Wa Ši·Šiw

(Washoe Tribe of NV and CA)

Wa? deťi·mi?

(Traditional Tending & Gathering Garden)

At the Tallac Historic Site, Lake Tahoe

The tending and gathering garden is a collaborative effort between the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and the US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). Fifteen plant species that are culturally significant to the Tribe and native to the Lake Tahoe Basin were planted in the garden to restore this 0.25 acre site.



Galis-dungal, winter structure of the Washoe Tribe.

The *Galis-dungal* (the winter structure, shown above) and *Lam* (grinding rock) are representative of what a typical Washoe camp site would have contained 100-200 years ago. The Galis-dungal would have been lined with furs for insulation and built up around the bottom to prevent drafts. The doorway on the Galis-dungal always faces to the east. The structure is made with cedar bark planks and supported with poles from lodgepole pine trees. The Lam is a grinding rock and would have served as a kitchen area.



1 Swamp onion (*Allium validum*)
Washoe Name: púʔyéwli
Use: Food; the bulbs were used for soups and stocks, the leaves were eaten raw as greens.
Description: Pacific onion is a wetland bulb that flowers late spring and fruits in summer. It prefers part shade and requires high amounts of water. The plants were propagated from seeds and bulbs.

2 Onion (*Allium companulatum*)
Washoe Name: bó·šdiʔ
Use: Food (same as *Allium validum*, above).
Description: Onion is a bulb that grows on dry mountain slopes in full sun. It prefers sandy, well drained soil that remains dry in the summer. The plants were propagated from seeds and bulbs.





3 Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus leichtlinii*)
Washoe Name: ḱóḱšiʔ
Use: Food; the bulbs were cooked and eaten like a potato.
Description: Mariposa lily is a bulb that grows on meadow and forest margins in partial shade to full sun. It prefers well drained soils and is highly drought tolerant. Propagated via seed.

4 California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*)
Washoe Name: málıŋ
Use: Food (acorn)
Description: This oak tree is found on hills and mountain slopes in full sun. It prefers deep rooting depths in well drained soils. This plant was propagated via container grown plants.





5 Yampa(*Perideridia bolanderi* and *P. parishii*)
Washoe Name: dé·guš
Use: Food; roots were eaten raw or dried. *Caution: Similar-looking plants are poisonous to humans!*
Description: This perennial flower grows in woodlands or meadows in moist soils and is shade tolerant. The roots form a tuberous taproot that can form new plants if broken off. Propagated via seed and transplants.

Tending and Gathering Garden Walking Tour



6 Rose (*Rosa woodsii*)
Washoe Name: pećú·meli?
Use: Medicinal
Description: This perennial shrub grows in wetlands, stream banks, forest clearings, and understories. This rose is rhizomatous and spreads quickly. These plants were propagated via container grown plants.

7 Field mint (*Mentha arvensis*)
Washoe Name: diteš ʔémlu
Use: Medicinal
Description: Wild mint grows in moist soil conditions, especially along streams in part-to-full sun. This plant has low drought tolerance and prefers slightly acidic soil. These plants were propagated via seeds and transplants.





8 Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
Washoe Name: wémši
Use: Medicinal
Description: Yarrow is found in grasslands or open forests on disturbed soils. It prefers full sun to part shade in well drained soils. These plants were grown from seed and from plants raised at S. Lake Tahoe High School.

9 Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* subsp. *caerulea*)
Washoe Name: bá·du?
Use: Food; berries used in sweets & drinks. *Caution: Red elderberry is unpalatable and can cause unpleasantness.*
Description: Grows on stream banks, swamps, and moist areas in forest clearings with good drainage. It prefers full sun but can tolerate part shade. These plants were propagated by container grown plants.





10 Wax currant (*Ribes cereum*)
Washoe Name: nanhó·lwa
Use: Food; although bitter, the berries may be eaten raw, made into jellies, or dried.
Description: Currants grow in pine forests, forest openings, dry slopes, and ridges in sun. Currant can host a disease which affects white pines. These plants were propagated by container grown plants.



11 **Sierra currant (*Ribes nevadense*)**
Washoe Name: nanhó·lwa
Use: Food; the berries may be eaten raw, made into jellies, or dried.
Description: Currants grow in pine forests, forest openings, dry slopes, and ridges in sun. Currant can host a disease which affects white pines. These plants were propagated by container grown plants.

12 **Sierra gooseberry (*Ribes roezlii*)**
Washoe Name: séwɨt yá·gɨl
Use: Food; berries eaten raw, in jellies, or dried.
Description: Currants grow in pine forests, forest openings, dry slopes, and ridges in sun. Currant can host a disease which affects white pines. These plants were propagated by container grown plants.





13 **Mountain strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)**
Washoe Name: maʔá·laŋi
Use: Food
Description: This strawberry is found at high elevations in meadows, forest openings, and clearings. It is adaptable from sun to part shade and dry to moist soil. These plants were grown from runners and container grown plants.

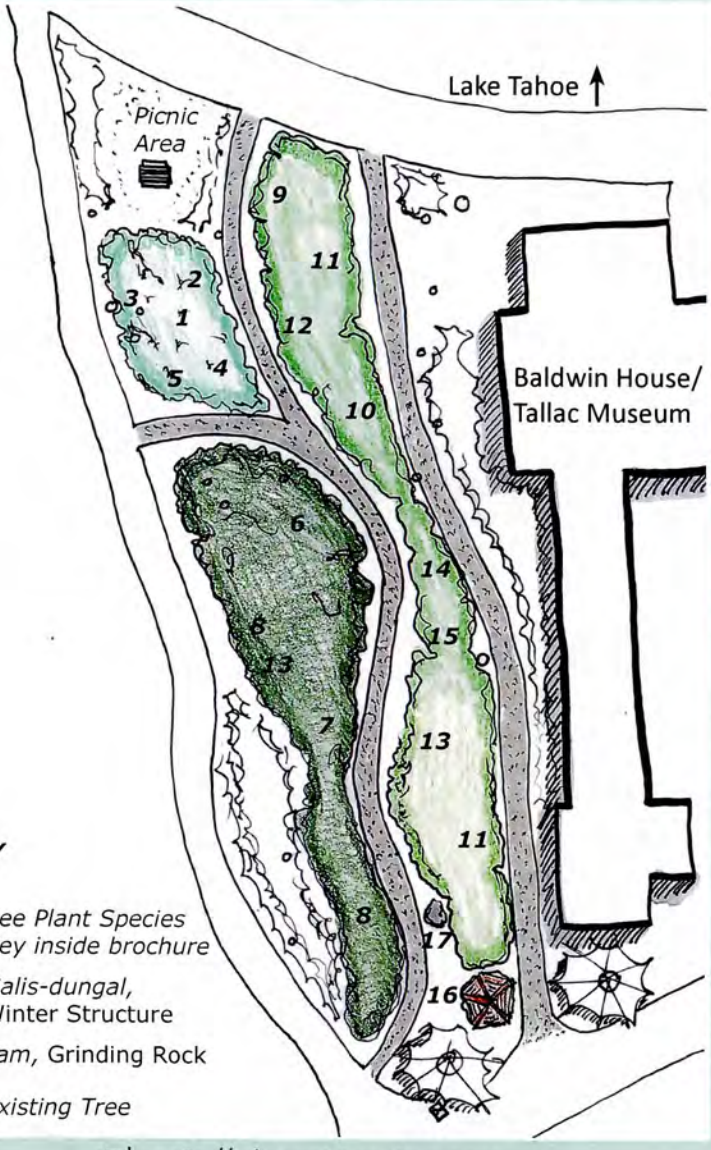
14 **Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) Washoe Name: šuwétɨk**
Use: Food
Description: Serviceberry is a large shrub that is found on rocky slopes, canyons, and stream banks in sun to part shade. Highly drought resistant. These plants were propagated by container grown plants.





15 **Choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*)**
Washoe Name: ćámduʔ
Use: Food; fruit eaten fresh or dried. Dye; inner bark makes a yellow dye. *Caution: All parts of this plant except the actual fruit are toxic.*
Description: This large shrub is found in moist woods, stream banks, and bluffs. Sun to full shade. These plants were propagated by container grown plants.

Waʔ deťi·miʔ Walking Tour Map



The Collaborative Process

Planting events occurred with Tribal youth and elders to collect the local seeds, cuttings, and transplants that were used to establish the garden. The Tribe currently has few places within the Lake Tahoe Basin to practice their traditional land management techniques. By hosting the garden, the LTBMU provides a new educational opportunity for Lake Tahoe residents and visitors by highlighting native plant identification and traditional uses.

Creating the Garden



Gathering Seed



Planting



Creating the Pathway



Constructing Galis-dungal

A Special Thank You:

Volunteer involvement is key to this project success; Tribal members volunteered time for planning, species selection, and sign development. Local high school students helped with initial garden construction (soil amendments, mulching, and path construction), and the Tahoe Heritage Foundation volunteers conduct general upkeep.

For More Information, Contact:

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