

https://www.dcourier.com/news/chino-valley-receives-2-2-million-grant-for-peavine-trail-link/article_22550ac7-475d-4826-be32-8c05ec0a56db.html

Chino Valley receives \$2.2 Million grant for Peavine Trail link

By STAN BINDELL, For the Review
Sep 16, 2026



Mike Coomer, executive assistant for the town, stands by the current sign at the south end of the Peavine Trail in Chino Valley. (Stan Bindell/Review)



The town of Chino Valley has obtained a \$2.2 million grant from the Arizona Department of Transportation to connect the Peavine Trail in Chino Valley with the Peavine Trail in Prescott.



Mike Coomer, executive assistant for the town, said the project has been a long time coming. He praised Community Services Director Cyndi Thomas and the town's Executive Analyst, Jessi Sorteberg, for making it a reality.

Thomas has been working on the project since she started with the town in 2005, and Sorteberg joined the effort after starting work with the town this past year.

The Chino Valley section of the Peavine Trail is 5.8 miles, the Prescott section is about 10 miles and the gap in between is about 2.5 miles, as the total trail, once complete, will be more than 18 miles.

Right now, the two sections do not connect. Once the project is complete, pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians will have a continuous regional trail connection between Chino Valley and Prescott.

Thomas said the connection has been nearly 20 years in the making.

"It will close a significant gap in our regional trail system and create a safe, continuous, nonmotorized route between our communities," she said.

Thomas emphasized that it is also an investment in recreation, health, tourism and the quality of life the town offers its residents.

"Our residents will have greater access to miles of connected trails for walking, running, biking and horseback riding, all at no cost. The connection may also bring more visitors into Chino Valley, supporting tourism and local businesses," she said.

Thomas said most importantly, it gives people of all ages another opportunity to be active and spend time outdoors.

The project includes completing the final design and constructing approximately two miles of trail. Because a portion of the alignment is located within a 100-year floodplain, the work will include a wash crossing bridge at Granite Creek.

It will also require game fencing to safely guide trail users through the corridor while protecting surrounding properties and wildlife.

To this point, the town has already completed scoping and design to 30% for the project. To complete the design, the town anticipates the cost will be \$454,182. Total construction is projected to cost \$2,270,178.

Sorteberg, the town's grant writer, said the best part is that because of ADOT's Transportation Alternatives grant funding, the town is responsible for only a 5.7% local match totaling \$155,289.

Sorteberg said the process, from identifying a grant and matching it with a project opportunity to applying for the grant, executing a grant agreement and procuring engineers and construction companies, is a precise and sometimes lengthy one. An engineering firm and construction company have not yet been selected.

Thomas said the best part of the Peavine Connector project is the connectivity it will provide.

"This has been a long time coming, and it is exciting to see years of planning, persistence and cooperation finally bringing us closer to a continuous regional trail," she said.

Thomas said it has been an honor to work alongside Jesse Sorteberg and town engineer Steve Sullivan on the project.

"Jesse's endurance, persistence and tremendous hard work were instrumental in securing this funding. I am incredibly proud of what our team has accomplished and what this project will mean for Chino Valley," she said.

Sorteberg said her connection to the Peavine Trail is personal.

"My mom was part of the original Prescott running group started by Gheral Brownlow, a former Yavapai County supervisor and well-known and beloved local trailblazer, and they spent many miles running the Peavine. I think Gheral and that first group of runners would be incredibly proud to see the trail they loved grow into approximately 18 continuous miles connecting our communities. It's special to have a small part in carrying that vision forward," she said.

Sorteberg said the greatest challenge has been finding a safe and workable route through an area involving multiple property interests, significant fencing needs and Granite Creek.

"Securing enough funding for a project of this size was also a major hurdle. It has taken years of coordination, problem-solving and persistence to reach this point," she said.

Thomas said that at this time, no trees or constructed shade areas have been identified as part of the confirmed project scope. Any additional amenities will depend on the final design, available funding and maintenance considerations.

Thomas said the Peavine Connector project has been a shared vision involving past and present town employees, elected officials, trail advocates and regional partners.

"It was not one person's idea; it grew from the regional goal of creating a continuous Peavine Trail system. The connection has been discussed and pursued for nearly 20 years," she said.

The grant provides a two-year window for completion, with final design and construction still ahead.

"Although the trail is not connected yet, receiving this funding moves us significantly closer to making that long-standing vision a reality," she said.

The trail is intended for people of all ages and abilities who enjoy walking, hiking, jogging, bicycling and horseback riding. Families, children, seniors, serious athletes, casual trail users and visitors will all be able to benefit from it.

"As with any outdoor trail, individuals should select distances and conditions appropriate for their abilities," she said.

There is existing dirt parking near the southern portion of Chino Valley's Peavine Trail off Road 4 South.

Restrooms and new parking facilities are not currently identified as part of the confirmed South Connection project scope. Those types of amenities may be considered separately later as the regional trail system develops and funding becomes available.

New park would bring more connections

Thomas said the South Connection and the new state park at Del Rio Springs are separate projects, but they fit into the same larger regional vision.

This project connects Chino Valley south to Prescott, while the long-term vision is to continue the Peavine Trail north toward Del Rio Springs and the headwaters of the Verde River.

"Together, these projects have the potential to create a roughly 25-mile trail corridor connecting Prescott, Chino Valley and the new state park. That would be an incredible recreational and tourism asset for the entire region," she said.

Thomas said she wants people to understand that the trail is not connected yet.

"We still have final design and construction work ahead of us. However, this grant is one of the most significant milestones the project has reached in nearly two decades.

"This is a wonderful example of what can happen when employees, elected officials, community advocates and regional partners remain committed to a shared vision."

Thomas said the Peavine Trail connection will create something lasting, not only for today's residents, but for future generations.



Your Business Has a Story

Do you own or manage a
business?



Yes

No

Daybreak builds community through opportunity. [Learn more.](#)