



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

For memberships visit
www.yavapai-trails.org or send
\$15 for family membership.

We're on the Web at:
www.
yavapai-trails.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual or Organization Name (s) _____
Street address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____
What related organizations do you belong to? _____
How do you use trails (horseback, hike, bike)? _____
Do you have time or skills to contribute? ____ How? _____ Want to volunteer ____
If you did not receive this newsletter in the mail, where did you pick up this copy?
Retail store _____ Public facility _____ Friend _____ Organization _____
Annual membership fee: \$15.00 for individual/family; \$30 Organization/Business
Date _____ Membership Fee Amt. _____ Additional Donation Amt. _____
Please make checks payable to: YTA

Please clip out this coupon and send to:
Yavapai Trails Association, P.O. Box 403, Prescott, AZ 86302



Over the Hill Gang and Parks Rangers walk in the Prescott Frontier Days, Rodeo Parade, July 4 2016.



The Over the Hill Gang receiving the Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce 'Organization of the Year' award at the Prescott Resort.



YAVAPAI
TRAILS
ASSOCIATION

ARIZONA RECREATIONAL USE STATUTE

Early representatives from Yavapai County and Yavapai Trails Association participated in developing the Arizona Recreational Use Statute adopted in the early 1990's. This statute protects public and private property owners from liability when providing public access for recreation use on their lands. In order to provide connectivity between National Forest, State Trust Land, BLM, and other public and privately owned lands the National Park Service and Arizona established the recreational use statute to encourage access and connectivity through the scenic landscapes. This statute eliminates the liability property owners could face when their properties are restricted from public access even if they may contain various types of hazards. State, County and other jurisdictions typically require a reciprocal access arrangement. i.e. If a private property owner restricts access into and through its property, then access out of this property to other jurisdictions should not be expected. Most residential developments, including 'gated neighborhoods', support non-motorized and pedestrian access through their property.

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



YTA dedication of the Jan Alfano bench. Jan passed away at 88 in March 2016.

Trail Tracks

January 2017

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

George Sheats Presidents Message - January 2017

Since the last YTA Newsletter we have continued to add and improve trails in the Greater Prescott area. The Prescott Greenways continue to experience increased pedestrian traffic with the recent additions along Butte Creek and Miller Creek. The Greenways have become a means to walk or ride between local destinations without having to rely on motorized transportation. The recent addition of two wooden bridges has eliminated the need to cross the creek by wading or using stepping stones. The Over the Hill Gang has been active in Prescott Valley with the reconstruction of the Fain Park Canyon Trail and the addition of the Glassford Hill Summit Trail. As a result of the volunteer efforts, the Over the Hill Gang was awarded 'Organization of the Year' by the PV Chamber of Commerce. Several trailhead parking areas have been improved in order to support the continued growth in trail visits. Prescott area trails have become destinations for hosting outside events. The Prescott Circle Trail hosted the Aravaipa Whiskey Basin ultra-marathon running events last April. Pioneer Park has become a popular destination for organized mountain biking and running events.

There are numerous plans for improving area trails in 2017. Some examples follow:

- Continue the addition of trails in Pioneer Park including establishing various routing options and distances designed for events.
- Improve sections of the Prescott Circle Trail within both the Prescott National Forest and City of Prescott jurisdictions.
- Add and improve parking areas and signage for the Circle Trail. Create a destination access point for the Circle Trail at the Gateway Mall.
- Obtain a trail easement from State Land for the Glassford Hill trail system on the Prescott side, with connections to the Glassford Hill Summit Trail in Prescott Valley.
- Continue to work with Planned Area Developments and property owners for public trails and connectivity through and within their communities.
- Research funding opportunities and pursue grants to fund the expansion of trails and associated amenities in our natural parklands.
- Emmanuel Pines Trails <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=48048>

To work with the Forest Service contact Tpapa@fs.fed.us

To work on City Trails go to www.presotttrails.com

See you out there on the Greater Prescott area trails.

Our Mission

YTA evolved from the Yavapai County Trail Advisory Committee appointed by the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors in 1989. One of the chief reasons for forming was to find ways to prevent the loss of access to existing trails as the county becomes increasingly urban.

There was also a need to help individual communities develop and coordinate their trail systems and to work closely with developers and others to secure new trails and maintain continued access to existing trails.

We are a non-profit corporation with federal 501(c)3 designation, and our operating expenses are funded by dues and donations. We are supported by many other organizations and recognized by the cities of Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley, as well as Yavapai County, the USDA Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the State of Arizona.



Looking at Prescott Valley from the Glassford Hill Summit Trail.
Photo by Karen Mason Sheats



Over the Hill Gang working up the Summit Trail switchbacks April 2016.

GREATER PRESCOTT OUTDOORS FUND

Through the years, Prescott area residents and visitors have benefitted from grants and volunteers to provide many of the amenities. YTA has recently joined forces to combine fundraising efforts for larger projects that are beyond the ability of any one organization to accomplish. This effort has resulted in the formation of the Greater Prescott Outdoors Fund through the Arizona Community Foundation/Yavapai County (ACF/YC).

Major Fund categories include Open Space, Natural Parklands, Bicycle and Pedestrian, Trails, and Education. Underlying costs for improvements include many things such as land purchases, easements, rights-of-way, legal expenses, surveys, and consultant studies. Drainage and site modifications, dredging, and lakes and watershed improvements are other expenses many are unaware of. More obvious expenses include anything from tools and materials, to parking lots, restrooms, bridges, walls, specialized tracks and facilities, signage, kiosks, tables, bike racks, maintenance, and so much more.

Providing great outdoor experiences is an expensive endeavor. With limited city budgets, these groups help provide the funds and volunteers that help make Prescott area a destination enjoyed by many.

For information or to make a donation go to: www.azfoundation.org/yavapai collaborative funds. Fund brochure available at www.PrescottTrails.com

EARTH DAY

Prescott's Earth Day will be held downtown on S. Cortez Street from 10AM until 3PM on Saturday, April 22. This year's Earth Day will again be held in conjunction with the Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface Commission wildland fire exhibition between Gurley and Goodwin on Cortez. Prescott Creeks will also be having its annual clean up. Open Space Alliance has hosted Earth Day the past 10 years as a means of providing public education related to our outdoors and environment. Fire prevention, water conservation, air quality, recycling, outdoor recreation, desert landscaping, building codes for energy savings, and overall impacts on community health are items on display by local non-profits and agencies. For more information or to host a booth contact Gary Worob at gworob@yahoo.com or call 928-899-3341.

VA TRAIL SYSTEM by Dave Fero

For more than 2 years there have been discussions between Prescott Alternative Transportation, Yavapai Trails, and Prescott Recreation Services and the leadership of our Prescott VA Medical Center to create a trail system on the historic grounds of "Fort Whipple". The purpose was to create an opportunity for recreation for Veterans to promote health, both physical and mental as well as to assure safe access to the medical center for pedestrians and bicyclists. The trail will fill in another link in the ultimate connectivity of the "Peavine Trail System" with the potential to link downtown Prescott via the Greenways to Chino Valley and Prescott Valley for non motorized access. The trail connects to the Yavapai College Trail System to the west. The route passes through the stone and iron gate to Fort Whipple and proceeds along the south side of granite creek under huge cottonwood trees and to the north of the solar array. It connects with a North-South trail along a wash coming down to Granite Creek. Construction can begin this spring.



The Trail Building Class conducted by IMBA at Fain Park in Prescott Valley. Four Over the Hill Gang members were selected to function as trail building crew leaders.



Over the Hill Gang members working on the approach ramp for the Greenways Trail bridge behind Carl's Junior on Miller Creek. Construction of the bridge was Lewis Brownlee's Eagle Scout Project.

