



Three Rivers Historical Society

Remembering the Southwest Valley

Centennial Trail at Estrella Mountain Regional Park

As reported in its newsletter, *The Quarterly*, Vol. 8 Issue #2, Three Rivers Historical Society has received approval to develop a historical and educational trail incorporating visual and artistic structures that will depict the history of the region. The ADA trail will be located in Estrella Mountain Regional Park.

The half mile trail, to be named the Centennial Trail in honor of Arizona's upcoming Centennial Celebration celebrating 100 years of statehood, will follow a yet to be determined old Hohokam canal or old braid of the Gila River and include numerous displays highlighting our area's history. The "canal" will run with water from the aquifer directly below the site. Historical and educational features such as sculptural markers, benches, kiosks and exhibit nodes, will be created and installed. These features will describe and depict the geologic history of the Estrella Mountains, explain the history of the Hohokam people and their culture, provide information on the first explorers and settlers of the region, discuss important historical events, and track the the effect of agriculture, industry and war on the economy of the Three Rivers Region to 2012.

The Centennial Trail project is a collaboration between the Three Rivers Historical Society, the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department., the Arizona Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the West Valley Arts Council, the City of Avondale, the City of Goodyear and others with an interest in the project.

The project timeline is as follows:

- * Beginning in January 2011 and through February 2012: Trail planning, design, fundraising.
- * February 14, 2012: Kickoff and ground breaking event to celebrate the beginning of work on the trail and Arizona statehood.
- * February 2012 – January 2013: Complete buildout of the trail and all exhibits.
- * January 2013 - forward: Possible development of a botanical garden, extension of the trail and addition of exhibit pads and public art relevant to the trail and history.

As planning and fundraising proceeds, an outline for each of the nodes has been proposed (pending future revisions) and approved by 3RHS Board of Directors.

Proposed Content for Exhibit Nodes:

Node #1, Science & Technology

This node is the beginning of the trail and the site of a windmill and or solar panels which would supply power to the pumps that supply water to the canal

- Pump and Pumphouse for pumping water for canal
- Solar panels for Electrical power for pumps (panels mounted on simulated Hohokam Ramada?)
- Windmill for pump
- Descriptive kiosk shows technical operation and science

Node #2, Geologic History to Present

A geologic description of the formation of the Valley of the Sun, its mountains and rivers.

- Estrella mountains
- Agua Fria, Gila and Salt Rivers
- Soils
- Rock
- Minerals
- Descriptive kiosks in perimeter of node
- Floor of node shows inlay (mosaic?) of 3 rivers and mountains...huge map

Node #3, Flora and Fauna Ancient to Present

Tracks the history of plants and animals in the region of the Three Rivers including the Estrella mountains to the present landscape of the Sonoran Desert

- Animals of the past
- Plants of the past
- Descriptive kiosk
- Floor and perimeter of node could show sculptures and or inlays of animals and plants
- Perimeter and all along canal sonoran desert plants are growing

Node #4, 500AD to 1500, Hohokam Culture

Documents the history of the Hohokam people, their way of life and their disappearance

- Canals
- Housing (showing construction of kiva, ramada or pueblo showing adobe making process)
- Canals and irrigation techniques (exhibit of a small-scale working field with crops)
- Farming and crops
- Art (pottery and rock art, clothing?)
- Population at 1500AD
- Descriptive kiosk

Node #5, 1500 to 1700, European Explorers, Jesuits, Native Americans

Tells the story of the European Explorers, the Jesuit missionaries, introduction of the Pima Indians and their influence on each other

- Cortez, Coronado, etc.
- Seven Cities of Cibola
- Padre Kino and the Jesuits (sculpture of Padre Kino?)
- Pima Indians and their way of life
- Discovery of Gold
- Population at 1700AD
- Descriptive kiosk

Node #6, 1700 to 1800

Continues the story of the Jesuit missionaries, Pima Indians, Apaches, Spanish and the Mexicans

- Padre Jacobo Sedelmair
- Padre Garces
- Gold mining and stories, Old Spanish mine (reproduction of the mine's stone house)
- Exhibit of gold mining techniques and equipment
- Pima Indian revolt (Spanish and Mexicans expelled from Arizona)
- Jesuits expelled by Carlos III
- Anza expeditions
- Population at 1800AD
- Descriptive kiosk

Node #7, 1800 to 1850

Illustrates Arizona's increasingly complex society as a result of the mix of diverse cultures

- Apache wars on Spanish and Mexican settlements
- Mexican revolution establishes Mexican Republic in 1823
- First Americans in Arizona: Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson, Pauline Weaver, James Pattie
- Small Pox Plague among Pimas
- Maricopa Indians settle along Estrellas, 1810-1820's
- Another smallpox epidemic among Pimas 1843
- 1847 Mexican war begins,
- Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo
- 1847 Southwest annexed by US, including all of Arizona north of Gila River
- 1848 California Gold Rush, prospectors from east travel along southern end of Estrellas to California: known as "Jornada das Estrellas"
- Population at 1850AD
- Descriptive kiosk

Node #8, 1850 to 1912

Illustrates Arizona's journey from Mexican ownership, a US Territory to finally a State in 1912

- 1851, Oatman Massacre
- 1854, Gadsden Purchase: US buys rest of Arizona from Mexico
- Monument Hill: point in Avondale from which all points in Arizona are surveyed from (?)
- 1854, Territory of Arizona is proposed by Sylvester Mowry
- 1856, Hi Jolly introduces Camels in Arizona to work for US Army
- 1858, Butterfield Stage line is established
- 1860, Civil War begins
- 1862, Arizona is part of Confederate New Mexico, Battle at Picacho Pass
- 1863 Lincoln creates Arizona Territory
- 1867, Jack Swilling builds canals using parts of Hohokam canal system
- 1870, Phoenix is founded
- 1871, Maricopa County formed, population 3,000, La Casa Vieja
- 1881, Phoenix is Incorporated, Southern Pacific Railroad arrives in Maricopa
- Billy Moore Stagecoach stop
- 1884, Lost Dutchman Mine
- 1887, RR arrives in Phoenix
- 1889, Phoenix becomes capitol of Arizona Territory
- 1899, St John the Baptist mission established
- Native American relations
- 1909, National Parks System in Arizona
- 1911, Roosevelt dam completed
- Population
- Descriptive kiosk

Node #9, 1912 to 1950

Documents Arizona's Statehood, the 5c's, people and events contributing to Arizona's growth

- 1912, Arizona becomes 48th state
- 1912, Arizona adopts 5c's (description of cotton, copper, climate, cattle, citrus)
- Farming and irrigation
- 1922, Arizona's first "colored" high school
- WWI: Cotton, Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Paul Litchfield and Litchfield Farms
- Farm Camps, & Cemetery
- Litchfield Park

- Wigwam Resort
- Litchfield Station
- SW Valley cities: Tolleson, Litchfield Park, Avondale, Goodyear and Buckeye
- 1940's, modernizing of Arizona as a result of the influx of servicemen and training facilities as a result of the impending WWII
- 1941, WWII, Litchfield Naval Air Facility, internment camps, POW camps
- Post war boom, Housing (Wingfoot houses, and Bubble houses)
- Paul Litchfield's apprentice farmer project
- Native American relations
- Tourism in Arizona
- Population
- Descriptive kiosk

Node #10, 1950 to 2012

Documents Arizona's Post war boom, economic growth and continued modernizing of Arizona and it's historic economic recession in 2007 to it's Centennial in 2012.

- 1951, Great flood
- Salt River Project
- Naval Air Facility
- Goodyear Aerospace
- Maricopa County Park System established (see Node #11)
- Farming and irrigation
- Manufacturing and Technology
- Farm Camps
- Tourism in Arizona
- Interstate 10
- Trotting track
- APS, Palo Verde Nuclear Facility
- PIR
- Keating 7
- Goodyear Ballpark
- Organizations: Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, West Vally Arts Council, Etc.
- Old Churches, New Churches.
- Native American relations
- 2012, Arizona Centennial, New 5c's (Climate, Conservation, Commerce, Community, Culture)
- Population
- Descriptive kiosk

Node #11, Estrella Mountain Regional Park History

Dedicated to the Maricopa County Park system and specifically to Estrella Mountain Regional Park, to be located adjacent to the EMRP Nature center.

- History of Park System
- Development of EMRP
- Other parks in system: White Tanks Regional Park, Mcdowell Mountain Regional Park, etc.
- Key individuals: Jim King, etc.
- Key partners: ie: APS, Caterpillar, etc.
- Descriptive kiosk