

TRAILS + OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

December 16th, 2022



RECOMMENDATION

By motion, adopt the 2022 Trails Master Plan, which would replace the 2013 Trails Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Trails Master Plan Update Project began in the fall of 2021. After extensive member outreach and input, staff presented a draft version of the Trails Master Plan to the Board for consideration at the Nov. 2, 2022, special Board meeting.

Members and directors provided feedback and requested minor edits.

Staff and consultants updated the draft plan and present it today for review and potential adoption.

DRAFT UPDATES

- Removed “update” from the cover and any references to the TMP
- Fixed minor typos
- Added partnership to page 2
- Updated public use text on pages 7-8
- Updated Nevada County dog policy text, Item C, on page 8
- Included “advise from” the TOS on adaptive management policy on page 11
- Added next steps text to page 50
- Adjusted map labels for readability
- Included erroneously missing Hillside Drive neighborhood trail access point
- Included recommendation to improve Powerline / Pirate Trail to diminish erosion
- Added Alder Creek Adventure Center enlargements to pages 66-67

**THREE MAIN LANGUAGE UPDATES
PRESENTED ON FOLLOWING PAGES**

**PUBLIC USE
NEVADA COUNTY DOG ORDINANCE
NEXT STEPS – BUDGET PROCESS**

PUBLIC USE UPDATE FROM 11/2 VERSION

Public Use

Though Tahoe Donner builds and maintains its trail system for the sake of member enjoyment, Tahoe Donner's trails are a public amenity with free, non-commercial use permitted to both Tahoe Donner members and the general public.

This long-established policy is consistent with Tahoe Donner's 1993 filing for 501(c)(4) tax exemption, which emphasized unrestricted trail system public access as a critical component of the application. It is also consistent with conservation easement deeds held on certain Tahoe Donner properties, which require public access to the lands subject to the easements. Historically, Tahoe Donner has also afforded public access through its properties to the Tahoe National Forest lands that are either fully enclosed within Association property or adjacent to Association property.

By virtue of this policy, Tahoe Donner has improved its access to grant funding for trails, open space, and fire protection. Additionally, the Association has been able to take advantage of liability protections afforded by California law to private landowners who permit free recreational public use and enjoyment of private lands. Finally, this policy has benefited Tahoe Donner with improved goodwill from the regional community, non-governmental partner organizations, and local, regional, and national governments.

PUBLIC USE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Recommendation Given the practical and financial advantages afforded to the Association by its current policy, and considering the disadvantages and costs associated with attempting to limit public use of the trail system through fees or prohibitions, this plan recommends that Tahoe Donner continue to permit free, noncommercial use of the trail system to both Tahoe Donner members and the general public. In keeping with the goal of raising the social and physical quality of the trail system, future trail system updates should strive to balance continued general public use of the trail system with the quality of membership experience. Where trail or other physical improvements to the land may attract significant use and otherwise diminish the quality of the physical or social setting for the membership, Tahoe Donner may consider geographical/operational areas that could include a public pricing structure for the impacted areas. Finally, this plan recommends improved member communication to clarify Tahoe Donner's trail system public use policy, its basis, and its advantages for the Association.

DOG MANAGEMENT UPDATE FROM 11/2 VERSION

Nevada County, California Code, Title 2, General Code, Chapter IV: General Regulations, Article 1 Humane Animal Control, Sec. G-IV 1.47 Animals Running at Large Prohibited²

No person owning or having possession, charge, custody, or control of any animal shall cause, permit, or allow the animal to be in any building or enclosure or to stray, run, or in any other manner to be at large in or upon any public street, sidewalk, park, school ground, or other public place, or upon any private place or property without the permission of the owner or person in control of such private place or property.

An animal shall be deemed at large anytime it is off the premises of its owner/custodian and not under direct control of the owner/custodian by means of leash, chain, tether, adequate fence, or other effective device.

The provisions of this Section shall not apply to: A. Any hunting dog during such time it is being used for the purpose of lawful hunting, or during such time it is being trained to be a hunting dog, provided such hunting or training is on land or premises to which the person hunting or training such dog has a legal right to be upon. B. Working animals during those periods when the animal is working.

Update includes erroneously left out Section C.

C. Animals in the immediate presence and under direct control of the owner/custodian. This means the animal is in the close proximity of the owner/custodian, and the owner/custodian can demonstrate effective control of the animal.

NEXT STEPS UPDATE FROM 11/2 VERSION

“Align projects with annual TD budget process for funding needs”

Trails Plan Summary

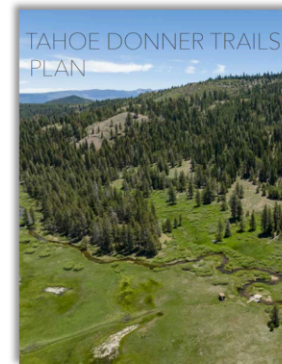
Trails Plan Summary

The following series of maps show preliminary assumptions for new improvements to the Tahoe Donner trail system. These recommendations are to be used as a resource for future development and redevelopment of the trails, trailheads, access points, and associated facilities of the trail system.

Throughout the trail planning process several methods were utilized to craft the plan and the preliminary alignments shown. Methods included:

- On site reconnaissance of the existing trail system, trailheads, access points, gaps, and potential connections.
- Drone photography
- Online mapping, including ArcGIS and mobile apps such as Caltopo.
- Review of existing heatmaps from user aggregated data from Strava and Trailforks.
- Site analysis mapping, including natural and cultural resources.
- Future trend.
- Historic uses.
- Member survey results.
- Input from the TOS.
- Input from the Clubs.
- Input from Tahoe Donner staff.
- Alignment with Focus Areas and goals.

THIS PLAN

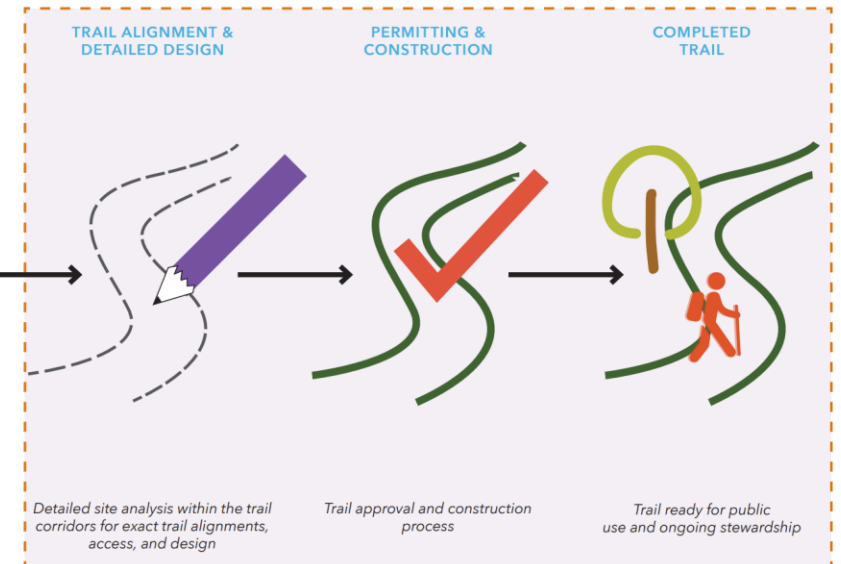


Big-picture vision for a connected, high-quality, trail network.

Next Steps

- Align projects with annual TD budget process for funding needs.
- Update 2016 Land Management Plan to include acquisition and restoration opportunities.
- Potentially create Timber Harvest Plan.
- Integrate adopted TMP recommendations with LRPC recommendations.

NEXT STEPS



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