

Greetings:

Attached is a summary of Cactus Forest area Trail names put together by a regular park user, Paul Scraggs.

Paul doesn't have any notions that we would be using this, nor that he would be distributing it other than to friends and fellow hikers (note his disclaimer at the top)

But he wanted folks here to have a look at it in case there are corrections or discrepancies that you know of, or just for your general interest

His contact info is at end of the list.

I'm sending a copy to Paul, Don, and Melanie for now

Jeff W
5152

Trails of Saguaro National Park East – Rincon Mountain District

Not a publication of the National Park Service

(A work in progress)

Bajada Vista – (Ba-ha-da) A bajada is defined as a broad alluvial slope extending from the base of a mountain range out into a basin and formed by coalescence of separate alluvial fans. Think of it as erosion of the mountain slopes over eons of time, carried away by rain and spreading across the flat land leaving hills and valleys in its wake. The trail, when taken east, gives great close-up views of the Rincon bajada. Before the realignment, the trail had continued on up the bajada to meet the Carrillo trail. The bajada is a favorite habitat of the Kangaroo Rat.

Cactus Forest - A 5.2-mile trail from Broadway to Old Spanish Trail, which gives excellent and varied views of the cactus forest of Saguaro National Park. Notable sights along the trail include the ruins of the old CCC home, which became the park ranger's headquarters for a time. It is about ¼ mile south from the north loop drive trailhead. If you continue on for about another ¾ mile, you will come to the lime kilns, used to extract lime from limestone. Just beyond these is a side trail that takes you in to Mica Falls, which seldom has any water flowing over it except possibly during the summer monsoons. Continue on Cactus Forest Trail a short distance and then look back at the hillside in front of you on the right. You will see the Catalina Detachment Fault, a geological feature very rarely seen above ground.

Carrillo – (Ca-re-o) Named after Don Emilio Carrillo, who had originally settled in the area of Fort Lowell prior to 1853, when the Gadsden Purchase added 29,670 square miles of Mexico to the United States. He was relocated further east so the army could build a fort there. This new land included the area where the present day Tanque Verde Guest Ranch is located. He named it La Cebadilla (wild barley). The land was passed on to his descendants Loretto and Rafael, staying in the family until 1928

Cholla – (Choy-a) A very abundant group of cacti found throughout the park. These include the Christmas, Pencil, Teddy Bear, Chain Fruit, Cane and Staghorn Cholla.

Converse - Named after Jim Converse who became the fourth owner of La Cebadilla in 1928, purchasing it from the Carrillo estate. He re-named it Tanque Verde. He invited guests who wanted to participate in roundups.

Creosote - A very prolific bush of the southwest deserts, it has inhabited this area for about 14,000 years. It is the most drought-resistant plant in North America; thus it often grows where most other plants couldn't survive. It fills in the open spaces, making the desert look much greener. After a rain shower, the entire city of Tucson can smell it. You can too! Just cup your hands around a small branch, blow moist air on it, then smell. It works every time!

Deer Valley - Named for a herd of desert mule deer occasionally seen in this lush area.

Douglas Spring - May have been named after a local cowhand.

Freeman Homestead - Loop trail through the former Freeman homestead. Ruins of his home and well can be seen.

Garwood - Named after Nelson Garwood, a Tucson resident, who built a weekend retreat known as the Bar G Ranch, completed in 1952. He built a concrete dam to collect water for his use. He also built an airstrip along the former Wentworth Trail from Kennedy to Wildhorse. The airstrip provided access to the ranch for the Garwoods and other friends who flew their planes in as well. The actual location of the airstrip can be identified by the absence of any saguaros and the relatively flat land.

Kennedy - Named after John F. Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States. The trail was originally a road built by the county in the 1960's for a proposed housing development that fortunately never happened.

Little Wildhorse - Continuation of Wildhorse trail after Carrillo, it leads to a natural water tank.

Loma Verde - Named after the copper mine of the same name, located just off the trail. Its name comes from the greenish rocks (copper ore) found there.

Mesquite – (Mess-keet) A hardwood tree found in abundance throughout the park.

Mica View - From this trail, Mica Peak, the highest point in the Rincons can be viewed. The prominent peak is actually Helen's Dome. Mica Peak is just to the left of this, but further east in the mountains, so it looks lower.

Pink Hill - This trail takes you to a hill of the same name, which got its name from the iron rust found near and on the sides of the hill. The hill provides a great view of a large part of the park. It has otherwise been known as Coffee Pot Hill because cowhands would gather there for coffee while watching their stock from this vantage point.

Schantz – (Shonts) This trail, almost 5 miles in length, follows the park boundaries fairly closely from the Cactus Forest Loop Drive to Speedway. It was named after Homer L. Schantz, President of the University of Arizona, who helped establish Saguaro National Monument on March 1, 1933, which later became Saguaro National Park (1994). He was also instrumental in getting the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to build the loop drive through the park in the 1930's, which served visitors very well. It was fully restored in the summer of 2006.

Squeeze Pen - Recalls the days of ranching when cowboys herded cattle into a pen for branding or possibly for shipping to market.

Stock Bypass - As the name implies...

Three Tank - Passes by Aguila Tank, man made dug out tank (pool) near the junction of Three Tank and Douglas Spring trails. The second tank, Mica, also a dug out tank, is about halfway between Aguila and the steel tank, which is at the junction of Carillo and Three Tank trails. These tanks were used to collect water for watering stock.

Wildhorse - Named after Wildhorse Canyon. At the time of the naming of the canyon, there were wild horses in that area.

Vanover - This trail gets its name from a rancher who homesteaded in what is now Saguaro National Park, near the Loma Verde Trailhead.

Former Trails Before Realignment ca 2008-9

Freight Wagon - This trail was originally the road that Garwood used to get cement trucks up to the present Carrillo Trail to build his dam. After the dam was built, the part of the trail from Garwood's airstrip to Carrillo Trail was used to ferry freight and passengers up to his ranch. On a lark, it was named Freight Wagon to give it a western sounding name.

Palo Verde - The official state tree of Arizona, a green bark tree that is very common throughout the park.

Saguaro - (Suh-wah-ro) This trail passed through a grove of very large Saguaros. The trail from the bottom of Pink Hill to Vanover Trail that passed through this large Saguaro grove still exists, but is now known as Loma Verde Trail.

Wagon Spur - Possibly borrowed from the railroads, it was a short connector between Freight Wagon and Wildhorse trails about 0.5 mile south of Wildhorse Trailhead.

Wentworth - An area rancher who owned 320 acres bordered by Speedway Blvd., Wentworth Road, 5th Street and Freeman Road. This area is not part of the park, but part of the "notch" that cuts into the NW corner of the park.

Washes Used As Trails

Bajada Wash - Originates near the discontinued section of Bajada Vista east of Wildhorse trail, crosses over Wildhorse trail and meets the Shantz trail between Kennedy trail and Wildhorse Trailhead.

Deer Valley Wash - Continuation of Deer Valley Trail

Javelina Wash - (Hav-a-lee-na) Javelina footprints can often be seen in this wash and occasionally the Javelina as well.

Loma Verde Wash - Parallels the present Loma Verde Trail.

Monument Wash - Named after the original Saguaro National Monument.

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Comments and suggestions would be very much appreciated.

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