

2018

New Steward Orientation Manual



Page Intentionally Blank

## Table of Contents: New Steward Orientation

Chapter 1	
Serve the Conservancy—Transform Yourself!.....	1
Chapter 2	
Mission .....	3
Board Overview .....	4
Charter Members.....	5
Chapter 3	
Program Areas, Departments, Job Titles .....	7
Chapter 4	
Completing Your Training .....	13
Chapter 5	
VicNet/Volgistics.....	19
Chapter 6	
Trailblazing: History of the White Tank Mountains.....	29
Chapter 7	
Flora and Fauna of the White Tank Mountains .....	33
White Tank Regional Park Nature Center.....	35
Chapter 8	
Support the Conservancy.....	37
Addendum	
Steward Policy Manual	
Links and Resources	
Trail Maps	

The White Tank Mountains Conservancy Thanks:  
McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Staff and Stewards and our  
Partners

The White Tank Mountains Conservancy Board of Directors and Steward Education and Volunteer Committee thank the staff and stewards of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy for sharing their expertise and materials to help make our New Steward Orientation a success. Much of the content of this document is theirs, and their advice and guidance have been invaluable. We also thank our partners for their support.



## Chapter 1

### Serve the Conservancy and Transform Yourself!



White Tank Mountains Conservancy Stewards

*Photo courtesy of Bob Hopper*

#### Become a Volunteer

You are well on your way to becoming a WTMC Steward!

Where can you make a real difference in the world...and have fun at the same time? Here at the White Tank Mountains Conservancy! You will help champion the preservation of open space, care for and maintain the White Tank Mountains, and help engage the community in preserving our public lands. You will be working with others who share your passion for nature and a desire to make our community a better place.

How can you help? Dedicate your time and skills in activities ranging from trail patrols on foot, bike and/or horseback, guiding hikes, educating the public and fellow stewards, and conducting research about these vital lands' ecosystems. Your efforts will help future generations enjoy this ecological treasure the same way we do today.

Page Intentionally Blank

## Chapter 2

### Mission Statement:

***Inspire all to conserve and enjoy the natural and cultural resources of the White Tank Mountains.***

The White Tank Conservancy is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that champions the sustainability of the White Tank Mountains for the benefit of this and future generations. As stewards, we connect the community to the Conservancy through education, research, advocacy, partnership, and safe, respectful access to trails.

The Conservancy was launched in 2015 and relies on a growing pool of volunteers to help protect and promote the lands involved. The work of the Conservancy includes providing safe public access to White Tank Mountains Regional Park, City of Buckeye Skyline Park and DMB's Verrado Community Temporary Trail System. We champion protecting the lands through research and stewardship, and increasing the understanding and appreciation of the Conservancy within the communities surrounding the mountains and beyond through educational programs and community events.

It is imperative that West Valley communities prepare today for the likely impacts of expected growth. The White Tank Mountains Conservancy, with a robust advocacy network, volunteer support base, and diverse support from the many entities that surround the mountains, will ensure that the White Tank Mountains are able to safeguard natural and cultural resources, thereby preserving the incredible Sonoran Desert history and their opportunities for education, recreation, and ecological services.

Our primary objectives are to train and deploy volunteers (stewards) to conduct ecological research and other activities necessary to preserve and manage the White Tank Mountains. In addition, the Conservancy is committed to the establishment of wildlife corridors into and out of the parks to ensure preservation of the mule deer, mountain lions, desert tortoises, and other animals that live in the mountain range today.



# Board Overview

## Strategic Priorities

**Conserve:** land and natural habitat

**Connect:** people and place

**Collaborate:** regionalism and partnership

## Guiding Principles

- Employ a regional perspective
- Foster Stewardship
- Advocate for conservation
- Research-driven
- Promote tourism
- Outreach and educate

## Governing Board

Todd Hornback, Chair .....DMB Community Life, Inc  
Bob Bement ..... APS/Palo Verde  
Stacie Beute..... Conservation Alliance of Central Arizona/DBG  
RJ Cardin .....Maricopa County Parks and Recreation  
Ian Dowdy .....Sonoran Institute  
Jane Fricke ..... Community Leader  
Sintra Hoffman ..... WESTMARC  
Alice Neal ..... Community Leader  
Robert Wisener ..... City of Buckeye

## Executive Director

Les Meyers..... Executive Director

## **Charter Members**

### **Corporate Charter Members**

**DMB Associates, Inc  
APS/Palo Verde  
DR Horton  
EPCOR**

### **Municipal Charter Members**

**City of Buckeye  
City of Peoria  
City of Surprise  
City of Goodyear  
Town of Youngtown  
West-MEC**

### **Individual Charter Members**

**Verlyne & Jackie Meck**



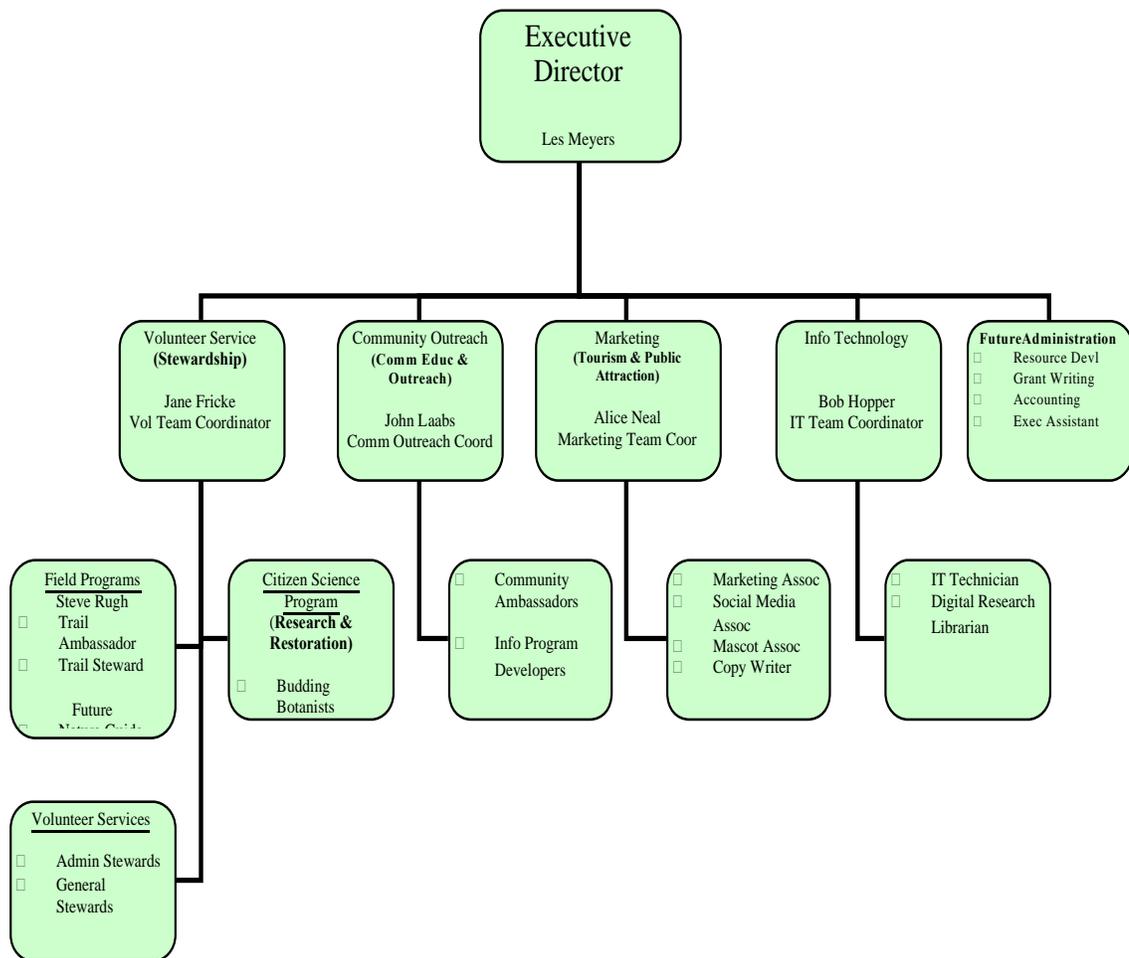
Page Intentionally Blank

# Chapter 3

## PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENTS, JOBS

WTMC STEWARD STRUCTURE

Effective 9/1/2017



## Steward Job Descriptions

There are a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available to White Tank Mountains Conservancy Stewards to suit your interests, skills and abilities. Below is a listing of the opportunities and the typical tasks associated with each.

### DEPARTMENTS

#### Volunteer Services

The first contact with the Conservancy usually happens through volunteer services. Linking the mission and strategic agenda to the interests of new volunteers helps promote the Conservancy. Recruit, interview, process, train and engage volunteers. The following jobs are associated with this department:

- Administrative Steward
- General Steward
- Intern



Typical departmental tasks include:

- recruit and process volunteers
- generate help wanted flyers and advertising to assist recruiting efforts
- communicate with volunteers about specific needs, opportunities
- plan and schedule volunteer morale/engagement events
- schedule & provide orientation, room set up, materials printed
- coordinate with team leaders to schedule & provide additional training per specific jobs
- process background checks
- order shirts & print badges
- provide logistical support to events (parking, site set up, registration etc)
- maintain and update Volgistics database, prepare reports
- seek out, schedule and maintain master calendar of recruiting opportunities (coordinate and communicate with other departments)

## Field Services (reports to Volunteer Services)

The heart of Stewardship occurs on the trails. Pro-actively monitor, inform and protect the natural and cultural resources of the Parks. Provide information, maps, trail assistance, monitoring and grooming. The following Steward jobs are associated with this department:

- Trail Ambassador
- Trail Steward



Typical department tasks include:

- inform visitors about flora, fauna, geology & cultural history
- welcome visitors at trailheads and answer questions about appropriate trails, park policies, etc.
- provide assistance as needed to visitors
- coordinate trail activities with each park supervisor/ranger
- report trail conditions
- report compliance issues
- pick up litter along trails

## Citizen Science (reports to Volunteer Services)

Protecting the White Tank Mountain and Corridors is an interdisciplinary challenge, balancing threats with opportunities that coexist at the boundaries separating the urban from the desert environments. Conduct real research monitoring, assessing and mapping the natural and historic resources in the mountains. Current job titles associated with this department:

- Budding Botanists
- Desert Defenders

Typical department tasks include:

- under guidance of agency conduct research requirements (e.g. CAZCA)
- participate in conservation activities such as Bufflegrass mapping and removal



## Community Outreach

Introduce the Conservancy to the community by informing, engaging and inspiring public involvement in White Tank Mountain conservation. We share outreach and informational programs through the Community Ambassadors program and community outreach events. The following jobs are associated with this department:

- Community Ambassadors
- Information Program Developers

Typical tasks include:

- present Conservancy goals and opportunities at community meetings (e.g. hiking clubs)
- develop, enhance and implement and/or coordinate informative programs for youth
- develop, enhance and implement and/or coordinate informative programs for adults
- assist Park Rangers with school and outreach programs
- staff Conservancy booth at fairs, events and other venues
- seek out, schedule and maintain master calendar of outreach opportunities (coordinate and communicate with other departments)



## Marketing

Promotional strategies and social media presence for the Conservancy will help elevate the presence of the White Tank Mountains in the community's consciousness. Create and publish brochures, marketing materials, newsletter and digital resources. Maintain an active and engaging social media presence. The following jobs are associated with this department:

- Marketing Associate
- Mascot Associate
- Social Media Associate
- Copy Writers

Typical department tasks include:

- write articles and publish quarterly newsletter
- create brochures, flyers and other marketing materials
- develop and implement media relations policy & press releases
- update and maintain social media presence
- research, obtain & catalog existing interpretive materials for reference and training
- schedule and staff Mascot activities



## Information Technology (part of Business Services)

Having operational software, hardware and audio-visual support is essential to supporting the mission of the Conservancy. In addition, will maintain and curate digital resources. The following jobs are associated with this department:

- IT Technician
- Digital Research Librarian

Typical IT Department tasks include:

- web site updates & maintenance
- IT software support
- maintain PayPal interface
- set up, maintain and operate AV equipment
- print training manuals, badges, maps, brochures etc
- order and maintain supply inventory
- take and post photographs and/or videos of Conservancy functions
- assist with graphic design
- develop and maintain centralized digital library



## Business Services

Future growth anticipated as needed and/or volunteer interest occurs. The following jobs are associated with this department:

- Accounting, Fundraising (most likely Board level), Grant Writing, Executive Assistant



Page Intentionally Blank

## Chapter 4

### The Process to Stewardship

Once you have completed New Steward Orientation, your journey will continue with four (4) more tasks of exploring the White Tank Mountains Conservancy. Your mentor can help you decide how best to complete those tasks. There are a variety of options available to you.

The “post your hours” section in the Volunteer Information Center will help you record those hours. (<http://WTMConservancy.org>. Click on “Get Involved,”) )

The process for obtaining your steward badge is intended to familiarize you with the different programs available within the White Tank Mountains Conservancy. We encourage you to participate in a wide variety of activities. You may already know some of the areas where you want to contribute, but you may find a few more that interest you. Your mentor and the program chairs are available to provide guidance and to answer questions you may have along the way.

**Mentorship:** Your volunteer training and experience are important to us. We have provided you with a mentor to help you learn about the people and programs in the Conservancy. Your mentor will be contacting you shortly after your orientation and will work with you for your first 90 days or until you are successfully integrated into our organization. We strongly encourage you to contact your mentor as needed.



**Badge Earning Activities:** There are many opportunities for “reportable” WTMC Badge hours. Stewards-in-training are welcome to assist in most activities with little or no training. Some programs have mandatory training components. If you are “shadowing” an activity, it should be scheduled ahead of time through the program chair or your mentor.

*Please note:* If you have participated in recently scheduled WTMC events prior to your orientation date, these hours may, with permission, count toward completing your badge requirements.

You will receive training on how to use the WTMC Website to report your valued hours. In addition, you will learn how to log into our website, how to navigate through the overall site and through the steward program sections. Don’t hesitate to ask for assistance after the orientation if you need additional help or clarification.

We encourage you to become familiar with all of the resources and information available to you in both the public and private steward (volunteer) areas of our website.

Safeguards in the screening process, program structure, and expectations of general conduct will be used to ensure the protection of children and youth. WTMC directors, employees and stewards have the possibility of occasional interaction with children or youth; therefore, they are required to submit to a full background check conducted by the City of Buckeye or Maricopa County Parks, or an independent contractor with the WTMC. This background check may include filling out an application, a phone or in-person interview, contact with the independent contractor through their website, fingerprinting and/or police background check conducted by the City of Buckeye or Maricopa County Parks. Any applicant whose background check is unsatisfactory to the City of Buckeye, Maricopa County Parks or the independent contractor and WTMC will not be allowed to serve in a volunteer capacity at WTMC.

**Getting your steward badge:** When you have completed and your required hours of volunteerism on VICnet, the Volunteer Coordinator will authorize your WTMC Badge which identifies you as a fully qualified steward. You will be notified with arrangements for picking up your badge.

**Take a minute! Always Report Your Hours!**

It is extremely important for you to continue to report your steward hours in the years ahead. We use them to help us recognize your service to the Conservancy and your volunteer accomplishments. They are also important for use in grant applications that fund potential important park and Conservancy projects.

A separate handbook with the policies for ALL stewards is posted on the Conservancy website. ***You are required to verify that you have read and understood this document.*** This process can be completed on VICnet.



White Tank Mountains Conservancy Office: Our office is located at 4236 N. Verrado Way #A201 Buckeye, AZ 85396. Telephone: 626-466-7015.

As you become more engaged as a volunteer, the number of hours you report along with your continuing education will be of benefit to the WTMC and to you.

Communications at WTMC: At orientation, you were asked to sign up for any program you might be interested in. By doing so, you were added to program lists and may connect with those programs.

Whether you are a steward-in-training or an experienced steward, we all get our information about what is generally going on at WTMC in several ways.

- Some programs require mandatory orientations if you intend to participate fully in those programs. They are also a great way to decide if you want to participate.
- Volunteer support offers opportunities to learn, socialize, and entertain our stewards. We want you to feel comfortable as we integrate you into our community.

## **Seventeen (17) Exciting Ways to Earn the Steward Badge**

Expand your knowledge of the Conservancy and tweak your stewardship interests by participating in four of the following activities.

1. Explore the fascinating and educational displays and useful products at the White Tank Mountain Park Nature Center located in the White Tank Library.
2. Participate in a guided hike! It may be a wildflower Wednesday, fitness, nature, or moonlight hike or whatever else you may choose! Check the web sites of White Tank Mountain Regional Park and Skyline Regional Park for opportunities.
3. Have fun and meet new people while assisting with a park event. Check the web sites of White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Skyline Regional Park, Friends of White Tank Park, and Volgistics for opportunities.
4. Would you like a half mile of exercise, fun, and education? Complete the Black Rock Short Loop Quest in White Tank Mountain Regional Park.
5. Share your ideas, talents, and skills and help us grow! Volunteer to serve on a Conservancy team: Volunteer Services, Community Outreach or Marketing. Check for meeting dates on the Volgistics Calendar.
6. Want to become knowledgeable and conversant about the Sonoran Desert and its mountains? View up to three hours of online learning from 19 videos developed by stewards from the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. <http://tinyurl.com/h7k7art>
7. Assist the Volunteer Coordinator or other program leaders with data input or program materials development. Watch for opportunities on Volgistics!
8. Enjoy public speaking? Shadow and assist with presentations by the Community Outreach team to market the Conservancy to various groups.

9. Do you like kids, and would you like to do presentations on desert safety and the Leave No Trace principles in schools? Contact the Education & Outreach teams for opportunities relating to this worthwhile effort!
10. Have ideas or love to write? Work with the Marketing team to submit an article or plan and prepare a publication—newsletter, brochure, flyer, etc. Keep the West Valley informed about Conservancy activities, events, and research findings.
11. Expand your mind! Attend any Sonoran Desert natural history or historical program offered at the White Tank, Coyote, or other area libraries and organizations like RISE or Grand Learning.
12. Haven't visited the new Skyline Regional Park--now is the time! You may count your first unguided hike in that park toward the required badge tasks. Download the trail map from the Skyline Regional Park web site and take a hike! No entry fee is required as the park is supported by the citizens of Buckeye.
13. Be creative! Draw on your skills and passions and devise a project or activity that will help the Conservancy and earn you hours in a way unique to you. Be open to new opportunities for badge that may develop after your training. Be sure to gain approval for your ideas.
14. Try out a first-time unguided hike on the Verrado Temporary Trail System and log your hours. Maps are available on the White Tank Mountains Conservancy web site. No entry fee required. The petroglyph hike is a great one!
15. Take extra training in one of the several areas available to Stewards, including Trail Ambassador, Trail Steward, Budding Botanist and more!
16. Is there a performer lurking inside of you? Our mascot Rudy the Rascal roadrunner attracts children and adults to the spirit and mission of the WTMC. If you think you, might like to play the role, let the marketing Coordinator know at [wtmc.marketing@gmail.com](mailto:wtmc.marketing@gmail.com), and we will orient you and find you a gig!
17. Have a nature story to share or just plain love to write? Share one of your trail experiences or do some research on a WTMC theme, and we will publish it with your by line on the web.

BE SURE TO LOG YOUR TIME IN VOLGISTICS TO EARN YOUR STEWARD BADGE. Notify the Volunteer Coordinator at [j.fricke@WTMConservancy.org](mailto:j.fricke@WTMConservancy.org) once you have completed your badge tasks. She will make arrangements for you to get your badge.

### **To Do List**

1. Record your attendance at orientation (8 hours) in Volgistics
2. Complete the four (4) Things to Do for your Badge Earning Activities and record those hours in Volgistics.  
  
Note: Look for the categories of Steward Training and Badge Earning tasks to record the times.
3. Notify the Volunteer Coordinator of completion of four hours and arrange receipt of your Steward Badge.
4. Read the Steward Policy Manual and verify completion in Volgistics.
5. Read your New Steward Orientation Manual. Learn about the Conservancy, and identify your interests.

Page Intentionally Blank

## Chapter 5

### DIRECTIONS FOR LOGGING ONTO VicNet Steward Log In

Go to website: [www.wtmconservancy.org](http://www.wtmconservancy.org)



Click on “Volunteer” It takes you to



[Becoming a Volunteer](#)  
[Stewardship Opportunities](#)  
[Volgistics VicNet](#)  
[Calendar of Events](#)

[Donate](#)

Click on Volgistics VicNet and it takes you to the next page.

Enter your log in name which is your email address. Then enter your password.

Enter your email address and your volunteer information center password, and then click the Go button.

Login name:

Password:

[Forgot your password?](#) [Help](#)  
[Need a password?](#)

There are instructions to download Volgistics to your phone upper right side below "Account". In the bottom left is the Policy Manual, a video on how to use this page, and job description. One button is for the future when we allow you to order your own shirt.



## WTMC Volunteer Password

### Volunteer information for **Jane Fricke**

[Home](#)[Mail](#)[My Profile](#)[My Schedule](#)[My Service History](#)[Time Sheet](#)[Account](#)[Check your schedule](#)[Post your hours](#)[Check messages](#)[Text message opt-in](#)

#### Statistics

Overall

Volunteers: 97  
Cumulative hours of service: 5,715  
(as of yesterday)

#### Job Descriptions

Click the Job Descriptions button below to view all WTMC departments and job descriptions.



How to Use VicNet for Volunteers with List View and Time Sheet



#### WTMC Documents

Link to documents including the Steward Policy Manual and New Steward Orientation Manual.

Documents are PDF.

[Exit](#)

#### News

Keep these dates open!

White Tank Mountain Park Arts Festival - February 17th and 18th.

#### How to use VicNet Mobile: A Brief Guide

The VicNet module is a tool the organization you volunteer with may use. You can access the VicNet module over the Internet on a mobile device such as a smart phone or tablet.

#### Your Assignments

Administrative Steward [Volunteer Services/Steward Support] (Assigned)

Community Outreach Education [Community Outreach/Community Ambassadors] (Assigned)

Community Outreach Special Events [Community Outreach/Community Ambassadors] (Assigned)

General Steward [Volunteer Services/Steward Support] (Assigned)

Steward Badge Hours [Volunteer Services/Steward Support] (Assigned)

Steward Orientation [Volunteer Services/Steward Support] (Assigned)

Trail Steward [Field Services/WTMRP] (Assigned)

This is your Mail page where the Volunteer Coordinator can send you an email through Volgistics. It is a read-only as you can't forward or reply to the original email.



## WTMC Volunteer Password

### Volunteer information for Jane Fricke



#### Instructions

To view a message, simply click on the message subject.

#### New messages

No new messages

#### Old Messages

No old messages



This screen is your Profile which has your personal information that you entered online. Here you can change your email address, update your phone and contact information, or any other information.



## WTMC Volunteer Password

### Volunteer information for Jane Fricke

[Home](#) [Mail](#) [My Profile](#) [My Schedule](#) [My Service History](#) [Time Sheet](#) [Account](#)

#### Instructions

The following information is currently on file in your volunteer record. To update your records, enter your new information in the spaces provided. Click any of the "Save" buttons to save your changes or additions.

#### Contact Information

First name:  \*

Last name:  \*

Title:  ▼

Nickname:

Kind:  Individual  Group

You may edit it at any time. If you change your phone number, please verify on the Account page that the number transferred over. If you want to update your skills or change address or contact information.



## WTMC Volunteer Password

### Volunteer information for Jane Fricke

- [Home](#)
- [Mail](#)
- [My Profile](#)
- [My Schedule](#)**
- [My Service History](#)
- [Time Sheet](#)
- [Account](#)

#### Instructions

Your regularly scheduled volunteer shifts appear on the calendar. Click the "Next month" or "Previous Month" buttons to view a different month. For a printable view of your schedule click the "Printable view" button.



### Sign-Up!

We need volunteers on days that have the 'Help wanted' symbol. Click any of these days to learn more or to sign-up.

Show openings in

[Prev month](#)   [Next month](#)   **February 2018**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 	12	13	14	15	16 	17 
18 	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 	26	27	28			

- [Prev month](#)   [Next month](#)  
[Printable view](#)

This calendar notifies you of where we need help. Click on the date you want to volunteer. It will tell you if how many openings still remain to be filled.



## WTMC Volunteer Password

### Volunteer information for Jane Fricke

[Home](#) [Mail](#) [My Profile](#) [My Schedule](#) [My Service History](#) [Time Sheet](#) [Account](#)

Schedule for

**Friday, February 16, 2018**

### Schedule

#### Community Outreach Education [Description](#)

9:00 a to 1:00 p Madarasz, Valerie Note: AZ Traditions-17225 N Citrus Rd, Surprise, AZ 85374

9:00 a to 1:00 p Martin, Nancy Note: AZ Traditions-17225 N Citrus Rd, Surprise, AZ 85374

#### Community Outreach Special Events [Description](#)

9:00 a to 3:00 p Open

4 volunteers still needed

Note: Set up for Arts Festival



Would you like to serve on this date? Click the **Schedule me** button to schedule yourself here

**Schedule me**

9:00 a to 3:00 p Olesen, Barbara Note: Set up for Arts Festival

3:00 p to 6:00 p Open

3 volunteers still needed

Note: Help vendors find spot for set up



Would you like to serve on this date? Click the **Schedule me** button to schedule yourself here

**Schedule me**

The title to each entry is the category that you will log your hours.

This page tells you how many hours to date you have volunteered. You can also click on the year and it tells you the dates and hours volunteered.



## WTMC Volunteer Password

### Volunteer information for Jane Fricke

- Home
- Mail
- My Profile
- My Schedule
- My Service History
- Time Sheet
- Account

#### Instructions

Click the "Printable view" button for a printable view of this information.

#### Totals

Start date: August 3, 2015

Year-to-date hours: 52:30

Life hours: 446:15

#### Service by year

Click on a year to view your records for the year.

Year	Hours
2018	2:30
2017	102:00
2016	237:15
2015	104:30
1990	0:00
<b>Life total:</b>	<b>446:15</b>

Printable view

This is the page where you log in your hours.



## WTMC Volunteer Password

### Volunteer information for Jane Fricke

[Home](#) [Mail](#) [My Profile](#) [My Schedule](#) [My Service History](#) [Time Sheet](#) [Account](#)

#### Instructions

To post your hours, enter your service information in the Time Sheet box and then click the "Continue" button.

#### Time Sheet

What was the date of your service?

What times did you serve?  until

Which assignment did you serve in?

### Volunteer information for Jane Fricke

[Home](#) [Mail](#) [My Profile](#) [My Schedule](#) [My Service History](#) [Time Sheet](#) [Account](#)

#### Instructions

To post your hours, enter your service information in the Time Sheet box and then click the "Continue" button.

#### Time Sheet

##### Please confirm your entry:

You served on: Tuesday, January 23, 2018  
From: 8:00 am until 12:30 pm  
Assignment: Steward Orientation [Volunteer Services\Steward Support]  
Hours: 4:30

##### Is this correct?

Click **Yes** to save this entry  
 Click **No** if you want to make a change

This is where you can change your password. This is the first part of this section.



## WTMC Volunteer Password

### Volunteer information for Jane Fricke

[Home](#) [Mail](#) [My Profile](#) [My Schedule](#) [My Service History](#) [Time Sheet](#) [Account](#)

#### Change your password

You can change the password you use to access your volunteer information. Enter your current password, enter your new password twice, and then click the Save button.

Your new password must:

- Be different from your current password.
- Be between 6 and 30 characters long.
- Contain both letters and numbers.

Enter your **current** password here:

\*(Required)

Enter your **new** password here:

\*(Required)

Enter your **new** password again:

\*(Required)

[Help](#)

[Save](#)

Ensure your telephone is the same as you listed on your Profile page. I suggest you receive your messages via email.

### Message Preferences (Email / Text Messaging)

Use this section to change preferences or opt-out of text messaging (also known as "SMS").

**Opt-out of text messages (SMS)?** You are currently opted-in.

1. How do you prefer to receive these types of messages?

#### Custom Messages

Email	Email with Text Notification	None	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Electronic newsletters
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Recruitment appeals

2. When would you like to receive *automated* messages, such as schedule reminders?

Between these hours:  and

Your time zone:

**Save**

Message and Data Rates May Apply. For help or information on this program send "HELP" to 28344. To cancel your plan, revisit this page (preferred method) or send "STOP" to 28344 at anytime. For additional assistance, call 888-891-6978 or [click here](#). Message frequency based on account settings.

Messages are not guaranteed to be delivered. Message statuses will be shown in Volgistics in the Out Box and in the History tab of each volunteer. Unless manually deleted, the message text is kept for one year, but the status of the message is kept indefinitely.

## **Chapter 6**

# **Trailblazing: The History of White Tank Mountains, White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Skyline Regional Park, and Verrado DMB**

White Tank Mountains: Past and Future

Why are they called the White Tank Mountains?

By Karen Krause

In 1863, when gold was discovered in central Arizona, one of the first roads heading north into that region passed by the eastern side of the mountain range. This road stretched from the Gila River into the new towns of Wickenburg and Prescott. The road followed an old trail that took advantage of an important source of water in the middle of the desert. In the northeast portion of the White Tank Mountains was a natural basin or tank that held water year-round. Name the “White Tank” for the white granite cliffs surrounding it, this large watering hole appears on maps and in journals as an important watering place from 1863 to 1895.

The White Tank was the only water for 20 to 30 miles during those first few years of Arizona Territorial history and gives the mountains their name.

### **Why can't I go see the White Tank?**

The White Tank was destroyed sometime between 1898 and 1902. Heavy rains caused the collapse of the cliff above the tank, filling it in. The exact location of the tank is now a mystery. When government surveyors came through this area in 1894, the mountains were too rugged to be surveyed. The survey does show a road turning off the main wagon road and heading into the hills towards the tank. Today, the mountains boast many smaller tanks and springs, but the original tank that gave the mountains their name and its exact location, has been lost.

For more information about Waddell and the White Tank Mountains, visit Karen's blog at: [WaddellHistory.wordpress.com](http://WaddellHistory.wordpress.com).

## Preserving the White Tank Mountains

The White Tank Mountains in the West Valley of Phoenix are among the best preserved natural areas in the metropolitan region. They lie along the western edge of the urban environment, standing as a natural barrier to the continued growth of one of America's fastest growing cities. The White Tank Mountains harbor incredible natural and cultural resources including a robust mule deer herd, mountain lions, javelina, and petroglyphs. In addition, the mountains feature two regional parks: the White Tank Mountain Regional Park, managed by the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department; and Skyline Regional Park managed by the City of Buckeye.

Management of these large recreation areas strives to balance the preservation of natural and cultural resources with the continued use by recreationists, naturalists, and the general public.



The unprecedented growth of adjacent cities has pushed houses and urban infrastructure to the very edges of this iconic natural area. There are now serious concerns surrounding the sustainability of the White Tank Mountains and their natural and cultural resources in the possible event that they become completely surrounded by development.

Today, more than a dozen master-planned communities are planned on the west and north sides of the White Tank Mountains.

Some of the challenges are caused by development and infrastructure that could fill the valley floor and cut off the natural connections that animals in the White Tank Mountains rely upon for forage, migration, and genetic diversity.

Moreover, the addition of up to a million new residents around this area could place significant pressure on the resources if access and use are not appropriately managed. These developments have been legally planned and permitted but with careful advocacy and pragmatic efforts, many of the possible impacts for growth can be mitigated and resolved.

## White Tank Mountains Regional Park

The White Tank Mountain Regional Park is a large regional park located in west-central Maricopa County, Arizona. Encompassing 29,271 acres (45.736 sq mi) of Sonoran Desert and mountain landscape, it is the largest regional park in the county. The bulk of the White Tank Mountains range is located within the park's boundaries.

The park is renowned for its extensive network of hiking trails. Nearly 35 miles (56.3 km) of hiking trails wind through the terrain in the park, ranging in difficulty from a simple walk to moderately challenging. The most commonly used is the Waterfall trail, a 0.9 miles (1.4 km) walk that culminates in a narrow canyon featuring a seasonal waterfall. Bicycling and horseback riding are permitted on many of the trails. In addition to the network of hiking trails there is a 10 miles (16 km) competitive track designed for "high speeds, challenging one's skills, and racing".

The park encompasses a large swath of desert and mountain environment and doubles as a natural preserve. The majority of the park is undeveloped wilderness prohibiting motorized vehicles except on existing roads. Hiking throughout the majority of the park is also restricted to marked trails. Some hunting is permitted within the park boundaries but subject to restriction.



A number of local, indigenous species inhabit the park and are often spotted by park visitors. Visitors at the park may encounter mule deer, coyotes, and javelina as well as several species of small rodents and more rarely, mountain lions. A number of bird species are also common, including the roadrunner and the cactus wren, the official state bird of Arizona. Being in the desert, the park is also home to many species of reptiles as well. Guided hikes offered by the park service offer visitors an excellent opportunity to learn about and view the native flora and fauna.

Although normally dry, the area is subject to sudden and sometimes severe flooding in the narrow canyons that run through the mountains, particularly during thunderstorms that are common in the late summer. While this creates a potential hazard situation, the appearance of temporary waterfalls in the rugged terrain is a seasonal attraction to park visitors.

The mountains are also home to a number of archaeological sites, with eleven having been identified within the park boundaries, including seven Hohokam villages that were occupied between CE 500 and CE 1100. The Black Rock Trail provides access to the remnants of one of these villages, although the remnants are not well-preserved and often overlooked by casual visitors. More readily apparent are a number of petroglyphs scattered throughout the park. Most are of Hohokam origin, but some may have been created nearly 10,000 years ago, by Meso-Indians. Park visitors are encouraged to photograph petroglyphs or other archaeological remains, but park regulations prohibit touching or otherwise disturbing them.

## Skyline Regional Park

Buckeye's Skyline Regional Park is an 8,700-acre park in the southern White Tank Mountains and opened in January 2016. The main trailhead is located two miles north of the I-10 and Watson Road interchange. The park features 17+ miles of trails, restrooms, shaded picnic areas, educational areas for interpretive programming, and dry camping. A long bridge spanning Mountain Wash serves as the starting point for the majority of trails and is an impressive gateway into the system.



The trails in Skyline Regional Park are used by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians and are for non-motorized uses only. The trail system is looped with varying difficulty ratings and durations and include summit and ridgeline trails offering spectacular views of the surrounding valley floor. Skyline Regional Park's Lost Creek Trail connects to Verrado's Temporary Trail System and to its Lost Creek Trailhead. Future plans will

eventually link Skyline Regional Park and Verrado's Temporary Trail System to Maricopa County's White Tank Mountain Regional Park.

Similar to Maricopa County's White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Skyline Regional Park is home to abundant natural and cultural resources. Mule deer, javelina, bobcats, rattlesnakes, and desert tortoises call the park home. The Hohokam have also left their indelible mark with petroglyphs and other artifacts reminding us of the important civilization that once inhabited these lands.

## DMB Verrado® Community Temporary Trail System

The Verrado® Community is a partner in the creation of the White Tank Mountains Conservancy. There are approximately 17 miles of temporary trails designated in the White Tank Mountains. When trails are completed there will be connectivity between the two regional parks through Verrado® Community lands.

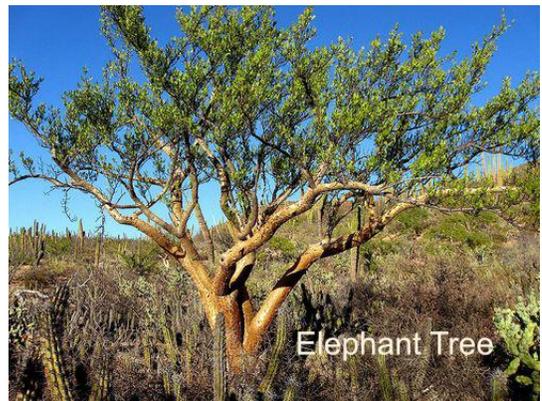
# Chapter 7

## White Tank Flora and Fauna

Justin Williams

Many of the plants found in the White Tanks not only survive the thrive within they harsh conditions of Sonoran Desert. With the two annual rainy seasons it provides the much-needed nourishment to flora and fauna. Within the last year White Tank Mountains has received 8.78 inches of rain, thus providing the mountains to the lower bajadas with ample amount of water for these specialized ecosystems. What always is amazing to see is the diversity of flora and fauna while you hike up and down the mountains. The multiplicity of flora allows the fauna to be just as diverse, making the White Tank Mountains a truly fascinating place to visit.

Besides being a home for many common desert plants, the White Tank Mountains also provide unique habitats for plants to grow. One such plant is Elephant Tree (*Bursera* species until 1937, normally this tree resides in the south west portions of the Sonoran Desert into Northern Mexico. It has been found here at the White Tank Mountains on a southern facing rocky slope. This is the ideal condition for the tree. These plants do not tolerate frost thus this valley where they occur is an ideal niche. This is a short tree reaching



about 10 feet in the most northern territories and has a stout, tapered, light-colored trunk and branches, closely resembling an elephant's leg. This tree is well adapted to the desert, with tiny compound leaflets with a waxy coating protecting it from the harsh desert sun. It is a very aromatic tree with tiny yellow flowers that eventually form a maroon berry that is very tasteful for most birds.

Maybe one of the most famous birds would be roadrunner. Look for our residential runner around the Nature Center early in the mornings and before the sun settles behind the peaks.

Many other birds also call this desert home such as hummingbirds, doves, cactus wrens, swifts, swallows and the colorful warblers just to name a few. Most of these birds are small in stature but it does not mean all the birds here are small. Soaring in the day light sky one can see Turkey Vultures, Red Tail Hawks all out maintaining the balance with in the ecosystems. Many park visitors enjoy coming out to our volunteer Joe Ford's Birding Hikes which are just starting back in this season. Many birds fly by on their migration routes making the White Tank Mountains a great place to become an avid birder.



With the diversity of flora come multifarious of animals, due to the day time climate many of these creatures are active during the morning and afternoons between May and October. Some mammals are active during the day like the Antelope Ground Squirrel which you can see scurrying around looking for seed and insects. By late afternoon the Mule Deer come down from the peaks in search of water. While on the trails you may come across a rattlesnake which are venomous, but there is a greater number of snake species that are constrictors, such as the Gopher snake. Snakes have a variety of a diet and each species prefers different meals like the rattlesnake prefers rodents while Coachwhips snakes, being long and slender, like to climb cacti and trees in search of bird eggs.



Arthropods are invertebrates with an exoskeleton and a segmented body. This group includes, insects, crustaceans, spiders, scorpions, centipedes and millipedes. There have been over 530 species of arthropods discovered with in the park boundaries. Volunteer Jack Jenkins has taken his hobby to the next level by exploring the White Tanks Mountains. With his great amount of passion, connection to experts and his books, he has helped the park know of the cornucopia arthropods.

With the harshness of the environment, many plants grow slowly, but in turn they tend to live a long time. Many cacti can be over a hundred years of old. Some clumps of creosote bush are thought to be close to several thousand years of age. Parks and conservation areas (i.e. White



Tank Mountains and other Maricopa County Parks) provide and protect natural habitat for flora and fauna. Without these places, species like the Elephant Tree could become lost to existence. With the aid of citizen sciences groups and White Tank Mountains Conservancy, we are able to understand the complexity of the desert environment and discover what the White Tanks hold with in their peaks.

## The White Tank Park Nature Center and Exhibits in the White Tank Mountains



The nature center at White Tank Mountain Regional Park features many educational opportunities for adults and children alike. A family can easily spend hours observing the live scorpions, tarantulas, and snakes that are safely encased in glass for viewing. Park personnel present live feeding demonstrations of the snakes on an advertised schedule. Watch Rangers Dove and Justin as they allow the California King snake to coil around their necks!

In addition, the Friends of 501(c)(3) non-profit mission it is to support the volunteerism and financial preserved animals that are center walls. Among the Friends of White Tank Park are Unique to the center is a small talented photographers to flora, and fauna in the park.



White Tank Park, a organization whose goals of the park through support, have donated displayed on the nature displays donated by an owl and Gambel quails. photo gallery that allows display pictures of scenery,

A butterfly garden was established in 2015 and is graced by a bench presented through the generosity of Paradise School children. A tortoise enclosure provides habitat for a desert tortoises to entertain and educate the observer. Park volunteers have developed a Quest program for the Black Rock Short Loop. Children and adults alike can learn about the geology and plant life on the trail by participating in the guided quest.

The Nature Center also offers a variety of retail products for purchase. There are always friendly and knowledgeable staff or volunteers available to provide maps and information about the park trails and features and about upcoming events. Be sure to familiarize yourself with this unique resource so you can share it with others!



Page Intentionally Blank

## Chapter 8

### Support the White Tank Mountains Conservancy

Our culture of stewardship extends beyond volunteer hours. Your financial gift to the Conservancy bridges the gap to fund programs, research, and activities in the Parks.

As a new steward, you are learning how important the Conservancy is to West Valley communities protecting and preserving the White Tank Mountains for this generation and generations to come. Like all non-profit organizations, we rely on gifts from our supporters to keep us operating, to purchase tools and resources to help us all do our work, and to provide programs. You are learning how passionate and committed our volunteers are about their investment in the Conservancy and how much they give of themselves to ensure our organization can continue caring for the mountains.

The “culture of stewardship” includes volunteering time and talent as well as consideration to make an annual financial gift of support. When those closest to the Conservancy, our Board



Members, Stewards, and Staff make a gift, it demonstrates to our community leaders that we are valued non-profit dedicated to doing good work in our communities.

This internal financial stewardship also sends a strong message that the Conservancy is worthy of individual, corporate, and foundation donations, convincing others to also support us. In fact, according to Judy Mohraz who heads the Virginia

G. Piper Charitable Trust, the largest foundation in Arizona, the “. . . Piper Trust wouldn’t consider a grant to an organization if there is no history of internal giving. Their thinking is “If they don’t care enough for the organization to give to it, why should we?” Most corporations and foundations look carefully at volunteer giving.

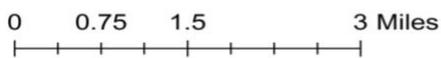
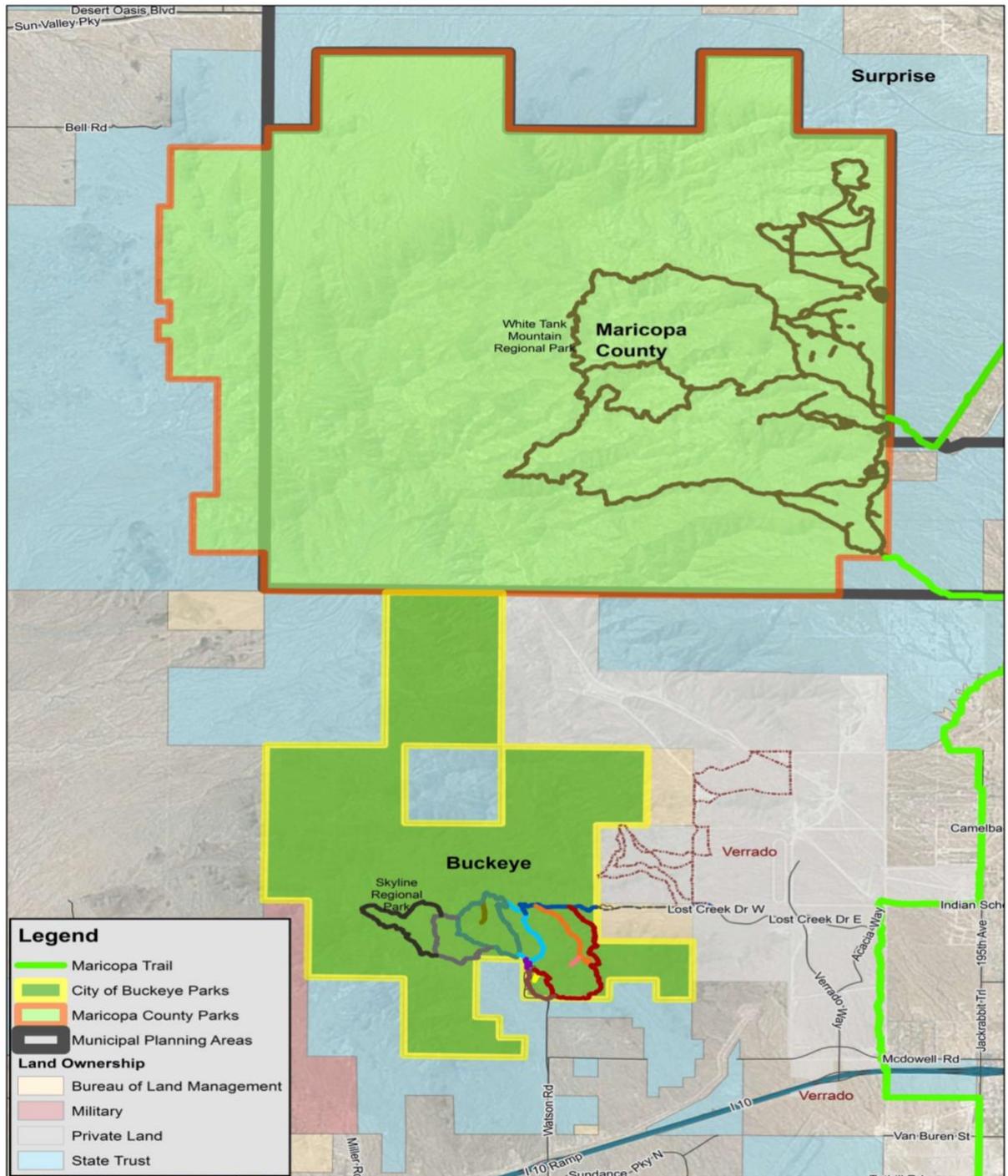
Since we must rely entirely on charitable contributions to continue our work, your financial commitment to the Conservancy is an essential act of support to move programs forward and demonstrate to others what we are fully committed to the Conservancy.

In addition, many stewards ask others to support the organization on hikes, at speaking engagements or outreach events, and at trailheads.

These requests for support are so helpful, both for the funds raised and also to build awareness that we are a non-profit organization that relies on gifts to continue our work. If a potential donor asks, we want our stewards to affirm that they support the Conservancy financially and are committed to and proud of the work we all do for the Conservancy.

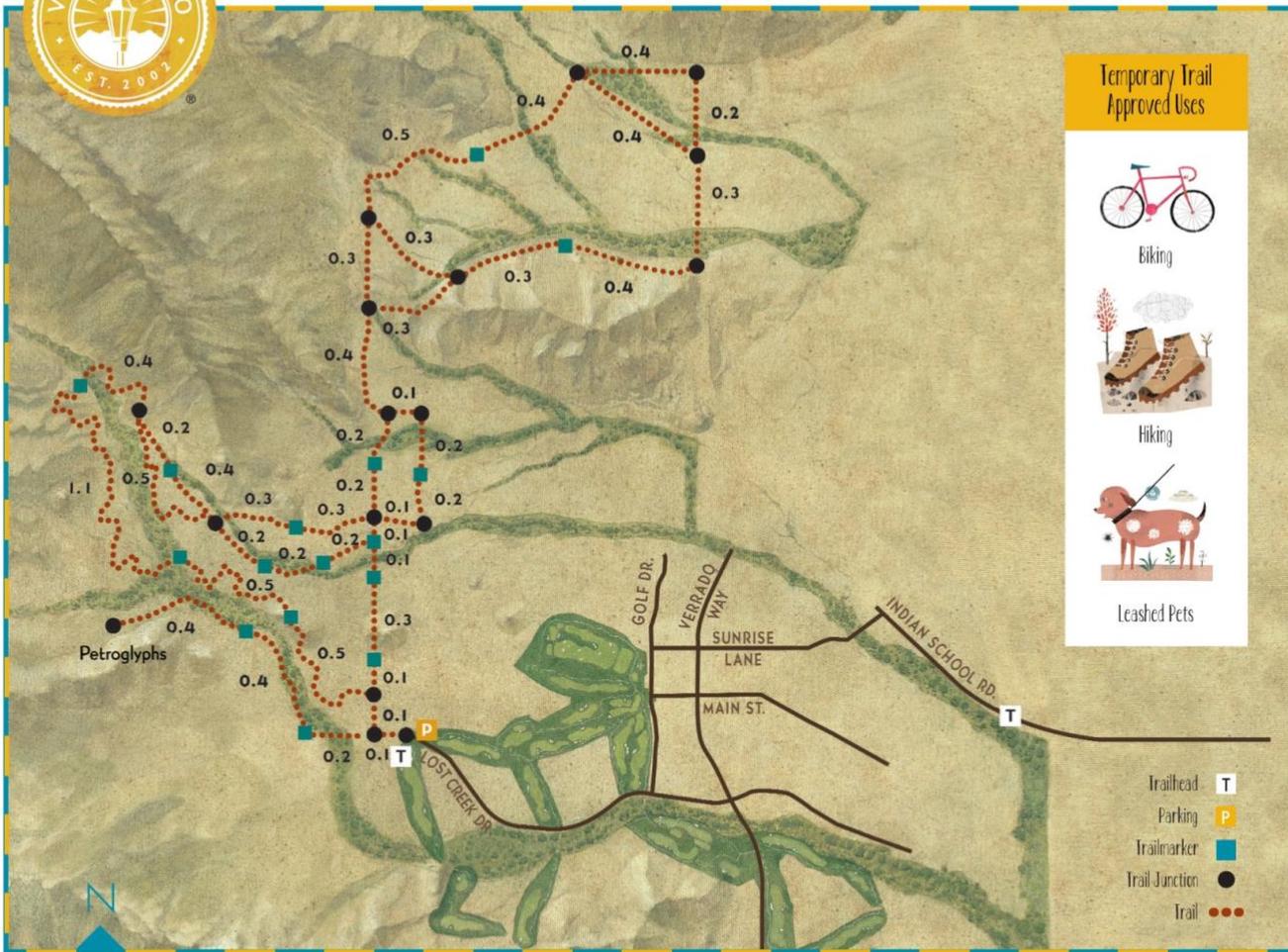
Making a financial contribution to WTMC is a very personal choice. Some contribute each year because they care deeply about keeping the land protected. Some want to make monthly sustaining gifts, while others want to support a volunteer group that grows stronger every day. Some contribute for the advancement of communities that are made more vibrant because of our work. Your decision may be because you want to get more kids outdoors or because you are passionate about the research we are doing . . . whatever the reason, and at any level that will work for your financial circumstances, please consider making a financial investment in our organization's future through a gift today at <http://www.WTMConservancy.org>.





# TEMPORARY TRAIL PROGRAM

Approximate distance shown in miles between the trail junctions



## Trail Rules & Etiquette

Please stay on designated trails • All pets must be leashed • Clean up after your pets • All trails close at sundown  
Trails provided for the enjoyment of Verrado residents and their guests only • Children under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult

## Prohibited From Trails

Motorized vehicles • Possession or consumption of alcohol • Camping, fires and fireworks  
Glass containers • Archery and firearms • Smoking and littering • Unauthorized trail construction

## Temporary Status

These trails are temporary and are intended as an interim getaway to our dramatic "desert theater". As stewards of this beautiful land, DMB is committed to enriching the community of Verrado by cultivating education of our surrounding natural environment. With this in mind, we are continuing to shape the overall trail plan for future generations to enjoy. Until this time, the trails and trailhead locations will remain temporary and may be revised, modified or closed indefinitely. Please be aware trails may be closed at any time.



**For questions or comments regarding the trail program, call Verrado Assembly 623.466.7000.**

Effective December 2015. Map not to scale. Approved temporary trail system subject to change.



A PASSION FOR  
GREAT PLACES®



**Welcome to White Tank Mountain Regional Park**

The freestanding, deeply serrated, 4000-foot-high White Tank Mountains separate the Phoenix Basin of the Salt River Valley from the Hassayampa Plain. Floodwaters have scoured out a series of depressions, or "tanks," in the white granite rock, thus the name of the mountains.

**Nature Center**

The **Nature Center**, located in the new Regional Library, offers maps, trail information, annual passes, refreshments, animal displays, and souvenirs. First aid and a phone are available.

The **Amphitheater** is located behind the Nature Center; it is primarily used for educational programs presented by the Interpretive Ranger. For information on programs, visit our website.

**Picnicking**

**Picnic Areas** 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10 have tables (some in small shelters), grills, restrooms, and water. Area 6 has a playground. (The numbers on the map refer to the numbered restrooms; tables are nearby)

**Group Picnic Areas** 3 and 4 have ramadas. Each has a fire ring, activity court, grill, electricity, and four tables. Area 4 also has a playground. Area 7 ramadas have two tables each. Each ramada can be reserved for a fee.

**Camping**

The **Youth Group Area** features tent sites with facilities. Overflow Youth camping is along Willow Canyon Road. By reservation only for a fee.

The **Family Campground** offers 40 campsites with tables, grills, fire ring, water, and 30 and 50 amp hookups. Restrooms and showers. Dump station. Reservations available: [www.maricopa.gov/parks](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks) or (602) 506-2930.

The **Group Campground** features ramadas, tables, activity court, fire ring, BBQ grills, electric service, restroom with showers, and large parking area. Non-refundable reservation fee, plus an additional nightly fee per unit, by reservation only. No hookups or dump station. For reservations: (623) 935-2505.

**Trails**

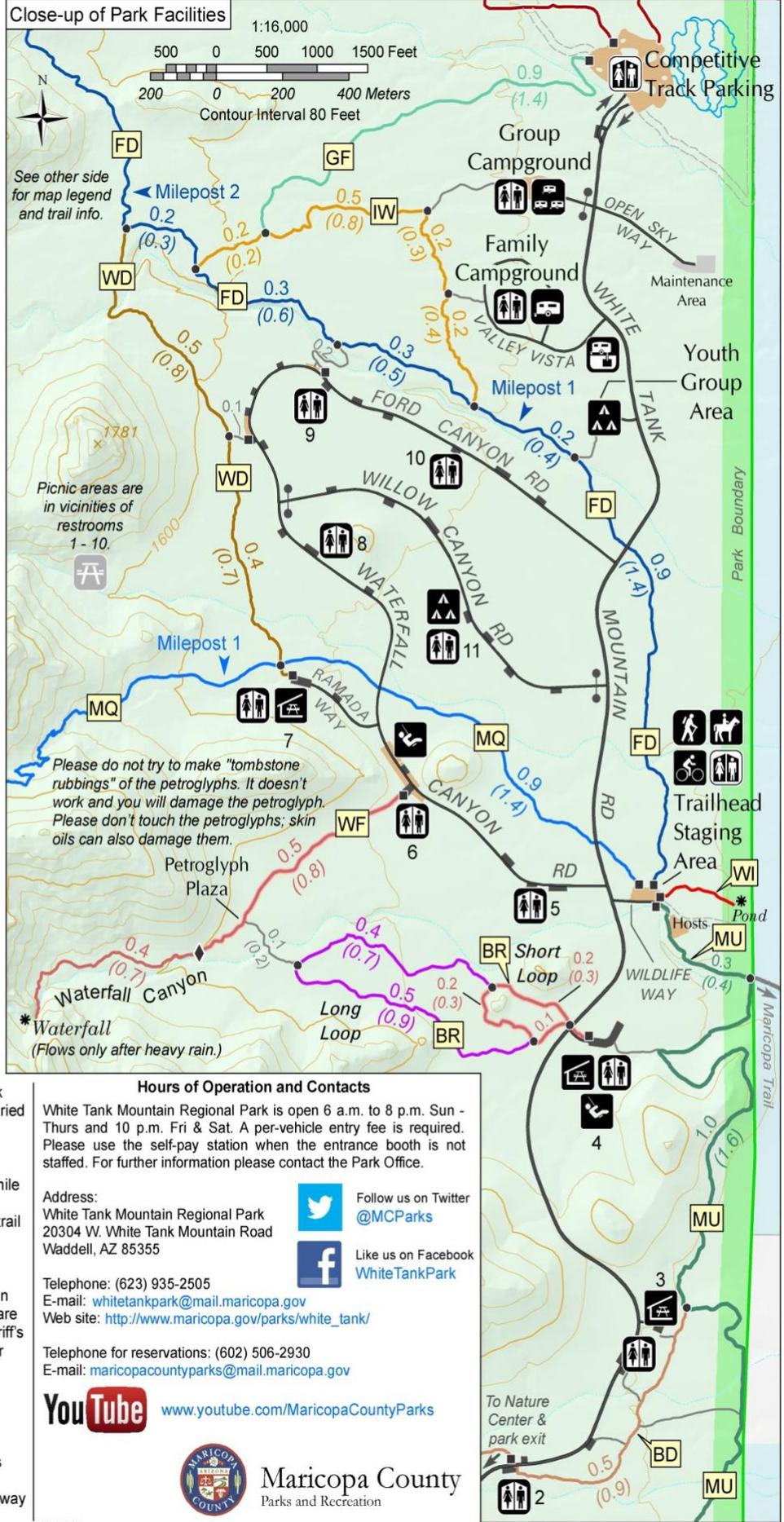
The **Trailhead Staging Area** has horse facilities, tables, and a portable toilet. The park offers some 28 miles of shared-use trails of varied difficulty. Some may be extremely difficult for horses and bikes.

The **Black Rock Short Loop** and the first half-mile of **Waterfall Trail** are **barrier-free trails**. The **Black Rock Short Loop** is also an interpretive trail describing flora and ancient petroglyphs.

Note: Travel can be arduous if you are not prepared. Always carry plenty of water, use sun protection, and let someone know where you are going. Please enter the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office phone number (602)-876-1000 into your phone before hiking. For emergency, dial 911.

**Competitive Track**

The **Competitive Track** provides challenging, strenuous, and high-speed recreation for individuals, groups, and organized events. It is shared-use and is open to runners, mountain bikers, and equestrians. Please obey the one-way signs. A detailed map is available.



**Hours of Operation and Contacts**

White Tank Mountain Regional Park is open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sun - Thurs and 10 p.m. Fri & Sat. A per-vehicle entry fee is required. Please use the self-pay station when the entrance booth is not staffed. For further information please contact the Park Office.

Address:  
White Tank Mountain Regional Park  
20304 W. White Tank Mountain Road  
Waddell, AZ 85355

Follow us on Twitter  
[@MCParks](https://twitter.com/MCParks)

Like us on Facebook  
[WhiteTankPark](https://www.facebook.com/WhiteTankPark)

Telephone: (623) 935-2505  
E-mail: [whitetankpark@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:whitetankpark@mail.maricopa.gov)  
Web site: [http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/white\\_tank/](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/white_tank/)

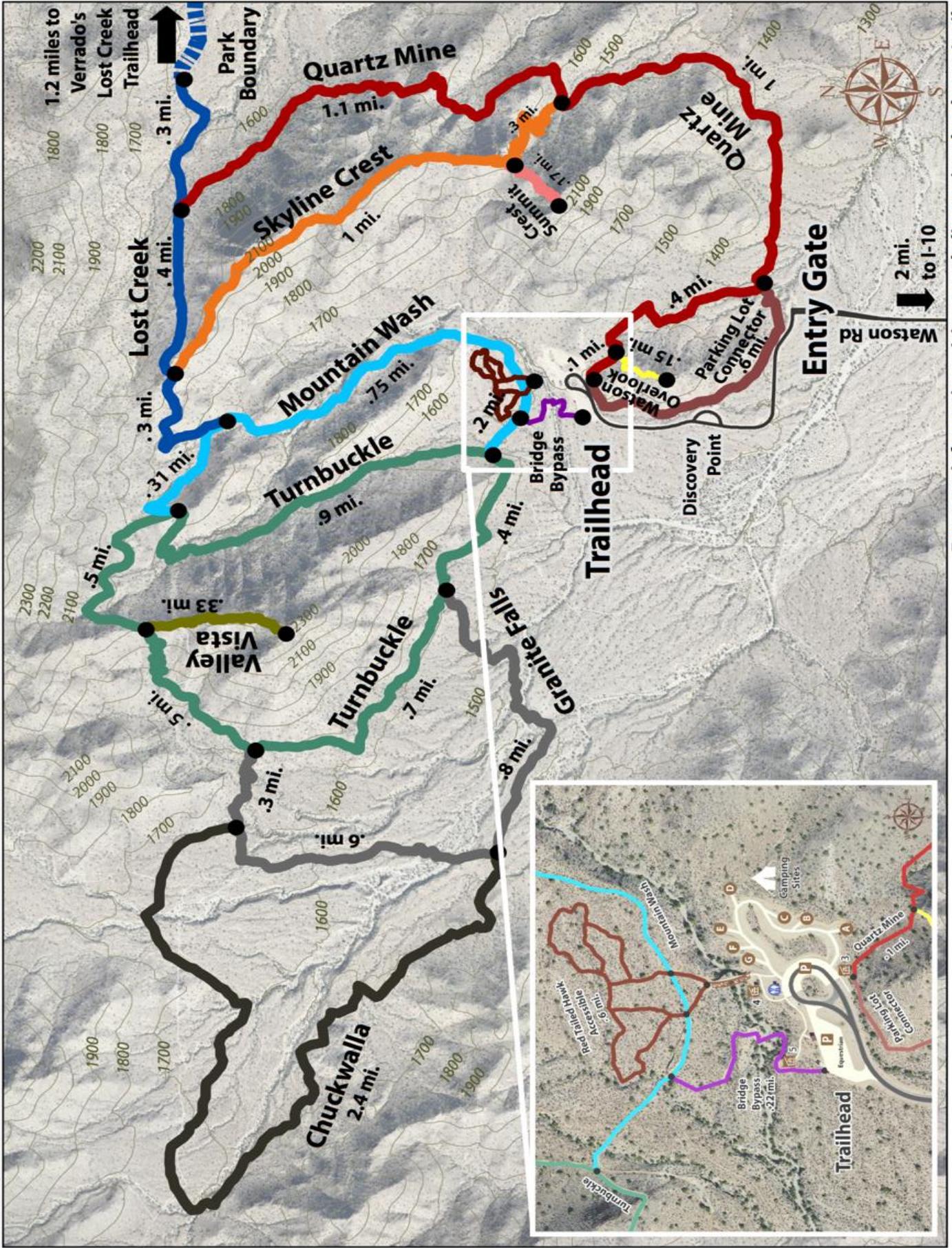
Telephone for reservations: (602) 506-2930  
E-mail: [maricopacountyparks@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:maricopacountyparks@mail.maricopa.gov)

**YouTube** [www.youtube.com/MaricopaCountyParks](http://www.youtube.com/MaricopaCountyParks)



**Maricopa County**  
Parks and Recreation

# Skyline Regional Park Trail Map



For more information, visit [www.skylineregionalpark.com/trails](http://www.skylineregionalpark.com/trails)



# Skyline Regional Park Trail Guide

TRAIL CODE	TRAIL NAME	LENGTH (MILES)	USE BY	RATING	ELEVATION GAIN (FEET)
RH	Red Tailed Hawk	.6		Accessible	
MW	Mountain Wash	1.06		Moderate	400'
BB	Bridge Bypass Equestrian Trail	.22		Easy	25'
PC	Parking Lot Connector	.6		Easy	160'
QM	Quartz Mine	2.6		Moderate	445'
WO	Watson Overlook	.15		Moderate	120'
SC	Skyline Crest	1.3		Difficult	530'
CS	Crest Summit	.17		Difficult	200'
LC	Lost Creek	1.03		Moderate	440'
TB	Turnbuckle	3.00		Moderate	560'
V	Valley Vista	0.33		Difficult	270'
GF	Granite Falls Loop	1.7		Easy	280'
CW	Chuckwalla	2.4		Easy	210'

## TRAIL RATING GUIDE



**Accessible**  
Smooth and compacted surface with minimal elevation change.



**Easy**  
Mostly smooth and wide dirt trail with minimal unevenness.



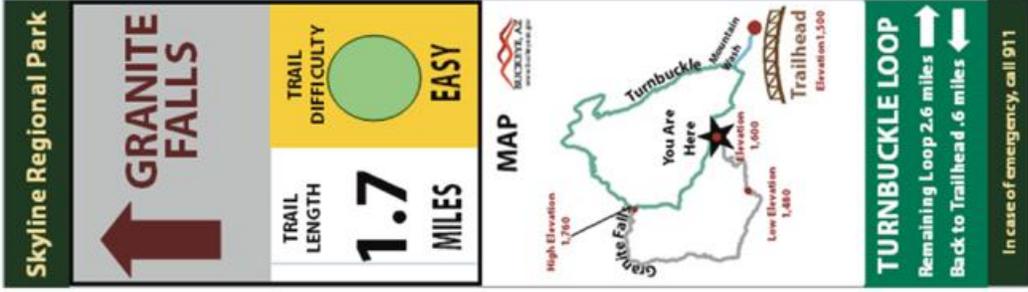
**Moderate**  
Mostly smooth and wide dirt trail with occasional unevenness and narrowing tread.



**Difficult**  
Long rocky segments with possible drops and exposure. Rocky dirt trail with frequent unevenness and narrow tread.



## Reading Trail Marker Signs



### Name of Trail

Background colors (in this example gray), match the color of the trail segment shown in map.

**Trail Length** is provided for the segment.

**Trail Difficulty Rating** is provided for the segment as either Easy, Moderate or Difficult.

### MAP

**You Are Here:** Your location in Skyline Regional Park.

### Trailhead Location:



**Elevation Points** along the trail with high and low elevations for trail segment and elevation of trailhead.

Information on the intersecting trail is provided with distance back to trailhead. Background color (in this example green) corresponds with the trail segments shown in map.



**Emergency Trail Markers** are located on sign posts every 1/4 mile. If you need help, call 911 and reference the nearest marker to assist emergency personnel in identifying your location.

The letters indicate the name of the trail – in this case MW = Mountain Wash Trail and the numbers provide information on distance traveled for that segment at quarter mile intervals.



**YouTube MSC Education Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC33KF7AFASZli67tcHRB56w/videos?view=0&shelfid=0&sort=dd>

**White Tank Mountains Conservancy Website**

[www.WTMConservancy.org](http://www.WTMConservancy.org)

**White Tank Mountain Regional Park**

[http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/white\\_tank/](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/white_tank/)

**Skyline Regional Park**

<http://skylineregionalpark.com>

**DMB Verrado® Community Temporary Trail System**

<http://www.verrado.com/>

**White Tank Mountains Conservancy Steward Policy Manual**

[www.WTMConservancy.org](http://www.WTMConservancy.org)

**New Steward Orientation Manual**

[www.WTMConservancy.org](http://www.WTMConservancy.org)

**Arizona Game and Fish**

<http://azgfdportal.az.gov/wildlife/Viewing>

**Wildlife Organizations**

[encyclopedic coverage of desert topics](#)

[http://www.desertusa.com/du\\_sonoran.html](http://www.desertusa.com/du_sonoran.html)

**Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation Foundation (Animal facts and sounds)**

<http://southwestwildlife.org/>

**Wild at Heart (Birds of Prey)**

[http://mirror-pole.com/wild\\_at\\_heart/intro/wah\\_intro\\_fs.html](http://mirror-pole.com/wild_at_heart/intro/wah_intro_fs.html)

**Liberty Wildlife (wildlife emergencies and care)**

<http://www.libertywildlife.org>

**Education Organizations**

Center for Native and Urban Wildlife (CNUW)

<http://www.sc.maricopa.edu/cnuw/>

**Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum**

<http://www.desertmuseum.org>

**Desert Botanical Garden**

<http://www.dbg.org>

**The Phoenix Zoo**

<http://www.phoenixzoo.org>

**Environmental Organizations**

Land Trust Alliance

<http://www.lta.org>

Southwest Wildlife

<http://www.southwestwildlife.org>

Superstition Area Land Trust

<http://www.azsalt.org>

Desert Foothills Land Trust (Cave Creek/Carefree, AZ <http://dfit.org>)