

# Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park

...is the place to discover the intricate beauty and many faces of Arizona's oldest and largest botanical garden. Featured are plants from the world's deserts, towering trees, captivating cacti, sheer mountain cliffs, a streamside forest, panoramic vistas, many natural habitats with varied wildlife, a desert lake, a hidden canyon, specialty gardens and more.

The Arboretum was founded in the 1920s by mining magnate Col. William Boyce Thompson. In 1917 Col. Thompson served as co-leader of a Red Cross mercy mission to Russia, where he came to understand the importance of plants as the ultimate source of a large portion of mankind's food, clothing, and shelter. It was then, that he determined to use his great wealth to improve the use of plant resources. The Arboretum is one of his legacies.

Encompassing 323 acres, the Arboretum is Arizona's oldest and largest botanical garden. It was the first purely botanical institution in the inter-mountain states. The Arizona State Parks Board entered into agreement with the Boyce Thompson Arboretum Board and the University of Arizona in 1976 to cooperatively manage the Arboretum.

[Link to Boyce Thompson Arboretum SP](#)



Arizona State Parks Foundation is an Arizona 501c3 non-profit organization that supports Arizona State Parks through advocacy, friend building and fund raising.  
[www.arizonastateparksfoundation.org](http://www.arizonastateparksfoundation.org)



# \$2,644,753

## 2006-2007 Site Facts

**Visitation: 65,108**

**Economic Impact: \$2,644,753**

**Local Jobs Supported: 20**

Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park attracted 65,108 visitors in fiscal year 2007. The total economic impact of expenditures made by these guests, directly and indirectly, is estimated to be \$2.6 million, making the park a critical component of the local economy. In addition, tourism spending at this level supports an estimated 20 jobs in Pinal County.

**Arizona State Parks and historic sites make up a significant portion of Arizona's tourism industry. Over 2 million people visited Arizona's diverse state parks in fiscal year 2007 generating \$266 million in economic impact, \$22.7 million in state and local taxes and supporting more than 3,300 Arizona jobs.**