



Trail Tracks

YAVAPAI TRAILS ASSOCIATION

November 2019

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

George Sheats, YTA President's Message – November 2019

Since YTA's March 2018 Trail Tracks, several non-profits and volunteer work groups have expanded our trail system. The City of Prescott, Forest Service, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, and County have an 'agreement' to share resources in order to expand the Greater Prescott Area Trails System. Yavapai Trails Association has led the support for these collaborative efforts. The following list identifies many of our recent accomplishments:

- Approximately 6.4 miles of new trails in the Dells were completed in the 160 acres the City purchased from Storm Ranch.
- The trails within Spence Basin surrounding the Emmanuel Pines Camp were expanded to approximately 29 miles. A new parking lot was built along Spence Springs Road which can accommodate 18 standard sized vehicles.
- A trail has been initially established between the north Peavine and the Constellation Trails. This includes a trail near the Phippen Museum passing through the Dorn Homes, Walden Farms neighborhood.
- The Over the Hill Gang and other volunteers from Yavapai Hills have re-established the trails originally built but not maintained in the Yavapai Hills subdivision.
- A new .8 of a mile trail has been added from the Willow Lake trails into the ECOSA open space, now owned by Prescott College.
- The Over the Hill Gang recently completed two pedestrian bridges. The Fain Park bridge was re-positioned on a concrete abutment and the Willow Lake Road/Britni bridge was replaced.

Besides trail maintenance within the 104 miles of 'City' Mile High Trail System the Over the Hill Gang will be working on many new trail projects paced by resolving specific issues, trail easements and leases, upcoming annexations, etc. The following is a list of some of these future projects:

- The VA trail loop around its campus, Peavine extension from Prescott to Chino Valley, Glassford Hill connection from Peavine and Storm Trails to the Prescott Valley Summit Trail and to the Iron King Trail, expansion of the Storm Trails in approximately 280 acres, Circle Trail connector from Gateway



Mall, Pioneer Park trails expanded and extended to Southview, future trails within 700 acres of the Stringfield Ranch establishing an enhanced Circle Trail connection, trails and public parking in the new 200 home subdivision in Storm Ranch south, trail connectivity to the Airport and Pioneer Park in the Deep Well neighborhoods of Saddlewood and Westwood, trails in the new open space in the AED 'Arizona ECO Development' annexation, trails in new neighborhoods in Granite Dells Estates, Commerce Drive extension into Deep Well including a new trailhead parking lot, upgrade of the greenways trails Granite Creek corridor to the new Hilton Garden Hotel, upgrade of the trail signage with location and access information for the 911 Dispatch Center, Willow Lake Road trail improvements between Willow and Watson lakes, addition of several new parking lots and access points to the trail systems.

To volunteer with the Forest Service contact jason.a.williams@usda.gov

To work on City of Prescott trails go to prescotttrails.com

Hope you enjoy our Greater Prescott Area trails.

To donate to trail projects, go to yavapai-trails.org.



PROPERTY OWNERS PROTECTED WHEN PROVIDING FREE PUBLIC RECREATIONAL ACCESS

By Steve Finucane

The Arizona Recreational Use Statute – A.R.S. 33-1551 protects public and private property owners from liability when providing free public access for recreational use such as hiking, horseback riding, or biking on their land.

The statute supports the recreational use of public and private lands to encourage tourism and active lifestyles, and are designed to encourage landowners to allow public use of their premises by limiting liability. Arizona established the recreational use statute to encourage access and connectivity through the scenic landscapes.

Most residential developments, including 'gated neighborhoods', support non-motorized and pedestrian access through their property. The City of Prescott's General Plan encourages non-motorized connectivity throughout the community.

Early representatives such as Jan Alfano from Yavapai County and Yavapai Trails Association worked with Arizona State Parks and other state agencies to establish the Arizona Recreational Use Statute in order to provide connectivity between National Forest, State Trust Land, BLM, city/county and other public and privately owned lands.

Trails and overall connectivity works best when everyone participates and we are all good neighbors.



— INVESTING IN TRAILS —

By Ann Hendrickson

Whenever you're hiking, biking, or riding a trail, you know you're connected to something powerful and enduring. You're connected to the thousands of fellow trail lovers who hike, bike or horseback ride that same trail each year; to all the friends you've met and memories you've made along the way and to all the wilderness and wildlife that is protected by building and maintaining scenic, multi-purpose trails.

Research has proven that multi-purpose trails can have a significant, positive spillover effect for a community; alleviate noise, pollution and congestion, increase residential property values, and expand the means for green transportation. In addition:

- Americans spend more money each year on bicycling than they do on airline travel.
- In Arizona, mountain bike events alone are associated with \$2.4 million in economic impact; \$1.0 million in labor earnings, and 40 full time jobs.
- Hiking, biking, and equestrian trails stimulate tourism in Yavapai County.
- In 2018, the greater Prescott trail system experienced over 831,000 visits.
- Property values increase \$10 a foot when located in proximity to a trail.
- Significant documented health benefits
- Business Development
- Goods and services provided to travelers
- Food, beverage, and accommodations
- Creates connections and builds relationships
- Highlights individual communities uniqueness

Trail supporters like you are the heart and soul of Yavapai Trails Association. Together, we can help build new trails, maintain existing trails, replace bridges or signs, build new trailheads, and the list goes on. As our communities grow, so does the demand for more multi-purpose trails, and the need to care for the existing trails.

With your generous contribution, you will help ensure that the friends, families and individuals who traverse our trails today, next year, and even generations from now, can behold the breathtaking beauty of Yavapai County as you and I do today. Please consider making a tax deductible gift today.

<https://www.yavapai-trails.org/donate/>

Thank you in advance! The YTA team of volunteers.

SUN CORRIDOR TRAIL

By Ann Hendrickson

The “new” Sun Corridor Trail is a multi-agency, multi-county project in the works for the state of Arizona. We might think of it as the suburban cousin of the back country Arizona National Scenic Trail. The partially completed Sun Corridor Trail stays mostly west of I-10 and loops around major cities. When completed, its route will cover an estimated 1,400 miles on city, county, state and federal lands from Las Vegas, Nevada, to Douglas on the Arizona-Mexico border.



Linking significant regional trails along a burgeoning megapolitan corridor

The Trail committee notes that “the trail begins in a loop around Las Vegas, Nevada, and ends with several linear corridors around the countryside in southern Arizona. The SCT will consist of regional trail loops around Las Vegas, Kingman, Williams, Flagstaff, Sedona, Prescott, Phoenix, Casa Grande, the Picacho Mountain and Tucson that are tied together, and lined to rail corridors that connect Benson, Fairbanks, Sierra Vista, Tombstone, Sonoita, Patagonian, Naco, Bisbee, Douglas and Pierce.



The SCT is basically about tying together terrific loop trails around various communities (using existing trails) in AZ and NV into one trail. The Sun Corridor Trail will be rideable or hikeable with a credit card in your pocket – meaning that it won’t stray far from inhabited areas with businesses. The anticipated completion date is 2025. YTA continues to participate and be part of the development of this marquee AZ trail.



Storm Trails, January 2019.



American Ranch Trail Chipping, May 2019.

AED AVAILABLE FOR TRAIL EVENT USE

Thanks to generous donors, YTA purchased 2 Philips Heartstart AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator) that can be used by a responder with little to no training. The AED is packed in a comprehensive First Aid kit. If your organization has a trail related activity or event, we are pleased to check out an AED for your use, at no charge. Please contact us at yavapai.trails@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Yavapai Trails Association is a small group of dedicated volunteers who perform much of the “behind the scenes” work to continually maintain and improve the trails system throughout our community. YTA is always looking for new members to help accomplish these goals, whether financial support, administrative projects, and leadership. If you would like to become a member, please visit us at <https://www.yavapai-trails.org/volunteer/>



Yavapai Trails Association
P.O. Box 403
Prescott, AZ 86302

For membership, \$30,
visit www.yavapai-trails.org/volunteer

PRESCOTT CIRCLE TRAIL CHALLENGE

Back in 1990, the Yavapai Trails Association initiated the idea of a non-motorized trail that would “circle” the city of Prescott. With many partners and volunteers, by late 2014, the 54 mile Prescott Circle Trail (PCT) was completed for the enjoyment of hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

This year, YTA has partnered with Russ Lyon Sotheby's



Russ Lyon

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Real Estate to sponsor the Prescott Circle Trail Challenge. We invite you to achieve the physical accomplishment of completing the entire Prescott Circle Trail on a bicycle, hiking, riding a horse, or any combination! Upon completion of the Prescott Circle Trail, you can fill out a form and you will receive a personalized Certificate of Completion, and either a Prescott Circle Trail patch or bumper sticker, free of charge.

<https://www.yavapai-trails.org/prescott-circle-trail/>

The Prescott Circle Trail is a 54-mile non-motorized trail gives hikers, backpackers, horse riders, and mountain bikers a route through Prescott National Forest, City of Prescott, Yavapai County, and state lands. You will get views of Watson Lake, Willow Lake, and Goldwater Lake, cut through Granite Dells, and take in Granite Mountain and Thumb Butte.



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Yavapai Trails Association partnered with ALL user groups and Prescott National Forest to celebrate National Trails Day by helping build a new section of trail on Mingus Mountain on June 1, 2019. It was a great turn out, with about 50 participants that worked on the trail that will eventually be a part of the new Sun Corridor Trail.

A picnic lunch in the forest, beverages, snacks, and support were provided by Yavapai Trails Association, Greater Prescott Outdoor Fund, Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Prescott Hiking Club, and the United States Forest Service.



National Trails Day, 2019.

HIKING SPREE 2019

Yavapai Trails Association has partnered with The Highlands Center for Natural History to offer this year's annual Hiking Spree. Sponsors for this community event are the Hike Shack and Credit Union West. The Spree has been a popular event since 2008.

The Hiking Spree is a community wide event that takes place each Fall and can be completed at the participant's own pace. People from all over the state come to Prescott to hike 8 out of 12 designated trails between Sept. 1 and Dec. 8. A collector's hiking stick medallion is available for purchase when one completes the hikes. Each year's medallion is newly designed to reflect a special aspect of Arizona's natural history.

It was a hot day for the Kick Off on Saturday, Aug. 31. Forty hardy people showed up, had a breakfast snack, listened to speakers, and completed one of two hikes near the Highlands Center. A great start to completing the Spree!

Find out more about the Hiking Spree 2019 by visiting <https://highlandscenter.org/hiking-spree/>. All the hikes and maps are listed. The designated hikes vary in difficulty, length and driving distance. Something for everyone!

The Hiking Spree is a new event for Yavapai Trails Association to offer our community. We are delighted to have another way for people explore the trails that YTA has worked so hard on for over 25 years to get built in our community. Download the hike list and hit the trails!