

TRUCKEE RIVER LEGACY TRAIL

Rebirth of a River

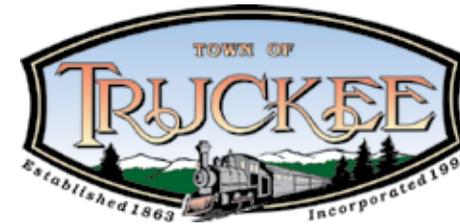
The Truckee River has existed for thousands of years. For most of its life, its waters were clean, pure, and teeming with native fish like the Lahontan cutthroat trout and the Tahoe sucker. The first humans to live along the river, some 10,000 years ago, relied on the fishery as their main source of protein. The Truckee was so pure that in the late 19th century, ice was harvested from frozen ponds and shipped all across the country.

By 1918, however, the State Bureau of Sanitary Engineering had declared parts of the Truckee River to be "impure water" and "dangerous for drinking purposes." Decades of logging, mining, grazing, and cesspool discharge had turned this once crystal-pure stream into a health hazard. There were even open latrines on platforms built directly over the river! The Truckee had become so polluted that the Board of Health closed down the ice plants.

In response, the Truckee Sanitary District built a wastewater treatment facility about a mile downstream of Truckee, and the clean-up of the river began in earnest. Sixty years later, the Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency opened a state-of-the-art water reclamation facility that provides advanced wastewater treatment to Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe, and the greater Truckee area. Today various groups are working to restore and protect the Truckee River.

Project Partners

The Truckee Donner Recreation and Parks District, the Truckee Sanitary District, the Truckee Donner Public Utility District, and the Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency have all donated land for the trail. Portions of the route also cross through public lands administered by the US Forest Service. The generosity and hard work of these organizations have contributed greatly to the successful realization of this long-term goal!



Brochure produced by
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Tahoe Ice Company barn, ca. 1912



Archaeologists excavating the remains of the Tahoe Ice Company barn.



The Truckee River today.



The Truckee River Legacy Trail is the culmination of nearly 20 years of planning and collaboration. This Class I Bikeway and Multi-Use Trail is an integral part of the Town of Truckee's Trails and Bikeways Master Plan, which encourages the development of recreation trails to provide alternative transportation options, outdoor health and recreation opportunities, and environmental benefits.

The Town and the local community have worked together for many years to meet these goals. The Legacy Trail has been a public/private partnership between federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and volunteers. It has been paid for with grants, donations, and Town funds. The most recently constructed segment of the trail (Segment 3B) was made possible by a \$2.9 million California River Parkways grant from the California Natural Resources Agency. As of the summer of 2014, the completed trail is 5 miles long. Additional segments are planned for the near future, to connect the Regional Park and Donner Lake.

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The focal point of the trail is the Truckee River, with all its natural beauty and historical significance. The route is designed to provide cyclists and pedestrians with views of the river without encroaching on the fragile wetlands and riparian areas along its banks.



From this overlook you can see a long stretch of the river as it meanders past glacial outwash terraces dating back some 15,000 years. Several snow-capped peaks are visible in the far distance.

The native Washoe name for this stretch of the Truckee is *Wáta t'iyel* or "big river." Before non-natives arrived, the Washoe had villages and fish camps all along the river.



Portions of the Truckee River are designated by the State of California as Wild Trout Water – nearly 11 miles of stream habitat are managed to sustain wild trout species and provide recreational fishing.



The trail crosses Martis Creek on a bridge that was designed to match the historic character of the area.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS

- 1-Brockway Rd. at skate park and ball field
- 2-Truckee River Regional Park
- 3-Bridge at east end of East River Rd.
- 4-Ranch Wy. off Martis Dr.
- 5-Riverview Sports Park off Joerger Dr.
- 6-Glenshire Dr. near entrance to subdivision

KEY

- Planned Segments
- Completed Segments
- Trail Access Points

