



TRAIL TRACKS

Yavapai Trails Association

WINTER 2024

President's Message

By Lisa Lafoon, YTA President

Well, here we are. A full month and a half into a new year and, if you are like me, several of our resolutions and goals have already been long forgotten. It's not that we are bad people; life just gets in the way sometimes. We really did mean to get to the gym more, eat less fat/salt/sugar, or complete any number of personal projects but it just wasn't in the cards. Despite all good intentions, sometimes things just don't work out. We, here at Yavapai Trails Association were feeling that way when we had to postpone our trail work event for January. That was a bummer! But it has been rescheduled, and life will go on. However, it did make me think a lot about planning and setting personal goals. Planning is tougher than it seems. None of us have a crystal ball (not one with a high accuracy rate anyway) and so looking into the future and trying to plan is still just a good guessing game. We still make plans though, and often we are successful in meeting them.

Planning for this organization also requires a look into the future and some good guesses as to what our needs will be. One of the items we are constantly assessing is our need for volunteers. As a completely volunteer dependent organization (no paychecks here) volunteers are truly our lifeblood. We often say, "there are no trail fairies". However, while this is true regarding the kind of fairies with wings and little pink tutus, there are some lovely people who care for and maintain our shared trails (and they wouldn't be caught dead in a tutu). They

are our wonderful trail work crews. Fortunately, we have several organizations in our area who regularly organize and lead trail maintenance within the city of Prescott and the surrounding Prescott National Forest. As YTA looks into the future, we can see there will always be a need to add to our trail work crews. Life happens. Our lives can change and sometimes, we lose longtime volunteers to those



changes. The vast majority of our trail work volunteers are 65 or over and retired. Most of them also set a goal to give back in this way once they did retire, and here they are fulfilling their goal. I have also recently heard several people tell me they fully intended on doing trail work in retirement, but, alas, life did not allow for it. That's really a bummer! Hearing these stories, I would encourage anyone thinking, "I want to do that sometime" to consider doing it now. YTA has Saturday trail work available. This

could be your next big goal, and a very rewarding one at that. We welcome you!

As a side note, other types of volunteer service are also available with YTA. If you have a great love for the trails and some good business skills, opportunities exist here. The trails are calling.

"I could never resist the call of the trail." – Buffalo Bill

Me either Buffalo Bill, me either.

YYTC FEATURED TRAIL: CHINO VALLEY PEAVINE

We hope you are enjoying some of the great trails in the Prescott-Quad Cities area. This month we here at YTA and Yavapai Youth Trails Challenge are featuring the *Chino Valley section of the Peavine*. This is the perfect time of year to enjoy this trail. Whether you are going on foot, bike, or hooves, get out there and enjoy. It's a great one for the kiddos.

USE: Hikers, mountain bike riders, and equestrians

DISTANCE: 5.8 miles one direction

ELEV GAIN: Slope is gentle and continuous all the way

TIME: Trail is open year-round

DESCRIPTION:

Parking is free. There is no water or bathroom facilities at the trailheads or along the trail's length.

This section of the trail is very well signed; there are mileage signs every 0.25 miles.

The trail is wide and smooth through rolling grasslands, with varying types of gravel and cinder along its length and offers wide open views of the surrounding ranchland and distant mountains. The trail is point to point and there are four trailheads to choose from as starting points.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Drive north on Highway 89 toward the town of Chino Valley. Choose one of the four trailheads to begin:

1. To park at the northernmost trailhead, turn right/east on E Road 4 North and continue east on Colorado Way. Parking is on the right/south side of

the road midway between Arizona Trail and Jerome Junction Roads, and accommodates one or two vehicles, no horse trailers.

2. Turn right/east on the traffic circle at East Perkinsville Rd, drive 1.4 miles east to the trailhead parking on the left/north. Parking accommodates horse trailers.

3. Turn right/east on E Road 2 North, drive 1.5 miles to the trailhead parking on the right/south. Parking accommodates horse trailers.

4. To park at the southernmost trailhead, turn right/east on E Road 4 South, drive 2.2 miles to the trailhead parking on the left/north. Parking accommodates horse trailers.

INFORMATION: With support from the Arizona Heritage Fund, the town of Chino Valley purchased five miles of the Peavine rail corridor in the early 1990s and opened the completed trail segment in 1994. Along the rail-trail, you will pass through the ghost town of Jerome Junction, established in 1894 and once a stop on the Santa Fe, Prescott, and Phoenix Railway.



Upcoming event dates-Mark Your Calanders

March 23, 2024- Smith Ravine Trail Work Day.
RSVP to yta.trailwork@gmail.com

February 24, 2024- Volunteer Expo with JustServe 9:00AM, 1101 Sandretto Dr, Prescott AZ

Thirsty Third Thursdays- Held the third Thursday each month at Whiskey River Tavern, Prescott AZ



WHO'S A GOOD HIKER?

Good canine hiking manners are essential for ensuring a positive experience for both your dog and other hikers on the trail. Here are some tips to promote good manners when hiking with your dog:

1. Leash Etiquette:

- Always keep your dog on a leash.
- Choose a sturdy leash or harness appropriate for the size and breed of your dog.

2. Trail Etiquette:

- Stay on designated trails and follow any posted rules.
- Follow basic trail etiquette - yield the trail to other hikers and equestrians, especially those without dogs.
- Be mindful of the environment and clean up after your dog. Bring waste bags and dispose of them properly.

3. Training:

- Ensure your dog has basic obedience training, including commands like sit, stay, and come.
- Practice these commands regularly, both at home and on the trail.

4. Socialization:

- Socialize your dog with other people and animals before hitting the trail.
- If your dog tends to be aggressive or overly excitable, consider using a muzzle for everyone's safety.

5. Respect Wildlife:

- Keep your dog away from wildlife to prevent disturbances.
- Don't allow your dog to chase or approach other animals.



6. Hydration and Nutrition:

- Bring enough water for both you and your dog.
- Pack dog-friendly snacks if the hike is long.

7. Weather Considerations:

- Be mindful of weather conditions, especially in extreme temperatures.
- Adjust the intensity and length of your hike accordingly.

8. Check Regulations:

- Research and adhere to any specific rules or regulations regarding dogs on the trail in the area you plan to hike. Yavapai County Ordinance 2000-3 outlines animal control regulations.

9. Trail Courtesies:

- Be aware of other trail users and step to the side to allow

them to pass.

10. Rest Breaks:

- Take breaks when needed, allowing your dog to rest and cool down.
- Use breaks to check your dog's paws for any injuries.
- Puppies should probably stay home unless it's a short distance hike. Hiking long distances can damage their growing joints. Check with your veterinarian to find out when it's appropriate for your puppy to get out on the trails with you.

By following these guidelines, you can ensure that both you and your dog have an enjoyable and respectful trail experience, while also contributing to the positive atmosphere on the trails for other users.



JUST SERVE

Volunteer Expo

DATE: February 24, 2024

TIME: 9:00 am to Noon

PLACE: 1101 Sandretto Dr. Prescott, AZ

SERVICE PROJECTS AVAILABLE:

- Blood Drive - Quilt Tying -
- Writing letters to service members - and more!

There will be something for everyone!



**Come discover opportunities for
service in the Quad-Cities.**