



Friends of the San Pedro River

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

October 2026 Events Calendar

HISTORY WALKS START THIS MONTH! See page 2!!

For all walks: Free and open to the public. No reservations are required. Please realistically assess your ability to do these walks – some are in remote areas far from help. Wear a hat, sun protection, appropriate clothing, and sturdy shoes. Bring water and a snack. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome on all but the birdwatching walks. Children are welcome but younger ones will have their patience tested.

Nature Walks

San Pedro House, Saturdays, October 3 and 17, both at 9 am. The San Pedro River is one of the last free flowing rivers in the Southwest and home to one of the largest cottonwood-willow riparian forests remaining in Arizona. On this walk we will discuss the interactions of the components that make up the ecosystem of the river and its importance to the surrounding area. The walks are 1.5 to 2 miles long over easy terrain. These are slower paced than a hike and suitable for most adults and children. The San Pedro House is located 7 miles east of Sierra Vista on Highway 90, on the south side of the highway. It is searchable in Google Maps.

Butterfly Walks

San Pedro House, Sundays, October 4 and 18, both at 10 am.

Join us for a butterfly walk in the xeriscape garden surrounding the San Pedro House. We'll take our time and stroll through the garden looking for butterflies and other pollinators. The entire walk will be in the garden so the distance covered will be minimal, but it will still be sunny and hot so wear a hat and bring some water. The walk will last an hour or so. Binoculars are a must and bring your camera too if you have one. We'll meet right in front of the San Pedro House front porch. The San Pedro House is located 7 miles east of Sierra Vista on Highway 90, on the south side of the highway. It is searchable in Google Maps.

FSPR Bird Walks

San Pedro House, Wednesdays, October 14 and 28, both at 7 am. The SPRNCA provides habitat for over 100 species of breeding birds. The San Pedro River is also a critical migration corridor that provides water, food, and shelter for another 250 migratory and wintering birds. Novice and experienced bird watchers attend our bird walks to view the diverse avian community of the area. We usually observe 30-60 species on these walks, which last approximately three hours. Bring your own binoculars if you can. These walks can be moderately difficult on uneven terrain. The San Pedro House is located 7 miles east of Sierra Vista on Highway 90, on the south side of the highway. It is searchable on Google Maps.

**For more information on these or other events, call (520) 508-4445
or email fspr@sanpedroriver.org**

Explore the History of the San Pedro River Valley on one of our October

Friends of the San Pedro River *History Walks*

History Walk to Grand Central Mill, Saturday, October 10, 9 am

Take a walk to the ruins of the historic Grand Central Mill with FSPR docent Merle Kilpatrick. During the Tombstone silver boom, this stamp mill operated 24 hours a day, processing the ore brought in from Tombstone by wagons. Learn about the mining history of the area and take a three-mile round trip walk to the mill site. This walk follows an uneven dirt and gravel trail. There is limited shade, and it will be hot on sunny days. Please realistically assess your ability to do this walk. Wear a hat, sun protection, appropriate clothing, and sturdy shoes. Bring water and snacks. This tour meets at the Fairbank Townsite, which is along Highway 82, 10.0 miles east of the Highway 82/90 intersection in Whetstone. The entrance to the parking area is on the north side of the highway about 0.5 mile east of the San Pedro River bridge. The tour will meet near the Schoolhouse Museum just inside the Townsite. Park in the outer lot and use the fenced trail to walk to the schoolhouse. "Fairbank AZ" is directly searchable in Google Maps.

History Walk to Millville and Petroglyph Discovery Trail, Saturday,

Oct 17, 9 am Meet Friends' docent Richard Bauer for a tour of Millville, an historic silver mill, and an adjacent Native American petroglyph site. The tour will focus on the history of mining and this mill, part of the Tombstone silver boom. This is about a 2 mile walk on an uneven dirt and gravel trail that crosses through a deep wash. There is no shade, and it will be hot on sunny days. Meet at the Millville and Petroglyph Discovery Trail parking area. This trailhead is located 7.5 miles east of Sierra Vista on Charleston Road. This is not the parking area right by the river: Look for the "Fire Danger Level" sign on the north side of Charleston Rd. at the entrance to the parking lot, about 0.5 mile east of the river. Meet by the vault toilet. This location is searchable as "Millville and Petroglyph Discovery Trail" in Google Maps.

History Walk to Murray Springs, Saturday, October 24, 9 am

Join docents from the Friends of the San Pedro River for a tour of the Murray Springs mammoth kill site. Discovered by Dr. C. Vance Haynes from the University of Arizona in 1966, Murray Springs contained not only fossils from mammoth killed by the prehistoric Clovis people, but also projectile points and a bone tool believed to be used to straighten spear shafts. This is an easy walk of less than a half mile, though it does include dirt steps into and out of a dry wash. From E. Highway 90/AZ-90 in Sierra Vista, drive north on Moson Rd. for 1.28 miles and turn east. Meet the docent at the gate to the site. The entrance to the site is searchable as "Murray Springs Clovis Site" in Google Maps.

Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate, October 31, 9 am

Join a walking tour of the Spanish Presidio of Santa Cruz de Terrenate. This fort was operational during the late 1770s, the centerpiece for a planned Spanish occupation of the San Pedro River Valley that failed. This is a three-mile round trip over trails and uneven ground. The return walk is gradually uphill. Meet at the Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate Trailhead, located 1.7 miles north of Highway 82 on the east side of In Balance Ranch Road. In Balance Ranch Road (N. Kellar Road on Google Maps) is a north turn off of Highway 82, 8.3 miles east of Whetstone, about 1 mile west of the San Pedro River. There is a large parking area at the Trailhead where the group will meet. "Presidio Santa Cruz Terrenate Trailhead" is searchable in Google Maps.