

Updated December 6, 2019

INTRODUCTION TO FRIENDS OF LAKE ARROWHEAD TRAILS, with Trails Information Included

By John Windham

Purposes

The Friends of Lake Arrowhead Trails (“FOLAT”) organization was established by Lake Arrowhead residents in August, 2016, to promote retention and enhancement of walking, hiking and (hopefully), biking trails in our community. FOLAT was founded after most of Lake Shore Trail, Lake Arrowhead’s longest, was lost to development activities. Our initial objective was to convince LAYCC Management/Johnson Development Corporation that trails are an inexpensive amenity appreciated by residents and potential home buyers. Besides recreation and health benefits, studies nationwide have shown trails availability increases property values. We encourage safe and enjoyable use of the trails. We have members who volunteer to help with enhancements and we occasionally have group walks/hikes.

Membership

Lake Arrowhead property owners and residents are eligible and invited to join FOLAT. If interested, please review this document and communicate agreement with our purpose/objectives and your membership request to John Windham at windhamj316@yahoo.com. Include your Lake Arrowhead address, email and phone number. There are no membership dues. Periodic updates on the status of LA’s trails are emailed to members. As of this writing, FOLAT has 88 active and 4 emeritus members.

Trail Status/Descriptions

When FOLAT was founded in 2016, Lake Arrowhead was down to about 2.5 miles of uninterrupted trails (0.8 miles paved; about 1.7 miles unpaved/natural path). Thanks to the support of LAYCC Management/Johnson Development Corporation, the McKinney Fund and their Clearwater project management team, and the Lake Arrowhead Property Owners Association (“LAPOA”) Board, the official network has been expanded to about 9.5 miles (1.5 miles of paved and 8 miles of natural path trails), comprised of the following six trails:

- 1) Flat Rock Trail. This popular paved trail originally ran for 0.5 miles from the gravel Flat Rock parking area down the hill from Great Festival Park (drive past the basketball court) to near the Lake Arrowhead lakeshore, where it intersected with the Lake Shore Trail. Flat Rock is now officially mapped as running from the Clubhouse parking lot via sidewalks along Arrow Ridge Drive, then through Great

Festival Park to the Flat Rock parking lot (location of the black steel Flat Rock Trail sign) and on to the lake. Length is about 1.0 mile. At the end of Flat Rock, turn left to enjoy the new Clearwater Loop Trail that runs an additional 0.4 miles (0.2 miles paved and 0.2 miles natural path). Further comments on Clearwater Loop are included below.

- 2) Wilderness Trail. This natural path trail runs almost 1.4 miles from near Arrow Ridge Drive across from the children's playground area in Great Festival Park to the Broken Arrow cul-de-sac. A black painted steel arch sign marks the trail head near a paved parking area adjacent to the town home construction site. Wilderness has ten creek crossings; seven of which have bridges. Two of the remaining three crossings are stepping stone crossings that are "dry" only when creek levels are fairly low.
- 3) Cascades Trail. This natural path trail is a spur from Wilderness Trail that runs about 0.2 mile from Wilderness to the cascade rocks, a small but picturesque waterfall. The Cascades Trail is marked by a black steel sign where it branches from the Wilderness Trail.
- 4) Summit Trail. This trail runs about 5 miles on dirt roads from the trail head at the end of South Cherokee Drive. Most of this trail is configured as a loop. It is on private property owned by Purcell Company. Accordingly, Summit Trail is reserved for members of the Lake Arrowhead Hiking Club. Hiking Club membership is open to Lake Arrowhead residents. Visit the Clubhouse office, or complete and mail the liability waiver and membership form at <https://lakearrowheadclub.net/hiking-club> to get your membership card. There are no dues. The Hiking Club had 226 members as of February, 2019.
- 5) Flat Rock- Cherokee Loop Trail. This trail was opened in May, 2019. The natural path part of the loop was built by LAYCC with volunteer help from Friends of Lake Arrowhead Trails. The new portion of Flat Rock- Cherokee Loop Trail has the same status as Summit Trail: It is on private property owned by Purcell Company, so it is only available to Lake Arrowhead Hiking Club members (see comments on how to join above). The beginning point of the new natural path section is only a few feet past the black steel Flat Rock Trail sign at the gravel Flat Rock parking lot. Look for a narrow dirt path to the right, running beside the rules sign for the Loop Trail. Watch for orange disk trail markers on trees bordering the trail path. A foot bridge crosses Shut-in Creek. As shown on the detailed map attached, there are two basic options for 'loop' hiking and returning to the parking area (designated by the upper "P" on the map).
 - a. Option 1 is 2.7 miles: Hike the natural path trail marked with orange trail markers, routed south to near South Cherokee Drive, then east beside the roadway to near Fairway Oaks condominiums where it turns north and eventually loops around to the east to Lake Arrowhead Drive. Follow the painted pedestrian lane across the roadway, continuing on the old paved golf cart path to the street in Clearwater. Continue on the street and cross the Clearwater bridge to approach the end of the paved Flat Rock trail. Turn left onto Flat Rock and continue for a half mile back to the parking area.

- b. Option 2 is 1.75 miles: Start out from the Flat Rock parking area and hike the natural path loop following the orange trail markers. Take the “Silver Spur” shortcut shown in red on the map and marked with plain aluminum (“silver”) trail markers. The spur reconnects to the main loop trail near its highest elevation point. Turn left onto the main trail (watching for orange trail markers again) and continue to Lake Arrowhead Drive at the painted pedestrian crossing. Cross Lake Arrowhead Drive and continue on the paved cart path to intersect with the Clearwater road near the new bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left onto the paved Flat Rock Trail, continuing back to the gravel Flat Rock parking area.
- 6) Clearwater Loop Trail (NOT included yet in the LAYCC trail map). The Clearwater Loop Trail was provided by the McKinney Fund, developer of Clearwater, for the enjoyment of all Lake Arrowhead residents on a “hike at your own risk” basis. The natural path portion of this loop trail is the newest addition to the Lake Arrowhead network, opened in December, 2019. The start of the trail is very near the end of Flat Rock Trail (near the lake). The natural path half of the loop follows the mulched road bed up the hill from Flat Rock, veering off to the right after about 30 yards. Look for white disk “hiker” trail markers. The natural path section intersects the paved section at the north end of the Clearwater development. Follow the paved trail section south back to the starting point. Total length is about 0.4 miles.