

Level Three

Create a Trail



Living in Apache Junction, there are many locations where people can go and explore the beautiful desert landscape, within their neighborhood! Creating a Trail will bring together the community to clean up and explore the great Sonoran Desert in Arizona. A community-led path or trail will promote better interactions among neighbors and makes it easier for people to incorporate exercise into their daily routines, whether for recreation or non-motorized transportation. The most popular trails are those that grow out of neighborhoods desire!

Investment: This project requires around three hours for each visitation to the trail, **4 times a year**. And can cost around 50 dollars for supplies and other additional features to the trail.

1. Find Neighborhood Members to Help

- First thing to do is to bring together people from around the neighborhood like family, friends, and neighbors and ask them to help you with this project. Pick one leader of the group to oversee all actions.
- The more people involved the faster it will be to complete, less work per individual and the more fun you will have!

2. Pick a Location for a Walkable Trail

- Choose a suitable location that is wide enough for a trail, and is about a mile or less in length. A clear start of the trail and end of the trail needs to be distinguished and the trail area should have high visibility to promote safety.
- Your safety is very important, so choose a location you will feel safe walking in. Examples of great places:
 - Near a Park or open space
 - Next to a neighborhood
 - Back alley of your house

3. Contact Apache Junction Public Works

- Public Works is responsible for the construction and maintenance of all public property in the city of Apache Junction. If your trail location is on public property (ex. Alley), you must submit paperwork for approval of the trail location.
- Submit the "[Request Form](#)" and fill out all provided information for the trail. Once complete, submit online for Heather Patel and Public Works to review.

4. Schedule a Date

- Once Public Works has contacted you and has approved the trail location, decide a date **one week** in advance to begin the creation of the trail.
- Maintenance of the trail after creating it is required by the leader at least **4 times** a year. One week notice is still required **each time**, to Public Works.

5. Bring Necessary Tools

- The group leader will help provide the necessary tools needed for making the trail, as well as maintaining it. Tools like:
 - Rakes, Shovels, Garden Forks
 - Gloves, Trash bags, **WATER**

6. Clear a Distinctive Pathway

- When creating the trail, make sure to first clear away all trash around the area and clear any loose brush. Use the rakes or forks to shape the trail from the beginning to the end.
- Make sure the ground of the trail is even with no large holes. Make sure to keep the natural beauty of the landscape! After completion, walk trail to see that it is safe.
- If there is space you can even plant low water use bushes and wildflowers.
- Keep in mind when designing a trail for an alley that service vehicles may drive down it. So make sure that the trail and any plants will not impede the service vehicles.



7. Once Trail is Organized and Pathway is Shown, Enjoy the Beautiful Desert!

8. Optional: Create Trail Signs with Information About the Plant and Tree Species

- Identify and label various species to provide an educational opportunity for trail users
- Plants Maps - fun interactive way to discover different species of plants on your neighborhood <http://info.plantsmap.com/tags/>