

HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE

February 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 (05/07 - 10/08)

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

WINTER (10/09 – 05/06)

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: 2/2/2019 **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 bender Anne Leight to spot and identify the many resident and migratory birds of 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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Tai Chi for Balance

Date: 2/6/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Date: 2/13/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Date: 2/20/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Date: 2/27/2019 **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.

Core: Health & Fitness

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100 Miles in 100 Days Final Nature Hike

Date: 2/7/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Fit in some more exercise before the end of the Maricopa County Parks' 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge (Nov. 1-Feb. 8) by joining Ranger Eric on a 3 mile guided nature hike along the Preserve's trails! The hike takes between

2-3 hours and along the way you will learn about the natural and historic features of the Preserve. No dogs allowed. Most trails are on fairly level ground, with the exception of a steeper but short climb to Lyke's Lookout, a desert hill that provides a beautiful view of the river corridor and surrounding mountains. To register for this event, please call the visitor center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Creatures of the Night Walk

Date: 2/8/2019 **Time:** 6:15 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 6:15-8:15pm. 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.

*If you were on last month's night walk, we ask that you please refrain from signing up this month to allow others to experience one of our night walks, since this is one of our most popular programs and space is always limited. Thanks!
Core: Animals

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Citizen Science Series: Field ID Workshop

Date: 2/9/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.

Description: Our Citizen Science Series at the Preserve will be a recurring series of workshops that introduce participants to how they can help contribute their observations in nature in their daily lives to our collective scientific understanding of the environment. Part 3 will introduce participants to how biological organisms are classified via taxonomy and provide identification tips for identifying different species of organisms using field guides, dichotomous keys, and available websites and phone apps. We will also discuss ways you can contribute your observations, reiterating last month's Part 2 workshop. This workshop will take place from 1:00-3:00pm and will incorporate classroom and field time on the trails. To register for this program, please call the Visitor Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Guided Bird Walk

Date: 2/10/2019 **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 wintering 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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Arizona's Wildlife

Date: 2/14/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Arizona gained official statehood 107 years ago today, but the state's wildlife has occupied the land for eons. Come learn about our state's highly diverse wildlife in this hour-long presentation as Ranger Eric discusses the unique traits, biogeography, and ecology of the mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, and other critters that call our state home. Space is limited. To register, please call the Preserve Nature Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Animals

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Great Backyard Bird Count-Bird Walk & Big Sit

Date: 2/16/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual event sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology as a "citizen science" opportunity where expert and novice birdwatchers alike can

submit their observations from anywhere they happen to be over a 4-day period, with as little as 15 minutes of effort needed watching birds in their yards, neighborhoods, or favorite birding patch. This count helps give scientists a snapshot of wintering bird populations that can inform ongoing and future bird conservation. This year's count will be from Feb. 15-18. Here at the Preserve we have a couple of fun ways that visitors can be involved: on Saturday, Feb. 16 we will have a guided bird walk on the trails with Ranger Eric from 8:15-10:15am and a "Big Sit" with volunteers and guests stationed by our front garden's bird feeders from 8:00am-12:00pm. We may also have another Big Sit group watching from the picnic area down in the palm tree grove. Space is limited for the bird walk, but not for the Big Sit. To register for the bird walk, please call the Visitor Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Animals

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Nature Rangers: Great Backyard Bird Count

Date: 2/16/2019 **Time:** 10:30 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. This month's program from 10:30am-12:00pm will teach them about the basics of birdwatching as we take part in this weekend's Great Backyard Bird Count, a "citizen science" event sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We will check out some "Big Sit" stations to get some up close looks at birds, along with going out on the trails to see what feathered friends we might find! Binoculars are available to borrow. All participants must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Space is limited. To register, please call the Preserve Visitor Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Animals

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Flowers & Feathers: Attracting Color & Wildlife to Your Yard

Date: 2/23/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.

Description: The Preserve is partnering with Wickenburg's Desert Caballeros Western Museum to provide gardening tips to attract the important insect, bird, and bat pollinators that plants depend on to your yard, as well as infuse your garden with vibrant life! After checking out the Museum's activities from 12:00-2:00pm, swing on by the Hassayampa River Preserve from 1:00-4:00pm to stroll through our beautiful native plants

garden, watch our hummingbirds, and learn more tips for gardening with native plants to attract wildlife to your yard. No registration required for this event.

Core: Plants

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Citizen Science Series: Arizona Water Watch

Date: 2/24/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Part 4 of our recurring Citizen Science Series of workshops will introduce visitors to concepts of hydrology, how to test for water quality, and how you can contribute your observations of Arizona's waterways to "citizen science". We will go out on the trails to investigate the water on the Hassayampa River and on spring-fed Palm Lake. The program will last from 10:00am-12:00pm and space is limited. To register, please call the Visitor Center at 928-684-2772.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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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 Ranger Eric's email address – EricHough@mail.maricopa.gov - in your postings so park visitors can contact the park directly with general questions about programs, updates, and changes.

Notes: