

A man with glasses and a patterned vest is smiling and holding a large bunch of colorful balloons (orange, red, pink, blue, green). He is standing in a crowd of people at what appears to be a community event or festival. In the background, there are trees with autumn foliage and a green street sign that says "Proctor". A young girl in a pink polka-dot shirt is reaching out towards the balloons. The overall atmosphere is festive and community-oriented.

CHAPTER 8

UNIQUE HISTORY AND CULTURE

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Carson City is home to a rich tapestry of historic, cultural, archaeological, and paleontological resources that serve as community landmarks and draw visitors from around the country. Destinations like the V&T Railway, the Lincoln Highway, the Stewart Indian School, the Orion Clemens House, the Kit Carson Trail, Nevada State Prison, the Historic District, the Capitol grounds, and many others offer insights into the history of Carson City's settlement, as well as the history of the indigenous tribes that occupied the Eagle Valley prior to the arrival of European settlers in the 1850s.

Carson City is a Certified Local Government (CLG) and is endorsed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to promote consistency with federal historic preservation programs and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. CLG status provides the City with access to grants and other assistance to support local preservation initiatives. The City works with volunteers, non-profit organizations, and the SHPO to document and preserve historic, cultural, and archaeological resources in the community. Web-based maps, photos, and other resources maintained by the Carson City Historical Society, Visit Carson City, and Travel Nevada also contribute to increase awareness of Carson City's historic and cultural resources and help draw visitors to the community.

Carson City also boasts a lively arts and culture scene. Youth Theater Carson City and the Bob Boldrick Theater provide an opportunity to explore the arts and view live performances. The Brewery Arts Center provides multi-cultural art experiences, including a free outdoor summer concert series and painting, pottery, and visual arts classes. The City also has a public arts program and several museums and art galleries for residents and tourists to explore, such as the Nevada State Railroad Museum, the Charlie B Gallery and Vasefinder Museum, and the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada. These and other programs contribute to Carson City's culture, economy, vibrancy, and quality of life.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Carson City will continue to protect and preserve its historic and cultural resources by enforcing its existing preservation regulations and ordinances and updating them as needed. The City will continue to encourage historic preservation efforts through the use of financial, building, and related incentives for the restoration and rehabilitation of historic structures and facilities. The City will also collaborate with local artists, artist organizations, cultural facilities, and economic development and tourism partners to increase awareness of the City's historic and cultural offerings and support the incorporation of art installations in public spaces.

GOALS AND POLICIES

Goal 8.1—Protect and Preserve Carson City's Historic and Cultural Resources

8.1a—Historic Preservation Initiatives

Encourage ongoing efforts by the City, volunteers, non-profit organizations, and state and federal partners to research, identify, document, interpret, and preserve structures and sites with historical, cultural, archaeological, or paleontological significance.

8.1b—Documentation

Continue to pursue and support opportunities to investigate and document local history through efforts that increase the community's awareness and understanding of the resources that exist in Carson City.



See also, policy 6.2b

8.1c—Historic Properties Inventory

Continue to maintain an inventory of historic properties in Carson City. Support the nomination of eligible properties for the state and national registers of historic places, designation of National Register Historic Districts and Landmarks, and the potential formation of additional local historic districts, as opportunities arise.

8.1d—Preservation Incentives

In partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office, increase awareness of state and federal grants, tax incentives, and other financial incentives available to support the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings. Consider establishing financial, regulatory, or related incentives to encourage the restoration and rehabilitation of historic resources.

8.1e—Consistency with Standards and Guidelines

Ensure that the rehabilitation and renovation of historic structures occurs according to the City's adopted Historic District and Development Standards.

8.1f—Adaptive Reuse

Encourage the adaptive reuse of historic buildings not eligible for designation on the Local, State, or National Register of Historic Places, but that have historic features or cultural significance and contribute to the overall character of the neighborhood or district.

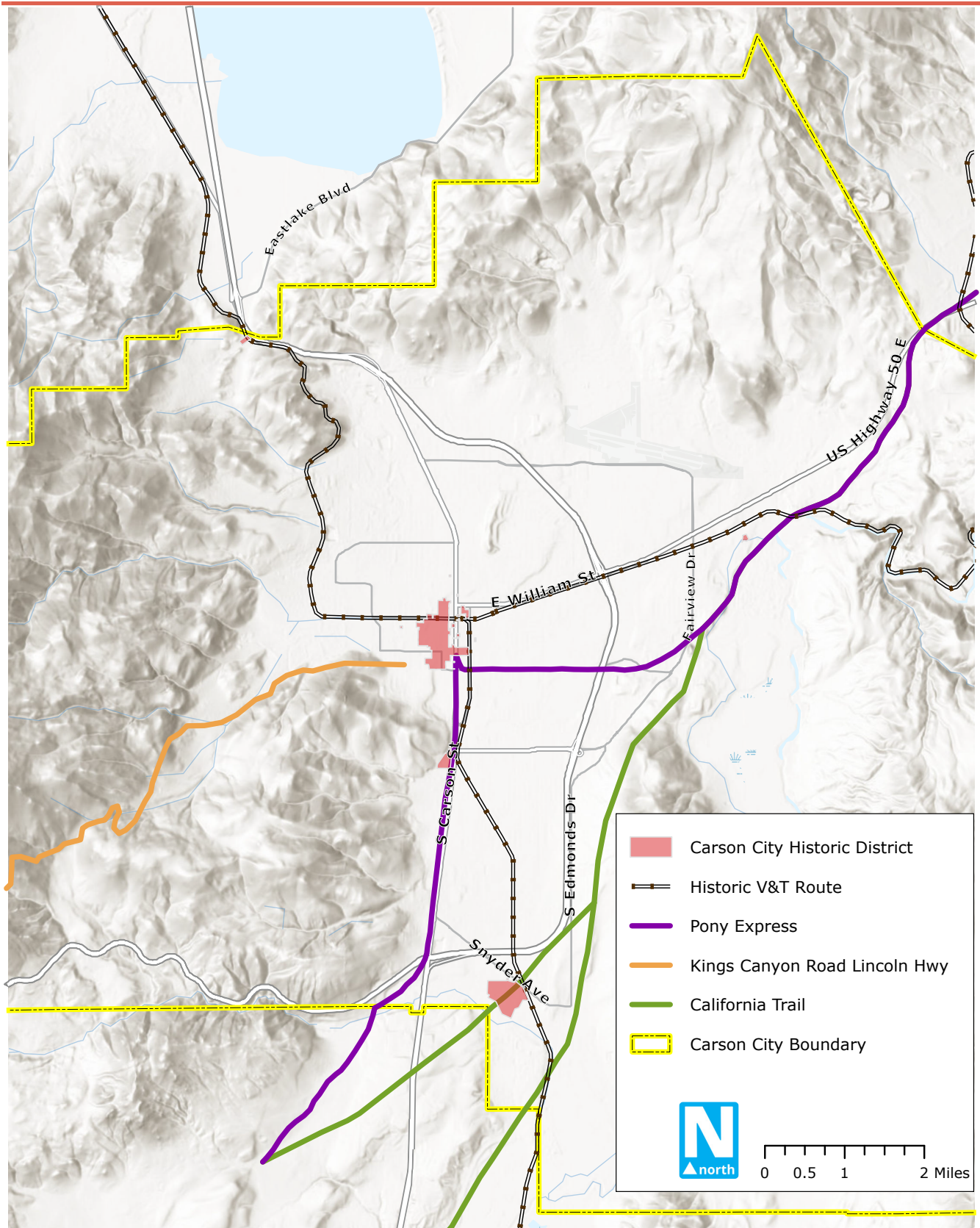
Historic and Cultural Resources in Carson City

The Historic and Cultural Resources map highlights some of Carson City's many historic and cultural resources, not all of which are formally recognized.

- **Carson City Historic District.** The District (also referred to as the [West Side Historic District](#)) was created in 1982 by the Carson City Board of Supervisors, and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2011.
- **National Register of Historic Places** – [43 listings](#)
- **Nevada Register of Historic Places** – [20 listings](#)

A complete listing of properties on the National or State Register of Historic Places is provided in Appendix D. An interactive Historic and Cultural Resources Map is available at: <https://bit.ly/CarsonCityStorymap>

Historic and Cultural Resources Map



Historic Resources Commission

Authorized through the City’s CLG status, the Carson City Historic Resources Commission (HRC) is an appointed board of community volunteers that reviews applications for exterior modifications to historic properties and designs for new construction within the historic district, and considers historic property tax deferments, historic grant opportunities, and historic preservation awards.

Goal 8.2—Promote Heritage Tourism

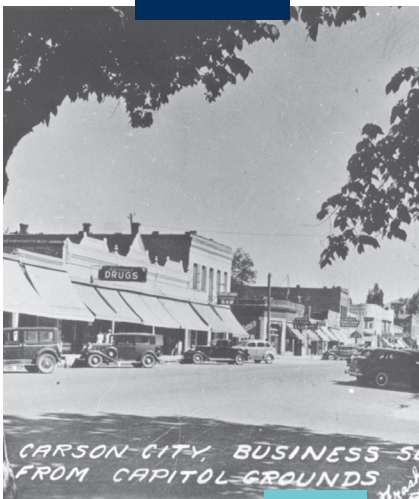
8.2a—Heritage Tourism

Support tourism activities associated with significant historic resources, such as the Westside Historic District, the Historic Virginia & Truckee Trail, the Kit Carson Trail, the Stewart Indian School, the State Capitol Complex, and various cultural institutions, by ensuring that future development supports the functions and visual character of these resources.

8.2b—Historical and Interpretive Opportunities

Encourage the development of historical opportunities, interpretive signage, and other amenities that complement and enhance the City’s historic resources. Continue to explore opportunities to establish trail access to the Carson River Canyon that honors and interprets the historic V&T Railway, expand Downtown walking tours and interpretive signage exhibits, and identify new opportunities to showcase the City’s historic and cultural resources.

See also, policy 5.6e



Goal 8.3—Support the Expansion of Artistic and Cultural Programs and Events

8.3a—Arts and Culture Strategic Plan

Collaborate with Visit Carson City and other local and regional partners on the implementation of the Arts and Culture Strategic Plan.

8.3b—Art in Public Places

Support the efforts of nonprofits that work to increase the community's access to art in public buildings and spaces throughout Carson City. Explore opportunities to integrate art as part of City projects in line with the recommendations of the Arts and Culture Strategic Plan.

8.3c—Public Gathering Spaces

Encourage the use of distinctive features in design of the built environment, the presence of arts and cultural programs or facilities, and spaces for people to gather and host events as part of private-sector development. Recognize the role community amenities play in the vibrancy of the City and the quality of life of residents.



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