



CHAPTER 5

Recreation

Element

The Recreation Element of the Meyers Area Plan is a supplement to the Recreation Element of the TRPA Regional Plan and the El Dorado County General Plan. It contains the plan's strategy for improving recreational opportunities and identifies proposed recreational improvements within the Plan Area.

A. EXISTING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Meyers provides a hub for numerous outdoor recreation activities within and surrounding the Area Plan. A variety of recreational opportunities are provided on public lands by the U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (USFS), the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC), and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks). Developed recreation facilities are provided by several entities including the Tahoe Paradise Golf Course, the Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District, and several private businesses that offer recreation services such as snowmobile rentals and camping.

TRPA evaluates regional standards related to the quality of recreational experiences and access to recreational opportunities as part of its threshold evaluation every four years. Site-specific data on the Meyers area is not available, but regional standards related to recreational opportunities were in attainment as of 2011. The USFS visitor use survey data from 2005 and 2009 indicates that primary outdoor recreation activities in the region include downhill skiing, relaxing, hiking/walking, and viewing natural features. The visitor use data shows that visitors to recreation sites in the region are generally satisfied with their experience, but are least satisfied with the availability of parking at recreation sites. This regional trend is likely even more prevalent in Meyers, where a lack of parking and signage for recreational access has consistently been identified as a challenge.

TRAIL SYSTEM

Meyers includes a non-motorized trail system that provides direct recreational benefits, as well as, non-motorized transportation connectivity. The existing trail system includes a network of existing and proposed paved bicycle and pedestrian trails within Meyers and connecting to surrounding areas. Meyers is also surrounded by a network of unpaved hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails that exist primarily on public lands. A few unpaved trails are formal trails adopted and maintained by the USFS or State Parks. However, the majority of unpaved trails are unofficial user-

created trails. The unofficial trails range from seldom-used trails connecting individual neighborhoods to heavily-used mountain biking and hiking trails. Few formal trailheads exist in and around Meyers, although trailhead parking regularly occurs on private parking lots within Meyers, and on surrounding residential streets. Figure 5-1 shows the existing and proposed trails in and adjacent to the plan area.

RECREATION FACILITIES

A variety of recreation facilities exist in and around Meyers. The locations of Meyers Area recreation facilities are shown on Figure 5-1, and include the following:

- A self-service visitor center is maintained by the USFS within Meyers and provides information on recreational opportunities.
- The privately owned Tahoe Paradise Golf Course is located within the Plan Area. The Tahoe Paradise golf Course offers an 18-hole golf course, driving range, and a snowmobile course in the winter.
- The Tahoe Paradise Park is located within the Plan Area, and is operated by the Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District. The Tahoe Paradise Park includes Lake Baron, a playground, picnic and event areas, and access to the Upper Truckee River.
- The Tahoe Pines Day Use Area is managed by the CTC and is located within the Plan Area. The site provides public access to the Upper Truckee River.
- The Lake Valley State Recreation Area includes an 18-hole golf course north of the Plan Area. The State Recreation Area also provides snowmobile rentals for use on a groomed course on the driving range.
- The Lake Tahoe Environmental Magnet School is located just north of the Plan Area and provides athletic fields and a playground.
- The Lake Tahoe KOA campground is located within the Plan Area, and provides camping, lodging, a playground, and a pool.
- Several downhill ski resorts are located in the surrounding area and provide transit connections from Meyers (not shown on Figure 5-1).

DISPERSED RECREATION

Numerous opportunities for dispersed outdoor recreation exist on public lands surrounding Meyers. Popular activities include hiking, mountain biking, backcountry skiing, camping, fishing, snowmobiling where allowed by the land owner, rock climbing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, rafting or tubing, dog walking, and wildlife viewing. Public lands supporting dispersed recreation are managed by the USFS, CTC and State Parks. Dispersed uses on USFS lands are governed by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Forest Plan, which is being updated in 2013. Dispersed recreation on State Parks lands will be governed by the future Washoe Meadows State Park General Plan. Dispersed Recreation on California Tahoe Conservancy lands are governed by Conservancy policies consistent with the purpose of acquisition for each parcel.

B. RECREATION GOALS & POLICIES

RECREATION VISION

Encourage and accommodate on-going recreational activities, expand recreational opportunities and improve access to nearby recreation.

Goals and Policies:

1. Goal: Encourage the development of a permanent multi-use community plaza in Meyers that provides public recreational and visitor services for a variety of ages and user groups.
2. Goal: Provide multi-use trails to connect Meyers with nearby recreation areas, residential neighborhoods, existing trails, and provide safe routes to school and other transportation benefits consistent with the Transportation Element.

Policy 2.1: Develop trail connections within and adjacent to the Plan Area. Specific projects include: constructing the South Tahoe Greenway Multi-Use Trail linking Meyers with South Lake Tahoe; and trail connections between Meyers and nearby national forest and Tahoe Conservancy lands, Washoe Meadows State Park, and Tahoe Paradise Park. Provide bike racks and short-term storage lockers in the Meyers Town Center to encourage bicycle use.

3. Goal: Encourage recreational uses in and around the Area Plan to which local businesses can provide support goods and services.

Policy 3.1: Promote special events in Meyers that highlight surrounding recreational opportunities and natural or cultural heritage.

Policy 3.2: Encourage private property owners to incorporate recreational or interpretive features into proposed projects to bring attention to the areas recreational opportunities and natural and cultural heritage, and to better integrate recreational activities into commercial businesses.

4. Goal: Provide opportunities for a range of dispersed outdoor recreational activities surrounding Meyers.

Policy 4.1: Preserve a network of trails connecting the Plan Area and surrounding residential areas to nearby public lands.

Policy 4.2: Promote cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and other winter recreational activities in and around the Plan Area.

5. Goal: Provide year-round parking, signage, and access to recreational opportunities in and around the Plan Area.

Policy 5.1: Improve transit opportunities that access recreation facilities on a year round basis. Examples include: extending summer beach bus service and winter ski shuttles. Coordinate transit service with the Transit Center, consistent with the Transportation Element of this plan.

Policy 5.2: Develop trailheads that can provide parking for a variety of uses.

Policy 5.3: Provide an undercrossing of US 50 at the existing Upper Truckee River bridge to connect recreational and transportation trails on either side of the highway.

6. Goal: Anticipate and accommodate future trends in outdoor recreation. Accommodate recreation uses that include constructed venues such as ropes courses, climbing walls, and skate parks.

C. RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

The following actions or improvements are necessary to implement the goals and policies listed above. The Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) is incorporated by reference and all recreation projects identified in the EIP should also be implemented regardless of whether they are listed below. Additional detail on each action or improvement is provided in Chapter 7, Implementation, below.

TRAIL SYSTEM

1. Informal Trail System. Inventory the existing network of informal trails within and surrounding the Plan Area. Coordinate with land owners including the USFS, State Parks, CTC, and Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District to formalize and maintain, or otherwise preserve existing recreational trails.
2. Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails. Construct and maintain bicycle and pedestrian trails and associated facilities identified in the Transportation Element of this Plan to provide a range of recreational trail opportunities and to enhance non-motorized access to recreation areas.
3. Recreation Access Trailheads. Construct recreational trailheads that include parking and information on surrounding recreation amenities to improve recreational access. Maps and other wayfinding information on trail connectivity should be provided at public parking areas within the Meyers Town Center to encourage parking at appropriate sites within Meyers and non-motorized access to recreational trails surrounding the Plan Area.
4. Snow Removal. Implement snow removal operations on paved multi-use trails and trailheads to promote year-round recreational activities consistent with the Transportation Element of this Plan.

RECREATION FACILITIES

5. Meyers Community Plaza. Develop a multi-use community plaza within the Meyers Town Center to provide recreation information, interpretive displays and/or programs, public parking and restrooms, and other facilities. The community plaza should serve as a hub for recreation activities for visitors and residents, and better integrate the Meyers Town Center into surrounding recreational opportunities.
6. Tahoe Pines Campground Rehabilitation and Access Project. Construct improvements at the Tahoe Pines Day Use Area, immediately west of the Plan Area, to provide parking,

and limited day use and river access amenities consistent with the sites natural resource values.

7. US Highway 50 Undercrossing. Construct a multi-use trail undercrossing at the US Highway 50 Bridge.
8. Tahoe Paradise Park. Coordinate with the Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District to develop a comprehensive plan for the Tahoe Paradise Park that reflects the vision of the Meyers Area Plan.

DISPERSED RECREATION

9. Washoe Meadows State Park. Coordinate with the California Department of Parks and Recreation to develop a General Plan for the Washoe Meadows State Park. Priorities for the General Plan should include providing a diversity of recreational opportunities, which may include providing non-motorized trail connectivity from Meyers, and potentially may include a visitor center and/or interpretive facilities.
10. Guide and Outfitter Services. Promote backcountry guide and outfitter services based out of Meyers to provide backcountry access to a range of recreationists and to promote recreation-based commercial activity in Meyers. Coordinate with the USFS to assess the demand for and opportunities to streamline review of guide and outfitter services on public lands.
11. Rock Climbing/ Winter Backcountry Access. Inventory existing rock climbing and bouldering areas and winter backcountry access points surrounding Meyers. Identify levels of use and needs for parking or other access amenities in coordination with the USFS and other relevant land management agencies. Work cooperatively with land owners to provide parking or other access amenities to provide safe public access to rock climbing areas and winter backcountry areas.

FIGURE 5-1: MEYERS RECREATION MAP

