

Rules and Regulations

The Cienega Creek Natural Preserve is open to the public via permit from sunrise to sunset. Please call 520-724-2263 or email CienegaCreekPreserve@pima.gov to obtain a permit. Users of the Preserve should be familiar with the following policies:

1. Cienega Creek Natural Preserve is maintained as a natural resource area and shall be used primarily for hiking, birding, and wildlife viewing.
2. Motor vehicles are not permitted within the Preserve except in the designated public parking areas.
3. User shall pick up and pack out any and all litter in the Preserve resulting from their activities.
4. Consumption of any type of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited.
5. Dogs must be on a leash and under control at all times. Owner must pick up after dog.
6. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm or other weapon within the Preserve except as licensed and permitted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department or Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation.
7. It is unlawful to collect, remove, destroy, harm or deface any natural or cultural resource including, but not limited to, all live and dead vegetation and wildlife, soil, rocks, and water except as otherwise provided by law or without obtaining prior written approval from Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation.
8. Open fires of any kind are not permitted.
9. There is no overnight camping allowed within the Preserve. Railroad rights-of-way are restricted from public use. Please do not drive or park within 100 feet of the railroad tracks.
10. The dam and well site located in Section 14 (approximately 1-1/2 miles upstream from the Vail Bridge) are on private property. **UNLAWFUL** entry may result in legal action.
11. No rappelling allowed from train trestles or bridges in the Preserve.
12. Horses may be ridden on the designated Arizona Trail but are not allowed in the Preserve.
13. Paint-ball shooting within the Preserve is strictly prohibited.

There are currently no fees to use the park, however, a permit to visit the park is required. For further information or to acquire a permit, call Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation at 520-724-5000.

DAILY MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF PUBLIC USE ACTIVITIES

Pima County
Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
3500 West River Road
Tucson, AZ 85741
Phone: 520-724-5000
Fax: 520-724-5078
www.pima.gov/nrpr

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT

Pima County
Regional Flood Control District
97 East Congress Street
Tucson, AZ 85701
Phone: 520-243-1800
Fax: 520-243-1821
www.rfcd.pima.gov



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Chris Cawein • Director
3500 West River Road • Tucson, AZ 85741
520-724-5000 • www.pima.gov/nrpr

CIENEGA CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE

Pima County, Arizona



PIMA COUNTY
NATURAL RESOURCES,
PARKS AND RECREATION
www.pima.gov/nrpr

Background

The Cienega Creek Natural Preserve is a 4,010 acre parcel of land located along Cienega Creek in eastern Pima County, Arizona. The property is under the ownership of the Pima County Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) and managed jointly by the RFCD and the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) Department.

The Preserve was established in 1986 under a resolution by the Pima County Board of Supervisors, authorizing the Director of the RFCD to acquire designated lands along the Cienega Creek corridor to preserve riparian habitat, reduce peak storm water flows, and facilitate groundwater recharge.

Resources

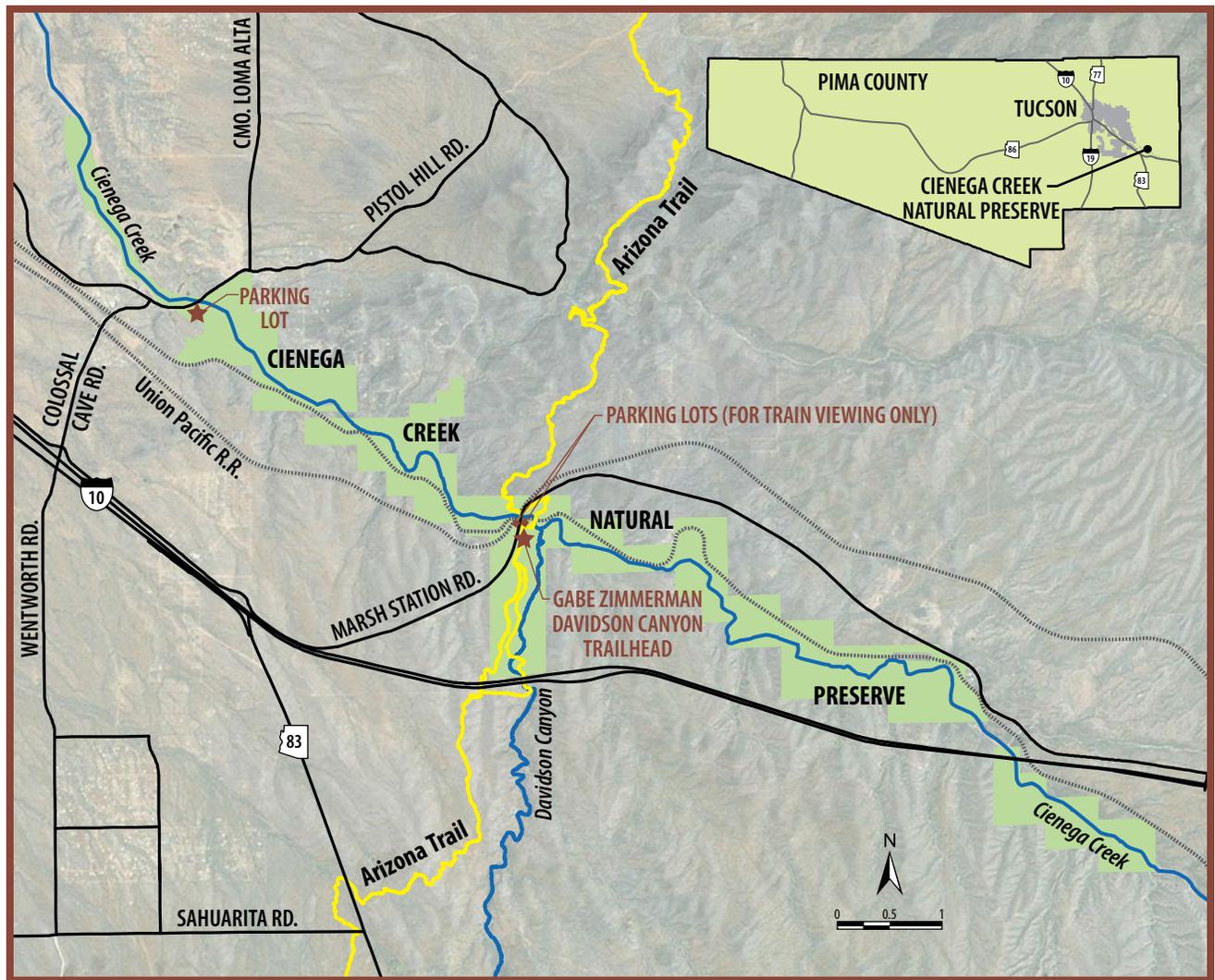
The Preserve is significant on a regional basis due to the presence of perennial stream flow and lush riparian vegetation. In combination, these conditions create an area with very high values for recreation, scenic quality, and wildlife habitat. In addition, numerous cultural resource sites have been identified and recorded on the Preserve, including several prehistoric sites that date back to the Archaic and Hohokam periods.

The perennial stream that runs through the Preserve has been designated as a "outstanding water" by the State of Arizona. This designation not only shows that the stream has met the State's standards for surface water quality, it also indicates that the County's management of the Preserve has been deemed capable to protect the stream's water quality in the future.

Management

Established management objectives for the Preserve are:

- To preserve and protect the existing perennial stream flow in Cienega Creek.
- To preserve and protect the biological resources associated with the riparian corridor.
- To provide opportunities for public use of the Preserve for recreation, education, and other appropriate activities.



Public Use

Public use of the Preserve is accommodated by permit with certain restrictions (see Rules and Regulations). These restrictions serve to protect the natural and scenic resources of the site, protect visitors from natural hazards, minimize the need for extensive capital improvements, reduce the need for facility maintenance, eliminate conflicts between incompatible uses, and maintain on-site conditions that allow the public to enjoy a unique outdoor experience.

The Arizona Trail

A segment of the 819-mile, cross-state Arizona Trail passes through the Cienega Creek Natural Preserve. The segment links the Rincon Mountain District of Saguaro National Park with the Nogales Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest, connecting with Colossal Cave and Cienega Creek on the way. The alignment of the trail, which is open to hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, is shown on the map above.