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GV hikers and bikers will promote National Trails Day

By Mike Touzeau

National Trails Day was launched in 1993 in this country to promote the construction and continued use of trails that accommodate hiking, cycling and horseback riding. The GVR Hiking Club and the Green Valley Mountain Bikers are planning to honor the day with a hike and a ride on June 4.

The two groups will take separate routes, the bikers from the west end of Camino Casa Verde and the hikers from near the Performing Arts Center, to draw attention to community trails already in place between that area of Green Valley and the mines to the west.

Bike lanes

The Master Plan for multi-use lanes and trails was developed by the GVCCC's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and includes the potential for trails in this area, with an emphasis on retaining and maintaining them for the convenience of residents and others who can appreciate their easy access for walking, riding, exercising pets, and viewing desert wildlife.

National Trails Day (NTD) was created, in part, to heighten awareness of community trails just like these, according to Bill Adamson, an avid cyclist who has been a tireless promoter himself of efforts to develop more and better biking trails in close proximity to Green Valley for a growing number of local enthusiasts.

NTD is the only nationwide celebration of trails, and includes events across the country that bring fans of the outdoors together. Dedications of new routes, exhibits, and projects to improve existing trails are all part of it, as well as awareness raising, much like this one in Green Valley.

Benefits reaped

Many advocates cite the benefits reaped by communities which provide and preserve accessible trails, not only in attracting tourism, but in health advantages, as well as increased property values and jobs.

"This is the only official hike we do in June," said club hike master Merle Batty.

"June is a break for the hike leaders, but we do this one in support of the NTD to get people out to see that there is potential for trails here."

He expects 30-40 hikers for the five-mile loop that traverses ranch roads and washes, and features glimpses of the endangered pineapple cactus and an old bombing range.

Adamson's wife, MaryLee, will lead the hike, while her husband is leading the ride from Camino Casa Verde.

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