1. Introduction

Turtle Bay Exploration Park (TBEP) has become the premier cultural and environmental education center for northern California. This great transformation has happened primarily due to the vision, dedication, and efforts of many in this community over several decades. During the early 1990’s, the City of Redding was concerned it did not have the capacity or funding to help the community fully reach this vision for its museums. Mike Dahl, Redding’s Mayor who signed the 1992 land lease to TBEP, summed up the Council’s concern at that time: “In the early 1990’s our community was facing similar economic challenges that we face today. There were limited financial resources and an emerging era of constraints. The Council understood that reliance on City subsidies and financial support was not a sustainable business model for our museums. After collaborating with the Alliance of Redding Museums, the Council offered the long term lease at Turtle Bay for the development of the Museum Park.”

It is the goal in developing this brief history, to place the TBEP in perspective with the development of the Redding and the Sacramento River Parkway. For many, it is not just a part of our history but also our future.

2. The Region

The City of Redding occupies an extraordinarily beautiful site: it straddles California’s greatest natural waterway, the Sacramento River, and the city is rimmed by mountains and defined by views of Mt. Shasta and Lassen Peak. The Bureau of Land Management and the communities of Redding, Anderson, and Red Bluff to the south have capitalized on this aquatic jewel by developing and preserving a 60-mile long river parkway. The parkway includes over 80,000 acres of public open space, regional parks, multiple boating access facilities and hundreds of miles of trails. At the center of the Parkway are the 300-acre TBEP and the Sundial Bridge.

3. The Campus

The name Turtle Bay has its own history. It is a place, based on geography, wildlife and hundreds of years of human interaction with the river and the land. At Turtle Bay, the river makes an abrupt change in direction. Over time, that change in direction has resulted in the deposit of rich alluvial soils on both sides of the river. For centuries the river loam has supported lush riparian vegetation and abundant wildlife, with the river providing fish and water for irrigation. The Wintu people, as well as the first European settlers, took advantage of the abundant bounty at Turtle Bay. Later, TB supported lumber milling and ranching. In the early 1900s a gold dredge operation permanently altered the biological integrity of Sulphur Creek. And when the federal government decided to build Shasta and Keswick Dams to store water to protect us from floods and irrigate the Central Valley, Turtle Bay provided the gravel for concrete... Lots of it!
The rich natural and human history of Turtle Bay made it a perfect choice for developing a world-renowned natural history, art and science museum campus. Its 300 acres includes:

(All elements below are described in more detail in this report)

SOUTH SIDE OF THE RIVER
1 35,000 square foot museum building that includes science, art, and history exhibits, and classroom space
2 3,000 square foot forest museum (Mill Building)
3 7,700 square foot Visitor Center
4 Forestry & Wildlife Center, including Wildlife Woods animal habitats, year-round aviary, and self-guided interpretive forest
5 Monolith outdoor public art exhibit
6 Museum Store & Coffee Bar
7 Seasonal Butterfly House exhibit
8 60-acre natural riparian forest

NORTH SIDE OF THE RIVER
9 Four-acre demonstration forest (Native Urban Forest)
10 20-acre botanical gardens,
11 One-acre native plant nursery
12 100-acre oak savannah
All of these amenities are inter-connected by two miles of public trails and the Sundial Bridge within the TBEP campus. The community expansive trail system provides direct access to TBEP from several neighborhoods to the west, north and east.

4. What’s in a Name?

Many readers may be confused by all the different names for the different museums described in this document:
- Redding Museum of Art and History
- Carter House Natural Science Museum
- Redding Arboretum by the River
- Forest Museum
- Alliance of Redding Museums (ARM)
- Turtle Bay Exploration Park (TBEP)

Each name used was appropriate to the function of that museum at that point in time. With the merger of the four smaller museums in 1997, the corporate name, Alliance of Redding Museums (ARM), was adopted as a placeholder until a mission and vision could be finalized for the new, merged organization. As the ARM developed and matured, the name **Turtle Bay Exploration Park (TBEP)** was adopted, as it more fully described the potential for the 300-acre campus to inspire wonder, exploration, and appreciation of our world.

5. Four Small Museums Grow Up

A museum campus of this complexity does not just happen; TBEP has a complicated history. Between 1963 and 1990, the natural and cultural histories of Northern California were preserved and interpreted by four Redding non-profit organizations: the Redding Museum of Art and History, Carter House Natural Science Museum, Redding Arboretum by the River and the Forest Museum. These non-profits held a special place in the hearts of many long-time Redding residents. It is important to understand the significance each played in the formation of TBEP and the development of the 300-acre campus.

**Redding Museum of Art and History**

In March 1962, the Redding City Council established a Civic Arts Commission, made up of representatives of the Shasta Historical Society, the Redding Federation of the Arts and the Northern California Archaeological Association. Its purpose was to advance and promote cultural and artistic activities. One of its first duties was to create a museum. That opportunity presented itself when the City acquired the Carter family home in April of 1962 to help complete the land needed for Caldwell Park. The City offered what became an iconic fixture in Redding, the Carter House, to the museum Board. The museum opened in July 1963, with an all-volunteer staff. One of its first fund-raising efforts was to create a Renaissance Art Faire in the fall of 1963. The annual art faire became a community staple for 47 years, ending in 2009.

In August of 1976, a new Museum of Art and History was opened, funded by $50,000 from the City combined with a federal grant. At that time, the City began to fund the museum’s operations, aided by volunteers and fundraising efforts by the three still-committed groups. In 1991 the Shasta Historical Society transferred its extensive collection of three-dimensional historical objects to the Redding Museum of Art and History, which have now been passed on to TBEP. Today, these artifacts are the foundation of TBEP’s historic collections. The Shasta Historical Society continues to be a valued research resource to TBEP.
Carter House Science Museum & The Redding Arboretum by the River

The Carter House Natural Science Museum (CHSM) was founded in 1976, after it was vacated by the Redding Museum of Art and History. It too started with an all-volunteer staff and an operating budget of $5,000. It focused on a natural science programming, including live animals and nature walks. In 1978, the Shasta Natural Science Association (SNSA) was formed as a non-profit to help guide and support the activities of Carter House. In 1984, the City of Redding established two full-time staff positions as well as operating funds.

By 1992 the museum’s annual operating budget was $650,000 and included six full-time and 13 part-time staff. In the early 1990s, the SNSA began to plan for a new museum and 200-acre Arboretum by the River. It was to be located on the Benton Ranch property on the north side of the river at Turtle Bay.

To provide a home for the new Arboretum by the River, the McConnell Foundation purchased the 200-acre Benton Ranch. The SNSA entered into a 45-year lease with the McConnell Foundation in 1993. Between 1993 and 1995 a master plan for the Arboretum by the River was developed and adopted. On March 31, 1997, SNSA and CHSM were merged into the Alliance of Redding Museums.

Forest Museum

The Forest Museum began as the Forest Products Museum and in 1984 changed its name to the National Logging and Timber Products Museum. In the mid-1980's, the museum entered into a lease with the City of Redding for 11 acres at Turtle Bay. In 1991, the museum changed its name to the Forest Museum to reflect its core mission – “to encourage public understanding of the history, science and socio-economic factors that affect the forest and the human relationship to it”. The museum’s first project was a joint venture with the CHSM to develop a Demonstration Forest at Turtle Bay. A $175,000 grant from the State Environmental License Plate Fund was received in 1989 to plan and develop the demonstration forest comprised of various conifer trees. That conifer forest, planted nearly 25 years ago, now shades and defines TBEP’s latest animal habitat area, Wildlife Woods.

Over the next several years, the Forest Museum embarked on a planning effort that would serve as the basis for TBEP’s first major exhibit area: Paul Bunyan’s Forest Camp. On March 31, 1997, the Forest Museum merged with the Alliance of Redding Museums. The Forest Camp became the first major element of the museum campus.

6. Merger into Alliance of Redding Museums

In 1989, the four museums formed a consortium called the Alliance of Redding Museums (ARM). Planning a 300-acre complex and legally merging the four non-profit museums took eight years and a great deal of compromise by the founders of each museum. They were guided by a desire to greatly improve the artistic and cultural opportunities in Redding and the knowledge that success required the voices of many, speaking as a united group. ARM was incorporated on December 14, 1990.
On January 9, 1992, ARM entered into a 55-year ground lease for 60 acres on the south side of the river at Turtle Bay. At its option, TBEP can continue the lease for an additional 55 years for a total of 110. On August 1, 1995, the Redding City Council approved a Museum Master plan for the 60 acres. Over the next ten years, ARM embarked on a very aggressive capital campaign to build out the 300-acre campus.

1996 – The City of Redding and TBEP jointly planned and developed the 1.1-mile perimeter trail around the 100-acre Savannah.

March 31, 1997 – The four museums are legally merged into the Alliance of Redding Museums. The original museums are dissolved and a new Board is impaneled. In May 2002, ARM officially changed its name to Turtle Bay Exploration Park.

April 1997 – Paul Bunyan’s Forest Camp opened. Requiring a $2.1 million investment, the project included a 3,000 square foot exhibit building, a 350-seat amphitheater and play structures for children. Paul Bunyan’s Forest Camp focused on themes of forestry - particularly sustainable forest futures. A substantial donation from the Walker family made the improvements possible. The Walker Family operated the Red River Lumber Company, which created Paul Bunyan’s a mythical back woods legend as part of its advertising campaign.

1997 to Present – Collections: TBEP owns a collection of more than 35,000 historical objects, including fine art, ethnographic, and archeological artifacts. This collection is comprised of the collections established by the Redding Museum of Art and History, the Forest Museum, and objects acquired after the merger in 1997.

1996 – Boardwalk, Parking and Utilities. Thanks to a $1,600,000 federal grant, TBEP was able to construct the 700-foot long boardwalk connecting the Visitor Center and the main museum building, as well as construct underground utilities and parking.

1999 – TBEP opened the Butterfly House that is a community and school field trip favorite every spring.

July 4, 2000 – The South Visitor Center opened providing 7,700 square feet for a gift store, classroom and theater. The Visitor Center cost $2,100,000. For over 13 years, the Visitor Center served as the gateway to TBEP. In 2013, the Visitor Center was closed to prepare for the development of a hotel. The gift store and main entrance moved to the Café and Museum, respectively - a move contemplated in the Park’s master plan.

June 7, 2002 – Turtle Bay Museum opened, providing 35,000-square feet of new exhibit space, offices, classrooms and a café. The permanent exhibits include a 22,000-gallon fresh water aquarium, a Shasta Caverns exhibit, an oak tree from the roots up, a Wintu Bark House, and opportunities to explore local history. The two large changing galleries have hosted 75 temporary traveling and in-house curated exhibitions over the years, most notably the award-winning Journey to Justice: The Wintu and the Salmon, Titanic: The Exhibition, Bodies Revealed, A T-rex Named Sue, and Turtle Bay’s West Coast Biennial Art Competition and Exhibition.
July 4, 2004 – Sundial Bridge opened to a crowd of thousands.

The planning for the Sundial Bridge began in 1991. An engineering firm prepared feasibility studies for six possible crossings, all at Turtle Bay. In September 1994, the City Council appointed a Turtle Bay Pedestrian Bridge Committee to evaluate and recommend both a location and a bridge type or design to the City Council. The Committee was made up of members of the City Council, the McConnell Foundation, Planning Commissioners and members of the ARM Board of Directors. The primary concern of the Committee was how the bridge would best serve the expansion of the river trail system and the proposed museum complex. The Committee was also interested in the opportunity for the bridge to make an architectural and environmental statement. Several bridge types were prepared with the feasibility report, and several engineering firms were interviewed. In 1995, the Committee rejected all proposals submitted and began to look for alternatives with greater vision and creativity. Spanish Engineer Santiago Calatrava was invited to Redding to present possible solutions to the Committee. On May 21, 1996, the City Council hired Mr. Calatrava to design the new pedestrian bridge at Turtle Bay. The design work was completed in 1999, and bridge construction began in 2000. The construction activity drew strong public interest due to the methods of transporting the large steel sections and the way the bridge “hung out” in mid-air with no apparent support during erection of the deck.

A great deal of public controversy surrounded the planning and funding of the bridge. There were many in the community that thought a modern steel bridge would not be a good aesthetic fit for the riverine environment at TBEP. There was also a good deal of misinformation about how the $24 million bridge was to be funded. Those who supported the bridge wanted a structure that made a bold statement about the community and the Turtle Bay Museum complex. The controversy died down with the opening of the bridge. The bridge continues to attract visitors from around the country and world, and most local citizens have embraced it as a community icon. Its image adorns local community events, advertising for many local businesses and marketing campaigns for increased visitors to northern California.

February 9, 2005 – Turtle Bay’s McConnell Arboretum & Botanical Gardens Opens

The McConnell Botanical Gardens offers 20-acres of Mediterranean-climate display gardens, a children’s garden, a nursery, and a maintenance facility. The Arboretum extends over 200-acres, including a natural oak savannah on the east side of Sulphur Creek. The capital investment totaled $12,500,000.
2001 - 2005 – Artist Buster Simpson transformed the Monolith at Turtle Bay into a public art installation exhibit. “The Monolith” is what remains of the main building that supported the gravel operation for the construction of Shasta Dam. From 1999 to 2001, Mr. Simpson prepared a series of proposals, conducted interviews with individuals who worked on the dam and at the aggregate site, and invited extensive public comment. Restoration began in May 2001, and in 2005, its restoration as an outdoor history exhibit was complete.

2012 - 2014 Wildlife Woods
Turtle Bay cares for several rescued animals including a golden eagle, porcupine, skunk, foxes, owl, falcon, badger, and most recently a beaver. For various reasons, these animals can no longer survive in the wild and must be cared for. Establishing more humane and comfortable habitats for these animals has been a goal of TBEP’s for many years. Since 2012, nine habitats have been created with four more planned. The habitats are open-air, protective environments that allow each animal to enjoy as much of their natural environment as possible, considering that these animals can no longer survive on their own. The animals that currently reside in the new habitats are the golden eagle, a red and a gray fox, a raccoon, a barn owl, a red-tailed hawk, a porcupine, and a striped skunk. The habitats are also a better setting for public education of these animals. Cost to-date has been $150,000 made possible by a private, directed donation.

8. Restoration at Turtle Bay
Between 2003 and 2010, four distinct environmental settings on the Turtle Bay campus underwent extensive environmental restoration. The restorations were done in partnership with the City of Redding, Caltrans, River Partners, the Sacramento River Action Group and the McConnell Foundation. The restoration covered the Oak Savannah, the Sulphur Creek riparian corridor, and the Willow Pond Trail and Wetlands on the north side of the river. It also covered the 70-acre Bird Sanctuary riparian forest on the south side of the river. The areas restored totaled 180- acres at a total cost of nearly $2,500,000. All four restorations were designed to improve animal habitat, forest ecology, and water quality in the Sacramento River watershed and the anadromous fish habitat. TBEP has adapted the restored areas for environmental education by adding multiple interpretive panels and including the areas in their educational walks, led by staff and volunteers. A more detailed description of each restoration site follows:

2003 - 2006 Oak Savannah Restoration
Located on the east side of Sulphur Creek, the 100-acre oak savannah supports wetlands, native grasses, and oak woodlands. The California Wildlife Conservation Board and the McConnell Foundation funded the $943,000 restoration effort. Prior to that, some native tree plantings had occurred as mitigation for the development of the Turtle Bay Museum building.
2007 - 2014 Willow Pond Wetlands and Trail
Located just east of the Arboretum Botanical Gardens, the four-acre restoration area includes a 1.2-acre created wetlands, two acres of California native plantings and a .3 mile crushed granite interpretive trail. A recent addition includes the Earthstone sculpture by local artist Colleen Barry, and adjacent plantings. Funding for the $400,000 project was provided by a state grant and from Caltrans as mitigation for the replacement of the Highway 44 bridge over the Sacramento River.

2007 - 2010 Sacramento River Parkway – Bird Sanctuary
Located on the south side of the river, just east of the museum and Sundial Bridge. Over 800 goats were utilized in the removal of 40-acres of invasive grass and blackberry on 70-acres. A $1,660,000 River Parkway Grant funded the restoration, a one-mile extension of the Sacramento River Trail and over 60 interpretive panels on both sides of the river. The grant funded $980,000 of the restoration work.

2002 – 2005 Sulphur Creek Restoration
Sulphur Creek traverses the north side of the TBEP campus between North Market Street and the Sacramento River. This nearly one-mile stretch of the stream was the focus of multiple restoration projects between 2002 and 2005. The Sacramento Watersheds Action Group (SWAG) in partnership with the McConnell Foundation, Shasta College and TBEP led the effort. Shasta College provided a significant amount of in-kind labor and equipment and several grants provided needed funding.

9. TBEP Capital Campaign
One of the conditions of the original 1992 land lease with the City of Redding was that TBEP complete at least $5,000,000 in capital improvements in the first ten years of the lease (by 2002). To accomplish its goals TBEP embarked on a large capital campaign. That campaign, in combination with the efforts of several partners, raised over $69,000,000. The capital campaign and other efforts are detailed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital Investment Program – Sources and Amounts</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Element</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Demonstration Forest</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Administration/Class Rm</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Savannah Perimeter Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Paul Bunyan’s Forest Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Boardwalk/Infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. Visitor Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>g. Museum Building</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Sundial Bridge</td>
<td>$24,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. McConnell Arboretum</td>
<td>$12,500,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Oak Savannah Restoration</td>
<td>$943,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Sulphur Creek Re-alignment</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Bird Sanctuary Restoration</td>
<td>$980,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Willow Pond Wetlands</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. Wildlife Woods</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
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</table>

Subtotal | $69,273,000 |
10. Operating Funds

Museum operations from 1976 to 1994 were funded by the City of Redding at a cost of over $700,000 annually and supplemented by donations and fundraising efforts by the three museum Boards and volunteers. From 1994 to 1998 the City contributed funding of $690,000 annually to TBEP. That was reduced to $400,000 between 1999 and 2006. During 2007 and 2009, the funding was reduced again. All City funding to TBEP operations were eliminated in 2010.

In recent years TBEP operations revenue comes from the following sources:

- Grants 30%
- Investment returns 18%
- Admissions and retail sales 15%
- Contributions 16%
- Programs 7%
- Membership 7%
- Special events, donations & Misc. 7%

Annual Operating Budgets

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<td>2013</td>
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11. Governance

TBEP is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees. Input on policies, fundraising and development is also provided by a 47-member advisory Board of Regents. The direction and policy set by the Trustees is carried out by a Chief Executive Officer and dedicated staff.

12. Volunteers

The available resources do not meet all of the operational needs at TBEP. A dedicated army of volunteers makes up the difference, providing help with guest services, education, animal shows and aquatic care, special events, membership, development, exhibits, and horticulture landscape and nursery work, to name a few. Approximately 260 adults and teens donate 20,000 hours of labor annually to enhance the visitor experience.

13. Public Trails and the River Parkway

TBEP has benefitted from being located at the center of the Sacramento River Parkway. The Parkway’s trail system has become one of the most well known recreation amenities in the north state with over 200 miles of trails. It also provides convenient non-motorized access from many Redding neighborhoods to TBEP’s 300-acre campus. For this reason, a brief history of the development of the Parkway may be helpful in understanding TBEP’s importance to the community. Redding’s interest in preserving and protecting the Sacramento River as it’s greatest natural resource has its beginnings in the adoption of the 1970 Redding General Plan. However, it is no coincidence that real efforts by the City to develop a river parkway also began concurrently with the museum’s interests at Turtle Bay. By the mid 1980s the community at large showed strong support to open the river corridor to more public opportunities. For decades, the community had turned its back to the river. Open space areas, both public and private were generally ignored and underutilized by Redding citizens. As public sentiment encouraged a new course for the river corridor, the City of Redding, the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), community groups and the McConnell Foundation took an active role in both...
acquiring more lands and investing in public improvements along the river. By the time the museums formed an alliance and signed leases with the City and the McConnell Foundation in 1992 for its 300-acre campus, the City had developed 8 miles of paved trail between TB and Keswick Dam (1984 - 1991). Additionally, the BLM had began to convert an historic rail bed to trail use between Keswick and Shasta Dam. By 2014 there are 25 miles of paved trail and over 200 miles of non-paved trail. Here are some of the dates for these trail additions.

1990 - 1992 – The City of Redding extended the Sacramento River Trail system through the Lake Redding and Caldwell parks and the Benton Ranch (now the McConnell Arboretum) and to the east end of the Savannah near the Bella Vista Water District’s pumping plant on the river. A local engineering society donated the design and construction of a 100-foot bridge over Sulphur Creek. These improvements influenced the planning and design of the McConnell Arboretum, the Turtle Bay Museum and the Sundial Bridge in later years.

1991 - 2000 – The next large planning effort in the parkway called for a pedestrian bridge crossing the Sacramento River at Turtle Bay. Not only would the new crossing extend the trail system, it would unite the 300-acre museum campus. Construction of the Sundial Bridge began in 2000 and was completed in 2004. (See page 6 for more details)

September 2000 – The City of Redding completed the Sacramento River Trail extension to Hilltop Drive, creating a direct connection to Turtle Bay from northeast Redding. The opening ceremony for the trail was used to kick off the American Trails National Trails Symposium in Redding.

2009 - 2010 – The City of Redding and TBEP partnered on the extension of the Sacramento River Trail between the Sundial Bridge and Highway 44. This one-mile extension utilizes the historic roads used to extract gravel from the Turtle Bay peninsula to construct Shasta Dam. Since 1968, this area has been designated as the Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary. It is currently supporting a wide range of birds including a pair of nesting bald eagles. TBEP has taken on the responsibility to provide an eagle camera viewing the nest. The Turtle Bay Eagle Cam has become a very popular “internet” exhibit of the eagles in the wild.

2010 – Caltrans completed the Highway 44 Bridge Replacement Project that added one mile of paved trail across the Sacramento River, connecting TBEP to the hotel and regional commercial area along Hilltop and Dana Drives. The ancillary pedestrian improvements also provide a direct connection to Park Marina Drive and Redding’s downtown.

The History of Turtle Bay Exploration Park
2012 – 2014 Turtle Bay East Open Space

Across the river from the Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary and separated from the Savannah by a 100-foot high vertical cliff, the City owned Turtle Bay East Open Space provides 80-acres of restored open space, wetlands, riparian forest and one mile of spawning habitat for salmon. Between 2012 and 2014, the City and Caltrans completed an extensive restoration effort, removing 80-acres of non-native invasive plants and replanting over 12,000 native California plants and trees. The project also included building two miles of concrete and non-paved trail, public parking, a picnic pavilion and several picnic areas. This project added a direct connection to Redding’s trail system and TBEP from southeast Redding. TBEP has taken on the long-term maintenance of a portion of the restoration that includes a “fishing perch” for the Turtle Bay nesting eagles.

14. What’s Next?

Despite the recent economic downturn and reduced funding levels, there are a number of large and small changes happening at TBEP.

Turtle Bay Hotel

Between 2008 and 2014, TBEP began the planning effort to develop a 130-room, 4-star hotel with 4,000 square feet of meeting rooms on five acres within the 60-acre lease area from the City of Redding. The effort to develop a hotel became necessary when the city was unable to continue to provide financial support for the operations of TBEP. The anticipated income stream from the hotel is necessary to maintain TBEP current operations. In order to build a hotel, TBEP formed a for-profit corporation in 2010, SSR Ventures, Inc., to manage the hotel through a sub-lease. The City of Redding amended
the ground lease on June 30, 2010 and November 23, 2010 to allow the hotel use and to create a separate hospitality parcel. Additional amendments to the lease in 2011 and 2012 further refined TBEP rights under the lease. In 2014, local unions obtained enough signatures to place the sale of the property to the McConnell Foundation on the November 2014 ballot for a public vote. TBEP and community groups successfully gained public support for the sale of the land needed to accommodate the hotel development.

2014 Earthstone Sculpture

The latest addition to the Willow Pond Trail and Wetlands is a 10-foot high, 14,000 pound concrete and ceramic sculpture entitled Earthstone. The $50,000 project is funded by mostly private funds in combination with a $5,000 grant from the Shasta Regional Foundation. The sculpture project includes access to trails, plaza and native plantings.

2014 TBEP Park Entrance Archway

This sign extending over 844 Sundial Bridge Drive, will clearly mark the entrance into the Park in a grand manner!
2014 - 2015 Gifford Memorial Picnic Pavilion

In honor of Ken Gifford’s contributions to the community and TBEP, a large picnic pavilion is planned for the Wildlife Woods area, near the Butterfly House. The design calls for a 1,575 square foot structure capable of seating 120 to accommodate large school groups and may also be utilized for other Park programming and facility rentals. This project is funded through generous groups and individual directed donations.

2015 Wildlife Woods

Additional habitats will be added in 2015. Thanks to private, directed donations, future residents will include a crested caracara, a Rough-legged hawk, magpies, a jay, and a bobcat.

2015 - 2016 Aquarium Enhancement

Thanks to private, directed donations, the existing visible river aquarium located in the Turtle Bay Museum will be retrofitted to house a beaver and diving ducks.