WHITEST TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

December Programs

Maricopa County
Parks and Recreation Dept.
White Tank Mountain Regional Park
20304 W. White Tank Mountain Road
Waddell, AZ 85355
(602) 506-2930 ext. 5

PARK HOURS:
Sunday – Thursday: 6 am – 8 pm
Friday – Saturday: 6 am – 10 pm
365 days a year

NATURE CENTER HOURS:
SUMMER (05/07 - 10/08)
Monday thru Saturday: 8 am – 3 pm
Sunday: Closed
WINTER (10/09 – 05/06)
Sunday thru Saturday: 8 am – 4 pm

ADMIN. OFFICE HOURS:
Monday – Friday: 8 am – 4 pm

PARK FEES:
$7 per vehicle day-use entry fee (no additional fees for programs, unless otherwise noted)

DIRECTIONS:
White Tank Mountain Regional Park is located at the very west end of Olive Ave about 15 miles west of the 101 (Agua Fria Highway).

WEBSITE:
https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/park-locator/white-tank-mountain-regional-park/

EMAIL ADDRESS:
whitetankpark@mail.maricopa.gov

FACEBOOK PAGE:
https://www.facebook.com/WhiteTankPark/

STAFF:
Park Supervisor: Dove Luidhardt
Interpretive Ranger: Justin Williams
Office Asst. Laura J. Boyd

Maintenance: Eldon Heydenreich, Tom Rychtik

Friends and Fitness
Date: 12/5/2019  Time: 8 a.m.
Description: Are you working on your 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge? Do you like to hike but don’t like to hike by yourself? Do you want to explore new parts of the park? If you answered yes to any of the above, then these hikes are for you! Join park staff and volunteers for hikes of various lengths featuring different park trails. Hikes will be offered as scheduled throughout the duration of the County Parks 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge (Nov. 1-Feb. 8). Hike routes, distances, and difficulty will vary - call ahead for specifics. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a snack and plenty of water. Please leave your dog at home. Please call the park Nature Center for more information.
Core: Health & Fitness

Introduction to Mt. Biking:
Maricopa Trail
Date: 12/6/2019  Time: 8:30 a.m.
Description: Are you new to biking on desert and mountain terrain, or just want to ride? Join Ranger Justin at the Trailhead Staging Area and learn some basic skills of off-road biking! After a brief introduction, we will go for a 3-4 mile ride to get one hour in on the desert trails. Please bring a helmet, plenty of water, a snack, an extra tube, and your bike!
Core: Outdoor Skills

Cacti in the Desert
Date: 12/6/2019  Time: 1 p.m.
Description: Dave Sussman will discuss the numerous types of cacti that grow in the Sonoran Desert, using his photos to demonstrate their beauty and diversity. This class will be in the Nature Center Classroom.
Core: Plants

Hike with the Supervisor: Ford Canyon Trail
Date: 12/7/2019  Time: 8 a.m.
Description: Have you been wanting to hike the challenging Ford Canyon Loop Trail but didn’t want to do it alone? Did you know that the White Tank Mountain Regional Park supervisor used to be an outdoor adventure guide? Come join her and the Ranger in hiking this beautiful 9.3-mile adventure. This hike is strenuous and for in-shape hikers only, who are familiar with hiking on primitive trails and are able to hike this long distance. Please bring 3 liters of water, lunch, snacks, sunscreen, and hiking poles are recommended. This hike will take a minimum of 5 hours. Please leave your dog at home, and meet at area 7 Mesquite/Waddell trailhead.
Core: Health & Fitness

Introduction to Outdoor Photography
Date: 12/12/2019  Time: 8 a.m.
Description: Want to learn more about taking awesome outdoor photos? Bring your camera (including cell phone...
cameras) and join park volunteer Chris Reed for a Basic Outdoor Photography workshop. Learn about camera operations, picture composition, lighting effects, and other essentials. The first portion of the program will be classroom instruction in the Nature Center classroom. Afterward, we will take a short walk outside along a park trail to practice our new skills. Please meet in the Nature Center classroom. This program is geared toward teens and adults.

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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**Friends and Fitness**

**Date:** 12/12/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

**Description:** Are you working on your 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge? Do you like to hike but don’t like to hike by yourself? Do you want to explore new parts of the park? If you answered yes to any of the above, then these hikes are for you! Join park staff and volunteers for hikes of various lengths featuring different park trails. Hikes will be offered as scheduled throughout the duration of the County Parks 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge (Nov. 1-Feb. 8). Hike routes, distances, and difficulty will vary – call ahead for specifics. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a snack and plenty of water. Please leave your dog at home. Please call the park Nature Center for more information.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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**Nature Discovery: Animal Skulls**

**Date:** 12/13/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Looking for a fun and engaging hour focused around children’s outdoor education? Join Ranger J.D in Area 3 as he explores Desert Animals. These hands-on programs will encourage kids to get in touch with nature. Children must be between the ages of 8-16 and be accompanied by an adult during Nature Discovery Hour.

**Core:** Geology

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**Desert Fables**

**Date:** 12/13/2019 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Description:** Join storyteller Ann McDermott before our snake feeding to enjoy tales of desert plants and animals, inspired by 30 years of rural life in central Arizona. Q & A time afterward. Be ready for a pop quiz! The program will be held in the Nature Center classroom.

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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**Snake Feeding**

**Date:** 12/13/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.

**Description:** Our resident reptile friends are hungry! Come to the Nature Center to see our snakes enjoy their meal. Our park staff will be doing the feeding. Observe the feeding behaviors of rattlesnakes, colubrid snakes’, scorpions, and desert tortoise.

**Core:** Animals

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**Luminous Night Walk**

**Date:** 12/14/2019 **Time:** 6 p.m.

**Description:** Bring your family and friends to this luminous night walk at the ½ mile Black Rock Loop Trail! It’ll be a hike like no other. Our volunteers and staff will be transforming this trail into a wonderland of lights and holiday fun! This event will feature a mile of LED tea light candles and holiday lights through the desert lands. Please meet at Black Rock Loop trailhead for a fun and whimsical night!

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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**Wildlife Encounter: King Snakes**

**Date:** 12/18/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Visit Ranger J.D at the Waterfall Trailhead and see one of the most common snakes in North America. Join Ranger J.D as he shares some amazing facts about this constrictor. Visit anytime between 11:00 and 12:30 pm.

**Core:** Animals

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**Friends and Fitness**

**Date:** 12/19/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

**Description:** Are you working on your 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge? Do you like to hike but don’t like to hike by yourself? Do you want to explore new parts of the park? If you answered yes to any of the above, then these hikes are for you! Join park staff and volunteers for hikes of various lengths featuring different park trails. Hikes will be offered as scheduled throughout the duration of the County Parks 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge (Nov. 1-Feb. 8). Hike routes, distances, and difficulty will vary – call ahead for specifics. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a snack and plenty of water. Please leave your dog at home. Please call the park Nature Center for more information.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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**Blackrock Loop: Sunrise Hike**

**Date:** 12/21/2019 **Time:** 7:30 a.m.

**Description:** Set your alarm and get a great start to your day! Join us for a sunrise hike along the Black Rock LongLoop Trail (1.5 miles). We will watch the sunrise from a viewpoint, experience the Sonoran Desert as it awakens, and also have the opportunity to see ancient petroglyphs along the trail. Please leave your dog at home. Please meet at Area 4 for the walk. Don’t forget your camera! And don’t be late — the sun won’t wait!

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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**Early Bird Walk with Sonoran Audubon**

**Date:** 12/21/2019 **Time:** 7:30 a.m.

**Description:** Join birder Joe Ford and Tom Locascio from the Sonoran Audubon Society for an early morning bird walk along the Goat Camp Trail. Bring your bird book if you have one. Binoculars may be available to borrow. Please meet at Area 1 in the park (see park map), Goat Canyon Trailhead. Please leave your dog at home.

**Core:** Animals

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**Bird Weirdness**

**Date:** 12/21/2019 **Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Description:** This program details many unusual facts about some common and uncommon bird species found worldwide. Why did the passenger pigeon become extinct? What is the most numerous bird in the world? What method does the cowbird, who never makes its own nest, use to ensure the success of its offspring? Birds discussed are Red-billed Quelea, Passenger Pigeon, European Starling, Common Mynah, Red-vented Bulbul, Cowbirds, Acorn Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Collared Lory, Green Imperial Pigeon, and the Eclectus Parrot. Biological magnification, sexual dimorphism, ecological connections are all part of this presentation. Please meet in the Nature Center Classroom.

**Core:** Animals

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**Friends and Fitness**

**Date:** 12/26/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

**Description:** Are you working on your 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge? Do you like to hike but don’t like to hike by yourself? Do you want to explore new parts of the park? If you answered yes to any of the above, then these hikes are for you! Join park staff and volunteers for hikes of various lengths featuring different park trails. Hikes will be scheduled throughout the duration of the County Parks 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge (Nov. 1-Feb. 8). Hike routes, distances, and difficulty will vary – call ahead for specifics. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a snack and plenty of water. Please leave your dog at home.

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills
Please call the park Nature Center for more information.

**Core**: Health & Fitness

“**Desert General Store**” Walk

**Date**: 12/27/2019  **Time**: 9 a.m.

**Description**: The Sonoran Desert is home to many plants that have been used by people for thousands of years for food, medicine, and other essentials. Some of the products we consume and use even today have their origins in the desert. Join Park Ranger JD on a short “shopping trip” along the Black Rock Short Loop Trail (1/2 mile, barrier-free) to see and learn about some of these fascinating plants. After the walk, we will have the opportunity to try a drink made from some of the plants discussed during the walk.

**Core**: Plants

**What’s in my Pack?!**

**Date**: 12/28/2019  **Time**: 11 a.m.

**Description**: Are you prepared for a hike in the desert? At the Waterfall trailhead, we will have items on display that should always be in your pack or pocket. We will cover topics from reading maps (and actually using them) to first aid and hydration. Stop by and chat with us and learn how a little hiking preparation can go a long way. Be sure to have your water, hat, and sunscreen.

**Core**: Outdoor Skills

**Snake Feeding**

**Date**: 12/28/2019  **Time**: 2 p.m.

**Description**: Our resident reptile friends are hungry! Come to the Nature Center to see our snakes enjoy their meal. Our park staff will be doing the feeding. Observe the feeding behaviors of rattlesnakes, colubrid snakes’, scorpions, and desert tortoise.

**Core**: Animals

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**PARK NOTES:**

**What to Bring**: Please wear sturdy shoes (closed-toe), dress appropriately for the weather and bring more water than you think you will need. See descriptions for specifics. Fees for guided hikes and programs are included in the park entry fee or with your annual pass. Reservations are not required unless specified in the program description. Hikes/programs are canceled if heavy inclement weather is imminent. If possible, canceled hikes will be posted on the website.

**Media Partners**: Thank you for helping us advertise Usery Mountain Regional Parks programs and events! Please include Ranger Brennan’s email address – BrennanBasler@mail.maricopa.gov - in your postings so park visitors can contact the park directly with general questions about programs, updates, and changes.

**Additional notes:**