

http://tucson.com/news/local/tumamoc-hill-to-be-opened-during-the-day-for-walkers/article_e8687fc9-171c-5fea-8ff8-27d9d0762a24.html

TOP STORY

Tumamoc Hill to be opened during the day for walkers starting Sept. 5

By Mikayla Mace Arizona Daily Star **Aug 28, 2017** Updated Sep 13, 2017



Laura and Armando Cornidez enjoy the sunrise from the top of Tumamoc Hill. A new cellphone app, in English and Spanish, will offer information about many aspects of the site.

Mamta Popat / Arizona Daily Star 2014

MORE INFORMATION



Tumamoc Hill, a favorite walking spot for Tucsonans, will expand the hours it is open to the public starting Sept. 5.



Tumamoc Hill Signs

- 📍 Tumamoc Hill
- Tumamoc walker policy enforced during routine patrols, UA police say
- Big plans for University of Arizona's Tumamoc Hill
- Records: Tucson detective failed to properly investigate dozens of abuse cases
- 📷 +42 Then and Now: UA campus in 50s, 60s, 70s and today
- 📖 Greg Hansen's Sunday Notebook: Gymnast Gabby Bouza-Lazo's story as impressive as her routines
- Families on verge of homelessness after unknowingly renting condemned trailers
- 'Nobody can do it alone,' but Arizona Wildcats stacked with basketball talent
- 📖 Greg Hansen's guide to the 2017 college football season
- Steller: Finally, a realistic deal to reopen the Hotel Arizona
- New 'no judgment' approach to opioid-dependent moms also helps their babies
- Greg Hansen: After fall from grace, Arizona Wildcats must get up, do something
- 📷 +23 Photos: Cienega 57, Marana 50 high school football
- 📖 Here's what other websites are saying about

The new hours will be from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, giving walkers 18 hours each day to enjoy the scenic 1½-mile path. The change came as an effort to allow the community to enjoy the hike up the hill while also preserving the site's scientific, natural and cultural integrity.

The west-side site will also include signs displaying the new hours of access and wire cables along the path and top of the hill where Ben Wilder, interim director of Tumamoc Hill, said the most damage to sensitive areas is being done. The cable fencing will be to prevent public access to areas beyond the walking path.

“With the increase of numbers in recent years, we’ve seen a very alarming degradation of the top of the hill,” Wilder said.

Tumamoc is an 860-acre ecological reserve and U.S. National Historic Landmark owned and operated by the University of Arizona in partnership with Pima County.

Before, the hill was closed to the public between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. weekdays. This made it difficult for UA police to enforce rules, and for damage to be done at night.

“UAPD was ticketing grandparents walking with their grandchildren in the evening around 5 p.m.,” Wilder said. “Now, we’re kind of flipping that and trying to accommodate walking preferences if you want to go at sunrise, the middle of the day or evening.”

Over the years, Tumamoc has seen a dramatic

the food in Tucson

- 📺 First time head coach Ryan McBrayer takes over at Sabino
- 📰 Bed bug bites a major hazard in Tucson, Phoenix
- 📷 +196 Moved, promoted or appointed in Tucson 2017
- 📰 Rodent droppings, clogged sink among reasons 14 restaurants fail July health inspections
- Tucson man gets prison sentence for attempted bank robbery
- Tucson weather: Rising temperatures and no rain in sight
- 📰 Aug. 30 Arizona Daily Star front pages: Hurricane Katrina
- Tales from the Morgue: Wife turned him in for drunkenness
- 📷 +24 Melania Trump, high fashion and shoes
- How do you keep bark beetles from killing trees? Fool them with pheromones
- Tucson's last Furr's cafeteria closes
- Sun Shuttle route changes are up for discussion
- Report: State financial support for college students down 54% since 2008
- Indictment: Arivaca man shot illegal immigrant after incident in home
- Ask Amy: Parents test drug-taking son
- Arizona sues Chandler opioid company over safety of drug, 'deceptive' practices

increase in foot traffic.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, no more than about 100 people would regularly walk the path, Wilder said. Today, that number is about 1,500 a day.

“Tumamoc has seen over 4,000 years of human use (if you include settlement along the Santa Cruz) and has been a cultural gathering place for the valley of Tucson,” Wilder said. “This (current) migration of people is just the latest chapter in this story that’s been going for thousands of years.”

Tumamoc is a beautiful gathering place with a deep cultural history, Wilder said, and he sees it as an opportunity to let people see research in action. “But this is an ecological reserve, not a park.”

There are no pets, bicycles or smoking allowed on Tumamoc.

NEW PHONE APP TO ENHANCE EXPERIENCE

Walkers on Tumamoc will also have a new way to enjoy their strolls — a soon-to-be-released phone app that is similar to the one that supplements the drive up Mount Lemmon.

The app, for both Android and iOS devices, will feature six sections that are meant to narrate the hike up the hill.

The first section is an introduction and overview, followed by information on the desert laboratory site and history of the buildings. The desert lab buildings

- **Deaths in Southern Arizona**
- **Greg Hansen: Lute Olson statue marks a happy ending for coach, city he empowered**
- **Arizona Wildcats linebacker Carrington Vaughn got put on scholarship Tuesday; here's why**
- **Steve Kerr: Lute Olson statue a 'fitting tribute' to legendary Arizona Wildcats coach**
- **Tucson weather: Triple-digit temperatures are still climbing**
- **These 8 Tucson restaurants are offering Labor Day food specials**
- **Kartchner Caverns wins designation as a Dark Sky Park**
- **Tucson the 28th worst city to live in? Investor website thinks so**
- **Trump to begin dismantling DACA program protecting young immigrants**
- **Public lectures, shows available for non-students at the UA this fall**
- **Hundreds of butterflies add a dash of color to Tucson's Catalina Mountains**
- **UA assistant professor has doctorate revoked by Ohio State**

were built more than 100 years ago, and today, the glass in Wilder's office is wavy with age.

Then the app walks listeners through the landscape, ecology and seasons of the desert.

At the top of the hill, the app delves into the archaeology of the site, including the history of the people who made the same climb thousands of years ago, and stories of the Tohono O'odham, descendants of the people who used to live on the hill.

There will also be 16 YouTube videos of additional content for those seeking a more thorough picture of the site.

The tour will be narrated on the app by Alberto Burquez, a researcher at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, in Spanish, and David Yetman, a research social scientist at the University of Arizona Southwest Center, in English.

"The bilingual aspect of the community that uses the hill has been overlooked, so in terms of my tenure here, it's one of the most important things to support," Wilder said.

The music accompanying the app is by Calexico and Gabriel Naim Amor.

Contact Mikayla Mace at mmace@tucson.com or (520) 573-4158. On Twitter: [@mikaylagram](https://twitter.com/mikaylagram)