Part 6 Recreation Plan

North Lake Tahoe offers some of the finest outdoor recreation in the United States. Spectacular geography and a friendly climate combine to attract outdoor enthusiasts from around the world.

Beach activities in Kings Beach

In winter and spring, the region's ski resorts are a major focus of activity. Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, Northstar and Homewood are major attractions and significant economic drivers. In summer and fall, activity shifts to Lake Tahoe and the surrounding lakefront communities. Backcountry activities are increasingly popular in all seasons.

This Recreation Plan outlines the management framework and improvement plan for recreation facilities in the area.

6.1 Regional Plan

The Regional Plan includes a policy statement to preserve and enhance the high quality recreational experience for the general public. TRPA's planning and regulatory approach is based on the policy:

POLICY STATEMENT

It shall be the policy of the TRPA Governing Body in development of the Regional Plan to preserve and enhance the high quality recreational experience including preservation of high-quality undeveloped shorezone and other natural areas. In developing the Regional Plan, the staff and Governing Body shall consider provisions for additional access, where lawful and feasible, to the shorezone and high quality undeveloped areas for low density recreational uses.

It shall be the policy of the TRPA Governing Body in development of the Regional Plan to establish and ensure a fair share of the total Region capacity for outdoor recreation is available to the general public.

TRPA maintains Threshold standards for recreation, which are in attainment.

TRPA growth management ordinances utilize a development commodity called People at One Time (PAOTs) to limit recreational use in the Tahoe Basin. PAOTs identify the design capacity of recreational facilities and are issued by TRPA with project approval. PAOTs are separately identified for summer day use, winter day use and overnight use. TRPA has a supply of all types available.

Existing PAOT allocations in the Plan Area Statements are maintained in the Area Plan Implementing Regulations.

6.2 Inter-Agency Recreation Management Framework

Recreation facilities are managed by a variety of public agencies and private businesses.

Public partners in Recreation planning include the TRPA, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), California Department of State Parks, California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC), Tahoe City PUD (TCPUD), North Tahoe PUD (NTPUD), North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) and Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD). Improvements typically involve coordinated plans that are reviewed by interagency working groups. Funding assistance is often provided through the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), State Agencies and other interagency programs.

Snowboarding at Homewood Mountain Resort

The ski areas and other private recreation facility operators also coordinate extensively with the public partners to plan improvements and receive the necessary permits. Ski area improvements, public-private partnerships, and coordinated recreation facilities are encouraged by this Area Plan.

6.3 Recreation Strategy

This Plan seeks to enhance recreation opportunities, support Lake Tahoe as a four-season international destination and ensure that recreation facilities do not adversely impact environmental thresholds or disturb important habitats.

A park in Kings Beach

Policies support dispersed recreation activities by identifying areas where low-density recreational experiences are prioritized, such as undeveloped shorelines, wilderness, and other undeveloped and roadless areas.

Outdoor recreational uses should be developed based on demand and be consistent with the environmental constraints and Threshold standards. Existing facilities in sensitive areas should be retrofitted to mitigate environmental impacts or relocated to higher capability land. In general, improved facilities should be developed in proximity to existing infrastructure near urban areas.

Transit should be established to provide service to major recreation facilities and attractions, and parking should be restricted along scenic corridors to preserve views and vegetation. Regulating the intensity, timing, type, and location of uses will allow for the protection of sensitive resources and reduce conflicts between uses. Informational programming and promoting seasonally alternative uses are encouraged to increase the efficient development of outdoor recreational resources.

Policies encourage the expansion and networking of trail systems. Trails and transportation facilities should provide low-impact access to undeveloped shorelines for recreational use. The provision of trails should be linked with projected demand, tolerance capability, and special resource and recreation values.

6.4 Recreation Facilities

PARKS, BEACHES, COMMMUNITY CENTERS AND OPEN SPACE

Public parks and recreation areas are owned by Placer County, North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD), Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD), California Department of Parks and Recreation (CA Parks), the United States Forest Service (USFS), and the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC). NTPUD, TCPUD, and California State Parks operate the

majority of parks located within the Plan area, including parks owned by CTC and Placer County.

The Plan area has 18 day use beaches, six day use areas, four community sports and recreation parks, four community centers, one publicly-owned golf course, and five campgrounds. There are also more than 1,000 acres of additional undeveloped parkland that is owned by CTC, CA Parks and NTPUD. The Plan area's current inventory of parks and recreation facilities is listed in Table 6.4-A. These park and recreation facilities are mapped in Figures 6-1 (Plan area), 6-2 (Kings Beach) and 6-3 (Tahoe City).

Table 6.4-A: Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Park or Recreation Facility Name	*Acres*	*Operator*	*Owner*
Day Use Beaches			
64-Acres Park	56.0	TCPUD	USFS
Bay Street East Beach	0.8	N/A	PC
Carnelian East Beach (Patton Landing)	2.6	Concessionaire	CTC
Carnelian West Beach	3.3	CA Parks	CTC
Cherry Street Access	0.03	N/A	PC
Commons Beach Park	7.2	TCPUD	PC
Coon Street Boat Launch	2.6	NTPUD	DBW
Elizabeth Williams Park	4.4	TCPUD	TCPUD
Fawn Street-Marina Walkway	0.1	N/A	PC
Griff Creek Recreation Area	0.8	NTPUD	PC
Heritage Plaza Park	0.8	TCPUD	PC
Kings Beach State Recreation Area	5.6	CA Parks	CA Parks
Lake Boulevard Beach	3.4	N/A	PC
Lake Forest Beach Park	6.2	TCPUD	PC
Lake Forest II Beach	1.2	N/A	PC
Lakeside Park	3.2	N/A	PC
Moon Dunes Beach	4.4	NTPUD	PC/CTC
North Tahoe Beach	7.0	CA Parks	CTC
Sandy Beach	3.1	CA Parks	CTC
Secline Beach	3.8	NTPUD/ CA Parks	CTC/PC
Skylandia Park and Beach	26.9	TCPUD	CA Parks
Speedboat (Buck's) Beach	2.0	NTPUD	PC

Table 6.4-A: Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Park or Recreation Facility Name	*Acres*	*Operator*	*Owner*
Tahoe State Recreation Area - Star Harbor	6.8	TCPUD	CA Parks
Tahoe State Recreation Area - Outlet Parcel	6.5	TCPUD	CA Parks
Tahoe Vista Recreation Area	6.3	NTPUD	NTPUD
Subtotal Day Use Beaches	***165.0***		
Day Use Areas			
Burton Creek State Park	2,000.0	CA Parks	CA Parks
Highlands Community Center/Day Use Area	45.7	TCPUD	TCPUD
Kilner Park	5.9	TCPUD	TCPUD
Marie Sluchak Community Park	3.0	TCPUD	TC HOA
North Tahoe Regional Park	124.5	NTPUD	NTPUD
Ward Creek Property	183.3	CA Parks	CA Parks
Subtotal Day Use Areas	***2,362.5***		
Community Sports and Recreation			
Kings Beach Neighborhood Park	2.3	NTPUD	TTUSD
Pomin Park	3.1	TCPUD	CA Parks
Rideout Community Center	10.7	TCPUD	TTUSD
Tahoe Lake School Fields	2.2	TCPUD	TTUSD
Subtotal Community Sports and Recreation	***18.3***		
Community Centers			
Fairway Community Center		TCPUD	TCPUD
Tahoe City Community Center		TCPUD	PC
Rideout Community Center		TCPUD	TCPUD
Highlands Community Center		TCPUD	TCPUD
Subtotal Community Centers	***n/a***		
Golf Courses			
Tahoe City Golf Course	35.8	TCPUD	TCPUD
Subtotal Golf Courses	***35.8***		
Campgrounds			
Kaspian Campground and Picnic Area	34.0	Private	USFS
Tahoe State Recreation Area	16.3	CA Parks	CA Parks

Table 6.4-A: Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Park or Recreation Facility Name	*Acres*	*Operator*	*Owner*
William Kent Campground/Beach	24.7	Private	USFS
Lake Forest Campground	2.1	TCPUD	CA Parks
Subtotal Campgrounds	***77.1***		
Undeveloped Parkland			
Dollar Property	969.1	CA Parks	CA Parks
Parcels 3081 and 3082	5.3	CA Parks	CA Parks
Tahoe State Recreation Area	1.9	CA Parks	CA Parks
Firestone Property	85.0	NTPUD	NTPUD
Subtotal Undeveloped Parkland	***1,061.3***		

Sources: TRPA, Placer County; 2013.

MULTI USE TRAILS

Several high quality bike and pedestrian paths are found in the Plan area. In recent years, trail use has increased and is now one of the most popular recreation activities in the Tahoe Basin. TCPUD reports annual usage in excess of 500,000 people on their multi-use bike trail along the west shore, through Tahoe City, and along the Truckee River.

64 Acre Park and Trailhead

The existing multi-use trail network in centered in Tahoe City and includes the Lakeside Trail to Dollar Point, the West Shore Trail to Meeks Bay, and the Truckee River Trail to Squaw Valley.

There are two gaps in the Lakeside/West Shore trail system - one within Tahoe City, and the other within the Homewood area on the west shore. These gaps in an otherwise continuous trail system network are the highest priority for completion. Other priorities include projects extending the existing trail north from Dollar Hill to Kings Beach. Longer term, trail sections are planned for a loop trail connecting Tahoe City, Kings Beach and Truckee, and ultimately for a complete loop trail around Lake Tahoe.

There are seven trail projects currently planned. These are listed on Table 6.4-B and described in more detail in the Transportation Plan and the Implementation Plan.

Table 6.4-B: Existing and Proposed Multi Use Trails

Trail	*Location*	*Length (Miles)*
Multi-Use Trails		
64-Acres	Tahoe City	0.8
Lakeside Trail	Tahoe City	1.2
West Shore Bike Trail	Tahoe City, Sunnyside, Homewood, Tahoma	8.6
Truckee River Trail	Tahoe City, Squaw Valley	3.5
State Route 28	Tahoe City	2.2
Pinedrop Trail	Kings Beach	1.5
Planned Trails		
Brockway Vista Path	Kings Beach	1.0
Dollar Creek Shared Use Trail	Kings Beach	2.2
Lake Forest Trail	Dollar Point	0.3
National Ave Bike Path	Tahoe Vista	
North Tahoe Bike Path	Dollar Hill, Tahoe Vista, Brockway Summit	12.5
Martis Valley Trail	Martis Valley, Northstar, Brockway Summit	10.4
West Shore Bike Trail	Homewood, Sunnyside	1.5

Source: Placer County, 2013; Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Management Association, 2011.

BACKCOUNTRY AREAS AND TRAILS

Federal and state agencies are primarily responsible for maintaining and improving backcountry areas and trails. Prominent trails in the Plan area include the Tahoe Rim Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, Rubicon Trail and local connections. Trailheads are located at the Fairway Community Center and 64-Acre Park in Tahoe City, Highlands Community Center in Dollar Hill, and on Forest Service lands in Blackwood Canyon, Ward Creek, and Brockway Summit.

Tahoe Rim Trail - Tahoe City Trailhead

6.5 Recreation Policies

R-P-1 Continue to manage recreation facilities and uses in accordance with the Regional Plan.

R-P-2 Continue to enhance recreation facilities through coordinated interagency planning and funding programs.

R-P-3 Ensure that recreational opportunities are available and accessible to visitors of all income levels.

R-P-4 Support the funding, construction, and maintenance of the multi-use bike trails identified in the Plan area.

R-P-5 Encourage funding and perform selective snow clearing of trails, particularly in high use areas, to enhance the "year round" economy.

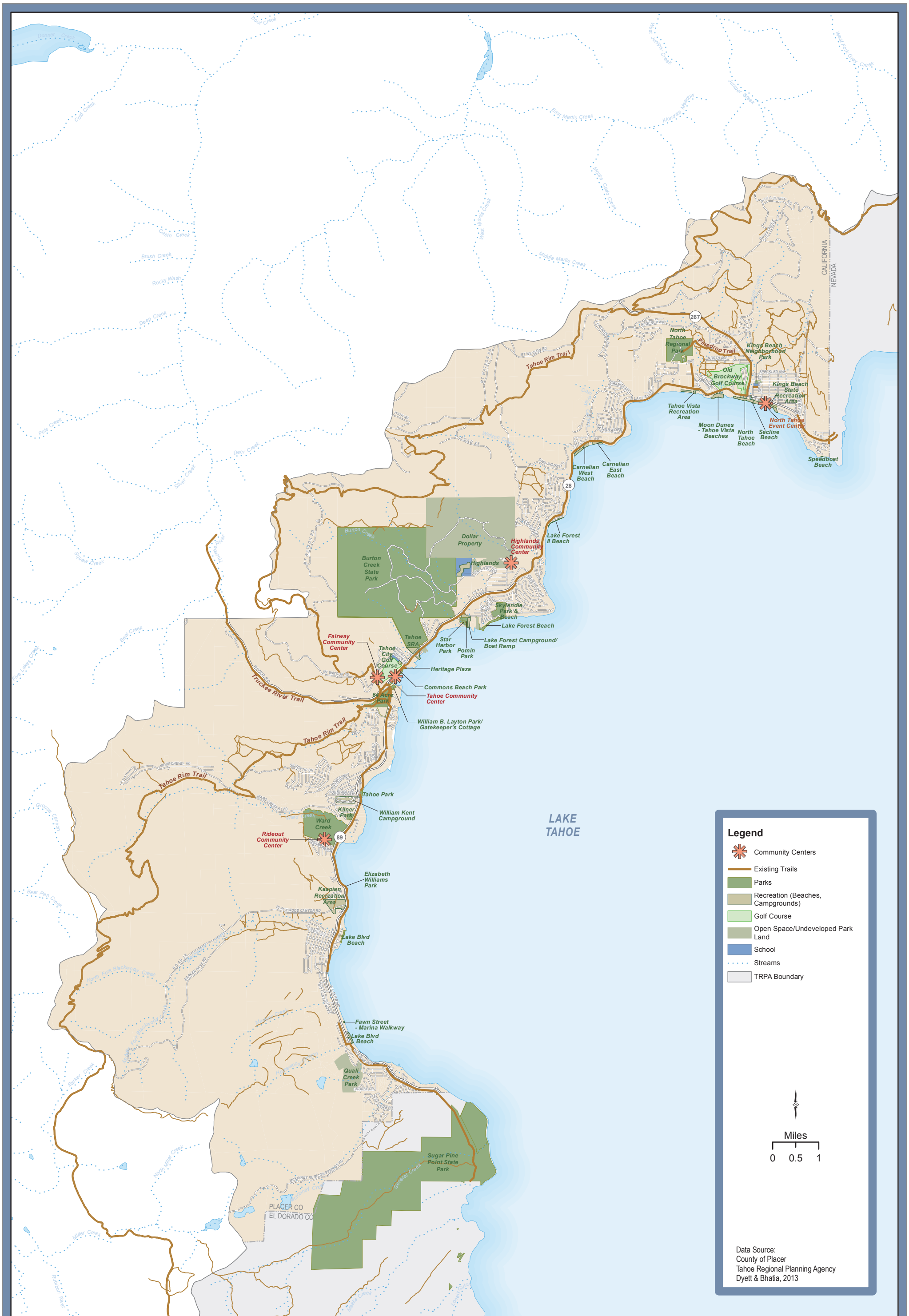
R-P-6 Protect and support existing public beach access as well as secure additional public access rights as opportunities arise.

R-P-7 Utilize all appropriate opportunities (land acquisition, obtaining easement rights, etc.) to increase opportunities for public access to the shoreline of Lake Tahoe.

R-P-8 Coordinate with State Parks and the California Tahoe Conservancy on management, operations, and maintenance of beaches within the Plan area.

R-P-9 Enhance winter recreational opportunities and improve access for cross country and back country skiers.

R-P-10 Prohibit snowmobile uses in important wildlife habitat, including Page Meadows.



PLACER COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE AGENCY
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM DIVISION

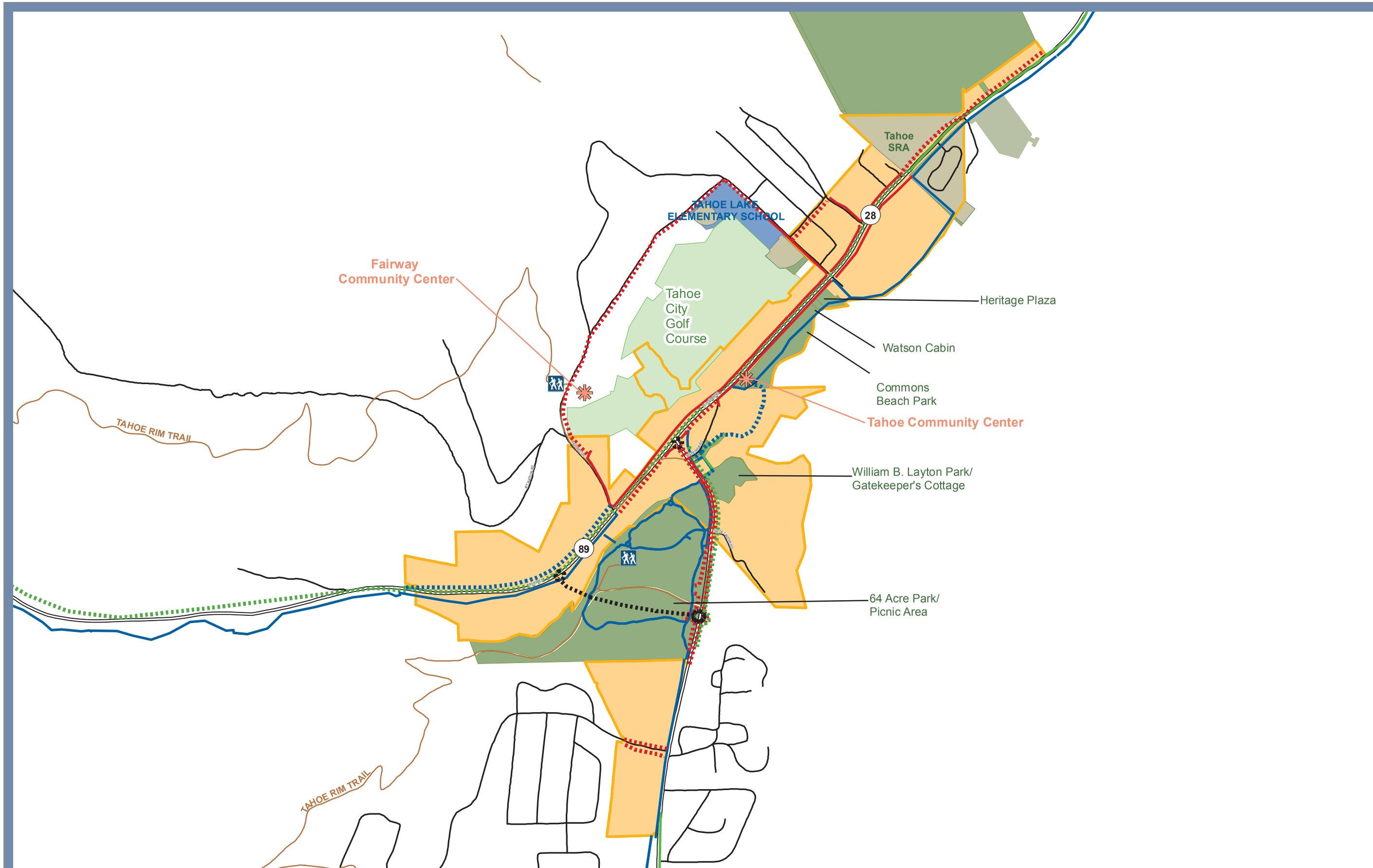
Tahoe Basin Area Plan

Figure 6-1
Parks, Recreation Areas and Trails

PLACER COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE AGENCY
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM DIVISION

Tahoe Basin Area Plan

Figure 6-2
Kings Beach
Recreation Infrastructure
& Improvements



Legend

- Existing Sidewalk
- Planned Sidewalk
- Existing Bicycle Lane
- Planned Bicycle Lane or Cycle Track
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Planned Shared Use Path
- Planned Road
- Existing Trail
- TRT Trailhead
- Community Center
- Parks
- Recreation (Beaches, Campgrounds)
- Golf Course
- Open Space/Undeveloped Park Land
- School
- Town Center

Feet
0 500

Data Source:
County of Placer
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

PLACER COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE AGENCY
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM DIVISION

Tahoe Basin Area Plan

Figure 6-3
Tahoe City
Recreation Infrastructure
& Improvements