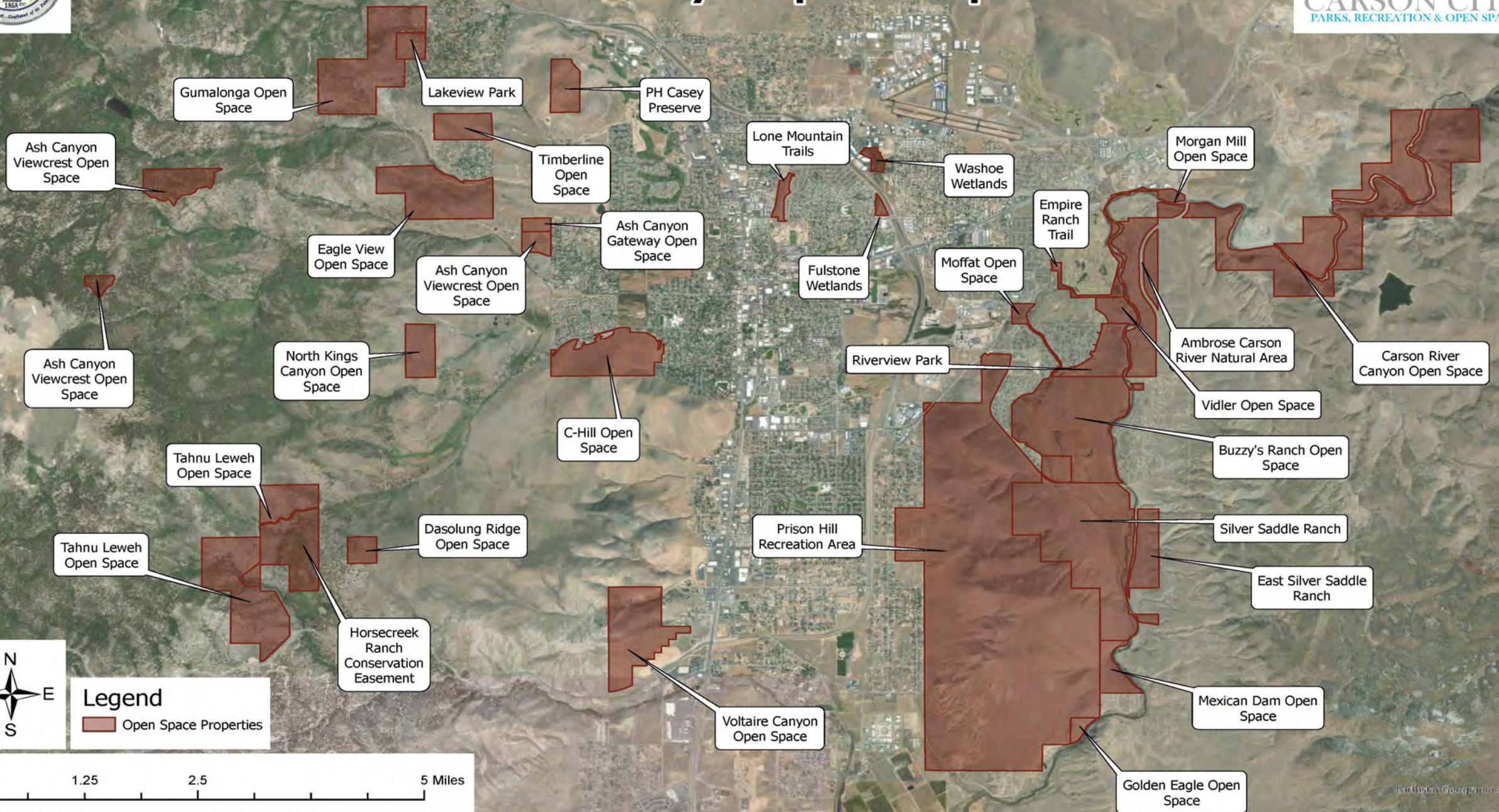
Open Space Program

est. 1996





Carson City Open Space



Why do we preserve Open Space lands?



Open Space Protects Diverse Ecosystems



Open Space Minimizes Flood Damage



Open Space Protects Wildlife Habitat



Open Space Encourages Stewardship & Conservation



Open Space Protects and Interprets Cultural Resources

History of SILVER SADDLE RANCH



- The Bell House**
Originally built by the Granddaddy in 1870. Expansions were added by following owners.
- The Pioneer House**
Built by the Bell family in 1880 as a ranch house.
- Hay Barn**
Built by the Bell family.
- Working Shed**
Built by the Bell family in 1880 as a workshop during the early days of ranching.
- Engineered Shed**
Built by the Bell family.
- Root Cellar**
Built by the Bell family.
- Children's Cave**
Built by the Bell family.
- Rock House**
Built by the Bell family.
- Working Sheds**
Built by the Bell family in 1880 as a workshop during the early days of ranching.
- Mountain Valley**
Built by the Bell family.

1860 Alexander Deitz, Carr and Hill are built to support the business in Carson City. The children are through the value of agriculture land.

1877 Deitz family moves to the field here to work on the Silver Saddle Ranch. He built the shed and barn and the other for working and storage of equipment.

1932 Carr family acquires 400 acres of the Silver Saddle Ranch property. They built a new house and barn and the other for working and storage of equipment.

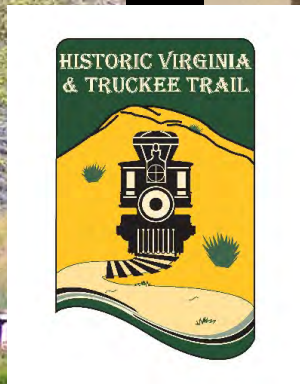
1946 Carr family acquires 400 acres of the Silver Saddle Ranch property. They built a new house and barn and the other for working and storage of equipment.

1956 Carr family acquires 400 acres of the Silver Saddle Ranch property. They built a new house and barn and the other for working and storage of equipment.

1967 Carr family acquires 400 acres of the Silver Saddle Ranch property. They built a new house and barn and the other for working and storage of equipment.

2015 Carr family acquires 400 acres of the Silver Saddle Ranch property. They built a new house and barn and the other for working and storage of equipment.

2020 Carr family acquires 400 acres of the Silver Saddle Ranch property. They built a new house and barn and the other for working and storage of equipment.



Mills Along the Carson River

Request City - River of Mining, Mills and Mills

Following the 1870 discovery of the Carson River, one of the largest gold and silver strikes in U.S. history, several families in the Carson River valley began to mine. The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

1870 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

1877 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

1880 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

1883 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

1886 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

1889 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

1892 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

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1898 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

1901 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

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2000 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

2003 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

2006 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

2009 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

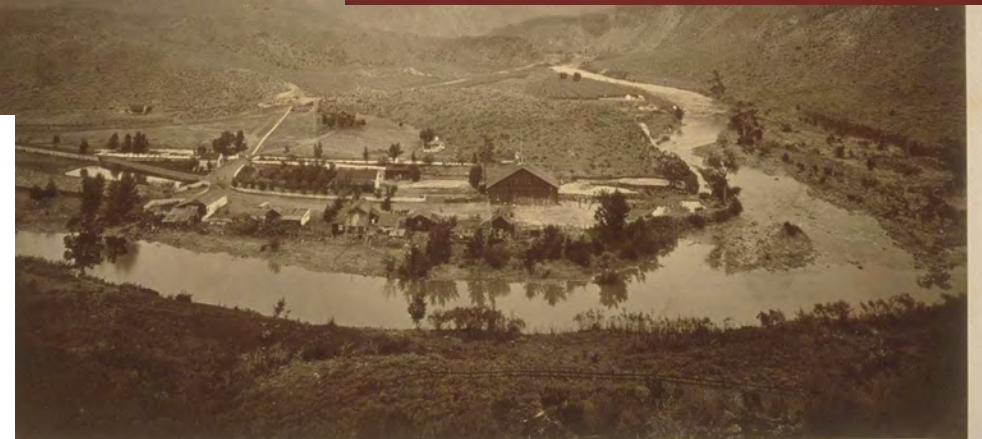
2012 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

2015 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

2018 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

2021 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.

2024 The Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver, and the Carson River valley is a rich source of gold and silver.



THE MERIMAC—VIEW DOWN THE CARSON RIVER

Open Space Provides Opportunities for Outdoor Recreation



Carson City's Trails Program



Over 100 miles of trails...

- 50+ miles of singletrack trails
- 17+ miles of doubletrack trails
- 27+ miles of urban paved trails
- 25+ miles of motorized trails
- 14-mile aquatic trail

Why Does Carson City Build Trails?



Communities with
trails are healthier...

Physically
Emotionally
Economically



"Every \$1 invested in trails saves \$3 in medical bills"

-American Heart Association

Trails Foster Emotional, Spiritual and Social Health



Spending time outdoors reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, increases creativity, combats depression, and promotes healing.



TRAIL YOGA HIKE

MAY 11, 9:00AM-11:30AM

*Join us for meditative
time in nature!*

For this free, moderately difficult, one-mile hike, make sure to bring water, sturdy shoes, and a yoga mat. At the top, enjoy the view while a Community Yogi leads beginner yoga!

Meet us at the Dead Truck Canyon Trail head at Silver Saddle Ranch (2648 Carson River Road).

Please register at www.carson.org/ccpr



Trails Break Down Barriers and Connect People



“Loneliness and trails are inversely related”

-Psychology Today

Trails Contribute to a Safer Community



In the street a child is invisible from every angle.



Trails remove pedestrians and bicycles from dangerous vehicular traffic.

Trails as Resilient Infrastructure



Trails may play a role in mitigating the effects of climate change by managing stormwater, creating fuel breaks and routes for both emergency access and public evacuation, and providing transportation alternatives.

Prison Hill Master Plan

Carson City, Nevada

Adopted May 4, 2023



TRAILS AS RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

3/10/2024 | December 2023



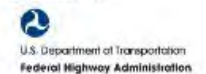
Graphic: W&A Associates (Photo: NPS Resource Environment of Subalpine)

Trails and Resilience: Review of the Role of Trails in Climate Resilience and Emergency Response

Prepared for the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration
by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the
National Highway Construction Council (NHCC) | March 2023



Graphic: W&A Associates



Oversized culvert

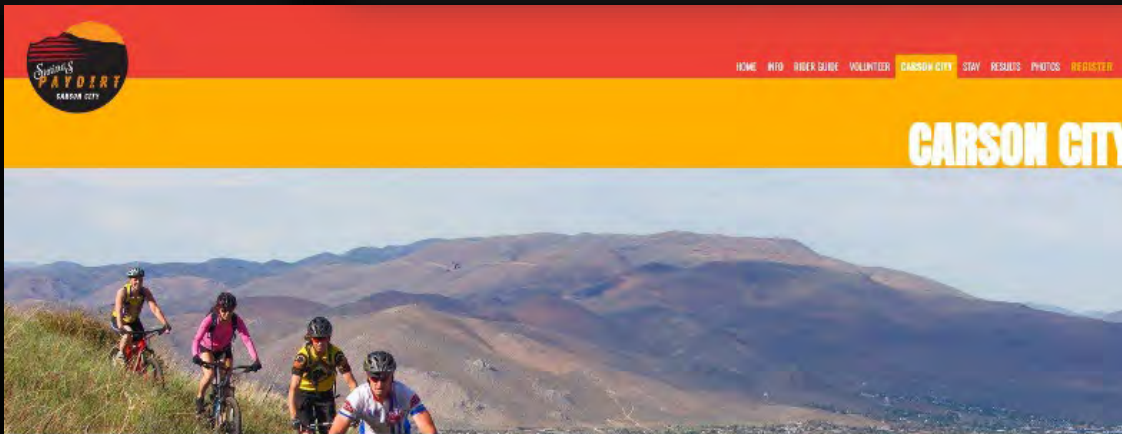
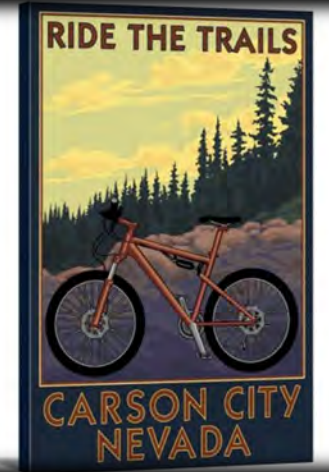


Emergency access and fuel break

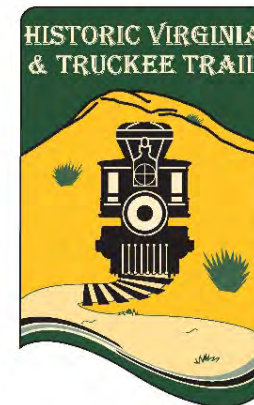


Rock-lined ditch to capture and redirect sheet flow

Trails Promote Economic Vitality



"Trails are the most desired community amenity that homeowners seek when buying a home"
-National Association of Home Builders, 2008



Our Residents Request Trails!



CARSON CITY
NEVADA



master plan

ADOPTION DRAFT FEBRUARY 2025

2025 Master Plan Update

During listening sessions, residents told us:

- Access to outdoor recreation (parks, trails, open space/public lands) was one of four favorite things about Carson City.
- They want more open space and trails.

The Draft Master Plan Update includes these “Guiding Principles”:

- Access to Open Lands and Recreational Opportunities.
- A Connected Community.

The Capital to Tahoe Trail

A Case Study in Community Partnerships

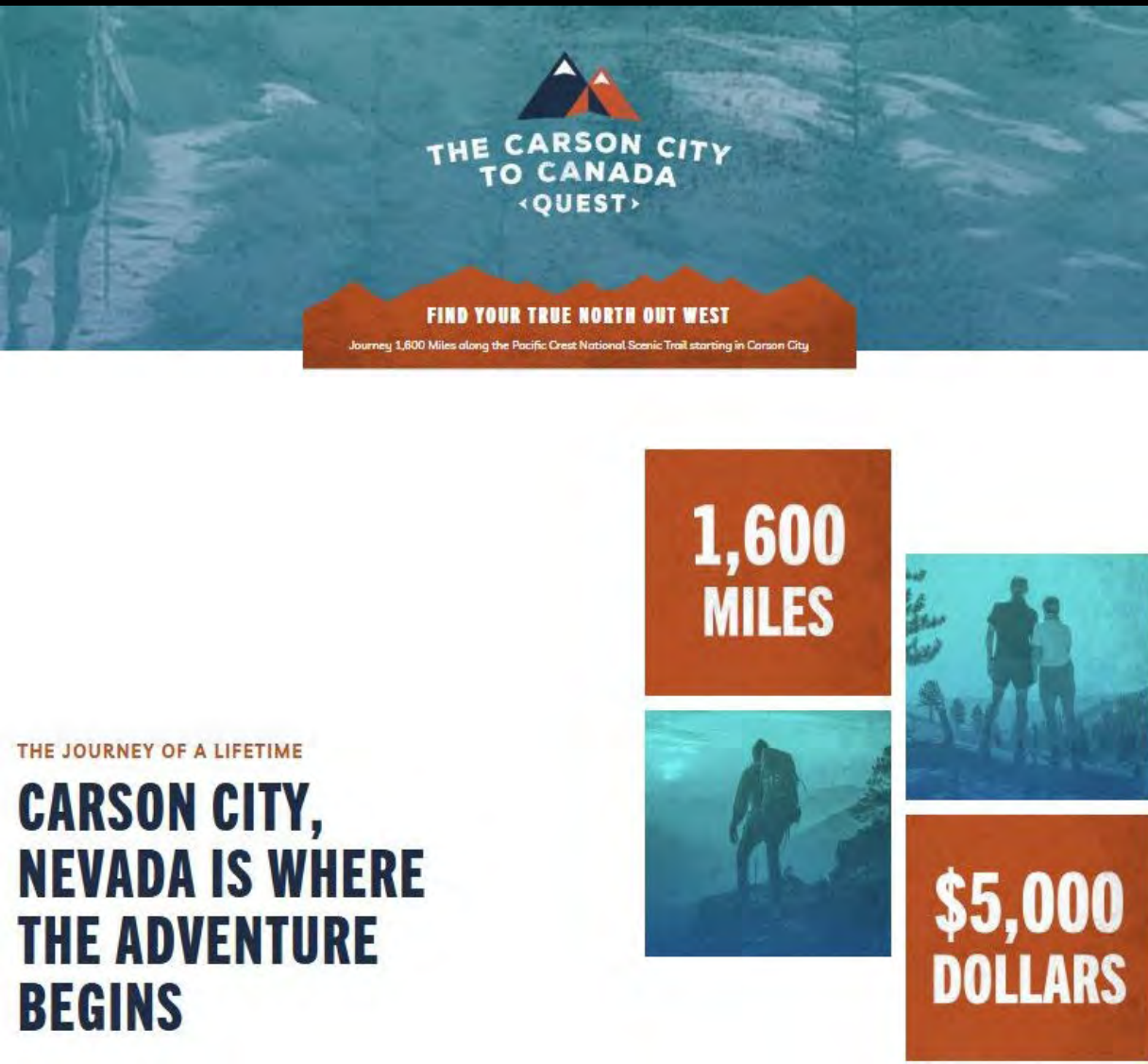


- Eight-year effort, led by Muscle Powered.
- NEPA and Cultural Resource surveys funded by Visit Carson City.
- Construction funded by a RTP grant with match from the Quality-of-Life Initiative and supported by volunteer trail builders from Muscle Powered.
- Completed October 2023.
- First singletrack connection from Carson City to Lake Tahoe, making possible a journey to Mexico or Canada!



The Capital to Tahoe Trail

A Case Study in Community Partnerships



Visit Carson City launched the “*Carson City to Canada Quest*” in March 2023.

Goal: Inspire people to get on the trails.

Community was wildly excited!

Low Investment – Huge Returns.

No paid advertising.

The Capital to Tahoe Trail

A Case Study in Community Partnerships



This one static image on Meta ran June 10 to November 17, 2024.

- Impressions: 213,684
- Clicks: 3,081
- Engagements: 3,396
- Website visits: 2,833

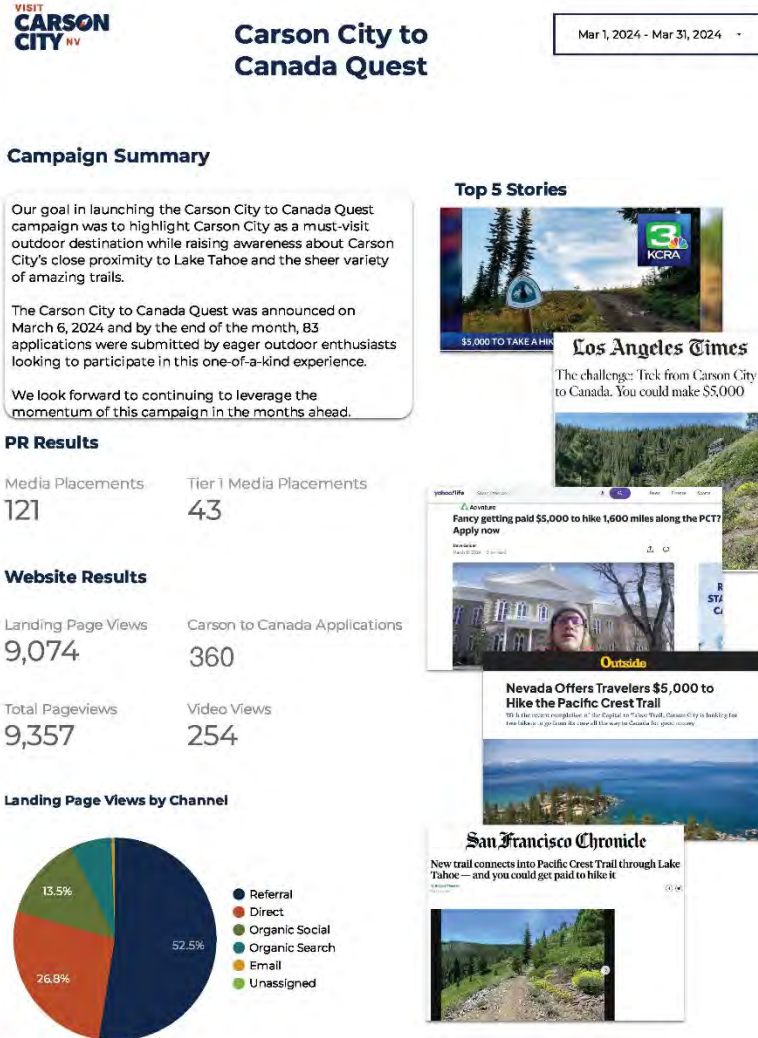
Overall, it generated very high response from target audience at very low cost.

A Visit Carson City survey indicated that 'Outdoor Recreation' was the purpose for 25% of visitors to Carson City.



The Capital to Tahoe Trail

A Case Study in Community Partnerships



The PR generated more than 120 news stories, including:

- KCRA Radio, Sacramento
- Los Angeles Times
- San Francisco Chronicle
- Outside
- Backpacker
- Yahoo
- Several international travel publications

Over 360 people from around the world applied for the Quest.

According to Visit Carson City, Tourism Economics estimates that in 2023, visitors to Carson City spent almost \$46 million on recreation.

Open Space & Trails Make for a Quality Life!



Thank you!

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