



TRAIL TRACKS

Yavapai Trails Association

FALL 2025

Discovery Experience and Access Management at Perkinsville Bridge

By Bill Fanelli

We are pleased to announce that YTA was recently awarded a \$50,000 federal grant from the Yavapai Resource Advisory Committee for a project near the Verde River in Perkinsville.

The **“Discovery Experience and Access Management at Perkinsville Bridge Day Use Area”** project is a bit

different than a typical trail project since the river/floodplain does not avail itself to a typical trail due to periodic flooding. Instead we proposed a new concept of a Discovery Experience to entice visitors to explore the riverbank to take in the amazing sights, sounds and smells of this amazing ecosystem. Additionally, we will work with Prescott National Forest to construct a formalized parking area near the Perkinsville Road bridge so visitors of this

popular area will park off the road, reducing erosion and runoff concerns and improving safety.

The Upper Verde River ecosystem is one of the most bio-diverse in the Southwest. It provides water for millions of municipal users and significant agricultural irrigation. It is also a popular recreational destination due to its breathtaking scenery, interesting geology,

abundant wildlife and historical and cultural significance. Currently, efforts are underway to protect the health of the Upper Verde watershed through a National Wild and Scenic Designation. The ultimate objective of the **Discovery Experience and Access Management at Perkinsville Bridge Day Use Area** is to expose visitors to these attributes

and encourage them to responsibly explore the river.

We look forward to working with numerous other organizations to participate in providing input for interpretive signage including Sierra Club, Yavapai-Prescott Tribe, Citizens Water Advocacy Group, Friends of the Verde among other.

We also plan to use this project as a starting point for exploring additional opportunities to improve

access and recreation along other key sections of the Verde from the headwaters near Sullivan Lake (part of the future AZ state park) all the way to the Perkinsville Bridge.

YTA would like to thank Prescott National Forest and Gary Beverly of Sierra Club for assisting us in the grant process. Stay tuned for updates as the project rolls out over the next two years.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lisa Lafoon

Well, here we are again, ending another great year for Yavapai Trails Association. I am so proud of what our volunteers have accomplished this year. I want to share some of those accomplishments with you. Yes, as you read on the front page we received an approved grant for an important project in the Upper Verde area. You will continue to hear about this as we start working on it in 2026. This type of project does not just fall into an organization's lap. They come to an organization on the wings of strong relationships with land managers and other organizations.

I am often asked what is the most important thing an organization can do to meet their mission? My answer is always BUILD RELATIONSHIPS. None of us can do this alone. We need to have good relationships with decision makers in our cities, state, county, and federal agencies. This takes a lot of hours, and I am so proud of the hours YTA has put into building our relationships this year. Yes, it's been a lot of work, but when it gets us into a room as stakeholders when planning happens, it is so worth it. This gives us the opportunity to advocate for all trail users, to share what we would like to see in the future, and problem solve so we don't lose access to

our trails.

Of course this is not all we accomplished in 2025. Yavapai Trails Association has also been active in building relationships with you, fellow trail users. Our little crew of four volunteers put in over 250 hours at face-to-face events like Prescott Farmer's Market, Thirsty Third Thursday, Earth Day, National Trails Day Hikes, Chamber of Commerce events, and community talks. These events keep us informed by you and allow us to advocate for safe and courteous trail use.



Yavapai Trails Association also held our first annual Safety Saturday. At this sold-out event we all had hands on (and practical for the trail) first aid practice. You also told us about some topics you would like to have covered in future Safety Saturday events. So, get ready, our next event for 2026 will be "Navigation-From Maps to Apps". More information will be coming out as we get closer to this event.

We also have a great group of volunteers who get out in the dirt twice a month. They are our wonderful (and hardworking) trail maintenance volunteers. These volunteers put in over 400 hours of service (this includes the time that John and Lisa put in organizing events with the Forest Service and other agencies).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

These numbers represent the hours we can easily track. It is much more difficult to track the hours spent in communications, meetings, writing grant applications, keeping social media updated, answering questions (from trail users and visitors), administering programs (PCTC, Yavapai Youth Trails Challenge, and Internship) and all the organizational administrative functions (bookkeeping, marketing, etc.).



This all being said, Yavapai Trails Association gave back over \$6000 in cash spent (the \$50,000 grant will be reflected in 2026). However, our value is really

shown in the dollar value of all our amazing volunteers. You all gave back more than \$131,740. WOW!! That is not bad for a small local non-profit. However, it certainly reflects that we are truly “powered by locals”.

Thank you!!

SUPPORT FOR YTA

Supporters of YTA understand the important work YTA volunteers undertake in the maintenance of existing trails and building new trails. The generous backing of our sponsors ensures continuous support of the trails and trail work in and around Prescott.

We would like to extend a very special “thank you” to **The**

Prescott Hiking Club and **The Hike Shack** for their continued support. Because of this support, the YTA is able to purchase tools, safety equipment, and signage for the trail work that happens twice a month and administer the very popular Prescott Circle Trail Challenge (PCTCTM). Visit [Our Organization | Hike, Bike, Ride - Yavapai Trails Association](#) to view a list of business and individual sponsors to the Yavapai Trails Association.

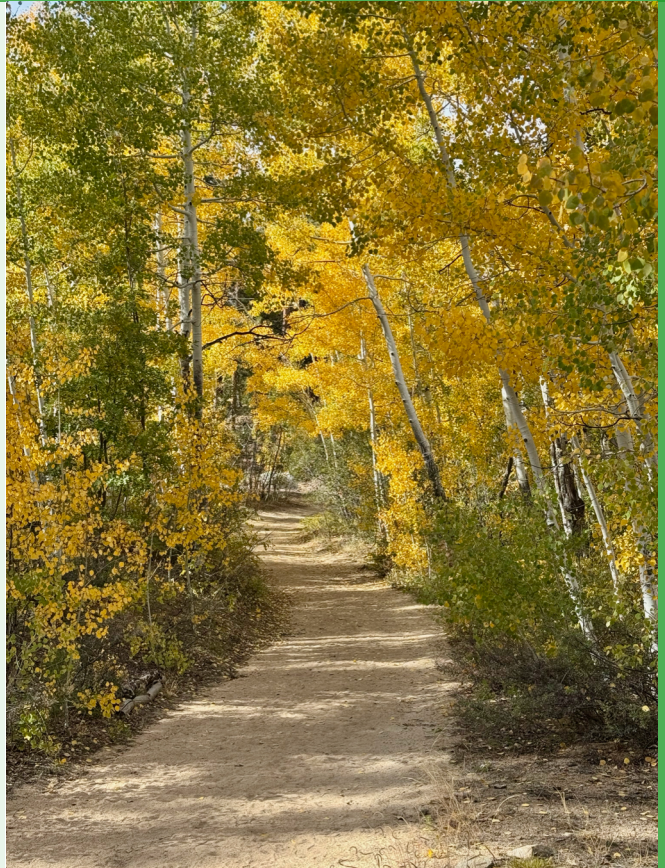


2025/2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

Here are some important dates to remember. We hope you are able to join us for some of these events. As always, YTA will post these to our Facebook page and send via emails. If you would like to get email reminders, please let us know by sending an email requesting addition to our email list to:

Yavapai.trails@gmail.com

- There will be no Board of Directors meeting in December- Happy Holidays!
- December 13th - Trail Work
- January 8th- Board of Directors Meeting
- January 10th- Trail Work
- January 24th- Trail Work
- February 12th- Board of Directors Meeting
- February 14th- Trail Work
- February 21st- Safety Saturday. This event will be all about navigation, "From Maps to Apps" More information regarding registration will be sent via email and social media.
- February 28th- Trail Work



Have you considered becoming a member? Your membership allows us to continue planning, maintaining, preserving, connecting, and advocating for our trails. Please go to our website www.yavapai-trails.org click on the membership tab and join. It's the easiest way to support our trails. Thank You!

