Explore...

- **Fairbank Historic Townsite.** An FSPR-operated visitor center and a self-guided tour help visitors explore this ghost town’s buildings and cemetery.

- **Presidio Santa Cruz de Terreneute.** A three-mile round-trip trail leads to the ruins of this 18th-century Spanish military post, one of only four in Arizona.

- **Millville and Petroglyph Discovery Trail.** Visitors follow a trail to the ruins of the famous Gird Silver Mill and view of ancient Native American rock art.

- **Murray Springs Clovis Site.** One of the nation’s premier Paleo-Indian archeological sites (12,000 years old) and recently designated as a National Historic Landmark.

- **San Pedro House.** Trails lead through some of the best bird-watching desert riparian habitat in the United States. An FSPR-operated visitor center provides SPRNCA information.

- **Other Entry Points.** Entrance into the SPRNCA and its network of trails can also be gained via parking areas at Millville, Hereford Bridge, St. David Cienega, Escapule Road, and Palominas.

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Like us on Facebook!
A River of Life in the High Desert

The San Pedro River is a river of life, whose waters nourish a ribbon of cottonwoods and willows that provide resting places for migratory birds and year-round homes for many kinds of plants, fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Congress established the 56,000-acre San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, or SPRNCA, in 1988 to protect:

- Some of the last perennial streamflows in Arizona and associated riparian habitat
- More than 350 species of birds, 80 species of mammals, 2 native fish, and 68 species of amphibians and reptiles
- Rare birds such as the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bell’s Vireo, Green Kingfisher, Lucy’s Warbler, Abert’s Towhee, and Gray Hawk
- A number of endangered fish such as the Loach Minnow and Spikedace, and plants such as the Huachuca Water Umbel
- Tombstone silver boom-era ghost towns
- The ruins of the Spanish Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate, circa 1775.
- Native American cultural sites dating back 12,000 years

Will the San Pedro River Be There for our Children?

Today, the San Pedro River is at risk. Groundwater pumping is depleting the aquifer that supports surface flow. Trespassing cattle, off-road vehicles, looting of cultural sites, and invasive plants all pose threats. The continued existence of this unique desert habitat is at risk.

The Friends of the San Pedro River

Our organization was founded in 1987 to help preserve the River. We work closely with the Bureau of Land Management, the federal land manager for the SPRNCA. Volunteers assist visitors at the San Pedro House and Fairbank Schoolhouse. Docents lead tours and nature walks, and provide educational programs for school children. Special events presented by the Friends attract hundreds of visitors. The Friends of the San Pedro River:

- Has over 280 members; 86 volunteers contribute over 12,000 hours annually
- Staffs two visitor contact stations, welcoming 30,000 SPRNCA visitors per year
- Offers over 200 tours and walks each year, lead by FSPR-trained docents
- Provides rainwater harvesting and xeriscaping demonstrations
- Stages annual Spring Festival and Fairbank Day events

Get Involved!

As a Member You Can:

- Do something concrete to protect our precious national heritage
- Meet like-minded people and engage your own creativity
- Participate in members-only walks to remote SPRNCA locations
- Become a Docent: lead tours, give talks, and share your knowledge
- Assist in resource conservation projects
- Attend lectures and training
- Receive a discount on purchases at the Friends’ bookstores