

Chapter 5

RECREATION ELEMENT

The recreation element is a supplement to the Recreation Element of the TRPA Goals and Policies Plan and the El Dorado County General Plan. It contains an inventory of the existing recreation opportunities in and around the plan area and identifies proposed improvements within the plan area.

A. EXISTING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Meyers is surrounded by numerous recreation opportunities. The plan area contains the interim Meyers Visitors Center, the Pat Lowe Memorial Bike Trail (a Class I facility), a short stretch of the Upper Truckee River and an existing unpaved equestrian/bicycle trail along California 89. By virtue of its location, Meyers provides several recreation rental and sales businesses, including snowmobile tours and ski rentals. The eighteen hole Tahoe Paradise golf course is adjacent to the plan area and shares a parking lot within the community plan area with Yank's Station. In winter, the golf course is used for snowmobiling. Tahoe Paradise Park and Lake Baron are a short distance west of the plan area. National forest lands, Washoe Meadows State Park and California Tahoe Conservancy lands provide public open space near the Upper Truckee River. An existing unpaved trail leaves the end of Santa Fe Street and runs north along the former roadway alignment.

The following inventory identifies recreation providers presently located in or adjacent to the plan area:

1. USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). The LTBMU manages national forest lands within and surrounding the plan area (Tahoe Valley Management Area), providing open space and dispersed recreation opportunities. Within the plan area, the Meyers Work Center is a support facility for recreation and other national forest uses throughout the Tahoe Basin. In terms of TRPA's land use classifications, it is a public service use. The LTBMU is a partner in the existing, self-service Meyers Visitors Center. National forest lands adjacent to the plan area contain a restored wet meadow and an informal trail beginning at the end of Santa Fe Street along the former roadway alignment.
2. California Park Service (CPS). Formerly the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the CPS manages the nearby, undeveloped Washoe Meadows State Park. It is a partner in the Meyers Visitors Center.
3. California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC). The CTC manages several vacant parcels in and adjacent to the plan area, certain of which could potentially be used for public outdoor recreation or community facilities. It is a partner in the Meyers Visitors Center.
4. Tahoe Paradise Golf Course. Located adjacent to Yank's Station, it contains an eighteen hole golf course, driving range and clubhouse/ restaurant open to the general public. In winter, the golf course is used as a snowmobile course. Its parking area is on an adjacent parcel located in the community plan area. It is

privately owned.

5. El Dorado County Department of Parks and Recreation. It is responsible for providing recreation to county residents through the Tahoe Basin County Service Area. There are no existing facilities in or adjacent to the plan area.
6. Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District. The district owns and operates Tahoe Paradise Park, including Lake Baron. The park is a short distance west of the plan area. It is used by members of the Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District, an organization of Tahoe Paradise residential property owners.
7. Other Providers. Within the plan area, the Tahoe Paradise Winter Sports Center provides outfitter and guide services with snowmobile tours to locations outside the plan area. Of the three major ski areas located near Meyers, only Sierra-at-Tahoe (formerly Sierra Ski Ranch) provides skier and employee shuttle service to Meyers. Its primary stops are the Shell gas station and Meyers Downtown Cafe. Kirkwood and Heavenly Valley do not presently provide shuttle service to Meyers.

B. COMMUNITY PLAN RECREATION OBJECTIVES AND SPECIAL POLICIES

Utilizing the community plan goals established in Chapter 1, the following objectives and special policies shall be implemented as part of the plan. Objectives represent desired ends or results. Policies are implemented as the means to achieve objectives.

0 Recreation Goal

Expand recreational opportunities within the community plan area and provide access to nearby recreation.

Objectives and Special Policies:

1. Encourage the Forest Service and other partners to locate the interim and permanent interagency visitors center in Meyers.

Policy: The preferred site for the permanent Meyers Visitors Center is near the corner of U.S. 50 and California 89.

2. Encourage the Meyers Bike Trail to connect commercial areas with nearby recreation areas and trails.

Policy: Develop trail connections within and adjacent to the plan area. Specific projects include: constructing the second half of the Pat Lowe Memorial Bike Trail; a Class I trail linking Meyers with South Lake Tahoe; and trail connections between the plan area and nearby national forest, Tahoe Conservancy and Washoe Meadows State Park lands. Provide bike racks in land use districts to encourage bicycle use.

3. Encourage recreational uses in the community plan to which local businesses can provide support goods and services.

4. Discourage unscreened outdoor storage of recreational equipment which is visible from U.S. 50 or California 89.

Policy: Recreation projects shall be designed consistent with the Community Design Plan and Design Review Guidelines.

5. Provide parking and access to recreational opportunities in and around the plan area.

Policy: Improve transit opportunities that access recreation facilities on a year round basis. Examples include: extending summer beach bus service (S.T.A.G.E./Bus Plus) and winter ski shuttles to the plan area (Heavenly, Kirkwood and Sierra-at-Tahoe). Coordinate transit service with the community park and ride facility.

C. COMMUNITY PLAN RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS

The plan envisions the following recreation improvements to implement the goal and objectives.

1. USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The LTBMU intends to develop the permanent Meyers Visitors Center to replace the existing interim facility. Its estimated capacity is 150 persons at one time (PAOTs). The project is on TRPA's Five Year List of Additional Recreation Facilities. It requires an allocation from TRPA of Summer Day Use PAOTs as part of the project review and approval process. No specific projects are proposed by LTBMU's Land and Resource Management Plan for areas surrounding the plan area.

LTBMU's general management prescriptions include continuing developed recreation at the existing recreation residence tracts along the Upper Truckee River and timber stand maintenance along the eastern edge of the Industrial Tract. The existing Work Center is expected to remain in its present capacity.

2. California Park Service. The Park Service is expected to continue as a partner in developing the permanent Meyers Visitors Center. They intend to prepare a general plan for the Washoe Meadows State Park. The plan will recommend developing a trail connection from their boundary near U.S. 50 and the Upper Truckee River into the park. It may investigate the potential to add an undercrossing of U.S. 50 to reach the Visitors Center.
3. California Tahoe Conservancy. The Conservancy is expected to continue as a partner in developing the permanent Meyers Visitors Center. Conservancy land within the plan area is a potential site for the community park and ride facility. It may also provide land acquisition assistance if the facility is developed on the vacant parcel owned by the State's Department of Agriculture adjacent to the existing Meyers Agricultural Inspection Station.
4. Tahoe Paradise Golf Course. The Tahoe Paradise golf course and winter snowmobile course is expected to remain in its present form. The opportunity exists to provide a small outdoor retail/cafe area at the edge of the golf course at the rear of Yank's Station. A portion of the project could be developed as an accessory use to the golf course and not require a commercial floor area allocation. The Yank's Station complex could be redeveloped to provide access to the rear of the site. Regardless of the

manner in which it is developed, the edge between the uses and plan areas could become an asset to the area. An SEZ restoration project containing an existing channel which drains part of the golf course is recommended by the plan. The channel is on the boundary between Yank's Station and the golf course. See Chapters 4 and 7.

5. El Dorado County Service Area. No improvements identified at this time within the plan area.
6. Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District. No improvements identified at this time within the plan area.
7. Other Providers. The plan recommends expanding winter ski shuttle and summer beach bus service to the community park and ride facility. Heavenly Valley, Kirkwood and Sierra-at-Tahoe will be requested to provide regular shuttle service. S.T.A.G.E. will be requested to provide connecting summer beach bus service. Bicycle racks or lockers should be provided at the park and ride facility.