The Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor was identified in an Arizona Game and Fish funded study in 2006 as an important corridor for black bear, mule deer, mountain lion and the endangered jaguar moving between northern Mexico and the Arizona Sky Islands. While most of the corridor is on national forest land, the corridor passes through a two-mile wide stretch of private land along AZ Highway 82 just north of Patagonia.

That same year, the Arizona Department of Real Estate approved the sale of 189 lots in the newly-platted Three Canyons subdivision under construction in the heart of the wildlife corridor. Paved roads and electricity were installed in Phase I located in the southern part of the subdivision. Of the 66 Phase I lots, 16 lots were sold before a bank foreclosure halted development in 2008.

In 2014 a group of investors intent on protecting critical wildlife habitat seized the opportunity to purchase the remaining 173 lots of the stalled housing project for the expressed purpose of setting most of the land aside as an integral part of the Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor. They formed Wildlife Corridors, LLC with a plan to sell just 24 of the Phase I lots and retire the development rights on the remaining 149 lots, thereby creating the 1200 acre Borderlands Wildlife Preserve and the re-named Wildlife Haven residential neighborhood. You are invited to respectfully enjoy the preserve’s beauty and bounty by following our guidelines.
Please park in designated areas only.

Please respect private property and stay on the designated roads and trails.

Dogs are not permitted on the trails, or on Foxtail Lane. Dogs are permitted on the paved roads but must be leashed at all times.

Horses and bikes are permitted only on the Cross Corridor and Arizona Trail.

Motorized vehicles of any kind are not permitted on the hiking trails.

Firearms, overnight camping and hunting are prohibited throughout the preserve, the Wildlife Haven residential neighborhood, and the buffer zone.

When hiking in the preserve, take plenty of water, sun protection and leave no trace of your use. There are no trash receptacles in the preserve, please pack out what you pack in.

TRAILS

While visiting the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve take time to explore the following trails.

Smith Canyon Loop Trail, 2.29 mi/3.67 km: This gentle two-mile trail traverses both ridges of Smith Canyon. Two side trails on the south ridge lead to benches overlooking watering stations used by wildlife living in or passing through the corridor. Your chances of seeing wildlife will be greatly enhanced if you sit still and quietly enjoy the beauty and solitude of this magnificent landscape.

Cross Corridor Trail, 2.06 mi/3.3 km: This trail is both a hiking and equestrian trail that when completed will provide access to the Arizona Trail. Access is through the Smith Canyon gate opposite Dragonfly Pond.

Connector Trail, .52 mi/.83 km: This trail links the Smith Canyon Loop Trail and the Cross Corridor Trail.

As you enjoy these surroundings, we invite you to partner with us in respecting and protecting the plants and animals who inhabit this treasured land. Please practice good stewardship by observing these simple rules as you enjoy the preserve’s beauty and peacefulness:

The Sky Islands, encompassing more than thirty mountain ranges, are recognized as a globally-significant biodiversity hotspot, however, the valleys connecting the ranges are highly threatened by development and fragmentation. As a segment of the larger Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor, the 1200 acre Borderlands Wildlife Preserve is protected and managed to conserve critical wildlife habitat, and to maintain a route for migratory species.