

Rebuilding of the Phillip Pratt Memorial Garden Railway

In 2011, Ms. Carol Abraham dedicated a G scale outdoor garden railway to the Amarillo Railroad Museum [ARM (1360 I Avenue, Amarillo) in memory of her son, Phillip Pratt.



Phillip explored different cultures, art, and nature, inspiring him to imagine a fantasy railway for escape. He enjoyed gardening, installed drip irrigation, learned three languages, and captained the Tascosa Academic Decathlon team studying global topics. Graduating from UT Arlington with Marketing Honors, Phillip's passion for travel is commemorated by the Phillip Pratt Memorial Garden Railway.

The railway increased the museum's attractions and attracted many visitors and members. Over time the deferred maintenance resulted in a general degradation of the facility. It was time for a substantial update.

In early 2025, three elderly enthusiasts of G Scale toy trains proposed a special interest group to the Amarillo Railroad Museum, aiming to rebuild the PPMGR. Their primary goal was to honor the original intent of the PPMGR while creating a structure that was easier to maintain and larger in both size and scope. Further the updated structure will become a unique permanent outdoor layout accessible to the public.



The new layout covers an area approximately 60' x 70', will be raised to a height of 36 to 40 inches using vertically positioned recycled utility poles, which are concreted into a trench.

Comprehensive irrigation, drainage, and electrification systems will support significant

landscaping efforts and provide track power for operating trains. The layout is designed to accommodate all types of G scale toy trains, including those powered by track electricity, batteries, or steam.

To enhance participant and observer comfort, the site will also feature a 10 x 16-foot covered gazebo. Including fans, lights and protection against wind and sun. *Stock image provided*



Ongoing projects include:

- Completing installation of the remaining 200+ utility poles.
 - Filling soil within interior walls to achieve the required elevation.
 - Constructing a 10 x 16 covered gazebo
 - Constructing rail support structures for all tracks, encompassing rail yards and dual main lines.
- Installing approximately 450 linear feet of track, switches, trestles, and bridges as necessary.
 - Landscaping the area.
 - Setting up plumbing for drip irrigation and drainage.
 - Selecting and planting suitable native and adapted species to improve landscape aesthetics.

Donations: Completion of this project will not be possible without donations from friends.

Below is the itemized materials and supplies needed to complete the memorial.

Contributors of large objects will be noted with a plaque attached to the memorials. Cash donations can be made using Visa, MasterCard or Discover, Apple Pay, PayPal, and Google Pay.

www.amarillorailmuseum.com/gr

Annual maintenance: \$2,000

Gazebo (hard top, 10' x 16'): 1 unit, \$10,500

Concrete slab (10' x 16' x 4"): \$1,650

Ceiling Fans: 2 units, \$200

Lighting Fixtures: 2 units, \$250

Track Switches (R6): 6 units, \$900

Power Supplies (20 amp): 2 units, \$700

Track Sections: 450 linear feet at \$10/ft, \$4,500

PVC Support Rail and Poles: 600 linear feet, \$1,800

Rebuilding began in May 2025, with reopening scheduled for May 9, 2026, coinciding with the ARM spring open house. We'll participate in the Route 66 centennial celebration during Amarillo days, June 4–13. We welcome your support and involvement in all upcoming events this year and next.

Would you consider a contribution to make the PPMGR a reality. For brochures of the ARM-GR Vision, Membership and Fundraising goals [CLICK HERE](#). Join the Amarillo Railroad Museum, Inc. and ARM-GR today!!