



TRAIL TRACKS

Yavapai Trails Association

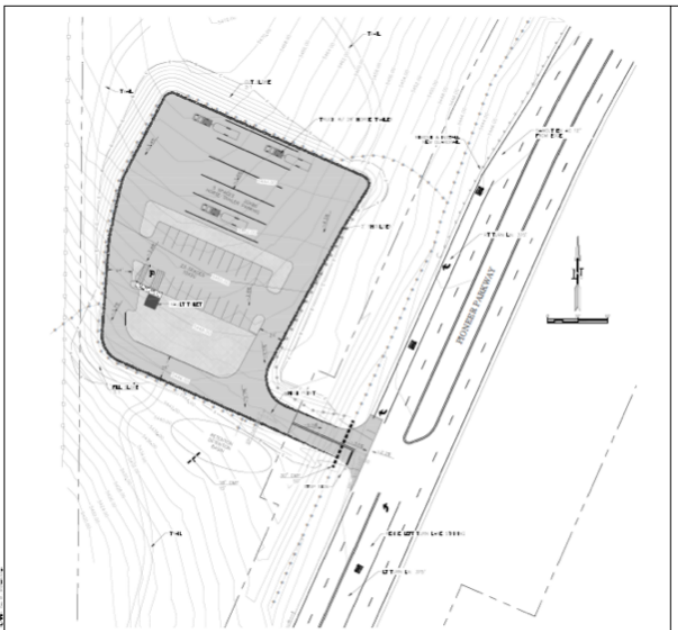
SPRING 2024

Pioneer Parkway - Trailhead Parking Lot

By Tom Reilly, Director

Good news in that the design portion has been brought to a point that preliminary costing can be done. Once that is known, there is a starting point to consider funding for the project.

The proposed parking lot location is on the north side of Pioneer Parkway, and approximately one mile east of the intersection of Pioneer Parkway/Williamson Valley Road along the Prescott Circle Trail.



Several potential sources for funding have been identified including:

- Arizona State Parks
- Federal \$ designed for infrastructure including Yavapai County Regional Roads Fund, BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), and IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act).

Additionally, CYMPO has noted that Carbon Reduction Funds may also be available.

With these identified, it is my understanding that Yavapai County Public Works, Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO), and the City of Prescott Recreation Department will be jointly seeking these funds, through grant writing, over the next couple of years. However, all groups are committed to moving forward. The County, under the leadership of Supervisor Craig Brown and PW Director Dan Cherry along with Joe Baynes Director of Prescott Parks and Recreation, and from CYMPO, Vincent Gallegos, Executive Director and Bryn Stotler, Planner are looking to move this project forward. Joe has discussed this with the Prescott city manager and has the OK to pursue this.

All the organizations have this in their 2-to-5-year plans.

While nothing is concrete, this process is beginning, and we need to have all trails user organizations make it known that we support and can actively advocate for the trailhead with the public and the decision-making bodies.

This is GREAT STUFF!



GATEWAY TRAIL

BY YTA MEMBER

Late last year, the new Gateway Trail was opened that gave great access to trails in the Granite Dells east and northeast of Watson Lake. The Gateway Trail is a .5 mile trail out to the Peavine Trail; It connects to the Peavine Trail .5 mile north of the Peavine/Iron Springs trail intersection. This gives great access to the relatively new Storm trails, and other trails that have opened in this area in the last several years.

In comparison, it is 3 miles from the Prescott Peavine Trailhead (off Prescott Lakes Parkway) to the Peavine/Iron Springs trail intersection, or 2 miles from Peavine North parking lots (off 89A), or 4 miles from the park at Glassford Hill Road/ Santa Fe Loop Road.



My favorite trails in this area is the Easter Island Trail that has a bench overlook of Watson Lake and Yabba Dabba View

Trail that gives great views of the Granite Dells and Granite Mountain within a Granite Boulder Garden.

USE: Hikers and Mountain Bikers

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Head north on 89 from the city of Prescott. At the roundabout for the Watson Lake park entrance, continue north on 89 for 1.4 miles. Turn right for the signs Old 89A (before Three Sisters Consignment). If you pass Three Sisters Consignment, take the next right as



the road is a loop with the prior road. Park near the old bridge. There is not a parking lot, so park considerably for now along the side of the road.

TRAIL ACCESS: Walk across the old bridge that crosses Granite Creek. The trail is off to the right just after the bridge ends. There has not been a trail sign as of my most recent visit.

Within 50 feet of the trail starting, the trail goes off to the right down an incline. But you'll also see a trail off



to the left that takes you through some boulders. The kiddo's (or those that are still young at heart) will enjoy the scramble through the boulders. There is a trail sign on Peavine for the Gateway trail, so it is easy to find your way back.

FUTURE: There has been many articles (i.e. <https://www.dcourier.com/news/2023/mar/07/prescott-takes-next-step-toward-new-20-acre-granit/>) in the local newspapers in the last year about the potential of Granite Dells Gateway Park. It appears that the funding is a ways away, but I really am looking forward to this area evolving in the coming years.



YTA PARTICIPATION IN CYMPO'S ACT UP

CYMPO, The Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization is charged with the planning and funding of all transportation systems in our area. As such, our trails network are a part of their mission to address the needs of the citizens in Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Dewey-Humbolt and the attached areas of Yavapai County which include the Prescott National Forest.

Currently, CYMPO is beginning a regional review of their master transportation plan. Trails are a part of that. CYMPO is reaching out to the trails community for input. To that end, CYMPO has initiated a survey regarding walking, bicycling and will include equestrian in the plan. We encourage you to take a few minutes to complete this [survey](#).

In the coming months CYMPO staff will be reaching out to our trail user community to include trails in the regional plan. You will be hearing more and more about the 'ACT UP' initiative. The goal is to address safety, accessibility, new trail construction, and maintenance of our existing systems in the just over 400 square mile area included in the CYMPO jurisdiction.

As information is collected, each trail user organization needs to have input. The CYMPO staff member tasked with spearheading this effort is Michael Lamar. Michael can be reached at Michael.lamar@yavapaiaz.gov. Yavapai Trails Association will be participating and board member Tom Reilly will be one of our liaisons. Tom can be reached at tom@prescottarchitect.com.



YTA TRAIL WORK SCHEDULE

Yavapai Trails Association is pleased to share the following trail work schedule with you. We are working on the second Saturday of each month with Prescott National Forest. The following dates are or the rest of 2024:

May 11, 2024

June 8, 2024

July 13, 2024

August 10, 2024

September 14, 2024

October 12, 2024

November 9, 2024

December 14, 2024

We hope that by providing the dates ahead of time you will be able to easily schedule the days you would like to join the work. Thank you for all you do!



YTA GOES TO MARKET

Yavapai Trails Association is very happy to be back with the Prescott Farmer's Market for the Summer season. You can find our booth on the third Saturday of each of the following months: May, June, July August, September, and October. What can you do at this booth? Ask your trial questions, get an update on YTA projects, renew or start a new membership, or donate. You may also just come by to, "hello" and take a candy. We are always happy to see you.

WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Your New or Renewed Membership pays for:

- YTA's routine trail maintenance program, including tools, first aid, safety equipment, tool maintenance, and refreshments for volunteers.
- Safety and etiquette programs, for example, the new Traveling Billboards which will be placed in local businesses like hotels, visitor's center, doctor's offices, auto maintenance waiting areas, etc. These billboards have been created instead of brochures for less paper waste. They contain brief reminders regarding safety, courtesy, and Leave No Trace principles.
- Basic business needs for the organization like printing, postage, technology, and marketing.
- Your dues allow YTA to partner with other organizations to maximize benefits for all non-motorized trail user groups.
- Dues may be used as a cash match for a grant to complete larger trail projects (Examples, purchasing signage, benches, fencing, or kiosks).

Yavapai Trails Association has been serving Yavapai county for more than 30 years. Your membership, donations, and volunteerism have all been a part of YTA's success. We are still at it and looking forward to 30 more years of service to you. We are "powered by locals" and funds will always stay in our local Yavapai County trail community.

If you are not already a member, please consider becoming a new member. Membership is still only \$30 a year. Visit our website at www.yavapai-trails.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lisa Lafoon, YTA President

I want to give my personal "thank you" to all YTA's members, old and new. We cannot do what we do without you. It is also a pleasure to work within this all-volunteer organization, especially when what we do is so important for our trail systems. Our local trails bring us all the opportunity to continue living a healthy outdoor lifestyle.

They also allow for many happy hours outdoors with family and friends. These same trails bring plenty of visitors to our area, visitors who eat in our restaurants, shop in our stores, stay in our hotels, and so much more. Trails build connections in our community and in one way or another contribute to the amazing lifestyle we all enjoy living in Yavapai County. Your membership with Yavapai Trails Association has been a huge benefit to our trail loving community. As president of this trails association and on behalf of our amazing Board of Directors, I sincerely thank you.

