

The Donner Project

CREATING
VISIONARY
SPACES
HONORING
THE LEGACY
OF THE PIONEER
SPIRIT

VIRILE TO RISK AND
FIND; KINDLY WITHAL
AND A READY HELP.
FACING THE BRUNT
OF FATE. INDOMI-
TABLE. — UNAFRAID.

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Donner Project

The Donner Project will restore the Pioneer Monument, create surrounding reflective seating and landscaping, and install an outdoor pavilion to host educational, arts and family events.

Resilience. Strength. Survival. Family. Powerful words used to describe those who made the difficult trek across the western plains and mountains to reach California during the 1840s. These words also describe us, as a people, today.

The Pioneer Monument in Donner Memorial State Park honors early pioneers who struggled across the continent and who continue to inspire us today. Constructed near Donner Party cabin sites, work on the monument began in 1901. On June 6, 1918 in a ceremony that included Donner Party survivors, the Native Sons of the Golden West donated the completed monument and 11 of the surrounding acres to the State of California. Since then, the stone pillar and magnificent bronze statue have stood in testament to the thousands who risked all for a better life. It honors the pioneer spirit of yesterday and continues to inspire us today.

Annually, more than 9.5 million vehicles traverse the Sierra Mountain pass known as Donner Summit. While most people zip by not realizing the rich history of the area, over 200,000 take time to stop. At Donner Memorial State Park, they find an inviting new Visitor Center where they can learn about the Sierra Divide and the Washoe tribe who continue to call this land home. Visitors also find a 100-year-old monument approaching the tipping point of irreversible deterioration and a landscape begging for a new design to accommodate outdoor gatherings.

The Donner Project will restore the Pioneer Monument, provide a surrounding reflective seating and landscaped area, and create an outdoor pavilion adjacent to the Visitor Center to host educational, arts and family events.

Resilience. Strength. Survival. Family. In memory of our past and to honor those who follow, please consider this worthy investment in our future. Your donation is needed.



Assessing the Needs...



Visitors from around the globe and students from near and far gravitate to the stories narrated in the Visitor Center at Donner Memorial State Park. Since the facility opened in 2016, visitation to the park has doubled illustrating a craving for deeper knowledge of our collective past. While this state-of-the-art facility welcomes increased visitation, the aging Pioneer Monument and the worn surrounding landscape are challenged to handle the wear and tear. In response, the Sierra State Parks Foundation commissioned a Historic Structure Assessment of the monument. The findings resulted in [The Donner Project](#).

• Pioneer Monument Preservation

Conservation measures for the 100-year-old Pioneer Monument will halt further deterioration to prevent collapse of the pedestal and to restore the bronze statue.

• Landscaping

Adding native vegetation will inject new life into the empty landscape surrounding the monument. Stone benches will be installed and positioned to allow both quiet moments, conversations and family picnics.

• Outdoor Pavilion

The outdoor pavilion is engineered to abate the freeway noise that competes with docents' interpretive talks. Programming opportunities may include campfire gatherings, educational presentations, performing arts and special events.

[The Donner Project](#) creates visionary spaces that honor the legacy of the Washoe people and the pioneers who traveled over the Sierra Divide. Your support ensures that this story continues to educate and inspire us and future generations.



Pioneer Monument Restoration



The Pioneer Monument, California Historic Landmark (No. 134) was constructed between 1909 and 1919 at

what is now the Donner Memorial State Park. Initially local community representatives who formed the Donner Monument Committee conceived of the original monument and began garnering funds including contributions from the California Legislature. The vision for a permanent monument was finally achieved in 1918 with the help of the Native Sons of the Golden West, who partner today with the Sierra State Parks Foundation on The Donner Project fundraising campaign.

The monument has been assessed over the past 15 years by multiple engineers and historians for its general condition, potential repairs and requirements for its safe and enduring future. In 2016 a comprehensive restoration plan was developed by a structural engineering firm and a conservation specialist. The final assessment has given the Sierra State Parks Foundation and the Native Sons of the Golden West authoritative guidance to invest in immediate repairs and a design for a long-term restoration strategy. An ongoing maintenance plan will facilitate enduring enjoyment of the Pioneer Monument for generations.

The Donner Project will fund the needed monument repairs, restoration and ongoing maintenance for the statue, its pedestal and its surroundings. The stabilization plan will prevent future deterioration.



“People come from all over to learn about crossing over the Sierra Divide. We have many things to learn from our past but it is difficult to teach because of the noise of Interstate 80 and a lack of space for groups to gather.”

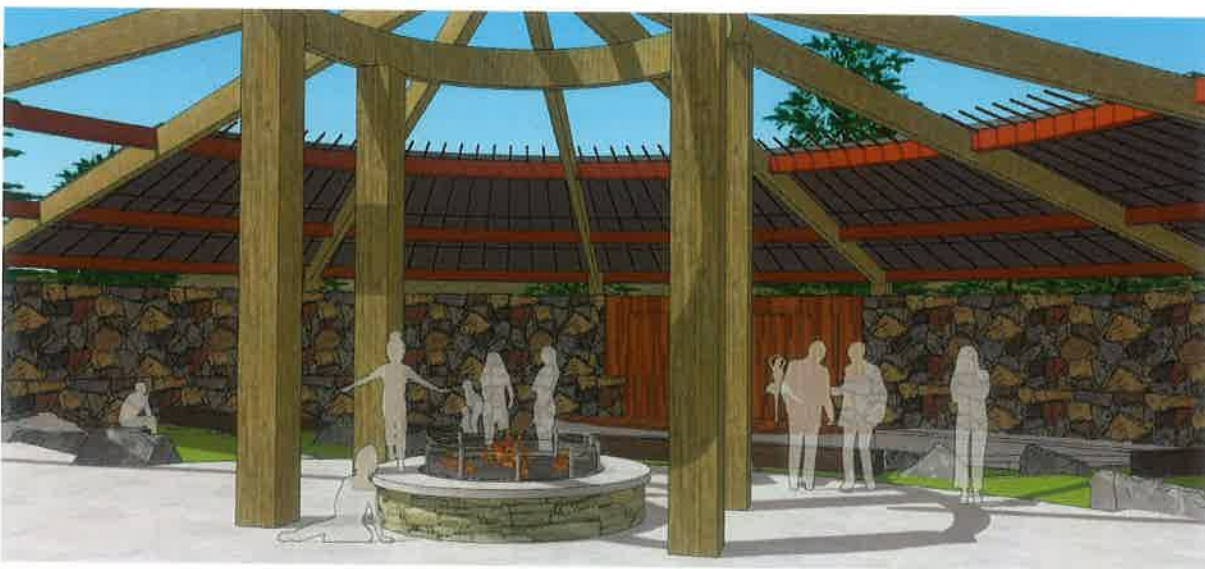
Greg Palmer, Volunteer Docent

Group Education Pavilion & Monument Area Landscaping

Jordan Knighton of JK Architecture & Engineering and the design team of the Northern Service Center of California State Parks defined opportunities for a new facility. The group reviewed noise mitigation concerns, aesthetic appeal, environmental disturbance and projected costs of scheduled maintenance. After months of thoughtful discussion and planning, participants approved a concept which includes a 100-person pavilion with flexible seating, space for small group performances and programs, open areas to host outdoor special events, and gathering areas to encourage conversation and picnics.

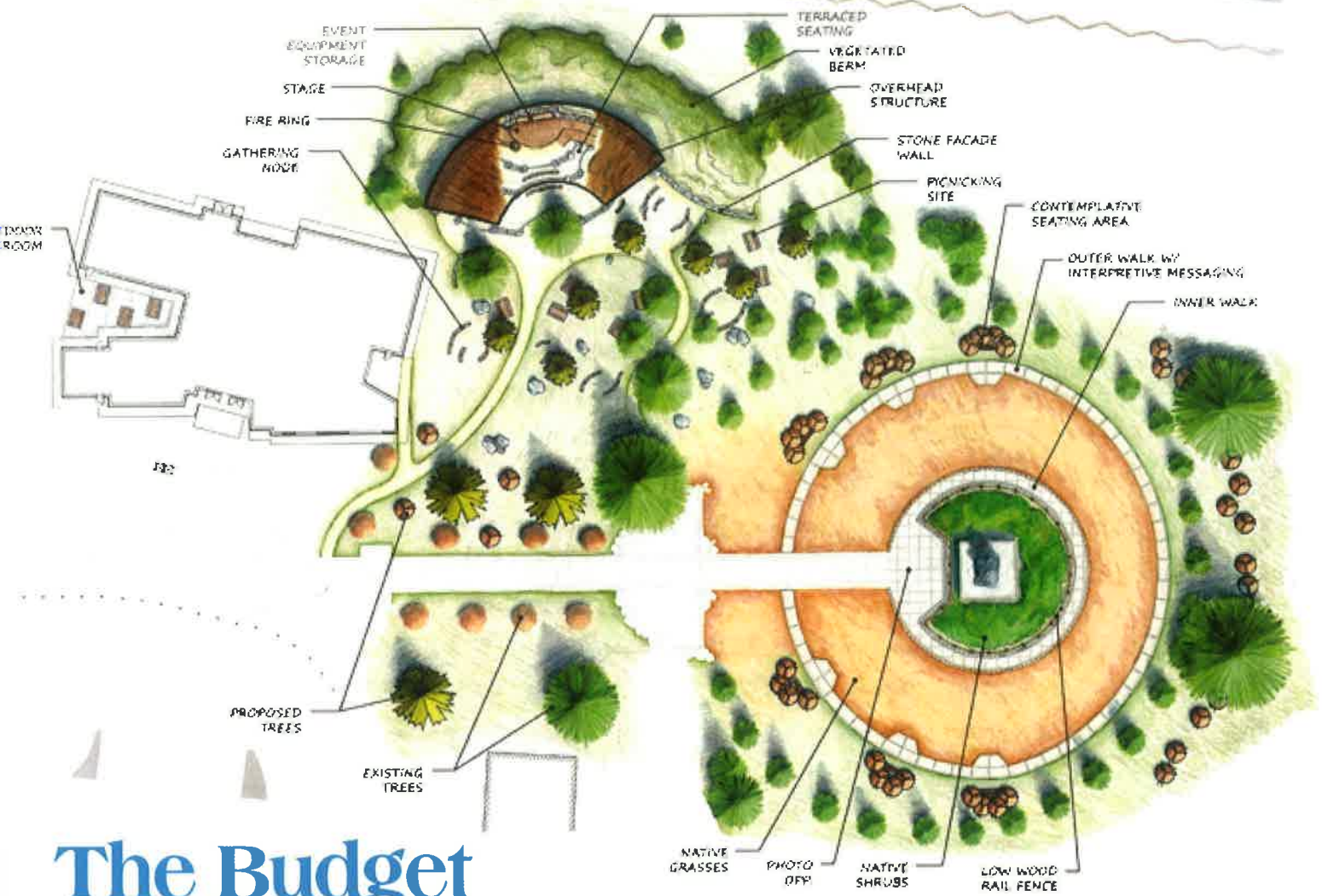
The Washoe-influenced design of the pavilion creates dedicated space for education and interpretation that embraces the cultural diversity of our region and welcomes future generations into our parks. Creative programming will inspire visitors to honor our pioneer past while developing stewardship for the future.

The project will be implemented once the funds have been secured and deposited into a State Park contingent account dedicated to this project. The Sierra State Parks Foundation will be receiver of funds and will ensure the prudent and efficient use of all donations and grants.



THIS CONCEPT DRAWING SHOWS VISITORS ENJOYING THE CENTRAL FIRE PIT INSIDE THE PAVILION – THE DESIGN REFLECTS A WASHOE INDIAN ROUNDHOUSE AND WILL PROVIDE THE MUCH NEEDED SOUND MITIGATION.





The Budget

| BUDGET ITEM PROJECTIONS | INVESTMENT |
|---|------------------------|
| Engineering and development, reports, inspections and permits | \$ 398,500.00 |
| Pioneer Monument restoration | \$ 300,000.00 |
| Educational pavilion and outside seating | \$ 402,500.00 |
| Site preparation and landscaping | \$ 237,000.00 |
| Contingency/change orders/State contract costs | \$ 379,600.00 |
| Capital Campaign expenses (three percent) | \$ 28,000.00 |
| Variance: five percent per year increase to 2021 construction | \$ 54,400.00 |
| FINAL INVESTMENT | \$ 1,800,000.00 |



| TIMELINE GOALS | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Phase | Active Fundraising Period | Implementation/ Construction |
| Phase 1: Monument Restoration | June 2018- June 2020 | July 2020- June 2021 |
| Phase 2: Pavilion/ Landscaping | July 2019- June 2021 | June 2021- July 2022 |

Donor Recognition



We urge you to join our esteemed group of supporters and leave a lasting legacy to help complete **The Donner Project**. Located within the entrance of the Visitor Center at Donner Memorial State Park, this donor recognition wall honors contributions of \$1,000 or more. Donor names are grouped and sized based on donation amounts. This unique design allows updates and is a permanent fixture that will welcome visitors to the site for generations. If you and your family are interested in making a donation or multi-year pledge to the project, please contact us today! By participating in this opportunity to preserve and share our cultural heritage, your legacy will live on.

Please consider your legacy donation today!



Contact Information

You contribute. You participate. You care. As a supporter of [The Donner Project](#), YOU will make a profound difference in restoring the beloved Pioneer Monument and helping to create the pavilion and landscaping that will better serve visitors, students and community members. Every contribution is needed and valued. Join us in the preservation, and soon celebration, of the restored monument and enchanting and thought-provoking new space.

For more information on [The Donner Project](#), to make a donation, or arrange for a site tour, please contact:

Heidi Doyle, Executive Director
Sierra State Parks Foundation
PO Box 28, Tahoe City, CA 96145
530-583-9911
hdoyle@SierraStateParks.org

Lolly Kupec, The Donner Project Campaign Chairperson
Sierra State Parks Foundation
PO Box 346, Homewood, CA 96141
530-412-1096
lk.wwcg@gmail.com

Scott Goddard, Donner Memorial Committee Chairperson
Native Sons of the Golden West
925 Middlefield Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952
707-410-9011
scott.goddard@sbcglobal.net



To view a short video on [The Donner Project](#) visit the Sierra State Parks Foundation website at SierraStateParks.org