Yosemite National Park
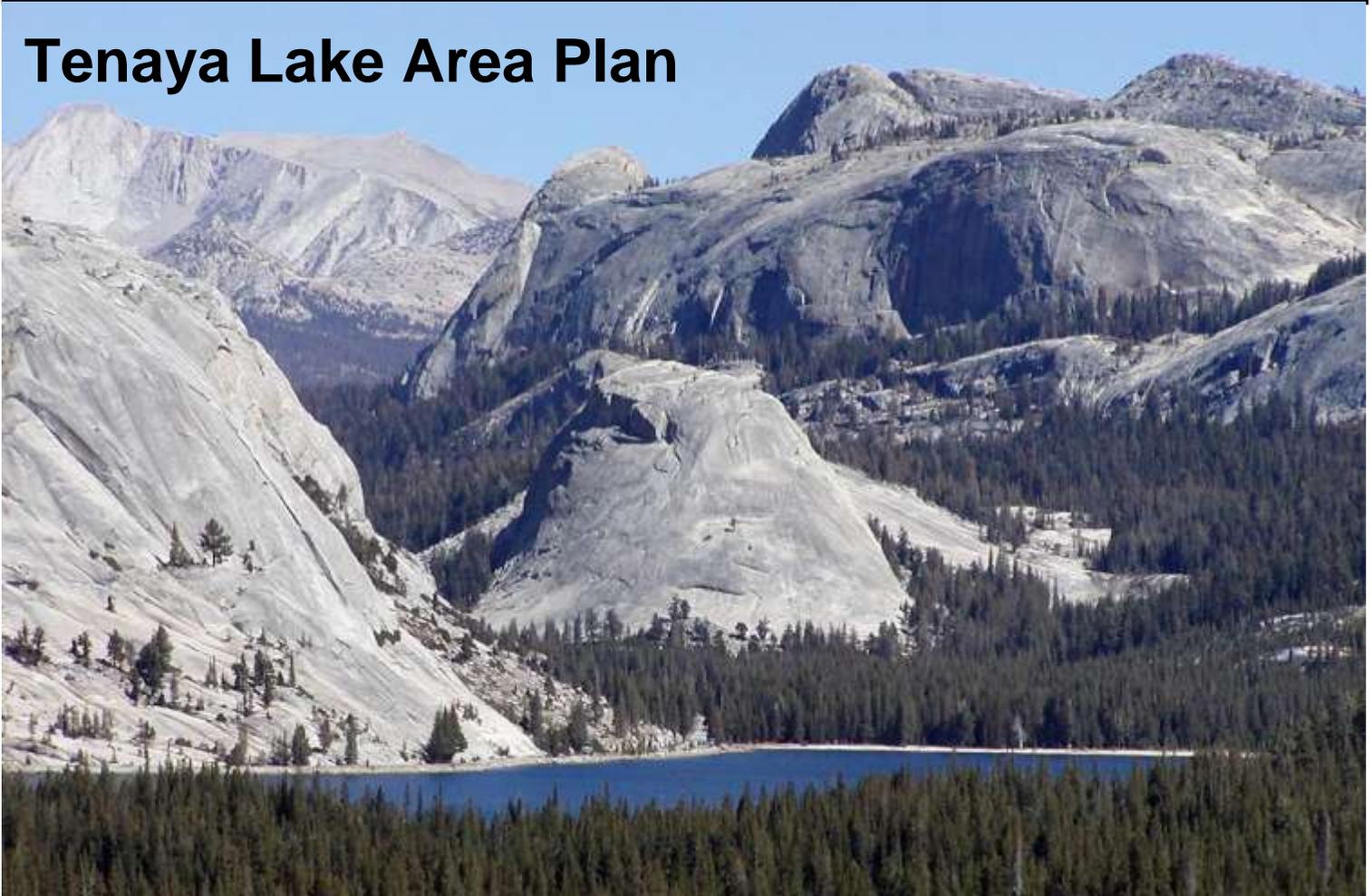
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tenaya Lake Area Plan

What is the Tenaya Lake Area Plan?

Tenaya Lake is a magnificent High Sierra lake surrounded by granite domes, lodgepole forests, and Yosemite's vast wilderness. It is the largest natural lake in Yosemite. Because of its remarkable scenic qualities, its inviting blue water, and its proximity to Tioga Road, Tenaya Lake is one of the most popular destinations for summer visitors in Yosemite. Problems associated with visitor use, visitor safety, and resource impacts have been occurring for decades. The Tenaya Lake Plan provides a plan to guide management actions by the National Park Service in order to restore and protect resources while providing opportunities for appropriate high-country visitor experiences at Tenaya Lake.

The three main goals for the plan are to protect natural and cultural resources, improve visitor enjoyment, and increase visitor safety. In the *Tenaya Lake Area Plan Environmental Assessment*(EA), released for public review in October 2011, the National Park Service identified a preferred alternative or recommended plan for the Tenaya Lake Area. Based on feedback received during a 30 day public review of the EA, the *Tenaya Lake Area Plan Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact* was completed in May 2011.

Protect Natural and Cultural Resources

The preferred alternative calls for the restoration of 9.7 acres to natural conditions. Many existing trails located within ecologically and culturally sensitive areas will be removed and restored to natural conditions. The trail systems around the lake and north of Tioga Road will be realigned to avoid sensitive natural and cultural resources and support protection and restoration. Pedestrian bridges and boardwalks over waterways and wetland habitat will restore hydrological function of major waterways.

Improved Visitor Enjoyment and Increased Safety

Interpretive materials and improved connections to the trail along the southern edge of the lake and Sunrise and Murphy Creek trailheads will facilitate wayfinding, minimize visitor confusion, and reduce the potential for volunteer trails. The plan will increase accessibility through the creation of an accessible trail between Murphy creek and East Beach and a pedestrian sidewalk at the Tioga Road/Murphy Creek Crossing.

Visitor parking capacity will not exceed 232 spaces, including 177 spaces within designated lots south of Tioga Road, 40 designated roadside spaces north and south of Tioga Road, and 15 undesignated spaces on the northern side of Tioga Road near East Beach. The roadside parking will include designated long and short-term spaces. Roadside pullouts will be located in non-sensitive tree cover near restrooms and viewpoints where viewshed and resource issues are not considerations.

The existing speed limit on Tioga Road will be reduced from 35 to 25 miles per hour within the Tenaya Lake area. Signage and traffic calming devices will notify visitors of the change and help create safer conditions. Improved pedestrian crossings will also increase visitor safety. A shuttle stop will be installed at each major node.

Existing picnic areas will be relocated and improved. A picnic area will be located adjacent to the southeastern edge of the East Beach parking area.

Find Out More

The *Tenaya Lake Area Plan Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact* was completed in May 2011. To obtain a copy of the Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact visit the plan website at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/tenaya.htm.

For the full archive of Tenaya Lake Area planning documents visit the Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC) page at parkplanning.nps.gov/yose_tlap

Restoration of the East Beach area will begin in summer 2011. Future project phases include: additional ecological restoration, picnic area improvements, trailhead and parking improvements, comfort stations, and trails.