



Fairbank Historic Townsite

Visit the Fairbank Historic Townsite to see a ghost town. You can view the remaining buildings and learn about Fairbank's history from interpretive displays and Schoolhouse museum. Fairbank is on the San Pedro Trail and is a great place to begin a hike, bike, or horseback ride. There is also easy access to the San Pedro River. There are tables and toilets - a great place for a gathering.

History: Fairbank was founded in 1881 during Arizona's Territorial times when crews building the New Mexico and Arizona Railroad reached the confluence of the San Pedro and Babocomari Rivers, and Walnut Gulch. Here they built a train station at the closest point to Tombstone, which was in the midst of its silver mining boom. A town grew up around the depot with a hotel, restaurants, stagecoach connections to Tombstone, stores, railroad freight office, telegraph office, and a school. At its height Fairbank had upwards of 300 people. Four railroads operated here between 1881 and the end of rail service in 1966. Many residents worked for the railroads. Starting in 1901, the town was owned by the Little Boquillas Ranch. Fairbank was a diverse community with people from Mexico coming to find work. Chinese immigrants who arrived as railroad construction crews returned to farm along the rivers near town. A train robbery in 1900 is the most famous event here. The town's history came to an end in 1972 when most people had left, and the post office closed.

Today visitors come to the Fairbank Historic Townsite to learn about the history of the area. There are still a number of historic buildings standing including the Mercantile, Works Progress Administration (WPA) sheds, a house, and the schoolhouse, which is a museum/visitors center operated by the Friends of San Pedro River. There are many recreational opportunities, including an easy hike to the river, longer hikes, including the popular Fairbank Loop Trail, a visit to the town Cemetery and Grand Central Mill, and many other destinations.

Plan Your Visit: Temperatures at Fairbank can be extreme - be prepared. If you are hiking, bring plenty of water, know your route. The Townsite is easy to walk, but trails in the area are rustic, make sure you are up to the task. Let someone know where you are and what to do if you do not return on time.

Trailhead and Parking: The trailhead access road and parking lot are graveled, with space for horse trailers. A path connects the parking area to the Townsite. The parking lot is opened at sunrise and closed at sunset.

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. There are dog waste stations provided.

The San Pedro Trail is open to hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling. Trails for educational/interpretive purposes to the river and cemetery are closed to bicycles and horses. This includes the Recreation Management Zone that surrounds the Townsite. You may ride across the Townsite to reach trails, but please tether horses outside the Railroad Avenue open area.

Picnicking: There are picnic tables and grills available for use on a first-come first-served basis. Clean up all waste and litter, including any charcoal used for grilling.

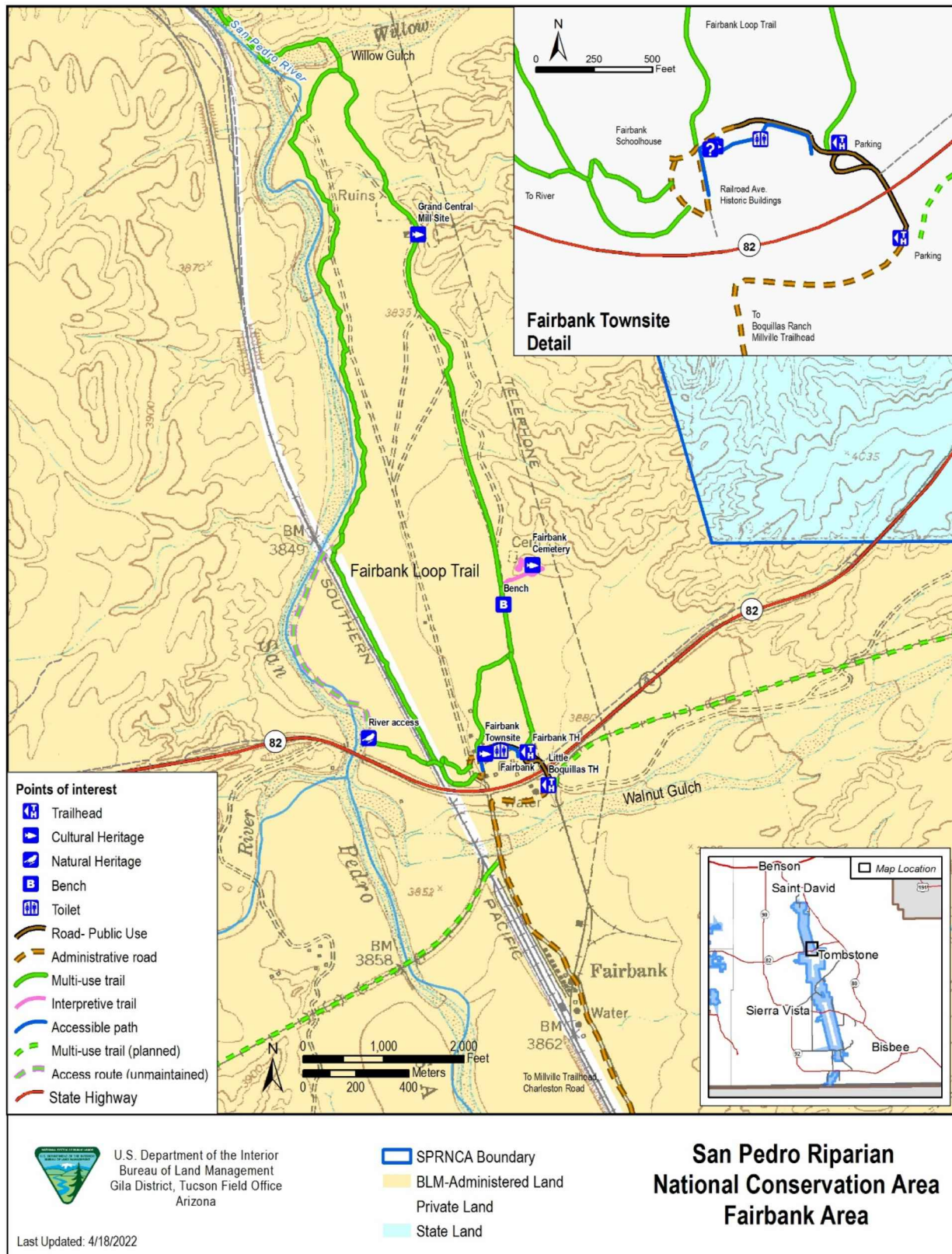
Camping is not allowed in the Recreation Management Zone (trailhead, parking area, and Townsite trails along the river) or to the Cemetery. Backcountry camping is allowed 1/2 mile from the trailhead and public roads. A permit is required for camping, available from the self-service station. There is a \$2 per person per night fee.

Dispose of Waste Properly: A waterless toilet is available. Pack out all your trash. PLEASE DO NOT CLEAN OUT HORSE TRAILERS IN THE PARKING LOTS.

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 found within the SPRNCA. Metal detecting is not permitted. There are a lot of artifacts around Fairbank - LEAVE THEM WHERE THEY ARE.

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.

Resident site hosts help maintain the Townsite.



Directions: From Highway 90 north of Sierra Vista go northeast towards Tombstone on Highway 82 about 9 miles to the Fairbank Historic Townsite

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Friends of the San Pedro River: