

# 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](http://www.maricopacountyparks.org))

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

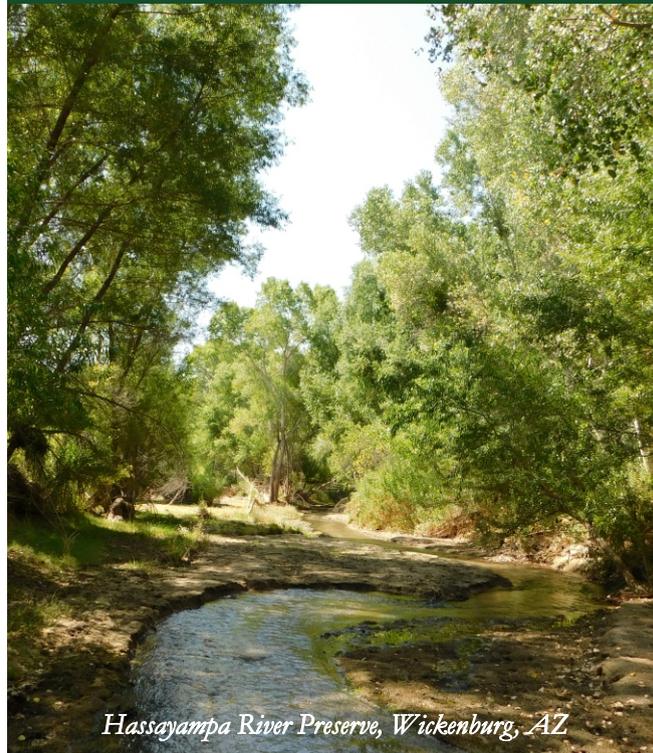
“Maricopa County is proud to be the home of one of the largest regional park systems in the United States.

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.”



25k-12/10/2020

## Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department



*Hassayampa River Preserve, Wickenburg, AZ*

**CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE!**



### Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation

41835 N. Castle Hot Springs Road

Morristown, AZ 85342

Phone: (602) 506-2930

[maricopacountyparks.net](http://maricopacountyparks.net)

## 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 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.

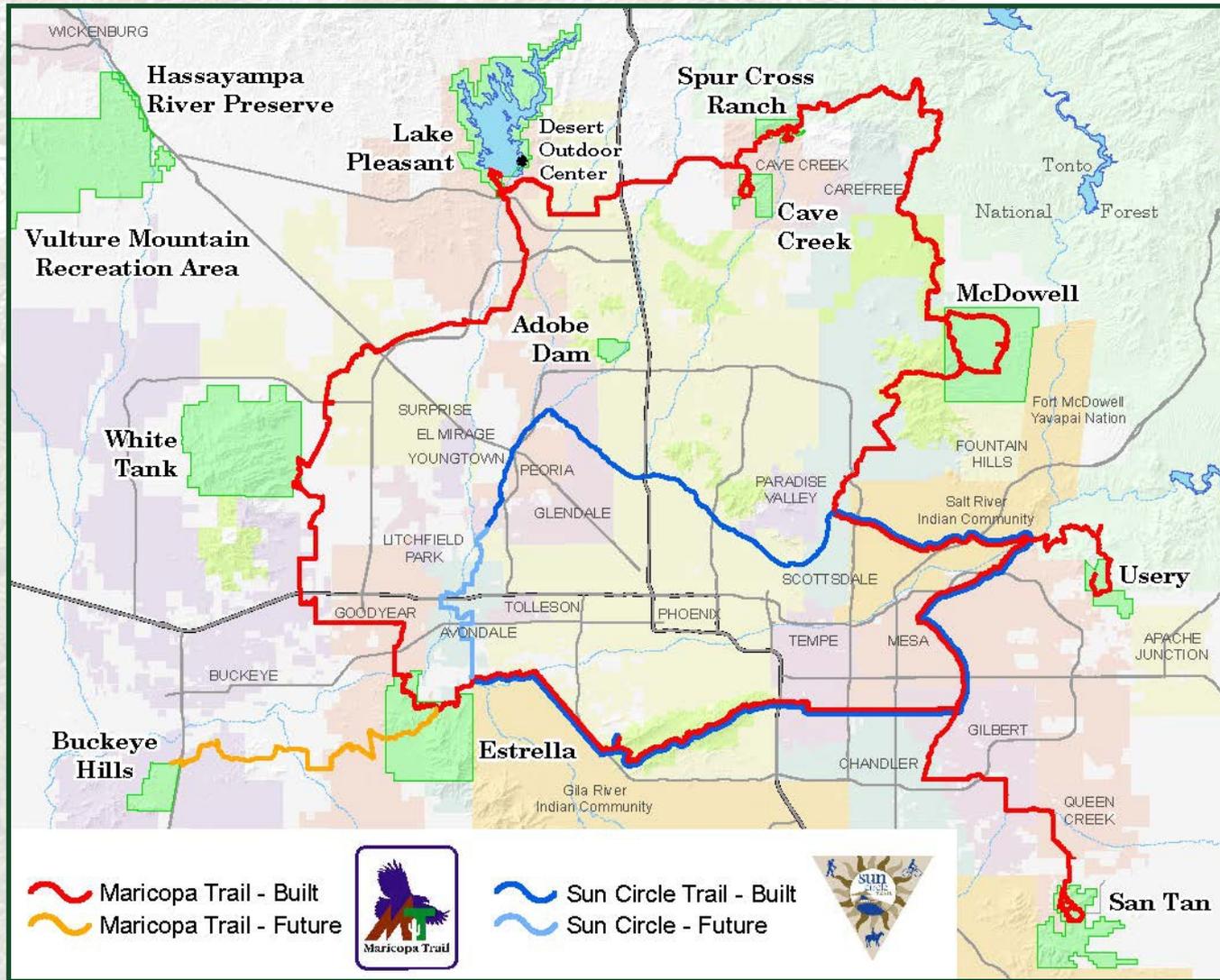


Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

### 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.

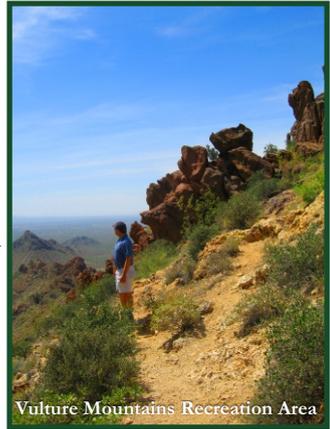
# Maricopa Trail



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](http://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.



Vulture Mountains 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 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



Lake Pleasant Regional Park

Experienced Interpretive Rangers take visitors on guided hikes to explore the ruins of American Indian and 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, Maricopa County parks offer programming opportunities for everyone. For a complete listing of events at each park, visit the website at [www.maricopacountyparks.net](http://www.maricopacountyparks.net) and click on the "Events" link.

## Volunteer Programs

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.maricopacountyparks.net](http://www.maricopacountyparks.net).

## 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 provides 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 [maricopacountyparks.net](http://maricopacountyparks.net). 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), 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. Enjoy the rolling hills of pristine Sonoran Desert, with beautiful views of the Gila River riparian area. The park houses the General Joe Foss Shooting Complex which contains a 50-yard training range, 200-yard public multi-use range, archery 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. Today, many amenities 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 280 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.

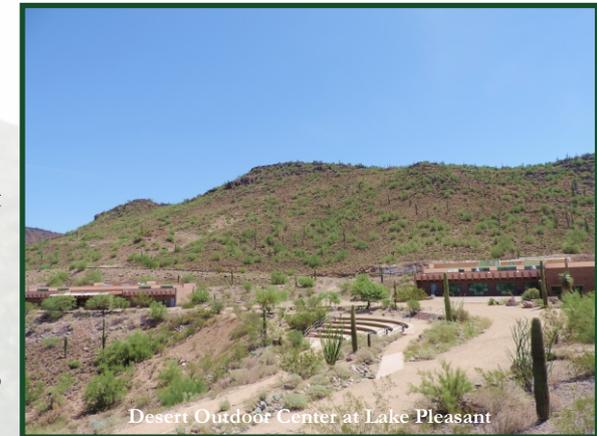


**LAKE PLEASANT REGIONAL PARK** One of the most scenic water recreation areas in the “Valley of the Sun”. At 23,662 acres, 10,000 of which are water, this northwest Valley park is a recreationist’s dream. The park offers recreational opportunities such as camping, boating, fishing, horseback riding, 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

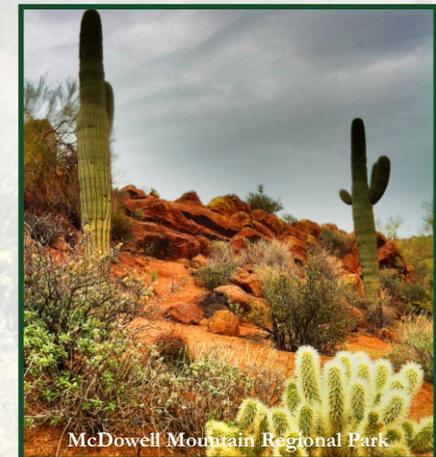
Center to get a beautiful view of Lake Pleasant and an up-close look at Waddell Dam. The breathtaking views offer visitors a great place to relax, whether it is from a boat or shoreline picnic site.

#### **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 at [www.youtube.com/maricopacountyparks](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.



**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 of the park with spectacular views of the Malpais Hills awaiting you 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.

**SPUR CROSS RANCH CONSERVATION**

**AREA** 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.

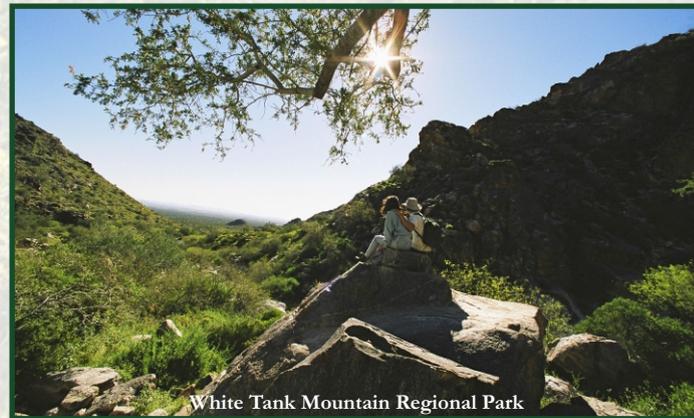


Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

**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 with 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.

**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

**Maricopa County Regional Parks**

602.506.2930  
maricopacountyparks.net

	Amphitheater	Archery Range	Ball Field*	Boating	Camping - Developed	Camping - Group	Camping - Primitive	Camping - Semi-Developed	Competitive Track	Desert Tortoise Habitat	Dump Station - For Campers Only	Outdoor Education Facility	Fishing	Golf Course*	Horse Rental*	Horse Staging	Nature Center	Picnic Sites	Playground	Ramadas	Shooting Range	Trails - Barrier-free	Trails - Multi-Use	Water Activities	Wildlife Viewing Ponds
Adobe Dam 602.506.2930 ext. 8			X											X											X
Buckeye Hills 602.506.2930 ext. 6																		X		X	X				
Cave Creek 602.506.2930 ext. 8	X				X					X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X
Desert Outdoor Center 602.372.7470	X									X		X										X			
Estrella Mountain 602.506.2930 ext. 6			X				X		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Hassayampa River 928.684.2772																	X	X				X			X
Lake Pleasant 602.506.2930 ext. 2	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X				X	X	X	X			X	X	
McDowell Mountain 602.506.2930 ext. 3	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
San Tan Mountain 602.506.2930 ext. 7										X					X	X	X	X					X		X
Spur Cross Ranch 602.506.2930 ext. 8															X			X					X		X
Usery Mountain 602.506.2930 ext. 4	X	X			X	X				X	X					X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Vulture Mountains 602.506.2930 ext. 2																									
White Tank Mountain 602.506.2930 ext. 5	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X

The department will be rolling out recreational amenities over the next several years.

\*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**  
Paradise Valley  
602.992.7190

**Horseback Riding**  
Cave Creek Trailrides  
623.742.6700

**Karting**  
Phoenix Kart Racing Assoc.  
623.225.9407

**Sports Complex**  
Casey At The Bat  
602.971.3224

The 500 Club  
623.492.9500

**Model Airplanes**  
Arizona Model Aviators  
www.azmodelaviators.com

Adobe Mountain Speedway  
623.435.7126

Victory Lane Sports Complex  
623.581.6000

Tres Rios  
623.932.3714

Arizona Model Pilots Society  
www.ampsr.com

**Water Activities**  
Six Flags Hurricane Harbor  
Phoenix  
623.201.2000

**Marina**  
Scorpion Bay Marina  
928.501.2628

**Shooting Range**  
Buckeye Hills Public Shooting Range  
www.asrpa.com