A message from the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors...

"Maricopa County is proud to be the home of one of the largest regional park systems in the United States.
We invite you to visit any one of these pristine parks and join an Interpretive Ranger on a guided hike, or spend the night at a campsite under the starlit Arizona sky."

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation
41835 N. Castle Hot Springs Road
Morristown, AZ 85342
Phone: 602.506.2930
Fax: 602.506.4692
www.maricopa.gov/parks

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

Lake Pleasant Regional Park, Morristown, AZ

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE!

Maricopa County
Parks and Recreation
Park System Information
Maricopa County, Arizona, USA

Welcome to Maricopa County's Parks and Recreation Department

From hiking on a barrier-free trail to horseback riding along a creek to testing your skills and abilities on a competitive track, Maricopa County Parks offer visitors the best of the Sonoran Desert. Ten parks in the system circle the Phoenix metropolitan area. At approximately 120,000 acres, Maricopa County is home to one of the largest regional park systems in the United States. A new adventure awaits you!

San Tan Mountain Regional Park

Trails

Recreation possibilities are endless with miles of trails for hikes, bikes, and horseback rides. Designating these scenic trails for **non-motorized use only** allows the public to be safe and enjoy the primitive desert. Interpretive Rangers offer guided hikes at no additional cost to the "Day Use" fee. The Maricopa Trail is a regional plan to connect all Maricopa County Parks with a 242-mile trail circling the metropolitan area. You can find more information on hikes and trails at www.maricopa.gov/parks.

Picnicking

There are hundreds of picnic tables and sites throughout the Maricopa County Park System. Many of these locations include a grill with nearby restrooms. Some picnic sites are covered, allowing for hours of outdoor enjoyment. Covered ramadas are also available and make the ideal setting for a wedding, party, or group gathering. For a nominal fee, visitors can reserve an area within the park for a wide variety of activities.

Camping

With camping sites available at almost every park, the Maricopa County Park System is home to thousands of visitors every year. Visitors come with their recreation vehicles (RVs) from all over the country to stay at a Maricopa County park. Tent campsites are also available in several of the parks, many with a picnic table and fire pit. Amenities like water/electric hookups, restrooms/showers, and dump stations make these parks a popular favorite.

Activities

Through agreements with privately-owned companies, Maricopa County Parks offer multiple forms of recreational activities such as horseback riding and golfing.

History

In the mid-20th century, residents of Maricopa County had the foresight to preserve large areas of the desert for recreational use, responding to the rapidly growing population of their area. In 1954, the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department focused its efforts on large, regional parks. Estrella Mountain Regional Park was the first regional park in the Maricopa County Park System.

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The **Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department** strives to provide, through responsible stewardship, quality parks, trails, programs, services and experiences that energize visitors and create life-long users and advocates. From guided hikes by an Interpretive Ranger to educational sessions at the Desert Outdoor Center, Maricopa County Parks offer programs for all visitors.

Educational Programs

Usery Mountain Regional Park

Experienced Interpretive Rangers take visitors on guided hikes to explore the ruins of Native American Hohokam, interpret the art chipped onto rocks known as petroglyphs and learn about the native wildlife. Maricopa County Parks offer visitors a variety of guided hikes at no additional cost. Whether you're interested in kayaking, mountain biking, adventure hikes or taking your children on a Toddler Cruise, Parks offers programming opportunities for everyone. For a complete listing of events at each park, visit the website at www.maricopa.gov/parks and click on the "Events" link.

Volunteers and Park Host Programs

McDowell Mountain Regional Park

The Maricopa County Park System would not be a reality without the contributed hours by this highly-prized group of individuals. Volunteers from around the Phoenix metropolitan area donate their time and energy in all of the parks at the contact stations, visitor centers, and campsites. Park hosts are another unique group of individuals who come to Phoenix from all over North America and donate thousands of hours a year to the Maricopa County Parks. For more information on these programs, call the park of your choice directly or Parks headquarters at (602) 506-2930.

Annual Pass

About your Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Annual Pass The Annual Pass provides a convenient and affordable way to visit Maricopa County parks. The pass provides day-use access to more than 120,000 acres of parkland and 100% of the proceeds from the pass sales are used to improve and enhance visitor recreation services. Passes are valid for one full year from the month of purchase, through the last day of that month. An additional pass may be purchased for a nominal fee for any member of the same household. Hang tags are issued with the annual pass for unstaffed entry into the parks. To obtain an annual pass, please visit a Maricopa County regional park near you.

Welcome to Maricopa County Parks and Recreation

There are ten parks in the Maricopa County Park System. Each is unique, and offers its visitors many recreational opportunities. **Park hours**: Sunday to Thursday 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday to 10 p.m. Lake Pleasant Regional Park is open 24 hours. **Pets**, on leashes no longer than 6 feet, are permitted in parks. **Entrance fee** is required; additional fees for camping, group reservations, watercrafts, etc. apply to all parks.

ADOBE DAM REGIONAL PARK Sitting at the base of the Hedgepeth Hills in north Phoenix, this 1,450-acre park offers recreationists the opportunity to participate in activities that require ample space. The land is used by many clubs, including the Arizona Model Pilots Society, Maricopa Live Steamers (trains), Phoenix Kart Racing Association and Fort Adobe Paintball Complex. Adobe Dam is also home to the 500 Club Championship Golf Course, Wet'n'Wild - Phoenix and the Victory Lane Sports Complex (ball fields).

BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL PARK Consisting of 4,422 acres of natural desert, the park is located in the southwest Valley. Enjoy the rolling hills of pristine Sonoran Desert, with beautiful views of the Gila River riparian area. Currently there is no running water or electricity available in the park.

Cave Creek Regional Park

CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK Located north of Phoenix, this 2,922-acre park sits in the upper Sonoran Desert. Ranging in elevation from 2,000 feet to 3,060, this desert oasis provides any hiker and equestrian majestic views. The Go John Trail loops around a mountain to provide the illusion of being miles away from civilization. In the 1870s, feverstricken gold seekers staked their dreams on the jasper-studded hills. Guided trails to these sites give visitors an opportunity to travel back in time.

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK
These 19,800 acres of desert and mountains became the first regional park in the Maricopa County Park System in 1954. Located near the meeting of the Gila and Agua Fria Rivers in the southwest Valley, the park includes a large wetland, or riparian area. The majority of the park remains pristine desert, very similar in appearance to the landscape seen by the first settlers and explorers. The Sierra Estrella range, or "Star" Mountains, was once within the Mexican border, and remained so until the Gadsden Purchase in 1853. Today, many amenities are available to visitors, including the only grass picnic area in the Maricopa County Park System.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

LAKE PLEASANT REGIONAL PARK One of the most scenic water recreation areas in the "Valley of the Sun". At 23,662 acres, 10,000 of which are water, this northwest Valley park is a recreationist's dream. The park offers recreational opportunities such as camping, boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, picnicking, scuba diving and wildlife viewing. In 2009, the park became the home to a state-of-the-art marina, restaurant and fuel station. At the Lake Pleasant Visitor Center, guests learn about the history of the area and desert wildlife. Step out onto the balcony surrounding the Visitor Center to get a beautiful view of Lake Pleasant and an up-close look at Waddell Dam. The breathtaking views offer visitors a great place to relax, whether it is from a boat or shoreline picnic site.

Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant

DESERT OUTDOOR CENTER at Lake Pleasant
The Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant is a worldclass outdoor education facility which annually engages over 20,000 valley youth in over 30 informative programs. Topics ranging from desert survival and solar energy to venomous creatures and edible plants of the desert are designed to meet state educational standards while leaving kids with a fun and memorable experience. Since 2006, over 1,000 Boy Scouts have earned merit badges through the centers aquatics camp offered each June and July. The isolation and spectacular views of the Sonoran desert also provide a private and beautiful backdrop for weddings, retreats and other group functions. To learn more about the center, view the informational video at http://www.youtube.com/maricopacountyparks.

McDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK
Nestled in the lower Verde River basin, the 21,099-acre park is a desert jewel in the northeast Valley. Elevations in the park rise to 3,000 feet along the western boundary at the base of the McDowell Mountains. Visitors enjoy a full program schedule, over 50 miles of multi-use trails, and spectacular views of the surrounding mountain ranges. A stroll through the park may allow visitors to see deer, javelina, birds, and coyotes.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park

WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK Nearly 30,000 acres makes this the largest regional park in Maricopa County. Most of the park is made up of the rugged and beautiful White Tank Mountains on the Valley's west side. The range, deeply serrated with ridges and canyons, rises sharply from its base to peak at over 4,000 feet. Infrequent heavy rains cause flash floodwaters to plunge through the canyons and pour onto the plain. These torrential flows, pouring down chutes and dropping off ledges, have scoured out a series of depressions, or "tanks," in the white granite rock below, thus giving the mountains their name. The park also houses a wide array of wildlife. While picnicking in the park, visitors may be fortunate enough to spot deer or javelina in their natural habitat.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park

SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK Consisting of over 10,000 acres, the southeast Valley park is a fine example of the lower Sonoran Desert. The park ranges in elevation from about 1,400 feet to over 2,500 feet. Goldmine Mountain is located in the northern area, with a spectacular San Tan Mountain escarpment in the southern portion of the park. The vegetation changes from "creosote flats" to dense saguaro forest. Various types of wildlife may be observed, including reptiles, birds, and mammals. Amenities are slated for future development.

SPUR CROSS RANCH CONSERVATION AREA The newest addition to the Maricopa County Park System, the conservation area encompasses 2,154 acres of diverse, rugged upper Sonoran Desert. The north Valley location contains fascinating archaeology sites and lush riparian areas along Cave Creek, which flows throughout the winter months. Remnants of early mining and ranching, from which the park gets its name, are still apparent in the park. This area is a "must see" for all wildflower lovers in the spring. The abundant vegetation present in the conservation area provides a rich habitat for a diverse assemblage of wildlife.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK Located on the Valley's east side, this park takes in 3,500 acres set at the western end of the Goldfield Mountains, adjacent to the Tonto National Forest. The park contains a large variety of plants and animals that call the lower Sonoran Desert home. Along the most popular feature of the park, the Wind Cave Trail, water seeps from the roof of the alcove to support hanging gardens of Rock Daisy. The Wind Cave is formed at the boundary between the volcanic tuff and granite on Pass Mountain. Breathtaking views are rewarded to visitors from this 2,840-foot elevation.

Maricopa County Regional Parks
602.506.2930
maricopa.gov/parks

	Amphitheater	Archery Range	Ball Field*	Boating	Camping - Developed	Camping - Group	Camping - Primitive	Camping - Semi-Developed	Competitive Track	Dump Station	Outdoor Education Facility	Fishing	Golf Course*	Horse Rental*	Horse Staging	Nature Center	Picnic Sites	Playground	Ramadas	Rodeo Arena	Shooting Range	Trails - Barrier-free	Trails - Multi-Use	Water Activities	Wildlife Viewing Ponds
Adobe Dam 623.465.0431			X										X											X	
Buckeye Hills 623.932.3811		X					X										X		X		X				
Cave Creek 623.465.0431	X				X	X				X				X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X
Desert Outdoor Center 602.372.7470	X										X											X			
Estrella Mountain 623.932.3811	X		X				X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Lake Pleasant 928.501.1710	X			X	X	X	X	X		X		X				X	X		X				X	X	
McDowell Mountain 480.471.0173	X				X	X	X		X	X					X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X
Paradise Valley Golf 602.922.7190													X												
San Tan Mountain 480.655.5554															X	X	X						X		
Spur Cross Ranch 480.488.6601																	X						X		X
Usery Mountain 480.984.0032	X	X			X	X				X					X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X
White Tank Mountain 623.935.2505	X				X	X		X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X

***The Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department** partners with private organizations to bring visitors various recreational activities. Below are the partners you may contact directly for more information:

Golf Courses
The 500 Club
623.492.9500

Tres Rios
623.932.3714

Horseback Riding
Cave Creek and Estrella Mountain Horse Trailrides
623.742.6700

Karting
Phoenix Kart Racing Assoc.
623.551.2747

Arizona Karting Association
602.919.9757

Marina
Scorpion Bay Marina
928.501.2628

Dillon's Restaurant
928.501.2227

Paintball
Fort Adobe Paintball
602.493.0318

Shooting Range
Buckeye Hills Public Shooting Range
623.474.5004

Water Activities
Wet'n'Wild - Phoenix
602.201.2000

Sports Complex
Casey At The Bat
602.971.3224

Victory Lane Sports Complex
623.581.6000