

NATURE IS CALLING!

Book your campsite reservations today from the comfort of your home or while on the road using your laptop!



VISIT OUR ONLINE RESERVATION SYSTEM
(www.maricopacountyparks.org)

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."



9/2023

MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION



Hassayampa River Preserve, Wickenburg, AZ

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE!



41835 N. Castle Hot Springs Rd • Morristown, AZ 85342
Phone: (602) 506-2930 • maricopa.gov/parks

WELCOME TO MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

From hiking on a barrier-free trail to horseback riding along a creek to testing your mountain biking skills and abilities on a competitive track, Maricopa County Parks offer visitors the best of the Sonoran Desert. Twelve 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!

NATURE TRAILS

Maricopa County's regional parks offer ample opportunities to explore nature. Visit one of our many nature centers; experience a guided hike or program with one of our talented Interpretive Rangers; watch the abundance of wildlife throughout our parks. The recreation possibilities are endless with over 280 miles of park trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Designating these scenic trails for **non-motorized** use only allows the public to be safe and enjoy the primitive desert. The Maricopa Trail is a regional trail system that connects all of Maricopa County's regional parks with over 300 miles of trails circling the metropolitan area.



Hassayampa River Preserve

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 may 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, a water park and golfing.

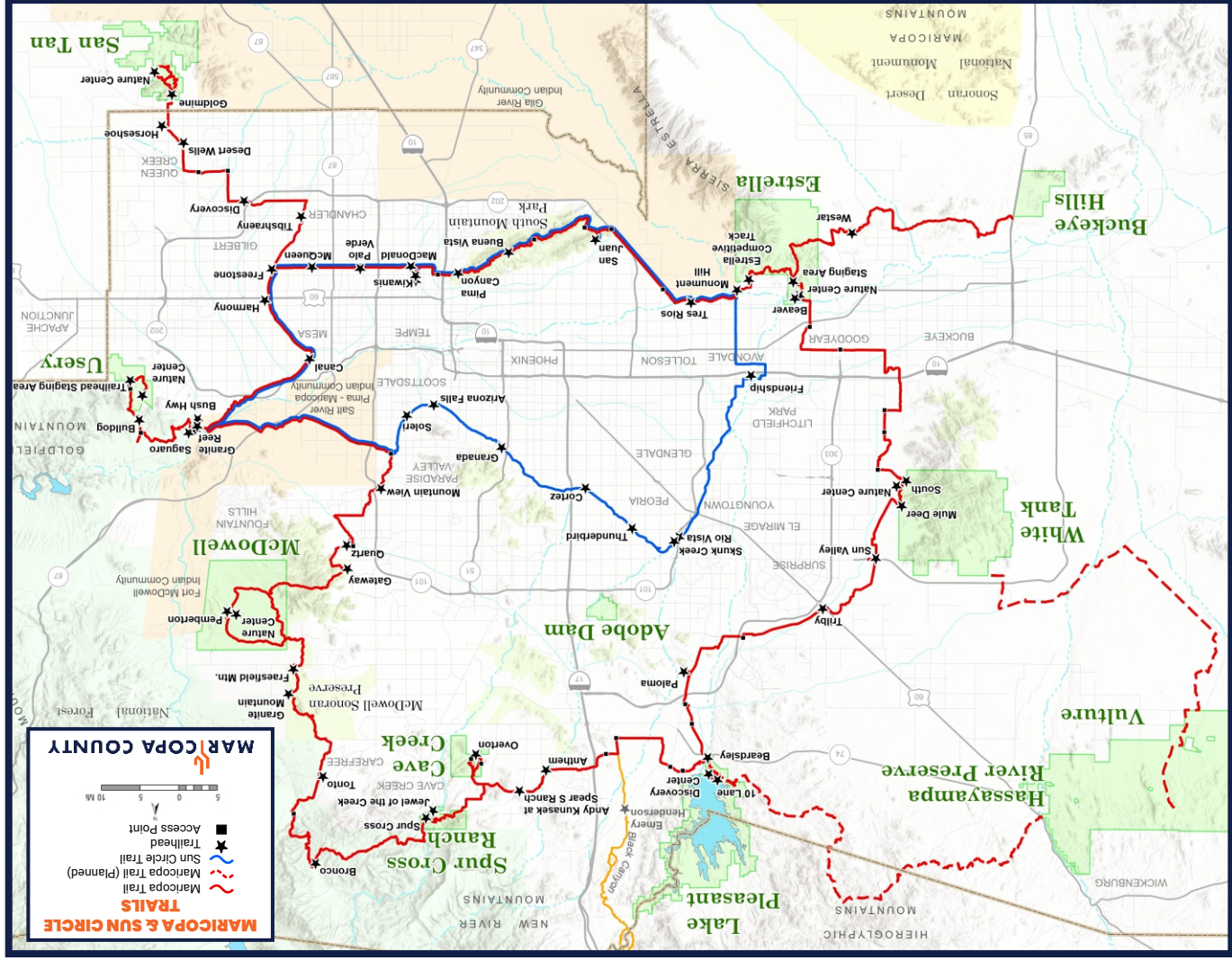


Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

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.

MARICOPA TRAIL



The Maricopa County Regional Trail System includes over 300 miles of existing trails that ring the County. The Maricopa Trail promotes the establishment of open space corridors while providing off-street, non-motorized recreation opportunities for bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians to recreate on. In addition, the trail system links to all of Maricopa County's regional parks by traversing 15 separate municipalities.

The Maricopa Trail is also the home of the Prickly Pedal Mountain Bike Race. Each spring, hundreds of mountain bike enthusiasts flock to the Maricopa Trail to test their skill level on the challenging course. The race begins in the Town of Cave Creek and winds its way through the rugged terrain of the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area and Cave Creek Regional Park, concluding lakeside at Lake Pleasant Regional Park. To learn more about the race and Maricopa Trail, visit www.maricopacountyparks.net.

VULTURE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AREA

In the spring of 2019, the Bureau of Land Management and Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department entered into a Recreation and Public Purposes lease for the management of 1,046 acres of land in the Vulture Mountains Recreation Area.

The lease allows for the construction and operation of recreation facilities, including an entry station, parking, picnic, and campground facilities, nature-themed playground, restrooms, ramadas, trailheads and trails, an amphitheater, and an OHV staging area. Over the next several years, the department will be working to provide recreational amenities in the lease area and develop a cooperative management framework for the 71,000-acre recreation area.



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 lifelong 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



on the "Events" link.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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. For more information on volunteer opportunities, visit the website at www.maricopa.gov/parks.

PARK FEES AND ANNUAL PASSES

A day-use entrance fee is required to enter the park. Additional fees for camping, group reservations, watercraft, etc. apply at all parks. The Annual Passes provide a convenient and affordable way to visit Maricopa County's regional parks. The passes provide day-use access to more than 120,000 acres of park land, and 100% of the proceeds from pass sales are used to improve and enhance visitor recreation services. To learn more about the types of annual passes available and the fees, visit maricopa.gov/parks. Annual passes may be purchased at a Maricopa County regional park near you.

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), Adobe Mountain Speedway, and Phoenix Kart Racing Association. Adobe Dam is also home to The 500 Club Championship Golf Course, Six Flags Hurricane Harbor 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. The park houses the General Joe Foss Shooting Complex which contains a 50-yard training range, 200-yard public multi-use range, and shotgun range. Please check the website for hours and dates of availability. Currently, there is no running water or electricity available in the 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, fever-stricken gold seekers staked their dreams on the jasper-studded hills. Guided trails to these sites give visitors an opportunity to travel back in time. Park visitors may also enjoy a scenic tour of the park via horseback with the onsite concessionaire, Cave Creek Trailrides.

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. Near the confluence 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. Amenities such as a family friendly picnic area with a nature-themed playground, ramadas with grills, and mile-long walking path are available to visitors.



HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE

The Hassayampa River Preserve is a desert oasis with lush vegetation, perennial water, and an abundance of wildlife. Several short trails travel through a riparian cottonwood-willow forest (among the last in Arizona), mesquite woodlands, old palms at spring-fed Palm Lake, and up to a stunning view at Lyke's Lookout. The Preserve protects important habitat for wildlife, including fox, javelina, bobcat, reptiles, amphibians, dragonflies, and over 300 bird species (including two threatened species). The Preserve's historic buildings and interpretive exhibits give visitors a glimpse into the rich local and natural history.



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, horseback riding, swimming, hiking, mountain biking, picnicking, scuba diving, and wildlife viewing. In 2009, the park became the home to Scorpion Bay Marina, a state-of-the-art marina, restaurant, and fuel station. At the Lake Pleasant Discovery Center, guests learn about the history of the area and desert wildlife. Step out onto the balcony surrounding the Discovery 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.

DESERT OUTDOOR CENTER at Lake Pleasant

The Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant is a world-class outdoor education facility which annually engages over 20,000 Valley youth in over 30 informative programs. Topics ranging from desert survival to venomous creatures and aquatic life to edible plants of the desert are designed to meet state educational standards while leaving kids with a fun and memorable experience. 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 @MaricopaParks.



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.



