

Tucson Garden Railway Society – 2026 Rails in the Garden Tour

Saturday and Sunday, March 7th and 8th, 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.

1

South Park and Western Railroad

39794 S. Riverwood Dr. 85739

The South Park & Western Railroad is based on the narrow gauge mountain railroads of Colorado in their heyday. Our layout is 20 X 70 feet in size and sits on a 2 1/2 foot tall raised “flowerbed”. The motive power is steam including fully functioning LIVE STEAM power. Come watch as the engineer fuels, fires, and operates 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.

Directions: 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.



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Rose Garden Railroad

7594 W. Talavera Way 85743

The Rose Garden RR is a 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, Resort Spa, Winery, Mine, and mountain retreat are the structures on display.

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



3

The Silver City, Deming, and Pacific

11330 E Concho Circle

The Silver City, Deming, and Pacific, nick-named The Hummingbird Line, is a newly started garden layout. While the real SCD&P was sold to the Sante Fe in 1888, this layout presumes the railroad remained independent in 1950 as a narrow-gauge line serving Silver City, Pinos Altos, and Santa Rita with connections to the outside world, off layout, at Deming. Logging, a sawmill, and copper ore make up the out-bound traffic. In the era before interstate 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.



Directions: 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.

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

**We are open both days for the Rails in the Garden tour and
open inside for our normal hours, from 1 – 4 Sunday**

The GPD Outside G Layout, **where kids operate the model train throttles**, was designed and its construction facilitated by club member Jurgen Zander, friend Glenn Ellis and several volunteers starting in 2015.

We acknowledge the model layout and today's commercial railroads rest on lands previously inhabited by the O'odham Jeweḍ, Ndee/Nnēē: (Western Apache), Sobaipuri, and Hohokam people.

The theme of the model railroad focuses on southern Arizona featuring locomotives and rolling stock for the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads. Both steam and diesel era models are included. We also run "Thomas, The Train" for the enjoyment of young visitors.



The elevated layout covers approximately 600 sq ft, with 380 feet of electrified track. The dog bone shaped tracks consist of three lower level tracks and two higher level tracks, one specular 3 1/2 foot high X 10 foot "S" curved wood trestle. In addition, there are four tunnels, several small trestles, bridges and a waterfall feature.

The numerous dioramas include models of the historical San Xavier Mission, Old Town Tucson, the exquisitely modeled Clifton Passenger Station, plus examples of commercial and recreational buildings/activities. Two viewing stands allow kids to look down on the layout while trains are running. All the trains and dioramas are stored in a near weatherproof shed.

The Museum and layout can be viewed during Open House most Sundays and can be rented for birthday parties and special tours.

Directions: 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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Southern Arizona Transportation Museum

414 N Toole 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 UP 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.

Directions: 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 (formerly 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.

Directions: 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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Rincon Country West RV Resort

4555 S. Mission Road 5746

The RCW 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.



Directions: 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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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.

We have a public bathroom on site. Oracle has a coffee shop, grill and three restaurants. 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. It features the Union Pacific, BNSF and Southern Pacific Brands. 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.



The Kid's RR 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.

Directions: North on Oracle Hwy through Catalina to the junction of Hwy. 77 & 79. Keep right on 77 Hwy toward BioSphere. Continue on Hwy 77 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.

(Photography by various club members.)