

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
P.O. Box 1014
Nevada City, California 95959
info@nevadacountylandmarks.com
530-274-7118

RECEIVED

MAY 21 2021

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

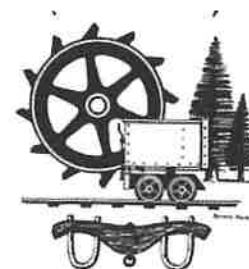
21 May 2021

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Honorable Chair and Board Members:

At today's meeting, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the application for landmark designation of Hirschman's Pond be approved. The applicant is the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission, in cooperation with the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association, which is sponsoring the plaque. The Pond site is owned by the City of Nevada which has approved the placement of a plaque at the site. The landmark is to be designated as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 21-03, assuming the two pending applications are approved first.

The landmark will commemorate the Jewish community, which contributed significantly to Nevada County's growth, as well as one of its leading citizens, Leb Hirschman. Jewish immigrants from Europe were attracted to Nevada County by the opportunity to make their fortunes and by the County's relative freedom and absence of discrimination against Jews. Many were merchants and many were miners. One of the most successful miners was Leb Hirschman, a native of Bavaria who arrived in Nevada County in 1852, and began mining around Oustamah Hill. In 1866, he and a partner acquired the hydraulic mine which became known as Hirschman's Diggings and which he operated for many years. The Pond is on the site of the mine. It is the lone remaining readily visible physical reminder of the contributions Jewish miners made to the growth of Nevada County.



The research and documentation which accompanies the application has been reviewed by several Commissioner for historical accuracy. The application and supporting documentation is enclosed.

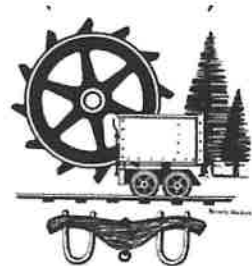
If you approve the application, please forward the resolution and accompanying documents to the County Recorder.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

Bernard Zimmerman, Chair

cc: Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association



County of Nevada
State of California

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

Name of proposed landmark: Hirschman's Pond

Location: near the intersection of Highway 49 and Cement Hill Rd.

Name of applicant: Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission

Address: P. O. Box 1014, Nevada City, Cal. 95959

Home or work phone _____ cell phone: XXXXXXXXXX

Name and address of owner upon whose property proposed landmark
is located, if owner is not applicant: City of Nevada

I authorize the placing of a plaque or marker on site.

John L. Phillips
Owner's signature

May 20, 2021
Date

Brief history and description of proposed landmark

(attach additional sheets as necessary)

During the gold rush days, Nevada County had a large Jewish population. Many were merchants and many were miners. Jews formed their own religious and social organizations, such as the Hebrew Benevolent Society and the Garizim Lodge of the B'nai Brith fraternal order. They also helped found and participated in community organizations such as the Masons and Odd Fellows. They were active politically, and were elected to local offices. The Jewish community declined as mining declined late in the 19th century. There are few visible remains of the pioneering Jewish community. Two are the Grass Valley and Nevada City Jewish cemeteries which have been declared historical landmarks, despite both having suffered greatly from vandalism. The lone remaining readily visible landmark is Hirschman's Pond, the subject of this application.

The pond is named for Leb Hirschman. Leb was born in 1823 in Obbach, in what is now Germany but was then Bavaria. Little else is known of his early years but he arrived in the U.S. on July 15, 1852. In 1856, he was naturalized an American citizen in Nevada County.

Leb first mined around Oustamah Hill, which is about a mile northwest of Nevada City. He must have been successful because in 1866, he and a partner, Henry Grover, purchased a hydraulic mine, the American Hill Diggins, located near Oustamah Hill. They then invested a reported \$25,000 in building a tunnel to facilitate their mining. In the 1870s, Hirschman was operating Hirschman's Diggins, one of the two leading hydraulic mines around Nevada City, and buying and selling mining interests and claims. He was also a public minded citizen, serving on trial juries and at least twice on grand juries. On August 18, 1893, he died in Chicago while out on a walk. His will was probated in Nevada City. The probate order dated September 18, 1893 recites that he was a resident of Nevada City at the time of his death in Chicago and that his estate was valued at about \$4000. His will left a number of bequests to relatives in Obbach and to relatives living in the United States. He never married.

Following the 1884 Sawyer decision, which enjoined hydraulic mines from dumping their debris into the Yuba River, hydraulic mining ground to a halt. In 1888, new owners of Hirschman's Diggins were exploring mining a quartz ledge, which Hirschman had left largely untouched. All mining at Hirschman's Diggins seems to have ceased around 1900. As to the pond, it is not clear how it was created. In 1895, the Providence Mining Company built a reservoir in Hirschman's Diggins and a pipeline from the reservoir to its mine. One theory is that the pond is what is left of that reservoir. Another theory is that a spring filled the cavity created by the hydraulic mining, creating the pond.

Early in the 20th century, the pond was stocked with fish and became a popular fishing spot. In this century, the property was acquired by Nevada City, and with the assistance

of the Bear Yuba Land Trust, became the centerpiece of the Hirschman's Pond Trail, a popular hiking site.

Leb is sometimes confused with the Hirschman brothers, Henry and Morris, who owned a cigar and tobacco business in Nevada City in the 1850s. Several historians have incorrectly stated that Hirschman's Pond was named after the brothers. There is no evidence that Leb was related to Moses and Henry.

Historically significant aspects or properties of proposed landmark

It is the lone remaining readily visible physical reminder of the contributions Jewish miners made to the growth of Nevada County.

How will the landmark be protected and maintained?

The Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission will be responsible for maintaining the plaque, in cooperation with the City of Nevada and the Bear Yuba Land Trust, who maintain the site.

Bibliography. Cite or attach available books, records, articles or other materials pertaining to the proposed landmark.

Books and articles:

Attached:

Levinson, Dr. Robert E. (July 1971) The History Of The Jews Of Grass Valley, Nevada City And Vicinity, Nevada County Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. 25, Number 3.

Zimmerman, Bernard (Jan. 29, 2021) What's In A Name; Part 2. The Union.

Union articles dated May 23, 1875, Jan. 17, 1884, Feb. 24, 1889, Oct. 15, 1891, Nov. 24, 1892, Aug. 25, 1893, Oct. 19, 1895, Oct. 27, 1895, Sept. 17, 2004.

Marysville Daily Appeal, May 4, 1898.

Historical or civil records: (e.g., ownership, assessments etc.)

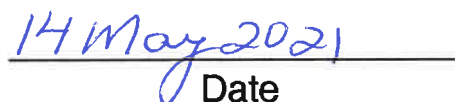
Attached:

1880 census
Voter registration
Death record
Will

Other: (e.g. photographs, prints or drawings. Please list and attach separately)

Attached: 5 historical photos and 1 current image


Applicant's signature


Date

=====

This completed form and all related documents shall be sent to the:

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Attention: Chairman
P. O. Box 1014, Nevada City, Cal. 95959

Attachments and related documents may be submitted in electronic format.

Nevada County Historical Society

Vol. 25 No. 3

JULY 1971

THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF GRASS VALLEY, NEVADA CITY
AND VICINITY - BY DR. ROBERT E. LEVINSON

The material for this bulletin by Dr. Robert E. Levinson, was taken from his address delivered at the re-dedication of the Grass Valley Jewish Cemetery.

Dr. Levinson is Assistant Professor of History, San Jose State College, and is an authority on Jewish Pioneer History.

Footnotes are not published due to space limitation although the original manuscript is complete and on file with the Nevada County Historical Society Library. - C. H. Lee Editor.

THE LONE PINE

With roots exposed, this tree stood for many years in Hirschman's Diggings, a symbol of courage against the onslaughts of hydraulic mining. Although the Native Sons anchored it with supporting chains, the old tree, in time, tottered and fell into the diggings.



OFFICERS OF THE NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President - Arlie Hansen - Grass Valley
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Faye Dunbar - Rough & Ready



L. HIRSCHMAN

Hirschman, Grover & Co. purchased the American Hill diggings near Lost Hill, Nevada City, in 1866. Not having a sufficient fall to work the ground, they spent four years in driving a tunnel at a cost of \$25,000. From 1872 to 1880, the company worked the adjoining Oustumah Hill. The glory-hole of water seen today in these workings is still known as Hirschman's Diggings. (Mrs. James Christie collection.)



HIRSHMAN'S DIGGINGS AS SEEN TODAY

The Nevada County Historical Society in this bulletin honors the memory of authentic pioneers who helped to settle the West and bring both necessities of life and the comforts of civilization to this area.

The Jews who came to Nevada County in the early years of the gold rush, following Marshall's original discovery in 1848, were all born in Europe. Their parents had received civil rights in the first decade of the nineteenth century, but in 1835, the gloomy speaker of anti-Semitism was witnessed once again with the declaration by the city of Frankfurt limiting the number of Jewish marriages to fifteen per year. A few

Jews participated in the unsuccessful revolutions of 1848, and they, as well as those who witnessed these revolutions from the sidelines, feared a reaction in the form of religious and economic persecution if they stayed in Europe. Thus, pushed from Europe because of adverse conditions and attracted to America because of the great news of the discovery of gold in California, Jews crossed the Atlantic to share in the profits of the gold economy.

While some individual Jews made a living directly from gold, such as "A Jew named Heyman," who prospected in Grass Valley in 1852, or at least indirectly from gold, such as Henry Rothschild of Nevada City, who served as secretary of three gold mining companies in the county in 1852, the majority of the Jews in the gold rush became merchants, following the same occupations that their ancestors had pursued behind ghetto walls: the buying and selling of food, clothing (for both miners and residents of the town), general merchandise, tobacco, hardware and equipment for the dominant economy of mining.

Some of these merchants attracted a large following by advertising their wares regularly in the local newspapers. A perusal of the old directories of Nevada County reveal just how numerous and important the Jewish merchants were. In Grass Valley, in 1861, only two of the nineteen clothing and drygoods merchants were not Jewish; all five of the cigar and tobacco merchants were Jewish. Four years later, in 1865, proportions were similar, with twenty Jewish and four Gentile clothing merchants.

The Jews of this area did not keep to themselves but rather were among the leading citizens. In nearby Nevada City, Jacob Kohman was elected a town trustee in 1857. Abraham Goldsmith was treasurer of Nevada County in 1871-'72. And the Jews in

general became naturalized citizens as soon as the law allowed, registered to vote, served on juries, served on committees for the beautification of the towns in which they lived, helped to sponsor dances and visiting entertainers, and served as the leading officers of the Masons, Odd Fellows, Red Men and Fire Department. Moses Greenbaum of Missouri No. 36 and Solomon Heyman of Illinois No. 9 were among the charter members of the Masonic Lodge in Grass Valley that was organized in 1851. Henry Silvester was the first treasurer of Protection Hose Co. No. 1 in 1861 and in 1867, the same office was held in Tiger Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 by L. Zacharias.



HARRY LEVITT

Harry Levitt came to Grass Valley in 1894 and opened the Wonder Store with a complete stock of clothing, hats, boots, shoes and furnishing goods. He soon built up a large business and opened a branch store in Nevada City.

One of the most pleasant facts of history in this area will direct the complete absence of ill will directed against Jews. Jews remained in Grass Valley and Nevada City for years and prospered. They were held in esteem by the people of the town, because of the important positions they held, and they, in turn, gave of themselves toward the support of the town. Jewish names were frequently found on petitions to the state legislature in favor of a Sunday closing law. And P. Zacharias, the charter Tyler of Manzanita Lodge No. 129 F. & A. M., North San Juan, organized May 8, 1856, Nevada County, donated \$1,500. In real and personal property to the lodge in 1858 for specific charitable purposes.

As a religious community, the Jews of Grass Valley were quite active. A Hebrew Benevolent Society, consisting of A. Andrews, Abraham Watters, A. Abramson and others, was in existence in September 1855 and raised money for the maintenance of their fellow Jews who had suffered heavy losses in the fire earlier that month.

Jacob C. Marks of Grass Valley wrote a letter to the Weekly Gleaner, a Jewish newspaper published in San

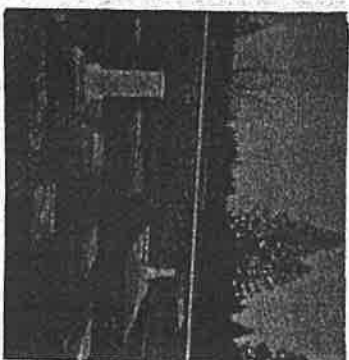


JEWISH CEMETERY
GRASS VALLEY - 1970
Before Restoration

Francisco, that stated the society had purchased its own Sepher Torah and a Shopahar. This cemetery, which was rededicated on September 13, 1970, was recorded in the county records on October 14, 1856 as containing five acres and was established by the "Hebrew Society's 'Shaar Zedek' or Cemetery in Grass Valley." The first known burial was that of Hyman Abraham, who died July 16, 1857.

At one time, this cemetery was described as having a fence around it together with a mortuary building where the bodies were prepared for burial. Other activities of the society included taking care of the sick and the needy, as well as maintaining this cemetery and burying the dead.

The Shaar Zedek Hebrew Benevolent Society functioned together with another Jewish organization, Garzlin Lodge No. 43 of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, one of the four constituent lodges that established the District No. 4 Grand Lodge of B'nai B'rith in San Francisco in 1863. Garzlin Lodge was chartered October 6, 1861. Its membership ranged from 27 in 1865 to 43 in 1867. Names long associated with the merchant community of Grass Valley were

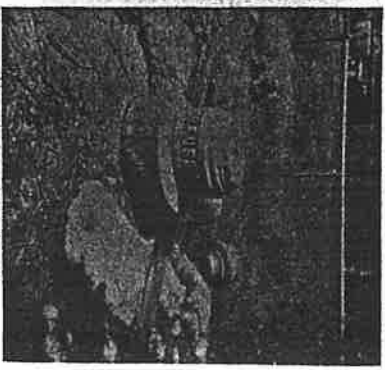


JEWISH CEMETERY
GRASS VALLEY - 1970
After Restoration

also found on the membership rolls of Garzlin Lodge: B. Nathan, Jacob Heyman, L. Zacharias, B. Wood, J. Newman, B. Gaid, H. Novitsky, A. I. Sanders and S. Abraham.

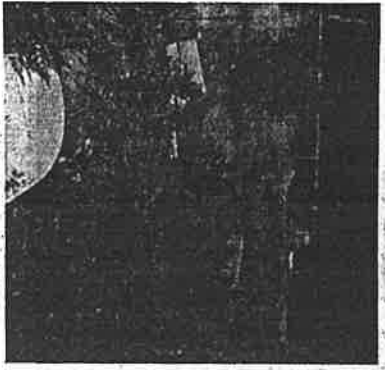
Garzlin Lodge had a nation-wide reputation for its charitable activities. It maintained separate funds for distribution to widows and orphans (in 1874 and 1876, the lodge was aiding two orphans and eleven widows), to the indigent, to members as sick benefits, to non-members as direct donations, and for endowments, burials and the maintenance of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge noted, in the annual reports for 1893 and 1896, that Garzlin was the only lodge in the District (comprising the eight western states) to own its own cemetery, valued in 1896 at \$1,000.

The lodge was apparently the focal point for most of the Jewish activities in Grass Valley. It lasted longer than the Shaar Zedek Hebrew Benevolent Society and eventually became the title-holder to this cemetery. The lodge met every Sunday night at its own town hall, located on the south side of Main Street near Mill Street. In 1866, Garzlin contributed \$100 to the B'nai B'rith fund for Palestine relief.



NEVADA CITY JEWISH CEMETERY

Four years later, the lodge pledged \$1,000 to aid the newly-established Pacific Hebrew Orphan Asylum and Home Society in San Francisco. In 1871, Garzlin Lodge donated \$100 to their brethren in B'nai B'rith in Chicago suffering from the great fire. In 1879, Rabbi Aron J. Messing of Congregation Beth Israel in San Francisco came to Grass Valley and asked the lodge for a donation for the construction of a new synagogue and religious school. The lodge donated \$25 and several individual members pledged donations as well. Unfortunately, owing to a lack of members in the immediate area, the lodge was ordered suspended by the Grand Lodge July 13, 1903.



BARUH HOUSE

Jewish religious services in Grass Valley generally took place at the time of High Holidays, in September and October. The newspapers usually took notice of the occurrence of these solemn days, because most of the Jews, being merchants, closed their stores and attended the services. The announcement in the Grass Valley Daily National of September 14, 1869 was typical: "Jewish Fast. The Jews of Grass Valley observed a day of abstinence, during which time those of the Jewish faith neither eat nor drink anything, commenced this evening at 5 o'clock, and continues until a quarter to 7 o'clock tomorrow evening. All the business houses of our Jewish citizens will be closed during the time and religious services will be held at Odd Fellows' Hall, under the auspices of the Shaar Zedek Society."

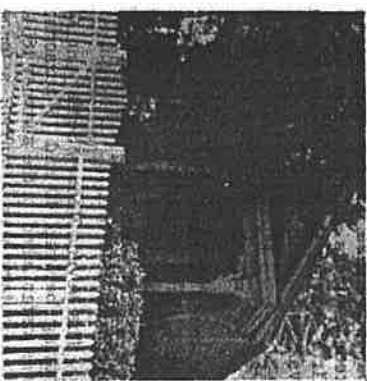
There were even plans for the construction of a synagogue building here, a central meeting place for the Jewish community where religious services could be conducted and where the Shaar Zedek Hebrew Benevolent Society and Garzlin Lodge could meet. Land was purchased at the corner of School and Neal Streets in 1861, but apparently the synagogue was never built, and the land was sold to Edward Coleman in 1866. Many contemporary publications refer to a synagogue on the site. Apparently, the Jewish population of Grass Valley was so great in the 1870's that the community established a religious school for the education of the children. In 1879, Mrs. Ray Notzfeld held the position of Superintendent of this school.

In nearby Nevada City, there was also a well-established community of Jewish merchants who participated actively in the civic life of the community and also conducted religious services. The earliest known religious services in Nevada City were conducted for the High Holidays in the fall of 1852. Mr. H. Leo was the cantor at these services which were attended by A. Rosenheim, I. Grauman, L. Hellbronn, and 30 others. High Holiday services were conducted thereafter in Nevada City with regularity into the 1880's. They were conducted in various places in town, including Masonic Hall, Flursnitz Hall and Temperance Hall. Both traditional and liberal Judaism were represented in Nevada City in the early days. On the one hand, the tobacco dealer S. Rothschild advertised that his store (was) closed from Friday evening to Saturday evening.

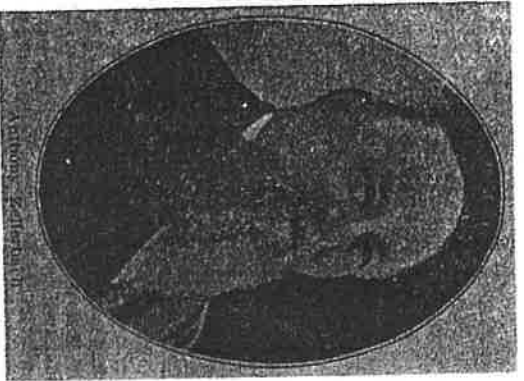


AARON BARUH

Aaron Baruh came to Nevada City in 1852 and went into the clothing business with his brother, Herman, on Main Street. (The present Shell Service Station covers the site.) When the fire of 1856 destroyed their business, they rebuilt and included a fire-proof cellar. During the fire of 1858, the door happened to be open and they were again burned out. Mr. Baruh then opened a liquor store on Commercial Street below the present Osborne and Woods building. His home purchased in 1866, and built by Jacob Kohman in 1852, still stands at 816 Main Street.



BARUH HOUSE



ANTHONY ZELLERBACH

The name of Zellerbach is well-known wherever paper is used. Anthony Zellerbach was born in Bavaria in 1832 and came to America in 1846. He settled in Moore's Flat, Nevada County, in 1857, and worked for his brother, who conducted a bank at that place. After Judge Sawyer's decision abolishing hydraulic mining in 1884, Zellerbach eventually moved to San Francisco and went into the paper business. Through energy and a keen business sense, the great paper firm bearing the name of Zellerbach was established.

On the other hand, a local newspaper noted that, in certain years, some merchants closed their stores only one day for Rosh Hashanah, instead of the traditional two.

The Nevada Hebrew Society, numbering between 40 and 75 persons, was established in the summer 1854. A cemetery was acquired; a fence was constructed around it, and the

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society also maintained a fund to aid the needy. In addition to the Nevada Hebrew Society, Jewish organizations in Nevada City included the North Star Lodge No. 12 of the Ancient Jewish Order Keshet Shel Barzel (Band of Iron), which was established. Like B'nai B'rith, for benevolent purposes, and the Eureka Social Club which, if not exclusively Jewish, had many Jews on its membership rolls and roster of officers. The brothers Aaron & Herman Baruh were among the leaders of the Nevada City Jewish community, and the Baruh home, located at 516 Main Street in Nevada City, built in 1852, is still standing.

The Nevada Hebrew Cemetery is located near Lower Grass Valley Road and Walrath Avenue, behind the Lew Wannamake property. The first known burial was of Caroline Himes, who died July 20, 1856. A rededication ceremony was conducted there in 1964; plans are currently underway for a restoration project that will include repair of the damaged gravestones.

Other prominent Jewish families who lived in Nevada County more than a century ago include the brothers Marks and Anthony Zellerbach, who operated a bank in Moore's Flat and who incorporated the Eureka Lake and Yuba Canal Co. Consolidated; Aaron Fleishacker, who engaged in general merchandising in Grass Valley, Virginia City and Carson City in the 1850's; and the brothers Jacob and Joseph Weisbein, who, in 1878, organized the banking and brokerage firm of Weisbein Brothers and Company. The firm was incorporated as the Weisbein Brothers and Company Broking and Business Corporation in 1880. One of the large mines owned by the Weisbeins was the "W. Y. O. D." (Work Your Own Diggings) on Blossom Lane, was originally called Weisbein Street. Finally, M. Blumenthal was

the first publisher of the Grass Valley Union, established in 1864.

September 13, 1970 was the day set aside for the rededication of The Grass Valley Jewish Cemetery. Dr. Levinson speaking on this occasion concluded with the following, "It is, in a way, a sad occasion as we look around us and note the unusually large number of graves of young children. On the other hand, this is also a day for rejoicing as we pay homage to the pioneers of the California gold rush who came half-way around the world to aid in the settlement of the Western United States. We have gathered here today to pay our respects to the memory of the Abrahams, the Harris' and the Levys, but we also pay our respect and thanks to the living among us who have contributed toward the restoration of this sacred place.

On Saturday, May 2, 1970, the Nevada County Historical Society honored Edward K. Tinloy, a long-time Chinese resident of Grass Valley as its "Citizen of the Year." At that event, Elmer Stevens, the Master of Ceremonies, said, "We're all a minority group of some kind.... Today, another minority, the Jews in the California gold rush, are singled out for recognition. The title-holder to this cemetery, the Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks, pledges to the town of Grass Valley and the County of Nevada to maintain this cemetery as a public landmark and a memorial to our participation in the establishment and growth of this community.

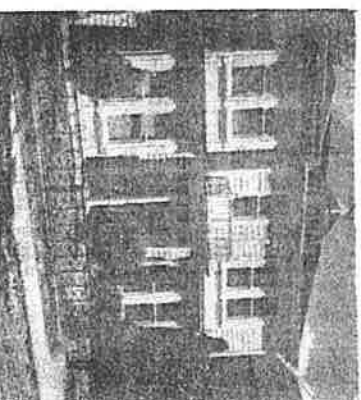
MIEN-ENGLERBRIGHT HOUSE

The home of Mr. & Mrs. Lon Cooper, 524 East Broad Street, Nevada City, was once the residence of three prominent Jewish families. Simon Furth owned the house in 1863, Simon Rosenthal in 1865, and Morris Rosenberg in 1891. All were pioneer dry-goods merchants.



JOSEPH WEISSBEIN

Joseph Weisbein was born in Germany in 1854. He came to Grass Valley in 1874 and worked as a clerk for Jacob Heyman. With his brother, Jacob, he went into the banking business in 1876, continuing until 1902 when he moved to San Francisco. He was the largest owner in Grass Valley's W.Y.O.D. Mine, on Ophir Hill in Grass Valley, also a principal owner in the Pittsburg Mine in Gold Flat, besides being its general manager.



7.

Bernie Zimmerman: What's in a name, Part 2

News [FOLLOW NEWS](#) | January 29, 2021

By **Bernie Zimmerman** | Special to The Union



About a mile north of Nevada City, near the intersection of Highway 49 and Cement Hill Road, lies a blue jewel – Hirschman's Pond. For the last hundred years, it has served as a popular recreation area, and is now the centerpiece of the Hirschman's Pond Trail. But who was the Hirschman who gave it its name?

The Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission, which I chair, has been exploring the possibility of registering the site as a county historical landmark, to commemorate the county's thriving Gold Rush-era Jewish community. That required me to research the history of the pond, which I had always thought was named after the Hirschman brothers, Henry and Morris, who owned a cigar and tobacco business in Nevada City in the 1850s. Many others thought the same, including prominent historians such as Dave Comstock, in his "Lives of Nevada County Pioneers," and Bob Wycoff in an article he wrote for The Union dated Sept. 11, 2004. When the pond trail was dedicated by the Bear Yuba Land Trust, The Union on March 29, 2012, reported that "The trail and pond of the same name come from the old Hirschman Diggins, a hydraulic gold mining operation started by brothers Henry and Moses Hirschman."

So I was somewhat surprised to learn that we were all wrong. The Hirschman who owned Hirschman's Diggins, from which the pond sprang, was Leb Hirschman. Leb was born in 1823 in Obbach, in what is now Germany but was then Bavaria. Little else is known of his early years, but he arrived in Nevada County on July 15, 1852. In 1856, he was naturalized an American citizen.

There is no record of him doing anything but mining. He mined around Oustamah Hill, which is about a mile northwest of Nevada City, near the Nisenan village of Oustamah. The first newspaper mention of him that I found was in December 1862, when his cabin there was broken into and some clothes and household articles were stolen. He must have been successful because in 1866 he and partners purchased a hydraulic mine, the American Hill Diggins, located near Oustamah Hill. They then invested a reported \$25,000 in building a tunnel to facilitate their mining. In the 1870s, Leb Hirschman was operating one of the two leading hydraulic mines around Nevada City and buying and selling mining interests and claims.

He was also a public minded citizen, serving on trial juries and twice on grand juries. On Aug. 18, 1893, he died in Chicago while out on a walk. Why he was in Chicago is not clear. He may have been visiting the Columbian Exposition. His will was probated in Nevada City. The probate order dated Sept. 18, 1893, recites that he was a resident of Nevada City at the time of his death in Chicago and that his estate was valued at about \$4,000. His will left a number of bequests to relatives in Obbach and to relatives living in the United States. Leb never married.

Following the 1884 Sawyer decision, which enjoined hydraulic mines from dumping their debris into the Yuba River, hydraulic mining ground to a halt. In 1888, new owners of the mine were exploring mining a quartz ledge, which Hirschman had left largely untouched. All mining at Hirschman's Diggings seems to have ceased around 1900. In 1911, the famous Lone Pine, which had defiantly resisted Hirschman's hydraulic monitors, fell. As to the pond, it is not clear how it was created. In 1895, the Providence Mining Company built a reservoir in Hirschman's Diggings and a pipeline from the reservoir to its mine. One theory is that the pond is what is left of that reservoir. Another theory is that a spring filled the cavity created by the hydraulic mining, creating the pond.

Early in the 20th century, the pond was stocked with fish and became a popular fishing spot. In this century, the property was acquired by Nevada City, and with the assistance of the Bear Yuba Land Trust, became the centerpiece of the Hirschman's Pond Trail, featured on many hiking sites.

As for Henry (1830-1914) and Moses (1832-1900) Hirschman, they were born in Freudenthal, then in Wurttenburg, now Germany. They arrived in New York City on June 29, 1849. Henry came to Nevada City sometime before Nov. 11, 1853, the date of his first advertisement in the Nevada Journal for his cigar and tobacco stand. The next year his brother Moses joined him and the business expanded to include a store at the corner of Main and Commercial streets. Eventually the business name became Henry & Moses Hirschman. In 1856, the stores were destroyed in the great fire. One store was reopened in 1857 but again suffered fire damage in 1858. The brothers soon filed for bankruptcy and the Nevada City store was liquidated. The brothers then moved to Virginia City for a few years, then to Helena, Montana, then to Utah, always miners or merchants. Moses died in 1900 in Salt Lake City. Henry lived out his final years at the home of his daughter Tillie in Chicago, dying there in 1914. I do not believe Leb was related to Moses and Henry, and it's pretty clear that Moses and Henry were in Montana and Utah while Leb was operating the Hirschman mine. There is no record of either Moses or Henry returning to Nevada City after they left around 1859.

So the name Hirschman is right. The names Moses and Henry are wrong. Just enjoy the pond.

Morning Union 23 May 1875

HIRSCHMAN & GROVER'S CLAIMS.

—The Nevada Transcript says: The hydraulic claims of Hirschman & Grover, situated about a mile west of Nevada city, on Oustamah Hill, are being worked, and the owners are busily engaged in piling away. The Company use 850 inches of water, using two monitors. The remainder of the mining season will be employed in washing up bottom gravel which is very rich. The water will probably last six weeks or two months longer, and it will take that time to complete their season's work, in securing the large proportion of gold, which is always found in the bed rock. None but white labor is employed in these claims, the owners being satisfied that they can be better served by paying a higher price for white men than employing Chinamen. The Hirschman & Grover claims have had some good clean ups this season, but the next one, judging from the appearance of the ground sluices will eclipse them all. There is now no doubt, from the gravel formation and the discoveries continually being made, that the lead is a continuation of the Manzanita and Nebraska claims, and that the main channel runs directly under Sugar Loaf ridge.

Morning Union Jan. 17, 1884

TRIAL JURORS.

Nevada Township—G G Allan, J Arbogast, E Booth, J Bost, E D Bridges, C J Brand, Wm Barton, C O Barlow, O Chaney, S Clutter, W B Campbell, G A Cooper, Jerome Cook, Patrick Clancy, L Dulac, J Dnnieliff, L W Dreyfuss, J S Dunn, Wm Edwards, J H Eden, S A Eddy, H Godair, B Guscelli, G C Gaylord, G Gehrig, H Grover, J H Gray, Wm Giffin, E P Hager, A W Herring, L Hirschman, J F Hook, E Hothersall, H Hurst, W Holmes, C Hepler, J E Isaac, J J Jackson, T A Johnstou, G F Jacobs, G King, S S Luey, A Lyons, J C Locklin, J T Morgan, M L Marsh, J McArthur, O Maltman, R Morrison, J C Murchie Jr, D Morgan, A Nevins Jr, J Naffziger, J J Rogers, Wm Rowe, P Richards, C F Schwartz, G W Stewart, L M Sukeforth, W H Smith, B N Shoecraft, G C Shaw, E W Towle, H D Towle, W D Vinton, B C Waits, R C Walrath, G W Welch.

The following extra panel of trial jurors was drawn in the Superior Court Thursday, returnable March 5th:

Nevada township—E. A. Davis, H. A. Lones, D. B. Getchell, W. A. Rowe T. L. Robinson, V. E. Austin, Jesse Lones, Alex Gault, J. H. Wentworth L. Hirschman, John Dabb, A. Isoard John Webber, J. C. Dickerman, J. C. Abbott, L. O. Palmer, A. Tam, E. Booth, A. Lademan, John Menhement.

The following persons have been drawn as Grand Jurors, returnable on Wednesday, November 11th:

Grass Valley—I. Haas, W. G. Hudson, Geo. W. Whiteside, Thos. Othet, S. G. Lewis, P. C. Joyce, Alex. Henderson, Samuel Fisher, Stephen Long, Herman Uphoff, Samuel Yeo, Geo. W. Hill.

Nevada—W. J. Britland, Jas. Colley, Geo. C. Shaw, D. A. Rich, L. Hirschman, J. A. Rapp, H. C. Mills, Wm. H. Martin.

The following have been drawn as Grand Jurors, returnable on Wednesday, December 6th :

Nevada Township—Geo. C. Gaylord, E. Muller, W. F. Englebright, M. L. Marsh, C. E. Mulloy, David Muir, L. Hirschman, E. P. Hagar, John T. Morgan, E. J. Rector.

L. Hirschman, a pioneer resident of Nevada City, died suddenly while out walking in Chicago. Heart disease was the cause of death. The deceased was a native of Bavaria and aged 72 years. He was unmarried.

A new reservoir has been built at
the Hirschman diggings by the Prov-
idence Mining Company.

Union

Oct. 19. 1895

Two car loads of large pipe for the Providence Mining Company arrived at the depot Saturday morning. It will be used to convey water from the new reservoir in Hirschman diggings to the new mill. About two or three carloads more are on the way. The Providence is making fine headway. The width of the back ledge recently struck is not yet known, the miners having worked into it thirteen feet so far. It is probably over twenty feet wide.

For several weeks past a large force of men has been employed in laying a pipe line from the Hirschman property to the Providence mine. The work was under the supervision of J. Batcher of the firm of Batcher, Shaw and Ingram of Sacramento. On Saturday the line was completed and on Sunday the water turned into it. The system worked satisfactorily and the Providence will now have an efficient supply of motor power.

By the breaking of the Champion Co.'s dam in the old Hirschman diggings, the mill was shut down. A small bridge crossing Woods' ravine was washed away and the loss to the company is about \$1,000. A new dam will be erected.

Hydraulic gold mining: Hirshman's Pond and Diggin's

Bob Wyckoff
September 11, 2004

Hydraulic gold mining is defined by Harry L. Wells in his "History of Nevada County, California," 1880, as: "washing down the auriferous hills of the gravel range by directing a powerful stream of water against the bank, the dirt and rocks being carried by the water through a deep cut or tunnel in which is set a system of flumes or sluices (riffles) for catching the gold, being finally discharged into some ravine or can(y)on and denominated 'tailings.'"

While working a gravel claim at American Hill near Nevada City in 1853, Edward E. Matteson, a miner from Connecticut, conceived the idea of putting water under pressure to work in gold mining operations. He enlisted the aid of Eli Miller, a tinsmith who fashioned a nozzle of lightweight sheet metal. With this nozzle attached to the end of a canvas hose, Matteson washed down the gravel from a small hill. The hose used was similar to one made the year before by Antione Chabot for ground sluicing operations across town in Buckeye Ravine.



[Click to Enlarge](#)
 Lone Pine site? Worn down by a scores of winters, this could be the site of Hirshman's legendary Lone Pine. Submitted photo/Bob Wyckoff

Hydraulic mining was an immediate success. Within weeks it had spread to Rough and Ready, 10 miles west of Nevada City and to Little York, a short distance east. Wherever water was in abundance or could be brought in easily by ditch, the method was tried.

One of the earliest hydraulic operations was conducted

northwest of Nevada City along present day State Sign Route 49. The mine was operated by others until about 1866, when the Hirshman brothers, Henry and Moses, bought into the venture. Some time in the late 1870s, the location became known as Hirshman's Diggin's.

The Hirshman's hydraulic mining operation was one of the more successful of the many that dotted the landscape of western Nevada County in the years between the mid-1850s and 1884. The end to hydraulic gold mining came on Jan. 9, 1884, when Federal Judge Lorenzo handed down his infamous decision that virtually ended the practice. Judge Sawyer ruled the resulting silt and debris washed down was too destructive to the rich agricultural land of the Sacramento Valley to be allowed to continue.

In later years, legislation was enacted allowing hydraulic mining if the resulting debris was kept from reaching the valley. The cost to build these "debris dams" was

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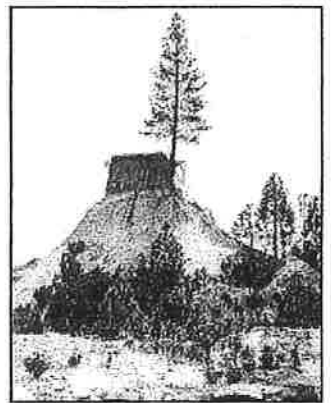
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The Lone Pine, long a fixture at Hirshman's, fell to the winter ravages of 1911. Photo Courtesy/Bob Wyckoff Collection



[Click to Enlarge](#)



[Click to Enlarge](#)

out of proportion to the value of gold recovered. For all practical purposes, hydraulic gold mining was history.

Hirshman's today. Generations of county residents have fished this pond with mixed results.
Submitted photo/Bob Wyckoff



Sometime after the mid-1880s, a tunnel draining water from the floor of the diggings collapsed, forming what today is called Hirshman's Pond. For many years after the cessation of hydraulicking at Hirshman's, a lone pine tree, a survivor of mining operations, stood silent vigil over the mine. The harsh winters finally took their toll and, in January 1911, the Grass Valley Union ran the tree's obituary:

"MEMORABLE EVERGREEN DROPS TO BOTTOM OF DIGGINS"

"The 'Lone Pine,' situated in the Hirshman diggings near bedrock, and which is known to nearly every resident of Nevada county, ended its existence yesterday when it was blown from the few feet of dirt in which its roots were encased. 'Lone Pine' is just an ordinary pine tree, but it has had a memorable history. It's (sic) fame is State-wide.

"In the days of hydraulic mining this tree was the only one of that section that was not washed away by the violent force of the monitors. For years it has stood, roots exposed, and people who have viewed it have wondered how the lone tree bore its weight in such a small amount of earth. Photographers have pictured it on post cards and artists have painted it, but now the lone evergreen has passed into history."

And now a new use for Hirshman's Pond and Diggings. Recently, the city of Nevada City acquired a 35-acre parcel that includes Hirshman's. According to Nevada City's Planning Commission Chairwoman Laurie Oberholtzer, "The purpose of the purchase is to protect a scenic and historic resource and expand the city's parks and recreation lands. Future use will include interpretive-walking trails, picnicking and other public uses."

Hirshman's was purchased with California State Parks and Recreation voter approved bond money awarded to Nevada City by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors. Nevada City's Mayor Conley S. Weaver, who was a member of the group instrumental in the acquisition, said that study for property use is under way.

BACK ↩

1880 United States Federal Census for L. Heirschman

California > Nevada > Nevada City > 058

Page No.
 Supervisor's Dist. No.
 Enumeration Dist. No.
 State A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1880.
 State B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
 State C.—Questions Nos. 23, 24, 25 and 26 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in District No 58, in the County of Nevada, State of Nevada, enumerated by me on the 3rd day of June, 1880.

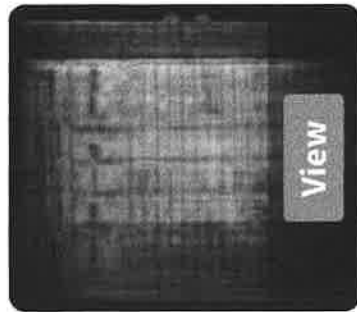
W. Payne Director

No. in Union	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Married within Year	Foreign Born	Place of Birth	Place of Birth of Father	Place of Birth of Mother
1	Heirschman, L.	M	37	W	Minor							

In the 1880 United States Federal Census

✓ You've saved this record to your [shoebox](#).

Remove



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Report a problem

Name: L. Heirschman

Age: 57

Birth Date: Abt 1823

Birthplace: Germany

Home in 1880: Nevada City, Nevada, California, USA

Street: East Broad St

Dwelling Number: 60

Race: White

Gender: Male

Marital status: Single

Father's Birthplace: Germany

Mother's Birthplace: Germany

Occupation: Miner

Months Not Employed: 8

Neighbors: View others on page

Household Members:	Name	Age
	L. Heirschman	57



Write a comment.

Make a Connection

Find [others](#) who are researching L. Heirschman in Public Member Trees

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California, U.S., Voter Registers, 1866-1898 for Leb Hirschman

Nevada > 1879-1898

1681	Henderson, John Henry	63	New York	Columbia Hill	1864, Calaveras Co., Dist.
1682	Hirschberg, Simon	34	Prussia	Grass Valley	
1683	Hill, Cyrus Richardson	50	New York	Grass Valley	Aug. 31, 1875, Nev. Co., Cal. Co. Crt
1684	Higgins, Michael John	44	Ireland	Grass Valley	Oct. 13, 1868, Nev. Co., Cal. Dist. Crt.
1685	Higgins, William	41	Pennsylvania	Cottage Hill	
1686	Hill, George Washington	50	New York	Grass Valley	
1687	Hite, David Thomas	36	Illinois	Grass Valley	
1688	Hickman, William Henry	39	Missouri	Indian Springs	
1689	Hiscox, Harrison Otis	33	Connecticut	Pleasant Ridge	
1690	Hicks, William Henry	31	England	Sweetland	
1691	Hill, John	57	New York	North San Juan	Oct. 6, '74, Storey Co. Nev., Dist.
1692	Hildebrand, Peter	38	England	North San Juan	
1693	Hill, John Harlow	49	New York	North San Juan	1867, San Francisco, Dist. Crt.
1694	Hilton, Joseph Dearborn	48	Maine	French Corral	
1695	Hite, Edmond	58	Virginia	Truckee	
1696	Hirsch, Prosper Samuel	33	France	Truckee	
1697	Hirschman, Leb	55	Bavaria	Truckee	Aug. 14, '71, El Dorado Co.
				Nevada	1856, Nev. Co., Cal., Dist. Crt.

Save
Save

Loeb Hirschmann

in the Cook County, Illinois, U.S., Deaths Index, 1878-1922

CO
cord to your [shoebox](#).

Remove



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Name: Loeb Hirschmann
Birth Date: abt 1821
Birth Place: Germany
Death Date: 18 Aug 1893
Death Place: Chicago, Cook, Illinois
Cemetery Name: Ridgeland Cemetery
Death Age: 72
Occupation: Miner
Race: White
Marital status: Single
Gender: Male
FHL Film Number: 1030988

Make a C

[Find other:](#)
Hirschman

LAST WILL OF L. HIRSCHMAN.

I, L. Hirschman, of Nevada City, California, hereby make, and declare this to be my last will and testament, as follows:

I give and bequeath to my sister-in-law, Mrs. David Hirschman, the sum of Three Hundred Dollars.

To my niece, Sallie Hirschman, One Hundred Dollars.

To my nephew, Adolph Kund, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my nephew, Isaack Kund, Two Hundred Dollars.

The foregoing named persons all reside at Obbach, Schweinfurd, Bavaria.

To the following named persons, all of whom reside in the United States, I give and bequeath the following sums:

To my niece, Hannah New, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my niece, Regina Hirschman, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my niece, Fani Hirschman, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my niece, Hana Israel, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my niece, Rosa Schwarz, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my niece, Bertha Isenberg, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my niece, Regina Kund, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my niece, Lina Kund, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my niece, Carrie Lustig, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my nephew, Moses Cohen, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my nephew, Simon Cohen, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my niece, Carrie Simon, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my niece, Hanah, Cohen, Two Hundred Dollars.

To my nephew, David Cohen, Two Hundred Dollars.

I have not provided in this will for my sisters, for the reason that my insurance in the endowment fund of the R'na R'rith is made in their favor.

I devise all the rest and residue of my estate as follows:

1st. That \$100. be paid to my friend Mattie Dryfuss.

2nd. That such sum as my executors may deem proper may be expended in erecting a head stone to mark my resting place - having due regard for my station and circumstances in life.

3rd. That the balance of my estate be equally divided among all the relatives who are named in this will.

I appoint N. Webber and F. C. Laetje of Nevada City the executors of this will, without bonds.

In case of the death of either of said executors before my decease, I request the appointment of A. Hartung, of Nevada City, in the place of such person, without bonds.

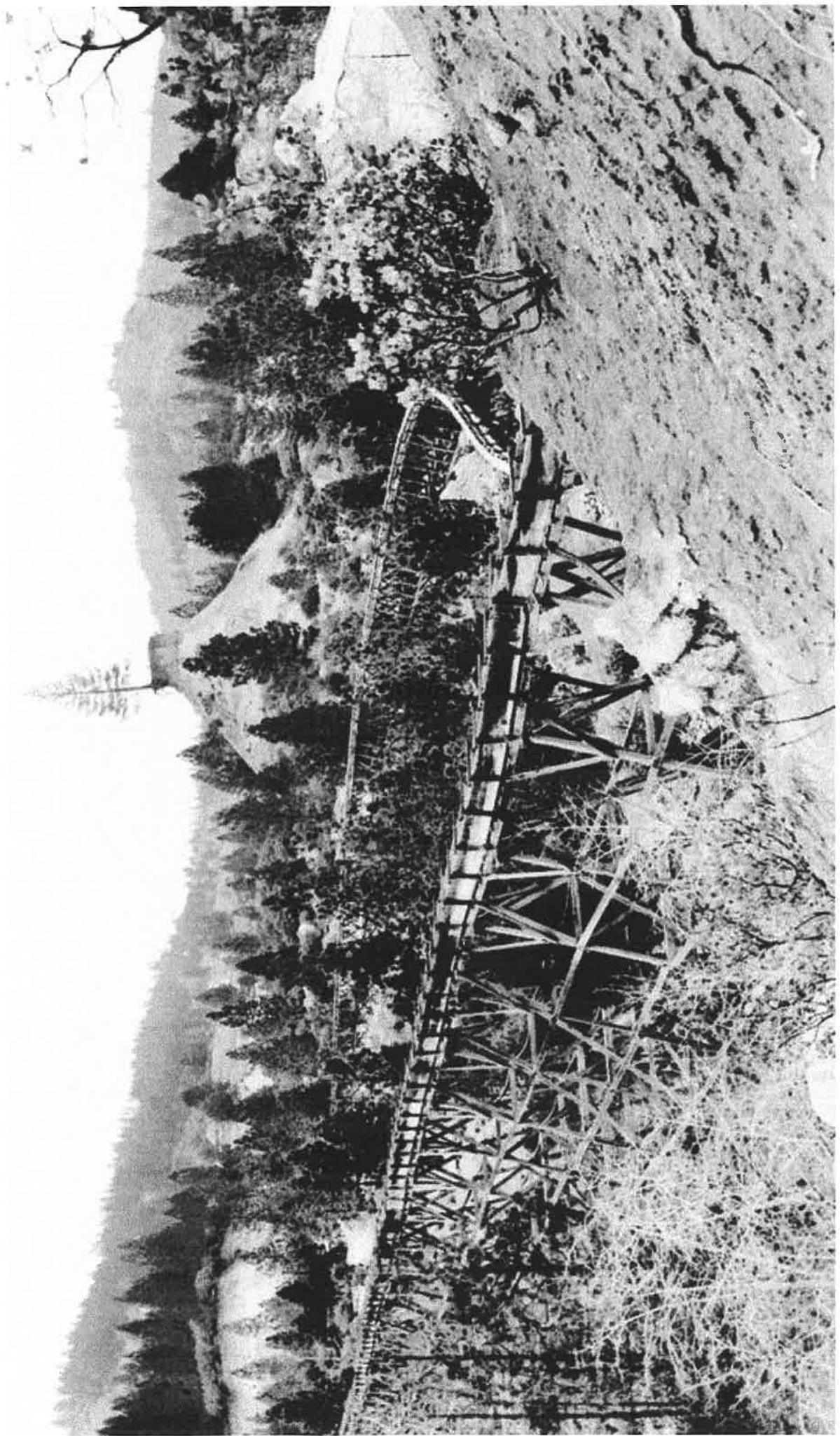
For the purpose of more expeditiously settling my estate I devise all of my estate to my executors, in trust, for the purposes herein named, with full power to sell and dispose of the same without order of Court, and without confirmation of Court, and without accounting to any Court.

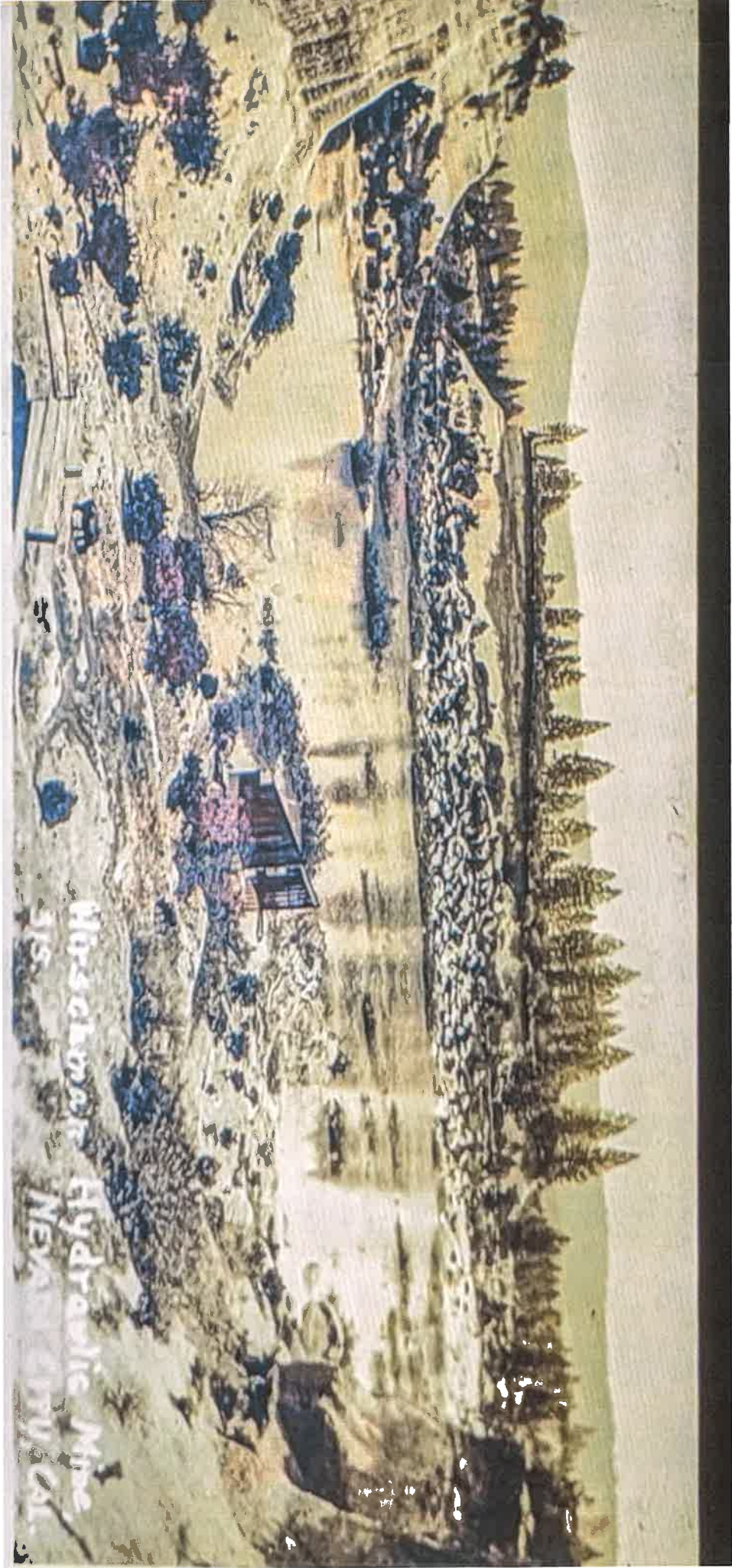
And for the purpose of more conveniently and expeditiously distributing my estate, I request that the whole thereof, after being converted into money (except such portion as must necessarily be retained for other purposes) be distributed to and forwarded in trust to Jacob Hecht, of No. 255 East 48th Street, New York City, I having full confidence in his integrity, with the request that he divide the same as herein requested, he being fully acquainted with the whereabouts of all my relatives.

Dated, Nevada City, California, July 11th 1892.

I also give to my niece Hannah New the sum of Two Hundred Dollars. This addition in writing was made before signing. L. Hirschman

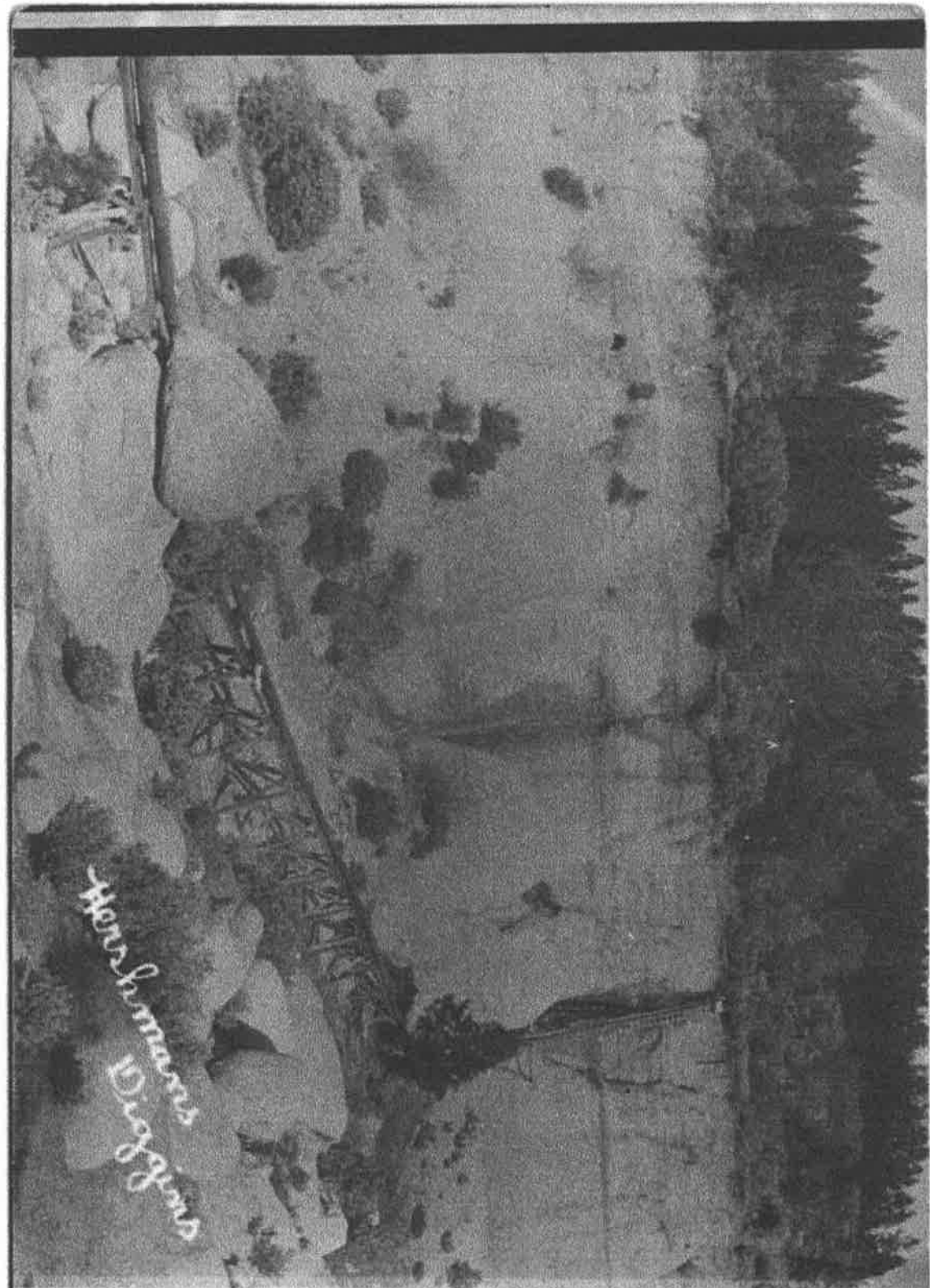






Muskrat
Hydraulic Mine
NEW YORK





Henshaws
Digging
Creek

How do you like the looks
of this country? Ruth

View 1999-0501 copy.jpg

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**CITY OF NEVADA CITY
ACTION MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 12, 2021**

NOTE: This meeting is available to view on the City's website www.nevadacityca.gov – Go to Quick Links and Click on Agendas & Minutes and find the Archived Videos in the middle of the screen. Select the meeting date and Click on Video to watch the meeting. For website assistance, please contact Gabrielle Christakes, Deputy City Clerk at (530) 265-2496, ext 133.

- City Council Meetings are available on DVD. To order, contact City Hall - cost is \$15.00 per DVD.
- Closed Session Meetings are not recorded.

CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 PM - Closed session adjourned at 6:30 PM

- a. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Govt. Code Section 54956.9(b)
(1 case)
- b. Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation (Govt. Code Section 54956.9)
(Kenneth Paige et al vs. Nevada City—Nevada County Superior Court
Case No:CU21-085158)

REGULAR MEETING – 6:32 PM - Call to Order

NISENAN TRIBE RECOGNITION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Minett, Vice Mayor Strawser, Council Members Fernández, Fleming and Petersen

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION:

Action: Direction to staff

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Item #9 was removed by City Manager to be tabled for further discussion.

Action: Motion by Petersen, seconded by Fernández to adopt the agenda as presented. Omitting Item #9 to be discussed further

(Approved 5-0, - Roll call votes ayes; Minett, Strawser, Petersen, Fernández, Fleming

PRESENTATIONS:

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

PUBLIC COMMENT (Per Government Code Section 54954.3)

Please refer to the meeting video on the City's website at www.nevadacityca.gov.

CONSENT ITEMS:

1. **Accounts Payable Activity Report—April 2021**
Recommended Action: Receive and file
2. **Action Minutes April 28, 2021 Council Meeting**
Recommended Action: Review and approve
3. **Prop 68 Playground Project: Consideration of Resolution 2021-20: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nevada City Authorizing the City to Receive \$53,000 of the County of Nevada’s Per Capita Grant Fund Allocation from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018**
Recommended Action: Approve and Authorize the Interim City Manager to Sign the Resolution 2021-18 as the City’s Authorized Representative
4. **Request from the Landmarks Commission to Place a Bronze Plaque at Hirschman’s Pond**
Recommended Action: Approve the placement of a bronze plaque at Hirschman’s Pond, along the trail route.
5. **Request from Sierra Academy for Street Closure on June 4, 2021 on Cottage Street between Main and South Pine Streets for Graduation**
Recommended Action: Approve street closure with conditions
6. **Request to Approve Contract with Ralph Andersen and Associates for City Manager Recruitment**
Recommended Action: Authorize Interim City Manager to negotiate and enter into a contract with Ralph Andersen and Associates to recruit for a city manager in an amount not to exceed \$27,500.
7. **Receipt of Nevada County Transportation Commission’s (NCTC) Draft FY 2021/22 Overall Work Program (OWP) and Request for Approval of Resolution 2021-21: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nevada City Approving the Projects Proposed for Inclusion in the Nevada County Transportation Commission’s FY 2021/22 Overall Work Program**
Recommended Action: Review projects proposed for inclusion in the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22) Overall Work Program (OWP) and pass Resolution 2021-XX approving the projects proposed for inclusion in the NCTC FY 2021/22 OWP.

Action: Motion by Fernández, seconded by Strawser to approve consent items 1 through 7 as presented. Item #4 approved to change language to indicate absence of discrimination towards the Jewish Community

(Approved 5-0, Roll call votes ayes; Minett, Strawser, Petersen, Fleming and Fernández)

PUBLIC HEARING:

8. **Introduction and First Reading of Sign Ordinance Amendment**

Recommended Action: Hold Public Hearing, approve ordinance for introduction and first reading by title only, Ordinance 2021-05: An Ordinance of the City of Nevada City Amending Chapter 17.68 and 17.80 of the Nevada City Municipal Code Relating to Restrictions on Commercial Signage and Allowing Limited Exceptions to Size, Placement and Style

Action: Motion by Strawser, seconded by Fleming to approve for introduction and first reading by title only. Ordinance 2021-05: An Ordinance of the City of Nevada City Amending Chapter 17.68 and 17.80 of the Nevada City Municipal Code Relating to Restrictions on Commercial Signage and Allowing Limited Exceptions to Size, Placement and Style

(Approved 5-0, Roll call votes ayes; Minett, Strawser, Petersen, Fleming and Fernández)

9. **Appeal of a Planning Commission decision to deny a map amendment request to relocate and add a driveway to serve an existing residence at 230 American Hill Road and Possible Consideration of Resolution 2021-22: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nevada City Overturning the Planning Commission Decision to Deny a Map Amendment by Scott Rice to Add and Relocate a Driveway, Subject to Conditions of Approval**

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 2021-22, overturning the Planning Commission decision based on State Law “abutter’s rights” and to approve the Parcel Map Amendment subject to conditions of approval as may be modified at the public hearing, pursuant to Title 16.04 of the Nevada City Municipal Code and California Government Code Sec. 66474

Action: Item pulled from agenda to be address questions that have arisen. Motion by Minett, Seconded by Petersen.

(Approved 5-0, Roll call votes ayes; Minett, Strawser, Petersen, Fleming and Fernández)

BUSINESS:

10. **Discussion on Governor’s Intended June 15 Reopening and Determination of City’s Plans for Continued Outdoor Dining and Discussion on City Ordinances No. 2020-20 and 2020-21 Regarding Use of Face Masks**

Recommended Action: Discuss and provide direction to staff

Action: Direction to staff to take comments and formulate recommendations to be brought back to the June 6, 2021 Council Meeting.

CITY MANAGER AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

Interim City Manager Phillipe had nothing to report out on.

Vice-Mayor Strawser reported Transportation Committee coming up next week. ERC is restructuring in a good way. Would like follow-up with Waste Management on recycling location to replace SPD.

Councilmember Petersen commented on what a beautiful weather we are having.

Councilmember Fleming reported on securing \$1M grant to mitigate impact of Cannabis on community. Funds to be used on building infrastructure in City Hall. Met w/ 7 Hills regarding Cannabis education, School Resource Officer and parallel w/Probation Dept. 7 Hills will partner with Bright Futures for youth and Granite Wellness. Met with individual at Hirschman’s Pond regarding Amphitheater and advised there may be some funding available for that and open discussion in Community.

Councilmember Fernàndez attended Racial & Social Justice Elected Officials meeting and are working on Mission Statement.

Mayor Minett requested a report on Water Drought. Wants to let our town know to conserve and not wait until last minute. Would like to put information out on conserving Water for drought and dangerous fire conditions. Also noted there will be a free green waste drop-off in Grass Valley on May 21-24 and June 11-14.

ADJOURNMENT: - 8:40 PM

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Erin Minett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Niel Locke, City Clerk

CITY OF NEVADA CITY

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

MEETING OF:

Agenda Item No. 04

Subject: Request from the Landmarks Commission to Place a Bronze Plaque at Hirschman's Pond Date: April 27, 2021

From: Dawn Zydonis, Parks & Recreation Manager

Reviewed & Approved:

City Manager: *Joan L. Phillipie*

City Attorney: DJP

Recommended Action: Approve the placement of a bronze plaque at Hirschman's Pond, along the trail route with final determination of the exact location to be made jointly by Dawn Zydonis, Parks and Recreation Manager; Bill Falconi, Consulting Engineer; Niel Lock, City Clerk; and the chair of the Landmarks Commission

ISSUE STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION:

The Nevada County Landmarks Commission has requested to place a bronze plaque on the Hirschman Property that honors the Jewish Community and Leb Hirschman. The Hirschman Property is an appropriate location for such a plaque as it is the site of a major gold mine operated by the Jewish miner, Leb Hirschman.

The Landmarks Commission chair has agreed to work with the Parks & Recreation Manager, consulting engineer and city clerk to choose a location for the plaque.

There is an image attached that demonstrates the look of the plaque that the Commission plans to install.

The wording that is being requested for approval is as follows:

Nevada County's diverse gold rush population included a large Jewish community. Most were immigrants from Europe, attracted by the opportunity to make their fortunes and by the County's relative freedom and absence of discrimination. Many were merchants and many were miners.

One of the more successful miners was Leb Hirschman (1823-1893), a native of Bavaria, who arrived here in the early 1850s, and mined around Oustamah Hill. In 1866, Hirschman, Grover & Co. purchased the American Hill Diggins, one of the principal hydraulic mines in Nevada City, and operated it for many years. This pond, on the site of the mine, bears his name.

Landmark registered by the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
_____, 2021. NEV 21-?

Plaque dedicated 2021 by the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission

The Policy for Placement of Items in City Parks & Open Space (attached) does allow for new facilities. In the general definition of “new facility” a plaque does fall into that category. The Policy also states the following: *“While memorials and new amenities may enrich a park experience for park users, public open space is also a very precious commodity, and new memorials, amenities and facilities should be carefully reviewed to balance these two public benefits to protect the greater good. Any new structures should represent community values, and be mindful of future generations.”*

This item should be carefully considered as there is already an interpretive panel that mentions Leb Hirschman and Jewish immigrants’ contribution to the community.

The Planning and Vision Study for Hirschman Pond (attached) does list possible future development. It does not list plaques as a possible development, but does say; *“...the City would like to see historical mining artifacts located on the property. The artifacts should be strategically placed to compliment interpretive signs, accentuate past uses and should not clutter the property.”*

FINANCIAL AND/OR POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The project would be fully funded by the Landmarks Commission. No City staff time or funds have been requested. Bronze plaques do not require regular maintenance, but do discolor over time. The City has not made it a practice to perform any maintenance on the bronze plaques throughout Pioneer Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None

LEGAL REVIEW:

City Attorney Pucci has reviewed this item and finds that the recommended action complies with the law.

ATTACHMENTS:

Plaque Sample

Policy for Placement of Items in City Parks & Open Space

Planning and Vision Study for Hirschman Pond



THE MIDDLE YEARS



GEORGE WASHINGTON
FROM THE VIRGINIA
MILITARY INSTITUTE IN
1796, AND WILL REMAIN IN
THE PHOENIX
TRAINING TROOPS
MARSHALL, JOHN PONT
OF THE WORLD WAS I AT THE
AGE OF TEN, JOHN E.
PERSONAL COMMANDER
OF THE AMERICAN
EXPERIMENTAL FORCE.

HIS FIRST WIFE, ELIZABETH CUNEO MARSHALL,
DIED IN 1757 IN THE STATE, MARSHALL
TRANSFORMED ARMY DEPARTMENT TRAINING AND
COMMAND THE TROOP, MARSHALL SEVERAL OTHERS
CONSPIRACY JOHN JAMES, AND REMAINED
HE CONTEMPLATED RETIREMENT, HIS WIFE
SAID SHE WISHED THAT HIS "MILITARY MONEY"
WAS BEING WASTED IN SECONDARY COMMANDS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

City of Nevada City
Parks & Recreation Department
Policy for Placement of Items in City Parks and Open Space
Adopted September 25, 2013
Updated December 2015

This policy was created to insure that the parks and open space areas owned by the City of Nevada City are preserved in such a way that they remain well maintained, open and usable for our current and future residents and visitors.

While memorials and new amenities may enrich a park experience for park users, public open space is also a very precious commodity, and new memorials, amenities and facilities should be carefully reviewed to balance these two public benefits to protect the greater good. Any new structures should represent community values, and be mindful of future generations.

Maintenance concerns should be a primary consideration, with adequate provision made for continued future maintenance. Durable materials should be used to stand up over time. The City also wants to insure that no one park or space reaches a saturation point. Therefore, within this policy, placement of memorials has been limited to specific locations.

Improvements made in public spaces become the property of the public.

The policies and processes provided herein should be followed prior to any new structure, play equipment, benches, facility, etc. being placed in a Nevada City park or open space owned and operated by the City.

Any person or organization requesting to place, fund or construct a new amenity in a City park or open space property should be directed to the Parks & Recreation Supervisor. It is assumed in the following policy and procedures that all projects are fully funded by an individual, organization or has been included in the City's budget.

Memorials:

Memorials are smaller or common items that are requested for placement in City Parks to honor a family member or friend. Examples: bench, plaque, tree, etc. Any items not fitting this description shall follow the procedures for "New or Re-constructed Facility".

Any individual or family requesting to place a memorial should complete a Memorial Placement Request Form (Appendix A). A list of options for placement of memorials has been provided in Appendix B. To take advantage of one of these memorial placements, the individual making the request will need to cover all costs for materials, installation and maintenance. Bench and plaque styles will be chosen by the City. The fee for this will be adopted by the City Council in the form of a Fee Schedule for Memorials.

If the individual would like to request a memorial that is not included on the pre-approved list, their project request will need to be presented to the City Council for approval. In addition, any requests for a tree will need to be approved by the Public Works Superintendent to insure that the type of tree will grow in this area, match the current landscaping and be located near watering lines to avoid extra maintenance needs or costs.

Placement of benches along Hirschman and the Environs Trail is managed by the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) within the guidelines provided by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BYLT and the City (Appendix C). There are a limited number of bench locations along the trails. A diagram of the potential bench locations can be found in Appendix C along with the agreement.

Memorial plaques shall be no larger than 12" x 12" with lettering no larger than 1". Wording for all plaques must be approved by City Council.

Memorials Placed Prior to the 2015 Updated Adoption of this Policy

Placement of new items will have a fee associated with them to cover long term maintenance of the item. Items that were placed prior to the adoption of this updated policy will be maintained in the following manner:

If a bench, tree or plaque is in a state of disrepair, has been destroyed by Mother Nature or vandalism, or goes missing the following steps will be taken:

1. The person or group who donated that item will be contacted to see if they would like to fund the replacement of the item. If they would, staff will re-install the replaced item.
2. If the person or group does not want to replace the item: trees and plaques will not be replaced. Bench locations will be added to our list of available bench locations to be memorialized by another person or group.

Playground Equipment:

There is only one playground owned and operated by the City of Nevada City. It is located in Pioneer Park. Most of the playground equipment has been funded by the Nevada City Lions Club. When equipment for the playground needs to be replaced or additional equipment is desired—the following steps will be taken:

1. The Parks & Recreation Supervisor will first approve the desired equipment to insure that based on installation regulations, the equipment can be placed within the boundaries of the existing playground to meet safety and ADA requirements.
2. The Public Works Superintendent will then approve the use of Public Works employees for the installation of the equipment or recommend that the equipment be installed by a professional.
3. New equipment can then be installed.

New or Re-constructed Facility:

New or re-constructed facilities include monuments, historical artifacts, Eagle Scout projects, recreational amenities, etc.

The following steps will be taken for any proposed projects on City properties.

1. A Project Proposal Submission Form (Appendix D) shall be completed.
2. The project will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Supervisor.
3. The Parks & Recreation Supervisor will then request written comments from other appropriate staff members on the project.
4. Staff comments should be addressed and then the project will be presented to the City Council for direction.

Recognition Signs:

Recognition signs have historically been placed next to Eagle Scout projects and new facilities. Any signs or plaques placed next to a facility or structure that has been donated shall fit within the following parameters:

- Signs/plaques shall be no larger than 20" x 20"
- Lettering shall be no larger than 1"
- All signs/plaques will be approved by the City Council

Wording and Language:

The wording/language that is proposed for any recognition sign, Eagle Scout project, memorial, etc. shall be approved by the City Council.

City of Nevada City Memorial Placement Request

This form is intended to collect all necessary information from an individual, family or organization who would like to place an item on City owned property as a memorial. All memorials, materials needed and labor must be funded by the person, family or organization making the request. The information on page one may be viewed by the public if presented at a public meeting. The information on page two will only be viewed by City staff.

Contact Name: _____

Item that you would like to have placed on City property (ie: bench, tree): _____

Location where you would like the item placed: _____

Person being honored by memorial: _____

Significance of this location: _____

Amount of funding you have available for this project: _____

I am requesting to place a plaque with my memorial

Wording that will go on the plaque: _____

Contact Information

Contact Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Alternate Phone #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, ST Zip code _____

Email Address: _____

<p>For Office Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Placement Request Form completed<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial meets Appendix B approvals<input type="checkbox"/> Tree – approved by Public Works Superintendent<input type="checkbox"/> Plaque wording provided
--

MEMORIAL PLACEMENT OPTIONS

UPDATED: October 2015

Calanan Park

There are no suggested locations for memorials within the boundaries of Calanan Park. The park does not have open space for any benches and has plenty of seating at this time. If changes are considered for the park, this could be re-visited.

Environs/Tribute Trail

As noted within this document, the Environs Trail has bench locations available. The Bear Yuba Land Trust will work with individuals interested in these locations. Memorial benches will only be placed as noted in Appendix C.

No memorial locations are recommended for the section of trail from Champion Mine Rd. to the NID ditch.

Hirschman Pond Property/Trail

As noted within this document, Hirschman's Pond has bench locations available. The Bear Yuba Land Trust will work with individuals interested in these locations. Memorial benches will only be placed as noted in Appendix C.

Miners Trail

No memorials recommended.

Nevada Mine/Stiles Mill

Due to the Brownfield's Clean-up grant that is in process at this time, no memorials are suggested for this property.

Old Airport

Due to the un-developed nature of this property, no memorials are recommended at this location.

Penzance Park

No memorials recommended.

Pioneer Park

A map of Pioneer Park is attached with recommended bench locations. These benches can be memorials or donations from an individual or organization.

Robinson Plaza

No memorials recommended.

Sugarloaf Mountain

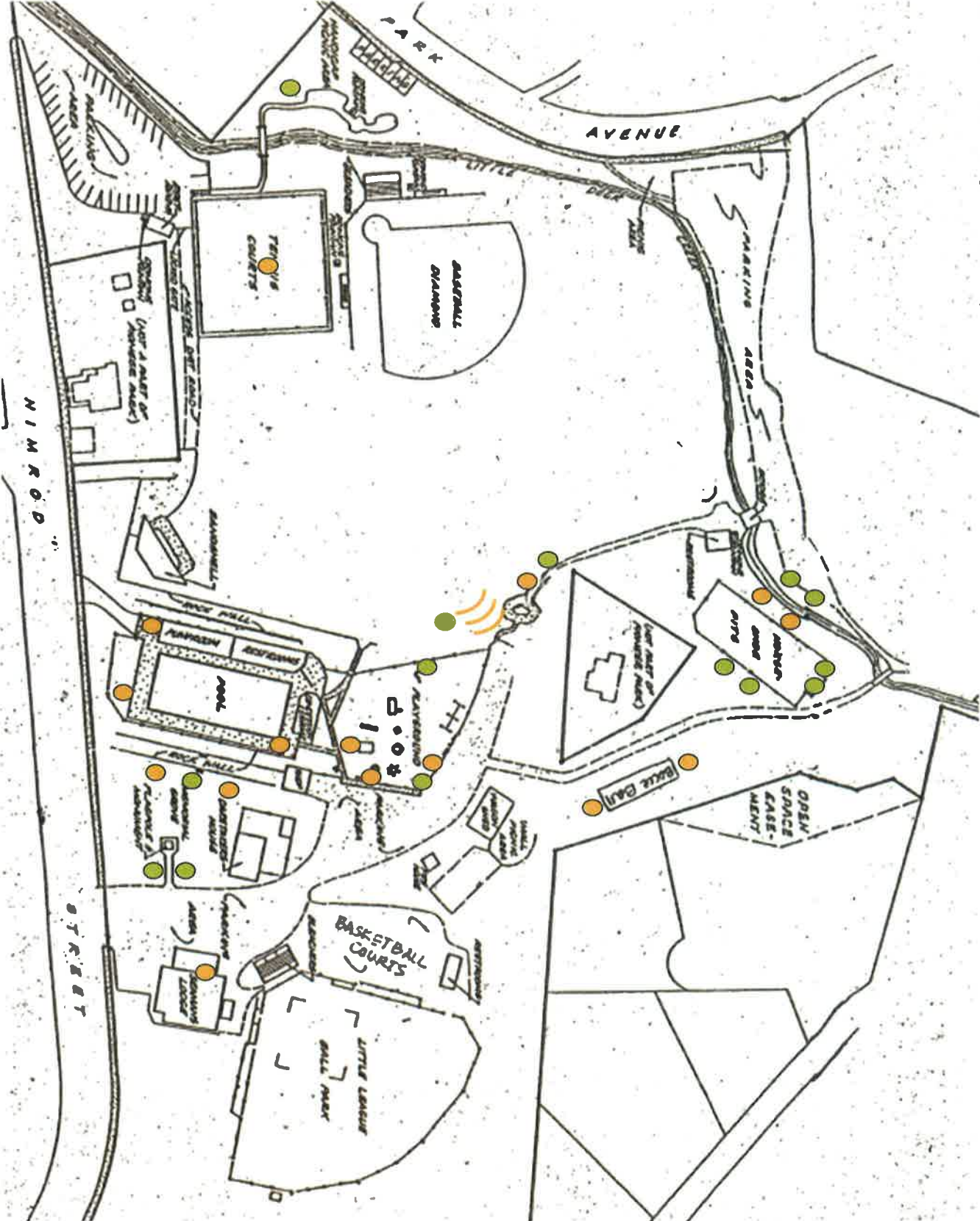
Three bench locations have been approved for this location and have already been approved for installation.

Existing Benches (some dots may represent 2 benches)

Existing Benches (amphitheater)

Proposed Benches (all dots represent 1 bench)

Pioneer Park Bench Locations



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
CITY OF NEVADA CITY, CALIFORNIA
AND
NEVADA COUNTY LAND TRUST
FOR
TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describes the relationship between the City of Nevada City, a public entity, hereinafter referred to as "City", and the Bear Yuba Land Trust, a private, non-profit group, hereinafter referred to as "BYLT", in their joint efforts to provide non-motorized public trails within the sphere of influence of the City.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the BYLT has been operating since 1991 and is a member supported group promoting voluntary conservation of Nevada County's natural, historical, and agricultural resources through protection and enhancement of trails, parks, and open spaces to provide a lasting community heritage; and

WHEREAS, the goals of BYLT are accomplished by acquiring land, conservation easements, and development rights by donation, purchase and other means through voluntary, private action; and

WHEREAS, BYLT was the lead agency responsible for the construction of several trails in western Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that one of the essential elements of enhancing the quality of life in the City is the construction of parks, recreation programs and facilities, open space and trails; and

WHEREAS, the City has or will obtain public land where trails are proposed and/or planned; and

WHEREAS, the City supports trail development that links park facilities, neighborhoods, schools and other community facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is mutually beneficial for the City and BYLT to collaborate in the development, operation, and maintenance of non-motorized trails,

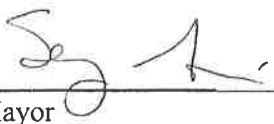
NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above recitals, the parties agree as follows:

1. To establish the procedure and responsibility for accomplishing the location, design, construction, operation and maintenance of trails on land owned by the City of Nevada City.
2. In concept BYLT agrees to:
 - A. Provide assistance to the designated City representative to plan trail alignments on City property.
 - B. Prepare project descriptions suitable for CEQA review.


- C. Secure easements from private landowners for trail segments to be built over private land that provides connections to City property.
 - D. Secure grants and private funding to purchase service of contractors to construct the trail(s).
 - E. Organize and supervise volunteers to assist in the construction of trails.
 - F. Manage a trail adoption program for trails as agreed to by the City.
3. In concept the City agrees to:
- A. Insure that each project complies with CEQA, the City's General Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plans and any other applicable laws, regulations, and permitting requirements.
 - B. Provide BYLT with written approval and assist with obtaining encroachment permits for trails constructed on city property.
 - C. Provide assistance in the construction of the trail using the City's equipment, personnel, and funds to the extent they are available and agreed upon through the budget process.
 - D. Reimburse BYLT for services provided in accordance with terms of contract or purchase agreements executed by both parties.
4. Both Parties agree to:
- A. Only proceed with a project when a letter of agreement has been received and signed by both parties describing the details of a specific project.
 - B. Carry out all of their responsibilities under this agreement in a timely fashion, and to the extent possible, will do nothing to jeopardize the cooperation and goodwill of any willing donors, grantors, volunteers or other members of the public.
 - C. Consult with the other party before preparing any information about the trail project for public distribution.
 - D. Provide a designated representative to carry out the terms of this MOU. The designated representative for the City shall be Dawn Zydonis, Nevada City Parks & Recreation Supervisor; and the designated representative for BYLT shall be Bill Haire, Trails Coordinator.
 - E. Termination of this agreement may be initiated by either party and will be effective upon delivery of written notice the other party by the signer of this agreement.
 - F. Two originals signed this 14th day of August, 2013 in Nevada City, CA.

CITY OF NEVADA CITY

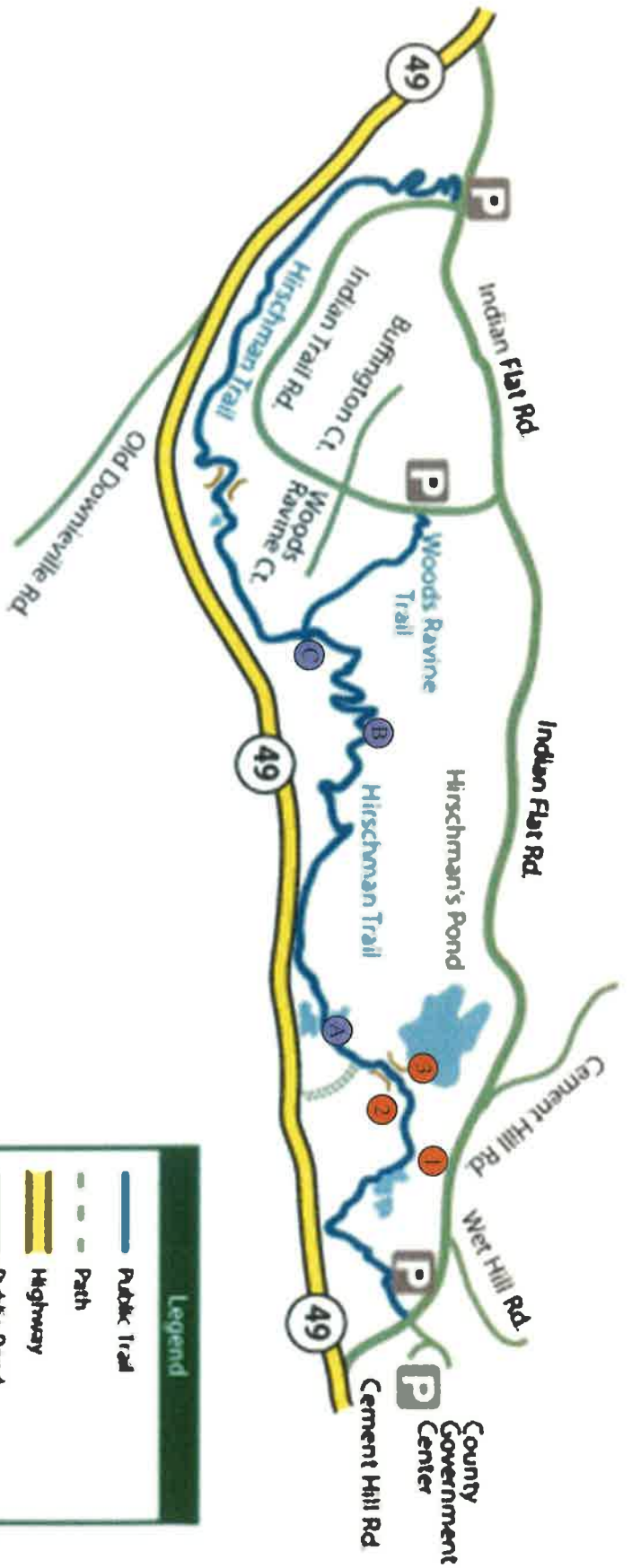
BEAR YUBA LAND TRUST



Mayor
Sally Harris



President
Joe Byrne

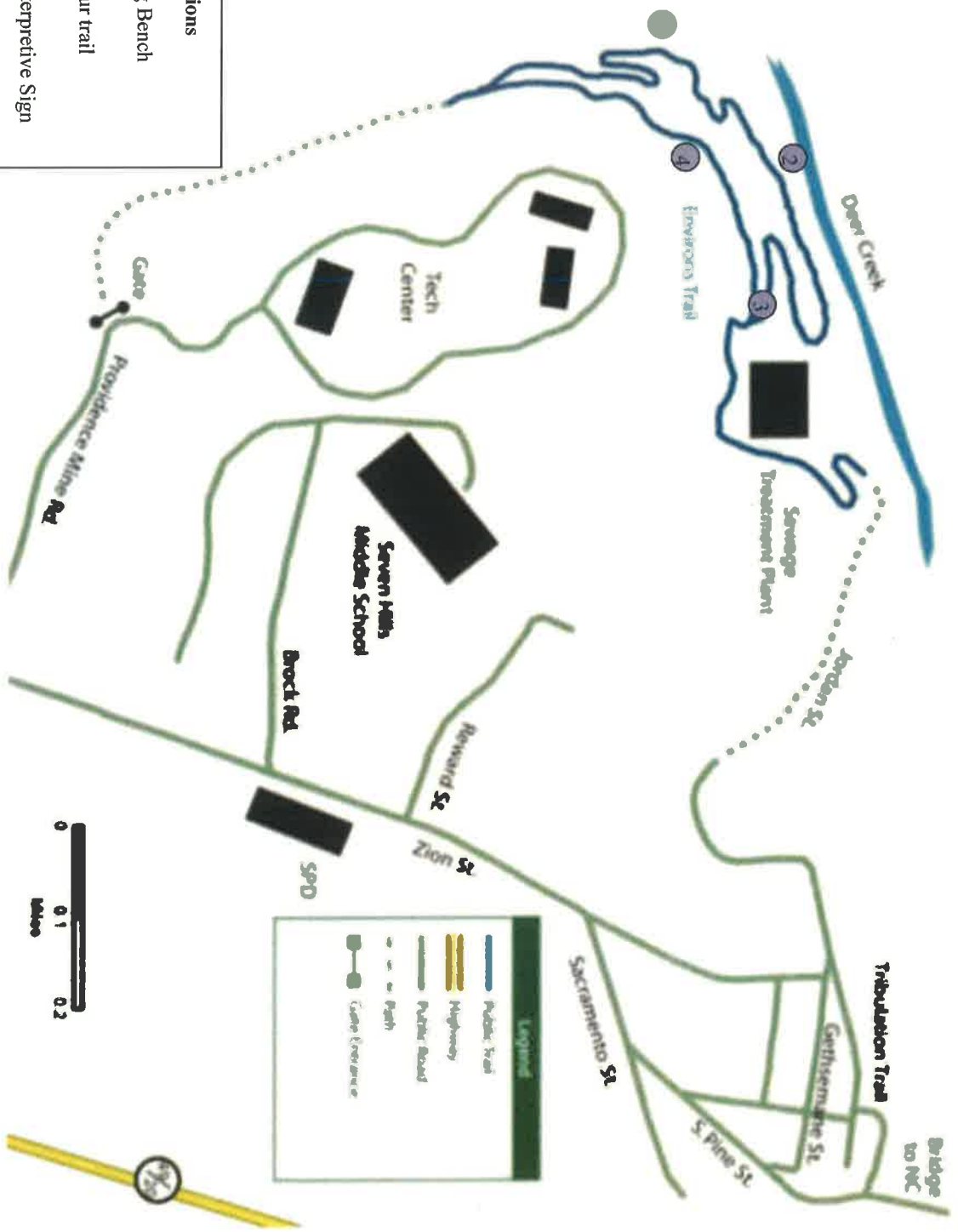


- Current Bench Locations**
- 1 Memorial Bench
 - 2 Memorial Bench
 - 3 Next to the Pond
 - After hiking out of Woods Ravine
- Available Bench Locations**
- Near the first bridge past the pond
 - At the Woods Ravine Trail

Legend

- Public Trail
- Path
- Highway
- Public Road
- Parking
- Bridge
- Pond

- Bench Locations**
- Existing Bench
 - Near spur trail
 - Near Interpretive Sign
 - Near Interpretive Sign





City of Nevada City
Proposed Project Submission

The purpose of this form is to communicate with the City about a project that is being proposed on City property, needs City administration or requests City partnership. The City Manager will review and provide direction about how to proceed with the project proposal. A list of City processes and timelines is included at the bottom of this form. This form is to be submitted to the City Manager (City Hall, 317 Broad St, Nevada City, CA 95959). Allow at least 2 weeks for the City Manager to respond.

Applicant/Organization Information

Applicant/Organization: _____

Contact person: _____

Phone #: _____ email: _____

List any other parties/organizations involved in the project: _____

Project Information

Project Title: _____

Briefly describe the project (A more detailed description of the project may be required at a later date.):

Describe how the project needs City involvement (ie: on City property, need the City to be the fiscal lead, etc). _____

Describe how the project will benefit the City, its residents and/or the community? _____

List efforts undertaken to gather public opinion and community support: _____

Type of Support Needed from the City:

1. Letter of Support YES NO
2. # of staff hours per month _____
 Dates/duration of project that this staff time is needed: _____
3. Other: _____
4. Other: _____

Funding Sources:

- a. Total cost of the project: _____
- b. Amount provided by organization: _____
- c. Amount requested from City: _____

(OVER)

d. Amount provided by Grant funds: _____
What grant is the organization planning to apply for? _____

Attach a copy of the Grant Application Packet or a website address to the information: _____

e. What maintenance is required once the project is complete? _____

Is there future funding available for maintenance of the project? Explain: _____

City Process:

Once your form is submitted to the City Manager, the following steps may occur.

- a. A staff member may be assigned as the Project Manager.
- b. The information distributed to City Staff for comments. This process can take 2-3 weeks for staff to return comments and/or conditions. In addition, if it is determined that the project requires environmental review, that process can take up to 3 months.
- c. Presentation to City Council for direction/approval of the project. The City Council only meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Agenda items must be prepared and turned in to City Hall in advance. Placement on any council agenda is determined by the City Manager.
- d. The City may require deposits or fees be paid for staff time in reviewing and implementing projects or grants.
- e. Projects may need to be presented to the Recreation Committee or Planning Commission. These bodies meet once each month.
- f. Some projects may require a signed Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the Organization.
- g. A monthly written status report from the organization may be required during the planning and implementation process.

FOR CITY HALL USE

Is the project a priority for the City? YES NO

Explain: _____

Is the project on the City's...

- Capital Improvement Project List (CIP)
- General Plan
- A Master Plan (Pioneer Park, Hirschman's, etc): _____
- Strategic Plan
- Other: _____

Does the project match the City's Mission/Vision? YES NO

Explain: _____

Would the project interfere with another project that is on the CIP? YES NO

Explain: _____

Staff member assigned as Project Manager: _____

HIRSCHMAN'S POND
VISION & PLANNING STUDY
2010



Introduction

In 2008 the Recreation Committee created a list of goals for the committee to accomplish. Among those goals was the creation of a Master Plan for Hirschman's Pond. The Master Plan process began with a sub-committee creating a draft Plan and presenting it to the Recreation Committee. After the Recreation Committee and City Staff reviewed the draft, changes were made based on comments received and the Master Plan evolved into the Vision and Planning Study. The Vision and Planning Study was then taken to the Planning Commission on February 18, 2010. The Planning Commission meeting also served as a public workshop for members of the public to give input to the Vision and Study. Adjustments were again made to the document based on comments at that meeting as well as letters received in the days leading up to the meeting. The Planning Commission recommended that the document be taken to City Council. The City Council then reviewed the Vision and Planning Study at their meeting on March 10, 2010. The City Council did adopt the Vision and accept the Planning Study. The edits that were made to the Planning Study by the City Council were to remove the suggestion of bathrooms and a meeting space. Minutes from both the February 18, 2010 Planning Commission meeting and March 10, 2010 City Council meeting are attached at the end of this document. (Attachment D).

Public Use Vision

Although the Hirschman's Pond property was significantly modified by the process of hydraulic mining during the gold rush days, the property has rejuvenated to a beautiful, restful, scenic, natural appearing environment. Wildlife is abundant and plants and trees have filled every area of the property. Considering the natural appearance of this property, the City intends to utilize it as an opportunity for people of all ages to observe and experience natural processes, just minutes away from downtown Nevada City. Improvements to the site will be limited to those that facilitate education, observation of natural processes, and outdoor recreation activities that utilize an undeveloped environment such as bird watching and hiking.

The property will remain primarily in its unmanaged state with no significant development or disruption to the wildlife living there. The property should be viewed as an area for passive recreation, where visitors primarily pass through for a hike or bike ride, but do not remain for long periods of time. Due to the rough terrain of the property, many active recreational activities would not be suitable for this location and could be disruptive to those wishing to enjoy the serene quiet that it provides. Therefore active recreational opportunities; other than bicycles on the trails, are not recommended for this property. The City also does not intend to establish picnic areas, trash receptacles or large changes to the landscape.

Planning Study

Background Information

The Hirschman's Pond property discussed herein consists of several parcels that the City of Nevada City owns and manages. Throughout this document the term "Hirschman's Pond property" or "property" shall include the following parcels, unless otherwise designated:

1. The house at 115 Cement Hill Rd. (APN: 05-010-29)
2. The property purchased from the Elks (APN: 05-010-58)
3. The property containing Hirschman's Pond (APN: 05-010-56)
4. The parcels surrounding the Indian Trails subdivision.
 - a. Parcel A – APN: 04-680-17
 - b. Parcel B – APN: 04-670-02
 - c. Parcel D – APN: 04-670-01
 - d. Parcel E – APN: 04-670-06

The parcels mentioned were purchased or gifted to the City at various times between the years 2004-2007. Attachment A is a map outlining the parcels and defining the acreage of each.

The General Plan for Nevada City; adopted March 24, 1986 included Hirschman's Pond as a desirable property to acquire because it would increase the "sense of a distinct city surrounded by green, wooded hills."

In 2004, the City acquired funds through the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhoods, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40) to purchase the property containing Hirschman's Pond (APN: 05-010-56).

In 2005, the City purchased an additional piece of property from the Trustees of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Nevada City Lodge #518 (APN: 05-010-58) This property is adjacent to the property containing Hirschman's Pond and accessible by Cement Hill Rd. This expanded the possibilities for access and use of the Hirschman's Pond property. This property was purchased by the City with general fund dollars and a private donation.

In 2007, the City was gifted the open space parcels (Parcels A, B, D & E) surrounding the Indian Trails Subdivision, by the developer; Erickson Realty, LTD. In addition, the City received \$50,000 from Erickson Realty, LTD to be designated for maintenance of the open space parcels.

Also in 2007, the City purchased the house that is located in the middle of the property purchased from the Elks (APN: 05-010-29). The City saw it as beneficial to purchase this house, so there would not be a private residence in the middle of a City park. The house was purchased with funds from several sources:

- Funds acquired from a lot line adjustment
- Unallocated City Quimby funds
- A donation by the Wilson Bequest
- City General Fund

There are some use restrictions based on how the properties were purchased. The intent of the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (used for purchase of APN: 05-010-56) is to acquire and develop parks and recreational areas for the purpose of land, air, and water conservation

programs. It is also intended to acquire, restore, preserve and interpret California's historical and cultural resources.

Parcels A, B, D & E of the Indian Trails Subdivision were given to the City with the intentions of conserving them as permanent open space and for enhancement of trail opportunities.

Several funding sources were used to purchase the house (APN: 05-010-29). A previous lot line adjustment – not connected with this property. The funds received during that lot line adjustment were set aside and reserved for parks or trails. The money donated to the City by the Wilson Bequest was designated for park space.

The Vision and Planning Study take these restrictions into consideration. The City does not intend to use the property for purposes that would be in conflict with these restrictions.

Purpose of this Planning Study

This Study is intended to serve as a consensus-building document expressing general guidelines for amenities, programs, and management practices of the Hirschman's Pond property. No specific timeline is being suggested, as projects and development would be dependent upon availability of funding and completion of detailed environmental impact studies and public review. It is intended to suggest ways of precluding development that is inconsistent with the Vision for the property.

Current property uses and development

The City is in the process of constructing Hirschman's Trail from the Cement Hill entrance to the pond, through the pond property and joining with the parcels in the Indian Trails subdivision. This would be the primary way to traverse through the property. The Hirschman's Trail is a project that has already been approved and funded by a Recreational Trail Program Grant (RTP). This grant is a federal grant that is being administered by the California State Parks Department. Bill Haire, the Trails Coordinator for the Nevada County Land Trust wrote the grant on behalf of the City and is managing the project.

Included with this approved trail project will be natural and historical interpretive signs. With this added feature, the trail will be well suited for interpretive hikes. The City intends to create an Advisory Committee to focus on this aspect of the trail to determine what type of signs should be installed, what information should be included and create a Request for Proposal (RFP).

Possible future property uses, development and programs

The following suggestions are ideas that are proposed for the property, but would need sufficient funding, completion of detailed environmental impact studies and public review before proceeding with any projects or development mentioned herein.

Additional trails may be constructed in the future as ways to provide loops and access to areas for educational purposes or to enhance opportunities for hiking, biking and other dispersed recreation activities. The City does not intend to construct any trails around the entire pond, as much of the area is difficult to access and a trail could be intrusive to the wildlife living there. It should also be noted that the City desires to have Hirschman's Trail link to other local trails to create links for hikers making connections to town and longer walking trails.

The primary area for improvements on the Hirschman's Pond property would be near the entrance from Cement Hill Rd. At the parking area and trailhead, the desire is to have bicycle racks and signs about use of the property.

The house located at 115 Cement Hill Rd., would be included in this development area only due to the need for having potable water at the house. This project is in process and once completed, the house will be rented. The renter will not serve as a caretaker, but will provide a revenue stream for the City.

At the pond, the City desires to construct a barrier free viewing deck that would allow all visitors easy access to the pond. Prior to moving forward with this project, the City should take into account disabled access and public safety, in addition to potential impacts upon the environment and the natural outdoor experience.

The road entrance to the property from Hwy 49 will remain and will be improved to provide emergency access and property maintenance. It is not the intent of the City to allow public use to the property through this entrance.

In addition the City would like to see historical mining artifacts located on the property. The artifacts should be strategically placed to compliment interpretive signs, accentuate past uses and should not clutter the property.

Rules and Regulations

Resolution 2004-23, which was adopted in August 2004, outlines current rules and regulations for the Hirschman's Pond property. (Attachment B)

Ordinance 2010-01 bans smoking on city properties. This would apply to the Hirschman's Pond property. (Attachment C)

The City Attorney will assist with any additional rules that may want to be included at the property; including, but not limited to banning horseback riding and requiring pets to be on a leash.

Management Practices

The City desires to create a Forestry Management Plan for Hirschman's Pond as well as other Open Space parcels owned by the City. By managing the property to maintain forest healthy trees, those trees in stress or at risk can be removed before they die thereby keeping the property safe from potential falling trees. This may result in an economic benefit to the City as apposed to costly clean up at a later date. This process must also provide for regeneration of young trees to insure that the forest cover is maintained in perpetuity.

The property will have some clearing completed during trail construction; however the property currently is infested by non-native plants, primarily Scotch Broom and Himalayan Blackberries. These non-native plants greatly increase the fire danger and their presence is contrary to the objectives of the City for management of the property. Clearing for fire safety and the removal of invasive, non-native plants will continue as resources allow, with the goal of complete removal of non-native plants from the site. Any plantings on the property should be with plants native to this locale.

The benefits to the city for doing this kind of clearing is,

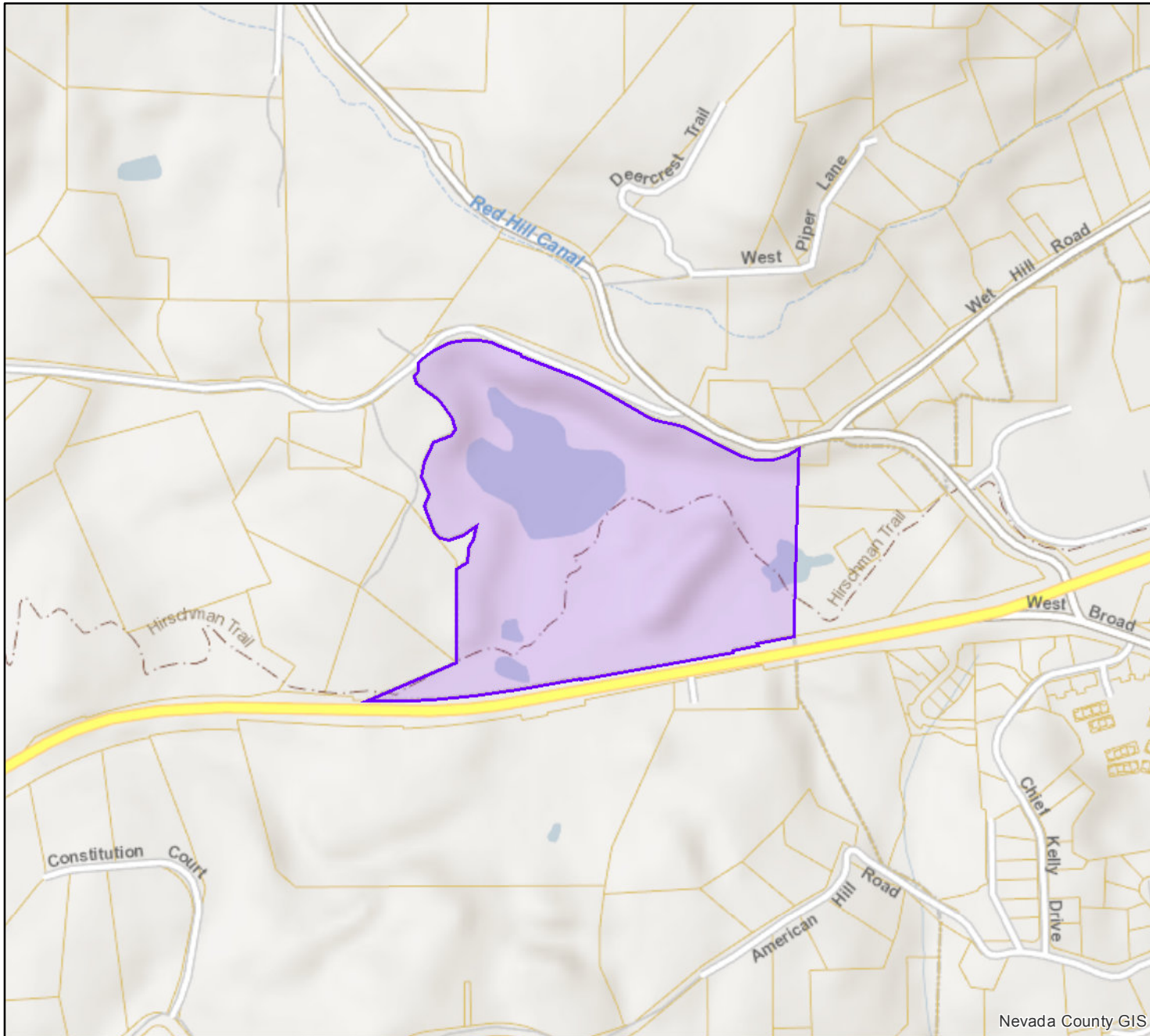
1. Reduction of wildfire risk

2. Opening up the landscape to better views
3. Invasive, non-native plants prevent native plants from being established on the site.
4. Native plants provide food and cover for native wildlife; non-native plants may exclude plants that provide valuable food and cover.
5. Invasive, non-native plants are costly to maintain as they aggressively invade public use areas (trails, parking areas, gathering areas, etc.)
6. Removal of non-native plants by community groups can be accomplished at little cost to the City and could result in a “Friends of Hirschman” type of organization.

In addition if the City has an adopted Management Plan, the likelihood of being awarded clean-up grants increases.

The pond evolved as a result of past hydraulic mining that occurred in the 1850's. Members of the public had concerns about the water supply to the pond and health of the water. To determine the validity of these issues the City would need to create a management plan for the pond if studies determined this to be necessary.

Nevada County Parcel Report



Parcel APN: 005-010-056-000
15475 STATE HIGHWAY 49

Land Value: \$0
Improvement Value: \$0
Acreage: 33.53
Zoning: R1 SC AN NevCty
General Plan: NEVCITY
Fire District: Nevada City
Elementary Sch. Dist: Nevada City
Water District:
Nevada Irrigation Dist: NID Water - Zone 1.0
Public Utility:
Park District:
Service Area:
Snow Load: 51
Wind Exposure: C
Climate Zone: 11
Elevation: 2746

Overview

