

THE TRAIL TIMES

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Campbell Trailhead clean-up. We performed a much-needed cleanup on the parcel of private property next to the Campbell Trailhead at the end of Campbell Avenue in January, 2019 (yes, we asked first if we could pick up the property!). The parcel hadn't been cleaned up for many years, and most of the trash was hidden under bushes and trees, but we found some very interesting things on the site. We picked up cell phones, dinner plates, dentures(?), tiny liquor bottles...and, of course, the usual beer and soda containers. Almost 10 large bags of trash in all! We're slowly making the trailheads better for everyone.

Trail signs for Tucson Mountain Park. The trail signs we put up at Robles Pass Trails Park and the Sweetwater Preserve have been a big success, so in the fall of last year, we decided to start putting them up at Tucson Mountain Park proper. We completed signing the eastern part of Tucson Mountain Park at the end of 2018, and are now moving to the central and western parts of the park. The northern part of the park will be the final piece we'll do. We think the park's 62-mile trail system will be all signed up within the year. We'll start the Tortolitas sometime later this year as well!

Tortolita West Trail. The Tortolita West Trail is making steady progress. The trail will connect Marana's Tortolita Preserve property with the Tortolita Mountain Park trail system, which is already done. We've had the trail sited (by Neil Stitzer), the trail surveyed (by Dan Tremblay and company of Pima County DOT), and the application to the Arizona State Land Department almost done (by Aaron Mergenthal of Pima County Real Property). The application will be sent to the ASLD in Phoenix soon. Cross your fingers.

Tortolita West Trailhead? We'd love to do a new trailhead on the west side of the Tortolita Mountains, and with the Tortolita West Trail nearing review by the ASLD, we're looking for a new trailhead site. Recently, the Trails and Open Space Program went out in the field with Sue Clark, president of Pima Trails Association, and we found a terrific new site that we actually already own. It'll be great if it checks out. Watch this space for an update in the next edition of The Trail Times.

Inaugural race at McKenzie Ranch. McKenzie Ranch held its opening event on December 1st 2018. The first mountain bike race in the history of the park was sponsored by the Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists (SDMB) and Pima County NRPR, and it was a terrific success. Mark Flint and Neil Stitzer of the Trails and Open Space Program worked on the park's trails with Evan Pilling, the executive director of SDMB, and they did a terrific job. We look forward to hosting another event soon.

Painted Hills update. The Painted Hills property got an early start when the U of A's Tumamoc Hill pathway/road was closed while they re-paved it. We had just finished working on *our* main pathway at Painted Hills, and seeing how it's just a little more than two miles away from Tumamoc, we thought we'd offer it as a great path for the displaced Tumamoc hikers to use. We called one of our favorite writers, the Arizona Daily Star's Doug Kreutz, to tell him we had a terrific alternative to the Tumamoc Trail to tell him about, and he was very interested. He wrote a story about Painted Hills, and the rest is history. We'll still be working on the singletrack trail at Painted Hills until the fall, but the wider pathway/trail is now open to shared use.