

Fossil Creek Vaulted Toilet Fact Sheet

Additional Key Information

- **VEHICLES:** High-clearance vehicles are recommended to travel from Highway 260 down a 14-mile rough dirt road on Forest Road 708 to the main entrance to the Fossil Creek corridor. It is not uncommon for standard passenger vehicles to incur flat tires on the rugged roadway.
- **COST:** The \$6 permit fee is non-refundable (except when Forest Service closes the road due to weather). If you are not able to use your permit, please cancel it online to make your parking space available for others.
- **PERMIT TYPE:** Three permit types are available to reserve: 1. Vehicle Parking (includes Waterfall Trailhead, Irving, Tonto Bench, Fossil Creek Bridge, Homestead, Sally May, Purple Mountain, and Mazatzal parking lots), 2. Park and Hike (Fossil Springs Trailhead), and 3. Horse Trailer Parking (Fossil Springs Trailhead).
- **PERMIT DOCUMENTATION:** People reserving a permit must print their permit IN ADVANCE to place on their dashboards upon entrance to Fossil Creek. Permits can be printed immediately upon making a reservation online. The confirmation email the customer receives is NOT the permit. Day-use permits are only required April 1 to October 1 in 2017, meaning the public can park on a first-come, first-served basis and without a permit from October 2 to March 31.
- **AT THE GATE:** No permits are sold or able to be printed on site. Email confirmations or phone images of the permit will not suffice. Visitors must have a paper copy of their permit to enter.
- **CLOSED PORTION OF 708:** A four-mile section of Forest Road 708 from the Fossil Springs Trailhead to the Waterfall Trailhead is closed to vehicle travel due to unsafe road conditions; therefore, it is not possible to drive in one entrance and out the other (from Camp Verde to Strawberry or vice versa). The only direct access to Fossil Creek by vehicle is from the Camp Verde side.
- **FOSSIL SPRINGS HIKE:** Those intending to hike the Fossil Springs Trail must drive in through the Strawberry entrance. The strenuous hike to Fossil Springs is four miles one way over an old, exposed jeep trail with an elevation change of approximately 1,500 feet. Summer daytime temperatures regularly exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit. No water is available along the trail, so hikers should carry one gallon of water per person and wear proper hiking shoes. This hike should not be used to access the Waterfall area or middle Fossil Creek.
- **CAMPING:** No camping is allowed within the Fossil Creek Permit Area during the April 1 to October 1 permit reservation season. However, camping is allowed from October 2 through March 31 downstream of Fossil Creek Bridge (at Mazatzal, Purple Mountain, Sally May, and Homestead) and upstream of the historic dam site in the backcountry.
- **RULES and REGULATIONS:** There is no garbage service at Fossil Creek. Whatever you bring into Fossil Creek must be taken out when you leave. Campfires, charcoal grills and all glass containers are prohibited year-round. Gas operated grills and stoves are allowed.