

Trails of the City of Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve Southern Region Spring 2026

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE

For additional information about the City of Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve, please go to www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov and search for "Preserve" or call 480-312-7013.

- Trails
- Emergency Markers
- ▲ Peaks
- ⚡ High Voltage Towers
- P Parking
- Ⓡ No Parking
- Scenic Points
- Streets
- Maricopa Trail (see below)
- Preserve Boundary

EMERGENCY MARKERS

These markers are located on sign posts throughout the Preserve, and are labeled on the map. Each marker has a unique combination of letters and numbers. If you need help, reference the nearest marker to assist emergency personnel in identifying your location.

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. These lengths are rounded to the nearest tenth of a mile. As you plan your journey, add the segment lengths together to determine the total length of your route.

ELEVATION ABOVE SEA LEVEL

Each emergency marker, trailhead, and scenic point is labeled on the map with the elevation above sea level. Use these labels to understand the trail segment difficulty by determining the amount of elevation gain or loss you will experience over the length of that segment.

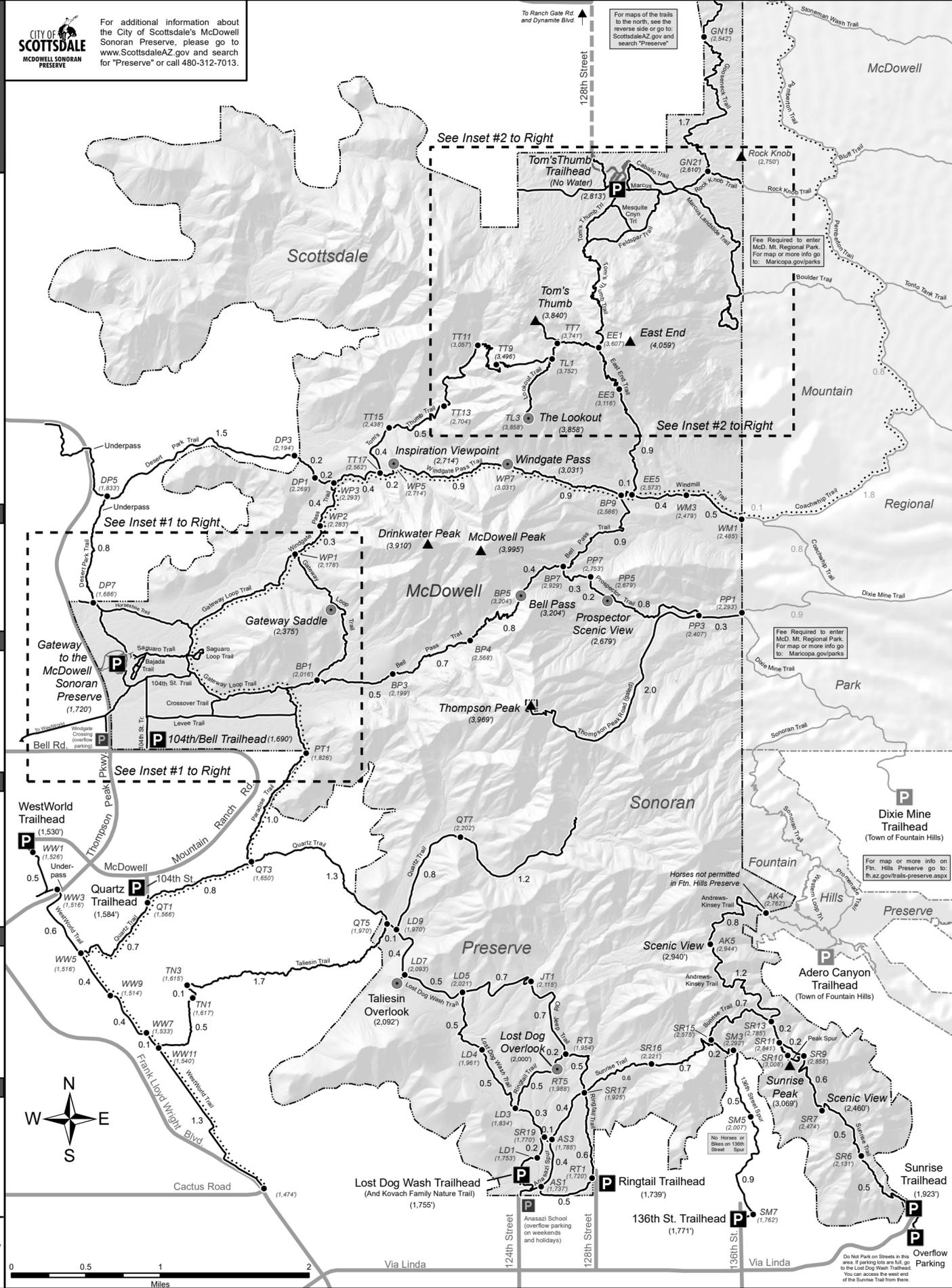
TRAILHEAD ADDRESSES

- Gateway - 18333 N. Thompson Pk. Pkwy.
- Lost Dog Wash - 12601 N. 124th St.
- Quartz - 10215 E. McDowell Mt. Ranch Rd.
- Ringtail - 12300 block of N. 128th St.
- Sunrise - 12101 N. 145th Way
- Tom's Thumb - 23015 N. 128th St.
- WestWorld - 15939 N. 98th St.

MARICOPA TRAIL

The Maricopa Trail is a 315 mile long trail that loops the Phoenix Metro area and links nine of Maricopa County's Regional Parks. In this area of the Preserve, various Preserve trails carry the Maricopa Trail designation (•••). For more info please visit: Maricopa.gov/parks/MaricopaTrail

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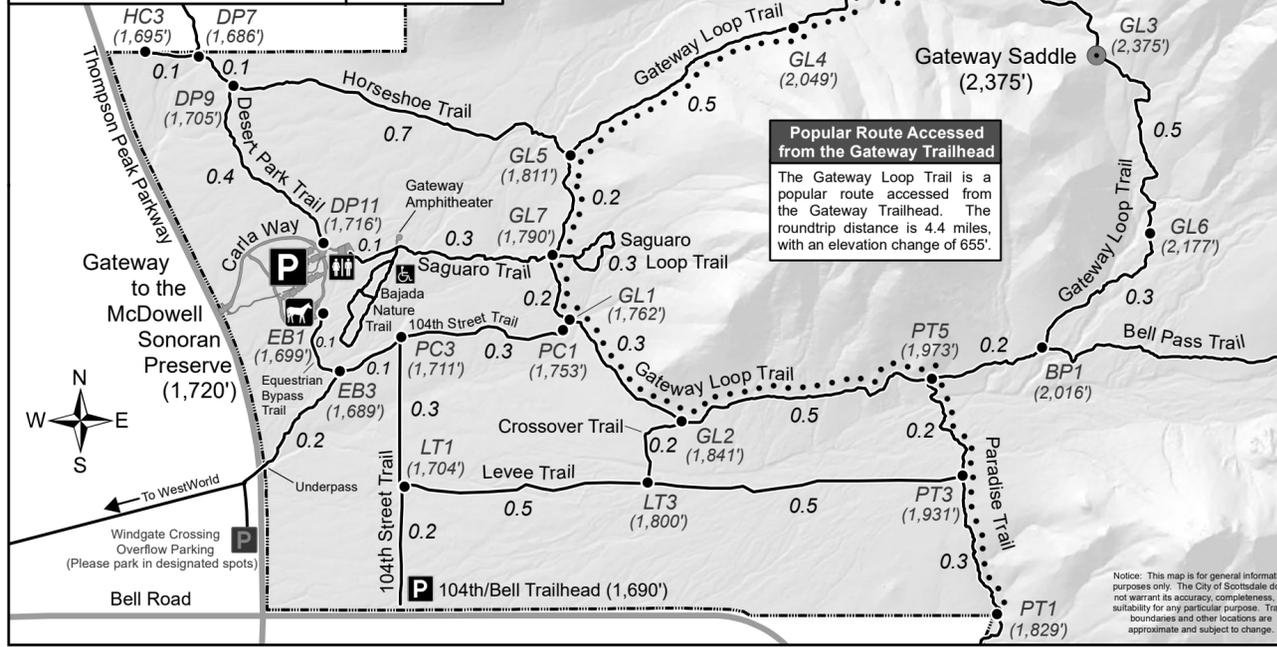
Inset #1 - Gateway Area of the City of Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve

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- Trails
- Emerg. Markers
- Scenic Points

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Popular Route Accessed from the Gateway Trailhead
The Gateway Loop Trail is a popular route accessed from the Gateway Trailhead. The roundtrip distance is 4.4 miles, with an elevation change of 655'.

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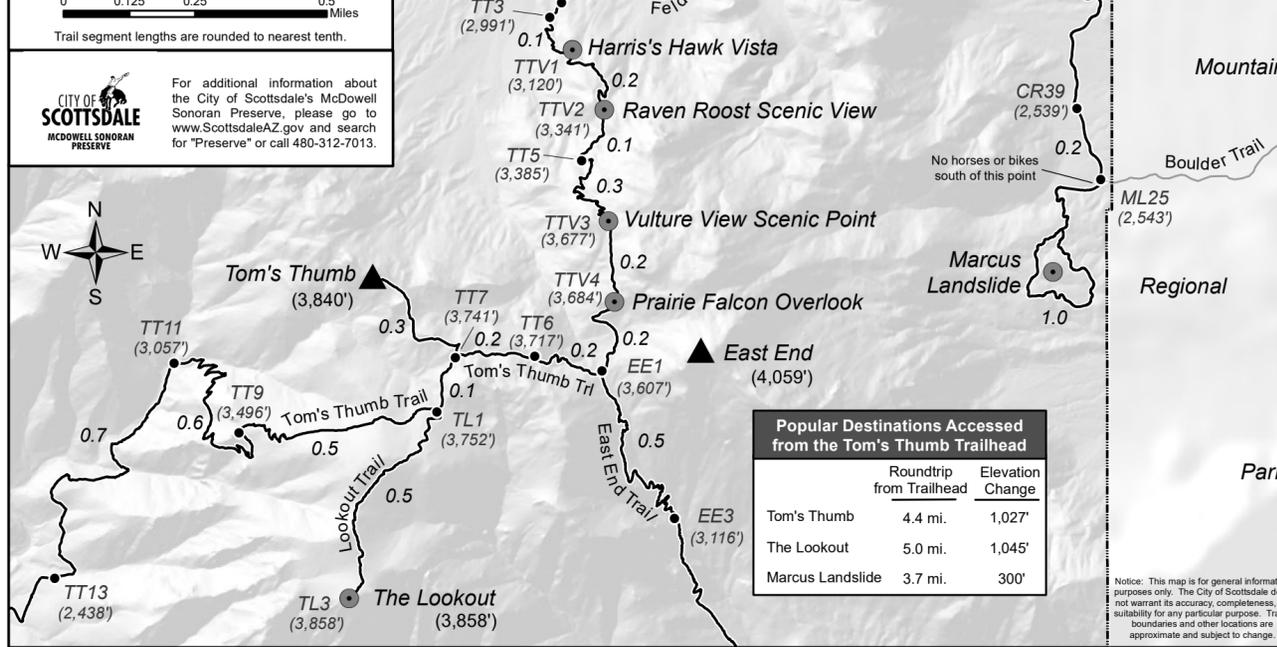
Inset #2 - Tom's Thumb Area of the City of Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve

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- Trails
- Emerg. Markers
- Scenic Points

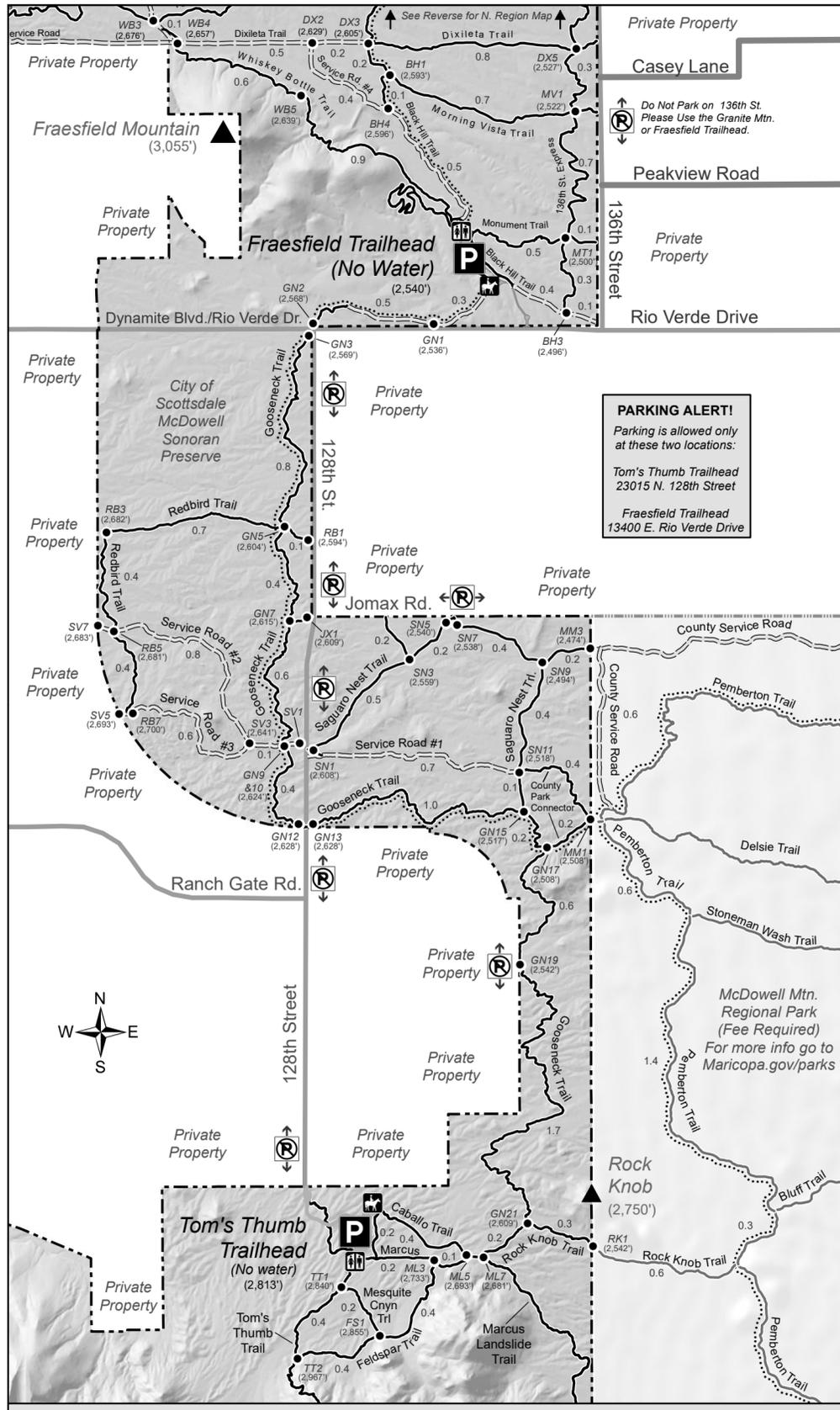
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Popular Destinations Accessed from the Tom's Thumb Trailhead

	Roundtrip from Trailhead	Elevation Change
Tom's Thumb	4.4 mi.	1,027'
The Lookout	5.0 mi.	1,045'
Marcus Landslide	3.7 mi.	300'

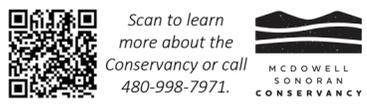
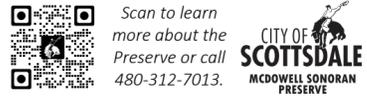
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PARKING ALERT!
 Parking is allowed only at these two locations:
 Tom's Thumb Trailhead
 23015 N. 128th Street
 Fraesfield Trailhead
 13400 E. Rio Verde Drive

SCOTTSDALE'S McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE

Southern & Central Regions
 Spring 2026



USE THIS MAP TO PLAN A SAFE OUTING IN THE PRESERVE

This map contains valuable information about the trails. Understanding how to use it is one of the keys to planning a safe and enjoyable experience in the Preserve.

EMERGENCY MARKERS

These markers are located on sign posts throughout the Preserve, and are labeled on the map. Each marker has a unique combination of letters and numbers. If you need help, reference the nearest marker to assist emergency personnel in identifying your location.

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 journey, 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 labels 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.

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 active in the cooler parts of the day and leave your dog at home when it is over 90°F.
- Shade is very limited in the Preserve, so wear sunscreen 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.
- Tell a friend or family member where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Leave your valuables at home.

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 pickup 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.

TRAIL 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.



Trails of the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Central Region Map Date: Spring 2026

- Trails
- Service Road
- Parking
- Maricopa Trail*
- Emergency Markers

*The Maricopa Trail is a planned 315 mile trail which loops the Phoenix Metro area and links nine of Maricopa County's Regional parks. In this area of the Preserve, a portion of the Gooseneck Trail carries the Maricopa Trail designation. For more info please visit: www.maricopa.gov/parks/maricopatrail

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

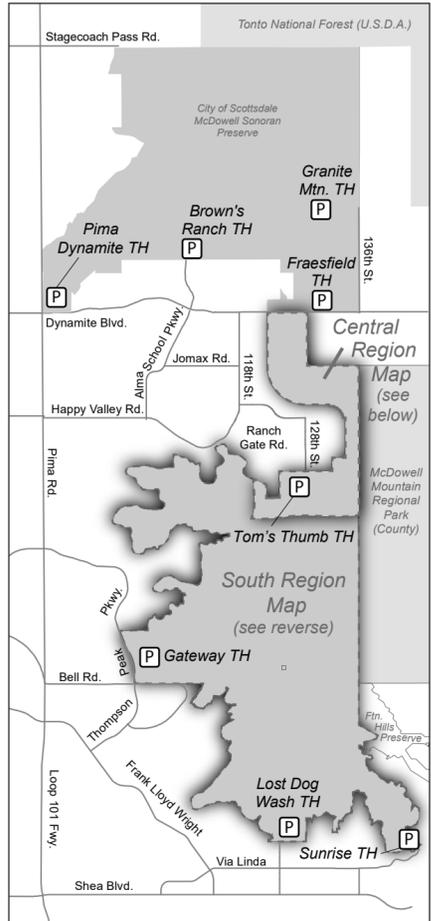
The desert heat can **KILL YOUR DOG** and you could be charged with animal cruelty under A.R.S. 13-2910. Dogs do not sweat like us and can be overtaken by the heat quickly. Once your dog shows signs of heat stress, it is often too late.

Tips to avoid a heat emergency:

- Check the hourly weather forecast BEFORE bringing your dog to the Preserve. If it will be 90°F 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/gray, 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.



WE NEED YOUR HELP

If you see any suspicious behavior including the following violations in the Preserve, please report it by calling the Scottsdale Police non-emergency number:

- Motor Vehicles
- Loose or Roaming Horses/Livestock
- Dogs Off Leash
- Vandalism or Cutting of Fences



Non-Emergency Number
480-312-5000

TRAILHEAD ADDRESSES

- Brown's Ranch Trailhead**
30301 N. Alma School Pkwy. Scottsdale, AZ 85262
- Fraesfield Trailhead**
13400 E. Rio Verde Dr. Scottsdale, AZ 85262
- Pima Dynamite Trailhead**
28777 N. Pima Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85262
- Granite Mountain Trailhead**
31402 N. 136th St. Scottsdale, AZ 85262
- Gateway Trailhead**
18333 N. Thompson Peak Pkwy. Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Lost Dog Wash Trailhead
12601 N. 124th St. Scottsdale, AZ 85259

Sunrise Trailhead
12101 N. 145th Way Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Tom's Thumb Trailhead
23015 N. 128th St. Scottsdale, AZ 85255

TRAIL GUIDE

Name	Length (mi / km)	Difficulty Rating	Elev. Change (ft / m)
104 th St	0.8 / 1.3	●	80 / 24
* 136 th St	1.6 / 2.5	◆	804 / 241
Anasazi Spur	0.5 / 0.8	●	71 / 21
! Bell Pass	3.2 / 5.1	◆	1202 / 361
* Bajada	0.4 / 0.6	○	43 / 13
Desert Park	3.1 / 5.0	●	606 / 182
! East End	1.3 / 2.0	◆◆	1041 / 312
Feldspar	0.7 / 1.2	●	137 / 42
Gateway Loop	3.6 / 5.8	◇	625 / 188
Horseshoe	0.7 / 1.1	●	101 / 30
Levee	1.0 / 1.6	●	234 / 70
Lookout	0.5 / 0.7	●	168 / 51
Lost Dog Wash	2.6 / 4.2	■	380 / 114
Marcus Land Slide	2.3 / 3.6	◇	280 / 85
Mesquite Canyon	0.2 / 0.3	●	26 / 8
Old Jeep	1.4 / 2.2	●	192 / 58
Paradise	1.5 / 2.4	●	325 / 98
Prospector	1.3 / 2.1	◇	549 / 165
Quartz	4.9 / 7.8	●	1104 / 331
Rock Knob	1.1 / 1.8	◇	259 / 78
Ringtail	2.2 / 3.5	●	307 / 92
Saguaro Loop	0.3 / 0.5	●	55 / 17
Sunrise Trail	0.3 / 0.5	●	56 / 17
Sunrise	4.4 / 7.0	◆	1095 / 329
Taliesin	2.4 / 3.8	●	431 / 129
Thompson Peak Rd	2.2 / 3.5	◆	1614 / 484
! Tom's Thumb	5.0 / 8.0	◆◆	1363 / 409
Windgate Pass	3.1 / 5.0	◆	858 / 257
Windmill	1.0 / 1.6	●	113 / 34

Rating Symbol: ● Easiest, ● Easy, ◻ Moderate, ◻ Moderately Difficult, ◆ Difficult, ◆◆ Extremely Difficult

Grade: [Symbol] [Symbol] [Symbol] [Symbol] [Symbol]

NOTE: Please take extra precautions when temperatures and/or humidity are high.

* No horses or bikes.
 ! Experienced horse and bike riders only.