

Press Release February 22, 2021

Hawes Trail Alliance – Formalize Board of Directors and Advisory Board Members

“The Hawes Trail Alliance is a non-profit organization that was formed to create a partnership with Tonto National Forest to help maintain, enhance, and expand the Hawes Trail System to be enjoyed by bikers, hikers, and all outdoor enthusiasts. All assistance is to help support the greater good of better, safer, and more accessible trails in Mesa, AZ!”



Hawes Trail Alliance was formed in December 2018 and we’ve been on the go ever since! In just over two years, we have created a Hawes Master Trail Plan, organized nearly 5,000 hours of volunteer time and raised nearly \$100,000 in donations. Today, HTA is excited to announce changes to its Board of Directors. As of February 1, 2021, Crystal Petrocelli, became HTA’s newest Board of Directors member, joining the three Founding Board Members, Michael Norberg, Tom Stapley and Grant Taylor. Additionally, Grant has been appointed as Chairman of the Board. Grant has been the guiding force behind the 501 (c) organization and the addition of Crystal will allow him to continue to keep HTA moving forward with its vision into the future.

Crystal has been an integral part of HTA from its inception, serving on the Advisory Board in many capacities. She brings added enthusiasm, local knowledge, and passion. Crystal will help manage and implement the recently approved “Master Trail Plan” for Hawes with specific responsibilities over trail building, trail maintenance and trail sustainability. She will be working closely with other key HTA Trail Advisory Board Members and volunteers to create the best trail system in the state of Arizona. Crystal will also oversee HTA’s social media presence with the assistance of other Advisory Board Members.

HTA is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers and passionate supporters who have helped make Hawes better and better. A quick recap of some of what has been accomplished since HTA was formed:

HTA Accomplishments

- BEFORE “Master Trail Plan” approval by Tonto National Forest:
 - ✓ **4 new trails built totaling 5 miles**
 - ✓ **11 social trails permanently adopted totaling 12 miles**

- AFTER “Master Trail Plan” approval by Tonto National Forest (roughly Oct. 22, 2020):
 - ✓ **8 new trails built totaling 10.62 miles**

- Total miles and new trails built since HTA inception (above totals combined):
 - ✓ **23 Trails and 27.62 miles – WOW!!!**

- Miles of approved trails left to build:
 - ✓ **7.2 miles across 8 different trails**

HTA continues to march forward with the implementation of the Master Plan, focusing on the buildout of the remaining trails, trail and user safety, designated trailheads, real parking solutions, signage, trail etiquette/awareness, and education.

Lastly, we want to thank our army of volunteers and supporters who collectively donated almost \$100,000 as well as thousands of hours of time all during a pandemic! INCREDIBLE!!! It is our volunteers who not only have helped start the construction and realization of this shared vision of the expanded and improved Hawes Trails, but they have become part of something outside themselves, something greater; they have become part of the HTA Family! They aren't necessarily **donors**, as much as **investors** in The Hawes Trails. Thank you for the blood, sweat, money, time, and efforts. This is the true magic of HTA.

*"Life is an echo. What you send out comes back. What you sow you reap. What you give you get.
What you see in others exists in you." — Zig Ziglar*