

Truckee Springs

**A Proposal to the Truckee Tahoe Airport District
Submitted by the Truckee Donner Land Trust
July 20, 2020**



**TRUCKEE DONNER
LAND TRUST**



*The planned pedestrian bridge from West River Street to the property, by Jen Mahoney
July 20, 2020*

On the south side of the Truckee River in downtown is a conspicuous piece of open space filled with aspen, sage and bitter brush known as Truckee Springs. Developers have long eyed this beautiful 26-acre riverfront property, which provides critical wildlife habitat and contains some of Truckee's richest history.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust, working closely with the Town of Truckee, is now under contract to purchase Truckee Springs, preserving and opening this previously inaccessible Land forever as natural open space for public enjoyment.

The timing of this conservation effort couldn't be more perfect. Concern that Truckee is losing its charm, character and funkiness has grown in recent years; protecting open space in the downtown core, rather than building yet another subdivision, will help preserve what we love about this place.

This property is Truckee's golden spike. It will connect downtown to the river. Connect east to west via the Truckee River Legacy Trail. Connect the public to inaccessible lands all along the south bank of the river. And maintain a critical connection for wildlife between the water's edge and thousands of acres of upland habitat.

If there's ever been a rallying cry for the community, it's this rare chance to preserve Truckee Springs.

Join us in swinging the hammer down on this golden spike to connect Truckee's past and present, open space and cultural center, east and west.

Access & Recreation



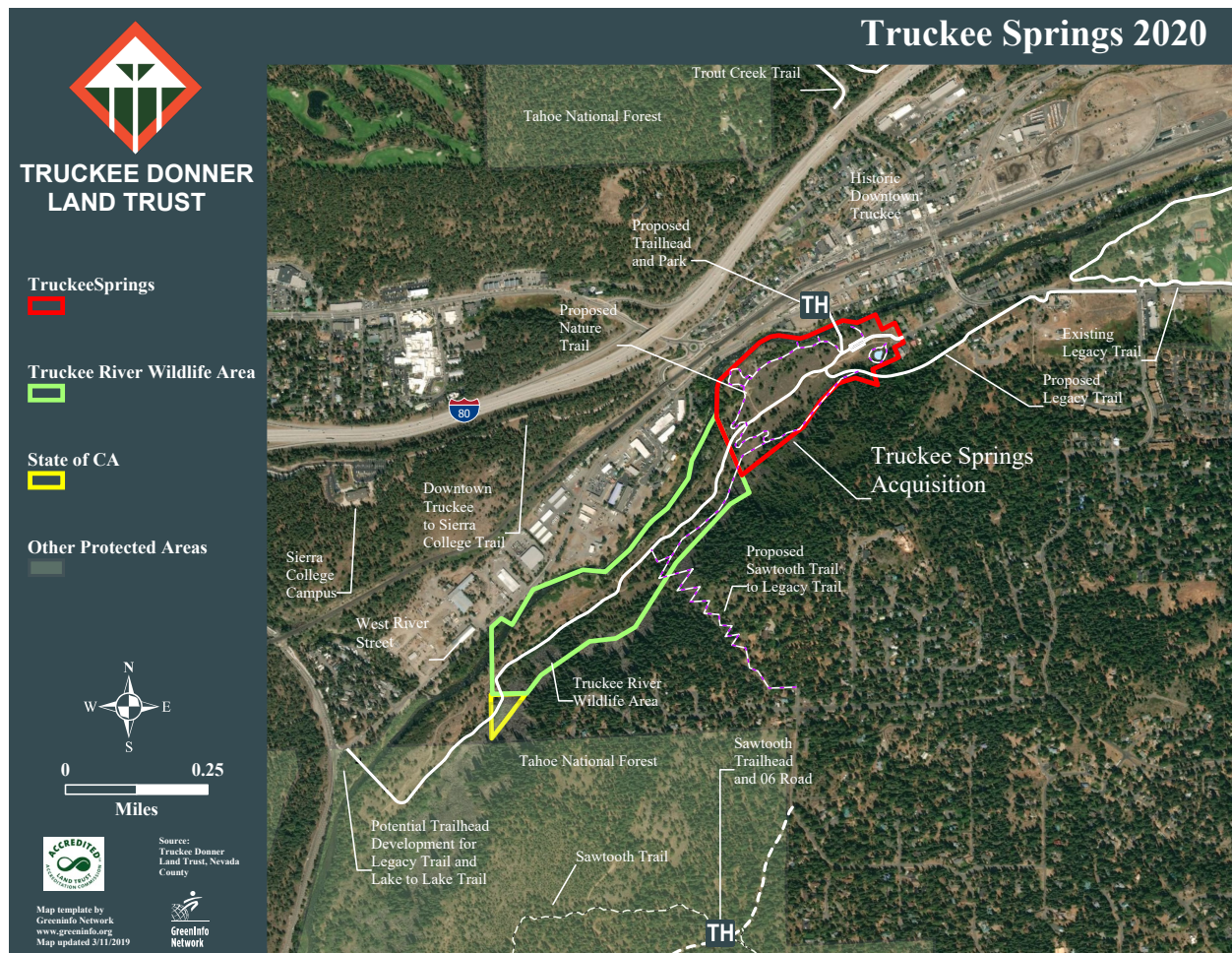
Trapped behind a legacy of historic industrial uses, the Truckee River has been blocked and fenced off from downtown Truckee for decades. For nearly 20 years, the Truckee Donner Land Trust has dreamt of protecting these 26 acres and opening dozens more of inaccessible public lands to the public, creating miles of access along the south bank of the Truckee River.

This property is the missing link for the backbone of the town's recreation and alternative transportation network – the Truckee River Legacy Trail – allowing it to connect the existing stretch from Glenshire in the east to Donner Lake in the west.

Imagine grabbing a to-go bag from your favorite downtown restaurant and heading to a picnic table along side the Truckee River under an aspen tree. Or running along the Legacy Trail to the Riverview Sports Park. Or as a visitor without the need for a car, arriving on Amtrak and jumping on a bicycle to pedal from downtown to Donner Lake.



Conservation in Truckee's Core

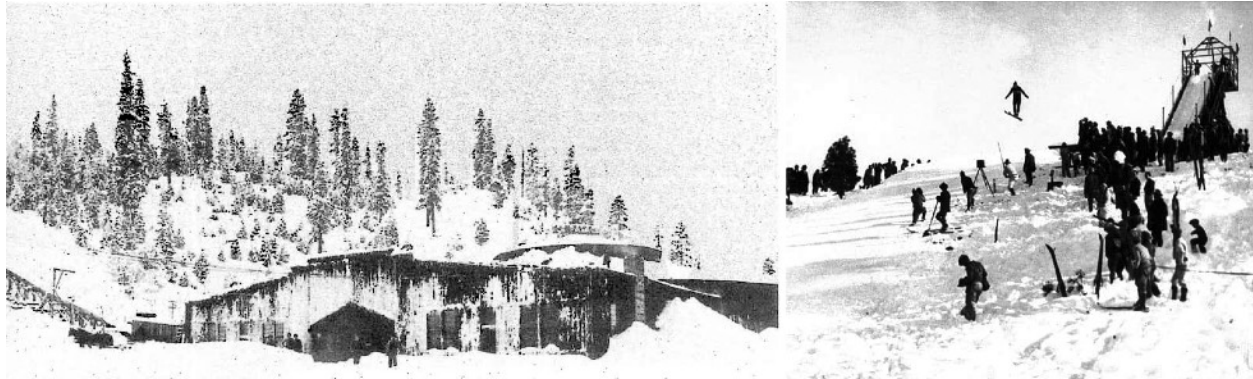


While public access is an exciting aspect of protecting this property, it also goes to the heart of the Truckee Donner Land Trust’s mission. Preserving the habitat, the flora and the fauna of the riparian corridor along the Truckee River builds off of upstream protections by the US Forest Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. That maintains large swaths of open space for animals to roam – both along the river’s bank and between the water’s edge and upland habitat totaling thousands of acres.

Willows, alders and aspens – increasingly rare in our area, characterize the riparian habitat of the property, giving way to mixed conifer forest as the property turns uphill. Bears, coyote and deer are regularly seen, countless birds touch down in the willows as they fly by, and the trout and other animals of the Truckee River depend on clean waters not further impaired by erosion.



Preserving Truckee History



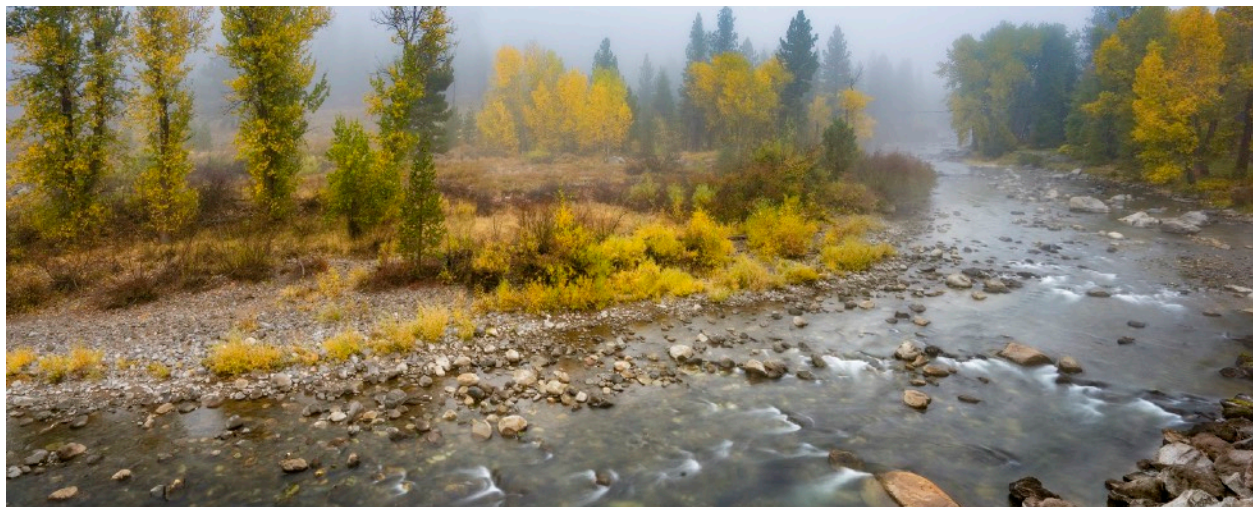
Preserving this land is preserving a piece of our collective history. The Northern Washoe Tribe first called the area home, and it remains important to tribal culture today.

C.F. McGlashan, a driving force in Truckee's early days famous for putting the Donner Party's story to paper, picked this property to be the site of his Ice Palace and the "Fiesta of Snows" in 1913.

It was an early attempt at moving beyond railroad and timber as the engines of Truckee's economy, vying for the attention of tourists in the winter months. He picked the property's pond for an ice-skating rink, and built a dance hall and several rooms with fireplaces for people to rest after a day of playing in the snow. Two new toboggan runs made for exciting rides of more than a mile from Hilltop down to the front of the Ice Palace. A mechanical lift transported riders back up the hill.

The event was a success, and an even larger one took place the following winter - but it would unfortunately come to an end when the palace burned to the ground in 1916.

Other uses, from lumber mills to box factories - and proposed developments - have come and gone throughout the years.



Protecting the Wild Side of Downtown

Budget

| Expenses | Amount | Notes |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Acquisition & hard costs | \$6,500,000 | |
| Pedestrian Bridge | \$2,500,000 | Estimate |
| Trails and amenities | \$250,000 | Planning & paved trail connection |
| Trailhead | \$250,000 | South River St. |
| Stewardship fund | \$250,000 | Operations & maintenance |
| Other expenses | \$250,000 | Permitting, staff, art, campaign |
| | \$10,000,000 | |
| Income | | |
| TDLT Bequest | \$2,000,000 | In-hand |
| TDLT Transfer Fees | \$1,000,000 | In-hand |
| California Natural Resources agency | \$1,500,000 | Pledged |
| California Wildlife Conservation Board | \$500,000 | Pending |
| California EEMP | \$1,000,000 | |
| Private Fundraising | \$2,500,000 | \$1,100,000 in-hand |
| Town of Truckee | \$1,000,000 | \$500,000 pledged |
| Other governmental Agencies | \$500,000 | Pending |
| | \$10,000,000 | |