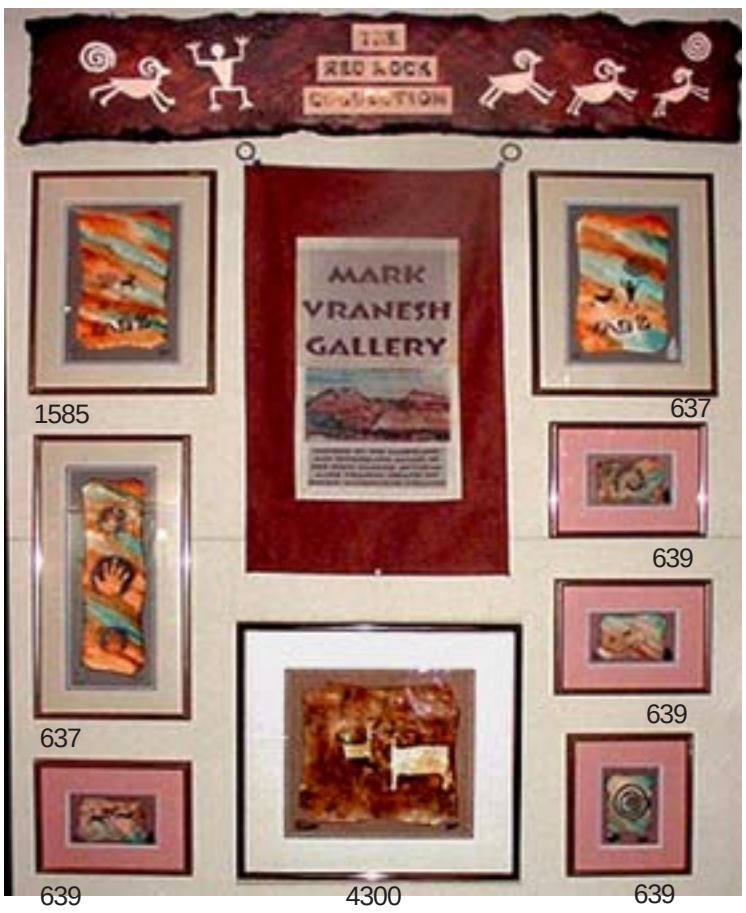
Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association

HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas NV 89124 PHONE: 866-302-7625
Our staff is available to assist you 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. PST daily.

ROCK ART FOR YOUR WALLS!



Framed Art

639 .....8 x 10.....$ 65.00 * # 637.....10 x 20.....$ 165.00
4300...16 x 16.....$ 200.00 * # 1585...12 x 16.....$ 145.00

Images may vary. Many other sizes available!

Featured Artist - *Mark Vranesh*

About the Artist....."Art is where my heart is" says Mark Vranesh, a Las Vegas artist whose work is featured in our Book and Gift Store. Inspired by the landscapes and petroglyph images found at Red Rock Canyon, Mark creates his watercolors using a cotton-based paper over a form and painting his watercolors on the canvas. The finished product looks as though the image was painted on rock. Recognized by the Las Vegas Review Journal as *Best Local Artist* in Las Vegas for 2001, Vranesh's unique petroglyph art has also been featured on QVC's tour of Nevada.

Below is the newest addition to the Mark Vranesh Gallery!

Call 866-302-7625 to place an order or to make inquiries.

ROCK ART TO WEAR!

Make every T-Shirt a work of art - *Rock Art!*
Transferglyphs [Iron-Ons]
710 ..... $ 5.95

Red Dirt Cap
125....$ 17.00

Tonal T	green	maroon	eggplant	
Small	4032	4033	4034	$ 17.95
Medium	2569	2577	2967	$ 17.95
Large	2570	2578	2851	$ 17.95
XLarge	2571	2579	2852	$ 17.95
XXLarge	2572	2580	2853	$ 18.95

Red Dirt Petro T-Shirt
Adult Sizes: M, L, XL $23.00, XXLarge $26.00

ROCK ART TO EXPLORE!

Here is a list of a few petroglyph themed books and related items:

NATIVE AMERICAN ROCK ART # 402	$ 17.95
LEGACY ON STONE # 409	$ 15.95
ROCK ART SYMBOLS # 3439	$ 15.95
Rock-Art of the Southwest # 1984	$ 14.95
Prehistoric ROCK ART # 2790	$ 14.95
PETROGLYPHS [Easy Field Guide] # 427	$ 1.50
ART on the ROCKS [15 postcards] # 710	$ 3.95

Please visit the
Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association
on the web at www.redrockcanyonlv.org.
Follow the shopping link to see items unique to Red Rock Canyon. Remember all proceeds go directly to

Red Rock Canyon.

Featured Trail . . . Pine Creek Canyon

Starting point: Pine Creek Canyon parking lot, 10 mi (18 km) on the scenic drive.
Level of difficulty: moderate, 300 ft (90m) elevation gain.
Distance: 3 mi (4.8 km), 1.5 hours roundtrip.
Features: seasonal creek and waterfalls, a homestead site, pine trees, some tricky rock scrambling in the canyon, not a loop.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area offers 19 trails that span more than 40 miles (64 km) of breathtaking Mojave Desert scenery. When deciding where to hike, it is important to find a trail that best suits your interests and abilities. We recommend the hike to Pine Creek Canyon.

The Pine Creek Canyon Trail is not far north of the old Spanish Trail which once carried travelers from Sante Fe, New Mexico to Los Angeles, California. In the early 1920s, homesteaders Horace and Glenna Wilson settled in among the pine trees below this canyon and built their home. Because of the presence of reliable water, they were able to plant a large garden and orchard. In 1933, the Wilsons left Pine Creek to reside in Las Vegas. The site was abandoned and later vandalized. Today portions of the foundations of this structure can be seen. In 1969 the movie, "The Stalking Moon" with Gregory Peck was filmed in the homestead area.

The Pine Creek Trail is named after the Ponderosa Pine tree, which is found along the creek. These trees are a bit out of place, growing at an altitude lower than they are usually found. Snow and rain feed the creek that runs through the area and provides enough moisture for these trees to survive.

The canyon itself lies at the base of the western escarpment of the Spring Mountains, rising 7,000 feet (2,121 meters) above sea level. The escarpment was formed because of the *Keystone Thrust Fault*. This thrust fault was a fracture in the Earth's crust where one crustal plate was driven over the top of another caused by compressional forces. The result is that the oldest rocks (limestone) rest directly above the youngest rocks (sandstone).

BLM Archive Photo

The Wilson ranch in Pine Creek Canyon - 1934

There are a number of ways you should prepare yourself for hiking at Red Rock Canyon. Make your first stop at the visitor center for current trail and weather conditions. Avoid washes and low lying areas when flood conditions are present. Temperatures in the Mojave Desert can be extreme so be sure to dress appropriately with sturdy walking shoes and a hat to protect your head from exposure. During the summer, start early and avoid hiking during the middle of the day. Drinking water is not available on the scenic drive or at trailheads, so be sure to take plenty with you, up to one quart per person per mile. Always be aware of your abilities and try not to exceed them. Be alert for snakes during the morning and early evening hours when the temperatures are cooler.

Regardless of the trail you choose, remember to have fun! Red Rock Canyon is Southern Nevada's premiere spot for outdoor recreation. You can only appreciate Red Rock Canyon by going out and experiencing it first hand. Remember to leave only footprints and take home plenty of pictures. Have a great time hiking Red Rock Canyon!

Wild Horses and Burros ... A Legacy of the West

"*Congress finds and declares that wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West, that they contribute to the diversity of life forms with the Nation and enrich the lives of the American People...*"
(excerpt from a 1971 Public Law).

Visitors to Red Rock Canyon often ask where and what kind of animals they may see during their visit. As you may quickly learn, animals living in the desert are quite unpredictable in their habits and behaviors. You may however, have the opportunity to see wild horses or wild burros during your visit.

photo by Brian L. Buttazoni

Wild burros

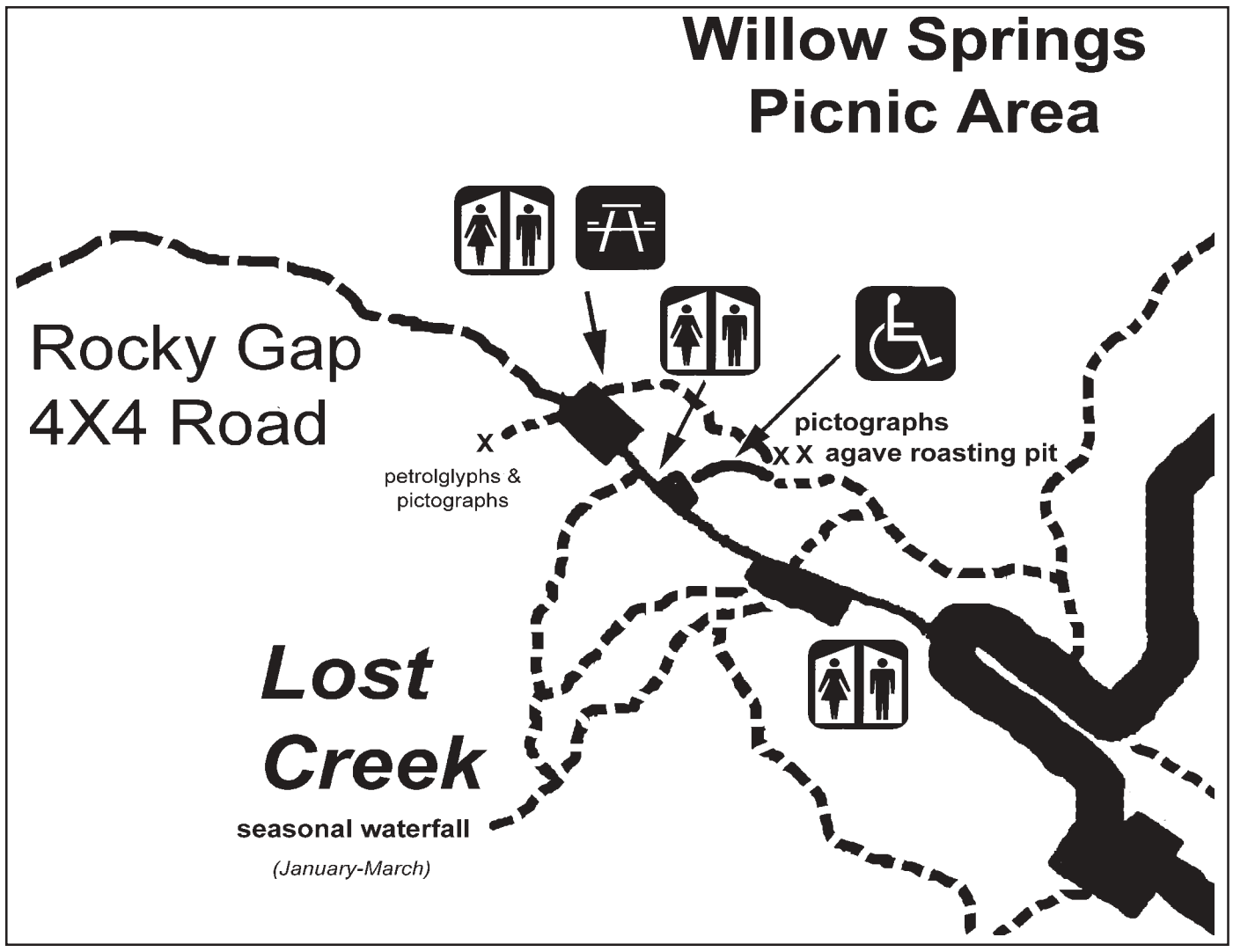
When gold was discovered in the Colorado River Valley and California in the mid-1800s, prospectors brought with them wild burros. When the ore played out, mines were shut down, and the camps turned into ghost towns. Some burros wandered off or were turned loose, left to fend for themselves in the harsh, arid environment. Wild horses date back to the days of Christopher Columbus and Hernando Cortez, Italian and Spanish explorers who brought horses to North America.

In the late 1950s, Velma Johnston of Nevada (later to become known as Wild Horse Annie), raised concerns about the ruthless and indiscriminate manner in which wild horses and burros were being harvested from public rangelands for commercial purposes. Enough public concern and outcry had been raised that the U.S. Congress passed a law titled, *The Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971*. This law fully protected wild horses and burros from capture, branding, harassment and hunting. The law further directed that land managers could remove, and place into adoption, animals that pose a threat to their habitat or themselves.

Nationwide, there are some 43,000 wild horses and 5,000 wild burros that inhabit public rangelands. Many rangelands cannot sustain unchecked wild horse and burro population growth. In 2001, through the adoption program, 6,000 horses and 1,500 burros were placed into private ownership. Adoption is the best tool the Bureau of Land Management has for providing humane care for animals removed from the range. Horses and burros not of adoption age are pastured at long-term holding facilities.

In July of 2002, most wild horses were rounded up in the Red Rock Canyon area due to severe drought conditions. Many were put into adoption, and others were later returned to the range when winter rains improved the range conditions.

Exploring Lost Creek and Willow Springs



Trails

The Lost Creek area is a major starting point for several trails including: La Madre Springs, White Rock and the Lost Creek - Children's Discovery Trail. It is also the starting point for the Rocky Gap Road, a 4X4 road that traverses the western escarpment and drops into Lovell Canyon. From the summit of this road you can hike to the top of Bridge Mountain. Check at the visitor center for more information on this road or the trail to Bridge Mountain.

Lost Creek - Children's Discovery Trail: easy, 3/4 mi (1.2 km), 25 minute loop

The Lost Creek Trail starts at the first parking lot on the left when you drive up the road to the Willow Springs Picnic Area. It is a wonderful place to explore because of the variety of plant life and a number of cultural sites. If you take this trail between January and March you may see a small waterfall.

Although rated as easy because of its length, this is not a flat trail. A portion of this trail is a boardwalk, constructed in 2002 by the Friends of Red Rock Canyon group to reduce impacts to the streamside vegetation.

On the trail, there is one degraded cultural site that contained pictographs. It is a reminder to all that these are finite resources that can easily be lost by carelessness.

Petroglyph Trail: easy, .1 mi (.16 km), 10 minutes

This trail starts on the west side of the Willow Springs Picnic Area. The Petroglyph Trail is a easy and short trail that takes you to a rock face that has both petroglyphs and pictographs. Like the site on the Lost Creek Trail, this site shows the impacts on fragile cultural resources by carelessness.

When visiting cultural sites remember to tread lightly, do not deface these places, take only photos and memories home!

Cultural Resources

Agave Roasting Pits

Agave roasting pits are probably the most common cultural resource in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. They are circular areas with firecracked and whitened limestone. They can vary in size up to six feet in diameter. Roasting pits were used to cook various foods including agave hearts, desert tortoise and other plant and animal foods. The limestone rocks were heated by fire and then used to cook foods. After heating, the limestone was raked aside and replaced with new rocks. This process caused a circular ring of rocks to grow with continued use.

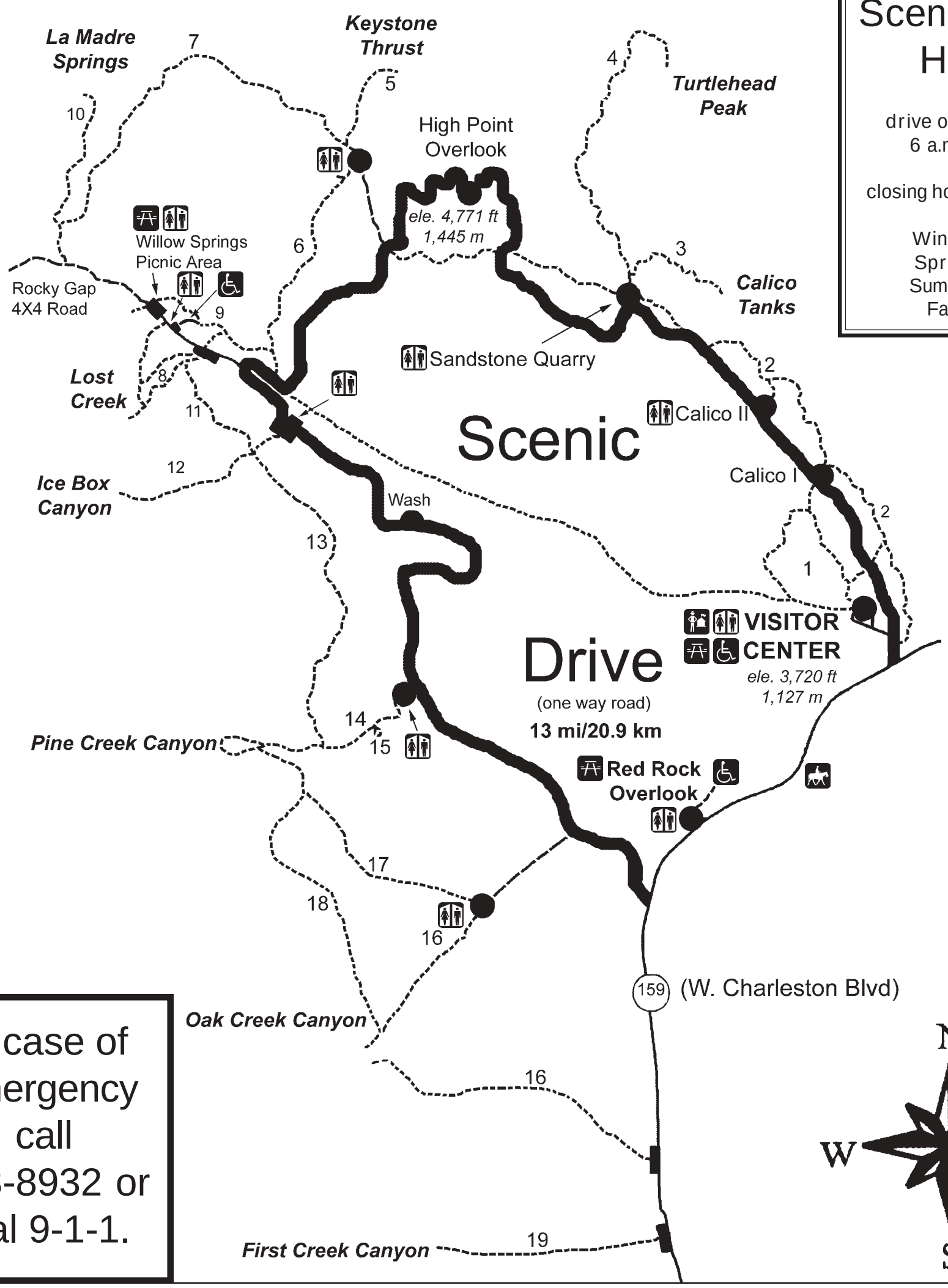
Rock Art - Petroglyphs vs. Pictographs

There are two forms of rock art in Red Rock Canyon: petroglyphs and pictographs. The main difference between the two types is the manner in which they were made. *Petroglyphs* were pecked into the surface of the rock. A coating of dark *desert varnish* is the best medium for petroglyphs, providing a contrast to make the images easily visible. *Pictographs* were painted on the rock using various colored paints made from flowers, plant bark and roots. Between the Lost Creek Trail parking lot and Willow Springs Picnic Area there is a short paved trail about two hundred feet in length (fully accessible by wheelchairs) that leads you to a site where you can view six handprints that were painted on the side of a large sandstone boulder about 800 years ago.

Cultural sites are irreplaceable and it is up to all of us to ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to visit these sites intact.

SCENIC DRIVE AND HIKING TRAIL MAP

1. **Moenkopi**
2. **Calico Hills**
3. **Calico Tanks**
4. **Turtlehead Peak**
5. **Keystone Thrust**
7. **White Rock - La Madre Springs Loop**
8. **Lost Creek - Children's Discovery**
9. **Willow Springs Loop**
10. **La Madre Springs**
11. **SMYC (Spring Mountain Youth Camp)**
12. **Ice Box Canyon**
13. **Dale's**
14. **Pine Creek Canyon**
15. **Fire Ecology**
16. **Oak Creek Canyon**
17. **Arnight**
18. **Knoll**
19. **First Creek Canyon**



Scenic Drive Hours

drive opens daily at
6 a.m. all-year

closing hours as follows:

Winter 5 p.m.
Spring 7 p.m.
Summer 8 p.m.
Fall 7 p.m.

In case of emergency call 293-8932 or dial 9-1-1.

KEYSTONE
HIKING TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS

trail name	level of difficulty and gain	approximate round-trip time and distance	description
1. **Moenkopi**	easy 300 ft (90 m)	45 minutes 2 mi (3.2 km)	This loop trail starts to the west of the visitor center near a weather station. It offers panoramic views of the Calico Hills, the Spring Mountains and La Madre Mountains.
2. **Calico Hills**	easy-moderate 400 ft (120 m)	1-3 hours 2-6 mi (3.2-9.6 km)	This trail can be accessed by parking at either Calico I, Calico II or near the entrance station. This trail offers access to sport climbing areas and the best close-up views of the Calico Hills.
3. **Calico Tanks**	moderate 450 ft (140 m)	1.5 hours 2.5 mi (4 km)	This trail starts at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot. It winds up a wash, and at the top there may be seasonal water present in a natural tank (*tinaja*).
4. **Turtlehead Peak**	difficult 1,700 ft (500m)	3 hours 5 mi (8 km)	This trail starts at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot. It follows the shoulder of the peak up to the top (6,721 ft). The trail is intermittent and composed of loose rock.
5. **Keystone Thrust**	moderate 400 ft (120m)	1 hour 2.2 mi (3.5 km)	This trail is accessed from the upper White Rock parking lot. It takes you to the most significant geologic feature of Red Rock Canyon - the *Keystone Thrust*.
6. **White Rock-Willow Springs**	easy 200 ft (60 m)	2 hours 4.4 mi (7 km)	This trail starts at either the upper White Rock Springs parking lot, or at the Willow Springs Picnic Area.
7. **White Rock/ La Madre Springs Loop**	moderate 890 ft (270 m)	3 hours 6 mi (9.6 km)	This trail can be started at three places: the upper White Rock Springs parking lot, the Lost Creek Trail parking lot, or Willow Springs Picnic Area. The north side of White Rock Mountain is one of the best areas for viewing bighorn sheep. You can connect to the La Madre Springs Trail to see an all-year spring.
8. **Lost Creek - Children's Discovery**	easy 200 ft (60 m)	25 minutes 0.75 mi (1.2 km)	This easy trail is wonderful place to explore because of the variety of plant life and a number of cultural sites. Depending on the season, there may be a waterfall (*Jan-Mar*). Also look for a pictograph and agave roasting pit site. *Although easy this is not a level trail.*
9. **Willow Springs Loop**	easy 200 ft (60 m)	45 minutes 1.5 mi (2.4 km)	This trail can be started at either the Willow Springs Picnic Area or Lost Creek Trail parking lot. The trail passes several pictograph and agave roasting pit sites.
10. **La Madre Springs**	moderate 400 ft (120 m)	1.5 hours 3.3 mi (5.2 km)	This trail starts at the Willow Springs parking lot. The first segment involves walking up part of the 4X4 Rocky Gap Road. These springs are a good place to watch for wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep.
11. **SMYC**	moderate 300 ft (90 m)	1 hour 2.2 mi (3.5 km)	This trail can be accessed at either the Lost Creek or Ice Box Canyon Trail parking lot. It follows the terrain at the base of the escarpment and connects the two trails.
12. **Ice Box Canyon**	moderate 300 ft (90 m)	1.5 hours 2.6 mi (4.1 km)	The parking lot for this trail is at mile eight on the scenic drive. This trail crosses open desert then enters the canyon. Unimproved trails into the canyon requires some tricky rock scrambling where there may be seasonal waterfalls (*Jan-Mar*).
13. **Dale's**	moderate 300 ft (90 m)	2 hours 4.4 mi (7 km)	This trail can be accessed from either the Ice Box or Pine Creek Canyon trailheads. It follows the terrain at the base of the escarpment and connects the two trails.
14. **Pine Creek Canyon**	easy-moderate 300 ft (90 m)	1.5 hours 3 mi (4.8 km)	The parking lot for this trail is at mile 10 on the scenic drive. This popular trail takes you across the open desert, past a homestead site, and into the canyon. Unimproved trails into the canyon requires some tricky rock scrambling where you may find seasonal waterfalls (*Jan-Mar*).
15. **Fire Ecology**	easy 200 ft (60 m)	25 minutes 0.75 mi (1.2 km)	This trail starts by taking Pine Creek Canyon Trail. It is a short figure eight trail that goes through a desert area where a controlled burn had been set in 1997.
16. **Oak Creek Canyon**	easy-moderate 200 ft (60 m)	1 hour 2 mi (3.2 km)	To access this trailhead, take the Oak Creek turnoff from the scenic drive onto a dirt road. The trail then heads through open desert to the mouth of the canyon. Unimproved trails lead deeper into the canyon.
17. **Arnight**	moderate 300 ft (90 m)	1 hour 2.4 mi (3.8 km)	This trail can be started at the Oak Creek Canyon parking lot or by hiking the Pine Creek Canyon Trail. It then connects the Oak Creek parking lot with the end loop of the Pine Creek Canyon Trail.
18. **Knoll**	moderate 300 ft (90 m)	2 hours 3.5 mi (5.6 km)	The shortest and easiest way to access this trail is by taking the Oak Creek Canyon Trail. This trail links the upper section of the Arnight Trail with the Oak Creek Canyon Trail, following the base of the escarpment.
19. **First Creek Canyon**	easy-moderate 300 ft (90 m)	1.5 hours 3 mi (4.8 km)	The trailhead is on Hwy 159 (W. Charleston Blvd.) 2.6 miles (4.1 km) southwest of the entrance to the scenic drive. This trail leads to the mouth of the canyon. Seasonal streams and waterfalls can be found deep in the canyon on unimproved trails (*Jan-Mar*).

2nd Annual Red Rock Canyon Poetry Contest

Last spring, the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association sponsored a poetry contest for local 3rd through 6th grade elementary school students. The poems were in traditional Japanese Haiku style about the Mojave Desert. The poems were judged and top placed winners received certificates and other prizes.

For more information on the 2nd Annual Poetry Contest call the visitor center at 702-515-5350 or log onto the Interpretive Association website at www.redrockcanyonlv.org.

Here are a few samples of some of this year's contest winners:

Overall and first place winner Jacob Jimmerson was presented a certificate by Interpretive Association Naturalist Janis Kadlec and Park Ranger Kate Sorom on May 10, 2003 for his winning Hiaku.

RRCIA photo

Spring's sagebrush blooms hope
Before the blistering heat
Nature's will to live

- Jacob Jimmerson, Overall & 1st Place winner
the Meadows Elementary School
3rd Grade

Golden eagle fly
Soar up in the desert sky
We share your freedom

- James Mc Geough, 2nd Place winner
St. Anne Elementary School 4th Grade

Poisonous stinger
Creeps around the dark desert
Fabulous creatures

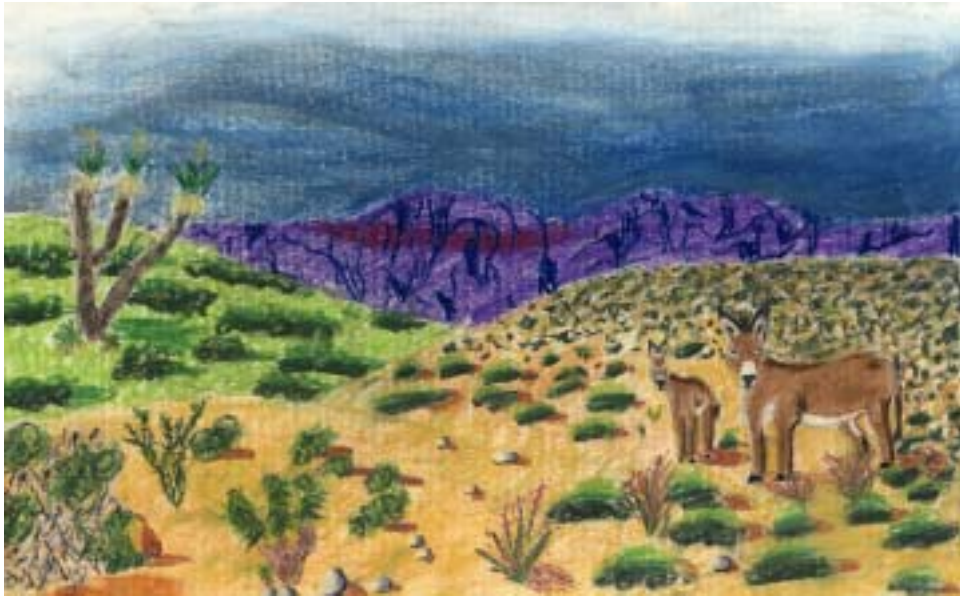
- Damian Orgill, 2nd Place winner
Martin Luther King Jr.
Elementary School 3rd Grade

4th Annual Red Rock Canyon Art Contest

This spring the Bureau of Land Management, Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association and Friends of Red Rock Canyon are sponsoring the 4th Annual Art Contest. The contest is open to local middle and high school students (6-12th grades). This annual contest is to get local kids interested in learning about and experiencing the desert they live in, and showing it through art.

Contest rules include: any two-dimensional format (paint, crayon, chalk etc); no photography. Artwork must be 12"x18" in size, matted with 2.5" x 2.5" border in white or light beige color. Artwork must be original and not violate U.S. copyright law. **Entries must be received on or before March 6, 2004**. This year's theme is "Mojave Endangered and Threatened Species." All plants and animals depicted in the art work must be native to the Mojave Desert. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

For more information, call the visitor center at 702-515-5350.



2003-2004 Annual Pass, 1st Place Winner Color
Elizabeth Wright, 7th grade