

KEY COALITION PLAN FEATURES ALONG THE RIVER

(Refer to map on previous page for examples of locations of these features.)

The Community Coalition Plan combines unique elements that respect the river's natural processes. The key features are listed, starting upstream.

1 DOWNTOWN RIVER ACCESS

The Truckee River through downtown Reno presents unique opportunities and challenges. A flood solution should make downtown an enjoyable and attractive place to be, provide flood protection, respect the area's historic and cultural assets, improve recreation and access, and support downtown redevelopment.

Structural improvements to riverbanks will offer the public increased physical access as well as improved visual access. Redesigning retaining walls to include natural stones and boulders, planters, trees and other natural features will integrate the river into downtown as an appealing visual feature. Removing water diversion dams in the area will also create an opportunity for a scenic, whitewater park for community recreational use.



2 ELIMINATE BOTTLENECKS

Many of the bridges, dams and diversions on the Truckee River create bottlenecks, causing the water to back up and flood over the river's banks. The Coalition Plan calls for modifying the bridges and removing or replacing dams and diversions to move more water out of the region more quickly. In addition, the concept calls for redesigning the river channel in places to restore the natural river function and convey more water. These changes would have to be balanced against downstream impacts. Any increase in peak flow sent downstream of the Truckee Meadows will be mitigated.

Many parks and parking lots along the river can be retrofitted for natural floodplain storage. They can be used by the public most of the year and allowed to flood when necessary. The Coalition is working with the University of Nevada Reno and private property owners to address the property issues that affect flooding. With their cooperation, open land east of McCarran owned by the University and private ranches in the area may be retained as unobstructed open agricultural land to accommodate flooding.



3 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

The Truckee River's natural processes have been greatly disturbed by the activities of the past several decades. Almost all species on the Truckee River have declined in number because of loss of habitat in the Truckee Meadows. Healthy habitat with established plants creates "drag" on flood flows; this drag slows the water down and allows fine sediments to settle on the flood plains. These sediments later become the soils that support the growth of more vegetation. Rivers have many "positive feedback loops" that help them regenerate themselves over time.



Restoration will not only enhance wildlife and water quality, it will also slow the flood flows, allow for greater storage of floodwaters (some of this ground-water drains back into the river after the flood), and improve water quality.



Continued community support will help restore the Truckee River and provide flood management.

4 RIVER PARKWAY

Healthy rivers need room to spread out in a flood, but rivers don't flood every year. In non-flood years, the room the Plan creates for flooding will be available for restoration and recreation opportunities.

Earthen levees set back some distance from the river can help contain floodwaters by allowing for this natural flooding. Natural-looking terraces can be built over more rigid, engineered levees to follow the river's natural meandering and become parkway along the river. The area between Mill Street and McCarran Boulevard presents an exciting opportunity to design a unique parkway with a variety of recreation features. Other parcels have been identified for environmental restoration, habitat improvements and wildlife.

