

Photo Credit: Christy Chamberlain, Previous Trails Challenge Participant

Carson City

Trails Challenge 2025

New Year,
New Challenge!

March 15th - November 1st



Tips & Tricks | Trails List | Trails Log | Win Prizes

INTRODUCTION

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Thank you for signing up for the second annual Carson City Trails Challenge! Carson City is home to many beautiful Parks, Open Spaces and trails. With views of the Carson River, the mountains, the vast amounts of wildlife, and more, there is so much of the great outdoors to explore right here in Carson. Last year, the Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department wanted to encourage local individuals and families of all ages and abilities to explore the many trails and Open Spaces by introducing Carson City's first Trails Challenge! This free program was launched on June 1st, 2024 in celebration of National Trails Day and immediately grabbed the community's attention. With almost 300 participants signed up to walk, run, bike, hike and paddle the local trails, the Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department was overjoyed by the amount of enthusiasm for this new program and are excited to continue this program in 2025!

In this guidebook you will find tips and tricks for preparing and hitting the trails, a carefully curated Trails List containing all trails accepted in this year's Challenge, a Trails Log to log your mileage, and a couple of helpful maps to help you along your challenge!

HOW TO COMPLETE THE CHALLENGE

- 1. Sign up** yourself and any other participants who will be joining you on your Challenge.
- 2. Read carefully** through the Trails Challenge Guidebook.
3. Hit the trails! Pick trails from the carefully curated Trails List to complete at your leisure over the next few months.
- 4. Get extra raffle tickets!** See "Win Prizes" section below for more information on how to get extra raffle tickets throughout your Challenge,
- 5. Log your miles!** Be sure to fill out your Trails Log as you complete your trails.
- 6. Turn in your log!** Once you have completed a minimum of 5 trails from the Trails List, submit your Trails Log before November 1st to be entered into the prize raffle.

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 labeled each trail on the Trails List with a level of difficulty: easiest, easy, more difficult, and long distance challenge. Need further recommendations? Contact our main office at (775) 887-2262!

EASIEST - May be enjoyed by users of all ages and abilities, including adaptive hikers/riders.

EASY - May be enjoyed by most people, and may be an option for an adaptive user with a support hiker/rider.

MORE DIFFICULT - Users must be comfortable in mountainous terrain.

LONG DISTANCE CHALLENGE - An option for experienced hikers/riders seeking a longer and more remote experience.

PLAN YOUR OUTING

1. Choose a trail according to our Trails 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

Be sure to stay on designated trails and share the trail with other users. In other words, Go Slow and Say Hello! To see the best way to share the trail with other users, click the link below to watch a fun video:

GO SLOW AND SAY HELLO!

OTHER THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- 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 Trails List. **Except**, dogs must be on a leash on Buzzy's Ranch Trail.
- Read about the trails ahead of time to obtain important information on hours, amenities, rules, etc.

LOG YOUR OUTINGS

After each outing, be sure to fill out your Trails Log located at the end of this guide. In your Trails 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 you have completed a **minimum of 5 trails** on the Trails List and your Trails Log is completed, submit it by emailing it elarsen@carson.org OR by dropping it off at the address below:

Carson City Multi-purpose Athletic Center
1860 Russel Way
Carson City, NV 89701

GUIDED WALKS

Keep an eye out for monthly local guided hike and walk opportunities offered through the Carson City Park Rangers, as well as community hikes and rides offered through Muscle Powered! We will be promoting the guided opportunities that line up with the Trails Challenge on our social media and through our monthly newsletter.

WIN PRIZES!

To win a prize in the Trails Challenge, there are a couple of different ways to earn a ticket for the end of Challenge Prize Raffle!

- **Show off your Challenge!** Post a picture that you took while out on your Challenge, tag us and use the hashtag #CCTrailsChallenge. When you complete your Challenge, tell us you shared a post and participants will be awarded **one*** extra raffle ticket. Participants must also complete the Trails Challenge in order to receive their extra raffle ticket.
- **Show off your photography skills!** Take pictures while out on the trails and submit them via email to elarsen@carson.org to be entered into a quarterly photo contest. Winners will be selected by a team of CCPROS staff, and will get **one** extra raffle ticket. There will be one winner per quarter (spring, summer and fall). Participants must also complete the Trails Challenge in order to receive their extra raffle ticket. Photos **MUST** have been taken during that quarter.

[Photo Submission Dates: Friday May 9th, July 18th, and October 10th]

- **Spread out your Challenge!** Participants who complete one trail per quadrant of town (west, east, north & south) will be awarded **one** extra raffle ticket. Participants must also complete the Trails Challenge in order to receive their extra raffle ticket.

Thank you to our prize sponsors: Great Basin Brewing, The Fox Brewpub, Patagonia, Duncan Golf Management, and Eagle Valley Golf Course! *More to be announced soon*

*Participants in the Trails Challenge whose names are pulled during the Prize Raffle will be allowed only **one** prize.*

**One extra raffle ticket will be added for each participant who shares their Challenge on social media - not one per post.*

West Side Trails

Trail Name	Difficulty	Access	Description
Bob's Trail	More Difficult	Park at the Foothill Drive TH, 2190 Foothill Drive, just off of W. Winnie Lane.	Named in honor of former Mayor Robert "Bob" Crowell who was an advocate for trails and Open Space. This 2.6 mile long single track trail takes you from Foothill Corner well into Ash Canyon near the start of the Ash-to-Kings Trail. Along the way you will cross through the Eagle View Open Space where "No Trespassing" signs were once posted on this formerly private property. It was acquired by Carson City Open Space, and saved from development, in 2018. Bob's Trail was built by volunteers from Muscle Powered and other organizations under their leadership.
Eagle View Trail	More Difficult	Access is from Bob's Trail.	Built by Muscle Powered in 2019, this 0.6 mile trail affords great views of Carson City as it circles around the "knob" on the Eagle View Open Space. Note-while this trail is not technically difficult, there are very steep side slopes that may be uncomfortable for some users. Horses strongly discouraged.
Long Ranch Park Trails	Easiest	Park at Long Ranch Park, 435 Longview Way.	Approximately 4-miles of paved pathways winding through the Long Ranch residential area.
Kit Carson Trail	Easiest	Use public parking near any of the stops along the trail.	This is a 2.5 mile route through Carson City's historic district. It features stops at landmarks including 1800's -era Victorian-style homes, museums and churches. Nearly 50 landmarks tell the story of the Carson City's history. Much of the trail could be driven by automobile. You can pick up a map at the Visit Carson City office, 716 North Carson St. or online at visitcarsoncity.com/KCT .
C-Hill FEMA Trail	Easy	Park at the McKay Drive Trailhead, 1499 McKay Drive, at the west end of McKay Drive.	Built as a fire break, this is a popular 0.4 mile trail. It provides access to view the annual sheep grazing fuels reduction project in the spring. Great views of Carson City and the Capital Dome in the fall.
Lincoln Bypass	Long Distance Challenge	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 single track 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 is 18".
Capital-to-Tahoe Trail	Long Distance Challenge	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 trail was just completed in 2023. It is accessed from the Ash-to-Kings Trail or Tahoe Rim Trail and is VERY REMOTE so it 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". Highest elevation is ~8400'.

North Side Trails

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Trail Name	Difficulty	Access	Description
Goni Kelvin Walking Path	Easy	Park on Goni Road between Kelvin Road and Fermi Road.	This is an easy walking path on a parcel privately owned by the Goni Canyon Preservation League who also maintain the trail.
Wildhorse-Pale Rider Loop	More Difficult	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; do not approach them.
Planetary Walk	Easy	Park either at the Jack C. Davis Observatory on Van Pattern Drive or the Murphy Drive Trailhead, 2999 Murphy Drive, south end of Murphy Drive behind Western Nevada College off of Coombs Canyon Road.	This short 0.2 mile path connects the Jack C. Davis Observatory with the Western Nevada College campus. Along the way there are 12 sculptures, each displaying information about a different celestial body in our Solar System. Though it is an easy trail, a gravel base makes it difficult for wheels like bikes and strollers. Go to wnc.edu/observatory to find out about events and programs at the observatory.
V&T Trail - South Lakeview Grade Segment	Easy	Park at the V&T Trailhead, 3350 Murphy Drive, north end of Murphy Drive off of Coombs Canyon Road.	This short 0.4 mile hike on the historic Lakeview RR Grade takes you to an overlook with a historical sign called "Moving Through Time". Note - the RR grade continues north to Hobart Road, but passes through private property. The City does not have a public easement for this segment of trail so travel beyond the historical sign, though popular, is not authorized.
Foothill Trail - V&T Trail Extension	More Difficult	Park at the Foothill Trailhead, 1539 Medical Parkway (behind the Cancer Center) or the Hobart Road Trailhead, 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 Childrens Home. Please respect private property by remaining on the trail. No horses!

East Side Trails

Trail Name	Difficulty	Access	Description
Prison Hill Trail West	Easiest	Park at the renovated Koonz Lane Trailhead, 2690 Koontz Lane. This Trailhead now has a vault toilet and shaded picnic table.	This 2.4 mile trail along the west side of Prison Hill will be Carson City's newest trail when it opens in June. Join us for the Grand Opening Celebration/Ribbon Cutting on Saturday, June 14th at 9:00am. The event will include a guided hike and ride, and Reno Adaptive will be there with a variety of adaptive mountain bikes, free for any adaptive riders to demo on this easy trail with a firm DG surface.
5th Street Loop Trails	Easy	Park at the 5th Street Trailhead, 552 Carson River Road (South end of Prison Hill at the corner of 5th Street and Carson River Road).	The Sagebrush Loop, Rabbitbrush Loop, and Bitterbrush Loop combined total 1.7 miles of easy single track 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.
Desert Peach Trail	More Difficult	Park at the 5th Street Trailhead, 552 Carson River Road (South end of Prison Hill at the corner of 5th Street and Carson River Road).	Just finished in June 2024, this 1.4 mile long trail is one of Carson City's newest. From the parking lot, take the 5th Street Loop Trails to the south end of the Bitterbrush Loop where you will see the sign for the Desert Peach Trail. The trail affords great views of Silver Saddle Ranch, Buzzy's Ranch, and the Carson River. Horses are discouraged due to steep slopes.
Buzzy's Ranch Trail	Easiest	Park at Carson River Park, 5013 Carson River Road. Use the crosswalk to cross Carson River Road north 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. Great for fall colors!
Riverview Park Trails	Easy	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.

South Side Trails

Trail Name	Difficulty	Access	Description
V&T Trail - South Carson Street Segment, also identified as "Route 3".	Easiest	Begin at the roundabout at Stewart Street and South Carson Street.	Admire the "Sense of Place" sculpture as you begin this walk or ride on an easy paved pathway. The path extends 2.7 miles to Clear Creek Road. It is on the east side of South Carson Street until Clearview Drive where it crosses to the west side of South Carson Street.
V&T Trail - Bigelow Segment	Easiest	Nearby parking can be found at Schulz Ranch Park.	This 0.7 mile paved pathway parallels Bigelow Drive and follows the original alignment of the V&T Railroad as it passed by the Stewart Indian School on its way to Minden.
Stewart Indian School Trail	Easy	Park at the Stewart Indian School Museum, 1 Jacobsen Way.	Take this Guide by Cell Audio Tour around the campus and buildings of the historic Stewart Indian School. The trail is 0.6 miles long, all paved, and there are a few steps 5.5" tall. Dogs on leash only. Visit stewartindianschool.com for more information
Schulz Ranch Trail	Easiest	Park at the Schulz Ranch Park.	From the Schulz Ranch Park, cross to the NW corner of the Race Track Drive/Wheeler Peak Drive intersection where the paved path begins. This short trail through an approximately one-mile R/T walk or ride. Enjoy the pollinator garden at the entrance off of Copper Mountain Dr and Lookout Peak Dr.

Water Trail

Trail Name	Difficulty	Access	Description
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 appropriate for canoes, kayaks, and small rafts when the river is flowing at a minimum of 400 cfs. Always paddle in a group and always wear a lifevest. Wear appropriate clothing and be prepared to get wet. Use a dry bag for your gear. 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 uses should download the Aquatic Trail Map at this link: https://www.carson.org/home/showpublisheddocument/66218/636952349085130000

TRAILS LOG

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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