



TRAIL CONNECTIONS

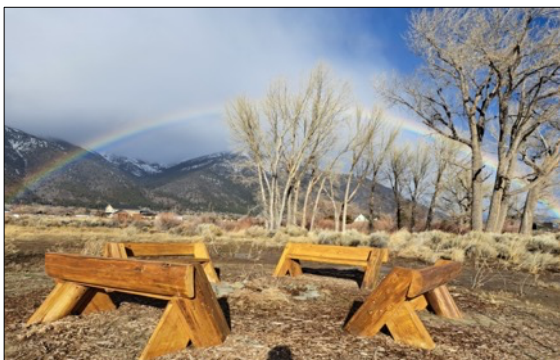
Winter 2023

Connecting people to the outdoors through a system of trails

Carson Valley Floodplains: so much more than a great places for trails

Our affection for water, whether for commerce or for pleasure, has led to overdevelopment in flood-prone areas across the globe. As a result, we witness destructive floods with huge economic impacts on a regular basis. That's what makes the preservation of floodplains so critical.

Here in the Carson Valley, we are fortunate that the Carson River Watershed is largely undeveloped. When pioneers arrived, they required water for crops and livestock and built farms and ranches alongside the river. Little did they know that their choices would have preserved a valuable floodplain for future generations. The largely open land along the Carson River protects us, for the most part, from costly floods. This is critical because our area is prone to many types of flooding events throughout the seasons. The most damaging types of floods come from successive atmospheric river events and rain-on-snow events like the historic flood of 1997 (more on that below) and more recently this past December into January.



Before the storm



During the rain portion of the storm



After the changeover to snow

These photos captured by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) at River Fork Ranch show our floodplain in action. Here, TNC has preserved 800+ acres of low-lying meadowlands where the East and West forks of the Carson River converge near the town of Genoa. In addition to preserving the land, TNC has worked to restore the meadow to a more natural state that provides better floodplain protection. This gives the Carson River room to swell beyond its banks in times of high flow, reducing flood risk downstream. It also helps to recharge groundwater aquifers and natural water purification processes to function properly. You can monitor the Carson Valley here: <https://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/graphicalRVF.php?id=STWN2>

Fortunately, this winter our weather turned cold and much of the precipitation remained as snow. A similar series of December storms in 1997 brought severe flooding due to rapid snow melt on our mountains and storms that ended in rain. Photographs from that weather event show our ranch land completely inundated with water.



Carson Valley above U.S. Highway 395 on January 3, 1997.
Credit: Patrick A. Glancy, U.S. Geological Survey.



Credit: MARILYN NEWTON/RGJ



Imagine the loss, if downtown Minden and Gardnerville were built on the river. According to a report on the flood from the USGS, the Carson River reached a peak flood stage of 18.43 feet in 1997. For comparison, the flooding we experienced along the river this year was a peak of only 8 feet. In fact, the '97 flood stage was larger than recorded for previous floods at almost all stations on the Carson River. It contributed to \$55 million in projected damages in Douglas County and \$19.5 million in Lyon County (Reno Gazette-Journal, 1997). Flooding in Douglas and Lyon Counties was extensive along the levee and irrigation systems and agricultural land. In Carson City, damage to public facilities was estimated at \$6.4 million (Reno Gazette-Journal, 1997).

While the circumstances behind the 1997 flood were extreme (180% of normal snowpack in December followed by heavy unseasonably warm rain), there's no telling if/when it could happen again. Remember the value of our protected floodplains the next time you're hiking our River Fork Ranch and Bently Heritage trail systems. In addition to providing us with easier hiking and terrific wildlife viewing, they are critical to protecting us and our neighbors downstream.

International Trails Summit Coming to Reno in April



American Trails and the Professional TrailBuilders Association will co-host the International Trails Summit in Reno the week of April 17, 2023. We obviously feel that this is an ideal location for a gathering of trail and outdoor recreation enthusiasts and professionals given the plethora of groups surrounding the Reno/Tahoe/Carson region. The event will also feature World Trails Network - Hub for the Americas.

The Summit will include more than 60 educational sessions covering a broad range of issues including nationally and internationally prominent presenters, informative and interactive workshops, a state-of-the-art Exhibit Hall, and a wide array of national training leaders. If you're interested in attending, the early registration discount (4 weeks before the event) can save you money on the 4-day event and on single-day passes. You may also register for technical training workshops and field seminars for a separate fee.

Participation in Thursday's Offsite Day is free for exhibitors and attendees

On the last day of the summit, the morning of Thursday, April 20, exhibitors have an additional chance to participate and share their products and services in a field setting. Attendees will be transported to a location about 10 minutes from the conference center. There, they will get the opportunity to learn more about our exhibitors, as well as experience some educational sessions and more networking opportunities in a field setting via demonstrations including drones, mechanized equipment, bridge building, hand tools, adaptive bikes, etc.

We're excited for this event to be taking place so close to home. To learn more and register for the International Trails Summit taking place at The Nugget in Sparks, [click here](#).



While we mourn the loss of **Carlo Luri,** his impact lives on.

As many of you know, our community lost a friend, mentor and passionate advocate for the value of trails and outdoor recreation with the sudden passing of Carlo Luri this past December. Carlo joined the CVTA's volunteer board in 2011 and served as president in 2012. For more than a decade, he passionately advocated for trails locally and in nearby communities, often representing CVTA in presentations, meetings and events. His ability to help us collaborate with public and private stakeholders in support of trail access, awareness and education was invaluable.

Given his deep connections throughout the area, there's a good chance he touched your life in some way. In addition to playing an invaluable role here at CVTA, Carlo served on the board of the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce, Alta Alpina Cycling Club and was active with the CV Visitors Authority, just to name a few. While donating his time and expertise to these organizations, Carlo also spent the last 20 years at Bently Enterprises, growing into the role of Director of Government Affairs and providing critical input into projects like Bently Biofuels, and the Heritage Distillery.



In between his service to the community, Carlo somehow found time for bike packing, skiing the backcountry, ice climbing, kayaking and of course, hiking. He was a true outdoorsman and his energy and athleticism at age 60 was unrivaled. In fact, it was his amazing physical condition that compounded many people's surprise of his passing which was due to a severe brain tumor that none of us knew about.

Juan Guzman, a fellow CVTA board member recalls, “Carlo took me under his wing and helped me to navigate and obtain confidence at board meetings. We became very good friends sharing the duties of communicating CVTA’s mission and vision with other in-kind non-profits and government agencies. Together, we pursued an easement for a trail head and official path extension midway at the Clear Creek Trail near the Hwy50 underpass. That work continues to take place built on the foundation and trust resulting from Carlo’s diplomacy and good will.”

While his greater family misses him dearly, we cannot imagine how much he meant to his immediate family. Carlo is survived by his wife Jennifer and sons Dante & Mateo, his parents Noris & Felix and sister Marina. Carlo originally moved to the Tahoe area for work but fell in love with its surroundings and people. His sister Marina stated, “His passion for skiing and nature began at an early age on school ski trips to Killington, VT and later when we lived in Geneva, Switzerland where his favorite spot was Verbier. However, his love of mountain biking and trails was born in Tahoe. We are so happy that he managed to do so much of that over the past few years.” We are particularly grateful to his family for sharing so much of his time and energy with us – all aimed at improving our quality of life.

While you’re out on our trails, take a pause to think of the joy that access to the great outdoors brings to your life. The views high above our valley’s floor, the peacefulness of escaping into the wilderness, the adventures and valuable time spent with friends and family – it’s all part of Carlo’s legacy.



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Mike Kuckenmeister. With over 1,500 volunteer hours helping to construct and maintain every trail system, he is one of the top 3 who have volunteered the most to build our trails.

Born and raised in Carson City, Mike live in Jacks Valley with wife Mary, her mule, his horse, and several cats. After retiring in 2009, he spent some time trying to figure out how to spend more time outdoors in addition to hiking, horseback riding and whitewater rafting. After he signed up for some public workdays in the fall of 2011, he discovered quickly that trail building was great exercise and something more. In Mike’s words, **“More importantly, I met and continue to meet wonderful volunteers and trail users while constructing a lasting legacy of trails for our families, friends and visitors to the Carson Valley.”**

For someone who wanted to work on trails, he was in the right place at the right time. In addition to volunteering for CVTA, Mike works with crews on the Tahoe Rim Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail throughout our hot summer months.





He credits his passion for trail work to our trail operations Vice President Jeremy Vican. “I am grateful for his patience and guidance over the years as I progressed from a timid day volunteer to an outspoken crew leader. Users of the Carson Valley Trails should be eternally grateful for the thousands of hours he has invested not only on the trail, but also on the administrative work required to make them happen before the first shovel of dirt is moved.”

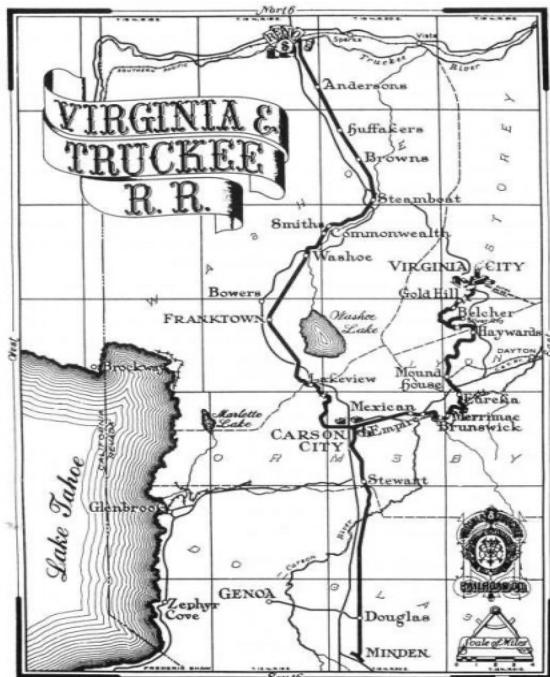
“I’d encourage our members to join us on an upcoming workday this season. There are big jobs and small jobs that all need to be done. Perhaps you’ll find your passion like I did.” We couldn’t agree more, Mike.

HISTORIC VIRGINIA & TRUCKEE TRAIL

A New Life for the Old Virginia & Truckee Railroad

By Donna Inversin,
President of The Historic Virginia & Truckee Trail, a nonprofit

A small group dreamed for many years of recreating the old railroad as a rail-trail. The rail-trail movement is dedicated to finding decommissioned railroads and turning them into non-motorized paths which provide short and long hiking, biking and equestrian trails. www.railstotrails.org.



The Virginia and Truckee Railroad was built primarily to serve the mines and then later to haul cattle and grain from Carson Valley to market, which resulted in its odd three-legged configuration.

Since the Virginia and Truckee Railroad was abandoned in 1950 and the route returned to previous landowners – a mixture of private, city and county owners – as well as the Bureau of Land Management, recreating it as The Historic Virginia and Truckee Trail has been and continues to be a challenging and rewarding task.

The first major challenge was the section from Geiger Grade to where the train crossed the Truckee River, mostly along what is Virginia Street and Holcomb Avenue today. This area was much too developed to create the 10-12-foot-wide needed path. So, an alternative route was offered and accepted, Veterans Parkway and the Tahoe Pyramid Trail.

Here is the map as the Trail is completed to date. You will find our Wayfinding signs up throughout Carson City.



The project that we are focusing on currently is a grant from Conserve Nevada for Phase I engineering studies to rebuild the bridge across the Carson River to connect Carson and Douglas County.



These images depict the Carson River crossing then and now.

We are working with Douglas County to have the Historic Virginia & Truckee Trail recognized as part of its trails plan and planning our first annual River to River Ride in the fall of 2023 from the Stewart Indian School to City Plaza in Reno. And we are looking forward to working with the CVTA to find ways of connecting our trails.



Photo by Jenny Anderson Haas, courtesy Muscle Powered

If you would like to help or become involved, find us on Facebook; www.facebook.com/historic.virgini and click on Sign Up to become a member or donate.

We also have Board of Director positions available; Secretary, Membership Chair & Events Coordinator. Email interest/questions to: workgroup@historicvandttrail.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

CVTA wishes to acknowledge and thank the following donors and members who made a very special financial contribution in 2022:

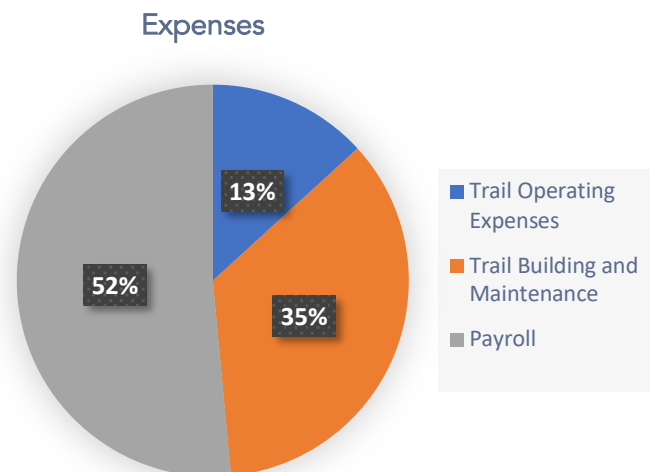
Ellen Goldsmith
Jared Coons
Tahoe Rim Trail End. Runs
Lois Wray
Weldon & Daunelle Wulstein
Minden Lawyers, LLC.
Duane Petite
Visit Carson Valley

Linda and Ed Kleiner
Betsy Cooksey
Michael Botlo
Barbara Kuehner
Neal & Stefanie Falk
Bennett & Marianne Falk
Bike Habitat
Vickie Kieffer

Additionally, CVTA acknowledges and thanks all of its other donors, members, and volunteers! Without their collective support, time, labor and passion, Carson Valley would not have 60+ miles of well-maintained and marked trail systems. We appreciate each one of you and are incredibly thankful for all you do!

CVTA 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

| Description | Income | Expense |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Donations | \$45,808 | |
| Membership Dues | \$23,580 | |
| Fundraising | \$1,455 | |
| Other Income | \$2,560 | |
| Trail Operating Expenses | | \$10,103 |
| Trail Building & Maintenance | | \$26,976 |
| Payroll | | \$39,342 |
| TOTAL | \$69,590 | \$76,422 |



The 2022 budget was revised to include \$49,463.75 of payroll related expenses to cover the period mid-May through December. The newly hired Executive Director began in mid-May, but left the position on October 31, 2022, so total annual payroll expenditures were less than budgeted.

We are very pleased to report that CVTA's Year-End Campaign was a great success and contributed to a 40% increase over our 2021 revenue – all of which is the result of donors and members like you!



GOOD NEWS!

The James Lee Loops trail project has now been approved by the USFS.

When this cold, snowy winter retreats, we'll begin having workdays on this project starting as early as late March through May, with an initial goal of completing the project before the June heat.

As you may already know, this project is around 3.7 miles in length and will provide several flat loop opportunities in the vicinity of Jacks Valley Elementary School and James Lee Park. Hikers, dog walkers, bikers and equestrians will be able to choose variable loops as short as 1.5 miles, or longer loops of 3 or more miles. When used in combination with the Jacks Valley Loop and Clear Creek Trail, over 10 miles can be traversed with almost no overlap in this area of Jacks Valley.

2023 CVTA Officers and Board

President: Neal Falk

Vice President: Linda Kleiner

Secretary: Vickie Kieffer

Treasurer: Dianne Jennings

VP/Membership: Lee Elson

**VP/Chief Information
Officer:** Michael Hartstein

VP/Trail Operations: Jeremy Vlcán

VP/Outreach and Publicity: Judy Larquier

VP/Marketing: Bill Rogers

Directors-at-Large:

Juan Guzman

Carlo Luri

Laura Parks

Emeriti:

Lori Chitwood

Mary Bennigton

Barbara Slade

Recent Outreach

Our board volunteers have recently been spreading the good word about Carson Valley Trails Association:

Cason Valley Middle School: Board members Judy Larquier and Dianne Jennings held two presentations to students of the Outdoor Science class.

Sierra Club: Board members Bill Rogers and Judy Larquier presented an overview of our trail systems to the Great Basin group of the Sierra Club in Reno.



Upcoming Events

March 17 Bird Walk

Jim Woods will lead a member's only guided bird walk at the River Fork Ranch. Space will be limited 10 people so watch your email for updates including registration information.

April 27 CVTA Annual Meeting

Join us for our annual free event to learn more about our mission and our latest trails, ask questions or sign up to volunteer. Our event takes place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Douglas County Community and Senior Center and is open to the public – so bring a friend!

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.