

Provided as Supplemental Material to the Town Board Packet Town Board Meeting January 5, 2021

Public Comment Received Prior to 4:00 PM on January 4, 2021

Agenda Item No 8 – Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

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**From:** julie duda  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 31, 2020 10:31 AM  
**To:** Nilssen, Erik <ehnilssen@douglasnv.us> <EHNilssen@douglasnv.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Town Board Meeting Agenda-public comment for item 8, Parks and Open Space Master Plan

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Hi Erik,

Thanks for your message regarding the January 5th Town Board Meeting.  
This is public comment for item 8, Parks and Open Space Master Plan:

#### MARTIN SLOUGH OPEN SPACE

After reviewing the entire background report for item 8, I will focus my comments on the Martin Slough Open Space proposal  
with recommendations for modification to the existing draft plan.

To assist in a response to the proposal, the following agencies and organizations are currently involved to study and develop  
recommendations in accordance with consideration for the existing wildlife pond area:

- 1 -The Nature Conservancy
- 2- Lahontan Audubon Society
- 3- Nevada Department of Wildlife

Also, important to note, the Douglas County Master Plan Parks and Recreation, Chapter 5, Goal 4 is to promote and enhance public  
land and recognize areas of sensitive habitat. The Martin Slough Nature Trail and Wildlife Pond has been recommended as an area  
to be recognized as sensitive habitat.

For background on the wildlife pond a brief review of its evolution is relevant. A few years ago (2018) the pond was only a large  
patch of weeds. A developer came along, asked for fill dirt for a residential project and dug a big hole in the ground. The underground

water formed the existing pond. Mother Nature proceeded to change the pond to a natural habitat for thousands of migratory birds. Experts in Nevada wildlife say this is the usual result of providing water in a water challenged area. The birds will come. They did come. First a few then more and now there are thousands of migratory birds coming to the Wildlife Pond.

Some of the birds that have been observed in and around the wildlife pond: Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, red-tailed hawks, swallows, ravens, Cooper hawks, doves, quail, finches, ubiquitous magpies, gulls, hummingbirds, sparrows, robins, several species of ducks, and many others that only trained birders will be able to recognize and name. In addition, the pond is home to frogs, reptiles and other wildlife. The evolution of this pond is truly remarkable and with careful planning, it will continue to be a sanctuary for wildlife. Wildlife must not be the unintended endangered target of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

The Carson Valley is united in its focus on the bird population with the annual bird count scheduled for January 2, 2021 and the Eagles and Ag event currently in the planning process and scheduled for late January. Protection of our wild bird population is part of our local heritage and deserves to be continued in the current and future open space planning.

#### RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS

- 1- Eliminate the dock and remote-controlled boats as potential liabilities to the Town of Gardnerville and as not being compatible with a sensitive wildlife area.
- 2- Treat the Martin Slough Open Space as a separate entity of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan to facilitate information from the experts in wildlife protection specifically The Nature Conservancy, Lahontan Audubon Society, and Nevada DOW in order for careful and thoughtful decision making that will promote and enhance current and future wildlife protection.

Thank you, Erik, Carol, Geoff, Marie for assistance with providing information related to the Town of Gardnerville Parks and Open Space Master Plan. Also, grateful to Chair Mary Wenner and Board members Mike Henningsen, Lloyd Higuera, Ken Miller and Linda Slater for commitment to protecting the community's quality of life while proactively preparing for the future.

**Nilssen, Erik <ehnilssen@douglasnv.us>**

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**From:** brian sweet  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 31, 2020 4:43 PM  
**To:** Nilssen, Erik <ehnilssen@douglasnv.us>  
**Subject:** Jan 5, 2020 Meeting Agenda #8 - Public Comment  
**Attachments:** thumbnail\_IMG\_2630.jpg; thumbnail\_IMG\_2631.jpg

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For Possible Action: Discussion to approve or require modifications to the proposed Town of Gardnerville Parks and Open Space Master Plan; with public comment prior to board action.  
(Derek Kirkland and Eric Hasty, Wood Rodgers Incorporated)

Martin Slough has turned into a bird sanctuary. Future park development should consider wildlife. Often there are over 100 different ducks, pelicans, cranes, herons, and geese in the pond at the same time. This mallard nest in the attached photos was outside my fence on Lasso Lane. We had over 30 baby ducks and 6 baby geese last summer. At NO point should RC boats be allowed in the pond. Also sand volleyball courts at \$80,000 is a waste of money, i can think of many different amenities to install in lieu of the courts for \$80,000. We look forward to the trail improvements around and adjacent to the lake as well as the installation of bubblers. Planted trees should be lower profile as everyone facing the lake paid tens of thousands of dollars per lot for view privileges.

Thank you

Brian Sweet  
1197 Lasso Lane





**Nilssen, Erik <ehnilssen@douglasnv.us>**

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**From:** Gregory Beller  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 3, 2021 10:22 AM  
**To:** Nilssen, Erik <ehnilssen@douglasnv.us>  
**Subject:** Martin Slough Open Space

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Sir: I am a resident of Gardnerville our house faces the pond behind Lasso Lane. 1201 to be exact. I attended the Sept. meeting put on by Wood- Rogers. The attendance was very thin. The information that I would like to pass on I think will be helpful in the selection of amenities. The current level of the pond is approx. ten feet lower than spring melt. When the melt is over no new water enters the pond. By mid summer the alge growth is in full bloom, the possibility of fish survival is low. The best and first aminity should be state of the art areation system, this will help the O2 levels and fish health. The city has not made any improvements to this area in two years. During this time the pond has turned into a waterfowl nesting area with at least three generations . It seems this Martin

Slough Area should be a waterfowl area and nature preserve. With trails and landscaping that is designed for nesting and making the pond the center piece. I also suggest the the pond be enlarged and the fill dirt sold to cover cost of developing the nature area. It seem to me that other parks are more suitable for vollyball and other activities. There is federal and state money available for waterfowl sanctuaries, along with Audubon Society and other private bird clubs. The idea of being close to nature is one of the best attributes of this town thank your for time. Gregory Beller