

Today's News-Herald

Volunteers flock to SARA Park to install trail markers



Greg Moberly/News-Herald Photo

SARA Park

Darryld Kautzmann, Mike Yahrmakt, and Craig Eggerman, Volunteers with Havasu 4 Wheelers work on securing one of the 14 carsonite trail markers Saturday at SARA Park. They were part of an effort with nearly 100 volunteers who took part in a National Public Lands Day celebration.

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Volunteers flock to SARA Park to install trail markers

By GREG MOBERLY TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD Havasu News

About 100 people, including individuals from different community groups, regular citizens, ASU students and city and Bureau of Land Management officials, installed new trail markers Saturday at SARA Park. The effort, which also included painting a yellow stripe on new grandstand steps at the rodeo grounds, was part of a National Public Lands Day celebration. Technically, the nationally recognized day was held near the end of September, but officials didn't want so many people working at the park at a time when hot conditions still are common.

"This is really nice weather," said Kim Liebhauser, BLM Lake Havasu field manager looking out into the partly cloudy skies above SARA Park and enjoying the 70 degree temperatures. Some people's health could have been at risk if the event was held near the end of September with the hot temperatures, she added.

Depending on what the volunteers decided to do, their efforts could have been longer and more strenuous. The main mission was to install 14 new carsonite trail markers on the yellow trail that extends 2.4 miles from the trailhead to Balance Rock campsite. Some stayed close to the trailhead off of Dub Campbell Parkway, helping put markers in the ground within the first mile. Others ventured

farther out to the end and made more of a day of it. The participants seemed to relish the opportunity to improve the hiking, biking or running experience that they already enjoy.

“(We’re doing this) because we love SARA Park,” said Steve Riley, with a group of volunteers from Havasu 4 Wheelers. “It’s better to be proactive than not,” said Craig Eggerman, also with Havasu 4 Wheelers. He said he had worked with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management on similar type cooperative projects in Colorado.

Some were newer to the area and simply having fun getting out. “I enjoy coming out and meeting all the new people,” said Warren Jones, who was working with Eggerman and Mike Yahrmarkt on securing the markers to forming stakes in the ground.

“We’re new in the community,” said Karen Bucaria, who was with her brother Gary Ward. She said both of them have been in Havasu for a couple of months and they have frequently hiked at SARA Park. Even though some people have gotten lost while hiking at SARA Park, hence the work to add trail markers, Bucaria and Ward said they haven’t had that problem. “I just look for landmarks (such as cars in the parking lots),” Ward said.

What organizers were looking for they got Saturday which is typical for Lake Havasu City, said Mayor Mark Nexsen. “As always, Lake Havasu City came through,” Nexsen said. “There were plenty of projects for everybody,” Nexsen added, later commenting that he helped out with the less strenuous yellow stripe painting on steps at the rodeo grounds. Work on the steps was completed in an hour, he added.

When the volunteers completed their work, they rested and had a lunch of hot dogs, cookies and water.