The Union Hill Trails area is part of the 800-acre Empire Mine State Historic Park. The trails in this area are enjoyable for hiking, jogging, bicycling, and horseback riding. The Union Hill Trails area has fewer visitors because it is separated from the main park area by Colfax Highway. Only a short distance from Grass Valley, it is a beautiful and peaceful place to enjoy nature. Union Hill contains a network of trails that allows visitors to plan loop hikes of varying lengths.

**Getting there:**

**A** Gold Hill Trailhead: From downtown Grass Valley, head toward Colfax on Highway 174. After about 1.1 miles, turn left onto Silver Way and take the second right turn onto Gold Hill Drive. Follow it two blocks to the parking area by the trailhead.

**B** Colfax Highway Trailhead: From downtown Grass Valley, head toward Colfax on Highway 174. After 1.5 miles, look for horse crossing signs along both sides of the highway and a wide dirt path on your left (if you pass by Calvary Bible Church on your right, you have gone too far). There is no parking at the trailhead. If you choose to leave your vehicles on the shoulder, be sure to park completely off the road and be careful crossing the highway.

**Distance:** Longest continuous distance is a 2.9 mile loop following various trails around the Union Hill Trails Area.

**Elevation change:** Depends on trail taken. Maximum net elevation change is about 175 feet.

**Uses:** Foot and bike only. No motorized vehicles. Dogs on leash. All natural and historic features of the park are protected.