Hereford Area

The Hereford Trailhead of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) provides access to a lush portion of the San Pedro River Valley. The River is fed by artesian springs here and there is almost always surface flow. The water supports a healthy biome and is a great place for hiking, birdwatching, and enjoying the riparian forest along the River.

History: Hereford was a small ranching community near the San Pedro River. The town had a railroad station, general store, post office, a two-class room school, a cantina and dance hall, and many adobe homes. It was on the San Rafael del Valle Land grant which was purchased in 1901 by William C. Greene. Greene is a towering figure in the history of Cochise County. His Greene Cattle Company encompassed a million acres of land in Arizona and Mexico. His house and company headquarters were located in the town of Hereford. Following Greene's death in 1911, ownership passed to the Little Boquillas Ranch. A steel bridge was constructed over the San Pedro River to facilitate horse and wagon commerce, and later, automobiles. Highway traffic bypassed Hereford following construction of Highway 92 in the 1930’s. The town was abandoned by the 1960s. The Hereford townsite and remnants of structures there became part of the SPRNCA in 1988.

Today the Hereford Trailhead, on the west side of the Hereford Road bridge, offers informational displays and parking for vehicles and horse trailers. It provides access to the San Pedro Trail and a network of educational trails that go along the River.

Plan your visit: Research your route. Trails in the area are rustic, make sure you are physically able. Dress for the weather and bring water. Let someone know your plans and what to do if you do not return on time.

The trailhead road and parking lot are gravel surfaced with room for horse trailers.

Pets must be leashed in all developed facilities and in other posted areas. All dogs must be kept under direct control at all times. Clean up after your dog and pack out the waste.

The San Pedro Trail is accessible from the trailhead. It is open to hiking, equestrian riding, and bicycling. There are rustic, educational trails along the river open to hikers only. Many people use the trails - respect their rights.

Picnicking: The ramada shelter and tables are available at the trailhead on a first come-first serve basis. Clean up all waste and litter. There is a waterless toilet. There is no water.

Camping is not allowed at the trailhead, parking area, or educational trails along the river. Backcountry camping is allowed 1/2 mile from the trailhead and public roads. A permit is required for camping, available from self-service stations located at most trailheads. There is a $2 per person per night fee.

Dispose of Waste Properly: Pack out all your trash. Use the waterless toilets provided.

The Hereford Townsite is open to the public, but it is not marked and there are no maintained trails or interpretive signs.

Leave What You Find: Vegetation, archaeological, historical, and paleontological sites and artifacts are protected by federal law. It is illegal to damage, destroy or remove any artifacts or structures from the SPRNCA. Metal detecting is not permitted. There is much historic debris at the Hereford Townsite: LEAVE EVERYTHING WHERE IT IS.

Potential hazards include thorny vegetation, falling tree branches, hidden sink holes, quicksand, steep drop offs, unstable ground, collapsing riverbanks, rattlesnakes, large predators, venomous insects, extreme temperatures, flash floods, and others.

Respect the Neighbors: Public lands in this area are intermingled with private property, residences, and ranching activity; private land is not open to public use.
Directions: From Sierra Vista go south on Highway 92 and east on Hereford Road about 8.25 miles to the trailhead access road.

BLM Project Office: 4070 South Avenida Saracino, Hereford, AZ 85615
Tucson Field Office: 3201 East Universal Way, Tucson, AZ 85756
https://www.blm.gov/office/tucson-field-office
(520) 258-7200; Email: blm_az_tfloweb@blm.gov

Friends of the San Pedro River:
http://sanpedroriver.org/wpfpsr/
9800 E. Highway 90, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-9173
(520) 508-4445; Email: fpsr@sanpedroriver.org