

Newberry Community Service District Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)

11/12/24 Meeting Notes:

Project Summary:

The Newberry Community Service District (NCSD) is working to upgrade their parkland to meet community needs for mobility, exercise, and recreation. This includes urban greening and low impact development strategies as well as interpretive pathways that promote the surrounding public lands including the Newberry & Rodman Mountain Wilderness and the nearby Mojave Trails National Monument.

An upgrade to the NCSD parkland will improve air quality and water retention in the area and make the park more accessible. The renovation will also include features that promote environmental awareness, physical activity, reduce chronic diseases, improve mental health, and foster community connections. These improvements will benefit the local residents as well as visitors to the Mojave Desert region.

Working with Carlos Flores, our project lead from the National Park Service RTCA Technical Assistance Program, we will develop a concept and implementation plan for the parkland improvements. Community partners include the Newberry Springs Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Murals, Inc., Newberry Springs Economic Development Association and Foundations for Future Generations.

Mission Statement:

- To enhance existing parkland for residents and visitors through infrastructure improvements and recreation/education activities.

Vision Statement:

- A vibrant sustainable parkland that enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors, promotes environmental awareness and fosters community.

Notes from 11/12/24 Virtual Meeting:

Present: Carlos Flores (NPS), Mike Matson (NCSD), Margie Roberts (NCSD), Kayleen Vanek (NCSD), Rose Beardshear (NSCOC), Jane Brockhurst (MSM), Gwen Patrick (FFG), and Pastor Charles (NSEDA), Daphne Lanier (NCSD Fire), Rylan Lanier (NCSD Fire), and Ted Stimpfel (Community Advocate).

The meeting focused on Stakeholder Analysis for the project. Carlos made it to the Pistachio Festival and was able to see the park in full swing and observe some of the issues like parking and accessibility.

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As of the last meeting, we now have a roadmap to get us to where we are going—a conceptual and implementation plan for the Newberry Parkland Improvement Project. We are shooting for a July 3rd unveiling/public celebration. A review of the workplan is as follows:

Nov.—Who is and should be involved? What are their roles?

Dec.—What are the opportunities and constraints?

Jan.—How do we reach and engage with our stakeholders?

Feb.—Kick-off Meeting & Design workshop

Based on public input from the design workshop, we will come up with 1, 2 or 3 alternative designs for the parkland. We will select the best either at a public meeting or vote. The final concept will pull together all the best ideas gathered from the public.

Today, known and potential stakeholders were divided into the following categories: Planning/Working Team, Advisors/Experts, Implementers/Supporters, Funders/Donors, Influencers, Community Opinion Leaders, Decision Makers, People Who Could Be Affected, Potential Opponents.

Carlos documented all of the suggested stakeholders and will send Rose the completed diagram. Once received, Rose will work on a contact list for Kayleen to send out an invite to all the stakeholders.

There was discussion on different levels of public participation including: 1. Inform 2. Consult, 3. Involve 4. Collaborate 5. Empower. Carlos gave examples of each category. There was discussion on broadening our planning team from the Funder/Donor pool. Suggestions included SB County representative, C & M Fence, Chris Palmer from CSDA and California State Parks. Carlos wants us to consider including representatives from the community, the American Legion, the mining operation, and the owner of the neighboring lot.

Next meeting will be held on December 3, 2024 11-1 p.m. (in-person) at the CSD building. We will focus on opportunities and constraints. The meeting will be 1.5-2 hours. NCSD will provide a pizza lunch from the Barn.