

Fall 2019/Winter 2020



*Connecting
people to the
outdoors
through a system
of trails*



TRAIL CONNECTIONS

HIGH ON GENOA

By Jeremy Vlcan

Perched above the historic town of Genoa, the Genoa Trail System provides 16 miles of trail open to hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers and friendly dogs. Three access points around Genoa create loop opportunities with imposing views of the Carson Valley below and Pine Nut Range in the distance. The Sierra Canyon Trail overlaps two of these loops and rises over 3,500 feet to connect with the Tahoe Rim Trail.

The idea of a trail system around Genoa was envisioned by the U.S. Forest Service and CVTA in the 1990's, and became part of the 2003 Douglas County general trails plan. In partnership with Douglas County and the Town of Genoa, CVTA formally proposed the location to the U.S. Forest Service in 2008 and it became a cooperative project. In 2009, CVTA funded \$65,000 for project analysis and the trail system was approved for construction in 2011.

CVTA received a Question One Grant through the Nevada Division of State Lands to fund a portion of construction with professional trail building contractor Trailscape, which built about two thirds of the trail. CVTA volunteers built the remaining third, and the trail system was formally opened during spring, 2012. Over the next four years, CVTA performed finishing work on the trail system by improving the trail tread, creek crossings and switchbacks. CVTA volunteers have thus far contributed over 11,000 hours establishing and maintaining this trail system.

Other nearby trails are often included with the Genoa Trail System. The East Brockliss Loop and West Fork Trail at The Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch one mile east of Genoa were completed in 2012. The Genoa Vista Trail, a paved trail between Genoa and David Walley's Resort, was completed in 2013. These three mostly flat trails are considered easy, whereas the main trail system above Genoa is generally considered moderate for hikers and equestrians, and moderate-strenuous for bikers.

For more detailed information on the Genoa Trail System, and to view a downloadable map, visit: <https://carsonvalleytrails.org/genoa-trail/>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Norah Gastelum

An Unexpected Story of Build It and They'll Come

Our Carson Valley Trails continue to astound me. This past summer, Clear Creek Trail's new connection to Spooner helped me to visit with a niece I rarely get to see. Most of my relatives live on Cape Cod, where I grew up. Although I've lived in Nevada for nearly 30 years, only a few have come to visit here.

My niece Kerri called last spring wondering if I'd recommend bikepacking on the Tahoe Rim Trail. I've never bikepacked but having seen them on the TRT, I encouraged her to come. Her ride started on the west shore of Lake Tahoe at the end of July. After 5 days of riding on the TRT, she descended from Spooner Summit on Clear Creek Trail, where we planned to meet.

That day, I meant to start my ride up to meet her early. However, I was held up by a hen that must have become disoriented in the previous night's rainstorms and ended up at the trailhead. After calling Animal Control, giving her some food and water and asking her to wait under the bitterbrush for me to return, I started pedaling up.

I made it to Cliff Rock quickly, where I first met a father and young daughter from the Bay Area. She was the youngest mountain biker I had met on our trails yet. She was glowing. Then, down came another trail angel, former CVTA President Kerstin Wolle. Finally, from above came Kerri's sweet voice. It was such an amazing moment to meet in that beautiful spot on the trail. After snacking high up on Cliff Rock overlooking Carson Valley, we rolled on down to the trailhead. I was amazed at how easily she handled her bike, packed with all her necessities. All the way down, she kept saying how great a trail it was.

In all the work CVTA does to plan, build, maintain, educate, and bring families together, I never imagined that moment happening. It happened because of your volunteer efforts, your financial support, and your commitment to collaborate. An extra tip of the hat goes to our newest board member, Joel Potter, who has jumped in with boots on the ground.

Also, congratulations to Juan Guzman and Carlo Luri for being recognized for their incredible collaborative efforts to connect our community to trails. Gratitude to all, and especially to Kerri for making her adventure here.

(The hen? She was still there. No one ever claimed her and "CC" became my best hen ever!)



CVTA BOARD MEMBERS HONORED

By Juan Guzman

CVTA Board members **Juan Guzman** and **Carlo Luri** were both honored at the **2019 Trails, Transportation, and Tourism Summit**, a three-day conference, at the MontBleu Resort in Lake Tahoe from November 5 thru November 7, hosted by the Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition (ESTC) and the Nevada Bicycle and Pedestrian Board (NVBPB).

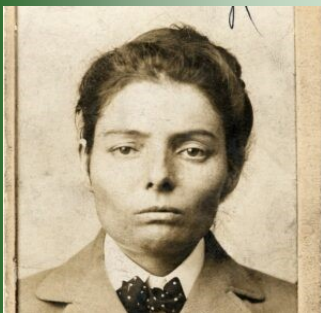
The purpose of the summit was to look at the importance of education and outreach strategies; provide information about bike programs and facilities; showcase innovative technology and emerging trends in non-motorized transportation and recreation; and showcase new trends in adventure tourism, trail system development, and community-based activism.

There were 264 attendees. The conference was organized with over 25 workshops and presentations. One of the most popular sessions was Trail X, where non-profits (like CVTA) and government agencies presented in 10 minutes or so their success stories.

The ESTC and NVBPB also used the conference to celebrate the work of the trail building community. Two of our CVTA Board members received awards: **Juan Guzman** for his leadership role for over 20 years on behalf of trails in the Sierra Front, and **Carlo Luri** for his volunteer work with multiple organizations advancing the use and



Tahoe Rim Trail Association Executive Director Morgan Steel presents awards to CVTA Board members Juan Guzman (top) and Carlo Luri (bottom).



The real Charley Parkhurst (top)
Kim Harris as Charley Parkhurst

CVTA's GUIDED HIKES

By Tamara Lieberman

The full moon on August 15 greeted 17 hikers as we came around the bend of the Valley View Loop on the Faye-Luther trail. The scene was truly breath taking. Watch for the announcement of the next moonlight hike.

“Charley Parkhurst” led a hike at the end of August along the river on the West Fork Trail at River Fork Ranch. Kim Harris, in the persona of Charley, a stagecoach driver in the region and a friend of the famous fellow driver Hank Monk, told stories of driving stage and of Monk. Upon Charley’s death it was discovered that Charley was actually a woman. Kim Harris entertained hikers as “Charley” while sharing other interesting historical information.

We welcome your suggestions for other guided hikes. Go to the CVTA website, click on the [Contact](#) page, leave your contact information and your ideas.

CVTA BLOG: THE WESTERN SIERRA JUNIPER

By Annette Thomason



Sierra Nevada subalpine zone eco-regions, growing at elevations of 330 to 10,170 ft.

As you hike along the **Pinyon Trail**, you will see this big shrub or tree all along the trail, *Juniperus grandis*. It is also called the Sierra western juniper, Sierra juniper, or Western juniper. It is native to the Sierra Nevada in eastern California and western Nevada, the White and Inyo Mountains, the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains, and higher elevations of Mojave Desert mountains in Southern California. It grows 39 to 85 feet tall and is found on exposed, dry, rocky slopes and flats, and pinyon-juniper woodland. It also likes temperate coniferous forest habitats, including the Sierra Nevada upper montane forest and



Juniper berries are not true berries but are the female seed cones with fleshy and merged scales, which give them a berry-like appearance.



Rabbits, coyotes, and numerous small mammals eat the juniper berries, spreading the seeds across the landscape. Many birds also eat juniper berries, including the cedar waxwing, purple finch, American robin, yellow-

rumped warbler, flicker, bluebirds, and both pinyon and scrub jays.

Juniper berries are of course famously used to flavor gin, as the name “gin” comes from either the French “genievre” or the Dutch “jenever,” which both mean juniper. It is also used for flavoring in many foods. The Native Americans used the seeds in juniper berries for jewelry and decoration and also to treat conditions such as tuberculosis, bladder infections, and more. The ancient Romans, Greeks, and Egyptians were known to have used juniper berries. In fact, the Greeks used juniper berries as an herb for purification ceremonies and to increase physical stamina (particularly for athletes), recording the use of juniper berries as medicine long before they were said to start using the berries as a spice in foods. Egyptians used juniper as a medicinal herb and to embalm the deceased.

So keep an eye out for this beautiful and useful tree while you are enjoying the high desert trails!

Read CVTA's Blog on the website at carsonvalleytrails.org

Trail Information

Approximate conditions

Trail Name	Length	Typical Grade	Maximum Grade	Total Elevation Gain	Total Elevation Loss	Typical Width	Minimum Width	Surface Type
Genoa Loop	8.2 mi	9%	30 - 35%	1550 ft	1550 ft	24 in	18 in	Soil and rock
Eagle Ridge Loop	6.5 mi	7%	30 - 35%	1000 ft	1000 ft	24 in	18 in	Soil and rock
Sierra Canyon Trail: One Way from bottom to top	10.0 mi	8%	30 - 35%	3800 ft	250 ft	24 in	18 in	Soil and rock
Tahoe Rim Trail: Kingsbury North TH to Sierra Canyon Trail	5.5 mi	9%	30 - 35%	1875 ft	1210 ft	24 in	18 in	Soil and rock
Tahoe Rim Trail: Spooner Summit TH to Sierra Canyon Trail	6.7 mi	8%	30 - 35%	1800 ft	500 ft	24 in	18 in	Soil and rock

Genoa Trail System



North

0 0.25 mi

TRAIL USE

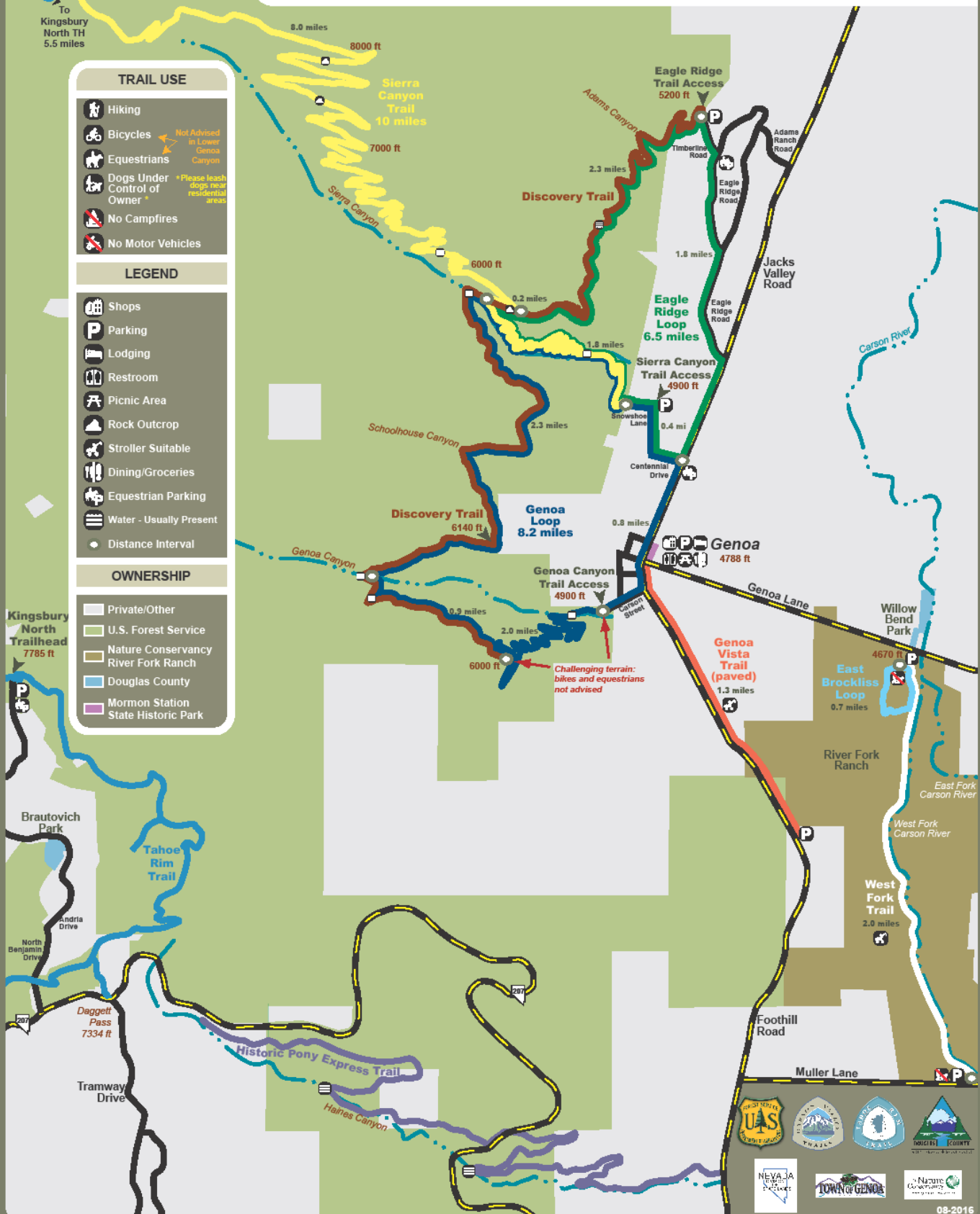
- Hiking
- Bicycles *Not Advised in Lower Genoa Canyon*
- Equestrians
- Dogs Under Control of Owner **Please leash dogs near residential areas*
- No Campfires
- No Motor Vehicles

LEGEND

- Shops
- Parking
- Lodging
- Restroom
- Picnic Area
- Rock Outcrop
- Stroller Suitable
- Dining/Groceries
- Equestrian Parking
- Water - Usually Present
- Distance Interval

OWNERSHIP

- Private/Other
- U.S. Forest Service
- Nature Conservancy
- River Fork Ranch
- Douglas County
- Mormon Station State Historic Park



08-2016

DECODING THE GENOA TRAIL SYSTEM

Adapted from the CVTA Website by Anne Thomas



The 16-mile Genoa Trail System offers hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians many options for in-and-backs, loops, or one-way with a car at each end. The two main trails are the **Discovery Trail** and the **Sierra Canyon Trail**. The **Genoa Loop** and **Eagle Ridge Loop** include portions of these two trails, and use Carson Street and Main Street in Genoa, and Jacks Valley Road and Eagle Ridge Road north of town, to complete the loops.

The Discovery Trail is 5.4 miles long with north access and parking at **Eagle Ridge Trailhead**. The southern end is currently just a spot

on the Genoa Loop, 2 miles above the Genoa Canyon access point at the uppermost switchback. From this location, the Discovery Trail may someday continue further south, connecting to a location known as Pine Basin, with access from Kingsbury Grade.

Continuing down the **Genoa Loop** to **Genoa Canyon** will add an additional 2 miles of switchbacks, some on loose rock. Mountain bikers and equestrians are advised to use great caution, and hikers should also exercise care, as you can lose your footing.

To return to the Eagle Ridge Trailhead, follow the road through Genoa. You might want to stop in town at **Genoa Station** or the **Genoa Country Store** for a bite to eat and a drink. Or for a bit of local color, and maybe even some live music, stop at the historic **Genoa Bar**. If you're feeling fancy, dust off your boots and head over to **The Pink House**. To continue out of town, proceed along Jacks Valley Road, and back up Eagle Ridge Road for a 10 mile hike or bike loop.

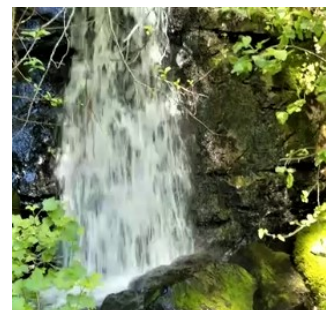


The Sierra Canyon Trail is 10 miles, dissecting the Discovery Trail almost at its midpoint, to create the Genoa Loop and the Eagle Ridge Loop. The Sierra Canyon Trail has its Carson Valley access point at the junction of Centennial Drive and Snowshoe Lane. (Note: Trail parking is on Centennial.) Hiking the Sierra Canyon Trail to the top is a commitment of 10 miles with a 4000-foot gain in elevation, where it

meets the Tahoe Rim Trail at the top. Double that if you are coming back down on foot or bike. If you aren't up for a 20-mile round trip, you'll plan to leave a car at one end and drive to the other. Most people choose the downhill option to hike or bike. Leave a car at either the TRT Kingsbury North trailhead or Spooner Summit South trailhead and then hike/bike the TRT in to Sierra Canyon Trail. You can also enjoy the lower portion of the Sierra Canyon Trail by hiking from Snowshoe Lane 1.8 miles to where it meets the Discovery Trail, which has a waterfall, and then turn left onto the Genoa Loop, or right onto the Eagle Ridge Loop. Or come back down the same way.

The trail from the **Genoa Canyon Trail Access** area, on Carson Street at the southern end of Genoa, deserves another mention. Many people enjoy hiking this trail up 2.9 miles and back, despite the elevation gain, the loose rock on the trail, and the switchbacks. Why? Because it's beautiful and woodsy, with great views of Carson Valley, and there's a waterfall up there. It's a favorite hike for local dogs and their companions.

For more information go to <https://carsonvalleytrails.org/genoa-trail/>



TRAIL OPERATIONS REPORT

By Jeremy Vican

Regular maintenance includes brush clearing and removal on all trails. Below are some highlights from the season's activities.

Bently Heritage Trail

A non-maintained irrigation ditch has been overflowing naturally on an old road section of trail. The trail was realigned adjacently for 500 feet on drier ground.



Clear Creek Trail

Three fallen trees that were blocking the trail were removed.

Climbing turns, switchbacks, and trail alignment were improved in ten areas to improve visibility and provide for a safer and more enjoyable trail experience.

The trail was cut back to improve slope in one place, and armored in another, to improve soil stability.

Bush chinquapin was removed over a six-mile section of trail on the Clear Creek and Clear Creek Connector Trails.

Graffiti was painted over on the old water tank.



Fay-Luther/Jobs Peak Ranch Trail System

A breached waterbar from a heavy thunderstorm was rebuilt and the trail rut filled back in just above the Fay-Luther trailhead.



Genoa Trail System

Graffiti was removed off a boulder at the Eagle Ridge Trailhead

A fallen tree was removed from the trail one mile above Eagle Ridge Trailhead.



Check the CVTA calendar for trail work days at

<https://carsonvalleytrails.org/about/>

Sign up for a work day at

<https://carsonvalleytrails.org/contact-cvta/>



CVTA BLOG: A TALE OF THREE JAYS

By Annette Thomason



California Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)

Every time I hike on the Fay-Luther Trail system, I always hear and see two species of jay that you usually will not see in the same area because they prefer different habitats. As you walk up the Sandy Trail from the trailhead, you have a good chance of spotting a California Scrub Jay in the sagebrush.

Their most common habitat is oak woodland, oak scrub, riverside woods, and foothill forests of pinyon pine. They are also very common in suburbs and parks, and I see them frequently in my neighborhood in the Gardnerville Ranchos. They depend heavily on acorns for their food, and you will frequently see them with one in their bills.

But as you get closer to the mountains and higher in elevation, the habitat changes to more conifer and pine-oak forests and another jay, the Steller's Jay, becomes more common. In the conifers, you will see and hear flocks of them feeding. They also will imitate the cry of a Red-tailed Hawk.

Between Scrub Jays and Steller's Jays here, there is some overlap in their habitat so it is possible that you will see both species in the same tree, although I never have. Still, it's great to be able to see both these species on the same hike!

If you are out on the Pinyon Trail or anywhere in the Pine Nut Mountains, here is another jay you may see, a Pinyon Jay.



Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)



Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*)

They look very similar to the Scrub Jay, but their coloring is more uniform and not as distinctive, although with their blue and gray colors I think they are very pretty birds. They love pinyon pines, and junipers, and range into sagebrush. Under normal conditions, they are seldom found far from pinyon pines in pinyon-juniper woods, as they feed heavily on the seeds of pinyon pines, and their distribution is tied closely to the range of these trees. Pinyon Jays are sociable at all seasons, traveling in flocks and nesting in colonies. Like all jays, they are quite noisy, so listen for their calls while you are out there.

I think it is pretty wonderful that we have three beautiful and gregarious species of jays in our area, so keep an eye and an ear out for them while you are enjoying our trails!

PEOPLE ARE COMMENTING ABOUT CVTA TRAILS

I just wanted to send you a quick email to THANK YOU for the fabulous trails in Genoa! WOW... just incredible trails! I can't imagine the dedication, determination and commitment it took to achieve such wonderful trails by so many people. I so enjoyed my hike today, even my encounter with a large bear just up from the Carson Street trailhead (near the creek crossing)! Thanks again for this gift for the community, I promise you, I will hike with gratitude and teach my young boy to do the same. -email

Sierra Canyon—

This is the perfect hike for kids and dogs alike! If you are planning on doing the out and back section of the hike the turnaround point is at the 2.0 mark (if you are using your phone or fitness tracker to track distance). You will see a sign for bikes and the trail verges to the right. I went today with a friend and my dog, the weather was absolutely gorgeous!! The views and the waterfall are gorgeous!! - Alltrails.com

This is a great little trail in an equally great location. Close to town, this one connects to many other hikes, such as Eagle Ridge and the Tahoe Rim Trail (if you're up for some serious elevation gain). The parking for the trailhead requires you to walk along a road that borders private homes and property, but once you are on the trail you get beautiful views of the Carson Valley. We hiked it today with my four year old, and he did great, so personally I'd rate this one as easy! Beautiful colors and crisp fall weather at this time of year, but be prepared for early shadows and sunset on this trail since it's right on the east facing side of the mountain. - Alltrails.com

On Sunday, I got to hike the Sierra Canyon trail for the first time. We started in Genoa and went one way via the TRT to Spooner. I had known about this trail and told my hiking buddies that it would be great for a training hike. I was a bit intimidated at first due to the length and elevation gain. After just hiking this, I wanted to contact the trail crew and tell your association that this trail was beautifully graded and a gradual incline that didn't feel as strenuous as I had anticipated in my mind. It was very doable and the grading was perfect to keep on trekking forward without feeling discouraged and exhausted with your tongue hanging out from panting. It was a great Sunday with high and beautiful views of the Valley and at The Bench, missing the afternoon showers was a nice bonus! The trail was also nicely maintained. CVTA has cranked out some great trail systems in the past few years and it is great to expand my hiking radius. Thank you very much for all of your hard work, dedication to the wilderness and exposing us to share this beautiful space. - email

Genoa Canyon—

Great views of the valley. Very steep dropoff on narrow trail so be sure-footed and OK with height! Dog-friendly but for dogs that don't pull on leash because you will need your balance. Encountered snow at the top from the storm during the weekend before. Awesome experience! - Alltrails.com

Great trail with amazing views of the Carson Valley. Trail is well maintained and we had no problem navigating it. There was plenty of shade and the wildflowers were plentiful. The waterfall at the end was totally worth it! - Alltrails.com

Relatively steep at the beginning but easy after about a mile. Well shaded by trees so good for summer. The waterfall is a nice end point. Hiked it yesterday. The waterfall had a surprising flow considering that there has been no measurable rain for over 100 days. - Alltrails.com

Send your comments to us at info@carsonvalleytrails.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Your annual membership dues and donations to the Carson Valley Trails Association, a Nevada 501(c)(3) organization, may be tax deductible pursuant to the provisions of section 170.c. of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 170.c. All proceeds support trail construction and maintenance, project planning, community events and trail access in the Carson Valley.



PLEASE PRACTICE PROPER TRAIL ETIQUETTE!

CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Use the "poop bags" provided by CVTA
and place them in the receptacle before leaving the trail

VOLUNTEERS MAKE TRAILS HAPPEN.

Please consider joining a work day.
You'll make new friends, learn about trails,
AND HAVE FUN!

The Carson Valley Trails Association is a non-profit, volunteer based organization working with partners to provide public access through a recreational trail system for present and future generations to enjoy

WWW.CARSONVALLEYTRAILS.ORG

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