

HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE

December 2019 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 - 10/06)

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

WINTER (10/09 – mid-May)

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:

maricopa_county_parks@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 Nature Walk

Date: 12/4/2019 **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 and space is limited. To register, please call the Visitor Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Plants

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Creatures of the Night Walk

Date: 12/6/2019 **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. Blacklights and flashlights are available to borrow, 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.

Core: Animals

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Guided Bird Walk

Date: 12/7/2019 **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 bander Anne Leight to spot and identify the resident and migrant birds at the Preserve from 8:15-11:15am.

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: Nature Stories!

Date: 12/7/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.

Description: The Nature Rangers youth program is designed to give children ages 7 to 12 a meaningful outdoors experience to build lifelong stewards of the outdoors. For this month's activity from 1:00-3:00pm, join Ranger Eric for a nature walk, followed by working in small groups to create and tell our own stories about nature with art. All children must be accompanied by an adult. To register, please call the Preserve Visitor Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Animals

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100 Miles in 100 Days Nature Hike

Date: 12/8/2019 **Time:** 8:15 a.m.

Description: Join Ranger Eric from 8:15-11:15 to hike the Preserve's 3 miles of trails to continue your journey for the Maricopa County Parks' 100 Miles in 100 Days hiking challenge, which runs Nov. 1-Feb. 8! Most of the Preserve trails are on fairly level ground, with the exception of the moderate, rocky 200 ft stretch to Lykes Lookout, a desert hill offering a scenic view of the river corridor. Please wear sturdy shoes and carry plenty of water. No pets allowed. To register for this hike, please call the Preserve Nature Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Health & Fitness

Winter Bird ID Challenges Workshop / Bird Walk

Date: 12/13/2019 **Time:** 8:15 a.m.

Description: In preparation for the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season from Dec. 14-Jan. 5 and the Dec. 21 Hassayampa River CBC, join Ranger Eric for a guided bird walk followed by a workshop that teaches participants how to tell apart some of the common bird identification challenges we encounter during winter in our region. Program runs from 8:15-11:15am. Space is limited. To register, please call the visitor center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Animals

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2019 Year in Review at the Preserve!

Date: 12/14/2019 **Time:** 5:30 p.m.

Description: Join us for this special event from 5:30-7:00pm as we recount this year's highlights of natural events, wildlife sightings, and Preserve happenings from 2019 as Ranger Eric leads us through a picture and video slide show in the historic Sanger building. If you haven't seen our wildlife trail camera videos yet, now is your chance! We will also have luminaries set up around the garden for participants to enjoy. No additional fees required beyond the regular \$5 per adult (ages 13 and up) entrance fee; Maricopa County Parks annual passes honored here. This event will be co-hosted with Friends of Hassayampa (FoH) and snacks and beverages will be provided for a suggested donation to FoH. Space is limited. To register, please call the Visitor Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

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Creatures of the Night Walk

Date: 12/19/2019 **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. Blacklights and flashlights are available to borrow, 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.

Core: Animals

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Guided Nature Walk

Date: 12/20/2019 **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 and space is limited. To register, please call the Visitor Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Plants

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Hassayampa River Christmas Bird Count

Date: 12/21/2019 **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 surrounding upland desert and riparian areas. 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 more details, please contact Chrissy Kondrat-Smith at azdesertbird@gmail.com

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 – Maricopa_county_parks@mail.maricopa.gov - in your postings so park visitors can contact the park directly with general questions about programs, updates, and changes.

Notes:

