

PATS - American Gulch Trails

(Does not officially connect yet... Awaiting USFS environmental evaluation and approval for new connector trail)



American Gulch South Section (1.4 miles north on USFS Road 475 until proposed connector route, which will eventually lead to American Gulch Trail – North Section)
Level of Difficulty – Moderate.

GPS Coordinates – N 34 degrees 15.72 minutes; W 111 degrees 15.21 minutes



The American Gulch Trail begins approximately 3.6 miles west of the Highway 87 and Main Street intersection. Main Street turns into Country Club Drive, and then into Doll Baby Ranch Road, as you head west. After passing the Northern Gila County Sanitation District site,

you will continue on Doll Baby Ranch Road until you see a widened dirt parking area immediately west of a cattle guard. This area can be used for parking. The trail begins on the north side of Doll Baby Ranch Road, right after the cattle guard.

This is a PATS trail/USFS road that currently does not prohibit motorized vehicles, so expect to see all trail-user types on this section. This trail does not yet connect with the North Section of the American Gulch Trail, but a future connection will be made.

Driving Directions

From 87 N (Beeline Highway) to American Gulch Trail – South Section

From the Highway 87 & Main Street intersection in Payson, turn left (west) and follow Main Street down past Green Valley Park and the Payson Golf Course for approximately 3.6 miles. Main Street turns into Country Club Drive, and then into Doll Baby Ranch Road.

The trail access will be on your right (north) past the first cattle guard. Parking is available in a small widened area on the south side of the dirt road.

American Gulch North Section

(0.5 miles from the Graff Trailhead on USFS Road 508 until trail stops)

Level of Difficulty - Easy

GPS Coordinates – N 34 degrees 16.21 minutes; W 111 degrees 15.40 minutes



The North Section begins at the end of Graff Road in NW Payson, where the trail-user will see a Graff Trailhead sign next to a cattle guard at the end of Graff Road, which is a residential street. After passing over the cattle guard, the trail-user is on USFS land. This section provides a horse hitching post and ample area to park, including horse trailers. The North Section follows an existing USFS Road # 508, and the trail user will see USFS Road #67 head off to the north. Continuing on FR #508, the trail user will eventually dead-end at a gravel pit after 0.5 miles from the Graff Trailhead. This trail section does not yet connect with the South Section of the American Gulch Trail, but a future connection will be made.

Driving Directions

From 87 N (Beeline Highway) to American Gulch Trail – North Section

From Highway 87 & Highway 260 intersection in Payson, continue heading north through two more stoplights to Airport Road.

Turn left (west) and head approximately 2.8 miles (passing the Payson Airport and entering a residential area) until the road dead-ends at Whitehouse Road.

Turn right (north) and go to your second road on your left, which is Graff Road.

Turn left (west) until you see the Graff Trailhead sign.