

MARICOPA TRAILS 6-10-22

Maps for various segments of the Maricopa Trails

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Maricopa-Trails/>

MARICOPA TRAIL NORTHERN HIKES

Seven Springs Recreation Area--Maricopa Trail South from the Bronco Trailhead. Rating B and C. This is a 7-9.6-mile hike with an elevation change of 1000-1500 feet. The 7-mile hike has 1000 feet elevation gain and goes to a bridge over a slot canyon. An optional side hike is to drop down into the slot and go along it for a short distance. The 9.6-mile hike has 1500 feet goes up to a high point overlooking the entire area. There is no park fee despite approach signs along the road stating fees are required. This fee is for other forms of recreation, not hiking. There is a restroom at the trailhead. Driving distance is 130 miles roundtrip (the last 3 miles are on an unpaved dirt road).

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Maricopa-Trail-Carefree>

Directions to Cave Creek--Bronco Trailhead--Drive north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left), Take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I-17. Turn North (left) on I-17. Turn right (east) on Carefree Highway (Highway 74) and drive to the end. Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road (just in front of the Boulders Resort). Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road past the turnoff to Bartlett Reservoir. Drive about 8 miles to the Bronco Trailhead on the left. The last several miles are a dirt road.

Maricopa Trail Northern, Ben Avery segment. Rating C. 7.2-7.5 miles, with about 130 feet of elevation gain. Out and back. This is a fairly flat segment of the trail, starting just west of I-17 and the Pioneer Road exit. The trail proceeds along the north edge of the Ben Avery Shooting Center, then along the west edge through open desert country. At the point where the trail turns south, you will pass the southern terminus of the Black Canyon Trail. If you stretch the hike to about 7.5 miles, you will reach the New River bottom. No restroom at the trail head. 102 miles roundtrip.

Direction to Ben Avery Segment--Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) to Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I-17. Turn left on I-17 and proceed to Pioneer Road and turn left. The paved road makes a hard left; 0.7 miles after the turn, find the trailhead and parking under powerlines on the left side of the road.

Maricopa Trail Northern, Pleasant Harbor East & South. Rating C. 6-8 miles, 230-300 feet elevation gain. Out and back. This hike starts just east of Lake Pleasant, and travels east, crosses New River Road, and proceeds east and then south along and above a wide (un-named?) wash. At 6 miles it crosses a paved private road from Highway 74. It is a typical open desert hike with most elevation changes going in and out of washes. No restroom at trailhead. Driving distance is 74 miles roundtrip.

Driving Directions – Pleasant Harbor -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North. Exit at Lake Pleasant Pkwy and

turn left. Turn left at Highway 74 and turn right on Pleasant Harbor Boulevard. Parking is along right side of the road just before the turn into the campground.

Maricopa Trail Northern, - Lake Pleasant East (Lake Pleasant). Rating D, C-

. This is a 4-5 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 500 feet. The hike goes across the front of the Lake Pleasant Dam about half mile away. It goes through several washes as it climbs up above the level of the dam. It goes below, though not under the Arizona Canal (you have to do the hike to see why). Lots of typical desert brush including many types of cacti. This trail can be combined with the Morgan City Wash trail to form a nice 7-mile hike. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 64 miles roundtrip.

Directions to Beardsley CSR trailhead (Lake Pleasant) -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North. Exit at Lake Pleasant Road. Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Highway 74. Turn left (west) and drive past MP 22. Turn right on Beardsley CSR Road a couple of hundred yards past MP 22. Drive about a quarter mile to the Maricopa Trail trailhead on the left (just as the road turns right).

Maricopa Trail Northern, Waddell Canal Trail. Rating D challenge. 6.1 miles, 530 feet elevation gain. This segment of the Maricopa Trail starts at the Beardsley CSR lot below the Lake Pleasant Dam, and takes you under Highway 74, then parallels the Waddell Canal between Lake Pleasant and the Old Carefree Highway near the Pleasant Valley Airport. There are multiple climbs and descents, with views to the west of the Agua Fria River basin. No restroom facilities at the trailhead. Driving distance is 64 miles

Directions to Beardsley CSR Trailhead. -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left)take to Loop 303 North. Exit at Lake Pleasant Road. Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Highway 74. Turn left (west) and drive past MP 22. Turn right on Beardsley CSR Road a couple of hundred yards past MP 22. Drive about a quarter mile to the Maricopa Trail trailhead on the left (just as the road turns right).

Maricopa Trail Northern. Waddell Canal Trail. Rating C. 7.5 Miles, Elevation 600?? This segment of the Maricopa Trail starts at the Beardsley CSR lot below the Lake Pleasant Dam, and takes you under Highway 74, then parallels the Waddell Canal between Lake Pleasant and the CAP Canal. There are multiple climbs and descents, with views to the west of the Agua Fria River basin. No restroom facilities at the trailhead. Driving distance is 64 mi.

Directions to Beardsley CSR Trailhead. -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road. Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Highway 74. Turn left (west) and drive past MP 22. Turn right on Beardsley CSR Road a couple of hundred yards past MP 22. Drive about a quarter mile to the Maricopa Trail trailhead on the left (just as the road turns right)

Maricopa Trail Northern, Jomax to Highway 303. Rating C. 8.2 miles, elevation minimal. Taken off a map-hasn't been club hiked.

Maricopa Trail Northern, Calderwood Butte Segment. Rating D. 5-miles 150 feet elevation gain. Out and back. Starting point for this segment is a walk/bike trail on the edge of a neighborhood, proceeds southwest then west across the Agua Fria River bottom, then along Happy Valley Parkway, with a turn-around near Loop 303. On the return walk past the parked cars and follow West Jomax Road to a turnaround at Lake Pleasant Parkway. No restroom at trailhead. Driving distance is 54 miles roundtrip.

Driving directions to Calderwood Butte Segment -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North. Exit at Happy Valley Parkway right. Turn left on N 107th Avenue, then left on W Jomax Parkway. Turn left on N 107th Lane and find a place to park. Trail is on the west side of 107th Lane.

Maricopa Trail Northern, Calderwood Butte Segment. Rating C. 6 miles, 400 feet elevation gain. Out and back. Starting point for this segment is a walk/bike trail on the edge of a neighborhood, proceeds southwest then west across the Agua Fria River bottom, then along Happy Valley Parkway, with a turn-around near Route 303. On the return walk past the parked cars and follow West Jomax Road to a turn north at Lake Pleasant Parkway. Take the Calderwood Butte trail back to Jomax and 107th Lane. No restroom at trailhead. Driving distance is 54 miles roundtrip.

Driving directions to Calderwood Butte Segment -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North. Exit at Happy Valley Parkway right. Turn left on N 107th Avenue, then left on W Jomax Parkway. Turn left on N 107th Lane and find a place to park. Trail is on the west side of 107th Lane.

MARICOPA TRAIL WESTERN

Maricopa Trail Western, Happy Valley Segment. Rating C. 7.1 miles, 100 feet elevation. Out and back. This segment starts near Loop 303 and Vistancia Road, and proceeds west paralleling Happy Valley Road. This is open desert but near housing development closing in on the trail. You will pass a fire station, then numerous powerlines feeding into several large power distribution facilities. On the return, proceed under Loop 303 to where the Maricopa Trail moves away from the road toward the Agua Fria River crossing. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distances is 52 miles roundtrip.

Driving directions to Happy Valley Segment -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North. Exit at Happy Valley/Vistancia Boulevard and turn left. At 119th Avenue, turn left, make a U-turn and park on the east side of the road. The Trail parallels 119th Avenue for a short way before turning back to the west.

Maricopa Trail Western, Trilby East. Rating D, C. 6 miles, minimum elevation change. Trail proceeds northeast paralleling the Loop 303 freeway and the McMicken Dam flood control structure on a good hiking trail. You will pass a derelict large home (available for purchase) and two water treatment plants. If you would like a tour of one just drop in at the first and ask—very interesting, if a little stinky.

Driving Directions to Trilby East -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North to Grand Avenue, turn left (west), then turn right on 163rd Avenue, turn right just past the RR tracks then right again to a parking area along the canal.

Maricopa Trail Western, Bell Road North. Rating D. 4-6 miles, minimal elevation gain. This segment starts at a parking lot on Bell Road/Sun Lakes Parkway and proceeds north through a mostly flat desert area. Good view of the White Tanks on the return trip. No park fees. No restrooms.

Driving directions to Bell Road North -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North to Bell Road West which becomes Sun Lakes Parkway. Watch for a sign about a mile past the developed area for Maricopa Trail Parking on the left.

Maricopa Trail, Bell Road South. Rating D. proceeds south for 4-6 miles with minimal elevation gain. You have good views of the White Tank Mountains on a good hiking trail. You will pass a radio-controlled aircraft club and may be able to observe R/C planes dogfighting—pretty interesting. No park fees. No restrooms.

Driving directions to Bell Road South -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North to Bell Road West which becomes Sun Lakes Parkway. Watch for a sign about a mile past the developed area for Maricopa Trail Parking on the left.

Maricopa Trail Western, Mule Deer Trail (White Tank Regional Park).

Rating D. 4.5-6 mile out and back hike with >200feet elevation gain, trail in excellent shape. Start at the White Tanks Trail Staging Area; Follow signs for Maricopa Trail/Mule Deer Trail to gate, leave the Park and proceed 2-2.5 miles along the Maricopa Trail and return. Great views of the White Tanks Mountains and lots of wild flowers in the Spring. Park fee is \$7 per car. Driving distance is 30 miles R roundtrip

Directions to White Tank Mountains Regional Park -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North (right). Exit at Northern (next to zoo) and turn left (West). Turn right on Cotton. Turn left on Olive and follow it to the park gate. Park fee is \$7.00/car for all trailheads

Maricopa Trail Western, Mule Deer from Library, White Tanks Reg. Park.

Rating D. This is a 4.4-mile out and back hike on the Mule Deer Trail with about 350 feet of elevation change. It is listed in the White Tanks section as Mule Deer from the Library but extends a little farther to the park boundary.

Directions to White Tank Mountains Regional Park -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North (right). Exit at Northern (next to zoo) and turn left (West). Turn right on Cotton. Turn left on Olive and follow it to the park gate. Park fee is \$7.00/car for all trailheads

Maricopa Trail Western, Mule Deer Trail south, (White Tank Regional Park).

Rating D. 5 mile out and back hike with >200 feet elevation gain, trail in excellent shape. Start at the White Tanks Library/Visitor Center or the South Trail; take Mule Deer Trail south to the Maricopa Trail out of the park. Turn around at the

Beardsley Canal and return to the visitor center. Restrooms at the visitor center. Driving distance is 30 miles roundtrip.

Directions to White Tank Mountains Regional Park -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take 303 North (right). Exit at Northern (next to zoo) and turn left (West). Turn right on Cotton. Turn left on Olive and follow it to the park gate. Park fee is \$7.00/car for all trailheads Restrooms are at the trailhead Goat Camp/South Trail trailheads are found on Black Canyon Road, which is the first left after the gate. Park at Picnic area #1.

Maricopa Trail from Northern Ave. Rating D This is a 4-6 mile out and back hike with >200 feet of elevation gain and good trail conditions. Trail parallels the White Tank Mountains toward Verrado. Park on the south side of Northern Avenue just across the Beardsley Canal. Trail starts just west of parking area. At about 3 miles, you will arrive roughly at Bethany Home and Jackrabbit Trail, between a flood control structure and a new housing community. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance 22 miles est.

Directions to Maricopa Trail Trailhead at Northern Avenue -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North (right). Exit at Northern (next to zoo) and turn left (West). Continue on Northern across Citrus Avenue until it crosses the Beardsley Canal. Park on the left side of the road on the west side of the Canal. Trail will be to your right (west).

Maricopa Trail Western from Bethany Home. This segment would take you through several developed communities on roads and sidewalks. Minimal elevation gain. Jackrabbit Trail from Bethany Home to Indian School about 2 miles. Indian School to Acacia Avenue about 1 mile. South on sidewalks along Acacia for about 2 miles.

Maricopa Trail Western, Verrado South of I-10 to Jackrabbit. Rating D. 5 miles, 140 feet elevation gain. Out and back. Start on the sidewalk along the wash east of Acacia. Proceed south under I-10 along flood control structures to Jackrabbit Trail. Lot of flowers in flood basin in spring. Very good trail. No restroom at trailhead. Driving distance 20 miles

Driving directions to Verrado South to Jackrabbit -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) to Acacia Avenue (stop sign after the high school). Turn left on Acacia and drive south about 1 1/2 mile and turn left to the edge of the community. Find a place to park, then take the sidewalk south.

Maricopa Trail Western, I-10 to Estrella Mountain Reg. Park. 12.5 miles along roads: Jackrabbit Trail, Yuma Road, Bullard, Estrella Parkway, Vineyard, into the park.

Maricopa Trail Western, Estrella Mountains Regional Park. These trails aren't well known to the club: Quail, Rainbow Valley, Butterfield, Gadsden, Desert Rose. At the east end of Desert Rose trail, the Maricopa Trail goes down the driveway to Indian Springs, right past the race track and into Tres Rios, where the Southern section of the trail starts.

Maricopa Trail Southern

Original listings not included above

Maricopa Trail, -Tres Rios Wetlands. Rating C, D. This is a 4-7 mile in and out hike with about 100 feet of elevation gain. This trail starts at Monument Hill just east of the Racetrack. Trail travels along wetlands with flowing water, lots of vegetation and opportunities for viewing many bird species. The Salt River and Gila River join just south of the park. It's a flat, easy, fun hike. If more elevation is desired, you can climb Monument Hill, which is to the right after you cross the pedestrian bridge. No entrance fees. No restrooms.

Directions to Tres Rios Trailhead -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway/Estrella Parkway past I-10. Turn left onto Vineyard Avenue. just across the Gila River.

Continue past the Phoenix Raceway and turn right into a parking area just past the grandstand and before the river bridge.

TRES RIOS East from 91st Avenue Rating D. This Segment starts at 91st Avenue and proceeds east thru more of the Tres Rios Wetlands. From 91st Avenue, the trail continues along the Salt River to about 83d Avenue where it crosses the Salt River to the southeast, for 5.2 miles to Baseline. From this trailhead, you can also hike west into the area described above. This segment is often closed from December to May.

Driving directions – Tres Rios East from 91st Avenue -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway. Take I-10 East to 91st Avenue, proceed south on 91st Avenue to a parking lot on the right just past a sign for a “Maricopa Trail Crossing.” From the parking lot, cross 91st Avenue, walk south to the Trail entrance area.

South Mountain. From Hwy 202 the Maricopa Trail goes thru South Mountain Park, mainly on the National Trail.

Maricopa Trail, Buckeye Extension (Estrella Mountain Regional Park) Rating D

There is a new, as yet unmapped segment of the Maricopa Trail that starts in Estrella Mountain Regional Park, goes thru Estrella Foothills, FINS, Dogbone, and ends at Buckeye Regional Recreation Center off Highway 85.

Following is a list of hike segments that can be done individually or combined to make hikes of whatever length may be desired. There is moderate to very little elevation gain on these segments, making them relatively easy hikes at whatever hike level you wish to designate them. The hikes are listed in order starting at Estrella Mountain Regional Park, and ending at Buckeye. Miles are all one-way.

New additions and edits: 6-10-22: Maricopa Trail-Buckeye Extension

Maricopa Trail, Buckeye Extension, thru Estrella Mountain Regional Park. Rating B. 10.8 miles out and back. Elevation gain ???. This is an out and back hike on good, well-marked trails through the park. From the Rodeo Grounds, take Toothaker, then Butterfield, to Coldwater and proceed south. Turn right on Gadsden, then

Toothaker for a short distance, and Pederson southeast to the Crossover Trail. Crossover takes you to the park boundary, where you can pass into the Estrella Foothills area.

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow Trailhead. Turn south on PebbleCreek/Estrella Parkways south of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Avenue just across the Gila River. Turn right into Estrella Mountain Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle. Drive around the park to the left. Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (west) side of rodeo arena.

Maricopa Trail, Buckeye Extension, Estrella Foothills (SR/PA) to EMRP boundary. Rating D, or D Challenge for length. 4-5.7 miles. Elevation gain 200-300.' This is an easy out-and-back desert walk through Estrella Foothills following SR and PA trails to the park boundary for 4 miles. Adding another 1.8 miles on the Crosscut Trail to Pedersen Trail makes it a D Challenge hike.

Directions to Estrella Foothills Park - High School Trailhead. Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, which becomes Estrella Parkway on the other side of I-10. Continue into and through the Estrella Mountain development. Turn left into the parking lot just before the Estrella Foothills High School building. Park at the far end of the parking lot. Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark. No park fee.

Maricopa Trail, Buckeye Extension, Estrella Foothills (SR/SG) to FINS. Rating D Challenge for length, **or easy C.** 6.5 miles, < 100' elev. This is a very easy, flat hike from the high school south, then through the Estrella community ending at FINS. Start at EFHS parking lot and proceed south on power line road (SR) for .9 miles, turn right on SG Trail to Estrella Parkway under bridge. Follow the trail past housing to Bougainvillea Park. There are no signs in the park, but go to the SW corner of the park to Calistoga Drive, turn right on a dirt path, cross a bridge, and find the marked trail into a wash that ends at FINS.

Directions to Estrella Foothills Park - High School Trailhead. Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, which becomes Estrella Parkway on the other side of I-10. Continue into and through the Estrella Mountain development. Turn left into the parking lot just before the Estrella Foothills High School building. Park at the far end of the parking lot. Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark. No park fee.

Maricopa Trail, Buckeye Extension through FINS to Rainbow Valley Road. Rating D. 5 miles, 200' elev. FINS parking to Eileen's, Joeys, Spent Spade, Connie's, Rita's to South Rainbow Valley Road, and return. Good hike that includes the Enchanted Forest segment in FINS. No restroom at trailhead. No park fee.

Directions to FINS - Fantasy Island Trailhead. Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, which becomes Estrella Parkway on the other side of I-10. Continue for approximately 12.5 miles from Eagle's Nest. Turn right on West Westar Drive. Go approx. 1.1 miles and turn left into the parking lot (this turn is easy to miss so turn just before a one-level concrete maintenance building; there is also a tall steel tower for power lines). No restrooms. No park fee.

Maricopa Trail Rainbow Valley-Tuthill Roads. Rating D. 4.4 miles out and back, 50' elev. Parking near power lines on Rainbow Valley adds about .5 mile each way. Parking along Tuthill Road shoulder is also an option. This is a flat trail, not inspiring, but part of the Maricopa Trail for those who want to complete it. No restrooms or park fee.

Directions to Rainbow Valley Road Trailhead. Head south on PebbleCreek and Estrella Parkways to Elliott Road. Turn right and follow Elliott to Rainbow Valley Road. Turn left and find a place to park below power lines.

Maricopa Trail Tuthill Road to Airport Road. Rating D. 5 miles out and back, 50' elev. Can park on Tuthill or Ray Road. near 207th Avenue for this segment. Trail parallels Ray Road behind some homes and outbuildings, then just off the shoulder of Tuthill Road. Do not enter from Airport Road.

Directions to Tuthill Road access. Head south on PebbleCreek and Estrella Parkways south to Elliott Road. Take Elliott to Tuthill Road, cross Ray Road, and look for the Maricopa Trail sign and park on the shoulder.

Directions to Ray Road/207th Avenue access. Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then turn west (right) onto I-10 to Jackrabbit Trail. Go south across the Gila River Bridge, where Jackrabbit becomes Tuthill Road. Turn right on Ray Road. Suggest parking on the South side of Ray Road at 207th Avenue. Maricopa Trail is about 100' south of Ray Road.

Maricopa Trail from Airport Road West. Rating B. Short section of single track then the trail follows several 4WD roads to the west toward the Dogbone area. We hiked/mapped 4 miles—it's probably another 6-7 miles to Highway 85. Attempting this section may require cars at either end of the hike.

Directions to Ray Road/207th Avenue access. Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then turn right (west) on I-10 to Jackrabbit Trail. Go south across the Gila River Bridge, where Jackrabbit becomes Tuthill Road. Turn right on Ray Road. Suggest parking on the South side of Ray Road at 207th Avenue. Maricopa Trail is about 100' south of Ray Road.

Maricopa Trail from Highway 85 East. Rating B, C, or D. Distance is what you choose to make it, and elevation gain will be minimal. As of May, 2022, access is available from Narramore Road to the Dogbone area, though private property signs abound to the north and east. We found the Maricopa Trail sign at Madd Bird Trail, and followed it west under Highway 85, where it stopped. Then followed it to the east to a point roughly parallel with Narramore Road. The trail continues East from there.

Directions to Dogbone/Narramore Road. Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn right (west) on I-10 to Highway 85 South. Look for the sign for Robbins Butte, and turn left. The road then goes left (north) and reaches a junction where you turn right (east). Park on the side of the road before entering the wash.

Maricopa, Gadsden, Pederson, Crossover Trails, Estrella Mountain Regional Park. 2.5 miles from Coldwater to Park boundary at Estrella Foothills.

Maricopa Trail Bougainvillea Park to FINS. 0.8 miles. Trail goes thru the park on sidewalks, down a street, dirt path then single-track trail to FINS parking lot. Trail is not marked inside the park. Refer to the map. roundtrip 29 miles. PC Parkway, Estrella Parkway, right on Calistoga, right on 178th Avenue to park

We have not been able to find trail signs beyond the last segment at Dogbone West, Buckeye Regional Park, or Robbins Butte Wildlife Area to finish this segment.