



Date: January 14, 2025

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Becky Bucar, Assistant Public Works Director

Title: **Trout Creek Reach 1, Phase 2 Design Contract with Waterways**

Jen Callaway, Town Manager

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**Recommended Action:** Authorize the Town Manager to execute a design contract with Waterways Consulting, Inc. for revised 65% design and hydraulic modeling for the Trout Creek Reach 1, Phase 2 Project (C1704) in the amount of \$198,831.50, with a 15% (\$29,825) contingency budget for a total authorized amount of \$228,656.50.

**Discussion:**

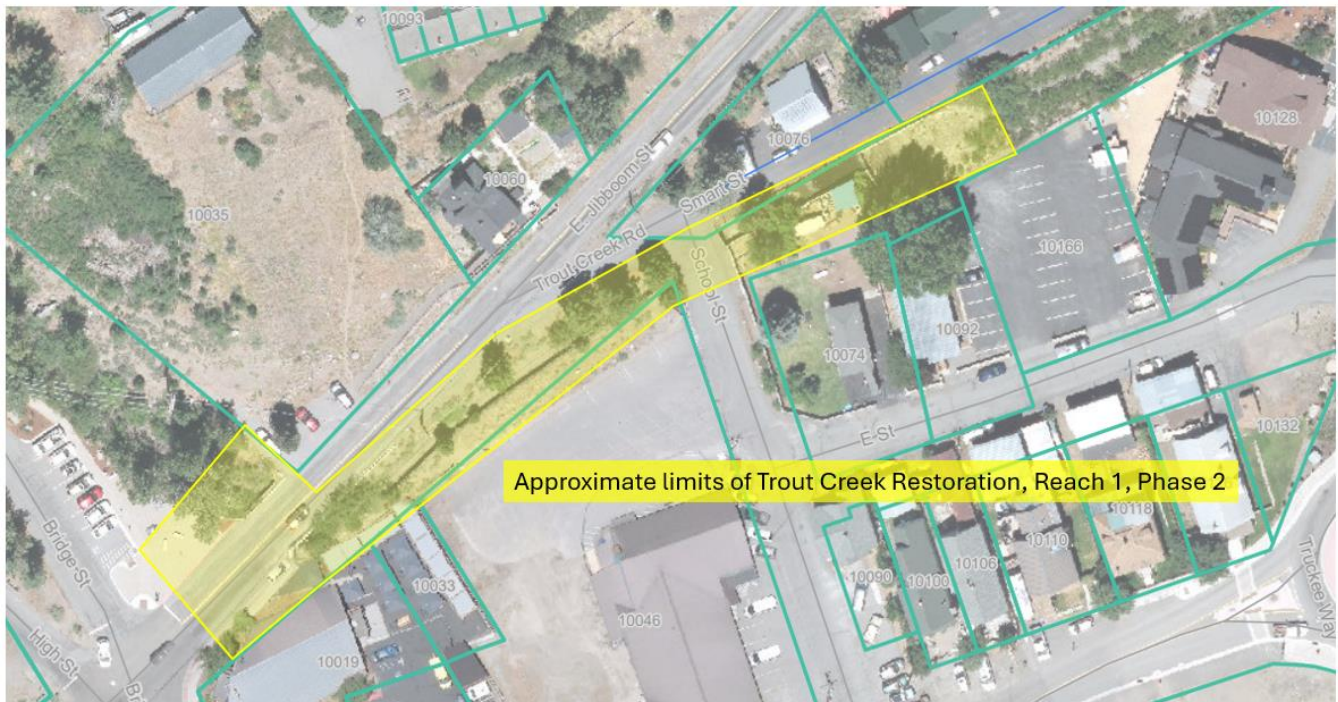
The originally-envisioned Trout Creek Restoration Project encompassed 6 reaches, extending from the Highway 80 crossing to the Truckee River. Restoration work has been implemented throughout most of the restoration area, including a portion of Reach 1 and all of Reaches 2 through 5. Reach 6 is almost entirely within the Union Pacific Railroad right of way, posing significant challenges associated with right of way and constructability adjacent to and under the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and is not currently being pursued by the Town. Therefore, the completion of Reach 1 would effectively complete the Town's near-term plans to restore the creek.

The remaining Reach 1 segment (see **Figure 1** below) extends from the Trout Creek pocket park, under Jibboom Street, along the north side of the Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District (TDRPD) Community Arts Center, under School Street and to the limits of the Reach 1, Phase 1 project. Preliminary designs were prepared for all of Reach 1 in 2012, but with limited funding and a lack of land control over the entire reach, the reach was phased and only the downstream portion was constructed in 2014 and 2015.

The Reach 1, Phase 2 project is identified in the 2023/2024 through 2024/2025 Work Plan as Task 3.15 under Infrastructure and Community Connectivity, with design initiating after completion of the 2024 construction season. The designs completed in 2012 need to be updated to include the following:

- Changed site conditions related to development on the adjacent parcels.
- Staff recommends expanding the originally-designed cross sections on the Jibboom Street and School Street bridges to accommodate additional or wider sidewalks and bike lanes. This widening impacts the original creek and structure designs and will need to be re-evaluated within the hydraulic model.
- Due to construction funding constraints (project construction is currently unfunded), it may be necessary to further phase the project and so staff recommends developing a design for the entire remaining segment, as well as a segment that does not replace the Jibboom Street crossing.

**Figure 1: Approximate Limits of Reach 1, Phase 2 Restoration Project**



It should be noted that the easternmost section of the creek restoration is also part of an approved Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) being undertaken by the Town as part of a settlement of a Lahontan Water Board enforcement action, under which the Town agreed to pursue completion of the design by Fall 2025 and construction by 2029. As a part of this agreement, the Town dedicated \$135,924.50 toward the Trout Creek Restoration Reach 1 Project (C1704), which was matched by an equal contribution from Teichert Construction (the contractor for the Coldstream Roundabout Project, C1712). These funds were originally expected to be adequate to complete design and easement acquisition for the project, but the cost of both of these items has since increased.

### **Utility Undergrounding**

The Town Council has identified a goal to underground utilities in the Downtown Truckee area and established Underground Utility District No. 2 in Downtown in 2020, the limits of which are shown in the attached map (**Attachment A**). With the completion of the Railyard infrastructure, Brickelltown Streetscape, and West River/East River Streetscape project, much of the undergrounding has occurred (although some utilities are still working on the wiring and pole removal on West River Street). In addition, as shown in the second map in **Attachment A**, a significant amount of undergrounding will occur as a part of the Jibboom, Bridge, and Church Streetscape Improvements Project (C1806) and Jibboom Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project (C1824). Therefore, staff recommends including utility undergrounding just outside the immediate restoration area (extending to and along a portion of Church Street and along E Street), as the Reach 1, Phase 2 Trout Creek Restoration Project presents a unique opportunity to complete the majority of the remaining undergrounding work in central Downtown.

### **Design Contract**

Staff has been coordinating a scope of work with a design team that consists of Waterways Consulting, Inc. (creek restoration design and hydraulic analysis), Acumen Engineering Co (civil and utility undergrounding design); Sage Land Surveying, Inc. (property boundaries and topographic survey);

Streeter Group, Inc. (bridge design); JP Engineering (electrical design for new underground electrical connections); and Ecological Concerns, Inc. (ECI, vegetation and irrigation plan). Staff recommends awarding the design contract to this team as a designated source per the Town's Purchasing Rules and Regulations, for the following reasons:

1. **Staff believes the proposal represents a fair and competitive fee as the hourly rates are similar to those charged by other consultants for similar services in the area.**
2. **Waterways, Acumen, and Sage Land Surveying have specialized knowledge of the project and/or project area that is unique and not available from other firms.** Waterways Consulting, Inc. prepared the original plans for Reach 1 in 2012. In addition, they have lead the design of previously-restored reaches (Reach 1/phase 1, Reach 3, Reach 4, and Reach 5). While under a different consulting firm (Swanson Hydrology and Geomorphology), some of the same Waterways personnel worked also on the overall creek restoration design concept, which was completed in 2008. Acumen Engineering worked on the utility undergrounding plans for West River Street, East River Street, and Brickelltown and has local expertise in the Truckee Donner Public Utility District's requirements. In addition, Debbie Jenkins recently joined Acumen Engineering and was the Engineer of Record on the Brickelltown Streetscape, Trout Creek Restoration for Reaches 4 and 5/Church Street Extension, Railyard Master Plan Phase 1 and Phase 2 Infrastructure Improvements, and the active Reimagine Bridge Street Project.
3. **The initiation of the revised design and hydraulic analysis needs to occur in a timely manner** to keep the project on track per the design and land acquisition deadlines identified in the Lahontan settlement agreement. An RFP process would delay the award by approximately three months and it is unlikely a different more-qualified firm would be identified.

Waterways provided the attached scope of work and cost estimate (**Attachment B**). The scope of work is split into two phases. The first would revise the plans to account for the new project limits, develop 65% plans and cost estimate, and develop an updated hydraulic analysis to remap the existing floodplain boundaries and the floodplain boundaries once the project is completed (this is helpful for the design, as well as discussions with the adjacent property owners). The total cost for the first phase of design and modeling is \$198,831.50, approximately \$50,000 (25%) of which is related to utility undergrounding. While the scope of the utility undergrounding could be reduced to only include items that are in direct conflict with the restoration, staff believes it would be prudent to pursue the larger scope to complete undergrounding in this area of town and to take advantage of efficiencies of scale.

Staff proposes to pursue the final design contract once funding and/or adequate land tenure is secured, the limits of the project are decided, or other circumstances exist that would justify the continuation of design. Per the attached, the final design and construction assistance are expected to cost approximately \$207,456 to complete in addition to the 65% design amount identified above (identified as optional future tasks). With the completion of the 65% plans, staff would have adequate information to apply for grant funding, start permitting, and complete easement discussions with adjacent property owners.

Staff is recommending Council authorize the Town Manager to execute a design contract with Waterways Consulting, Inc. for only the initial phase of the scope of work (revised 65% design and hydraulic modeling). The proposed contract would be in the amount of \$198,831.50, with a 15% (\$29,825) contingency budget for a total authorized amount of \$228,656.50.

**Priority:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Investment	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/> Core Service

**Fiscal Impact:**

The total cost for this initial contract is \$228,656.50 (including contingency). The current adopted budget contains \$271,850 for design and land acquisition in Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26 (***Attachment C***), which is adequate to fund this design contract. Note, however, that the proposed contract would expend the majority of the available funding and additional funding (not included in the adopted budget) will be required to complete permitting, final design and property acquisition. The funding source for the design work will be General Fund and Developer funding acquired as a part of the Lahontan settlement agreement discussed above.

**Public Communication:** None beyond this staff report and discussions with some of the adjacent property owners. Additional public outreach will occur as a part of the design process.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Utility Undergrounding

Attachment B – Waterways Scope of Work and Cost Estimate

Attachment C – Adopted Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget for CIP C1704, Trout Creek Restoration Reach 1, Phase 2