SCOTTSDALE’S McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE
Northern & Central Regions
Spring 2024

TRAILS OF THE McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE - CENTRAL REGION

DOGS IN THE PRESERVE

Rules:
- Dogs must be on a hand held leash no greater than 6 feet at all times.
- Dog waste must be picked up immediately and disposed of in a trash container. DO NOT leave bagged waste along the trail.

Safety:
- The desert heat can KILL YOUR DOG, and you could be charged with animal cruelty under A.R.S. 13-2910. Dogs do not sweat like we can be overtaken by the heat quickly. Since your dog shows signs of heat stress, it is often too late.
- Tips to avoid a heat emergency:
  - Check the hourly weather forecast BEFORE bringing your dog to the Preserve. If it will be 90F or more during your outing, leave your dog at home.
  - Carry plenty of water for you and your dog.

Warning signs of heat stress:
- Heavy panting, bright red tongue and thick saliva.
- Condition worsens if dog vomits, becomes unsteady, lethargic or unwilling to move.
- Advanced heat stroke signs are lips/membranes become blue/grey, rapid on-set collapse, unconsciousness and DEATH.

What to do:
- Remove the dog from the heat and cool the dog’s body with water.
- If the dog is conscious, give access to cool drinking water.
- Get to a veterinarian immediately.

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF NEEDING RESCUE

THE PRESERVE IS A REMOTE AREA WITH POTENTIAL FOR EXTREME CONDITIONS. EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAN TAKE SOME TIME. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.

- Bring ample water for you AND your dog. When your water is half gone, turn around.
- Start drinking water before you arrive so your body is pre-hydrated.
- Bring a fully charged cell phone.
- Know your abilities and health limitations. Don’t take on more than you can safely accomplish.
- Check the hourly weather forecast. Temperatures can climb dramatically after a relatively cool morning. Be aware of the cooker parts of the day and leave your dog at home when it’s over 90F.
- Shade is very limited in the Preserve, so wear sun screen and dress appropriately with a hat and light colored breathable clothing that covers your body.
- Wear sturdy footwear with a good tread.
- Pay attention to the emergency markers so you can reference them in case of an emergency.
- Know your trail route and where you started. Take note of the trailhead address on this map in case of an emergency.
- Sell a friend or family member where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Leave your valuables at home.

DOGS PRESERVE in

TRAIL SEGMENT LENGTHS
The trails in the Preserve are comprised of segments divided between emergency markers. Each segment is labeled with the length in miles, rounded to the nearest tenth. As you plan your outings, add the segment lengths together to determine the total length of your route.

ELEVATION
Each emergency marker, trailhead and scenic point is labeled on the map with elevation above sea level. Use these tools to understand the elevation change along the trail segments you plan to travel. You can get an idea of the trail segment difficulty by determining the amount of elevation gain or loss you will experience over the length of that segment.

THIS MAP SHOWS THE WATER LOCATIONS

Trails of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve
Central Region

DOGS=

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GENERAL RULES
- The Preserve is open from sunrise to sunset.
- Stay on designated and posted trails.
- No smoking, fireworks or open flame.
- No motor vehicles including electric bikes.
- Exceptions may be approved for individuals with a qualifying mobility disability who require an accommodation. Call (480) 312-4444 for information.
- Dogs must be on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) at all times and owners must immediately pick up and deposit waste in a trash receptacle.
- Take off and landing of drones is prohibited.
- Do not disturb wildlife or alter, deface, place or remove any materials, including rocks, animals or vegetation, alive or dead.
- No alcohol or glass containers.

TRAVERSE ETIQUETTE
- Be considerate of other trail users - we are all here for the same reason.
- Downhill traffic should yield to uphill traffic.
- All trail users should yield to horses. Avoid sudden moves or loud noises which could startle them.
- Bicyclists and trail runners should yield to all other users. Slow down and alert other users when approaching from the rear.
- Always travel at safe speeds.
- Do not use trails when wet or muddy.
- Speak quietly in the desert environment.

BROWN’S RANCH HISTORY
The earliest evidence of humans in the vicinity of Brown’s Ranch dates to approximately 9,000 years ago. Nomadic bands of hunters and gatherers trawled through this area hunting deer and small game, and collecting seasonally available plants. After 1,000 AD, agriculture became more important as a source of reliable food. The Hohokam, primarily serving as desert farmers, established large settlements in the valleys, with hunting and gathering parties visiting the Brown’s Ranch area seasonally. The Hohokam began to fade from the McDowell Mountains in the 1300s, as they withdrew to the valleys. Yaqui and Apache bands entered the area in the 1500s, hunting and gathering, and occasionally raiding nearby Pima settlements. In the late 1800s, gold was discovered in the nearby Brushy Mountains, which led to a rush of prospectors, farmers, and ranchers. This increasing presence of newcomers was an unwelcome intrusion for the Yaqui and Apache. Their resistance resulted in the establishment of a series of U.S. Army posts. With removal of Native Americans to government reservations, the area that would become Brown’s Ranch was now considered safe for settlement. Brown’s Ranch was founded in 1917 by E.D. Brown, a Scottsdale entrepreneur. At its peak the ranch encompassed 44,000 acres supporting 3,000 to 5,000 head of cattle. Descendants of E.O. Brown lived on the ranch until 1970. Since that time, the ranch and surrounding lands changed hands several times until eventually acquired by the City of Scottsdale in 1999 for inclusion in the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

TRAILHEAD ADDRESSES

Brown’s Ranch Trailhead
3000 N. Alma School Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Fraesfield Trailhead
18333 N. Thompson Peak Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Pima Dynamite Trailhead
28778 N. Pima Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Granite Mountain Trailhead
31081 E. 129th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85259

Gateway Trailhead
18999 E. McDowell Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Lost Dog Wash Trailhead
12601 N. 124th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Sunrise Trailhead
12131 E. 129th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85259

Tom’s Thumb Trailhead
23051 N. 120th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Non-Emergency Number 480-312-5000