

Walking Field Trips for Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School

These destinations are within walking distance of Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School, and can be used by classes when scheduling or funding of field trip buses is not possible. A street map and a topographic map follow the text descriptions.

Paradise Park (0.3 miles)

Directions: walk out school entrance driveway, turn right on San Bernardino, go straight across Bakersfield and continue down the street, enter the park

Ownership: Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District (park manager Steve Dunn, 530-314-1046 C); supported by Measure S property taxes; Washoe Meadows State Park is immediately downstream of the park

Opportunities: The park is a pretty traditional looking park, with a small recreation building (maybe usable for classes), tennis courts, a swimming and water skiing lake (Lake Baron), picnic tables, play equipment, field, grassy areas, etc. The Upper Truckee flows through the park, with many access points, informal trails along the river, eroded banks in a few places and other sections where large rock riprap is sort of working, riparian vegetation is primarily willow, a dry flat with lodgepole, abundant Sierra juniper (not found at the school) and wild onions is to the south along Baron Lake and beyond; to the north are lodgepole thickets and open meadows (look like they are recovering from some sort of earlier use such as haying); non-native plants not noticeable, though may be present. 'Lake Baron' (a reservoir) gets motorboat use, could be useful study area for effect of motorboat pollution, different aquatic life, bank erosion from waves, etc. Steve said the lake is stocked with trout and there is a fishing day September 11; has crawdads in abundance, source of water is two wells but can also draw from river. Steve said Meyers students have used the park frequently, but mostly for recreation rather than learning; he wants to put in some nature trails, possible project; has had HS students fulfilling community service requirement; also has had CCC crews doing fuels reduction.

Safety: The Upper Truckee River is deep and fast in the spring, with steep banks and trees fallen into the river, and should be avoided during high water. In other season there are shallow and deep areas. Minor vehicle traffic on the roads and within the park.



Washoe State Park #1 (0.6 mile)

Directions: turn right on Bakersfield St, walk to metal gate, or trail parallel to the fence; or reverse direction, left on San Bernardino, left on San Diego, left on Bakersfield; the trail runs along a fence and goes about 100 yards to the river, which has mostly steep banks or fast current but a few places are accessible; trail runs along river upstream to park, and downstream (though not on river bank)

Opportunities: same natural environment opportunities as park, but less used than the park

Safety: The Upper Truckee River is deep and fast in the spring, with steep banks and trees fallen into the river, and should be avoided during high water. Where the trail first comes down to the river, the banks are steep and several trees lie in the streambed, causing a significant hazard. Safer places are available upstream, and one downstream.



Washoe State Park #2 (0.7 mile)

Directions: turn left on San Bernardino, left on San Diego, right on Bakersfield St, to Country Club Dr, go through gate and 100 m to the river with steep banks; 150 meters upstream is a sandy beach (at low water)

Opportunities: same natural environment as park, but less used; the area has been significantly impacted by the sewer pipe that runs under the road and crosses the Upper Truckee River, and therefore may have non-native plants and restoration opportunities.

Safety: The Upper Truckee River is deep and fast in the spring, with steep banks and trees fallen into the river, and should be avoided during high water. Where the trail first comes to the river, the banks are steep.

Access Note

There is no gate in the back fence of the school, however, a gate would shorten Washoe State Park #1 considerably and the others slightly, making possible short time frame field trips as well as the longer ones. Directly behind the school, off the corner of the playing field, is a utility building (STPUD?), and an adjacent Forest Service parcel. Another Forest Service lot is just north, and an additional Forest Service lot at Blue Jay Ct.

Other Possible Walking Field Trips

agricultural inspection station 0.3, FS work center, post office, FS visitor station; numerous recreation oriented businesses, bike trails along Hwy 50 (there is no safe place to cross Hwy 50 except by walking north to the signal at Pioneer)

