

Tucson Garden Railway Society – 2020 Rails in the Garden Tour
Saturday and Sunday, March 14th and 15th, 10am to 4pm both days

***** Due to the coronavirus, the layouts of *****
***** number 7, 8 and 9 have been cancelled *****

Unless stated otherwise, all layouts are wheelchair accessible.

**Note – For the most part, these layouts are at private homes
and, therefore, public restrooms are usually not available.**

The number listed before each layout is the same number that is shown on the tour map.

Layouts in the Saddlebrooke area

1

Bobcat and Quail Railroad
62066 E. Amberwood Drive 85739

The railroad has nearly 300 feet of track which meanders around the backyard. An old clear cut and sawmill greets the visitor to the backyard. A few Norwegian loggers still hang out in the area. An old west town and a Mexican town are located on the layout. The time frame for our railroad is the early 1930's situated somewhere in the four corners area

From Oracle, turn east on Eagle Crest Drive on the north end of Catalina. Take your first right on to Edwin Rd. and head east not quite a mile and you will see an open gate into the Saddlebrooke area on your left. You will be on Clubhouse Dr.. Take your first left on Sandcrest and follow it up the hill to where it intersects with Amberwood.

2

South Park and Western Railroad
39794 S. Riverwood Drive 85739

The South Park & Western Railroad is based on the mountain railroads of Colorado in their heyday. The layout is 20 X 70 feet in size and sits on a 2 1/2 foot tall raised "flowerbed". The motive power is Steam with fully functioning LIVE STEAM power. Come watch as the engineer fuels, fires, and runs these unique locomotives. This prosperous railroad has recently acquired the assets of a local 2 foot narrow gauge railroad which will also be in operation.

From Oracle, turn east on Eagle Crest Drive on the north end of Catalina. Take your first right on to Edwin Rd. and head east about a half mile and you will see an open gate into the Saddlebrooke area on your left. You will be on Clubhouse Dr. Take the second left onto Windwood Drive and then the first right onto Riverwood Drive.

Updated on March 11, 2020

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Layouts in the Northwest area of Tucson

3

Rose Garden Railroad

7594 W. Talavera Way 85743

The Rose Garden RR is 640 foot “U” shaped double loop with the upper elevated with 106 handmade piers. There are 7 roses between the loops. The RR is battery operated, with no specific time period as I run both 10 wheeler steam and diesel locomotives. A waterfall, stream, aerial tram, Disney Character retreat, small adobe village with hotel, a ranch, Christmas village, mine, and mountain retreat are the structures on display.

I-10 to exit 244 (Twin Peaks Rd.), turn West on Twin Peaks Rd. to Coachline Rd.. Turn Left on Coachline Rd. to Silverbell Rd. Right on Silverbell Rd. to Silver Moon Way. Right on Silver Moon Way to Talavera Way (100ft after turn on Silver Moon Way). Right on Talavera Way to the end of Cul-de-Sac.

4

Turtle River Railroad

5100 Paseo del Campo 85745

The Turtle River Railroad was completely rebuilt in 2017-18 as a more senior friendly design with towns and industries on raised beds. Stretches of bridges and trestles join raised areas of towns. It still models a railroad somewhere in the Southwest in the late 1800's. The operational focus is on hauling ore from the mine to an interchange terminal, and transporting miners to the mine. The new railroad is a dog bone with 200+ feet of track that follows the perimeter wall of the yard. Those who have visited before will recognize some features and see some new things. The railroad features automated operation of up to four different trains (one-at-a-time).

The Ruthrauff/ El Camino Del Cerro exit from I-10 is closed for freeway construction.

FROM THE SOUTH: *Exit I-10 at Grant Rd. and turn left (West) on Grant Rd. and continue to Silverbell Rd., turn right on Silverbell Rd. and continue 3.5 miles to El Camino Del Cerro, turn left on El Camino Del Cerro.*

FROM THE NORTH: *Take Orange Grove Rd. West under I-10, turn left on the frontage road for 1 mile to Sunset Rd., turn right on Sunset over the Santa Cruz River to Silverbell Rd., turn left and drive 1 mile to El Camino Del Cerro, turn right on El Camino Del Cerro.*

FROM LAYOUT #5: *Take River Rd. West to Orange Grove Rd. and turn left under I-10 to the frontage road, turn left and go 1 mile to Sunset Rd., turn right over the Santa Cruz River to Silverbell Rd. Turn left and drive 1 mile to El Camino Del Cerro and turn right.*

FOLLOW THESE STEPS AFTER THE ABOVE DIRECTIONS FROM THE NORTH OR SOUTH OR LAYOUT #5...

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On El Camino Del Cerro continue about 1 1/2 miles west of Silverbell Rd. and turn left on Paseo de Los Rancheros. In about .6 miles jog left to stay on Paseo de Los Rancheros. Continue another 1/2+ miles to the top of the hill and turn right on Paseo del Campo. We are the first house on the right.

Layouts in the Central and Southwest area of Tucson

5

Cholla Patch Railroad

925 E. Foothills Dr. 85718

The 375 ft. Cholla Patch Railroad emphasizes the gardening aspect by incorporating a huge variety of desert plants and cactus (especially chollas). The railroad is an intricate symphony of handcrafted elaborate wood trestles, bridges, walkways and tunnel that carefully winds like a pretzel around all the plants and structures. Roughly designed to reflect turn of the century styles and technology, the extremely detailed buildings even have furnished interiors. Keep your eyes peeled for the many odd and humorous vignettes and the luxurious Victorian treehouse!

Foothills Drive is one block north of River Rd. off of 1st Ave. Turn East onto Foothills Dr. then go to the 4th house on the left (north) side of the street.

6

Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum

4823 S. 6th Avenue 85714

This is a railroad based in the early frontier days of Tucson. Sections of the Tucson area included are a Mexican village, a “tent city”, a stockyard and the main street downtown with its historic train station. Trains and sounds of the time bring Tucson’s past to life.

Take I-19 to Irvington, go left (East) on Irvington about 1 mile, turn left (North) on 6th Ave. and the museum is on the right just north of Irvington. Or from I-10 take Irvington exit to westbound Irvington. Turn North on 6th Avenue as above to the museum on the right.

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Layouts in the Rincon Country West RV Resort

7

Rincon Country West RV Resort Main Layout CANCELLED

4555 S. Mission Road 85746

The RCW layout is located at 4555 S. Mission Rd. The layout has 5 interconnecting loops with approx. 1000 feet of track. The layout accommodates Diesel & Steam, track power or battery. During our Train-A-Thon event we have run 23 engines pulling various rolling stock. The layout depicts a canyon area, waterfall feature & rural town with farm area. "Old Town" is located along a running stream and a circus area. Four tourist trolleys and an abundance of flowers, trees and bushes showcase several whimsical vignettes. We also have a mountain with a waterfall and a lake.

Although the address is listed as Mission Road, to get to the park turn east on W. Via Ingresso. This is on Mission Road, south of Ajo Road and north of Irvington Road. Follow this road a short distance and you'll see the entrance to the park on the right. The park is gated and the guard will let you thru. Continue on the main street to the large parking lot on the left. The layout is at the far end of the parking lot.

8

C & S Southwest (C&SS) Mini Layout CANCELLED

Space G504

The railroad is an example of a very small garden setup for Trailers, Townhouses or Condos. A 12ft x 6ft oval encircles a variety of perennials and annuals interspersed with an outdoor market, construction site, formal garden, farmyard and other buildings.

Row G is to the right of the main RCW entry road as you head to the main complex. House is on the right about mid street.

9

Cactus Junction Mini Layout CANCELLED

Space B57

Another example of a very small garden setup for Trailers, Townhouses or Condos. This scenic railway passes through many natural and man-made wonders such as the Towering Saguaro and Donkey Cart. As the track passes close to Sun Haven Station and through Bluchare Tunnel it enters a sweeping right turn know as Barrel Bend and continues into Prickly Gulch where remnants of damage sustained in a random FedEx truck attack can still be seen. From here the track passes Chicken Crossing on the right and skirts along the edge of Pavers Drop. Soon after the forty foot journey comes to and end with a stunning view of the rare Propeller Plane.

After viewing the main layout, exit the parking lot to the left and then turn right at the "T" intersection. Bear right at the fork and turn left at the "T" intersection. It will be on your right.