

MARICOPA TRAILS 9-8-20

Maps for various segments of the Maricopa Trails

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

Maricopa Trail - Lake Pleasant East (Lake Pleasant). Rating C-. This is a 4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 500 ft. 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 cactus. 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 fee. Driving distance is 64 miles RT.

Directions to Morgan City Wash Trail (Lake Pleasant)

Go left (west) on Indian School to Loop 303.

Turn right (north) on 303 to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Hwy 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).

No park fee, but no facilities at the trailhead.

Maricopa Trail South from the Bronco Trailhead (Seven Springs Rec Area).

Rating C-B. This is a 7-9.6 mile hike with an elevation change of 1000-1500 ft. The 7-mile hike (1000 ft) 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 (1500 ft) 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 RT (the last 3 miles are on an unpaved dirt road). <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Maricopa-Trail-Carefree>

Directions to Cave Creek - Bronco Trailhead

Take Loop 303 North to I-17.

Turn North (left) on I-17.

Turn right (east) on Carefree Hwy (Hwy 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 is a dirt road.

Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee.

Maricopa Trail North (White Tank Regional Park). Rating D. 4.5-5 mile out and back hike with >200' 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 RT.

Directions to White Tank Mountains Regional Park

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

Maricopa Trail South (White Tank Regional Park). Rating D. 5 mile out and back hike with >200' elevation gain, trail in excellent shape. Start at the White Tanks Library/Visitor Center or the Sout 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 RT.

Directions to White Tank Mountains Regional Park

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 4-5 mile out and back hike with >200' of elevation gain and good trail conditions. Trail parallels the White Tank Mountains toward Verrado. Park on the south side of Northern Ave just across the Beardsley Canal. Trail starts just west of parking area. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance 22 miles est.

Directions to Maricopa Trail Trailhead at Northern Ave.

Take 303 North (right).

Exit at Northern (next to zoo) and turn left (West).

Continue on Northern across Citrus Ave 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 (Estrella Mountain Regional Park) Rating D+/C

This part of the trail goes from just north of Estrella Mountain Regional Park to the city of Peoria. The segments are listed below in two sections: From White Tanks Regional Park to the North, and from the Park to the South. Hikes can be done in any length desired, but many of the hikes listed are of D+/C lengths. The segments are generally pretty flat.

FROM WHITE TANKS NORTH

This segment starts at the Nature Center at White Tanks Regional Park, and provides several hikes that can be done individually or in combination, all with minimal elevation change:

Nature Center to park boundry. This is a 4.4 mile hike on the Mule Deer Trail with about 350' of elevation change. It is listed in the White Tanks section as Mule Deer from the Library but extends a little farther to the boundry.

Staging Area North. This is a 4-6 mile i/o hike with minimal elevation gain. It's listed under White Tanks as Maricopa Trail North.

Bell Rd 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 fee. No restrooms.

Driving directions: Hwy 303 North to Bell Rd West which becomes Sun Lakes Pkwy. Watch for a sign about a mile past the developed area for Maricopa Trail Parking on the right.

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

Driving directions: Hwy 303 North to Bell Rd West which becomes Sun Lakes Pkwy. Watch for a sign about a mile past the developed area for Maricopa Trail Parking on the right.

Trilby East. Rating D/C. Trail proceeds northeast paralleling the 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. This segment ends near Vistancia Rd (about 15 miles RT).

Driving Directions. Hwy 303 north to Grand Ave, turn left (west), then turn right on 163d Ave, turn right just past the RR tracks then right again to a parking area along the canal.

FROM WHITE TANKS SOUTH

This segment starts at the Nature Center on the Mule Deer T **Driving directions:** Hwy 303 North to Bell Rd West which becomes Sun Lakes Pkwy. Watch for a sign about a mile past the developed area for Maricopa Trail Parking on the right. rail at White Tanks Regional Park and provides several hikes that can be done individually or in combination, all with minimal elevation change:

Nature Center to Northern Ave. This is a 4.6 mile in and out thru the park to a gate leaving the park and proceeding generally east until the trail turns south just before the Beardsley Canal. Hike is listed in the White Tanks section

Northern Ave to Bethany Home. This is a 6 mile i/o that starts at a parking area just across the Canal at the end of Northern Ave. It proceeds generally south along the White Tank Mountains with flood control channels and structures to the east. It ends at a junction with Jackrabbit Trail. This hike is listed in the White Tanks section.

Bethany Home to Indian School. This is a 4 mile i/o that starts at the Burger King on Indian School and proceeds south partially along trails, then streets and sidewalks thru new home construction (2020). Trail alignment may be different after construction is complete.

Indian School to Acacia. This is one mile on the shoulder of the road—not a good hike.

Indian School to McDowell. This is 4.4 miles i/o along Acacia on Verrado sidewalks. A nice walk.

Nature Center to Northern Ave. This is a 4.6 mile in and out thru the park to a gate leaving the park and proceeding generally east until the trail turns south just before the Beardsley Canal.

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Indian School to Acacia. This is one mile on the shoulder of the road—not a good hike.

Indian School to McDowell. This is 4.4 miles i/o along Acacia on Verrado sidewalks. A nice walk.

McDowell to Jackrabbit Trail. Rating D. This is 4.2 miles i/o thru a wash and under I-10, then following flood control structures south and east to Jackrabbit. Lots of flowers in the Spring. Can be accessed from Verrado streets in the southeast section of the community, or from south of I-10 and East of Verrado Road.

MARICOPA TRAIL SOUTH (Estrella Mountain Regional Park) Rating C/D

Estrella Mtn Reg Park. This is about 8.5 miles one way across the southern end of Estrella Mtn Reg Park, and includes parts of Rainbow Valley, Toothacher, Butterfield, Gadsden, and Desert Rose trails. It then moves thru the racetrack parking lot and east along Indian Springs into the driveway to Tres Rios.

Maricopa Trail-Tres Rios Wetlands. Rating C/D. This is a 4-7 mile in and out hike with about 100' 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 fee. No restrooms.

Directions to Tres Rios trailhead.

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south) South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. 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 Ave. Rating D. This Segment starts at 91st Ave and proceeds east thru more of the Tres Rios wetlands. From 91st Ave, the trail continues along the Salt River to about 83d Ave where it crosses the Salt River to the southeast, for 5.2 miles i/o 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. Take I-10 east to 91st Ave, proceed south on 91st Ave to a parking lot on the right just past a sign for a "Maricopa Trail Crossing." From the parking lot, cross 91st Ave, 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 Mtn Reg Park, goes thru Estrella Foothills, FINS, Dogbone, and ends at Buckeye Reg Rec Center off Hwy 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.

Maricopa/Coldwater Trail, Estrella Mountain Regional Park. Trail Starts at the intersection of Butterfield and Coldwater Trails and proceeds generally South on Coldwater to the Gadsden Trail. 2.8 miles and about 200' of elevation gain.

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

Maricopa/Estrella Foothills (SR/PA) from EMRP boundary to Estrella Foothills HS parking lot. 2 miles. Trail follows the Park Ave Trail to power lines (SR Trail) to parking lot. Crosscut Trail from Pedersen to Park boundary is .8 miles.

Maricopa/Estrella Foothills (SR/SG) to Bougainvillea Park. 2.4 miles, min elev gain. Starts at EFHS parking lot south on power line road (SR) for .9 miles, turn right on SG Trail to Estrella Parkway under bridge. Bridge to Park, trail is under construction (Aug 2020).

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.

29 miles. PC Pkwy, Estrella Pkwy, Right on Calistoga, right on 178th Ave to park

Maricopa Trail through FINS to Rainbow Valley Rd. 2.5 miles, 120' elev. FINS parking to Eileen's, Joeys, Spent Spade, Connie's, Rita's to S. Rainbow Valley Rd. Good hike that includes the Enchanted Forest segment in FINS.

Maricopa Trail Rainbow Valley-Tuthill Roads. 2.2 miles, 50' elev. Parking near power lines on Rainbow Valley adds about .5 mile each way. Parking along Tuthill Road shoulder is also an option.

Maricopa Trail Tuthill Rd to Airport Rd. 2.5 miles, 50' elev. Can park on Tuthill or Airport Rd. for this segment. Trail parallels Ray Rd behind some homes and outbuildings, then just off the shoulder of Tuthill Rd.

Maricopa Trail from Airport RD West. 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 3-4 miles to Hwy 85.

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

