

Wildlife and Water

You need water to survive, but so do animals! That is why it is such an important resource. Many animals depend on riparian ecosystems to survive. In fact, more than 85% of desert animals depend on riparian areas at some point in their lifecycle. There are riparian areas and other areas that provide water around and in Tucson that you can visit and look for wildlife. We have a few listed below!



Sabino Canyon

5700 N Sabino Canyon Rd
Tucson AZ 85750



Sabino Canyon is \$8 a day to park, or you can get in if you have a National Parks Pass. Sabino Canyon has a dam and a couple of seasonal streams that are accessible through paved walking trails. This is a great area to visit at night and see bats and other nocturnal creatures that depend on the water.

Sonoita Creek

150 Blue Heaven Rd,
Patagonia, AZ 85624

Sonoita Creek is a State Park with a \$15 entrance fee. It is one of the few remaining permanent riparian habitats in southern Arizona and is home to many species including endangered fish, birds, and butterflies. You may even see a coati!

Sweetwater Wetlands

2511 W Sweetwater Dr, Tucson AZ 85745

There is free parking at the park or you can get to it from the biking or walking the loop! Sweetwater wetlands is a Tucson reclaimed water project and is a great place to learn about reclaimed water as well as view some amazing wildlife. The wetlands are full of turtles, bird species, and bobcats!

Madera Canyon

Latitude: 31.727156
 Longitude: -110.880683

Madera Canyon is \$8 a day to park, or you can get in if you have a National Parks Pass. There are many trails in the canyon of varying difficulty. It is a higher elevation than Tucson and is a lush forest habitat with seasonal streams. If you bring your binoculars you just might spot an elegant trogon!



Patagonia Lake State Park

400 Patagonia Lake Rd, Nogales AZ 85621

Patagonia Lake is a State Park that has a \$15 entrance fee. The lake is about 2.5 miles long and can be used for boating or fishing. There is a sandy beach to play in and go swimming in the refreshing water. Flat, well marked hiking trails go around the lake – perfect for seeing birds, white tailed deer, and cows! It is a higher elevation so it is cooler than it is in Tucson.



How to attract wildlife to your house!

At all of these riparian areas, you will find a lot of life and many different species of animals! Although many desert animals have adapted to live in the dry desert, it helps to have a source of freshwater. Where there is water, there will be life! One of the ways that you can observe this is to put a bowl of water outside of your house or building. You can put it in your yard or on your porch! Fill this bowl with water from the tap and put a couple of rocks in it that reach past the top of the water. The rocks are there so any bugs that fall in can crawl out to safety! Once you set the water bowl out, keep an eye on it! Pretty quickly you will see animals start to use it. It could attract a small bird stopping by for a drink, or even a javelina might stop by for a sip! Make sure you change the water in your bowl every three days to prevent mosquitos from living in there!

