

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK 11-24-21

Trail maps for various segments in Usery Mountain Regional Park

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Usery-Mountain-Regional-Park/>

Hawes Loop Trail, Granite Reef Recreation Area (Usery Mountain Park). Rating C Challenge. This is an 8-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1400 feet. Most of the hike provides views of Red Mountain, the Granite Reef Dam and the park. The hike starts out about 100 feet north of the exit to the Granite Reef Recreation Area. Cross the street to the trailhead for the Granite Trail (be careful crossing the street). Over the first 3 miles, the trail slowly rises about 400 feet through typical desert brush. Around the 4-mile point you will pass several large mansions. There are many large saguaros in the center of the park, which forms a large bowl. The trail generally wanders around the edge of the bowl, but there are a few trails that cut across the park if you wish to do a shorter hike. The Mine Trail is a ridge trail that is named after a mine near the highest point on the trail. Just past and above the mine is a spot that provides a 360-degree view of the surrounding area, giving you great views of the park, Four Peaks, Red Mountain, water from the dam, and a green valley. This trail has the potential for numerous Spring wildflowers if winter rains are sufficient. Trail itinerary is: start on Granite, right on Mine, right on Ridge, left on Hawes, left on Saddle Back, right on Saguaro, which becomes Mine, and right on Granite back to the cars. Trail condition - overall it's a typical desert hiking trail. There are restrooms in the Granite reef Rec Area. Park fee is \$7.00 (free with a Golden Age pass). Driving distance is 100 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/UseryMountainRegionalPark/Hawes-Loop-Trail>

Directions to Hawes Loop Trail -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then take I-10 East (left) HOV to Highway 202 East (HOV left exit). 202 to Power Road exit, turn left (north). Go about 2 miles to bottom of the hill and turn left into Granite Reef Recreation Area. Free with Senior Pass. The trail starts across the street, about 100 feet north of entrance to parking lot.

Hawes Loop Trail long option, Granite Reef Recreation Area (Usery Mountain Park).

Rating B. This is an 9.3-mile, 600 feet elevation, 1400 feet elevation gain hike with a variety of interesting views. Most of the hike provides views of Red Mountain, the Granite Reef Dam and the park. The hike starts out about 100 feet North of parking lot for the Hawes Trail Trailhead. Cross the street to the trailhead for the Hawes Trail (be careful crossing the street). Over the first 3 miles, the trail slowly rises about 400 ft through typical desert brush. Around the 5.4 mile point you will pass several large mansions. There are many large saguaros in the center of the park, which forms a large bowl. The trail generally wanders around the edge of the bowl. This trail has the potential for numerous spring wildflowers if winter rains are sufficient. Trail itinerary is: start on Hawes, left on Saguaro, left of Ridge, right on Granite-to-Granite Reef Recreation Area. There are restrooms in the Granite Reef Recreation Area. After restroom break, return to Granite, left on Saguaro, left on Saddle, right on Hawes, right on Saguaro, left on Ridge, right on Hawes. No parking fees. Driving distance is 100 miles roundtrip.

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Pass Mountain Trail (Usery Mountain Park). Rating C. This is a 7.7-mile loop, with an elevation change of 600 feet, and elevation gain of 1160 feet on a trail in good condition and with great scenery as you travel around the mountain. The trail encircles Pass Mountain and starts by going through a saguaro cactus forest. It offers nice views on clear days of other distant mountain ranges including the Superstitions, Catalina, Mazatzal, Four Peaks, and McDowell Mountains. A portion of the loop is on adjacent Tonto National Forest land. This is a long hike –bring and drink

plenty of water. Trail condition – average hiking trail. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is approximately 110 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/UseryMountainRegionalPark/Pass-Mountain-Trail>

Directions to Usery Mountain Trails -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway to I-10. Take I-10 East (left) HOV to Loop 202 East (HOV exit on left). Loop 202 to Power Road (exit 23A), turn right (south). In a few blocks turn left onto McDowell Boulevard East. Turn left onto Usery Pass Rd (“T” intersection). Turn right onto Usery Park Road (across from the “Phoenix arrow”). Pay \$7.00 at booth. Turn left onto Wind Cave Drive West to the trailhead.

Pass Mountain, Wind Cave Trails (Usery Mountain Park). Rating B. This is a 10.6-mile hike. Pass Mountain is a 7.4-mile loop, with an elevation change of 600 feet, and elevation gain 1,780 feet on a trail in good condition and with great scenery as you travel around the mountain. The trail encircles Pass Mountain and starts by going through a saguaro cactus forest. It offers nice views on clear days of other distant mountain ranges including the Superstitions, Catalina, Mazatzal, Four Peaks, and McDowell Mountains. A portion of the loop is on adjacent Tonto National Forest land. This is a long hike –bring and drink plenty of water. Just to add some fun to this hike, after going around the mountain we will tackle the Wind Cave Trail. This is a 3.2 mi round trip out and back hike with an elevation change of 650 feet. The trail starts off relatively flat then climbs steadily to a large over hanging rock. The “Wind Caves” are shallow depressions that have been eroded out of the tuff layer of rock by wind and rain. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is approximately 110 miles roundtrip.

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Wind Cave and Cats Peak Trails (Usery Mountain Park). Rating C. These two trails form a 6.9-mile hike with an elevation change of 650 feet. The Wind Cave trail is a 3.2-mile round trip out and back hike with an elevation change of 650 feet. The trail starts off relatively flat then climbs steadily to a large over hanging rock. The “Wind Caves” are shallow depressions that have been eroded out of the tuff layer of rock by wind and rain. Some may want to continue further on the non-maintained, rougher steep trail towards the top. The Cats Peak Trail is a 3-mile loop around Cats Peak. There is very little elevation change, but you get different views of Pass Mountain and the valleys to the East. Both trails have great wildflowers in the Spring after good Winter rains. Restrooms are at the trailhead. The park fee is \$7.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is approximately 110 miles roundtrip.

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