



STAFF REPORT

Date: May 17, 2023
To: TRPA Governing Board
From: TRPA Staff
Subject: Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan and Sustainable Recreation Update

Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff will provide an update on the Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan and sustainable recreation projects in the Environmental Improvement Program.

The Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan draws upon insight and direction from 17 organizations and community input, which laid the groundwork for the 16-month planning process. Most of all, it draws inspiration from all those who care about safeguarding the Lake Tahoe Basin for future generations. The plan developed a shared vision and four strategic pillars to guide collaborative actions to put in place the plan's vision. The plan includes 21 objectives and 32 priority actions that will create a more sustainable recreation and tourism economy for the greater Tahoe Region.

The final Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan will be released in June 2023. A Destination Stewardship Council will be formed to oversee implementation of the stewardship plan and implement priority actions.

Sustainable recreation is an Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) focus area with action priorities of improving public access to Lake Tahoe and improving public recreation facilities. TRPA staff will conclude the presentation with an update on upcoming sustainable recreation EIP projects.

This item is for informational purposes and no action is required.

Project Description/Background:

Tahoe is a place of aesthetic, cultural, and environmental contrasts. Spanning two states, encompassing diverse communities, and embodying a wide range of perspectives, this stewardship plan has been meticulously designed for and by the Tahoe community.

With more than 2 million unique visitors spending nearly 17 million visitor days in the region, including 4 million 'untethered' visits generating more than \$4.5 billion in direct spending last year, much is at stake. With a local population of about 54,000 in the Basin and another 17,000 in Truckee, protecting the quality of the Tahoe experience while advancing the needs of the region's communities and its visitor and recreation-based economy is a major challenge. It will take an all-hands-on-deck approach and epic collaboration to achieve a harmonious balance of interests.

The Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan bears the fruit of countless hours of collaboration, engagement, and knowledge sharing. It is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of all involved, and it showcases the necessity of cross-sector collaboration for addressing the Lake Tahoe region's complex challenges. As the work of this plan unfolds, it is essential to remember that its success hinges upon the continued engagement and commitment of all stakeholders to work together in pursuit of a shared vision for the Lake Tahoe region.

Sustainable Recreation Project Implementation

The EIP partnership implements projects that will advance threshold attainment including sustainable recreation. The goal of sustainable recreation is to provide high-quality outdoor recreation experiences while preserving and restoring the outstanding natural and cultural resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Recreation EIP projects need to be well-planned, designed, and coordinated amongst the EIP partnership to achieve the goals of sustainable recreation and destination stewardship.

There are a variety of EIP projects planned that will advance sustainable recreation and transportation initiatives. The following list is a snapshot of projects to be implemented throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin within the next five years:

Van Sickle Bi-State Park Phase Two and Three:

The Van Sickle Bi-State park is managed by the Nevada Division of State Parks and the California Tahoe Conservancy. This project will add a visitor center, improved parking, and a multi-use path, improving the recreation facilities at this popular bi-state park located in the Tourist Core Area Plan and South Shore Area Plan.

Spoooner Frontcounty Improvement Project Phase Two:

Nevada Division of State parks will be implementing Phase two which will build upon improvements made during phase one and includes improved picnic areas, a group even pavilion, improved pathways, interpretive and wayfinding signage, improved parking, and water quality improvements.

Dennis Machida Memorial Trail:

This project is a continuation of the Greenway Multi-Use Trail. The project will extend the trail from Herbert Avenue to Ski Run Boulevard, making an important connection to the multi-use trail system in South Lake Tahoe. The trail system builds and enhances the trail network in South Lake Tahoe reducing reliance on the automobile, while also providing recreation opportunities.

Meeks Bay Restoration Project:

The USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is implementing this multi-benefit project. In addition to restoring the Meeks Creek lagoon the project will improve the campgrounds, provide better circulation, make connections to existing multi-use trails, and provide accessible access to Lake Tahoe.

Kings Beach Day Use Area Rehabilitation and Erosion Control Project:

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is implementing this project to improve the recreation facilities at the day use recreation area. Improvements include water quality improvements and improved walkways that meet accessibility standards and provide better access to Lake Tahoe.

Contact Information:

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