

One Truckee River - River Restroom Project Message Map

A Community-Collaboration to Improve the urban Truckee River Corridor

Key Messages/Shorter Answer (Soundbite)

1. The River Restroom Project is a collaborative, community effort intended to help protect water quality and improve the river-corridor area for recreational use by increasing public facilities available for the public.
2. The River Restroom Project evolved out of the One Truckee River Management Plan, Phase I that was developed over the course of many years with multiple government, nonprofit, businesses, and residents' input and insight. In 2016, the OTR Plan was unanimously approved by the three local jurisdictions.
3. The Project's long-term goal is to increase the number of public restrooms from 9 to 18 along the Truckee River's 114-mile stretch to protect the region's water quality and well-being. The Project seeks to align efforts for urban renewal and increase connectivity for bicyclist and pedestrians along the river.
4. The Project's first initiative is to establish a new public restroom at Brodhead Park just east of downtown Reno. Brodhead Park is located in a low-income neighborhood that struggles with homelessness and lacks public facilities along the river stretch.
5. The first public restroom the Project will install is a Portland Loo that is designed for durability, easy maintenance and to minimize use of the facility for unintended purposes. The Portland Loos have had success in high-use urban settings.
6. Project partners are Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Truckee River Fund, Washoe County Parks and Open Space, Washoe County Health District, City of Reno, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Renown Health, Nevada Land Trust, Karma Box Project, Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality, and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.
7. Partners are committed to the Project to help protect water quality. The majority of drinking water in the Truckee Meadows flows through urban areas. This dynamic calls for a variety of different efforts to protect water quality; including but not limited to, efforts to reduce residential run-off, increase public facilities along waterways, and education to businesses on proper waste disposal. (This doesn't seem to fit here.)
8. The Project is unique as it has a human service piece to it, where outreach efforts are conducted in the local neighborhood and to currently homeless river users to increase interest and care for the Truckee River and public facilities offered.

Longer Answers:

The River Restroom Project is intended to help protect water quality and improve the river-corridor area for recreational use by lowering the instances in which some individuals relieve themselves in and around the river.

The Project's long-term goal is to increase the number of public restrooms from 9 to 18 along the Truckee River's 114-mile stretch to protect the region's water quality and well-being.

The Project's first initiative is to establish a new public restroom at Brodhead Park.

- With the installation of this first Portland Loo public restroom, the objective is to develop a successful model that meets public restroom needs in the River's greenspace areas, including long-term secured funding for cleaning and maintenance. This model will leverage the installation of a new restroom with complementary community outreach and engagement to ensure Project success.
- The Project's first phase will engage residents and currently homeless river users, develop lessons learned and build OTR's capacity for future Project success. It will also leverage the OTR Management Plan, the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail, and local human service nonprofits. Project success will lead to protect water quality and an increased quality of life for Truckee Meadow residents, with the goal of a Truckee River corridor that is thriving and accessible to the public.
- Beyond the \$150,000 in TMWA funding for this project, Washoe County Parks is also able to contribute over \$286,000 in State Question 1 funding. This will make it possible to install two more new restrooms. Operations and maintenance costs will be initially covered by Renown Health and Washoe County Health District, Also, Truckee River Fund and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection is funding human service outreach efforts to help monitor the facility, increase a culture of interest and care for the Truckee River, and conduct human outreach to the currently homeless river users.

The Portland Loo is designed for durability, easy maintenance and to minimize use of the facility for unintended purposes.

- With its rounded, anti-graffiti wall panels, open grating, easy-to-clean coating, and interchange-able building components, The Portland Loo is ideally suited for use in public spaces along the Truckee River.

- The impetus for installing the Portland Loo came with a rise in homelessness in Washoe County. Without restroom facilities, many are left to find somewhere else to take care of business.
- Presently, with few options available, members of the public find shelter in riparian vegetation to relieve themselves in both wilderness and urban Truckee River stretches where there are no restroom facilities. The lack of public restrooms has created a human waste issue that most likely impacts the water quality of the Truckee River.
- The Portland Loo is easy to clean, and it is very hard to remove items from the facility or easily damage it. And because it's a single stall, it's gender neutral and can take about 300 flushes per day, comparable to an airport restroom.

Participants in this effort are Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Truckee River Fund, Washoe County Parks and Open Space, Washoe County Health District, City of Reno, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Renown Health, Nevada Land Trust, Karma Box Project, Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality, and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.

Water delivered to the community by Truckee Meadows Water Authority is of excellent quality and 100% safe to drink.

- Water quality is of paramount importance to TMWA, and as such, TMWA can assure everyone that the water delivered to them by Truckee Meadows Water Authority is of excellent quality and 100% safe to drink.
- TMWA is unwaveringly focused on ensuring water supplied to customers is of the highest quality and thanks to a refined, highly dependable and adaptable treatment process, are able to consistently do just that.
- Encampments along the Truckee riverbanks are of obvious concern to us as the river is our primary source of supply. Because of that, we have worked with the local entities, particularly the City of Sparks, to help ensure that the area around our intake structure at the Glendale Water Treatment plant, as well as the plant itself, are regularly monitored.