

HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE

December 2018 Programs



Maricopa County
Parks and Recreation Dept.
Hassayampa River Preserve
49614 U.S. Hwy 60/89
Wickenburg, AZ 85390
(928) 684-2772



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

PARK AND VISITOR CENTER

HOURS:

SUMMER (05/08 - 10/07)

Wednesday thru Sunday: 7 am – 4 pm
Monday-Tuesday: Closed
Trails closed at 3:30 pm

WINTER (10/10 – 05/05)

Wednesday thru Sunday: 8 am – 5 pm
Monday-Tuesday: Closed
Trails closed at 4:30 pm

ADMIN. OFFICE HOURS:

Same as above.

📍 PARK FEES:

\$5 per person. Children 12 and under are free.

📍 DIRECTIONS:

From Phoenix, head west on Carefree Hwy (AZ-74) to US-60 (approximately 30 miles). Turn right onto US-60 W. Travel approximately 6.2 miles. The entrance to the Hassayampa River Preserve is on the west side of US-60 near milepost 114 (left-hand turn just before the electronic ADOT advisory sign). From Wickenburg, the entrance is on your right about 2 miles southeast of town.

🌐 WEBSITE:

<https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/park-locator/hassayampa-river-preserve/>

✉️ EMAIL ADDRESS:

hassayampa-river@mail.maricopa.gov

📘 FACEBOOK PAGE:

<https://www.facebook.com/Hassayampa/>

STAFF:

Park Supervisor: Jessica Bland
Interpretive Ranger: Eric Hough
Office Asst. Chris Matthews
Maintenance: Charlie Sizer

Guided Bird Walk

Date: 12/1/2018 **Time:** 8:15 a.m.

Description: Did you know that over 290 species of birds have been found at the Hassayampa River Preserve? Enjoy an easy-paced walk with seasoned birder and bird bender Anne Leight to spot and identify the many resident and migratory birds of the Preserve from 8:15-10:15am. Binoculars may be available to borrow. Space is limited. To register, please call the visitor center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Animals

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Nature Rangers: Desert Awareness

Date: 12/1/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Nature Rangers youth program is designed to give children ages 7-12 a meaningful outdoors experience to build lifelong stewards of the natural world. All participants must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Desert Awareness is a two-part program sponsored by the Wickenburg Conservation Foundation is tailored to meet 4th grade AZ science and history standards by introducing kids to their desert environment, but for this event kids need not be in 4th grade. Part 1 is a 60-90 minute round robin for desert explorers. Students rotate through 6 stations: stalwart skeletons, scrubby skins, desert predators, desert soils, ancient civilizations and trash lasts. Part 2 is a short nature walk to explore rocks and minerals, plants and animals. The class will run from 10am-noon. Space is

limited. To register, please call the Preserve Visitor Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Tai Chi for Balance (*now on Wednesdays)

Date: 12/5/2018 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Date: 12/12/2018 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Date: 12/19/2018 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Date: 12/26/2018 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Tai Chi exercise uses slow movement and stretching to reduce stress and improve balance. Certified Tai Chi instructor Mary Degeoso will introduce participants to Tai Chi exercise techniques during this hour-long class in the picnic area at the Preserve. To register, please call the Preserve Nature Center at 928-684-2772. *Note that the dates have now changed to Wednesdays each month from December onward.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Creatures of the Night Walk

Date: 12/7/2018 **Time:** 5:30 p.m.

Description: Join Ranger Eric for an easy after-hours walk on the Preserve trails to look for and learn about the nocturnal critters that live here as they awaken from their daytime slumber. Wildlife seen on past walks has included ringtails, foxes, javelinas, owls, scorpions, and other cool creepy crawlies! Program will run from 5:30-7:30pm. Flashlights and blacklights will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Space is limited, so please contact the Visitor Center at 928-684-2772 to sign up for this event.

*First day to sign up will be December 1st.

Core: Animals

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Guided Nature Walk

Date: 12/8/2018 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Join Ranger Eric from 9:00-11:00am for an easy-paced, guided walk along the Preserve trails to learn about the plants, animals, ecology, and history of the Hassayampa River Preserve. Registration is required for all programs at the Preserve, and space is limited. Please contact the Preserve Nature Center at 928-684-2772 to sign up.

Core: Animals

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Winter Bird ID Challenges

Workshop/Bird Walk

Date: 12/9/2018 **Time:** 8:15 a.m.

Description: In preparation for the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season from Dec. 14-Jan. 5 and the Hassayampa River CBC on Dec. 15, join Ranger Eric for a guided bird walk followed by a workshop that teaches participants how to tell apart some of the common types of birds we see in the winter in our region. Event runs from 8:15-11:15am. To register, please call the visitor center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Plants

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Birds N' Brunch

Date: 12/13/2018 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Join Kathe Anderson, Cindy Marple, and Carlos Oldham for a guided bird walk around the Preserve's trails, followed by a tasty late morning brunch while we tally up our bird lists! A donation of \$5 is required for those wanting to partake of the brunch, which

goes to Friends of Hassayampa to cover the costs of food. This program will take place from 8:00-11:00am. Space is limited. To register, please call the Preserve Visitor Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Animals

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Hassayampa River Christmas

Bird Count

Date: 12/15/2018 **Time:** 6:30 a.m.

Description: Each winter the National Audubon Society sponsors the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season from Dec. 14-Jan. 5 across a network of 15-mile diameter count circle areas across the U.S. and Western Hemisphere. The CBC is our country's longest running volunteer citizen science event and has been happening for over a century now. The Hassayampa River CBC includes the Preserve, as well as the nearby town of Wickenburg and vast upland desert areas to the north of Hwy. 60. Teams are needed to cover the entire count circle on this day and volunteers will be assigned areas to cover. Registration is required. All teams will be led by experienced birders, so people of any birdwatching experience can participate. For registration and details, please contact Chrissy Kondrat-Smith at 623-451-1250 or azdesertbird@gmail.com.

Core: Animals

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Guided Bird Walk

Date: 12/21/2018 **Time:** 8:15 a.m.

Description: Join Ranger Eric for a guided walk from 8:15-10:15am to look and listen for resident and fall migrant birds within the diverse desert riparian habitat of the Hassayampa River Preserve. Along the way we will discuss how to identify birds by sight and sound,

and about the behavioral and ecological traits that make them unique. Some binoculars are available to borrow at the Preserve Nature Center. Space is limited. To register, please call the Visitor Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Animals

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PARK NOTES:

What to Bring: Leave pets at home! Pets are not allowed at the Preserve and should not be left inside parked vehicles in warm weather, as this can cause injury or death. Please wear sturdy shoes (closed-toe), dress appropriately for the weather, and bring more water than you think you will need. See program descriptions for specifics. Fees for guided hikes and programs are included in the park entry fee or with your annual pass. To register for programs, please call the Preserve Visitor Center at 928-684-2772. Programs may be canceled if severe inclement weather is imminent or if there is a low number of registrants, but we will call registrants to notify them of cancellations. If possible, canceled programs will be posted on the website.

Media Partners: Thank you for helping us advertise the Hassayampa River Preserve's programs and events! Please include the Preserve's email address – hassayampa-river@mail.maricopa.gov - in your postings so park visitors can contact the park directly with general questions about programs, updates, and changes.

Notes:

