



WASHOE COUNTY

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

1001 EAST 9TH STREET
RENO, NEVADA 89512-2845
PHONE (775) 328-3600
FAX (775) 328-3699

Carcione and Canepa Ranch Recreation Access Plan – Fact Sheet

Project Purpose:

Washoe County residents vocalized strong support for trails and open space access during the 2019 update of the Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan (Parks Master Plan), ranking access to Hiking/Natural Areas/Open Spaces as their number one use. The proposed trailhead is identified in the Parks Master Plan as well as the Verdi Area Plan, adopted in 2008, and the Open Space and Natural Resource Management Plan (adopted in 2008). The creation of a recreation access plan for Carcione Open Space and Canepa Ranch Open Space is moving the County toward implementation of a long-desired and planned project.

These two ranches, acquired in 1997 and 2002 (Canepa Ranch), and 2008 and 2015 (Carcione), are located less than ¼ mile from each other, but they are not contiguous, separated by Forest Service land and the Truckee River. They have a combined area of approximately 96 acres, have historic significance to the region and provide a significant amount of land for public access. A major challenge to providing access is the lack of a public easement across the railroad tracks owned by the Union Pacific Railroad (UPR). The existing dirt parking areas on the north side of the river are on UPR property.

The project goals include:

- Improve public access to County-owned parcels (hike, bike, fish, splash)
- Connect the County parcels to the larger open space and trail network
- Disperse capacity from other areas
- Manage visitor use
- Protect natural and cultural resources
- Improve frontcountry and Truckee River access as well as backcountry access to the Sierra
- Connect to existing and future trails
- Connect users to the site's history and natural resources
- Improve public safety and ADA accessibility

Proposed Master Plan Elements:

Based on stakeholder and public feedback, the draft master plan shows modest improvements with the intent of formalizing public access.

- Parking areas on both properties are shown no larger than 20 vehicle spaces, while accommodating a limited number of trailers for equestrian use.
- Trail map kiosk with rules and regulations
- Wayfinding and directional signage
- Pedestrian/bike bridge over the Truckee River
- Lockable restrooms
- Day use amenities include shade structures, picnic tables, trash receptacles, interpretive signs

This draft plan has been developed in coordination with the following stakeholders:

U.S. Forest Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Energy, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Steamboat Canal and Irrigation Company, City of Reno, Local Trail Advocates, Nevada State Lands, One Truckee River.

Next steps:

- Review and analyze Survey #2 results and other received comments; identify concerns and develop proposed mitigation measures; revise plan based on input to develop preferred plan
- Present plan to Park Commission and Board of County Commissioners (March/April 2022)
- Other required elements: Funding; easements; environmental review process (as needed); design work; required state and local permits



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