

Up Front

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway debuts more inclusive name

For 15 years, Janet Phillips has envisioned a trail that people could use to walk or cycle along the Truckee River from its source at Lake Tahoe to its desert terminus, Pyramid Lake. Her concept begat the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, an organization in Reno that has slowly but surely been building that dream.

With the final section of trail from Lake Tahoe to Reno being built in the Truckee Canyon, the nonprofit group has changed its name to the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail. This name change commemorates the completion of 80 percent of the trail.

“Many walkers, runners, fishermen, and others mistakenly think the trail is only for bicycles,” says Janet. “We are more inclusive than that!”

While most people identify a bikeway as being paved, the Tahoe-Pyramid route is not paved outside urban areas. As it follows the Truckee River on its 114-mile journey, the route is paved through Reno; Sparks; on the Legacy Trail east of Truckee, California; along Highway 89; and on its own path from Squaw Valley to Tahoe City. Everywhere else, the trail is a dirt road or path.

The Truckee Canyon is a prime example of the multi-use of the trail. A dirt road doubles as the trail as it starts near Verdi, California. The utility road runs up and down rugged, steep canyon cliffs before it finally ends up along the forested river bank near the Fleish Pedestrian Bridge, east of Farad, California. At this spot, more runners, hikers, and fisherman use the trail than bicyclists.

The completed route will descend more than 2,000 feet in 114 miles, using a combination of existing dirt and paved roads, plus some new trails and bridges. tahoe pyramid trail.org, 775-825-9868



Above: Janet Phillips and volunteers scout the last trail section, near Floriston, California.

Left: This photo was taken in the Truckee River Canyon, west of Reno.

Below: The red line indicates the final section (Tahoe to Reno) of the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail.

