

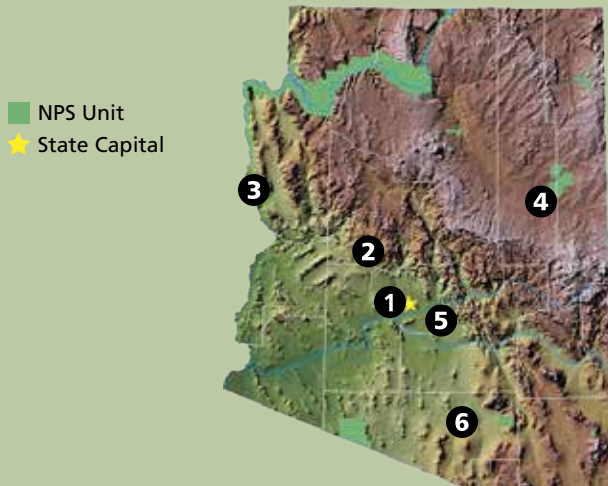


# Arizona News



Youth learn about environmental science. Photo: Mary Skordinsky

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Gila River National Water Trail  
City of Avondale Parks
2. Sophie's Flat Trail Expansion  
Wickenburg Conservation Foundation
3. Colorado River Nature Center  
Bullhead City
4. Hidden Cove Petroglyph and Ranch Ruins  
City of Holbrook
5. Pinal Watershed Protection  
Pinal Partnerships
6. Upper Santa Cruz Valley Collaboration  
Santa Cruz Valley Collaboration

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### Black Canyon Community Park

During 2013, nearly 300 young people participated in three different events at Black Canyon Community Park. Almost 200 scouts, ages 11 to 18, from the Grand Canyon Council flocked to the park to earn merit badges focused on the natural and cultural environment, health, and fitness. Subject-matter experts served as counselors and taught 2.5-hour courses on topics ranging from archaeology to soil and water conservation to disabilities awareness to search and rescue. The scouts

collectively earned almost 400 merit badges. Other activities for non-scouters included making solar ovens out of pizza boxes and weaving ducks from bulrush leaves.

*"The entire event was well planned and executed. I've been to many roundups (merit badge workshops) and this was one of the best. Thank you!"*

- Parent of a Grand Canyon Council Boy Scout

In a separate event also held at Black Canyon Community Park, high school students gathered from

around the state for the annual Arizona Environthon. Students competed in groups and rotated from station to station challenging their knowledge about aquatic ecology, mammals, soils and land use, and other environmental topics. Organizers for the event commented that the park was the perfect outdoor classroom for the competition.

# Current Projects

## 1. Gila River National Water Trail

Project Partner: City of Avondale Parks  
NPS Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Avondale  
Congressional District: AZ - 3

### Project Goal

Achieve National Water Trail System designation for the Gila River from 91st Avenue to 133rd Avenue.

### NPS Role

Assist project partners in preparing the National Water Trail System application and promoting public involvement.



Paddling Gila River Near Avondale. Photo: NPS

*“The NPS has successfully guided us through the public planning process and helped the stakeholders... formulate a vision statement and establish goals for the trail master plan.”*

- Toby Cotter, City Manager,  
Bullhead City

## 2. Sophie’s Flat Trail Expansion

Project Partner: Wickenburg Conservation Foundation  
NPS Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Wickenburg  
Congressional District: AZ - 4

### Project Goal

Add approximately 20 miles of trails and a second trailhead with kiosk, restrooms, and fencing to the Sophie’s Flat trail system.

### NPS Role

Assist in creating a workable plan by engaging partners and identifying funding for project implementation.

## 3. Colorado River Nature Center

Project Partner: City of Bullhead City  
NPS Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Bullhead City  
Congressional District: AZ -4

### Project Goal

Implement a 1.25-mile accessible nature trail, plan and design six interpretive waysides, plan and design two trailhead kiosks, plan and print 1,000 wildlife and plant field guides, and increase public awareness about the Colorado River Nature Center.

### NPS Role

Assist project partners in implementing a trail system master plan by supporting planning, design, and public outreach activities.

## 4. Hidden Cove Petroglyph and Ranch Ruins

Project Partner: City of Holbrook  
NPS Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Holbrook, Navajo Counties  
Congressional District: AZ - 1

### Project Goal

Construct 7 miles of trail, restore 50 acres of riparian habitat, create seven interpretive waysides, and plan and print 1,000 wildlife and plant field guides.



Great plains toad surfaces after monsoon rain in Hidden Cove Petroglyph and Ranch Ruins, Holbrook. Photo: Anita Strawn de Ojeda

# Current Projects cont.

## NPS Role

Assist project partners in implementing the trail system master plan and riparian restoration concept plan.

## 5. Pinal Watershed Protection

Project Partner: Pinal Partnership  
NPS Contact: Cate Bradley  
Location: Pinal County  
Congressional District: AZ - 1

### Project Goal

Create watershed and drainage maps for Pinal County. Use results and assessments for the development of draft watershed, riparian, and wildlife habitat protection policies and ordinances. Through outdoor recreation and education events in the county, committee members will use the results to increase public awareness of watershed and riparian issues as they relate to the county's open space and trails master plan.

## NPS Role

Help convene and facilitate a coalition of partners and stakeholders to research effective riparian and watershed protection ordinances; identify and prioritize most critical drainage, riparian corridors, and habitat areas; develop draft language and elements for watershed protection policies; and help create educational and outreach materials for the project.



Superstition Mountains Foothills Pinal Open Space Protection project. Aerial views of land development up to the Superstition Wilderness boundary. Photo: Cyndi Reuhl

## 6. Upper Santa Cruz Valley Collaboration

Project Partner: Santa Cruz Valley Collaboration  
NPS Contact: Cate Bradley  
Location: Santa Cruz County  
Congressional District: AZ - 3

### Project Goal

Coordinate an inventory of community assets and resources available for collaborative promotion of the Santa Cruz River Valley as a vibrant community and tourist destination. The Santa Cruz River Valley includes

the Tumacacori National Historic Park, the Anza National Historic Trail, Las Lagunas Wetlands, Tubac Presidio State Park, the City of Nogales, and the remarkable natural resources of these Mexican border communities. Help develop a plan for the sharing of volunteers, equipment, and materials across the region. Create an interactive map of the area's historical, cultural, and natural facilities, including events and other resources such as community health facilities and youth programs aimed at promoting safe, fun, and healthy lifestyle events.

## NPS Role

Help coalition partners to identify a collaborative vision, mission, and goals, and to develop a strategic plan based on these desired outcomes. Facilitate strategic planning meetings with project partners, help define the scope of collaboration, produce an analysis of issues and opportunities, and explore options to overcome challenges and satisfy the multiple partner needs.

*“NPS assistance has been invaluable to the Pinal Partnership Open Space and Trails committee in helping to hone our focus and develop a strategic plan ultimately which lead to creating the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Department.”*

- Cyndi Ruehl, Chair, Pinal Partnership Open Space and Trails Committee

## We're Here For You!

Could your project could benefit  
from NPS Staff Assistance?  
Contact us to find out.



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## 2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and  
Parkland Protected

Find more information online  
at  
[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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## Recent Successes cont.

### Hidden Cove Petroglyph and Ranch Ruins

Hidden Cove Park is a true community asset, rich in rockart and other archaeological resources. Its preservation and protection is preeminent to city officials and the community-at-large. This past year, with limited financial and technical expertise, the city looked to volunteers and the staff of Petrified Forest National Park to survey and record cultural resources. A team of volunteers, led by Darlene L. Brinkerhoff, dedicated over 1,000 hours of their time locating resources; completing data forms; measuring panels, panel facings, and panel inclination information; taking photos; entering data into a computer; and compiling a report for the Arizona State Museum.

In addition, Petrified Forest National Park under the direction of Superintendent, Brad Traver, provided a team of archaeologists to survey approximately 7-miles of proposed trails to ensure archaeological resources were protected, but still allow for visitor use and enjoyment of the park. Other state, federal, and tribal agencies also provided critical support in determining environmental impacts as a result of proposed park development and assisted in the production of a development concept plan, a riparian restoration concept plan, and a fauna and flora field guide for the park.

This monumental effort by volunteers and the local community will help park managers better understand the current extent and condition of Hidden Cove Park's rockart and guide decision-making regarding future park operations and management.



Volunteers recording rockart at Hidden Cove Petroglyph and Ranch Ruins, Holbrook, Arizona.  
Photo: Michael Odell

### Grant Funding Awarded to NPS Projects

Three NPS projects were awarded six grants this past year, for a combined total of \$304,748 and another \$103,253 in matching funds or in-kind services. Funds, such as these, help to make community project work possible. As a result of this infusion of capital, communities will benefit by way of new trails, interpretive displays, field guides, restored riparian habitat, site furnishings, and watchable wildlife activity packs.

#### ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.