

Tucson Garden Railway Society – 2025 Rails in the Garden Tour

Saturday and Sunday, March 8th and 9th, 10am to 4pm both days

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 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.

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.

Layouts in the Northwest area of Tucson

2 Rose Garden Railroad **7594 W. Talavera Way 85743**

The Rose Garden RR is 670 foot double loop with the upper loop elevated with 106 handmade piers. There are 5 roses between the loops. The RR is battery operated, with no specific time period as I run both steam and diesel locomotives. A waterfall, stream, aerial tram, Disney character retreat, adobe village with hotel, a ranch, Christmas village, winery, 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.

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Layouts in the Central area of Tucson

3 Cholla Patch Railroad **925 E. Foothills Dr. 85718**

There are three separate railroads here. A 375 ft. mainline, a 30 ft. trolley line and a rare 8 ft. funicular inclined railroad (the first and only G-scale funicular to be designed and installed in a garden railway). The gardening aspect is emphasized by incorporating a huge variety of desert plants and cactus from all over the world. The railroad is an intricate symphony of handcrafted, elaborate wood trestles, bridges, walkways and a tunnel that carefully winds like a pretzel around all the mountain stone islands, plants and structures. Roughly designed to reflect turn of the century styles and technology, the extremely detailed buildings even have furnished interiors. Hand painted little people are everywhere. 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

4 Gadsden-Pacific Division Toy Train Operating Museum **3975 N. Miller Ave. 85705**

The outdoor layout will be open on Sunday from 10am to 4pm, but not on Saturday. The indoor layouts will also be open on Sunday from 1pm to 4pm. There is a \$5 per person or \$10 per family admission fee.

The G-Scale Layout is one of the outdoor attractions at the Gadsden Pacific Toy Train Museum. The walk-around layout is built up in the shade of two large trees on the property. There are five complete loops, three lower ones at 24" elevation and two upper ones at 36".

On the upper elevation is a small pond with a creek leading to a waterfall, another to a Stamp mill. One of the tracks runs over a 10 foot long wooden trestle. Other tracks cross bridges spanning a canyon. The trains run through highly detailed terrain with regional highlights such as the Clifton Station and Jail, Mission San Xavier del Bac and Old Tucson. There is also a replica of the Chama Coaling Tower.

From I-10 exit East on Prince Road, making an immediate Left at the First light- Runway Drive-Turn Right on Sun Tran Blvd. The street curves to the Left- Turn left on the first road- McMillian St. Turn right onto Miller Avenue, the Museum is on the Left.

From the corner of Ruthrauff /La Cholla continue South on La Cholla, turn Left on Gardner Lane- First Right is Miller Ave.

Street parking is allowed.

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Layouts in the Southwest area of Tucson

5 Southern Arizona Transportation Museum
414 N. Toole Avenue 85701

This location will feature two layouts...

- Located in the Museum Hall you will find an overhead railroad depicting the 1880s. The locomotive is similar to the full scale mogul locomotive next to the Union Pacific railroad tracks.
- The next layout is located right below locomotive 1673 and is a “point to point” configuration. This layout depicts some of the buildings that were in downtown Tucson in the 1880s.

The museum is located at 414 N. Toole just a few doors down from the Amtrak station.

Coming from the east or west on Broadway turn north onto Toole Avenue.

Coming from the north proceed on Stone Avenue and as you go under the boat dock you will then approach Toole Avenue on your left. The museum is located at Toole and Pennington.

6 Tucson Wagon and History Museum (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.

7 Rincon Country West RV Resort
4555 S. Mission Road 85746

The RCW layout has 5 interconnecting loops with approx. 1000 feet of track. The layout accommodates diesel and 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 and 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.

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Layouts in the East area of Tucson

8 Silver City, Deming and Pacific **11330 E. Concho Circle 85749**

The Silver City, Deming and Pacific is a new 2 year old garden layout. While the real SCD&P was sold to the Sante Fe in 1888, this layout presumes the railroad remained independent in 1923 as a narrow gauge line serving Silver City, Pinos Altos and Santa Rita with the only connection to the outside world, off layout, at Deming. Logging, a sawmill and copper ore make up the out-bound traffic. In the era before trucks highways, everything had to be shipped by rail so the inbound traffic ranges from fruit-and-vegetables (in an iced car) to machinery for the mine. This is an opportunity to see the parts of a garden layout during construction, as well as talk about model rail operations.

From the corner of Houghton and Tanque Verde, take Tanque Verde 1.5 miles east to Conestoga. Turn left and take the third street on the left, Concho Cir. The house is the second on the left. 11330 E Concho Cir can also be located by Google Maps.

9 Catalina and Rincon Saddle Railroad **12440 E. Ave de la Vista Verde 85749**

The Catalina and Rincon Saddle (CRS) Railroad is generally themed in the early steam era and conforms with the AWNUTS concept (Always Whimsical Not Usually To Scale). Conceived and constructed over 20 years ago it fulfills a long term dream of getting back into model railroading.

While most garden railroads are planned around open space with few constraints, the CRSRR is an example of creating a railroad around established landscaping. Approximately 350 feet of track meanders around the outer edges of the yard and can be operated as two independent loops, two independent ‘dogbone’ configurations or one single long ‘dogbone’. All trains are battery powered.

The layout will feature a “seek and find” for the "kid" in all of our visitors. We are a little ways out east but worth the effort.

From Tanque Verde/Houghton head east on Tanque Verde 2.5 mi to left on Fennimore. Take the second right on Avenida de la Vista Verde to 12440.

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Layout in Oracle, AZ

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The Oracle Community Learning Garden's Kid's Railroad
1644 E. Mt. Lemmon Hwy, 85623

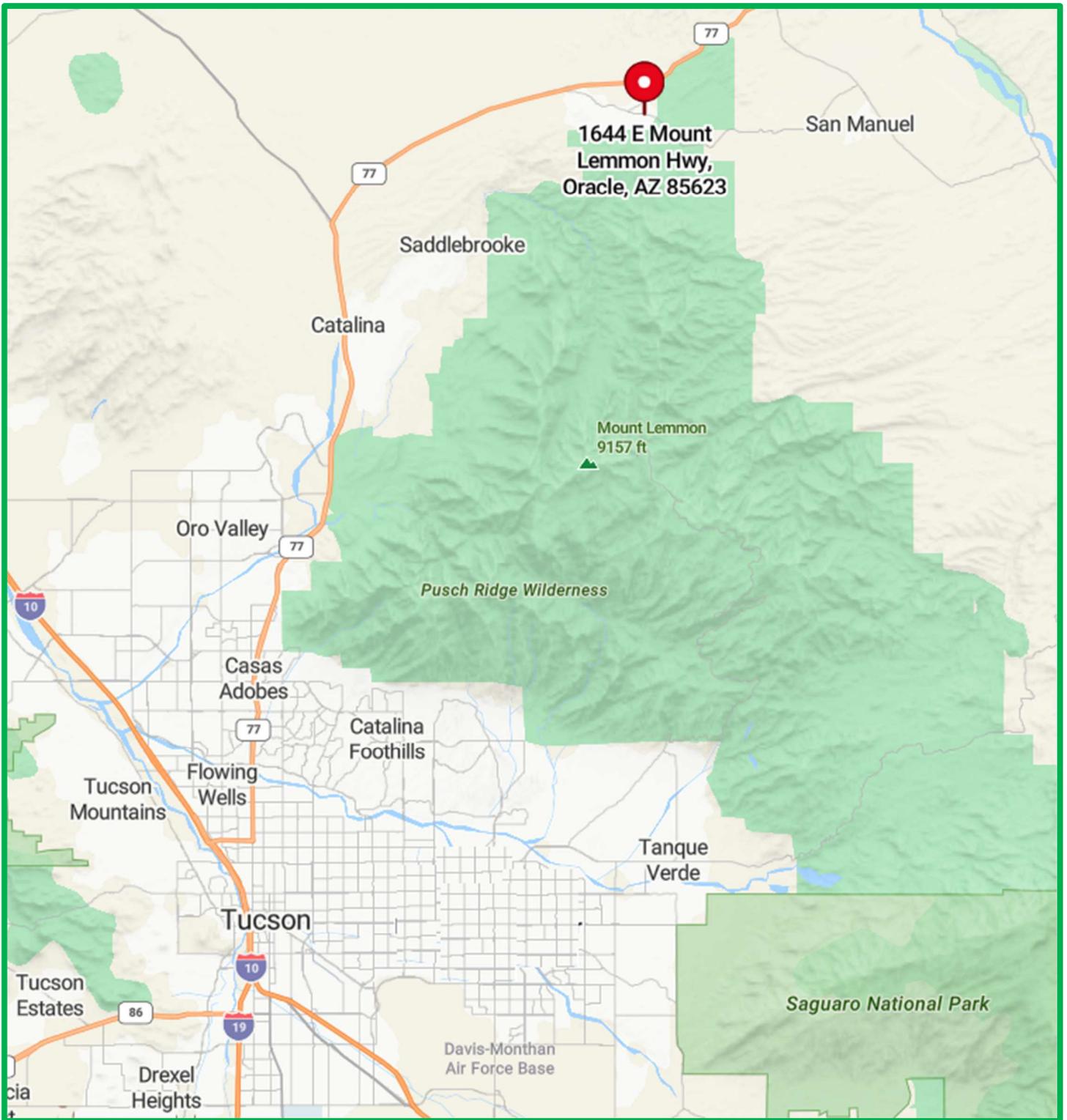
The Oracle Community Learning Garden's Kid's Railroad is located on the North side of the intersection of Mt. Lemmon Hwy & John Adams in Oracle. The Kid's RR provides local school children and visitors an opportunity to learn about the historic role of railroads in the development and settlement of Arizona. The historical venues and educational posters include period buildings and landscaping. Venues include: The Mining & Smelting of Copper; Logging and Sawmill; Cattle Ranching; Farming, cotton & citrus; a small town with passenger station and rail yard. Numerous trestles and bridges are included to show how they were used to transverse the diverse Arizona landscape.

This unique railroad encourages visiting "kids of all ages" to operate battery powered, "G" scale model railroad locomotives and rolling stock using remote controls. The "dog bone" layout is 15 X 130 feet, includes approximately 525 feet of track, 300 foot main line, a 2% grade helix, tunnel and "back-saving" staging track.

North on Oracle Hwy through Catalina to the junction of Hwy. 77 & 79. Keep right on 77 Hwy toward BioSphere. Continue on 77 Hwy past Biosphere toward Oracle. Turn Right on American Ave. and proceed through Oracle approx. 3 miles. Turn Right off American Ave. onto Mt. Lemon Hwy and proceed two blocks. At the intersection of John Adams and Mt. Lemmon Hwy, the entrance to Oracle Community Learning Garden and the Kid's RR is on the left.

The map to this location is on the next page.

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