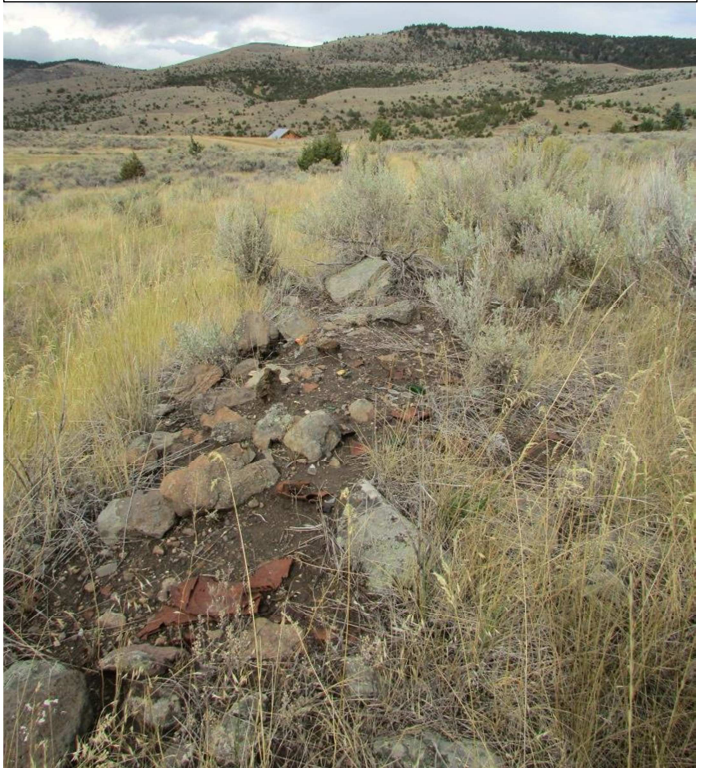


Virginia City, Montana Historic Preservation Office



Tendoy Park – Virginia City, MT

In the summer of 2015 the town property formally known as North Park was renamed Tendoy Park, in a dedication ceremony to honor a local historic treaty signing between the U.S. government and native Shoshoni people.

The history and pre-history of the park is currently being explored in an archival and field survey to establish a record of cultural resources, and assist in creating a long range preservation and development plan for the park.

Initial investigation has revealed a large array of localized surface artifacts, which include early 20th century middens, reflecting the area history as a previous town dump site.

Field survey is also revealing native lithic materials, along with potential sites of historic human remains, requiring additional research and consultation.

2016 Tendoy Park Project goals:

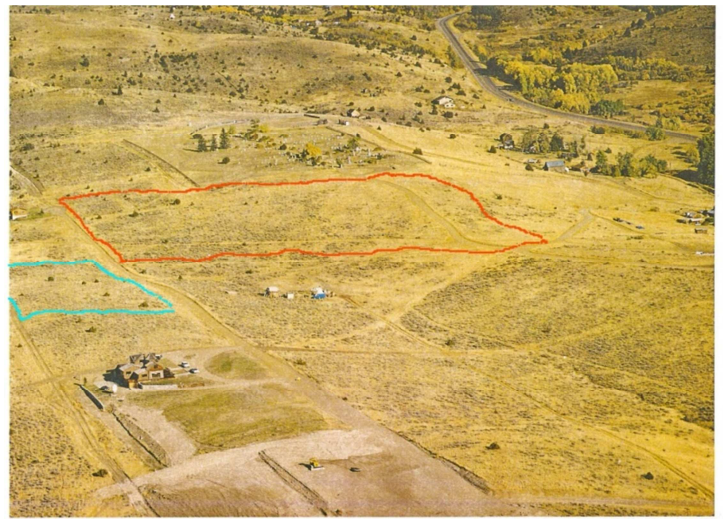
- Ongoing consultation with the Shoshoni tribes to guide and inform the indigenous cultural resource survey
- Continue field survey and documentation of archaeological features, and any occurrences of historic human remains via forensic canine services
- Develop a comprehensive documentation strategy to include mapping of heritage features, interpretation, and preservation planning for the park site
- Expand educational outreach opportunities

Tendoy Park and Heritage Resource Investigation

With the establishment of Tendoy Park, the Town of Virginia City is further extending its welcome to the Native American community, and commitment to safeguarding Native heritage within the legacy of Virginia City. In shaping a research and development program for the site, the Town of Virginia City is grateful to be working in cooperation with Washington State University History department and the mixed band of Shoshoni tribes in the establishment of an interpretation and development plan for Tendoy Park, with an ultimate goal to expand the capability of the park site to host cultural events and tribal gatherings.

As a parcel of town property within the National Historic Landmark, a cultural and archaeological resource survey is needed to identify historic land use patterns and resource mitigation strategies, in addition to guiding the development of the park alongside long range stewardship considerations. The site is further distinguished as a town property largely abandoned since the mid-20th century, with initial site research indicating a broad assortment of surface artifacts and built features including historic middens, stone wall systems, and tracery delineating portions of the landscape. Discoveries of lithic materials are lending further insight into the native history and pre-history of the community, and creating added opportunity to establish patterns of native land uses, and connectivity to additional sites throughout the town and region. To support research goals for the summer of 2016, assistance is greatly needed in archival investigation, field survey, documentation, and analysis of surface artifacts and built features in preparation for a forensic canine site survey.

The Virginia City Historic Preservation Office welcomes interest and innovative research proposals from students and heritage professionals, as efforts continue to explore the unique heritage resources of the park site.



Left – Tendoy Park, July 2015 - Right – Virginia City ca.1995, with Tendoy Park (Red) and the Hebrew Cemetery (Blue)
Below – Tendoy Park and the Hebrew Cemetery toward the treaty site in the Ruby Valley

