



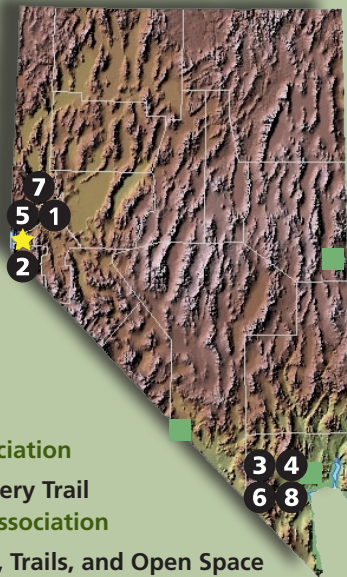
Nevada News



Pedestrian bridge will provide a safe crossing for the North Reach Trail
Photo: Rialto Studio

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Canoe Hill Trails
Canoe Hill Trail Association
2. Carson Valley Discovery Trail
Carson Valley Trail Association
3. Gypsum Ridge Parks, Trails, and Open Space
Clark County
4. Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights
Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights Alliance
5. Red Hill Open Space
Washoe County
6. Southern Nevada Open Space and Trails Summit
Outside Las Vegas Foundation
7. Swan Lake Nature Study Area
Nevada Land Conservancy
8. Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP)
SNAP Interagency Recreation and OHV Team

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Colorado River Heritage Greenway Park and Trails featured in America's Great Outdoors

Recognizing an opportunity to protect environmentally sensitive riparian areas and develop a regional trails system, the Town of Laughlin convened community members in 2002 to develop a regional trail plan. With facilitation and partnership building support from RTCA, a collaborative team, including participants from the Bureau of Reclamation and Lake Mead National Recreation Area,

“RTCA’s help in developing trail partnerships gave our communities the basis to successfully work together as a region...”

- Deborah Murray

developed the plan, which included trails connecting Laughlin to Bullhead City and conservation areas.

Since the initial planning, the project received over \$24M in funding from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, Clark County, and federal grants for the first phase of the “North Reach.” Nine miles of trails and amenities, pedestrian crossings, and the Laughlin Heritage Greenway Park will open during Feb. 2012. The project was featured in the America’s

Great Outdoors 50 State Report, which recommends continued implementation, youth engagement, and invasive species removal.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Current Projects

1. Canoe Hill Trail

Project Partner: Great Basin Institute
NPS Contact: Barbara Rice
(510) 817-1449
Location: Sparks
Congressional District: 2

Project Goal

Establish a network of trails on Bureau of Land Management lands within the foothills of Sparks, connecting local neighborhoods, regional parks, county trails, and bikeways. Revegetate social trails and direct recreation use to appropriate areas.

NPS Role

Facilitate expanded community and partner involvement and develop a community supported trails vision.

2. Carson Valley Discovery Trail

Project Partner: Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA)
NPS Contact: Deb Reardon
(702) 895-4890
Location: Douglas County
Congressional District: 2

Project Goal

The CVTA, in partnership with Douglas County and other partners, are working to implement a 100-mile loop trail and community trail connections. In order to connect existing and planned segments for a continuous



Gypsum Ridge provides spectacular and readily accessible views of the Las Vegas Valley.
Photo: Dave Carlson, Clark County

trail, opportunities for trails on federal and private lands will be explored.

NPS Role

Facilitate meetings of the community-led landowner outreach team in order to identify trail opportunities, issues and solutions for connecting segments of the Carson Valley Trail. Research funding opportunities for land acquisitions.

3. Gypsum Ridge Parks, Trails, and Open Space

Project Partner: Clark County
NPS Contact: Deb Reardon
Location: Spring Valley and Summerlin
Congressional District: 3

Project Goal

Gypsum Ridge, which includes three County-owned parcels totaling 1,200 acres, provides opportunities for close-to-home recreation and open space conservation. At an elevation of 3,400 feet, the area is currently used for hiking, biking, and ATV riding. Gypsum Ridge provides an opportunity to develop a system of trails and open spaces that connect to nearby communities and adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands.

NPS Role

Facilitate community workshops in order to develop a shared vision for Gypsum Ridge, identify opportunities and constraints, and solicit community feedback and preferences.

4. Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Project Partner: Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights Alliance
NPS Contact: Deb Reardon
Location: Statewide initiative
Congressional Districts: 1, 2 and 3

Project Goal

Through promotion of the Bill of Rights, encourage Nevada's children to participate in outdoor recreational activities, engage in lifelong learning adventures, and become stewards of the environment.



Neighbors participate in a guided bird walk during the "Swan Lake Saturday" outreach event.
Photo: Ela Zawadzka, Nevada Land Conservancy

Current Projects cont.

NPS Role

Facilitate implementation by the Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights Alliance, which includes more than 25 organizations and agencies.

5. Red Hill Recreation

Project Partner: Washoe County

NPS Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: Sun Valley, 7 miles north of downtown Reno

Congressional District: 2

Project Goal

A community vision and conceptual plan for Red Hill is needed to identify priorities for outdoor recreation, non-motorized trails, including connections to the future Sun Valley Rim Trail and Washoe County Trail System, restoration, and conservation areas.

NPS Role

Facilitate the development of a shared vision and conceptual plan for Red Hill through community engagement and a design charrette, completed in collaboration with the American Society of Landscape Architects. Build partnerships between Washoe County and community partners, surrounding property owners, schools, and residents.

6. Open Space and Trails Summit

Project Partner: Outside Las Vegas Foundation

NPS Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: Southern Nevada

Congressional Districts: 1, 2 and 3

Project Goal

Plan the 2012 Open Space and Trails Summit, where community and business leaders, non-profits, health professionals, and key agency staff will celebrate the Neon to Nature trails



Red Hill Design team creates a conceptual plan that includes recreation and conservation.
Photo: Jennifer Budge, Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space

system, explore the role of open space and trails in building a world-class community, and identify partnership opportunities.

NPS Role

Participate on the Summit Planning Team and identify potential panelists and community partners.

7. Swan Lake Nature Study Area

Project Partner: Nevada Land Conservancy

NPS Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: Lemmon Valley, 14 miles northeast of downtown Reno

Congressional District: 2

Project Goal

The 1,200-acre site is collaboratively managed by the multi-partner Swan Lake Nature Study Area Advisory Board. A master plan update is needed to develop a shared purpose statement and goals.

NPS Role

Facilitate Swan Lake Advisory Board agreement on a vision, mission, and goals and prepare a master plan update. Support updates to existing interagency agreements and develop outreach materials.

8. Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP)

Project Partner: SNAP Interagency Recreation and OHV Team

NPS Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: Clark County

Congressional Districts: 1, 2 and 3

RTCA staff in Nevada is partially supported through a partnership with the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP). As part of this collaboration, RTCA staff serves as Project Manager for the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership Interagency Recreation and OHV Team. In this capacity, RTCA supports the completion of the Interagency Recreation Strategy and Interagency OHV Strategy projects and facilitates team development.

“RTCA’s knowledge, expertise, patience and creativity has truly made the Red Hill project a success...”

- Jennifer Budge, Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space.

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.

Deborah Reardon

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2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,991 Miles of Trail Developed

1,925 Miles of River Conserved

33,230 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

Land Acquired for Beatty Parks and Open Space

In the Beatty-Oasis Valley of Southwest Nevada, just 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas and a few miles east of Death Valley, is the desert paradise of the Amargosa River. The longest underground river in the world, the Amargosa River, flows above ground for about twelve miles through the Oasis Valley before disappearing underground for the rest of its journey to Death Valley. A true oasis from the harsh desert environment, trees, wetlands and open spaces along the Amargosa River provide habitat to the Amargosa Toad, resident and migrating birds, and many other species.

Through the Beatty Habitat Trails project, the community envisioned a network of signed trails and desert ways that connect the Oasis Valley's cultural, historic and recreational sites while fostering an understanding and appreciation for habitat conservation. In order to further this vision, the Beatty Habitat Committee, with assistance from RTCA and the American Society of Landscape Architects, conducted a community-wide planning "charrette" (multi-day workshop) in 2003 to create a trails plan, gateway "branding" ideas, and identify community enhancement projects, such as pocket parks.

The Beatty Habitat Committee, in collaboration with partners including the Town of Beatty, The Nature Conservancy and Amargosa River Conservancy, are working together to implement the plans and have secured lands for pocket parks and protection of the river corridor. Two pocket parks near downtown, which will beautify the area while adding recreation and interpretive amenities, are in development through a land donation to the American Land Conservancy and funding of \$12,500 by the Town of Beatty. The Nature Conservancy also acquired the Parker Ranch and four additional properties that together protect more than 2.5 miles of the river corridor. Building on these successes, the Committee continues to work with the Bureau of Land Management and private property owners to develop a nature trail along the river.



Shirley Harlan, Beatty Habitat Committee, takes a walk along the Amargosa River.
Photo: Deb Reardon, National Park Service RTCA