

2024
TRAILS
CHALLENGE
GUIDEBOOK

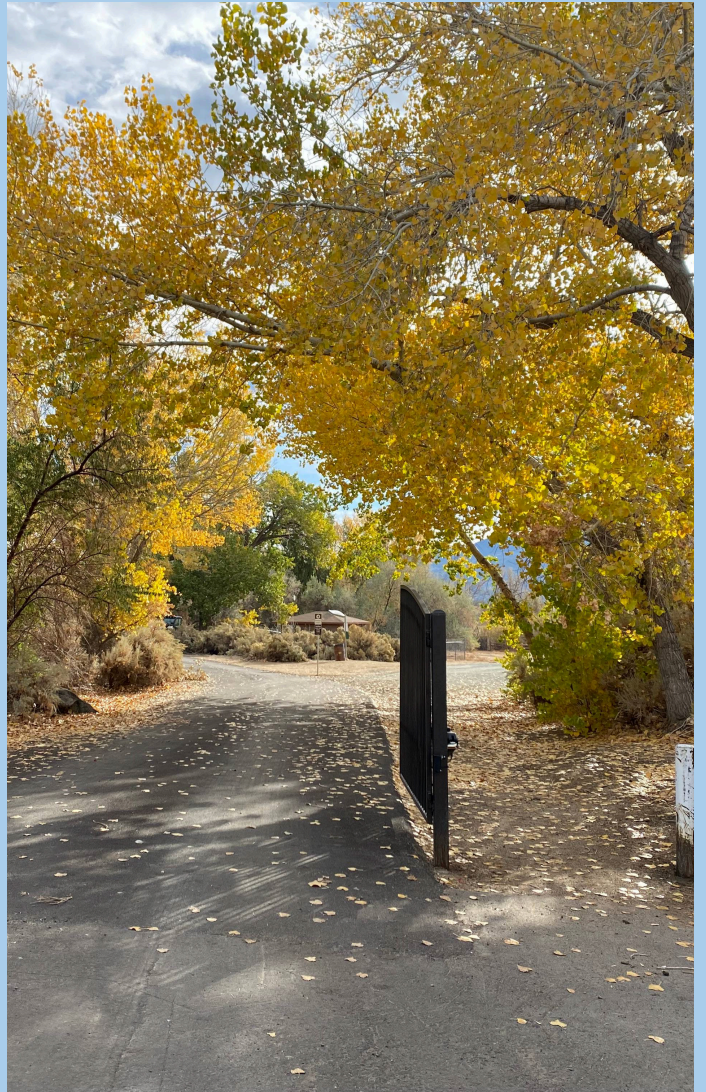
Hike - Bike - Walk - Run - Paddle

TRAILS CHALLENGE 2024

Thank you for signing up for the first annual Carson City Trails Challenge! This program is open and encouraged for all! Whether you hike, bike, run, walk, or even paddle, the Trails Challenge is intended to get Carson City residents outdoors and exploring their local trails!

In this guidebook you will find tips and tricks for preparing and hitting the trails, a list of trails in the area categorized by difficulty, a trail log to log your mileage, and a couple of helpful maps to help you on your challenge!

To complete the challenge, complete a minimum of five trails on our Trails List, log your mileage on a Trails Log, and submit it to us before December 1st 2024 to win a prize!



Stay Connected!

Tag your adventure photos to #TrailsChallengeCarsonCity



@carson_city_parks



@CarsonCityParks,
RecreationandOpenSpace

Participation

To ensure a fun and safe Trails Challenge, please review the following information and contact us with any questions/concerns you may have!

Determine your level of trail comfort

Before hitting the trails be sure to read thoroughly about the length, difficulty and suggested level of experience. For this guidebook, we have organized our trails into four different categories: easy, moderate, hard, and aquatic.

Easy:

“Easy” trails may be enjoyed by users of all ages and abilities, including adaptive hikers/riders.

Moderate:

“Moderate” trails add a bit more challenge to your outing. They may be enjoyed by most people, and may be an option for an adaptive user with a support hiker/biker.

Hard:

“Hard” trails include trails that are more difficult/strenuous. Also an option in this guidebook are long distance trails, which are more remote and require prior experience.

Aquatic:

The Carson River Aquatic Trail is a fun Trails Challenge option for those with canoes, kayaks, and small rafts.

Plan your outing:

1. Choose a trail according to our Trail List that fits your level of comfort based on accessibility, mileage and difficulty.
2. Check weather ahead of time. Be cautious of snow, ice, heat and wind warnings
3. Pack accordingly:
 - a. Bring plenty of water for all participants (including the dogs!).
 - b. Wear sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather and surroundings.
 - c. Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat.
 - d. Bring a trail map or trail app with a map and description of the trail.

Exploring the trail

When out on the trails be sure to stay on designated trails and share the trail with other users. Go Slow and Say Hello! To see the best way to share the trail with others, click the link below to watch a fun video!



"Go Slow an Say Hello"

Other things to keep in mind while out on the trail:

- Pack It In, Pack It Out! This includes picking up your dogs waste.
- Dogs, under the control of the owner, are welcome on all trails on the Challenge List. **Except**, dogs must be on leash on Buzzy's Ranch Trail.
- Read about the trail ahead of time to obtain important information.

Log your Outings

After each outing, be sure to fill out your Trails Log located at the end of this guide. In your log you will fill out what trail you completed, the date, the mileage, and any other thoughts or sights you encountered while out on the trail!

Once your Trail Log is completed, submit it by emailing it to elarsen@carson.org or by dropping it off at the address below:

MAC - Multi-Purpose Athletic Center Facility

1860 Russel Way

Carson City, NV

EASY TRAILS

Trail Name	Access	Description
<i>Easy Trails – May be enjoyed by users of all ages and abilities, including adaptive hikers/riders</i>		
Prison Hill Trail East	Park at the 5th Street TH, 552 Carson River Road and take the trail south. May also park at Silver Saddle Ranch, 4901 Carson River Road, and take the trail north.	Hike or ride along the east side of Prison Hill from the 5th Street TH to Silver Saddle Ranch on this wide trail with a firm aggregate surface. Lovely ranch views and connections to the Mexican Ditch Trail. Grades to 7%.
Freeway Multi-Use Path (Carson City Route 1)	Park at the Pete Livermore Sports Complex, 1555 Livermore Drive and take the trail north. May also park directly south of the Humane Society Building, 549 Airport Road, and take the trail south.	From the Pete Livermore Sports Complex, take this wide, flat, paved trail along the I-580 Freeway to Airport Road. Along the way, stop at the High Watermark Mural near the freeway underpass.
Linear Ditch Trail (Carson City Route 6)	Park at Governor’s Field, 850 Evalyn Drive. May also park south of the Humane Society Building, 549 Airport Road.	From Governor’s Field, take this wide, flat, paved trail east to Airport Road. Along the way, checkout several interpretive signs and stop at the High Watermark Mural near the freeway underpass.
Buzzy’s Ranch Trail	Park at Carson River Park, 5013 Carson River Road. Use the crosswalk to cross Carson River Road south to the trail. May also access this trail from Riverview Park.	Beautiful hike or ride along the Carson River and through a working ranch on a wide, flat trail with a firm aggregate surface. Views of Prison Hill and the Carson Range. Dogs must be on leash to protect migratory bird habitat and ranch operations. Interpretive signs along the way talk about birds and ranch history.
V&T Trail	Park at the Murphy Drive Trailhead, 2999 Murphy Drive, just west of Western Nevada College.	This wide, flat, paved trail follows a one-mile segment of the historic Virginia and Truckee Railroad alignment.
Riverview Park Trails	Park at the Riverview Park Trailhead, 603 Marsh Road (east end of 5th Street).	Over three miles of wide, easy trails through Riverview Park and along the Carson River. Connects with Buzzy’s Ranch Trail in the SE corner of the park. Tread is mixed soil/aggregate surface.

MODERATE TRAILS

Trail Name	Access	Description
<i>Moderate – May be enjoyed by most people, and may be an option for an adaptive user with a support hiker/rider</i>		
<p style="text-align: center;">5th Street Loop Trails</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Park at the 5th Street TH, 552 Carson River Road.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Sagebrush Loop, Rabbitbrush Loop, and Bitterbrush Loop combined total 1.7 miles of easy singletrack with a minimum width of 36". Tread surface is soil and rock. Average grade is 5%, with grades up to 12%. These loops may be an option for an adaptive mountain bike rider with a support rider. Enjoy the interpretive signs along the way.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">River Trail</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Park at Carson River Park, 5013 Carson River Road and take the trail to the south.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pretty hike along the Carson River. Provides access to the river observation deck and connects with the Mexican Ditch Trail for a hike or ride all the way to Mexican Dam. Tread surface is mixed soil/aggregate, minimum 36" wide.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mexican Ditch Trail, South</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Park at Silver Saddle Ranch, 4901 Carson River Road, and take the trail south, or park at Carson River Park, 5013 Carson River Road where you can take the River Trail 0.7 miles to the Mexican Ditch Trail.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pretty hike through the historic Silver Saddle Ranch and along the Carson River and Mexican Ditch (built in 1860-1861) to Mexican Dam. Tread surface is mixed soil/aggregate, minimum 6' wide. Average grade is 2% with short sections up to 6%.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mexican Ditch Trail, North</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Park at the Hells Bells Road Trailhead, 4182 Hells Bells Road and take the trail south, or park at Silver Saddle Ranch, 4901 Carson River Road and take the trail north.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Easy 2.4 mile hike or ride along the historic Mexican Ditch from Hells Bells Road to Silver Saddle Ranch. Tread surface is mixed soil/aggregate, minimum 6' wide. Average grade 2% with short sections up to 6%.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Empire Ranch Trail</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Park at either the Morgan Mill River Access, 5597 Morgan Mill Road, or the Empire Ranch Trailhead, 1420 Empire Ranch Road.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pretty hike along the Carson River and along the golf course. Good hike for birders. This trail is flat and at least 6' wide with a mixed tread of dirt and aggregate. Subject to trail damage when the river has been running high.</p>

HARD

Trail Name	Access	Description
<i>Hard – Users must be comfortable hiking/biking in mountainous terrain</i>		
Wildhorse – Pale Rider Loop	Park at the north end of Centennial Park, 3666 Centennial Park Drive.	With a southern exposure, this 2.2 mile loop is typically accessible year-round. The volcanic terrain is very rocky, so be cautious, especially when riding a mountain bike. Average grade is 6%, but grades reach as high as 20%, and the width is 18”. Wild horses are almost always present, but do not approach them.
Foothill Trail – V&T Trail Extension	Park at the Foothill Trail, 1539 Medical Parkway (behind the Cancer Center) or the Hobart Road Trailhead at 3601 Lakeview Road (at the entrance to Lakeview Estates).	Beginning at the Foothill Trailhead, this 1.1 mile trail takes you past the “Bee Hotel”, through Rose Canyon, and along part of the historical V&T RR Grade. Enjoy historic interpretive signs along the way. Average grade is 7% with grades up to 15%. The tread surface is soil and rock, and the width is 18”. This trail is made possible through partnerships with Carson Tahoe Health and the Eagle Valley Children’s Home. Please respect private property by remaining on the trail. No Horses!

EXTRA CHALLENGE - Long Distance Trails

Trail Name	Access	Description
<i>Long Distance - An option for experienced hikers/riders seeking a long and remote experience</i>		
Lincoln Bypass	Park at the Kingsview Trailhead, (intersection of Kingsview Way and Kings Canyon Road). You can also park a block away at Long Ranch Park, 435 Longview Way.	So named because it “bypasses” Kings Canyon Road, which is part of the historic Lincoln Highway. The trail is 4.2 miles long, but from here you could begin a singletrack journey of over a thousand miles to Canada or Mexico! Beautiful views of Borda Meadow. Connects with the Ash-to-Kings Trail at the upper terminus. The tread surface is soil and rock, average grade is 7% with grades up to 21%, and the width of the trail is 18”.
Capital-to-Tahoe Trail	Access is from the Ash-to-Kings Trail on the east end or Tahoe Rim Trail on the west end. There is no motor vehicle access to the trail at either end.	This 9.8 mile long premier regional trail was just completed in 2023. This trail is VERY REMOTE, and therefore requires a very lengthy commitment by riders or hikers with significant backcountry experience. Average grade is 6% with grades up to 19%. The tread surface is soil and rock and the width is 18”. The highest elevation is almost 8400’.

Ash-to-Kings Trail

Park at the King Canyon TH, 4450 Kings Canyon Road and follow the dirt portion of King Canyon Road for 1.3 miles to the trail. Or park at the Foothill Drive Trailhead, 2190 Foothill Drive and take Bob's Trail for 2.8 miles to the trail. Or park at the Ash Canyon water tanks and follow Ash Canyon Road for 1.1 miles to the trail.

This 7.1 mile trail travels through Jeffery Pine Forest and provides great views of Carson City. It connects with the Lincoln Bypass Trail on the south end and with Bob's Trail on the north end. Tread surface is soil and rock and is 18" wide. Average grade is 7%, with grades up to 22%. Requires considerable commitment by hikers or riders and significant backcountry experience.

WATER TRAIL

Trail Name

Access

Description

Water Trail – for individuals with canoes, kayaks, and small rafts

Carson River Aquatic Trail

Park at either of the East Silver Saddle Ranch Trailheads, 3360 Sierra Vista Lane or 4600 Sierra Vista Lane, or the Carson River Park Trailhead, 5013 Carson River Road. Take out at Morgan Mill River Access, 5567 Morgan Mill Road.

This lovely flatwater float to Morgan Mill can be up to 4.4 miles long, depending on where you put-in. It is recommended when the river is flowing at a min. 400 cfs. Always paddle in a group and always wear a lifevest. Wear appropriate clothing and prepare to get wet! Use a dry bag for any gear or personal items you may bring with you. Do not float the river when it is running high and fast.

DANGER – Do not go beyond Morgan Mill. Class II and III rapids downriver – that segment is only for experienced boaters in appropriate watercraft. All users should use the Aquatic Trail Map found in the "Trails Challenge Maps" link on the Trails Challenge webpage.

TRAILS CHALLENGE 2024

TRAILS JOURNAL

*Please fill out a minimum 5 trails you completed off of our Trails List
in order to complete the Challenge!*

Name of Trail: _____ **Date(s) Completed:** _____

Other Thoughts (sights seen, thoughts while out on the trail, etc.) :

_____ **Miles Completed:** _____

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