



DAY TRIP TO BEARDSLEY

From Surprise · Maricopa County, Arizona



RAILROAD AND
ROAD

INSIDE SUN CITY WEST

Built over by Sun City West; nothing of the stop survives. The site is beside public roads.

Nothing of Beardsley survives, so the stop itself is short: a look at the stretch of Grand Avenue where the station stood, with the 1957 map on this page in hand. Give the rest of the day to the water Beardsley spent his life chasing. Lake Pleasant Regional Park, about 40 minutes away, holds the lake his project began. Its Discovery Center has exhibits on the dam's construction and on how the lake got its name, which came from Carl Pleasant, the engineer Beardsley hired.

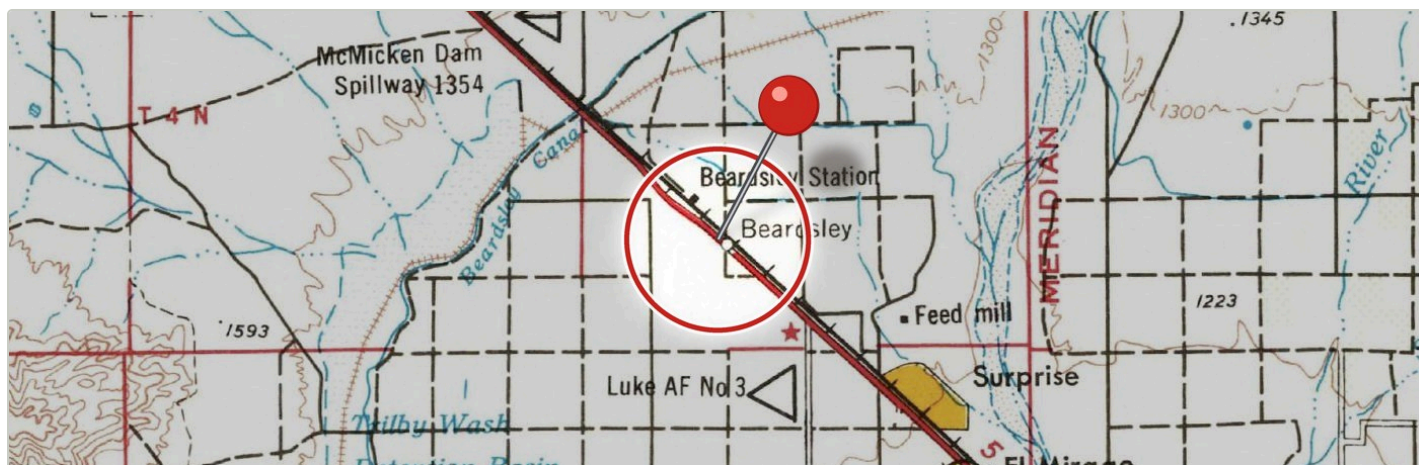
A SAMPLE DAY

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 9 a.m. | Leave central Surprise for Grand Avenue. It's about 10 minutes to the site. |
| ☐ 9:10 a.m. | Park on a side street and look over the strip between Grand Avenue and the tracks, where the 1957 map shows the buildings and the spur. |
| ☐ 9:30 a.m. | Drive to Lake Pleasant Regional Park, about 27 miles and 40 minutes by Grand Avenue, the Bob Stump Memorial Parkway, Lake Pleasant Parkway and Castle Hot Springs Road. |
| ☐ 10:15 a.m. | On Friday to Sunday, visit the Discovery Center. It began as the dam's observation and visitor center, and its exhibits cover the dam's construction, the people involved and how the lake got its name. |
| ☐ Noon | Bring a picnic. The Discovery Center sells only light snacks and drinks. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Head back to Surprise, about 45 minutes. |

From downtown Phoenix, Beardsley is about 40 minutes out Grand Avenue. On Monday to Thursday the Discovery Center is closed, but the park is open.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Then and now.** Hold a print or phone image of the 1957 sheet at the site and photograph it against today's street, to show what's gone.
- **Grand Avenue and the tracks.** The highway and the railroad still run side by side here, as they do on the 1957 map.
- **Trains.** BNSF trains still use the line. Film from well back, off the right-of-way.
- **Lake Pleasant.** The park's photo gallery shows overlooks such as Yavapai Point, with views over the lake, its islands and the desert mountains.



USGS topographic map, 1954 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	4 mi, about 8 min each way from central Surprise. From Phoenix: 23 mi, about 41 min.
OPEN	The Beardsley site is roadside, with no hours. Lake Pleasant Regional Park's main entrance is open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. from November through April and 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. from May through October. Its Discovery Center is open Friday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
ADMISSION	None at the Beardsley site. Lake Pleasant charges \$10 per vehicle.
RESTROOMS, FOOD AND WATER	None at the Beardsley site. The Discovery Center sells light snacks and drinks.
ROAD	Paved all the way. Beardsley is on Grand Avenue (US 60); park on a side street rather than the shoulder.
ON FOOT	The railroad beside the highway is BNSF's line to Phoenix. Stay off the tracks and the right-of-way.
PERMITS	None for the roadside site.
PHOTOGRAPHY	No rules posted for the site.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 33.66140, -112.37910 • 33°39'41"N
112°22'45"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/beardsley/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.