**Kings Beach State Recreation Area has a General Plan!**

After 4 years of planning and public meetings the California Parks & Recreation Commission voted on October 19 to adopt the proposed Kings Beach State Recreation Area General Plan. California State Parks is partnering with California Tahoe Conservancy to provide a framework for long-term management of the almost 14 acre recreation area that spans 1000 feet of Lake Tahoe shoreline. Plans include moving the pier to the east with an expanded floating structure, updated restrooms, a small park office, revised stage for concerts and community gatherings, and a lakeside path the length of the park. “The passing of the General Plan is a very positive step for our community. We look forward to working with State Parks to bring programming and recreational opportunities to Kings Beach,” said Heidi Doyle, Foundation Executive Director.

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**The Donner Project: Creating Visionary Spaces Honoring the Legacy of the Pioneer Spirit**

**YEAR END 2018 STATUS UPDATE**

Donner Memorial State Park sits at the gateway to California. It features an inviting Visitor Center where guests learn about the history of the area and the challenges emigrants faced crossing the Sierra Divide seeking a better life. The 100 year old Pioneer Monument, a major feature of the park, is now approaching a critical tipping point of irreversible deterioration. The surrounding landscape is begging for a feature to accommodate outdoor groups. Great potential exists to add places that encourage families to share stories, friends to explore, and groups to interact with our distinctive past.

Fundraising for The Donner Project is moving along nicely! The Sierra State Parks Foundation has secured grants, commitments and donations to date totaling over $119,000 towards its $450,000 goal. In addition, fundraising partner – Native Sons of the Golden West – have secured $70,000 towards its $450,000 goal. California State Parks has included this project as #5 on the local list for funding as a Deferred Maintenance Project ($300,000), and SSPPF is working with the California State Legislature for matching funds with private donations to complete the $1.8 million price tag.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

Please consider The Donner Project as legacy giving in your portfolio, host a house party, or help us set up a meeting with decision makers in your giving circle. In memory of our past and in honor of those who follow, please consider this worthy investment in our future.

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*Centennial Celebration of the Pioneer Monument, June 2018*
My story does not include growing up camping or being exposed to the natural and cultural wonders outside our neighborhood. It was not until a middle school Girl Scout camping trip in the mountains of Los Angeles that wild areas and historic landmarks were revealed to me. I became a student of nature and history. As an adult, I have made it a point to share the restorative power of nature and the value of learning about our collective past with a vision towards a sustainable future.

The Sierra State Parks Foundation is creating and sustaining opportunities for discovery for future generations. Working with our State Parks partner, we delivered school group programs to over 2,400 children, and over 29,000 visitors toured Vikingsholm and Pine Lodge (Ehrman Mansion) in the past year. SSPF managed trail work has been completed at DL Bliss State Park and our new Tahoe Parks APP provides exploration opportunities year-round. I am proud of the work we have done to connect park visitors with our special places.

Californians have recently shown their support for our State Parks. With the passage of the Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018 and the support of a new gas tax which will bring $60 million annually to our State Parks, our valued parklands are in a position to recover from years of financial neglect. Locally, this means the return of maintenance, resource management and ranger positions that were cut during the “lean years”. It also returns investments to the parks’ aging infrastructure including water and sewage systems.

Even with the creation of these tax resources, combined with revenue generated at the park level, there is still an unfunded gap of approximately 40% of what it takes to fully fund our parks. This specifically translates to no funding for Vikingsholm maintenance and restoration staff; no funding for a Lake Tahoe State Park Interpreter to lead nature walks and school groups; and little funding to complete the many identified restoration needs of our cultural and natural resources.

These are just three examples of the critical needs we have successfully funded this past year. The mission of the Sierra Parks Foundation is even more important today than ever.

I invite you to be our partner in creating a sustainable future for our parks. Please help us to create donor opportunities, volunteer for an event, join me in Sacramento to advocate, or consider a position on our Board of Directors. We need to continue to create welcoming, quality and safe park experiences. Together, we can do great things!

Yours in parks, Heidi Doyle, Executive Director
Summer 2018: Recap

And just like that, the aspens have shed their multicolored leaves and we’re bidding “au revoir” to summer. Sierra State Parks Foundation is celebrating a wonderful and successful summer! We sat down with Denise Tran, Event and Volunteer Coordinator, for some Q & A of her first event season!

WHAT MADE SUMMER 2018 UNIQUE COMPARED TO PAST SUMMERS?

Denise Tran: This summer has been a significant one! We started with the 100-year anniversary celebration of the Pioneer Monument at Donner Memorial State Park, the 50th Annual Meeks Bay Fire Pancake Breakfast on the West Shore, and the first ever BIG BLUEgrass Concert at Sugar Pine Point State Park.

WHAT WERE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR SUMMER?

DT: Automatically, I think of BIG BLUEgrass. It started off as an idea and I saw it grow into a real event. We had an incredible turnout (we sold out within minutes of the event), including one of my favorite comedians, Demetri Martin! I also loved the variety of events: a formal gala, an informal community family breakfast, a family-friendly bluegrass concert, full moon kayak tours, a classical concert in “The Castle” … the list goes on! I appreciated the diversity of our benefit events because not only did it keep me on my toes, but also because these different events allowed people from all walks of life to make personal and memorable connections with our treasured California State Parks!

WHAT’S THE BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM THIS SUMMER?

DT: It’s hard to name one since there were so many: the new Tahoe Parks App launched, California’s first ever underwater trail unveiled in Emerald Bay, Pine Lodge’s garden was literally ground breaking as the restoration began, the recently initiated Donner Project gained incredible traction … like I said, it’s been a big year! I’d also like to plug that this summer would not have been even imaginably possible without the Foundation’s dedicated serving volunteers that comprised our incredible team (I appreciate you all so much)!

WOW WHAT A SUMMER! WE CAN’T WAIT TO SEE WHAT THE SIERRA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION HAS IN STORE FOR SUMMER 2019!
Acknowledgements...

We thank the many individuals, businesses and organizations that have contributed from 11/1/17 to 11/1/18. Your contributions have enabled us to achieve our goals.

INDIVIDUALS:
- Marion Abbott
- Paul & Judy Ackerman
- Tucker Adams
- Susan Adamson
- David & Shirley Allen
- Pat Allen
- Loretta Allred
- Susan Adamson
- Elisabeth Andreason
- Ronald & Susan Aronson
- Theresa Armas
- Ronald & Susan Aronson
- Phillip & Wendy Atkins-Patterson
- Karen Baffone
- Mike Baffone
- Paul Bailey
- Hans & Marian Baldauf
- Lorelle Banzett
- Irv Barnett
- Amber Barnett
- Bruce & Stefani Barton
- Stanley & Maryann Batiste
- Betty Beck
- Nancy & Joachim Bechtle
- Larry & Cynthia Bienati
- Tila Biondi
- Jerry Blackwill
- Nancie Boccio
- Gary & Patti Boerner
- Dave Boyer
- Susan Boyette
- Lynette Branagh
- Mary Bronson
- Tara Brown & Harold Appleton
- Elizabeth & Bob Brown
- Sharon Brundage
- Lynn Bryant
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- Al Cabito
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- Elaine Cardinale
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- L.R. & J.J. Casci
- Linda Cashion
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- Grace Chou
- Shari Chulal
- James & Marie Colbert
- Diondra Colquhoun
- Nikki Combs
- Ken & Emilie Corcoran
- Warren & Gael Craft
- The Crandell Family
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- Marcia Crawford
- Cecile Cuttita
- Edmund & Barbara Czerninski
- Gwen Davis
- Lynne Davis
- Heather & Douglas DeAngeli
- Clifton & Charlotte Demartini
- Bob & Sandy Dever
- David & Susan Devoe
- Kathy Dice
- John & Joanne Donmoyer
- Michael & Clarissa Donnell
- Tom & Heidi Doyle
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- John Dunn
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- The Ehrman Family
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- Marilyn Marshman
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- Terry Lee Maul
- Theresa May Duggan
- Barry McCoy
- Elizabeth McDevitt
- Michele Mc Donald
- Donald & Francine McMillen
- Anne Mendenhall
- Rebecca Meyerholz
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- Richard Mitchell
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- Ina Tompkins
- Denise Tran
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- Chuck & Janet Zipkin

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- Kiwanis Club of North Tahoe
- Leung/Quan Charitable Trust
- Lake Tahoe Golf Course
- Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival
- Lone Buffalo
- Mt. Rose Ski Resort
- Nancy & Joachim Bechtle Foundation
- The National Automobile Museum
- Native Sons of the Golden West
- North Lake Tahoe Resort Association
- Northstar Ski Resort
- Peppermill Casino

...educate, interpret, restore & preserve.
How we spend your money...

The Sierra State Parks Foundation was awarded a four-star platinum rating by GuideStar, the international non-profit rating organization. SSPF judiciously spends donations and its earned income to be able to provide the maximum amount of financial support to our regional state parks.

Programs $ 504,957
Management $ 69,184
Fundraising $ 73,598
Total $ 647,739

*Figures from SSPF 2017-990

Plumas Bank
Porter Family Trust
Remote Access Services
The Resort at Squaw Creek
The Ritz-Carlton
Sacramento Region Community Foundation
Squaw Valley Ski Resort
Sierra Nevada Brewing Co
Sierra Nevada Group of the
Sierra Club
Sierra Sun
Stem Family Foundation
Sunnyside Restaurant & Lodge
Tahoe.com
Tahoe Blue Vodka
Tahoe Donner Association
Tahoe Gal
Tahoe Mountain Club
Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
Tahoe TV
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Tahoe Yacht Club
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Thomas J. Long Foundation
Thomas Winn Foundation
Thunderbird Lodge
Truckee Chamber of Commerce
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Sally Taylor
Jassie Thomas
Barton Tretheway
Jennifer Tretheway
Judy Tretheway
Ray Tretheway
Dena Verke
Paul Verke
Rob Weston

VOLUNTEERS:
Cody Ambrose
Dave Antonucci
Jenny Antonucci
Andrew Balsz
Arlene Becker
Gary Boxeth
Camille Bundt

Photos: Top left - Marilyn Linkem, receiving the Park Partner of the Year award from ED Heidi Doyle; Top right - Gilbert & Nicole Pinion awarded SSPF Volunteer of the Year; Bottom - the group at the annual volunteer thank you BBQ.

LOVE THAT GREEN!  Take advantage of our eco-friendly green membership plan! Our Green Program allows donors to purchase their memberships using an automated monthly payment plan. This system is convenient, efficient and affordable for anyone interested in joining the Sierra State Parks Foundation. Please visit our website at SierraStateParks.org for more information on the Green Membership Plan and Go Green today!
Inclusivity in Our Parks: Bringing Parks into the Future

BY DENISE TRAN, SSPF VOLUNTEER & EVENT COORDINATOR

When we think of the future, we think of robots, hover cars, and holograms. But what we don’t think of is the more practical: cultural relevancy and inclusivity.

Parks need to embrace cultural relevancy in order to keep and stay current with the times. The goal is to connect the park message to the people the parks are serving and to those who don’t know that they are a part of that message.

In our local Tahoe-Donner State Parks, we know the usual people served: local residents and people from Reno, Sacramento, the Sierra Foothills, and the S.F.Bay Area. But we forget the visitors from all over California, the country and even the world. California is a “minority majority” state and people of color (POC) aren’t engaging in either State Parks or National Parks due to a variety of constraints; even so, POC are the fastest growing group in the travel industries, and are increasing in political influence, buying power, and leisure time. So how are we, as park partners, trying to bridge this gap?

“Public space and programs need to be inclusive. That can be as simple as language, but it starts with the intent,” states Kim Bailey, CEO of Youth Outdoors which aims to engage underrepresented youths in outdoor programs. She continues, “What is the goal and are we meeting the broader goal?”

Sierra State Parks Foundation is addressing common constraints such as lack of information, communication/interpretation, marketing efforts, and safety concerns. For instance, SSPF embraced technology and created the Tahoe Parks App to connect visitors to the information. The Foundation has also created numerous interpretive panels, including the recent Underwater Heritage Trail at Emerald Bay, and funded Park Interpreters and tour guides. Lastly, we have plans of partnering with local libraries to check out adventure back packs for children to explore the surrounding natural world! There is still much work to be done, and SSPF accepts this challenge with gusto.

In the Sierra State Parks Foundation’s mission, it is stated that the goal is to connect visitors with our rich natural resources and cultural heritage. This includes all visitors, and through our efforts, our local California State Parks will continue to be places of education and inspiration for all to enjoy!

Landscape Restoration work at Pine Lodge. SSPF is restoring the garden to its 1964 appearance and installing a barrier to protect the structure and reduce run-off into Lake Tahoe.

Volunteer Spotlight:

GREG PALMER

Truckee resident and local history expert, Greg Palmer, is a key component of the docent program at Donner Memorial State Park. It is his vision and tenacity that brought the US40 (Lincoln Highway) sign to the park entrance, his deep understanding of the Donner Party tragedy that educates new generations and his commitment to the values of education and interpretation that enrich hundreds of park visitors. Greg served on the Board of Directors of the Sierra State Parks Foundation from 2016-2018 and will continue his service as a Docent to the park and advisor to SSPF.

Thank you, Greg for your service!
students were provided no-cost educational experiences

29,774 people took tours of Vikingsholm and the Hellman-Ehrman Estate

$497,563 SSPF’s contribution to our Lake Tahoe-Donner California State Parks

28 seasonal employees funded to assist State Parks in meeting their mission

954,747 people visited Lake Tahoe-Donner State Parks in 2017 compared to 486,834 in 2009

Only 60% of our State Parks operational needs are covered through State resources

1828 SSPF volunteer hours were logged

$27,832 SSPF contributed to the Emerald Bay Underwater Heritage Trail

SSPF investment for Vikingsholm restoration exceeded $200,000

160,000 visitors came through the doors of four SSPF supported Visitor Centers
The Sierra State Parks Foundation believes the Lake Tahoe and Donner California State Parks are unique treasures worthy of its support. The Foundation provides unique programming, volunteers and staff, and critical funding to these valuable cultural, historic and natural resources. Because of its work our parks will continue to be places of education and inspiration today and for generations to come. Join your friends and neighbors and contribute to the Sierra State Parks Foundation, and in turn you will be supporting our Lake Tahoe - Donner California State Parks.

CELEBRATING VIKINGSHOLM 90th ANNIVERSARY 1929-2019

Constructed in 1929, Vikingsholm at Emerald Bay State Park is one of the finest examples of Scandinavian architecture in the US. SSPF funded critical restoration and maintenance projects can continue only with our generous and supportive donors. Consider a contribution today to help us maintain this amazing National Historic Landmark.

“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give”

WINSTON CHURCHILL