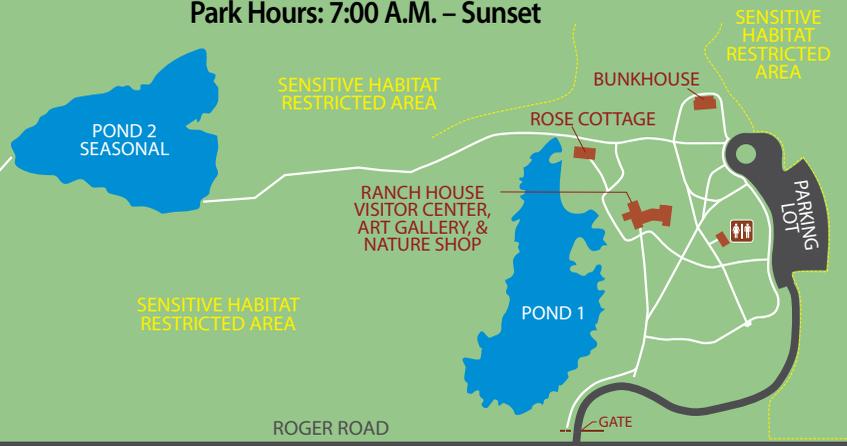


SOLDIER TRAIL



Agua Caliente Park
12325 E. Roger Road
Tucson, Arizona 85749
Park Hours: 7:00 A.M. – Sunset



ROY P. DRACHMAN
AGUA CALIENTE PARK
Resources and History



Pima County
Natural Resources,
Parks and Recreation
3500 West River Road
Tucson, AZ 85741
520-877-6000
www.pima.gov/nrpr



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Park Resources

The Spring/Ponds: The 87° temperature spring has served as an attraction throughout history. An artificial stream links together three ponds within the park. The ponds are fed by the spring water and support diverse wildlife and fish populations. The spring flow fluctuates during the year – at various times, due to drought, visitors may see ponds 2 and 3 dry.

The Fish: The waters of Agua Caliente Park contain numerous species of non-native fish. On any given day you may see tilapia, blue gill, bass, and grass carp.

The Great Mesquite Tree: The large mesquite tree growing at the east of the main ranch house is believed to be around 200 years old. It has long been a popular landmark in the area and is officially listed as one of the “Greater Trees of the Old Pueblo.”

Wildlife and Habitat: Areas of Agua Caliente’s rich habitat are closed to public entry in order to provide natural living conditions and protection for the wildlife populations found within the park.

Wildlife viewing opportunities exist year-round. However, during the cooler times of year, a greater variety of wildlife can be seen. It is not uncommon to see great blue herons, vermilion flycatchers, snowy egrets, American widgeons, and ring-necked ducks.

The Ranch House Visitor Center: The ranch house began as a one-room adobe built around 1873. Today it is a visitor center and art gallery. Please call (520) 749-3718 for visitor center hours and exhibit information.

Environmental Education: A wide range of interpretive programs are available throughout the year. For details, call (520) 615-7855 or visit www.pima.gov/nrpr.

Welcome to Agua Caliente

Welcome to Roy P. Drachman Agua Caliente Park, a 101-acre aquatic/riparian habitat surrounded by the Sonoran Desert. Agua Caliente Park has an exceptionally rich mix of native and non-native vegetation, wildlife, archaeological, historic, and hydrologic features and is located northeast of the Tucson city limits and south of the Coronado National Forest.

The park provides a dramatic setting that is rare in our desert environment. The Roy P. Drachman Agua Caliente Park is truly an oasis in the desert. The acquisition of the park property for the park visitor would not have taken place without the generous support of Mr. Roy P. Drachman.

Park History

5,500 Years Ago: Archaic projectile points found within the park boundaries suggest that the site was used by hunters and gatherers.

Circa AD 1150: A Hohokam village, referred to as the Whiptail Site, was established that extended into a portion of Agua Caliente in the early Classic Period, about AD 1150 – 1250.

1853 – 1870s: The spring was used as an army encampment following the Gadsden Purchase.

1873: Peter B. Bain established a formal claim to 160 acres surrounding Agua Caliente Spring.

1875: James P. Fuller purchased “Agua Caliente Rancho” and established an orchard and cattle ranch on the property.

1881: Fuller’s Hot Springs Resort was advertised as a medicinal and recreational destination.

1880s – 1920s: Various owners operated the ranch as a cattle ranch and resort.

Early 1920s: Agua Caliente property was purchased by Willard W. White. Plans to build a resort on the site surfaced in 1922, but were not implemented.

1935: Gibson DeKalb Hazard purchased the property and operated it as a working ranch while also growing fruit and alfalfa.

1951: The Filiatrault family took over the ownership of Agua Caliente. Five ponds were added to the property, raising the total to seven.

Post-1959: Myriad Research and Development had plans to build a \$15 million, 300-home development beside the ponds. Myriad then sold the property to Geodecke Development in 1979, but the property was eventually returned to Myriad.

1984: Local businessman Roy P. Drachman donated over \$200,000 toward the purchase of Agua Caliente. The donation provided the incentive for Pima County to proceed with the acquisition. Agua Caliente Park opened on January 19, 1985.

1997: Improvements made to the park included a paved entry drive and parking lot, accessible trails, interpretive signs, and public access to the lower ponds. The bunkhouse was renovated for a meeting room and park offices.

2004: Renovations to the Ranch House and Rose Cottage were made with 1997 bond funds. The Ranch House was turned into the park visitor center with a nature shop and gallery. The eastern part of the Ranch House is a caretaker residence. The Rose Cottage is now used as an education classroom.

2009: On July 9, 2009 Agua Caliente Ranch Rural Historic Landscape was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of Interior.

