



Oracle State Park

Tom Buckley

Topics

The Park

New Trails

Local Geology

Scheduled Events

Volunteering

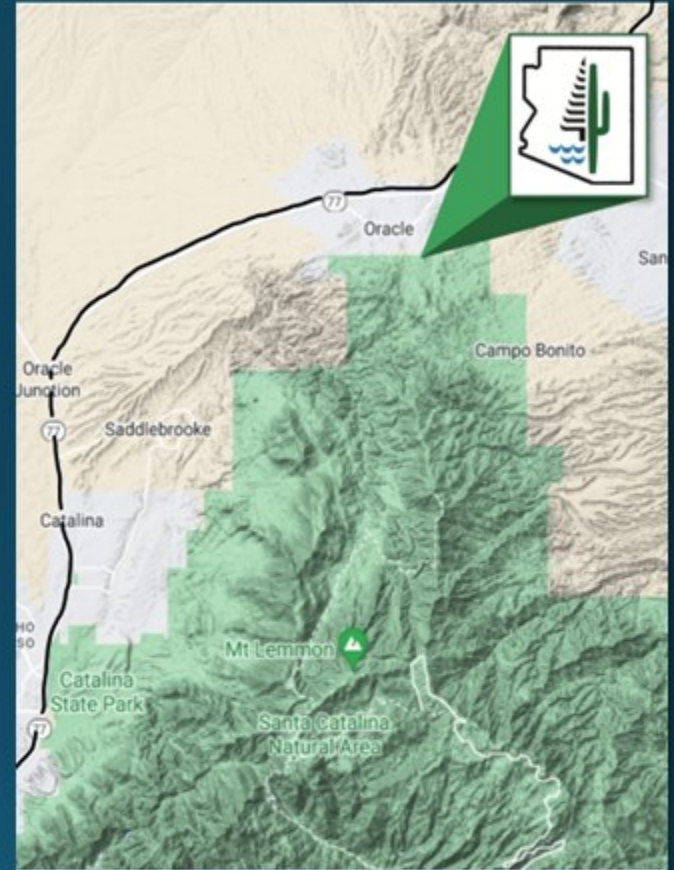


A Few Facts

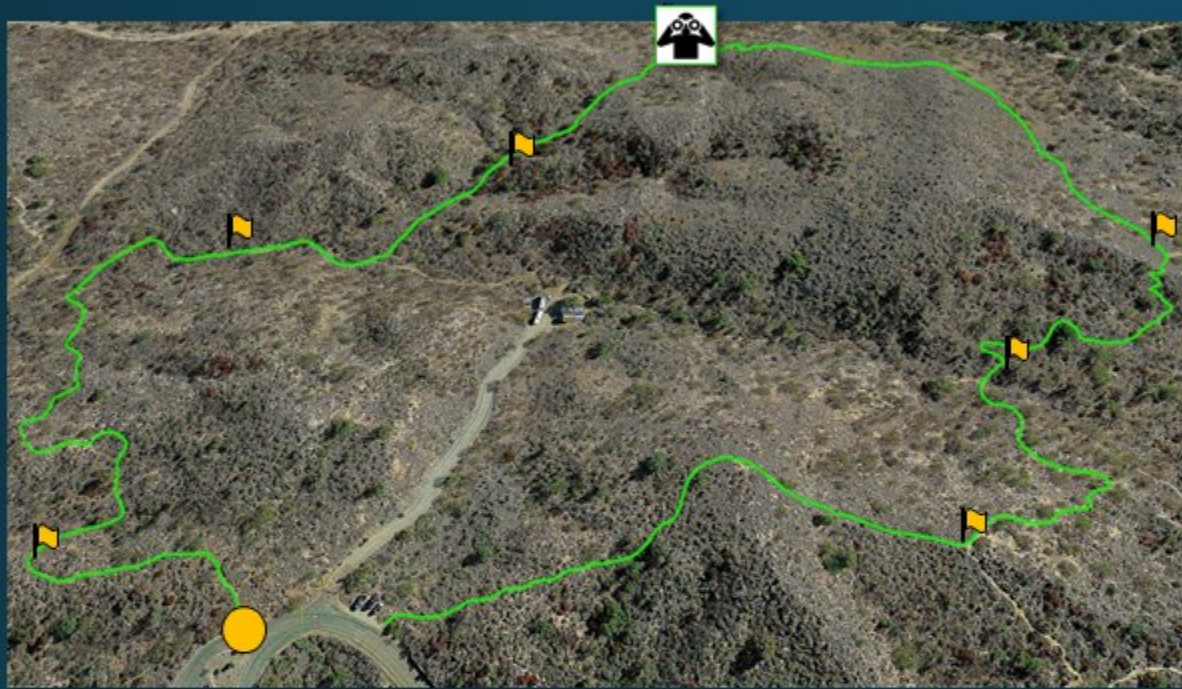
4,000 Acres at 4,500' in Oracle, Arizona
Wildlife Refuge & Environmental Education Center

Designated International Dark Sky Park
Several Intersecting Biomes
Ranching History that Started in the 1880s
Complex Geologic History

Programs, Events, & Historical Buildings
25 Miles of Trails
3 Interpretive Trails – Nature, Ranching, Geology



Nature Trail



1 Mile Loop
Plants and Animals of the Park

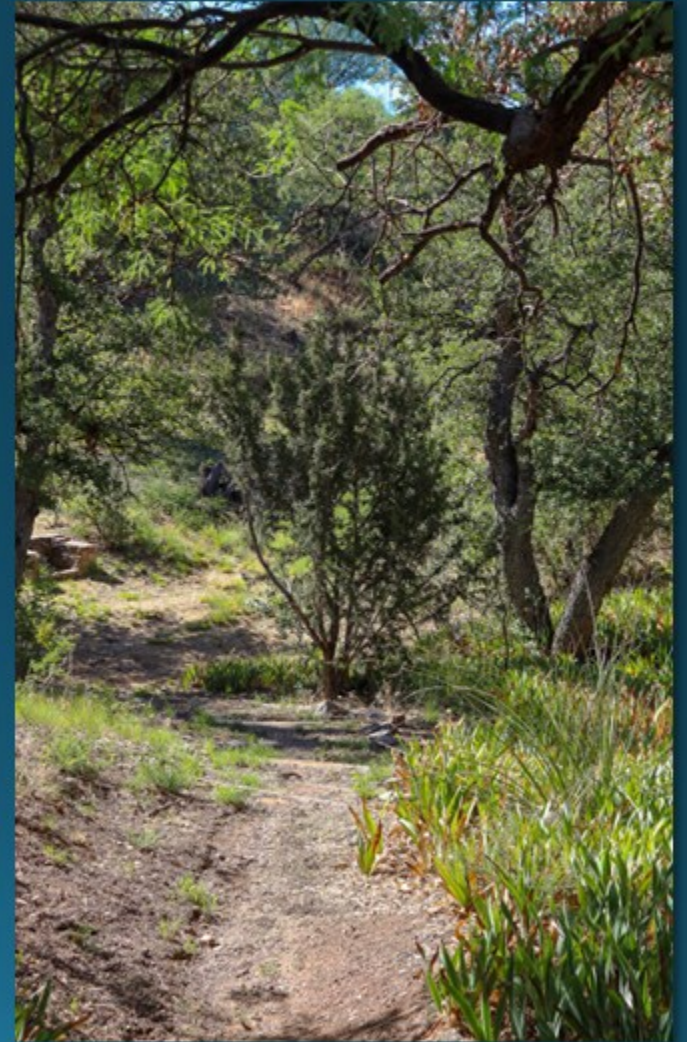
Grassland, Chaparral, & Oak Woodland Biomes
Mesquite, Cottonwood, Oak, Manzanita, & Walnut Trees



Manzanita



Lemonade Berry



New Wildlife Blind – Completed in 2022



Dedicated to the Protection of Wildlife
New Blind Built Above the Waterhole
Deer, Javelina, Hawks, Owls, Mountain Lion
Funded by the Friends of Oracle State Park



All Volunteer Partner of Oracle State Park

New Kannally Ranch Trail – Opened in 2022



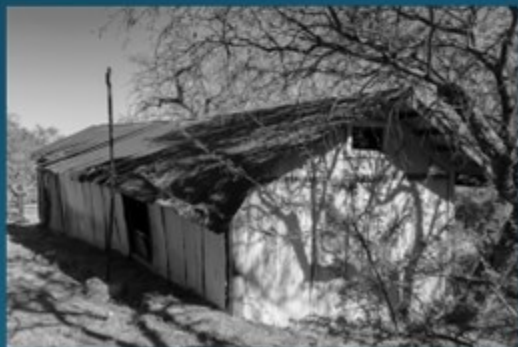
Pump House



Livestock Scale



1880's Corrals



Barn

1/2 Mile Loop Trail
Park's Ranching History

Winds Through the Kannally Ranch
Supplement to the Historic Ranch House

Kannally Ranch House



Mediterranean Revival Structure
Built by the Kannally Family in 1920s
National Register of Historic Places

Self-Guided and Ranger-Led Tours

New Geology Trail – Opened in 2022



1.2 Mile Hike Through 1.7 Billion Years of History
Highlights the Park's Unique Geologic Features

Self-Guided and Ranger-Led Tours



High Point on Geology Trail

Geologic Events That Created The Park's Rocks and Features

- 1 Molten Rock Crystallized Deep Beneath the Surface
- 2 Shallow Seas Invaded & Retreated Multiple Times
- 3 Copper, Gold, & Silver Ore Was Deposited
- 4 Significant Faults, Mountain Building, Erosion, & Filling of Deep Valleys

TODAY

20 M

66 M

252 M

541 M

1.7 B

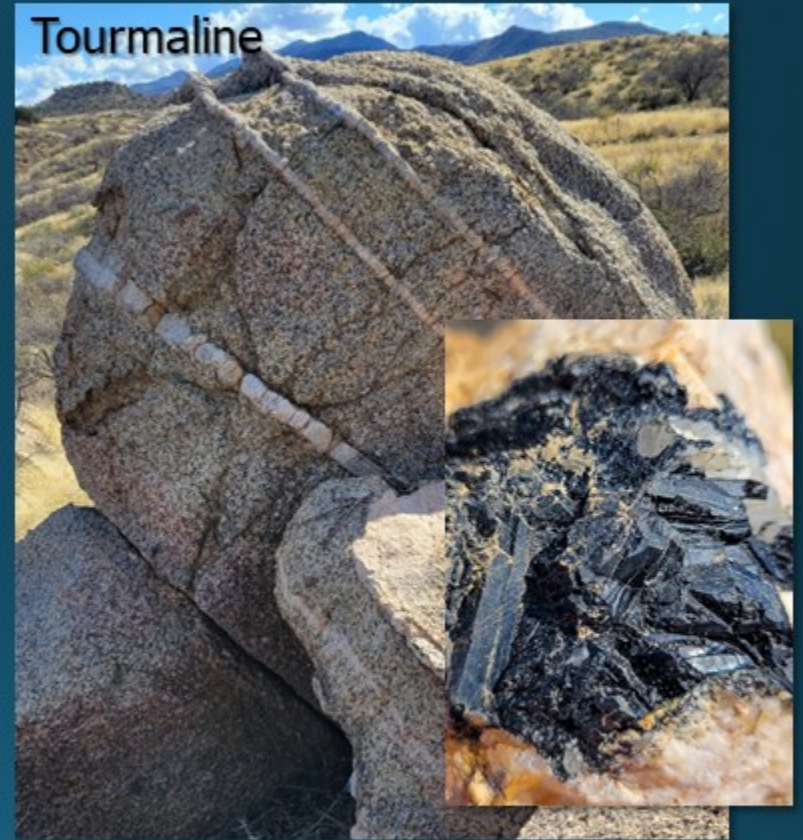
① Molten Rock Crystallized Into Igneous Intrusions



Oracle Granite
Igneous Rock
Formed Deep Below the Surface
Faults and Erosion Exposed It



Dikes
Igneous Rock
Invaded Oracle Granite
Found along Ridges



Tourmaline
Black Elongated Minerals
Carried by Hydrothermal Fluids
Found at Rock Outcrops

② Sedimentary Rocks from Near-Shore Environments



Quartzite



Barnes Conglomerate



Sandstone and Limestone – Served as a Host for Copper

Pediment Section – with Oracle Granite
Bajada Section – with Eroded Rock Fragments
Sedimentary Rocks from the Shallow Sea Period
are Found on the Park's Bajada Hills

③ Copper, Gold and Silver Was Deposited Nearby



Oracle Ridge Mine – 1930s
Located South of the Park
Early Stage of Reopening

Molten Rock Crystallized
Hydrothermal Fluids Rich in Copper, Gold,
Silver Flowed



Copper from Nearby Mines

④ Faults, Mountain Building, & Erosion



Catalina Mountains Rose 9,100' from 15 Million Years of Faulting



As Catalina Mountains Eroded, Bedrock Now Exposed as 'Inselbergs'



Last 5-6 Million Years, Erosion Continued, Kannally Conglomerate Formed

Events - Dark Sky Star Party

Oracle State Park: Arizona State Park System's 1st Designated International Dark Sky Park

In 2014, the International Dark-Sky Association determined that Oracle State Park demonstrated an *"exceptional quality of starry nights and nighttime environment that it protects for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural, and public enjoyment"*.

Dark Sky Star Party – September 21-25, 2022

- Events for Registered Attendees: \$149/Person
- Free Events for Non-Registered Visitors
- Many Events will be Live-Streamed Throughout the World
- Anticipating this will be an Annual Occurrence

Tickets, Information, & Updates: ExploreScientific.com/Events or AZStateParks.com/Oracle websites
For Additional Information, Contact Mike Weasner at mweasner@mac.com, weasner.com/co





To Visit...

Open 7 Days/Week
7am – 4pm Summer
8am – 5pm Winter

For Programs and Events:
[AZStateParks.com/Oracle](https://www.azstateparks.com/Oracle)

Phone: (520)-896-2425



To Get Involved...



Volunteer through application at AZStatePark.com/Volunteer website with a follow-up email to: Leonard Garcia, Volunteer Coordinator: lgarcia@azstateparks.gov



Arizona Trail: volunteer and learn about opportunities at aztrail.org website



Friends of OSP: join, donate, or volunteer at FriendsOracleStatePark.org

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, several large, green, flat-topped cholla cacti are prominent. The ground is covered with dry, yellowish grass and some sparse, low-lying shrubs. In the middle ground, a range of low mountains or hills stretches across the horizon. The sky is filled with large, dramatic, white and grey clouds, with patches of blue sky visible. The overall scene is a typical desert environment.

Thank You