

Verde River Paddle Trail



Tuzigoot Bridge
to
Highway 89A Bridge





Welcome to The Verde River Paddle Trail

The Verde River Paddle Trail stretches 6.5 miles from the Tuzigoot Bridge to the Highway 89A Bridgeport Bridge. River access points are maintained by the Verde River Greenway-State Natural Area and Dead Horse Ranch State Park.

This guide is intended to help inform canoers, kayakers and other river paddlers about what to expect along this portion of the 200 mile Verde River. The guide is composed of four map segments along with a descriptive narrative. The river maps are oriented downstream from a paddler's point-of-view. A vicinity map shows how the segment maps provide coverage of each river reach.

The Verde River is a dynamic natural resource. Water levels, channel obstructions and many other factors can change on a daily basis. River recreationists are advised to practice Safe Paddling.

- Never paddle alone
- Inform friends and/or family of your paddling plans
- Check conditions before you go
- Dress appropriately for the expected weather
- Wear a life jacket
- Know your watercraft's limitations
- Paddle within your skill level
- Avoid high, swift water
- Scout any hazard about which you have doubts.
- Respect private property along the river.
- Dispose of all trash properly

For more information contact:

Dead Horse Ranch State Park:

928-634-5283

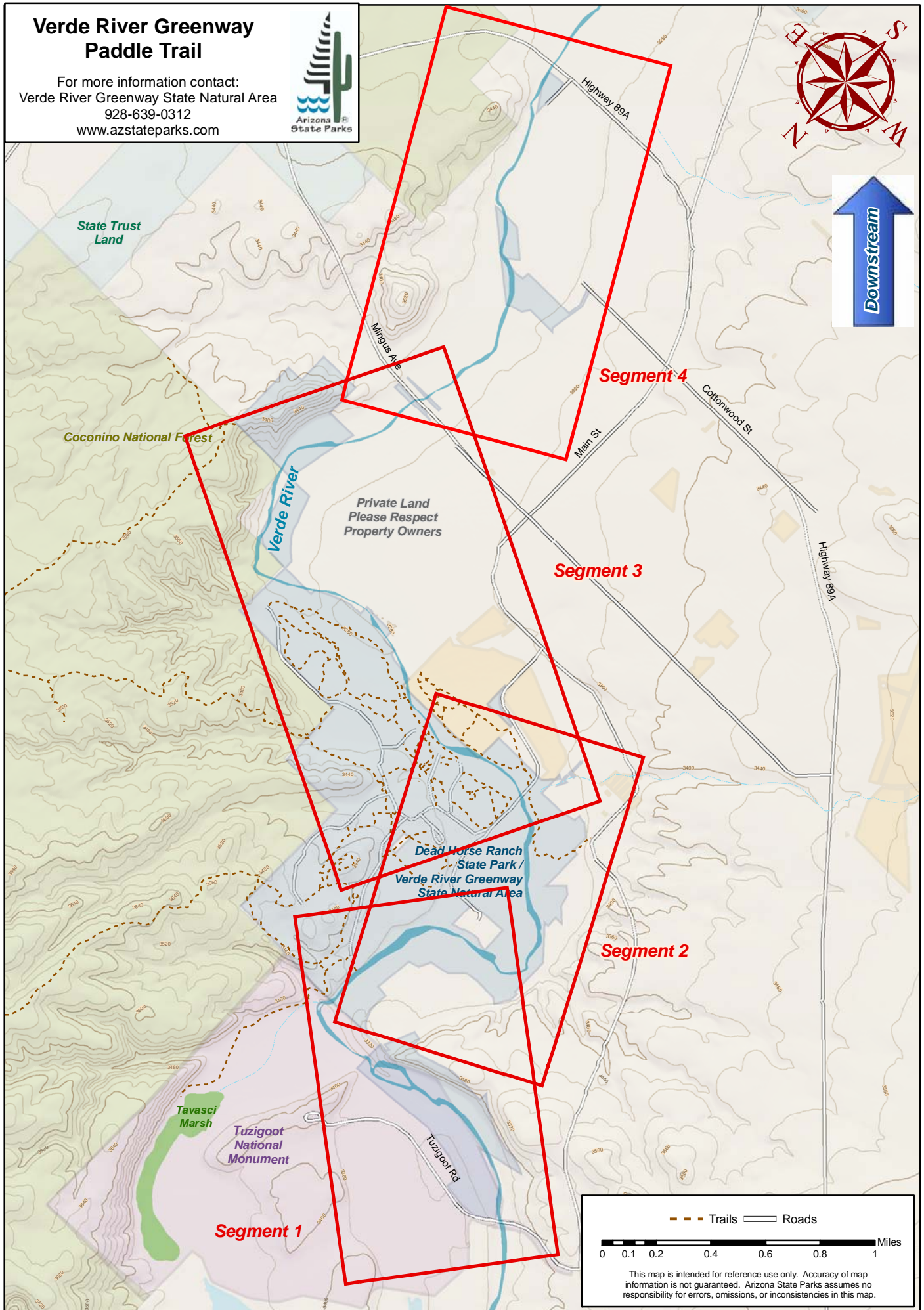
Verde River Greenway:

928-639-0312

The information provided here is for general informational purposes only and is not meant to be a statement of conditions at any one time. Conditions can vary greatly in relation to temperature, weather, water level, and other factors. All persons intending to run this river are responsible for personally assessing these conditions, as well as their own ability to cope with them. You should be aware that all recreational use of this type involves a degree of risk, and persons engaging in this activity assume the risk associated therewith. The information in this guide is used entirely at the reader's discretion, and is made available on the expressed condition that no liability, expressed or implied, is accepted by Arizona State Parks or any of its associates, employees, branches or subsidiaries for the accuracy, content or use thereof.

Verde River Greenway Paddle Trail

For more information contact:
Verde River Greenway State Natural Area
928-639-0312
www.azstateparks.com



Verde River Paddle Trail

Day use river access points for the Verde River Paddle Trail are located at:

- Tuzigoot Bridge—downstream on river left
- Near end of Flycatcher Road in Dead Horse Ranch State Park
- Dead Horse Ranch State Park River Day Use Area—Owl Road
- Upstream northwest of Highway 89A Bridge—Haydorn Lane

Shuttle distances with estimated drive & paddle times:

Begin	End	Shuttle length	Est. drive time	Est. Paddle time
Tuzigoot	Flycatcher Road	5.5 miles	10-15 minutes	1.5 Hr. L 1.0 Hr. M
Tuzigoot	DHRSP-RAP	4.5 miles	10-15 minutes	3.0 Hr. L 2.0 Hr. M
Tuzigoot	Haydorn Lane	7.0 miles	15-20 minutes	5.0 Hr. L 3.5 Hr. M
Flycatcher Road	DHRSP-RAP	1.0 mile	2-5 minutes	1.5 Hr. L 1.0 Hr. M
Flycatcher Road	Haydorn Lane	4.5 miles	15-20 minutes	4.5 Hr. L 3.0 Hr. M
DHRSP-RAP	Haydorn Lane	3.5 miles	10-15 minutes	2.0 Hr. L 1.5 Hr. M

L = Low flow conditions M = Medium flow conditions High flow paddling not recommended.

Verde River flows can vary widely during any year or season. Low flows often persist for months. Floods can occur within hours after rain on snow or following summer storms. The table below shows recent monthly mean flows.

YEAR	<i>Monthly Mean flow in cfs measured by USGS at Verde River near Clarkdale</i>											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2000	82.5	81.3	83.0	75.7	71.2	72.3	68.5	92.6	68.7	137.7	85.1	78.3
2001	79.6	79.8	232.7	75.6	70.4	68.0	74.9	83.7	72.0	87.4	77.5	73.7
2002	77.2	79.9	79.4	72.4	70.0	66.3	67.0	67.4	96.6	72.9	76.1	79.0
2003	80.0	90.3	246.3	74.1	70.5	64.8	65.2	126.4	105.0	69.6	68.1	71.7
2004	80.5	84.6	110.0	85.4	62.7	59.5	63.7	76.6	354.8	203.9	428.0	553.8
2005	2,038	2,382	213.3	86.4	81.8	76.9	75.7	82.9	74.5	78.2	82.0	85.2
2006	85.1	80.7	77.8	73.7	71.1	68.3	95.2	100	87.8			
Mean*	231	459	433	170	86	76	99	90	109	115	126	186

*The Monthly Mean values are calculated from 1915-2006.

Check real-time flow at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/az/nwis>
 Look for the "Verde River near Clarkdale" (09504000)

Additional resources:

"Verde River Recreation Guide"	Jim Slingluff	Golden West Publishers
"A Floater's Guide to the Verde River"	Bob Williams	Prescott, Arizona

112°10'W

34°45'30"N

112°1'30"W

Verde River Greenway Paddle Trail

Segment 1

For more information contact:
Verde River Greenway State Natural Area
928-639-0312
www.azstateparks.com



34°46'0"N

112°1'30"W

34°46'30"N



Private Land
Please Respect
Property Owners



	Riffle		Scout		Dam
	Ranger Station		Trees		Flume
	Parking		River Access Point		Trails
	Geologic Area of Interest				Roads



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Verde River Paddle Trail Segment #1 River Description

- Mile 0.0** The Tuzigoot Bridge was constructed in the 1960's. It has a unique geometry rarely used in normal bridge building.
- Mile 0.05** Turn right about a quarter mile east of Tuzigoot Bridge. Follow the gravel road to river access points near bridge.
- Mile 0.1** Several areas along the stream bank provide places to launch watercraft. The land on river left here is part of the Verde River Greenway.
- Mile 0.1** The large pool below the Tuzigoot Bridge provide a place for novice boaters to hone their paddling skills.
- Mile 0.25** The Hickey Ditch Diversion Dam diverts irrigation water to Dead Horse Ranch State Park. Scout on river left.
- Mile 0.25** A narrow gravel riffle runs on river left below the diversion.
- Mile 0.3** Some large boulders lie just beneath the low flow surface in this area. Watch the water carefully to find a route.
- Mile 0.65** River flow splits at the top of a large island. Both channels are normally navigable at low flows. However, the left channel provides better position for the upcoming scout.
- Mile 0.8** The Cottonwood Ditch Diversion Dam is one of the largest irrigation diversion structures along the urban stretch of the Verde River. Scout on river left.
- Mile 0.9** Trees bracket the channel not far below the diversion dam. Scout from river right.
- Mile 1.1** The Verde River turns sharply right here, creating a large braided and heavily vegetated gravel bar. Scout by from the landing in the middle of the stream channel. The water flow entering the river here is from Tavasi Marsh. Excellent views of Tuzigoot National Monument are noted here.
- Mile 1.25** Steps on river left mark the Flycatcher Rd RAP.



34°45'0"N

112°10'0"W

112°1'30"W

Verde River Greenway Paddle Trail

Segment 2

For more information contact:
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www.azstateparks.com



112°10'0"W

34°45'30"N

34°45'30"N

112°1'30"W

34°45'0"N

112°2'0"W

34°45'30"N

112°2'0"W

City of Cottonwood

Riverfront Park

3.0 Mile

Pheasant Road

Owl Road

Flycatcher Road

Dead Horse Ranch State Park / Verde River Greenway State Natural Area

Private Land Please Respect Property Owners

Private Land Please Respect Property Owners

DHR Flume

1.5 Mile

2.0 Mile

2.5 Mile



- | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|--------|
| | Scout | | Riffle | | Trees |
| | Dead Horse Ranch Ranger Station | | Parking | | Flume |
| | Geologic Feature | | River Access Point | | Trails |
| | Hazard | | Verde River Greenway Offices | | Roads |



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Verde River Paddle Trail Segment #2 River Description

- Mile 1.25** A short trail leads to the river from the Flycatcher Road parking area. Steps help boaters access the streambank.
- Mile 1.25** The pool located here is one of the longest on this portion of Verde River, generally stretching over a third of a mile.
- Mile 1.35** The pipe suspended over the river is a flume delivering irrigation water to Dead Horse Ranch State Park.
- Mile 1.65** The large pool ends with a small, shallow riffle.
- Mile 1.75** This riffle is often very shallow at low flows. Higher flows may send current into nearby trees.
- Mile 1.75** Old car bodies on river left are remnants of an erosion control technique that once enjoyed wide acceptance.
- Mile 1.9** This riffle send the current into the river right bank.
- Mile 2.0** Shallow riffle
- Mile 2.2** The stream gradient of the Verde River lessens here. Riffles in this vicinity can become very shallow and clogged.
- Mile 2.4** Heavy vegetation including cat tails, willows, reeds and cottonwoods appear to block the river channel here. Scout from river left.
- Mile 2.5** The river channel continue to be obstructed with prolific riparian species revegetating a former gravel pit. Proceed with caution and scout often.
- Mile 2.6** A cottonwood forest straddles the river channel here. Scout from river left.
- Mile 2.7** Bridge provide access to Dead Horse Ranch State Park. It was built in 1993 to replace a low water crossing.
- Mile 3.0** Dead Horse Ranch State Park River Day Use Area.



34°45'0"N

34°44'30"N

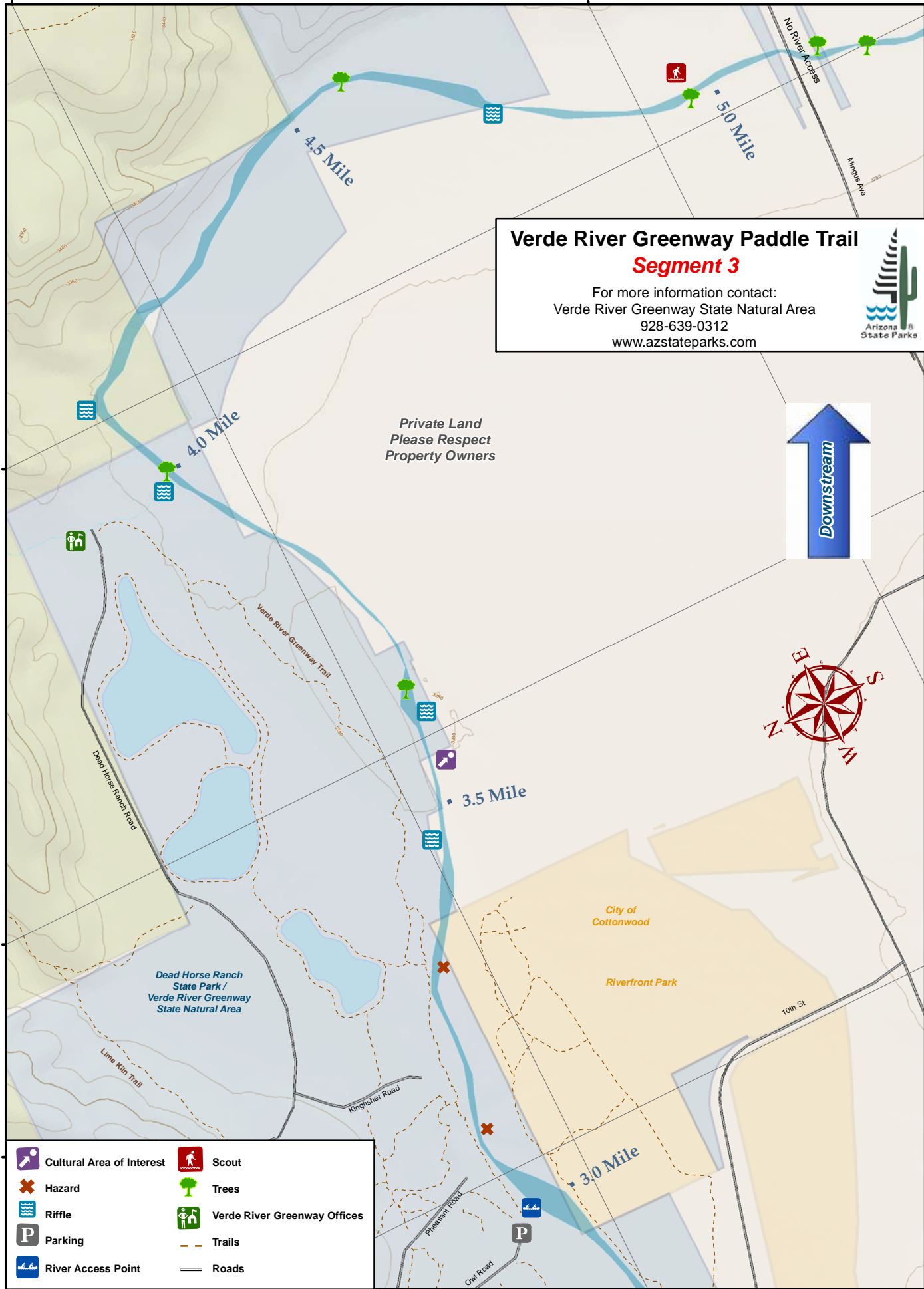
112°0'0"W

112°0'30"W

34°44'30"N

112°1'0"W

34°45'0"N



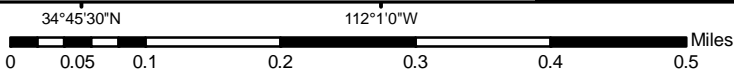
Verde River Greenway Paddle Trail
Segment 3
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Private Land
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	Cultural Area of Interest		Scout
	Hazard		Trees
	Riffle		Verde River Greenway Offices
	Parking		Trails
	River Access Point		Roads



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Verde River Paddle Trail Segment #3 River Description

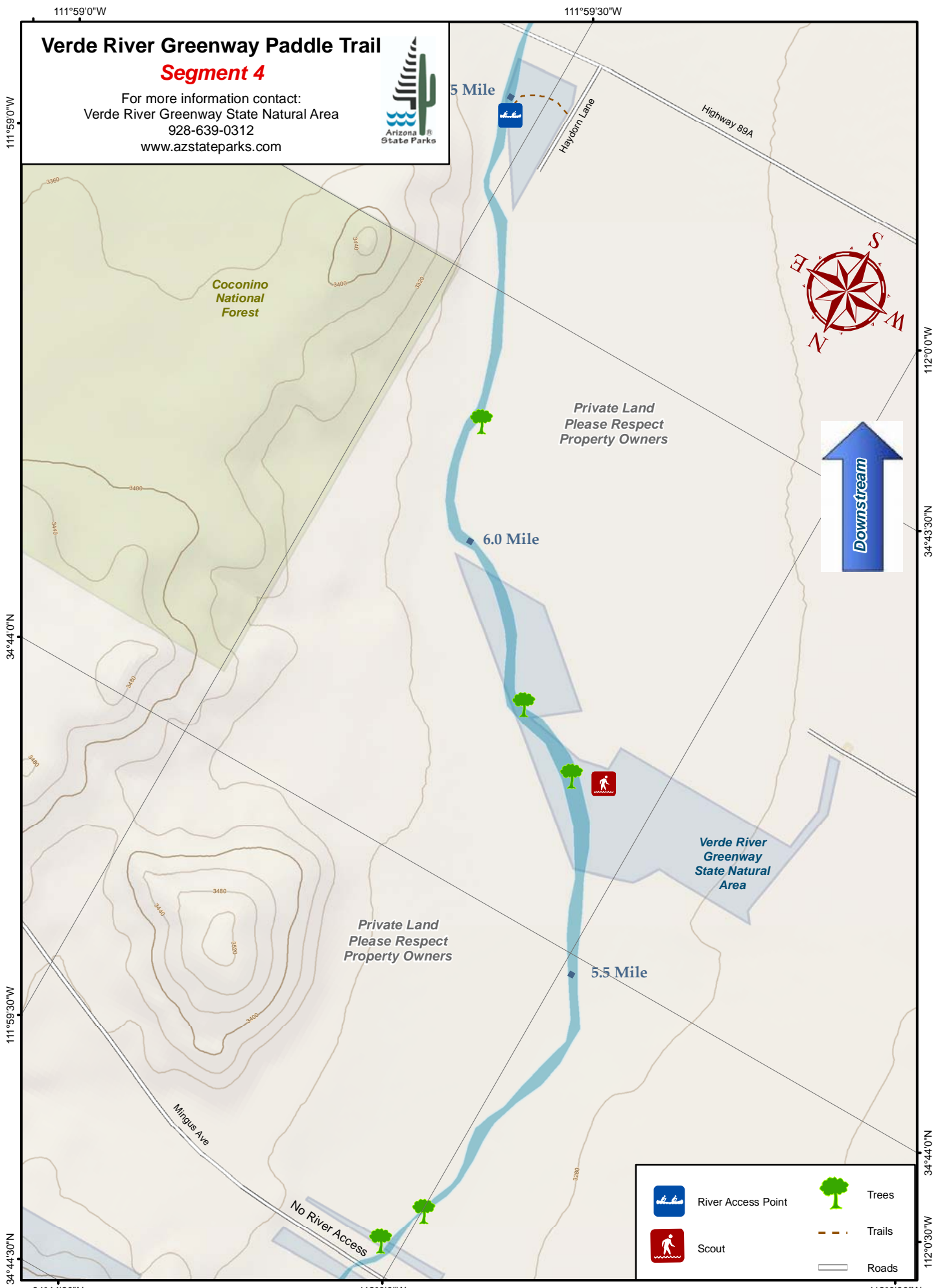
- Mile 3.0** The Dead Horse Ranch State Park River Day Use Area provides paved access, parking, restrooms and water.
- Mile 3.1** Large steel beams protrude from the river left shoreline. These are called “jacks.” They are remains of an erosion control effort that followed the 1993 flood.
- Mile 3.2** A small riffle turns sharply left amid a cat tail patch.
- Mile 3.3** This riffle turns almost 90 degrees right and send current into erosion control boulders on the shoreline. Scout left.
- Mile 3.55** River right streambank is covered with many large chunks of broken concrete. They are an erosion control method.
- Mile 3.65** River channel turns right then left. A diagonal tree grows in the middle of the turn.
- Mile 3.9** River turns sharply left in small chute between trees.
- Mile 4.0** Box Canyon Wash enters river. Summer storms can flush gravel and debris into river. Willows block left channel. Scout on right.
- Mile 4.1** River turns 90 degrees to right. Verde River Lakebed Formation exposed at river level. Deep pool is a popular fishing and swimming hole. Public land on both sides of river for almost a half mile here.
- Mile 4.5** River flows through small dogleg amid trees and brush.
- Mile 4.6** Trees on river left.
- Mile 4.7** Shallow riffle
- Mile 4.95** River does tight dogleg to left. Current washes into gravel cutbank on river right. Trees and debris can clog narrow chute. Scout from river left.
- Mile 5.1** Mingus Avenue Extension Bridge.



Verde River Greenway Paddle Trail

Segment 4

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	River Access Point		Trees
	Scout		Trails
			Roads



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Verde River Paddle Trail Segment #4 River Description

- Mile 5.1 The Mingus Avenue Extension Bridge was completed in 2005 at a total cost of \$20-million. There is NO public river access on either side of the river at this crossing.
- Mile 5.1 The river bends sharply right under the Mingus Bridge. The current flows into a tree and debris pile on river left.
- Mile 5.2 A tree on river left extends branches into the channel.
- Mile 5.3 A small gravel bar can be shallow at low flow.
- Mile 5.4 This large, still pool can be slow going with headwinds.
- Mile 5.65 River enters a VRG-SNA parcel.
- Mile 5.75 A large island gravel bar provides two channels. Paddle into the pool on river left to scout from the island. The left channel often features one or more log obstructions as well as beaver-chewed tree stumps.
Please Respect Private Property on river left.
- Mile 6.0 Current in small riffle pushes toward left bank.
- Mile 6.15 River flows into trees on right stream bank. The pool here is normally big enough to allow space to avoid trees.
- Mile 6.25 Easy going paddling as end of Paddle Trail approaches.
- Mile 6.4 Nice riffle below bluff on river left.
- Mile 6.5 The Verde River Paddle Trail River Access Point is on river right. The take out is marked with a brown carsonite sign. The stream bank is often slippery. Boats and river gear must be carried about 100 yards along a sandy trail leading west to Haydorn Lane. Vehicle parking is allowed near the large gate fronting Haydorn Lane. The 1993 Flood damaged structures once located at this site. The land was subsequently acquired by the State of Arizona for the Verde River Greenway-State Natural Area.

The Haydorn Lane RAP is Day Use Only.

