



The 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 lake in Yosemite's front-country. 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. Thanks to a grant from The Yosemite Fund, a comprehensive analysis of, and solution to these issues is about to commence. The Tenaya Lake Area Plan will provide for a formal, public analysis of these long-standing issues and will provide a plan to remedy these issues. After the plan is complete, the park will continue with design development and implementation of the solutions identified in the plan. These solutions may include ecological restoration, picnic area improvements, trailhead and parking improvements, comfort stations, and trails. An environmental assessment will be completed as part of this plan. Public scoping is open from September 4 until October 18, 2008.

What are the goals of this project?

IMPROVE VISITOR ENJOYMENT AND INCREASE SAFETY

- Provide great day use areas at the lake.
- Provide safe, appropriate parking for visitor amenity areas.
- Clarify to visitors where different amenities are located to decrease confusion.
- Decrease traffic congestion along Tioga Road.
- Provide accessibility to day use areas for visitors with disabilities.

PROTECT NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Restore impacted areas.
- Protect water quality of Tenaya Lake.
- Better delineate visitor use areas to protect plant communities and cultural resources.
- Provide well-sited bear-proof food storage lockers and appropriate garbage/recycling facilities.

MAINTAIN CAPACITY

- Address appropriate parking needs for cars, motorcycles, RVs, tour buses and shuttle buses.
- Address needs for accessible parking spaces.



Why is the project needed at this time?

Planning is underway for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River and the Tuolumne Meadows area. Separated by only a few short miles, Tenaya Lake and Tuolumne Meadows have similar visitor use, resource impacts, and traffic problems. By working on the Tenaya Lake area plan concurrently with the Tuolumne Meadows plan, we can benefit from data that has already been acquired for Tuolumne Meadows.

How can I contribute to the plan?

An environmental assessment is currently underway. Public scoping is occurring from September 4 until October 18, 2008. Comments with issues, ideas, and suggestions for the Tenaya Lake Area Plan may be submitted during this period. The public will have a second formal comment period when the environmental assessment is ready for review (anticipated in winter 2010). Although there will be two formal opportunities to comment on this plan, it is important to remember that comments are welcome at any time during the planning process.

Public Participation

Public participation is essential for the success of this and all other park projects. Here are some ways to stay involved in the park:

- **Attend a National Park Service public open house** to talk with project specialists and obtain more information on this topic. Visit the park's planning website (listed below) for upcoming dates.
- **Add your name to the park's planning mailing list** and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning-related notices. You can also submit your email address to receive the park's periodic electronic newsletter.
- **Additionally, you can submit comments with your thoughts about this topic or any other project in the park by any of the following means:**
 - Mail:** Superintendent
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389
 - Phone:** 209/379-1365; **Fax:** 209/379-1294
 - E-mail:** Yose_Planning@nps.gov
- **Visit online:** www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm to find out about plans and projects or www.nps.gov/yose/naturescience/index.htm to find out about science & nature in Yosemite National Park.

Who is The Yosemite Fund and What Do They Do?

The Yosemite Fund is the primary nonprofit fundraising organization for Yosemite. Since 1988, The Yosemite Fund has supported projects that include trail rehabilitation and repair, habitat restoration, visitor services and education, cultural and historic preservation, scientific research, and wildlife management. The Tenaya Lake Area Plan is one of several projects currently being funded by the Yosemite Fund.