



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN  
TRAIL SYSTEM**  
PLANNING & PRESERVATION

**DRAFT Report  
2017**

# **SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK & PRESERVE TRAILS MASTER PLAN**



**City of Phoenix**  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

# Acknowledgements

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#### Parks and Recreation Board:

Aubrey Barnwell  
Dorina Bustamante  
Inger Erickson  
Mike Lieb  
Antonio Moya  
Roger Peck – Chairman  
Sarah Porter  
Charlene Tarver

#### PPPI Oversight Committee:

Tom Chapman – Chairman  
Douglas Bobo  
Patricia Garcia Duarte  
Roger Peck  
Bob Rink

### Phoenix Sonoran Preserve and Mountain Parks/Preserves Committee

#### Parks and Recreation Department:

Inger Erickson, Director  
Tracee Crockett, Assistant Director

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## Planning Team

Environmental Planning Group, LLC | Amec Foster Wheeler Environmental & Infrastructure | GCI



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**SOUTH MOUNTAIN  
TRAIL SYSTEM**  
PLANNING & PRESERVATION

## Executive Summary 2017

# SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK & PRESERVE TRAILS MASTER PLAN



**City of Phoenix**  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



# 1. Executive Summary

## *Project Scope and Objectives*

With more than 50 miles of existing designated trails (see *Figure 1: Existing Trails & Facilities*), South Mountain Park and Preserve (“the Preserve”) has become a mainstay for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and much more for both Valley residents and visitors.

in the City of Phoenix Charter Chapter XXVI–Phoenix Mountain Preserves. The DRAFT Preserve TMP proposes to accomplish these responsibilities through the following objectives:

### City of Phoenix Charter Chapter XXVI Phoenix Mountain Preserves

- Maintain the Mountain Preserves, including native plant and animal communities, in their natural state to the maximum extent practicable; and
- Provide cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities primarily designed to heighten appreciation and enjoyment of the Arizona desert environment; and
- Provide equestrian, pedestrian (including handicapped), and vehicular (whether motorized or otherwise) access into the Mountain Preserves

The South Mountain DRAFT Trails Master Plan (Preserve TMP) was developed as a planning and implementation tool to address the challenges facing the Preserve from increased use, expanding adjacent development, and the growing network of potentially unsafe and unsustainable non-designated trails. The adopted 1989 South Mountain Park Master Plan was a guiding component for this process, which identified park needs, improvements, management objectives, and proposed actions.

The DRAFT Preserve TMP focuses on the role of trail use and its influence on the Preserve while seeking to accomplish the tiered responsibilities established

- Identify which non-designated trails can become part of the designated multi-use trail system and those which should be restored back to its natural condition
- Identify other needs specifically related to the trail system (public safety & awareness, updated signage, improved way-finding, trail naming designation)
- Bring management and visitor needs together to provide a safe, sustainable, and maintainable trail system



*Photo 1: Visitors Participating in the National Trail Trek*

## Public Involvement

The following is a summary of the stakeholder and public meetings held as part of the DRAFT Preserve TMP public input process:



### City Staff Sensing and Project Objective Development

**February 19, 2016**

**Objectives:** Identify project objectives and City staff needs to be accomplished with the Preserve TMP

**Attendees:** 8



### Stakeholder Meeting

**May 4, 2016**

**Objectives:** Collaborate with stakeholders to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and conflicts to the South Mountain Park and Preserve trail system

**Attendees:** 41



### Public Meeting Series #1

**Pecos Community Center (PCC): June 8, 2016, SMEEC: June 9, 2016**

**Objectives:** Inform public of the project, identify trail-related activities and needs, and identify public expectations when using the trail system

**Attendees:** 130

**Map Mark-ups Received:** 49



### Public Meeting Series #2

**PCC: September 21, 2016, SMEEC: September 24, 2016**

**Objectives:** Review outcomes from June meetings, present conceptual trail alignment corridors, and solicit input on wayfinding

**Attendees:** 58

**Comment Forms Received:** 18



### Public Meeting Series #3

**PCC: December 6, 2016, SMEEC: December 8, 2016**

**Objectives:** Present DRAFT Preserve TMP and proposed trail names for public review and feedback

**Attendees:** 79

**Comment Forms Received:** 32

Data  
Collection

Data  
Analysis

Master Plan  
Development

## Project Web Journal – <https://www.phoenix.gov/parks/southmntntrailplan>

In June 2016, the project team launched a project web journal with a link to the webpage on the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation website. The web journal provided information regarding project objectives, updates, time lines, and interactive maps for online comments from the public. Prior to each public meeting, the webpage was updated with information regarding public input received and with opportunities for the public to comment on the next phase of the

study. After each public meeting, the study webpage was updated to include the most recent information on the current status of the project study. The project web journal offered the public opportunities for online comments throughout the study until January 8, 2017. **191** comments were received through the web journal. The web journal is intended to remain available as a record of the master planning process.

## DRAFT Preserve TMP

The DRAFT Preserve TMP (see *Figure 2: DRAFT Preserve Trails Master Plan*) incorporated input from the December public meetings, comments received online, City staff input, and email responses from the public to further refine and complete the identification of the recommended designated trails system.

The DRAFT Preserve TMP proposes the designation of 37 named trails and 17 connections. The named Designated Trails are shown in the table on the right.

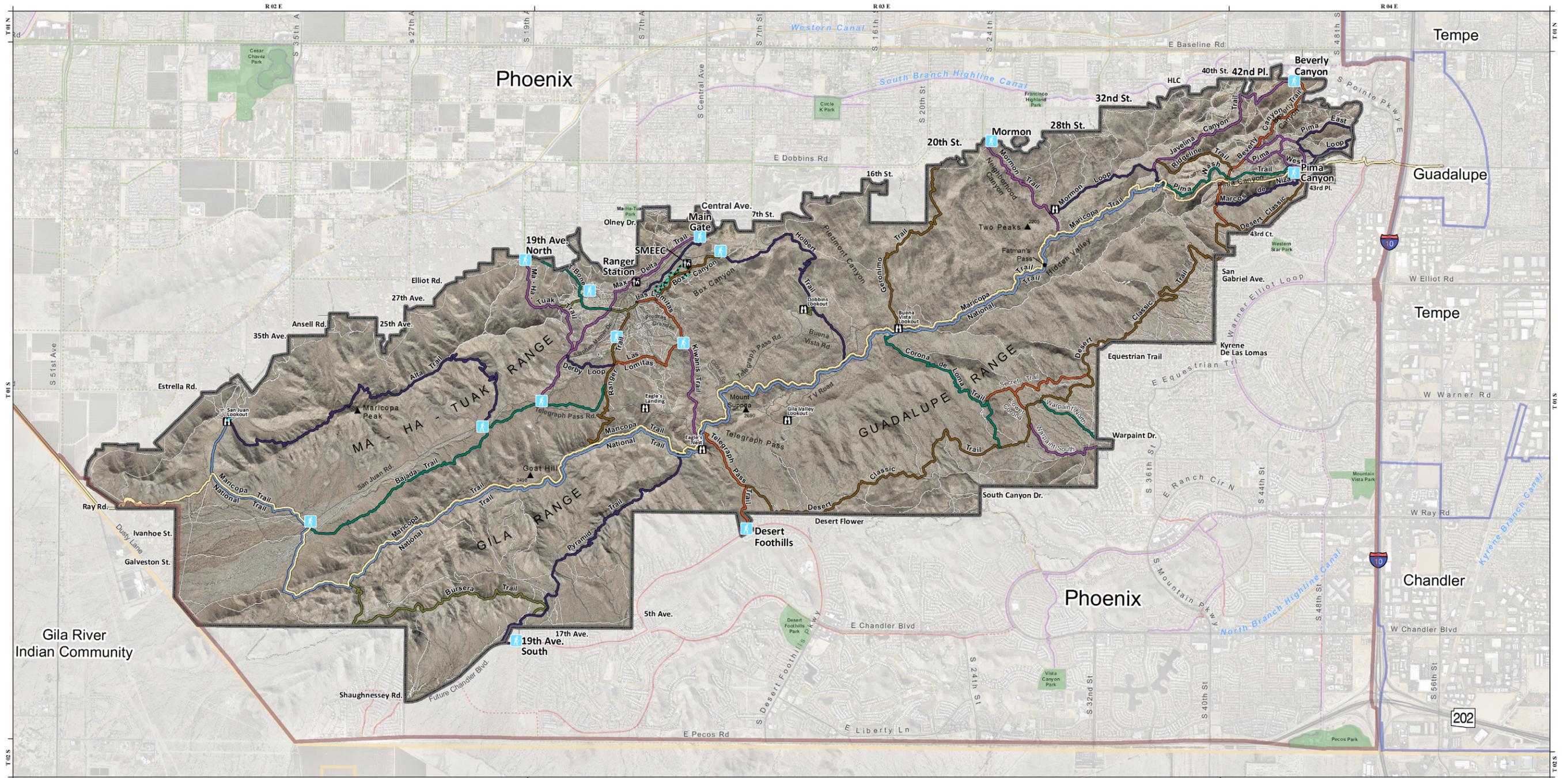
In addition to mapping existing designated trails to remain and proposed designated trails, the DRAFT Preserve TMP also identifies improvements to wayfinding and signage, planning methods for evaluating trail impacts over time, and recommended priorities for implementing the master plan.

### DRAFT Preserve TMP

- 53 miles of currently designated trails
- 38 miles of existing non-designated trails to be added
- 3.9 miles of connector trails to be designated
- Over 80 miles of non-designated trails to be decommissioned and restored to natural condition
- Minor trail name changes to improve way-finding for visitors unfamiliar with the Preserve

Trail No.	Trail Name	EX. Designated Mileage	EX. Non-Designated Mileage	New Construction Mileage	TOTAL
1	Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail	1.6	4.0	3.9	9.5
2	Alta Trail	4.6	0.7	1.5	6.5
3	Gila Trail	2.4	3.5	0.5	6.4
4	T-Bone Loop Trail	1.0	2.4		3.4
5	Bajada Trail	4.9	1.1		6.0
6	Bursera Trail	2.9			2.9
7	Shaughnessey Connector Trail			1.1	1.1
8	Lost Ranch Trail	0.9	1.4		2.3
9	Mine Drop Loop		2.1		2.1
10	5th Avenue Loop	0.2	2.5		2.7
11	Max Delta Trail	2.3			2.3
12	Ranger Trail	1.9			1.9
13	Las Lomas Trail	2.3			2.3
14	Kiwanis Trail	1.1			1.1
15	Telegraph Pass Trail	1.1			1.1
16	Guadalupe Perimeter Trail	1.8	4.2	2.0	8.0
17	Judith Tunnell Trail	0.9			0.9
18	Box Canyon Trail	0.7			0.7
19	7th Avenue Access Trail		0.6		0.6
20	Holbert Trail	2.3			2.3
21	Piedmont Canyon Trail			0.9	0.9
22	Geronimo Trail	2.4		0.8	3.2
23	Corona de Loma Trail	1.9	3.2		5.1
24	Desert Classic Trail	8.7			8.7
25	Warpaint Loop Trail	1.9			1.9
26	Maricopa/ Sun Circle Trail	15.6			15.6
27	National Trail	14.4	1.8		16.2
28	Mormon Trail	1.5	1.5		3.0
29	Hidden Valley Trail		1.5		1.5
30	Marcos de Niza Trail	0.9	3.1		4.0
31	Javelina Canyon Loop Trail	3.0			3.0
32	Highline Connector Trail		0.8		0.8
33	Pima Wash Trail	1.5			1.5
34	Ridgeline Trail	0.6	1.0		1.6
35	Beverly-Pima Connector Trail	1.2	0.5		1.7
36	Beacon Hill Trail	1.1			1.1
37	Pima Canyon Loop Trail	3.5	1.7		5.2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>91.1*</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>139.1*</b>

\* Trail mile totals reflect alignment lengths that exceed the physical mileage of trails due to alignments sharing segments of trail



**Sources**  
 City of Phoenix, 2016  
 Maricopa County, 2016  
 ESRI Street Map, 2013

**South Mountain Park**

**Trails**

- National Trail
- Maricopa Trail
- Designated - Accessible
- Non-designated

**Facilities**

- Trailhead / Parking
- Ranger Station / Education Center
- Lookout

**Street Trails & Paths System**

**City Maintained Trails**

- Multi-Use Trail - Built
- Shared-Use Path - Built
- Multi-Use Trail - Proposed
- Shared-Use Path - Proposed

**Privately Maintained Trails**

- Multi-Use Trail - Built
- Shared-Use Path - Built
- Multi-Use Trail - Proposed
- Shared-Use Path - Proposed

**Reference Features**

- Park Boundary
- Freeways
- Major Roads
- Local Streets
- Canal
- City of Phoenix Boundary
- Other City Boundary
- Gila River Indian Community Boundary
- City Park

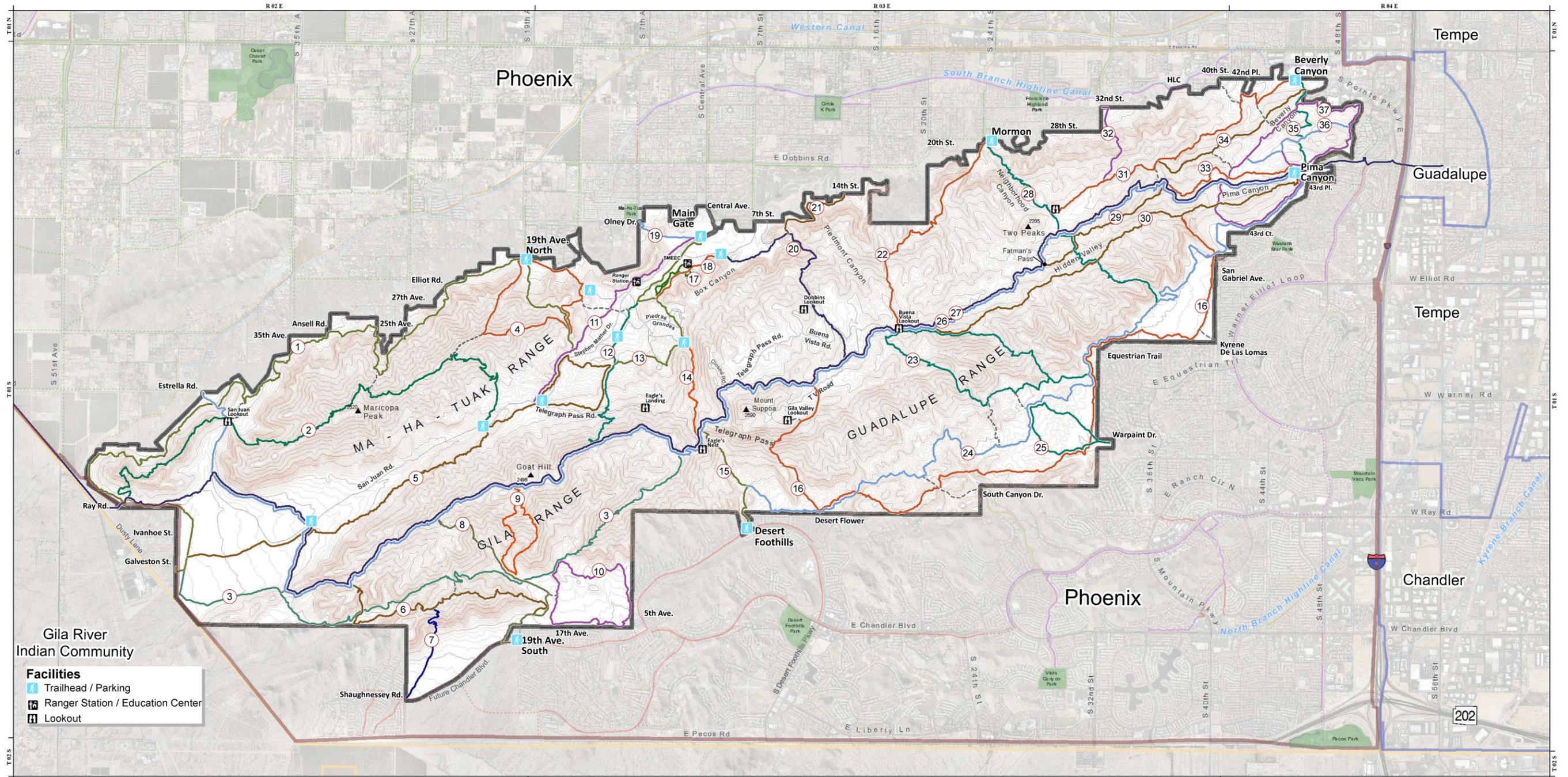
**City of Phoenix**  
 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**South Mountain Park**  
**Trails Master Plan**

*Existing Designated Trails & Facilities*

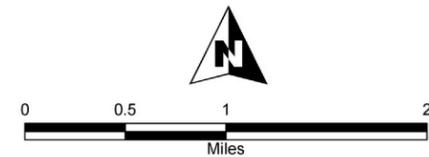
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Figure 1: Existing Trails & Facilities



**Sources**

City of Phoenix, 2016  
 Maricopa County, 2016  
 ESRI Street Map, 2013



**Designated Trails**

ID# Name (Distance in Miles)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1 - Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail ( 9.6 mi. ) | 16 - Guadalupe Perimeter Trail ( 8 mi. )   | 31 - Javelina Canyon Trail ( 3.0 mi. )        |
| 2 - Alta Trail ( 6.6 mi. )                 | 17 - Judith Tunnell Trail ( 0.9 mi. )      | 32 - Highline Connector Trail ( 0.8 mi. )     |
| 3 - Gila Trail ( 6.4 mi. )                 | 18 - Box Canyon Trail ( 0.7 mi. )          | 33 - Pima Wash Trail ( 1.5 mi. )              |
| 4 - T-Bone Loop Trail ( 3.1 mi. )          | 19 - 7th Avenue Access Trail ( 0.6 mi. )   | 34 - Ridgeline Trail ( 1.6 mi. )              |
| 5 - Bajada Trail/Loop ( 5.9 mi. )          | 20 - Holbert Trail ( 2.3 mi. )             | 35 - Beverly-Pima Connector Trail ( 1.0 mi. ) |
| 6 - Bursera Trail ( 2.9 mi. )              | 21 - Piedmont Canyon Trail ( 1.2 mi. )     | 36 - Beacon Hill Trail ( 1.1 mi. )            |
| 7 - Shaughnessey Access Trail ( 1.1 mi. )  | 22 - Geronimo Trail ( 2.4 mi. )            | 37 - Pima Canyon Loop Trail ( 4.5 mi. )       |
| 8 - Lost Ranch Trail ( 2.3 mi. )           | 23 - Corona de Loma Loop Trail ( 4.4 mi. ) |   |
| 9 - Mine Drop Loop Trail ( 2 mi. )         | 24 - Desert Classic Trail ( 8.7 mi. )      |   |
| 10 - 5th Avenue Loop Trail ( 2.6 mi. )     | 25 - Warpaint Loop Trail ( 1.8 mi. )       |   |
| 11 - Max Delta Trail ( 2.3 mi. )           | 26 - Maricopa/Sun Circle Trail ( 23 mi. )  |   |
| 12 - Ranger Trail ( 1.9 mi. )              | 27 - National Trail ( 15.5 mi. )           |   |
| 13 - Las Lomas Trail ( 2.3 mi. )           | 28 - Mormon Trail ( 2.9 mi. )              |   |
| 14 - Kiwanis Trail ( 1.1 mi. )             | 29 - Hidden Valley Trail ( 1.4 mi. )       |   |
| 15 - Telegraph Pass Trail ( 1.1 mi. )      | 30 - Marcos de Niza Trail ( 4.0 mi. )      |   |

**City of Phoenix**  
 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**South Mountain Park**  
**Trails Master Plan**  
 2017

**SOUTH MOUNTAIN TRAIL SYSTEM**  
 PLANNING & PRESERVATION

Figure 2: DRAFT Preserve Trails Master Plan



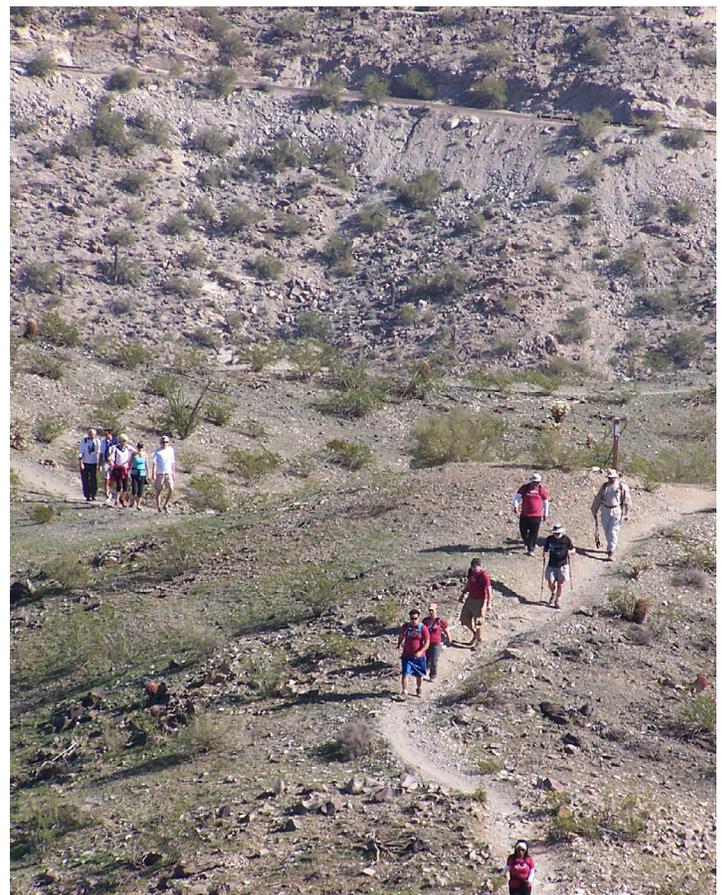
## 2. Planning Report

### *Project Purpose and Need*

Few municipal parks can boast of the historical significance, number of visitors, and ownership felt by generations of locals and guests that the City of Phoenix South Mountain Park and Preserve (the “Preserve”) enjoys as it approaches the centennial of its adoption into the City of Phoenix parks system in 1924. Central to this long-standing relationship are the accessibility and varied opportunities the extensive network of trails provides to escape the urban environment and recreate among its diverse geographical and natural features just a short trip from downtown Phoenix. Whether by automobile, bike, on foot, or on horseback, the Preserve affords unprecedented access to elevated views of the Valley of the Sun that are not as easily achieved by visiting other nearby mountain preserves and recreation areas. This ease of access and prominent location make it a common destination for out-of-state visitors as well as a favorite resource for residents.

Yet this affection and accessibility present those responsible for managing the Preserve and its trail system with many challenges. Like many other mountain preserves, the natural landscape, biology, and cultural heritage of the Preserve is impacted as ever increasing use puts pressure on the fragile desert ecosystem. Land uses adjacent to the Preserve have, over time, become increasingly more developed, which challenges the ability to manage access. Additionally, nearby residents experience park-goers parking on private streets or along public rights-of-way in response to overcrowding at the managed parking facilities of the Preserve. Adjacent development is expected to

continue to expand as the Preserve enters its second century, with continued adjacent change creating new challenges requiring flexible and adaptable management responses.



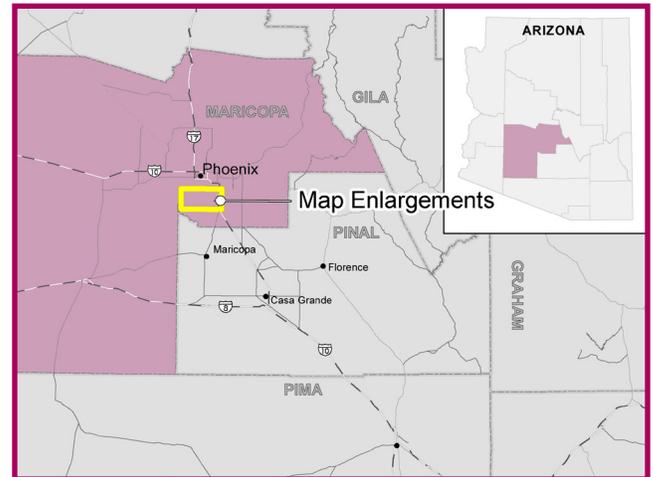
*Hiking Groups*



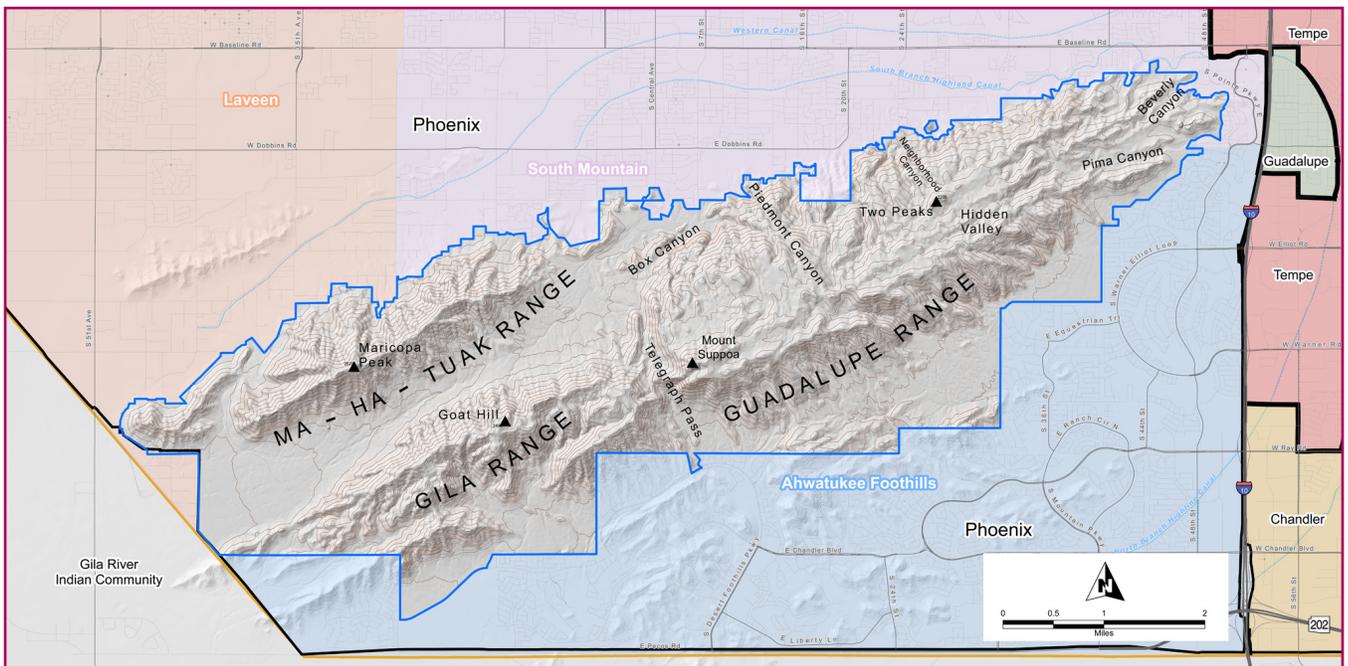
*Silhouetted Native Trees and Saguaros at South Mountain Park and Preserve*

**Background**

As one of the City of Phoenix’s mountain preserves, the South Mountain Park and Preserve protects the Ma-Ha-Tuak, the Gila, and the Guadalupe ranges, which are collectively known as South Mountain (see *Figure 4: South Mountain Park and Preserve Landforms*). The protection of these ranges is intended to preserve a portion of the native Sonoran Desert to be enjoyed and learned from today as well as for generations to come. As such, visitors may encounter a diverse range of wildlife and plant life that call the Preserve home. These include protected species like the Desert Tortoise and native species such as Chuckwalla with their distinctive red tails, coyotes, rattlesnakes, jackrabbits, and bats. The iconic Saguaro may be found in many areas of the Preserve as can most succulents and cacti native to the Sonoran Desert.



*Figure 3: Regional Context*



*Figure 4: South Mountain Park and Preserve Landforms*

South Mountain has held a special significance as long as humans have populated the Salt River Valley. Todd Bostwick, former City of Phoenix archaeologist, provides rich details behind the history of the many cultures that have found a connection with the mountains, including this story of how they came to be known as “Greasy Mountain” or “Muhadag Du’ag:”

*“The Pima have a story about Trickster Coyote, who stole the heart of Rattlesnake’s first victim from its cremation fire. Coyote had to outrun the people who chased him in pursuit. Resting after he crossed the Gila River, Coyote gobbled down his stolen food. Grease dripped from the hot meat, staining the landscape. That is why the mountains north of the Gila River are stained with a dark color.”*

*~ Todd Bostwick  
Landscape of the Spirits*

Evidence of trails within the Preserve from prehistoric and historic eras can be found throughout and are just one of the many threads woven into the tapestry of history that the Preserve protects. Trail users are likely to pass numerous examples of rock art including petroglyphs from the Hohokom, who inhabited the area from 450 AD to around 1400 AD. City Parks and archeology staff have worked together to develop an



*One of the Many Petroglyphs Found at the Preserve*

internal plan for implementing the Preserve TMP with protection of the cultural resources of South Mountain.

South Mountain Park joined the City of Phoenix municipal park system in 1924 when the City purchased approximately 22 square miles of land from the federal government. The park became the site of numerous Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) projects that provided jobs and new park facilities such as trails, buildings, ramadas, and other features – many of which can be seen or visited today along with other historic sites such as Scorpion Gulch trading post, built in 1936, near the entrance from Central Avenue.



*Dobbins Lookout*

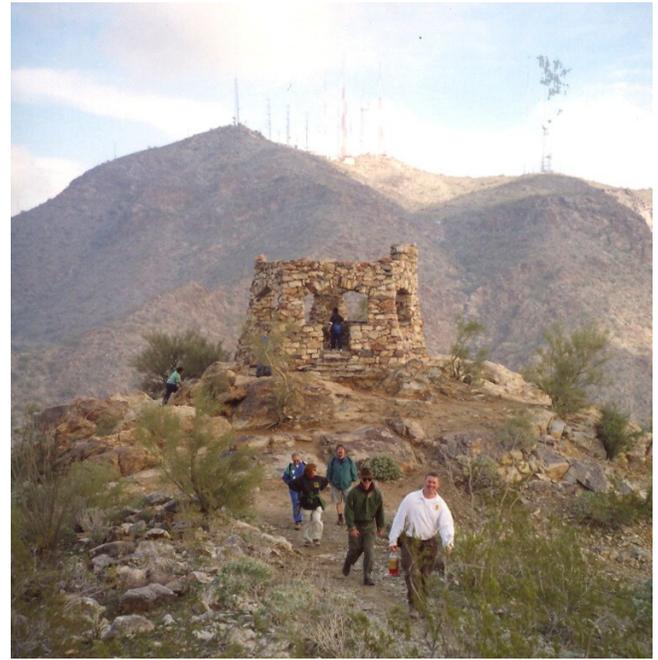
*Built by the CCC in the 1930s, Dobbins Lookout is the highest point in the Preserve accessible to trail users at approximately 2,330 feet above sea level*

## Historic Trails Built Before 1950

- Kiwanis Trail, 1925
- Geronimo Trail, 1930 (formerly Hieroglyphic Canyon Trail)
- National Trail (formerly three trails named Hidden Valley Trail, City Trail, and Summit Trail)
- Mormon Trail
- Alta Trail
- Holbert Trail
- Ranger Trail

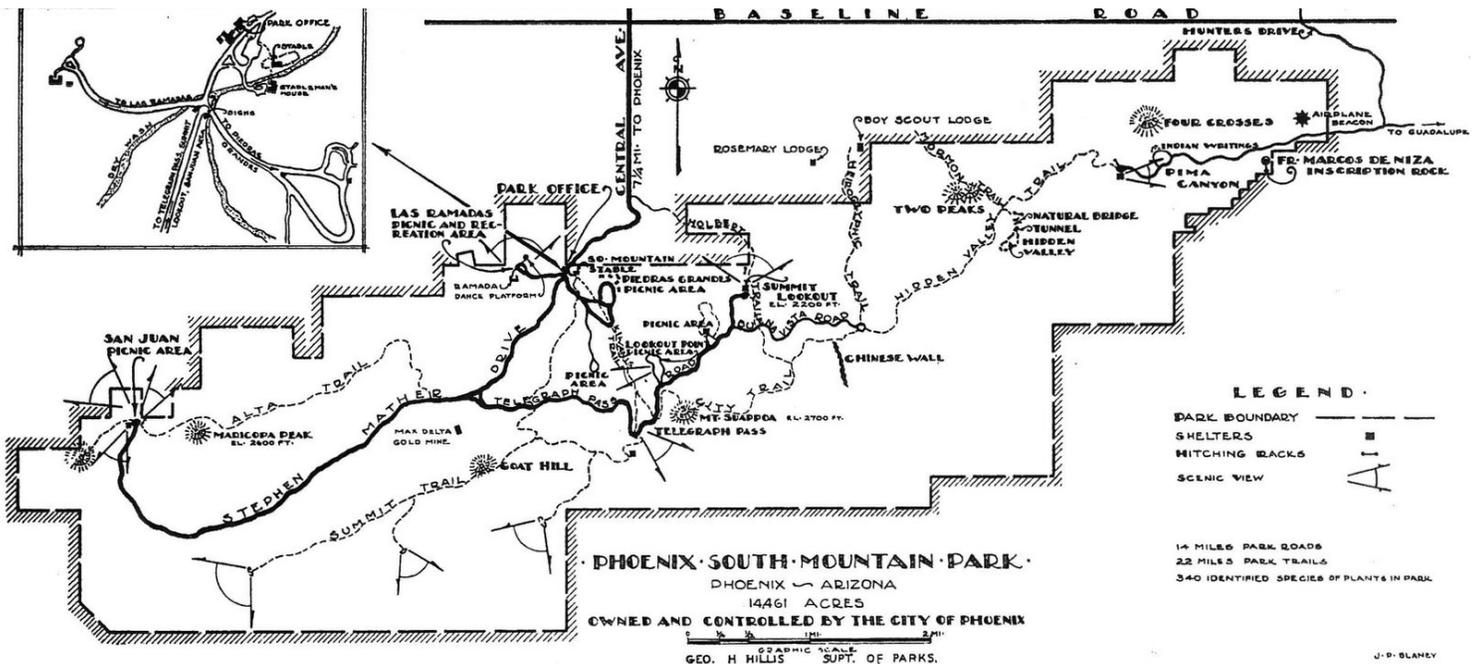
Many of the existing trails and landmarks are tied to South Mountain's past. Telegraph Pass Trail that brings trail users from Ahwatukee to the National Trail lies within the pass named for the telegraph line constructed to connected north to Prescott in the 1870s. The Kiwanis Trail was built by the Phoenix Kiwanis Club in 1925, reportedly in a single day! The trail known today as Geronimo Trail was also one of the first built in

1930 after being sponsored by Phoenix icon Dwight Heard and the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce under the name Hieroglyphic Canyon Trail (see *Appendix B – Ranger Glyphs, 2011*).



*City Staff and Hikers at Eagle's Nest*

Since the initial land purchase, the Preserve was expanded through the 1980s to just under 17,000 acres and is one of the largest municipally operated parks in the country, as reported by the Trust for Public Land (The Trust for Public Lands, 2016).



*Figure 5: 1942 Phoenix South Mountain Park Map (<http://southmountainhistory.blogspot.com/2008/07/1942-phoenix-south-mountain-park-map.html>)*

Acres of Park Land Within City (City Managed/Total Acres)

**Phoenix, AZ**  
**(47,612/49,254)**

**San Diego, CA**  
**(39,318/45,392)**

**Houston, TX**  
**(33,645/52,912)**

**Jacksonville, FL**  
**(33,382/64,603)**

**Anchorage, AK**  
**(11,437/914,121)**

The 47,612 acres of municipal park land managed by the City of Phoenix is the largest managed by a municipal parks department (*The Trust for Public Lands, 2016*). The Preserve makes up approximately 35% of this total. Yet according to the same report, only 45% of Phoenix residents are within walking distance to a city park, defined as, “the ability to reach a publicly owned park within a half-mile on the road network, unobstructed by freeways, rivers, fences, and other obstacles” placing it near the bottom of the 75 largest cities included in the report. The issue of park and trail accessibility is not directly addressed in the DRAFT Preserve TMP, but should be considered by managers as

they implement the final plan as well as other Preserve-related improvements.

### Other Nearby City Parks

There are nine City of Phoenix parks within two miles of the Preserve. These include:

- Cesar Chavez Park
- Ma-Ha-Tuak Park
- Circle K Park
- Francisco Highland Park
- Western Star Park
- Mountain Vista Park
- Pecos Park
- Vista Canyon Park
- Desert Foothills Park

Eight of the nine parks have either existing or planned shared-use or multi-use paths that provide multi-modal access to the Preserve trail system. The exception is Western Star Park, which is located within a half-mile of the Preserve boundary near 44th Street north of Elliot Road and is separated from the Preserve by residential development.

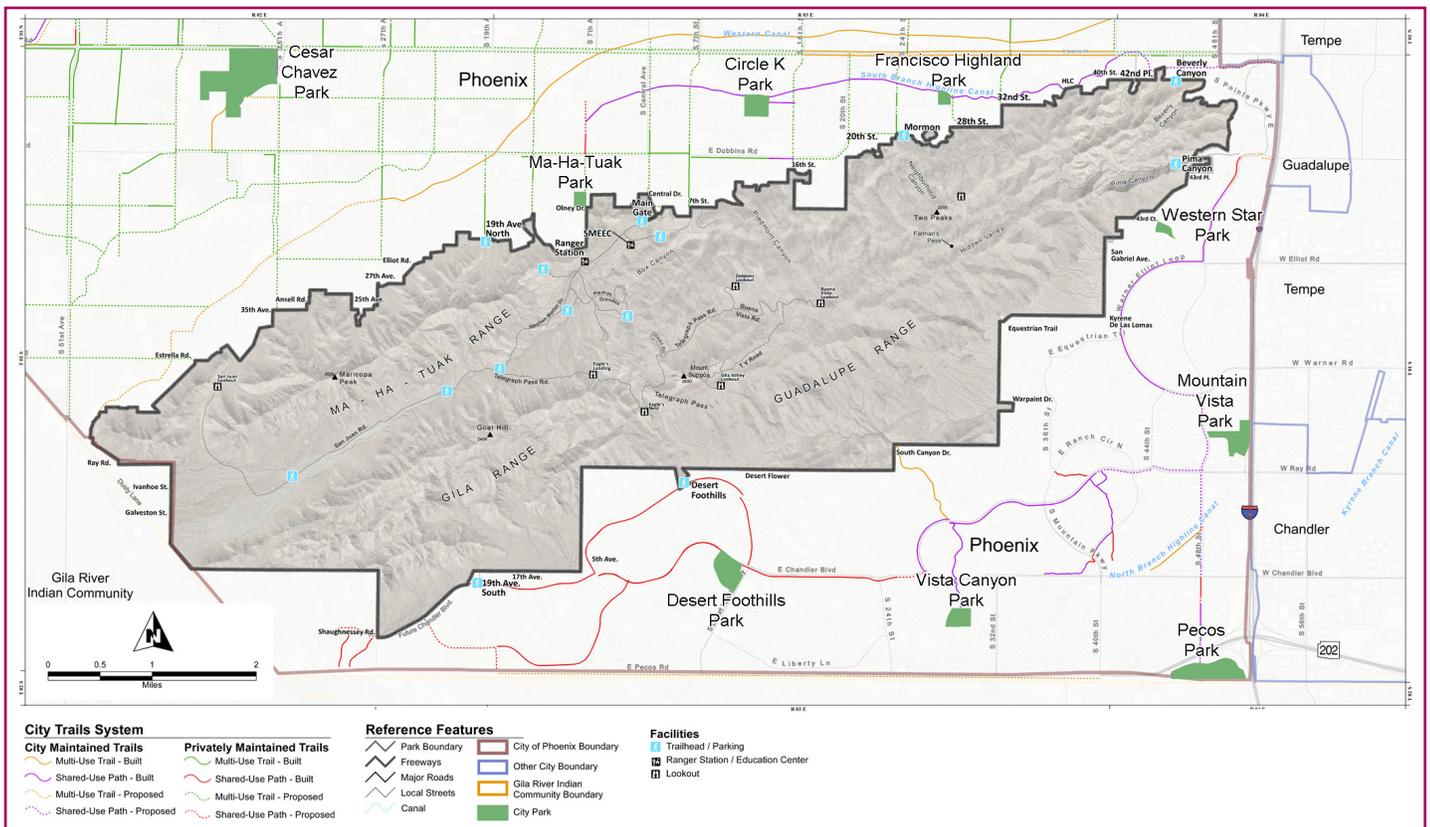


Figure 6: City of Phoenix Parks and Trails Near South Mountain Park and Preserve

## 1989 South Mountain Park Master Plan

The most recent master plan for South Mountain Park was adopted in 1989 and identified additional park needs, improvements, management objectives, and proposed actions. General recommendations from this master plan that have influence on trail development, management, and use are highlighted in the text box to the right.

The 1989 Master Plan further states, "The trail system for the Park has been planned by professionals to provide for multi-use. Primary users will include: hikers, cyclists (mountain and touring), and equestrians." The 1989 Master Plan included 22 miles of existing designated trails with an additional eight trails adding a combined 37 miles of new trails. Of these proposed trails, the Ma-Ha-Tuak Trail (originally designated as the 19th Avenue Trail), Telegraph Pass Trail, Pyramid Trail and Bursera Trail (originally The Foothills Canyon Trails), and the connection from the Warpaint Trailhead have been constructed at the time of writing. The trails yet to be implemented that were further considered in the Preserve TMP included a South Mountain Trail that was envisioned to "provide a continuous linkage around the base of the South Mountains," a connector trail from 35th

### 1989 Master Plan Trail -Related Recommendations:

- Restore the Preserve with native vegetation, rehabilitate historic Park structures, survey the Park boundary, and install administrative fence.
- Increase enforcement penalties for Park rules infractions.
- Provide access facilities, trailheads, and walk-ins, primarily at the periphery of the Park.
- Maintain the existing designated trail system and establish additional trail links for local, loop, and long distance hiking; cycling; and equestrian use.
- Establish a comprehensive disabled access plan for the Park.
- Prohibit transportation routes through the Park.
- Limit the intrusion of motor vehicles within the Park while providing sufficient access to trails and recreation areas.
- Coordinate a volunteer program to assist with Park maintenance and environmental education programs.

Avenue to the Alta Trail, a connector trail from 27th Avenue to the proposed South Mountain Trail, and a connector from 32nd Street that would provide access from the Highline Canal to the existing Mormon Trail.

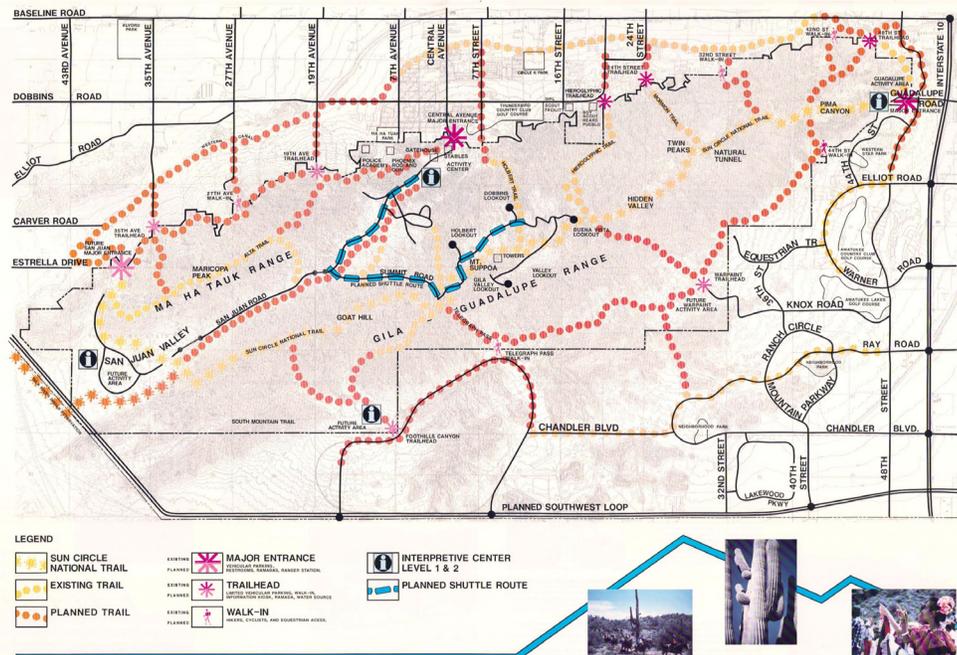


Figure 7: 1989 South Mountain Park Master Plan - Trails

## ***Oversight***

Management of the Preserve has evolved from the June 7, 1924, Special Act of Congress that gave the land to the City of Phoenix and designated its use for, “municipal, park, recreation, playground, or public convenience purposes” (Elquest v. City of Phoenix, 1949) to inclusion as one of the City’s mountain preserves governed by Chapter 26 of the City Charter. Master planning for the Preserve has reflected this evolution, including the master plan in 1989 and more recent planning and design efforts including the Preserve TMP, that reflect the current demand to protect the mountain preserves. Important components of the regulatory bodies and ordinances that influence the designation, use, and management of the Preserve trail system are highlighted below.



### ***City of Phoenix City Council***

Authority under City Charter Chapter XXVI - City of Phoenix Mountain Preserves to take actions defined by the Preserve Ordinance.



### ***City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board***

Policy making board, makes recommendations to City Council



### ***City of Phoenix City Charter Chapter XXVI***

City Charter Chapter that defines how the mountain preserves are to be managed, including the South Mountain Park and Preserve.



### ***1993 City of Phoenix Trails Ordinance***

Prohibits trailblazing, enforces environmental protection.

## ***Project Initiation and Existing Facilities Inventory***

The first project priority was to establish the baseline conditions from which the DRAFT Preserve TMP would be developed. To accomplish this, the planning team met with City staff and park rangers and stakeholders to identify trail-related needs. Park rangers and the planning team worked to identify and map the extensive non-designated trails, which were mapped and presented to the public for confirmation. The public and stakeholders were also asked to provide input on the trails that they currently use, both designated and non-designated, and help identify issues related to off-trail use that may assist in developing effective restoration practises.

## ***City of Phoenix Staff Sensing and Project Objective Development***

City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department staff along with the Preserve Ranger leadership were asked to identify key issues and desired outcomes for the Preserve. The following information is a summary of the comments received and arranged under staff understanding of the public's perceptions as well as staff perceived issues and needs. The information was

collected from responses received from City staff and park rangers through a project kick-off questionnaire and map mark-ups.

### **Perceptions of the Preserve:**

- Public perception of the trail system seems to be overall positive with a strong connection to the community.
- Local residents may perceive the trail system as primarily used by hikers, bikers, equestrian riders, and runners.
- Non-local residents unfamiliar with the system may perceive the trail system as confusing, with unclear directions to the trails, where to park, or where to start a hike.
- Out-of-state visitors may perceive issues with being unfamiliar with the park as there are no visitors centers or first points of contact. Also, visitors may not have a realistic perception of the time it will take to hike a particular trail, and the risks involved in hiking in the Arizona desert.
- A common public concern is mountain bikers who are not courteous to others using the trails,



*Participants at the Kick-off Meeting*

as they tend to speed down the mountain. It is believed that mountain bikers may benefit from their own dedicated trail, separate from other user-groups.

- In addition, it is perceived that some user-groups may prefer using trails in which pets would not be allowed to share.

### Staff Comments, Concerns, and Issues:

- Suggestions received include creating a trail loop plan to accommodate more people (i.e., more loops of varying lengths) and creating a circumference trail to connect around the mountain to take pressure off the other mountain bike trails and act as a connector to other trails, trailheads, and communities.
- Improved park signage would help promote a clean park and enforcement of park rules. Excessive littering has been identified as a problem in the park, as well as dog waste not being cleaned up by owners.
- Additional trail directional signage would help alleviate confusion of where trails begin/end and where sections of trails change.

- Trail ratings would help educate park visitors on what to expect regarding a trail condition, which they could use to decide if that trail is within their physical capabilities.
- Parking has been identified as limiting and cause for traffic overflow in areas. It is perceived that important park messages are not visible to the public.

### Existing Facilities and Trails

Following the kick-off meeting, the existing non-designated trails were mapped using ranger map mark-ups, aerial imagery, and in-field validation. An existing facilities map and panel enlargement maps were developed to depict the existing network of designated and non-designated trails along with other existing support facilities such as trailheads and ramadas. These were used in the subsequent stakeholder meeting and public meeting series #1 to gather input on existing designated and non-designated trail use (see *Figure 1: Existing Trails & Facilities* in the Executive Summary).



Existing Trail in Wash

## Stakeholder Meeting

The stakeholder meeting for the South Mountain Park Preserve Trails Master Plan was held on May 4, 2016, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at South Mountain Community College, 7050 South 24th Street, in Phoenix.

Representatives from 168 user groups and partner agencies were invited to participate. Actual participants included 41 stakeholders and city staff.



Stakeholder Meeting Small Group Discussion

Stakeholders were asked to review and complete an evaluation matrix as part of an exploration of their organization’s relationship to the trail system. Responses included the following:

## How your organization/user group is affected by or affects the existing trail system?

- Provides scientific expertise
- Personal investment
- Mountain Bike Trails-Users
- Utilizes South Mountain Park Preserve as a segment of the 315 mile Maricopa Trail and Sun Circle Trail
- Volunteer efforts to help maintain trails
- Provides educational opportunities for riders to become responsible users
- All non-motorized users (hiking, running, biking, equestrian) connect west valley areas to the east valley areas, thus South Mountain Park is a vital link for all our users
- Uses the Preserve as setting to tell stories about nature
- Trails patrolling and keeping people/wildlife safe.
- Homeowners in the community use the Preserve and trails

<b>Stakeholder Relationships</b> <b>Assessing: Your Relationship with the South Mountain Park Trail System</b>			
<b>How your organization/user group are affected by or affects the existing trail system?</b>	<b>Affects</b>	<b>Strengths</b>	<b>What is positive about your organization/user group’s existing relationship to the Park’s existing trail system?</b>
<b>How your organization/user group relationship could be improved to sustain the trail system?</b>	<b>Improvements</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>What opportunities are there for collaboration with your organization/user group to sustain the trail system?</b>

Figure 8: Relationship Assessment Matrix

### What is positive about your organizational/user group's existing relationship to the Park's existing trail system?

- Create opportunities to improve awareness and stewardship for responsible use
- Provide volunteers for trail maintenance and construction
- Work with the city to lobby for trail improvements
- Liaison among user groups/patrons
- Assist in educating the public and Preserve users
- Bring more people to community and with that, economic benefits

### How your organization/user group relationship could be improved to sustain the trail system?

- Understand master plan and communicate this to others
- Educate public of the values of the preserve and why they need to stay on trails
- Provide more volunteers
- Establish a strong support base group of volunteers and through partnership with other groups

- Communication and planning prior to volunteer/work days
- Create ways to have user groups more aware of each other (ie. Bell program)

### What opportunities are there for collaboration with your organization/user group to sustain the trail system?

- Trail Maintenance and educate on dangers of Trail Sabotage
- Provide tools and volunteers for trail design, construction and maintenance
- Volunteer relationships and partnerships for trail maintenance and safety outreach
- Group activities and educational classes in conjunction with MTB volunteers
- Partnership to assist City with maintenance and trail monitoring – our foundation is deeply involved in this
- Establish a contact for groups to report issues or individuals, develop a shared calendar app
- Collaborate for funding opportunities
- Invasive species management



Participants at the Project Stakeholder Meeting

The stakeholders then participated in mapping and small group discussion exercises.

### Key Issues Discussed:

- Need full assessment of trails
- All uses impact trails and require maintenance over time
- Management and maintenance requires funding, which is lacking
- Conflicts could be result of lack of knowledge of etiquette and safety
- Many skilled and knowledgeable volunteers available and interested, but need means to coordinate
- Difficult to identify designated trails and Preserve features; many non-City resources include non-designated trails in their trails maps for South Mountain Park Preserve
- Communication tools needed for user group awareness, maps (downloadable) and phone apps
- Parking impacts to neighborhoods need to be addressed

### Key Stakeholder Recommendations:

- Identify the Preserve's trail carrying capacity as part of Master Plan
- Assess trails within the system as part of Master Plan
- Use physical character/design to filter uses rather than signage, e.g., tech barriers
- Appropriate funding needs to be allocated for realistic trails maintenance program
- Define trail destinations and the trails that take a person there better
- Educate users on trail use, etiquette, and safety
- Develop guidelines of criteria for when to close or create a new trail
- Need appropriate trail head locations with signage/identification of trails
- Permit system, such as is currently in place for paragliding, could be set up for other uses that are not currently allowed but occur and lead to travel off of non-designated trails
- Look for multiple funding sources



*Trail Volunteers*

## Public Meeting Series #1

Two public meetings were held for this first series for the South Mountain Park and Preserve Trails Master Plan.

The first meeting was held on June 8, 2016, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Pecos Community Center (PCC). The second meeting using the same format was held two days later on June 9, 2016, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at South Mountain Environmental Education Center (SMEEC).

A combined total of 130 attendees plus City staff and the consultant team participated in the two meetings.

The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation on the history of the Preserve and the current state of the trail system. Attendees were provided opportunities to give input on the trails by taking part in Poll Everywhere and small group mapping exercises. Following the meeting, attendees

could view South Mountain Park and Preserve panel maps, speak with study staff members, and provide additional comments on the maps.

## Poll Everywhere

Poll responses from attendees (Red: June 8th Meeting, Green: June 9th Meeting):

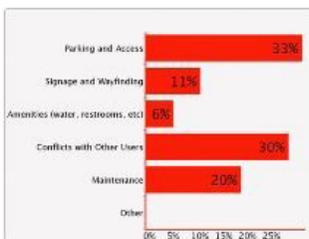
Attendees were able to use their cellular phones to respond to the Poll Everywhere questions during the meeting. Attendees were also given the option of responding by marking responses on their comment forms.

After each poll question, attendees were asked if they wanted to share their responses. The following are representative verbal responses received during the meetings:

### Poll Question #1 – What is the biggest challenge for trail users?

- Park-goers are street parking in private property communities
- Conflict with other users, e.g., headphones in ears, distracted users
- Sabotage of leaving large rocks on trails that causes bikers to fall
- Parking Access – difficult to find close parking to trail heads
- Maintenance in some areas
- Dobbins lookout car congestion at sunset
- Trash & urination behind homes

### What is the biggest challenge for trail users?



#### Response options

Response options	Count	Percentage
Parking and Access	23	33%
Signage and Wayfinding	8	11%
Amenities (water, restrooms, etc)	4	6%
Conflicts with Other Users	21	30%
Maintenance	14	20%
Other	0	0%

June 8



70 Responses

### What is the biggest challenge for trail users?



#### Response options

Response options	Count	Percentage
Parking and Access	16	53%
Signage and Wayfinding	4	13%
Amenities (water, restrooms, etc)	4	13%
Conflicts with Other Users	3	10%
Maintenance	1	3%
Other	2	7%

June 9



30 Responses

## Poll Question #2 – How do you determine if a trail is designated?

- Signage
- Online source and guidebooks

### How do you determine if a trail is designated?



Response options	Count	Percentage
Assume all trails are designated	11	17%
Refer to City trail map	21	33%
Look for trail signage	23	36%
Use a trail APP	3	5%
Other	6	9%

June 8



Engagement

64

Responses

### How do you determine if a trail is designated?



Response options	Count	Percentage
Assume all trails are designated	4	13%
Refer to City trail map	3	10%
Look for trail signage	18	60%
Use a trail APP	3	10%
Other	2	7%

June 9



Engagement

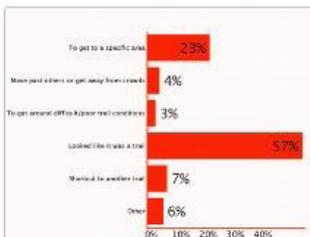
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Responses

## Poll Question #3 – What is the primary reason people use non-designated trails?

- It looked like it was a trail
- Traveling to a destination that is not accessible by a designated trail
- Some non-designated trails are more enjoyable to use than the designated trails
- Following sources such as Google Maps that show trails with names that are not part of the designated system

### What is the primary reason people use non-designated trails?



Response options	Count	Percentage
To get to a specific area	16	23%
Move past others or get away from crowds	3	4%
To get around difficult/poor trail conditions	2	3%
Looked like it was a trail	40	57%
Shortcut to another trail	5	7%
Other	4	6%

June 8

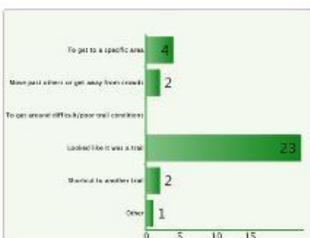


Engagement

70

Responses

### What is the primary reason people use non-designated trails?



Response options	Count	Percentage
To get to a specific area	4	13%
Move past others or get away from crowds	2	6%
To get around difficult/poor trail conditions	0	0%
Looked like it was a trail	23	72%
Shortcut to another trail	2	6%
Other	1	3%

June 9



Engagement

32

Responses



*Presentation at Public Meeting #1 (June 8) at the PCC*

### **Trail Designations**

Participants had the opportunity to mark which of the non-designated trails they felt should become part of the designated trail system and which should be restored. Many comments were received in favor of seeing popular non-designated trails become part of the designated system. *Figure 12: Preferred Visitor Recreation Experience Types* shows the trails where comments were received and the number of comments. Additional comments received in the meetings related to trail designations included:

- Many non-designated trails are loved and considered great trails by those who use them. Strong interest in seeing many of the trails designated and better maintained.
- Interest expressed in seeing trails that are designated for certain uses (e.g., exclude bikes, bike-only, equestrian-only, etc.)
- Dogs and dog waste are an issue.
- Interest in seeing wildlife protected. Development pressure is tough already pushing in from edges. Important to keep as much of Preserve wild as possible.



*Panel Map Mark-up at the PCC*



*Table Exercise at the PCC*

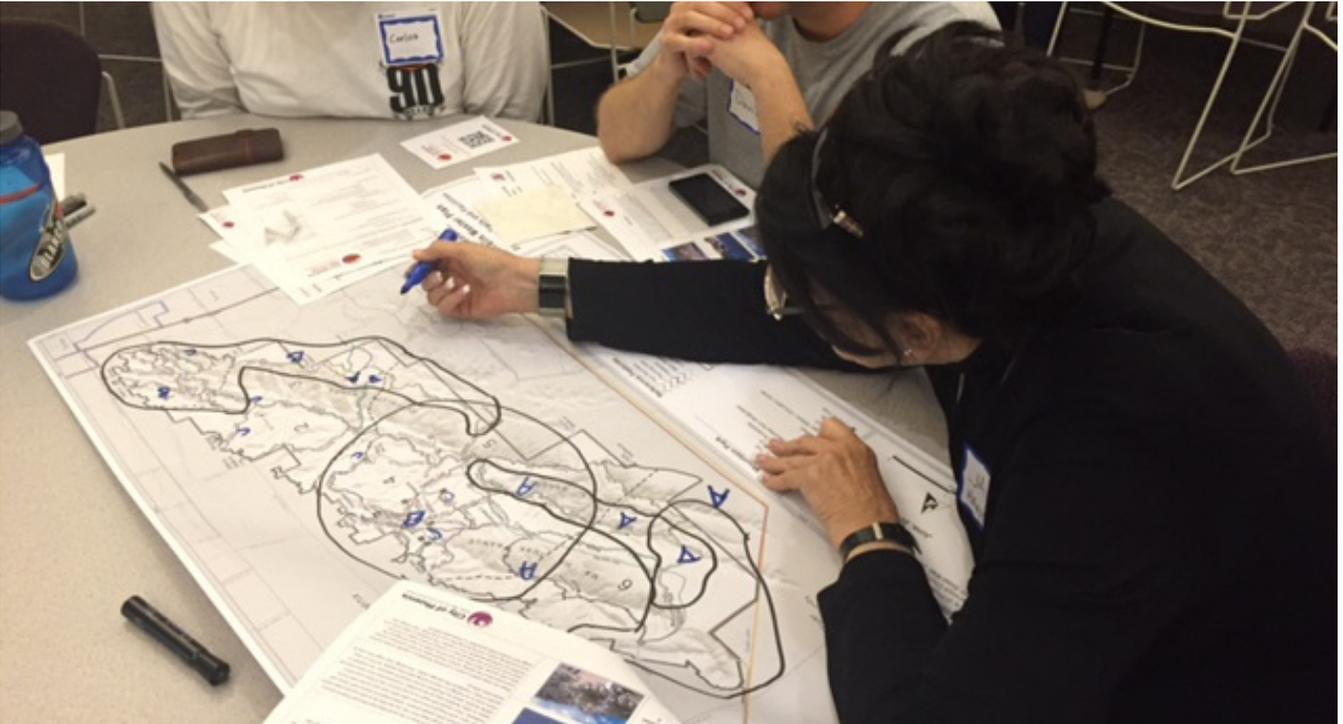


Presentation at Public Meeting #1 (June 9) at the SMEEC

**Visitor Recreation Experience**

Participants in the first public meetings also had the opportunity to help identify where they might go to have different types of recreational experiences in the preserve today. Then, they were asked to indicate on the

maps where they most prefer to see these experience types occur in the future. The three different experience types are: solitude, natural recreation, and developed recreation.



Recreation Experience Mapping at the SMEEC



## Solitude

Areas where a visitor goes to get away from the City. The visitor's primary intention is to experience nature.

- A trail user does not expect to have frequent encounters with many other people during their adventure.
- Communication from these areas is often limited, where no cell phone service should be expected.
- Trail users should be prepared for more difficult trails with higher risk potential.



## Natural Recreation

Areas where visitors expect to interact with nature and other users.

- Visitors should expect to have frequent encounters with other trail users on the trails and at trailheads.
- Users should still expect to accept there is risk in these areas where water or other facilities may not be provided.



## Populated Recreation

Areas where visitors should expect to have continuous contact with other people. The activity is most important, with setting secondary.

- More than one trail will be visible to users throughout the experience.
- Trails may have groups or clusters of users visible at all times.
- Facilities at trailheads would be more crowded.
- Developed facilities are common and part of the attraction for visitors to these areas.

This information was combined into “heat maps” that illustrate the combined outcomes as depicted on *Figure 11: Existing Visitor Recreation Experience Types* and *Figure 12: Preferred Visitor Recreation Experience Types*.

## Project Web Journal

<https://www.phoenix.gov/parks/southmntntrailplan>

In June 2016, the project team launched a project web journal with a link to the webpage on the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation website. The web journal provided information regarding project objectives, updates, time lines, and interactive maps for online comments from the public. Prior to each public meeting, the webpage was updated with information regarding public input received and with opportunities for the public to comment on the next phase of the study. After each public meeting, the study webpage was updated to include the most recent information on the current status of the project study. The project web journal offered the public opportunities for online comments throughout the study until January 8, 2017. 191 comments were received through the web journal. is intended to remain available as a record of the master planning process.

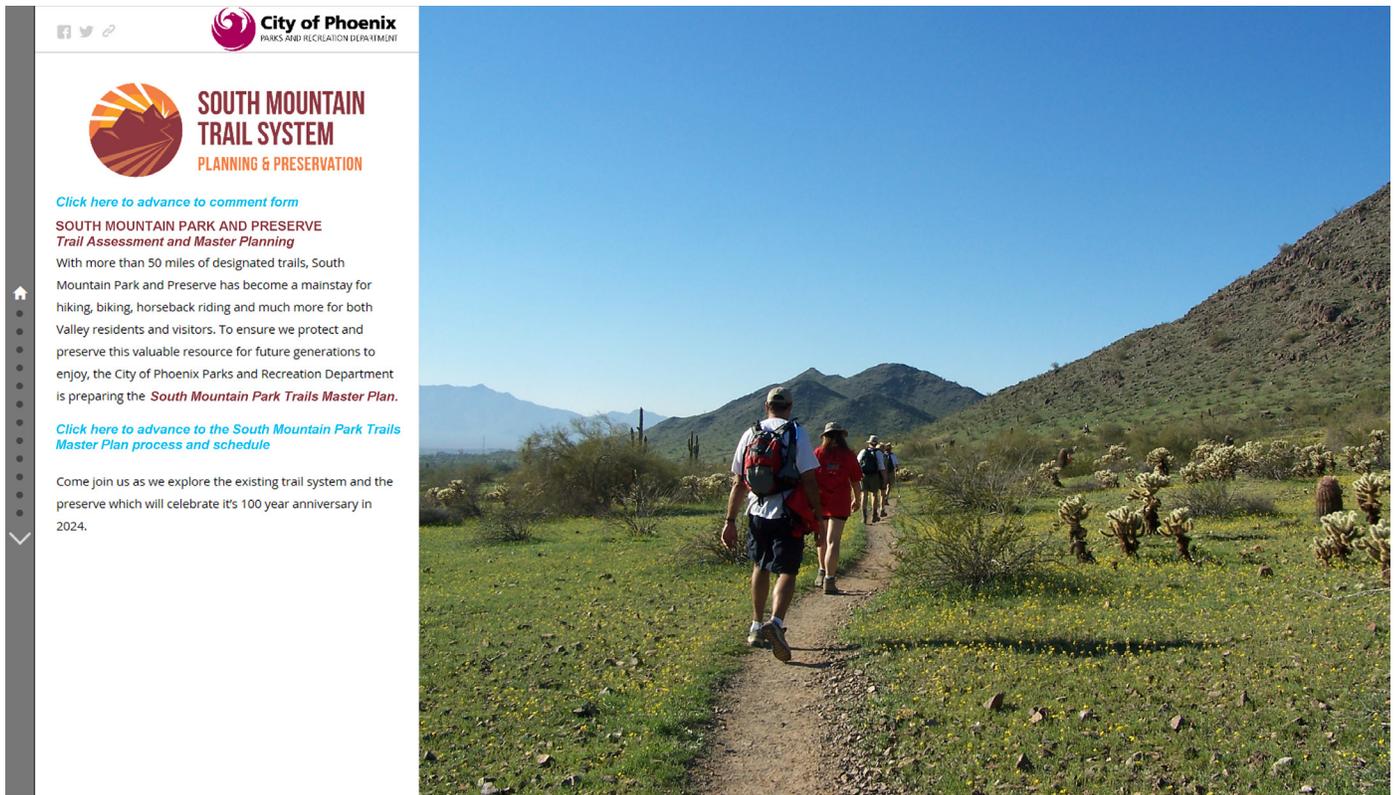


Figure 9: Front Page to the Web Journal

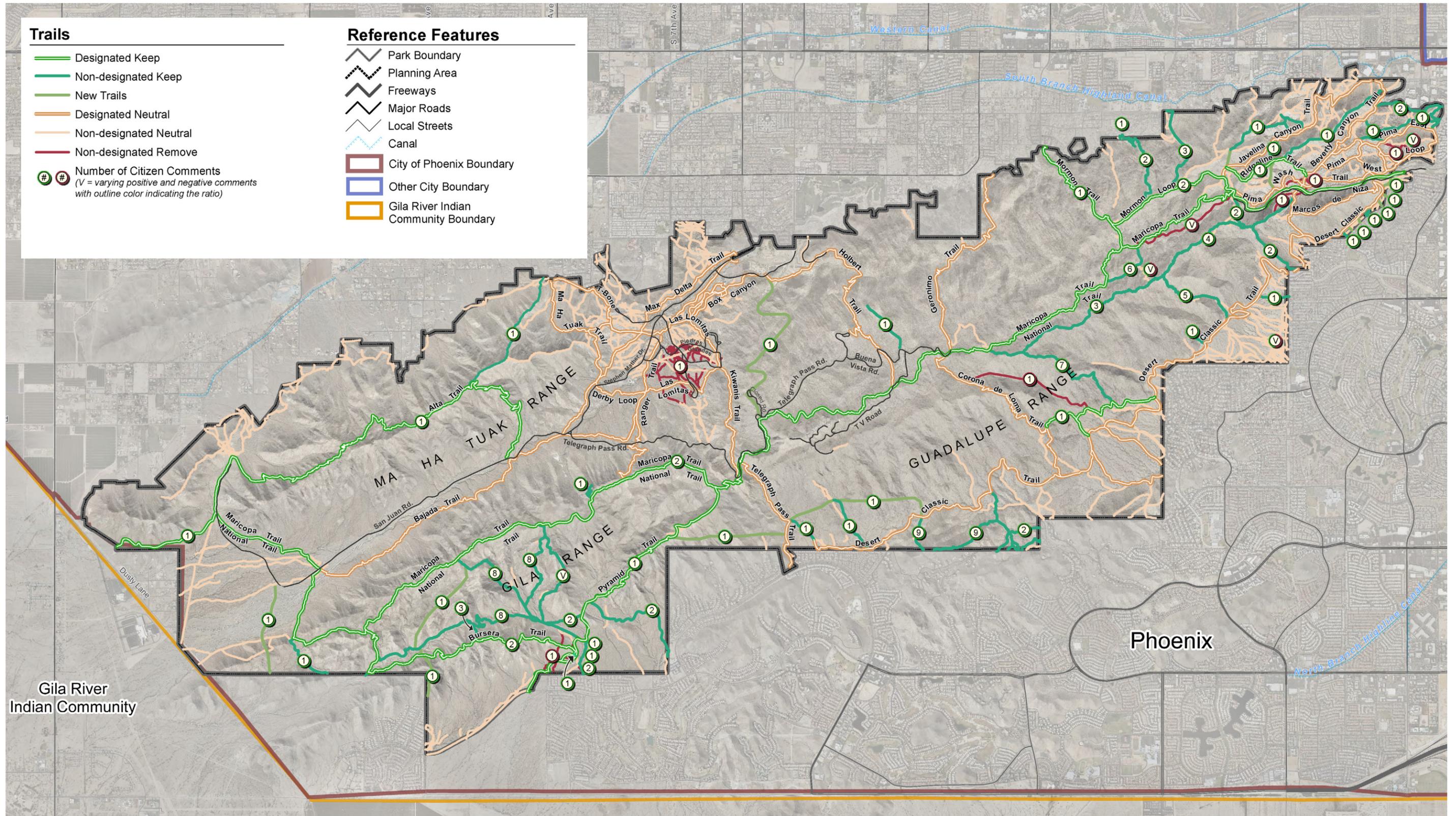


Figure 10: Public Trail Designation Preference Map

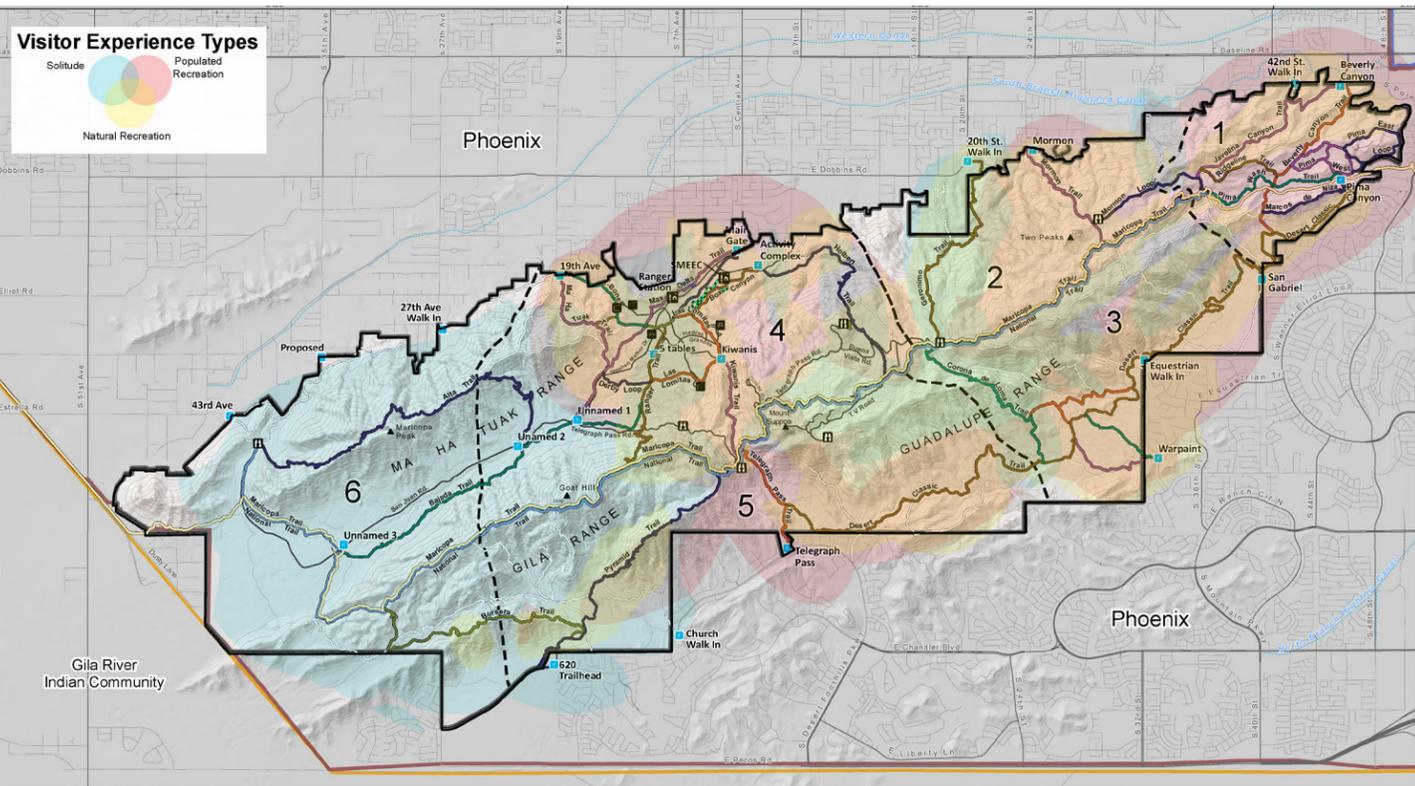
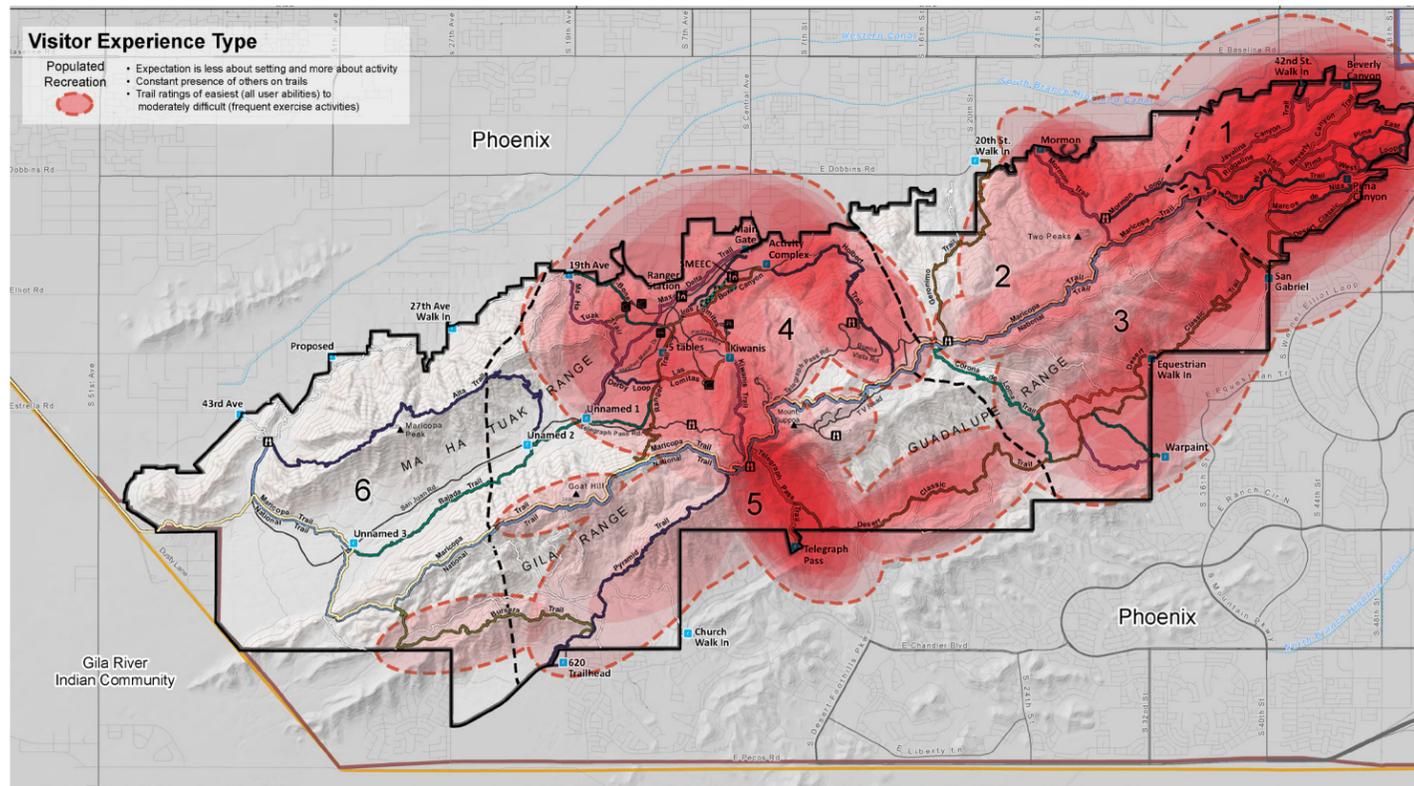
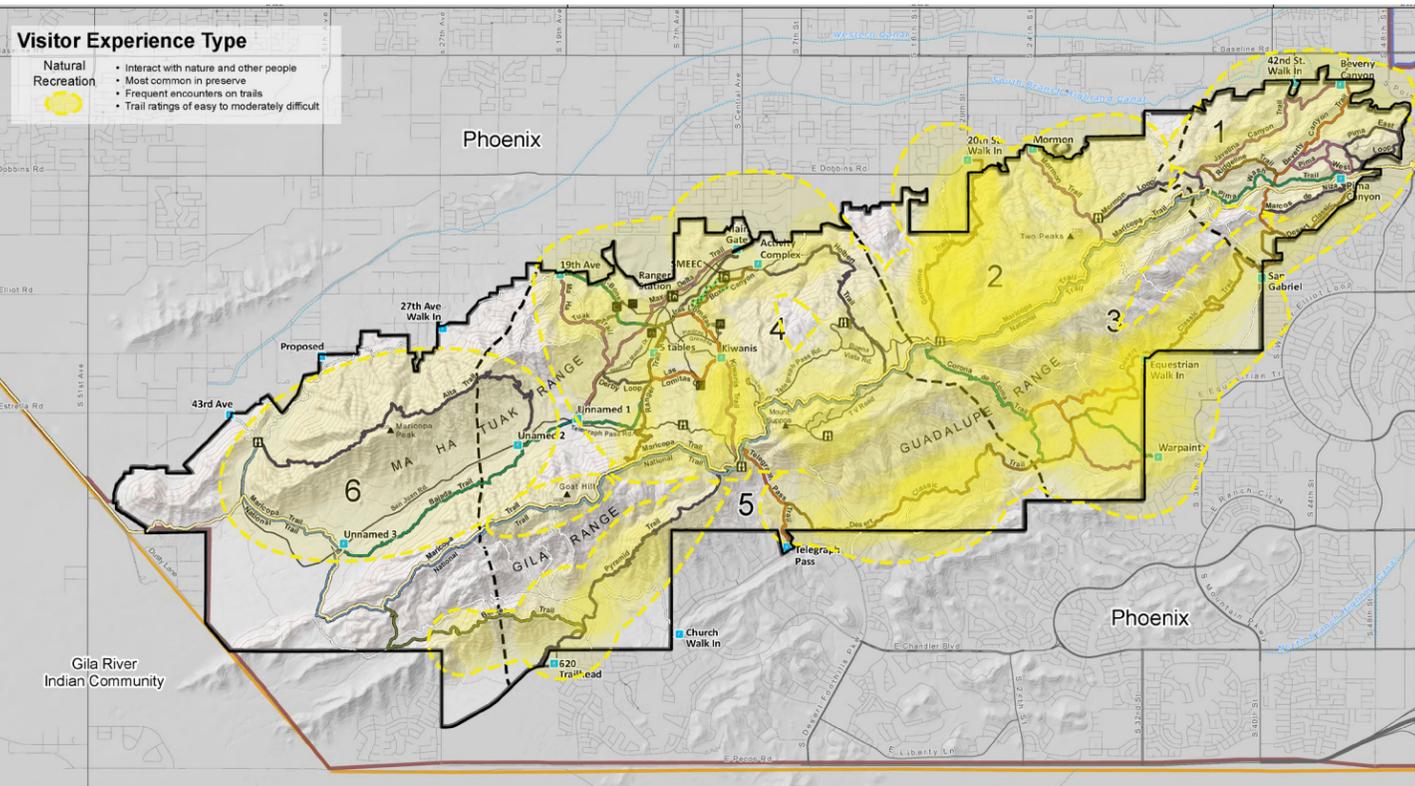
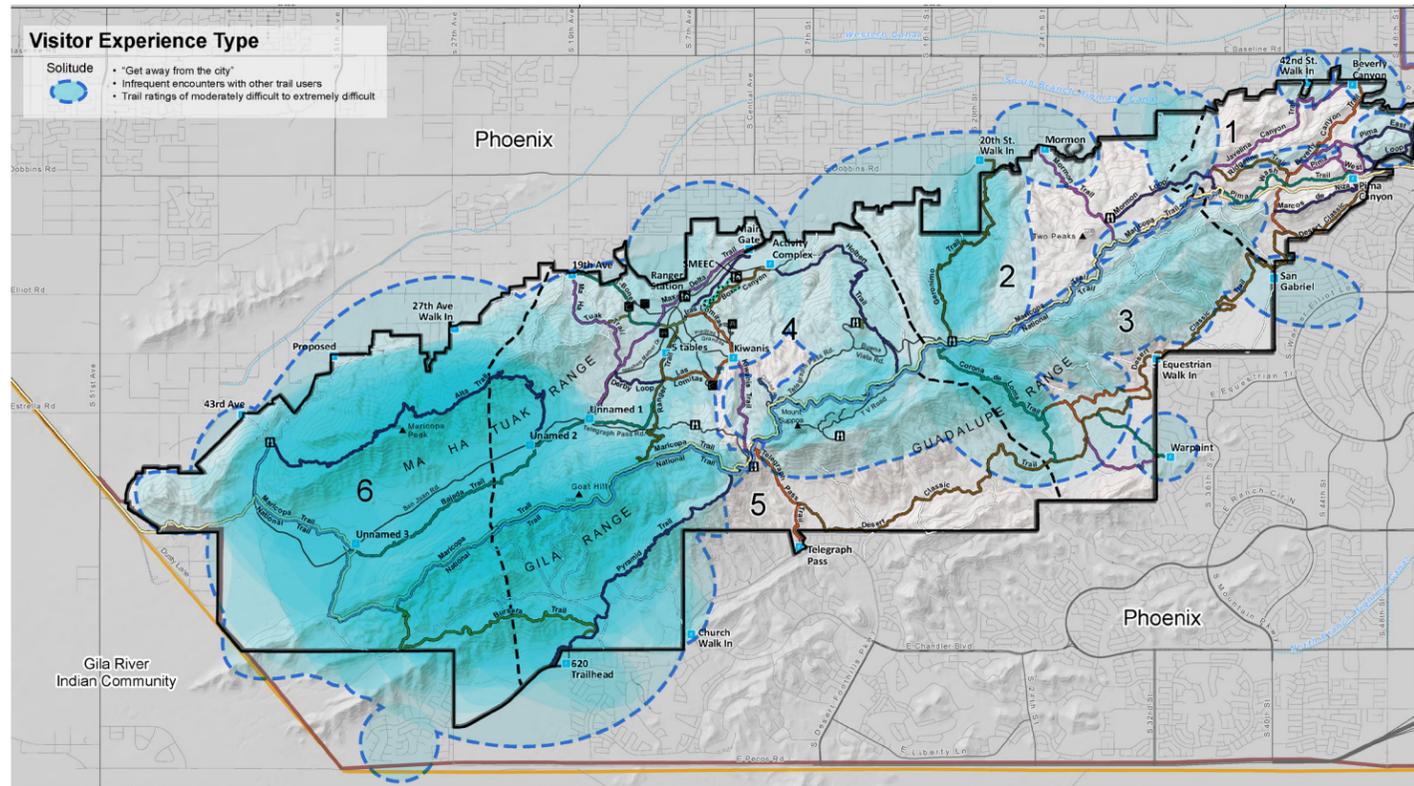


Figure 11: Existing Visitor Recreation Experience Types

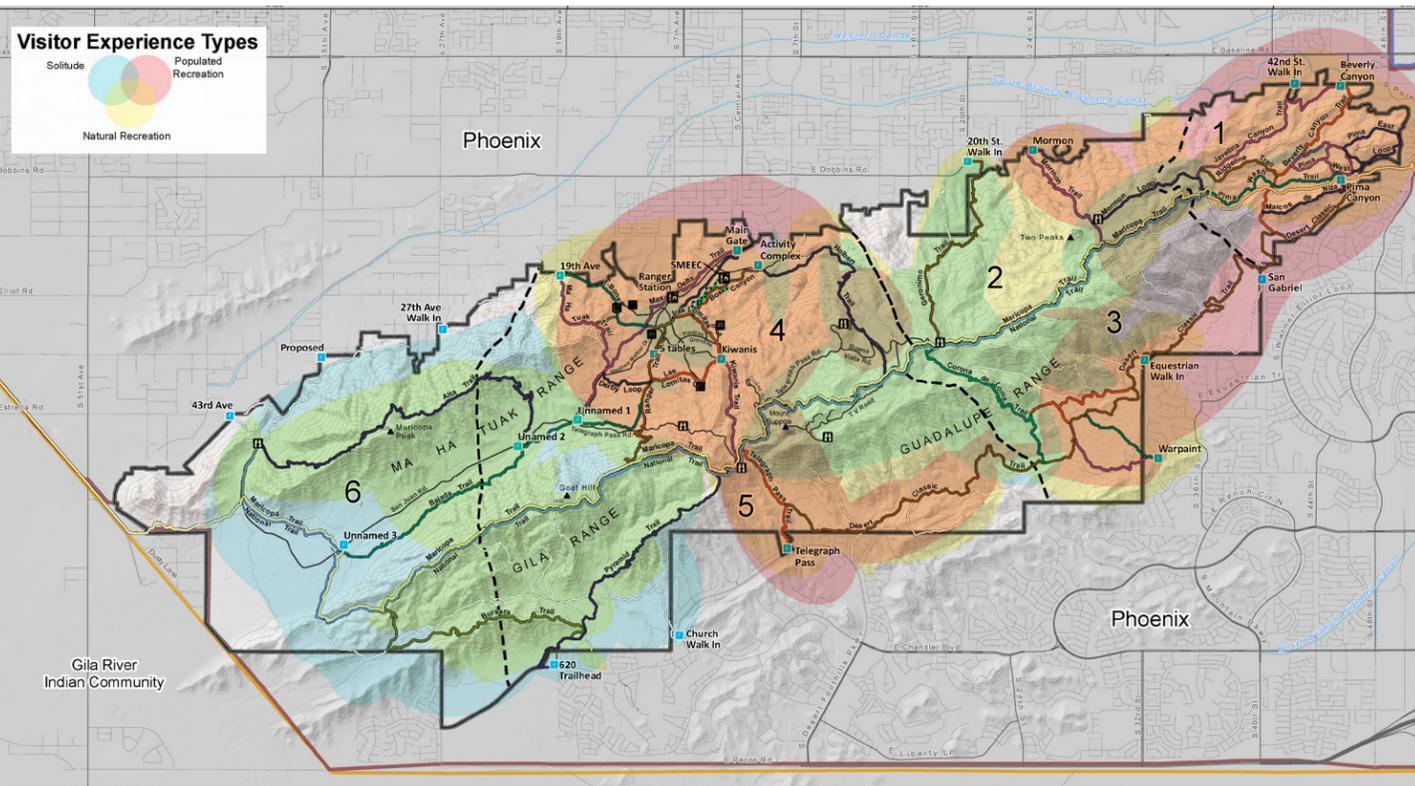
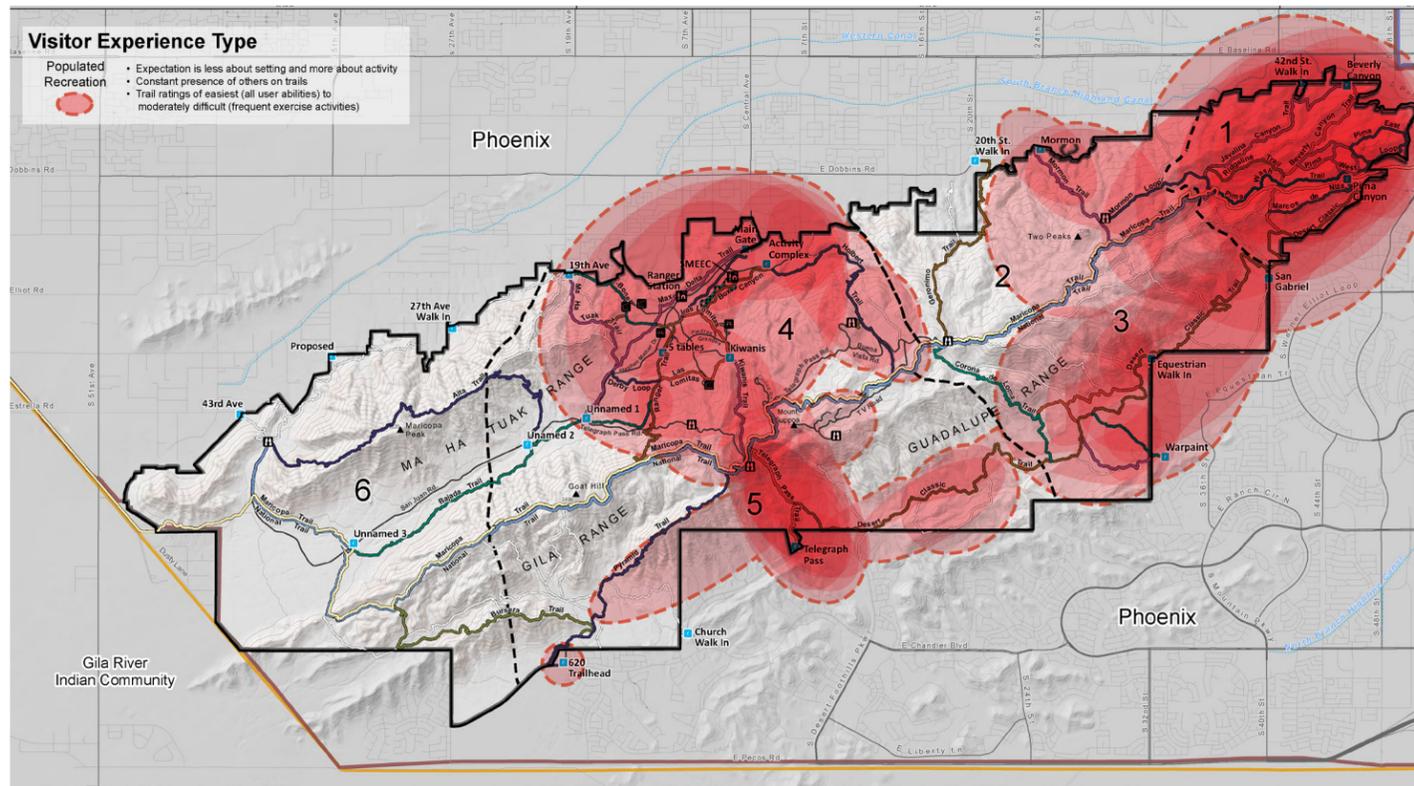
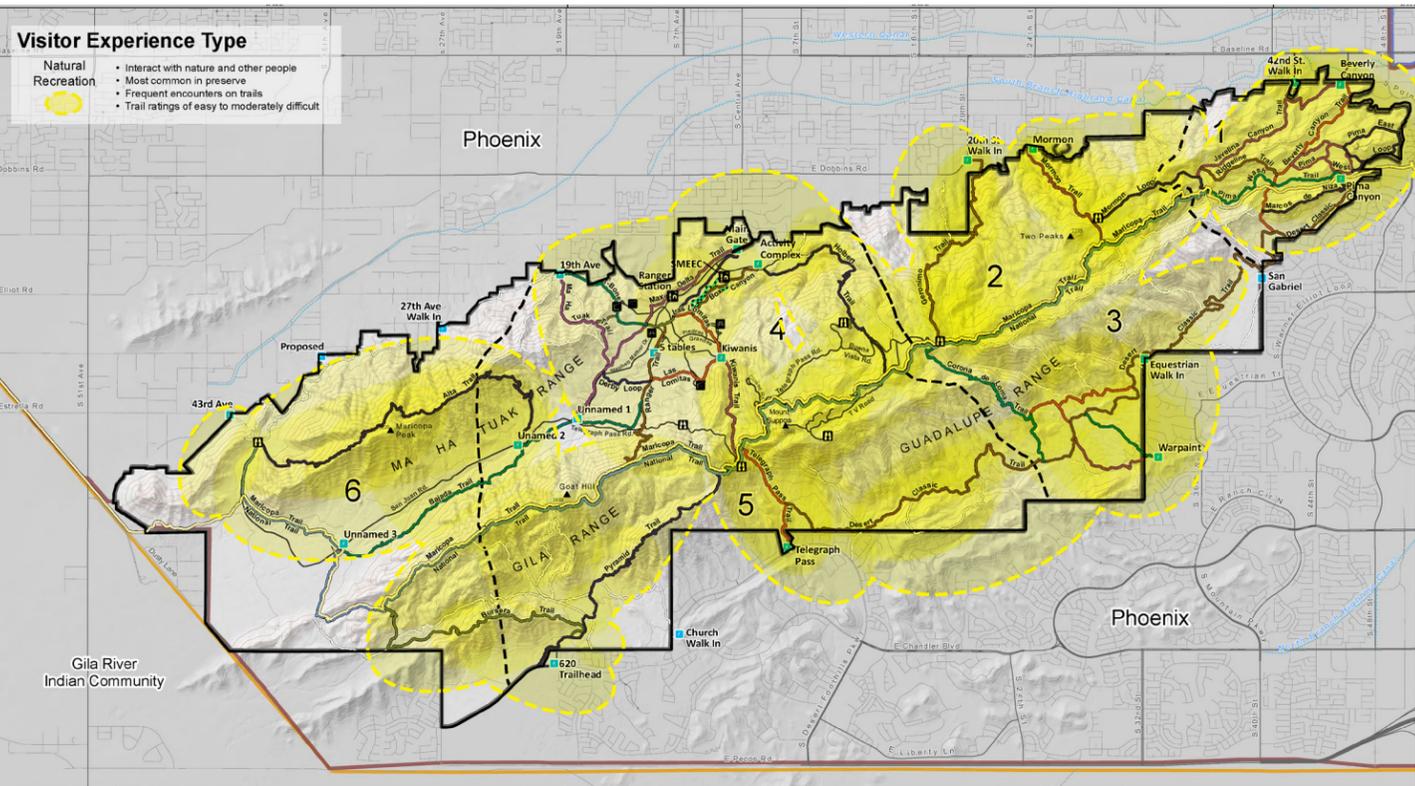
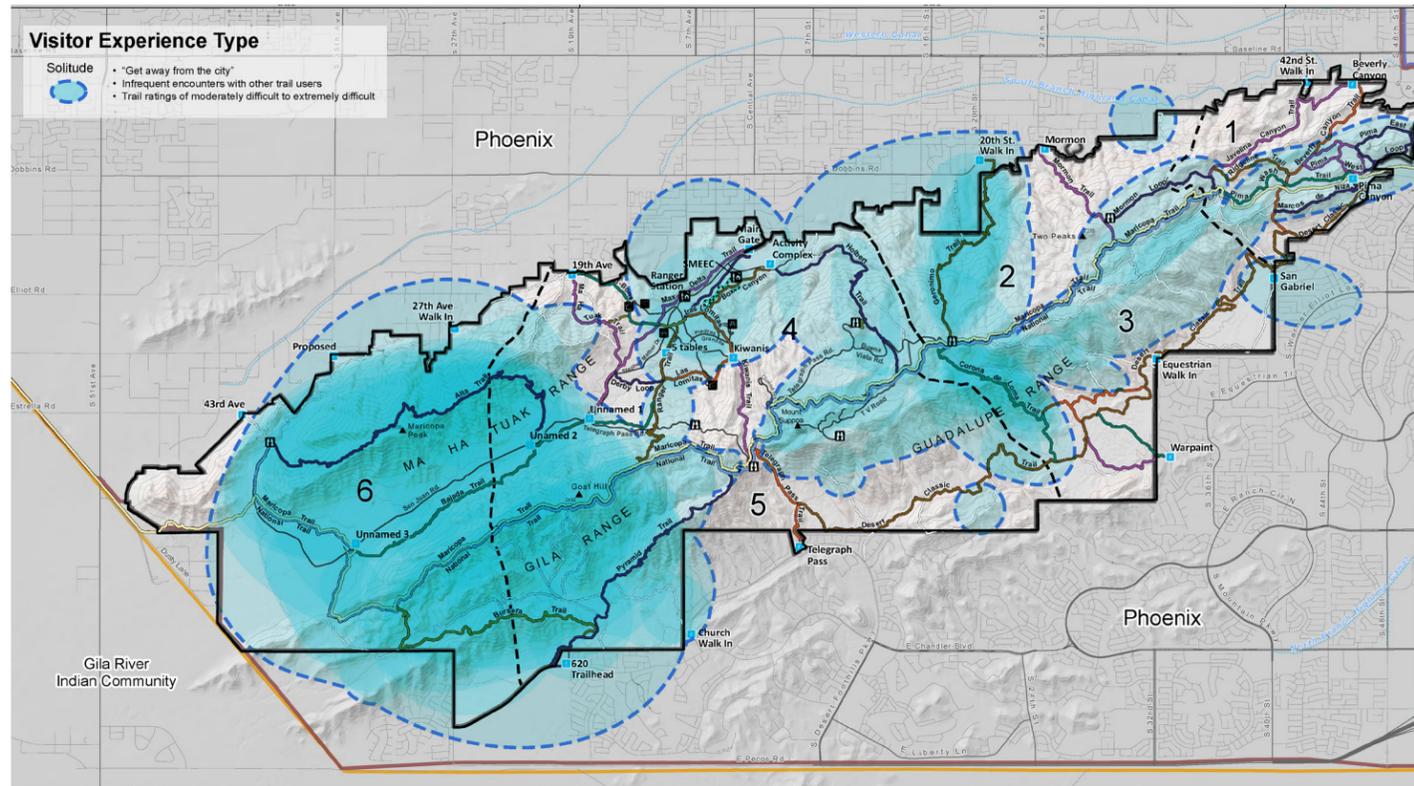


Figure 12: Preferred Visitor Recreation Experience Types

## Planning Zone and Conceptual Trail Alignments Development

The information provided by the stakeholders and public was reviewed and assessed to identify management zones related to the recreation experience input and a conceptual trail system. This information was presented to the public for further input and refinement at a second series of public meetings.

### Planning Zones

The DRAFT Preserve TMP is organized around an outcomes-focused recreational management approach, derived from the BLM's recreational planning framework. This approach was selected as a means to reconcile the needs and constraints of City Park managers, trail user expectations, and recognition that future change both around the Preserve and associated trail user volume increases require adaptable, flexible tools to guide trail-related decision making processes towards consistent planned outcomes.

Central to this framework are Planning Zones developed using input from Public Meeting #1 regarding expected user experiences both currently and in the future as

change occurs around the Preserve. The results from the public meetings were reviewed and further refined with input from City Park and Recreation staff.

Of note, the 1989 Master Plan also identified a total of six planning zones that were suggested for managing the unique features of the Preserve. **The planning zones identified for the DRAFT Preserve TMP reflect similar boundaries and objectives as those identified in the 1989 Master Plan, shown in the figure below.**

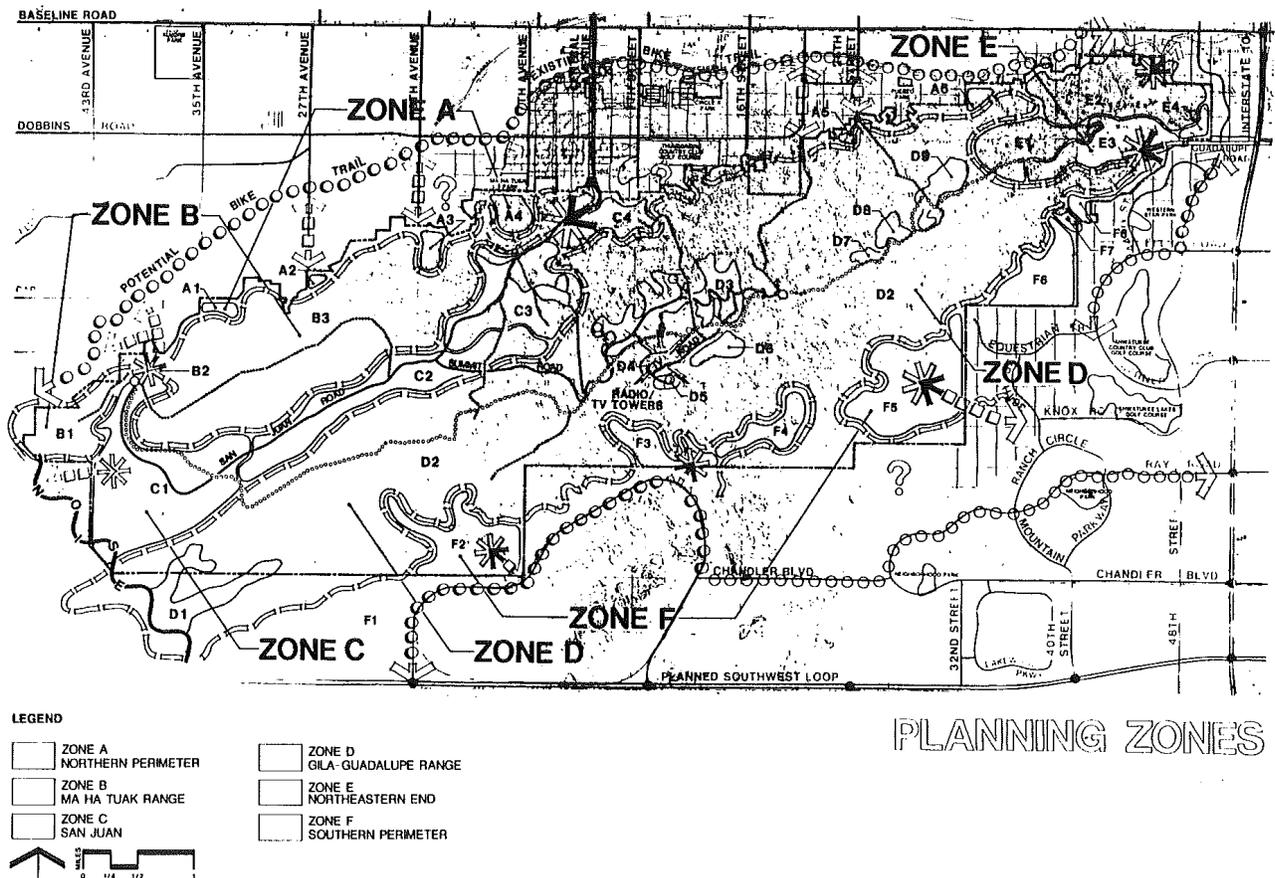


Figure 13: 1989 Master Plan Planning Zones

The DRAFT Preserve TMP Planning Zones are organized into the following five categories:

- **Developed Recreation** – Include areas around the main entrance and ranger station, the Pima Canyon Trailhead, as well as the Desert Classic and National Trail alignments. These are also the most heavily used areas of the Preserve.
- **Neighborhood Interface** – Trail planning for these areas include neighborhood trail access points and preserve perimeter trails for connectivity with minimal disturbance to the Preserve.
- **Natural Recreation** – Centrally located within the Preserve and includes less traveled trails that serve a range of trail-enhanced activities such as the bouldering at Hidden Valley. The trails include challenging and varied recreational opportunities.
- **Solitude** – Encompass the Ma-Ha-Tuak and Gila Ranges with limited access. Planning emphasizes management of the trail system to preserve these least impacted areas.

- **San Juan Road** – This area is valued for its unique recreational connectivity and offers views of the Ma-Ha-Tuak and Gila mountain ranges that rise up on either side of the valley corridor giving it a sense of remoteness. This planning area is considered most at risk to change as development and access to the Preserve from the west increases.

The planning zones described above are depicted on *Figure 15: Planning Zones* on the following page, as well as shown below for reference.

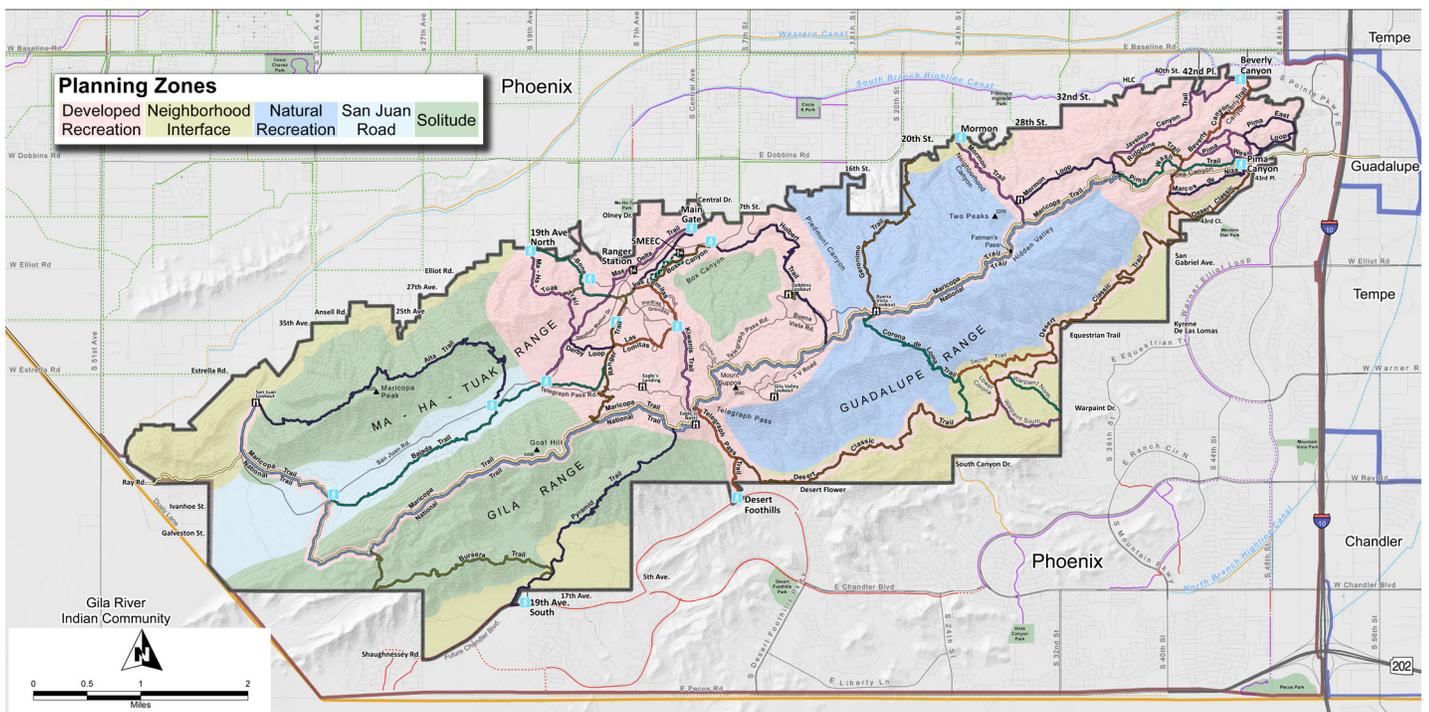


Figure 14: DRAFT Preserve TMP Planning Zones

## Setting Characteristics

To help translate the public input on desired recreation experiences into management actions, the DRAFT Preserve TMP Planning Zones include defining the physical characteristics, types of appropriate facilities, and management approaches that are consistent with the desired recreational experience within a given area of the Preserve. These setting characteristics, described briefly below, define a particular aspect of the overall Planning Zone, which, when considered collectively, allow trail planning and implementation efforts to compare changes either occurring due to existing recreational and other uses or potential outcomes resulting from a proposed new action in order to identify the appropriate management action.

The five setting characteristics are: Naturalness, Facilities, Urban Interface, Social Contact, and Management Controls.

- **Naturalness** This setting characteristic considers the intactness of an environment in its natural setting compared to the changes imposed by human modifications. The modifications can be direct, such as built facilities like fences, roads, trails, buildings, or non-natural landscape improvements. They also include indirect changes to the natural setting, such as the loss of species richness due to human activity. As part of the City of Phoenix's mountain preserve system, the management of the Preserve's natural environment is a priority consideration in all planning zones.
- **Facilities** This setting characteristic identifies the type of facilities trail users might expect to encounter within the planning zone. This includes the types of materials and extent of development these facilities entail.

- **Urban Interface** This setting characteristic refers to the extent that a planning zone interfaces with the adjacent developed City of Phoenix and is influenced by this interface. This also includes anticipated changes to adjoined land uses that could influence the levels of visitation, expected number of encounters, and criteria reflected in other setting characteristics.
- **Social Contact** This setting characteristic includes the frequency and types of encounters trail users expect when recreating in the planning zone.
- **Management Controls** This unique setting characteristic refers to the activities of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department including park rangers to manage activities within the Preserve. These include the level of active policing that may occur within the planning zone, the role of signage and posted rules in recreation management, and levels of restriction that a trail user should expect to encounter.

The matrix that follows summarizes how each of the five setting characteristics are represented within the planning zones (see *Figure 16: Planning Zone Settings Characteristics Matrix*). These in turn provide guidance for decision making regarding trails management by offering baseline qualitative criteria to compare against proposed future activities within a given planning zone.



	<i>Developed Recreation</i> Front Country	<i>Neighborhood Interface</i> Front Country	<i>Natural Recreation</i> Middle Country	<i>San Juan Road</i> Back Country	<i>Solitude</i> Back Country
<b>Naturalness</b>	3 Natural Sonoran Desert setting with visible modifications including roads, structures, and signage Signage is visually prominent to attract attention Quantity and density of trails alters the natural environment and is prevalent	3 Natural Sonoran Desert setting with visible modifications including roads, structures, and signage Signage and other introduced elements are visually integrated but influence visual character of the planning zone	4 Natural Sonoran Desert setting with limited modification that repeats the natural character in material, form, and color Signage, such as designated trail markers, are visible but compatible with the setting	4 Natural Sonoran Desert setting with minimal visible modifications. Paved road is primary non-natural feature Planning zone is managed to preserve the visual quality of the valley floor for elevated trail viewsheds	5 Visual character of the Natural Sonoran Desert has been retained Modifications repeat the characteristics, materials and form of the natural landscape. Trails and markings are compatible with surroundings and degree to which they attract attention
	5 Range of facilities and services including restrooms, developed trailheads, informational displays, picnic ramadas, and vehicle parking	3 Facilities and services that support Preserve trail system access and user safety including entry trailheads, kiosks, and the potential for parking as appropriate to the adjacent neighborhood	2 Facilities are minimal and include maintained, marked trails, and minimal signage	2 Facilities are minimal, including maintained marked trails and rest areas. San Juan Road provides a more developed paved road closed to motor vehicles with occasional planned openings	1 Minimal facilities provided. Developed trails are the primary facility, made of natural material. Markings are harmonious with the natural setting
<b>Urban Interface</b>	5 Multi-modal access to Preserve including motorized vehicle access in authorized areas Direct interface with developed areas outside of Preserve	4 Responsive to adjacent neighborhood needs (i.e., parking vs. local access) Directly interfaces with development outside of Preserve with non-motorized access	2 No immediate interface adjacent to Preserve boundary	3 Limited access into Preserve from interface from County road off Dusty Lane	2 Adjacent to the Preserve boundary in locations, but adjacent development is buffered by terrain or development type
	5 Interactions with other trail users is continuous or near-continuous and trail users of all types should be expected Trailheads are often congested during peak demand periods	4 Interactions with other trail users can be near continuous at access points Trail use may include users of all types, while also reflecting specific interests of local neighborhoods (i.e., equestrians near horse properties)	3 Frequent to occasional encounters with other trail users of all types	2 Frequent encounters of other users on San Juan Road are possible Encounters on natural surface trails are infrequent	2 Infrequent encounters on trails and at trailheads
<b>Management Controls</b>	5 Park Rangers stationed in planning zone and actively police area Signs and requirements prominently posted at trailheads	4 Rangers patrol planning zone and enforce rules and ordinances Signs and requirements prominently posted at trailheads	2 Rangers infrequently patrol planning zone and enforce rules and ordinances Signs indicating designated trails and use areas only	4 Rangers infrequently patrol natural surface trails, regularly patrol San Juan Road San Juan Road motor vehicle access restricted with signs posted at access points	1 Rangers infrequently patrol natural surface trails Designated trail markers are the primary form of rules and regulations posted

Ratings: Level of influence of the setting characteristic within a Trails Planning Zone. 5 = strong influence, 3 = moderate influence, 1 = weak or no influence

Figure 16: Planning Zone Settings Characteristics Matrix

## Conceptual Trail Alignments

Using the input from the public meetings, online comments, and City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation staff, conceptual trail alignments were identified.

The Conceptual Trail Alignments represented in green and blue on *Figure 17: Conceptual Trail Alignments* were presented to the public in Public Meeting Series #2 as trails proposed to be incorporated into the designated trail system.

The green trail alignments shown in the figure included existing non-designated trails that could be enhanced or realigned for sustainability and provide different recreational opportunities and challenges.

Blue trail alignments included proposed new trails intended to provide trail system connectivity.



*Participants at Public Meeting Series #2 at the PCC Discussing the Conceptual Trail Alignments*

## Public Meeting Series #2

Two public meetings were held for this second series for the DRAFT Preserve TMP.

The first meeting, which included a formal presentation followed by a table exercise, was held on September 21, 2016, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Pecos Community Center.

The second meeting was held on Saturday morning, September 24, 2016, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at South Mountain Environmental Education Center. This meeting was conducted as an open house format with the intention of allowing Preserve visitors and trail

users to attend and participate before or after their other activities at the Preserve.

A combined total of 58 attendees plus City staff and the consultant team participated in the two meetings.

Following a presentation during the Pecos Community Center Meeting on how the public input from Meeting Series #1 was used in the planning process, the public was asked to provide comments on trail naming, wayfinding, and proposed conceptual trail alignments. Participants in the Saturday meeting at the SMEEC were given the same information in one-on-one discussions



*Participants at the Public Meeting Series #2 Open House at the SMEEC*

with City staff and the Consultant team during the open house.

### **Trail Naming**

Attendees were asked to provide input on the naming of trails to guide the development of the DRAFT Preserve TMP.

#### **Key Findings on Trail Naming:**

- Consistency of a trail naming system is very important.
- Renaming the trail system will impact user experience by making it better.
- Many popular non-designated trails have widely known names, which should be kept to the extent possible.
- Avoid use of “theme-park” names. (i.e., naming trails after desert animals, vegetation, etc.)
- Use of names that aid in wayfinding would be helpful.
- A consistent trail naming system would help people identify trails and know where they are, improve safety, and provide ability to plan distances.



*Participants at the Public Meeting Series #2 Filling Out Comment Forms*

- Better signage and wayfinding would improve safety and primarily benefit new or out-of-state visitors.
- Regular users did not prefer modifications to existing trail names, but most participants in the meetings recognized the intent was for very limited name changes to help those who are not familiar with the trail system where the naming could be confusing.

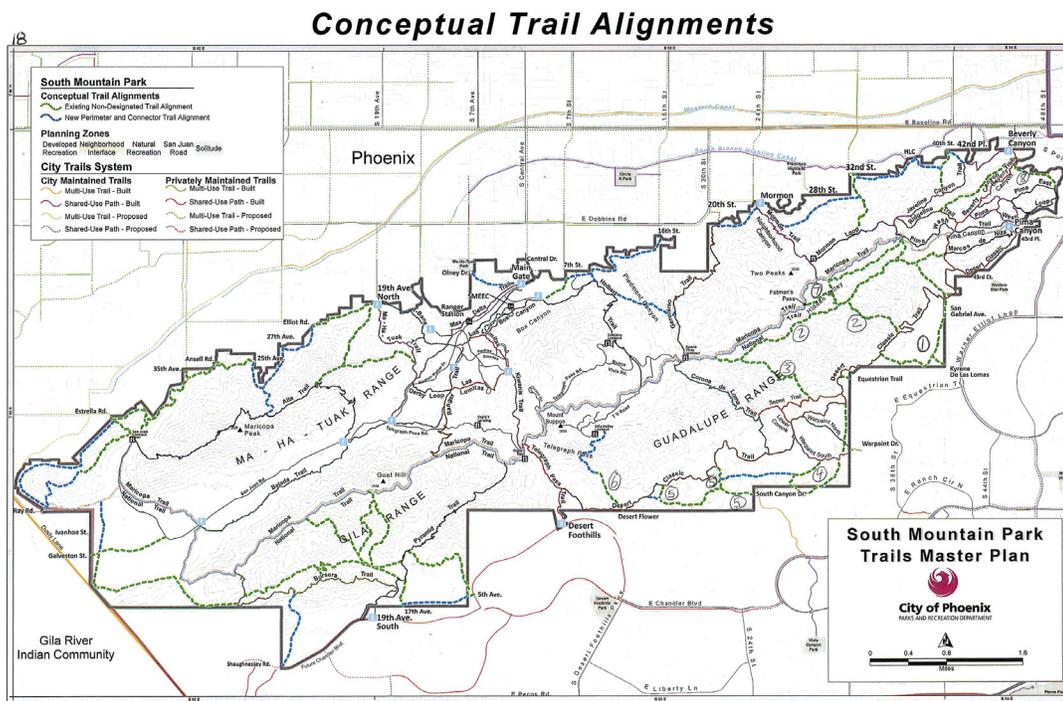
### Conceptual Trail Alignments

The participants in the meetings were presented with the Conceptual Trail Alignments and asked to provide

comments on which alignments should be included in the designated trail system, which should not be included, and to comment on other issues related to the trail locations. This was accomplished through a comment form that allowed participants to match numbered comments on a map with written comments on the back of the form. An example of one of the forms is shown below.

### Key findings from this exercise include:

- Participants were largely in favor of including many proposed conceptual trails in the designated trail system.



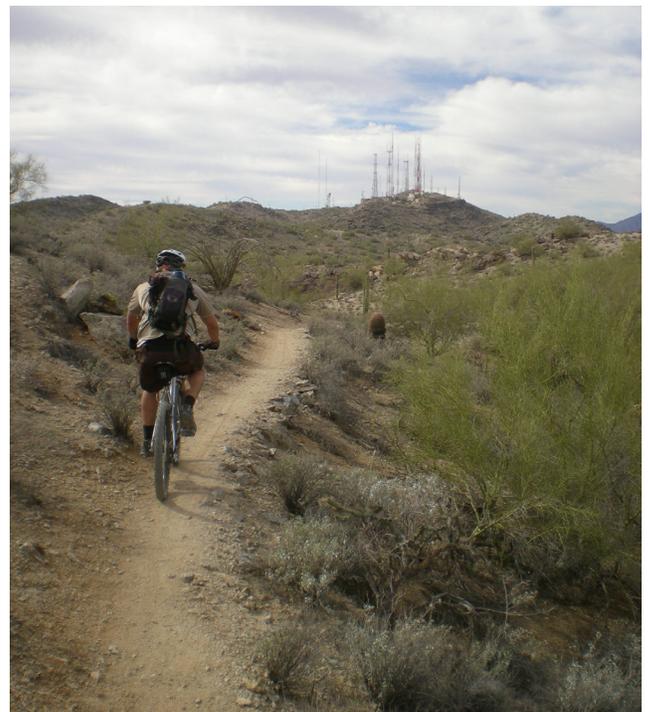
### Comment Form #18 Example

1. Desert Classic Trail – Trail that parallels Desert Classic northwest of Kyrene del Las Lomas. This trail is a great, easier, well-established alternative to a section of Desert Classic. I've rode this for years and figured it was in the system.
2. Equestrian Trail / Desert Classic – Trail north of the equestrian area extending north from D.C. up into the mountain. This trail provides a decent amount of solitude and challenges while providing great views and an alternative to busy trails like Telegraph and National.
3. Secret Trail – Trail extending north from Secret Trail onto the mountain. Again, some solitude and challenges as well as some unique features along the way. Nice elevation gain and alternative to other similar trails.
4. War Paint – Loops Southwest of War Paint. Nice, challenging (somewhat), easily accessible trail with some elevation gain. Great views of the Guadalupe Range! I like the proximity to the War Paint Drive parking area. Very popular.
5. South Canyon Drive – Trails west of the South Canyon Drive. These are excellent trails in the Foothills area prior to meeting up with D.C. The helipad is a neat feature to discover. These trails could use maintenance, as at least 2 were not sustainably built. Close re-routes may be necessary.
6. Gila Valley Lookout – Trail leading from D.C. to Gila Valley Lookout. Trail has the potential to be a nice alternative to Telegraph Pass. I have only been on a small part, but I think the trail has potential due to the location.
7. Hidden Valley / Fat Man's Pass – Trail at or near Hidden Valley (Fat Man's Pass). If this is the trail which takes you through Hidden Valley by Fat Man's, it should absolutely be adopted. Excellent, special formation. Figured it wasn't part of the system long ago.
8. Pima East – Trail north of Pima East. Fun and established trail, it has somewhat challenging features and neat views of the city and nearby resort/golf course.

- General concern was expressed that too many trails becoming designated would impact the solitude experience in parts of the Preserve.
- Many comments on these same alignments identified above expressed being in favor of seeing the trails designated.
- The many members of the public expressed opposition to the proposed perimeter trail alignment between 28th Street and 32nd Street.
- Parking and access continued to be concerns, which the public was informed would be considered in more detail with a separate facilities planning project.
- Many comments recommended signage to improve safety (water recommendations, activities and wildlife that may be encountered on trails, etc.).
- A number of participants commented the trail known as “Devastator Trail” needs improvements to become a multi-use trail or to be considered sustainable.
- Commenters noted the Pima Canyon area is most confusing and needs better trail marking as well as signage.
- Participants noted that maps of local trails from trailheads, not just overall trail system maps, would be helpful.
- Some participants expressed Interest in parallel segregated trails to reduce conflicts. Example, downhill trail for higher speed bikers as part of Geronimo Trail alignment would benefit hikers and bikers.
- Comments on the types of trail uses available from areas other than Pima Canyon should be considered. For example, smaller loops of 1 to 2 miles in areas other than Pima Canyon are needed for short hikes.



*Equestrians on Trail*



*Mountain Biker on Trail*

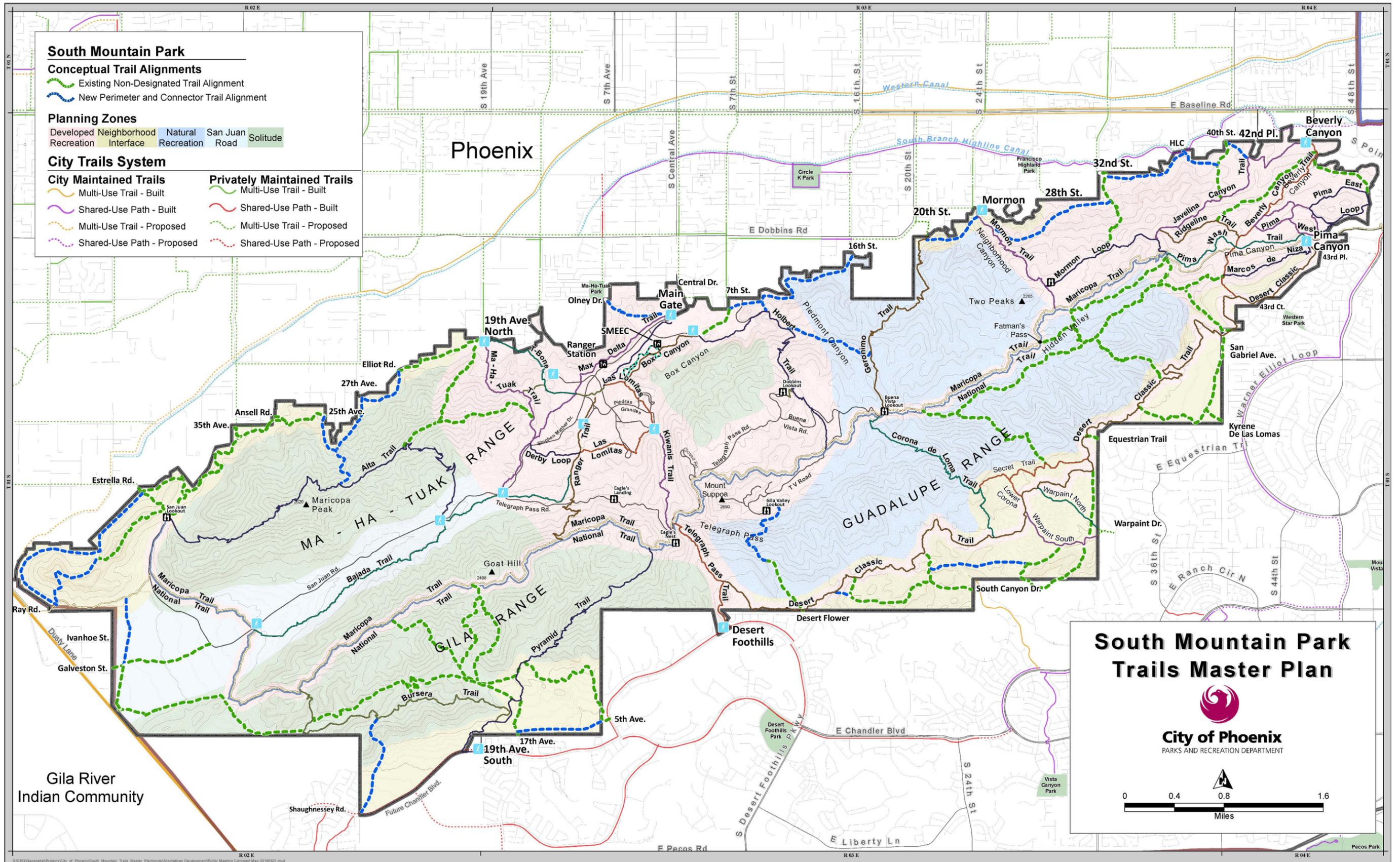


Figure 17: Conceptual Trail Alignments

## Preliminary Preserve TMP

A preliminary Preserve TMP (see *Figure 18: Preliminary Preserve Trails Master Plan*) was developed using the input from the September public meetings on the conceptual trail alignments, comments received online, and City staff to identify a refined proposed system of designated trails.

The preliminary Preserve TMP included 39 designated named trails along with a number of shorter connecting trails that would be designated but not named. The preliminary Preserve TMP included:

- Improving the existing 53 miles of designated trails
- Designating and improving 38 miles of existing non-designated trails
- Constructing 11 miles of new connector and perimeter trail
- Restoring over 80 miles of non-designated and unsustainable trail sections within the Preserve

A goal of the preliminary Preserve TMP included improving wayfinding to make trail system use safer and more intuitive. To help accomplish this, the preliminary Preserve TMP included:

- Keeping and building on the existing trail names in most cases, and extending existing named trails where possible.
- Creating true loop trails that will lead visitors back to the trailhead from which they started.
- Proposing perimeter trails to better control access into the Preserve and reduce off-trail use to get to designated trails.
- Adopting many popular existing trails, allowing for better rule enforcement and policing of off-trail use.



Existing Signage at the Mormon Trailhead Near 24th Street

### **Public Meeting Series #3**

Two public meetings were held for the third and final public involvement series for the DRAFT Preserve TMP.

The first meeting was held on December 6, 2016, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Pecos Community Center.

The second meeting was held on December 8, 2016, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at SMEEC.

A combined total of 79 attendees plus City staff and the consultant team participated in the two meetings.

The meeting objectives were to:

- Inform the public of which trails are to be designated, which are to be constructed (new), and which alignments are to be closed.
- Inform the public of the proposed designated trail naming system and seek public input on the proposed names
- Inform the public of the final steps of the master plan process and how to keep informed and engaged as stewards in the Preserve

The meetings sought to accomplish the objectives through the following steps:

- Discuss the proposed Designated, New Construction, and Closed Trail Alignments and seek feedback from the public.
- Discuss the proposed designated trails to be included in the master plan based on input received from the public and the criteria for being sustainable, maintainable, and meeting appropriate safety levels for the trail.
- Discuss which trails are being proposed to be constructed as new and which trail alignments are being proposed to be closed.
- Display the proposed trail alignments (designated, new construction, and closed) by showcasing the three display boards.
- Present the proposed trail naming system and seek feedback from the public.



*Participants at the Public Meeting Series #3 at the PCC*



*Participants at the Public Meeting Series #3 at the SMEEC*

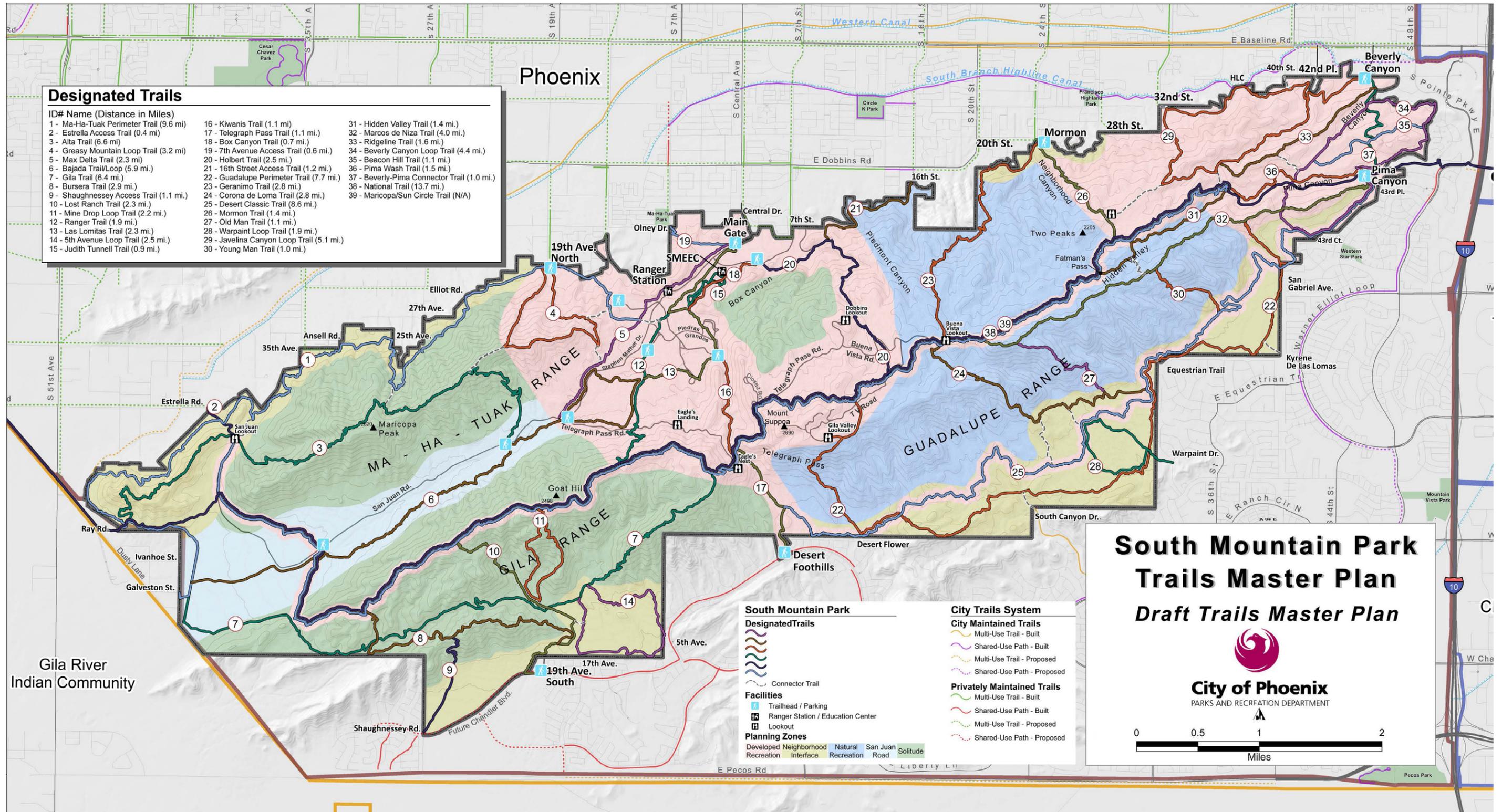


Figure 18: Preliminary Preserve Trails Master Plan

## DRAFT Preserve TMP

The DRAFT Preserve TMP (see *Figure 18: Preliminary Preserve Trails Master Plan*) incorporated input from the December public meetings, comments received online, City staff input, and email responses from the public to further refine and complete the identification of the recommended designated trails system. This included renaming a segment of trail T-Bone Loop Trail consistent with its long-standing designation, extending National Trail to the Preserve boundary to the east and west, removing the proposed segment of new trail between 24th Street and 40th Street following additional analysis and public comments, and other minor alignment adjustments.

The DRAFT Preserve TMP includes 37 designated named trails along with a number of shorter connecting trails to be designated but not named. The named Designated Trails are listed in the table on the right:

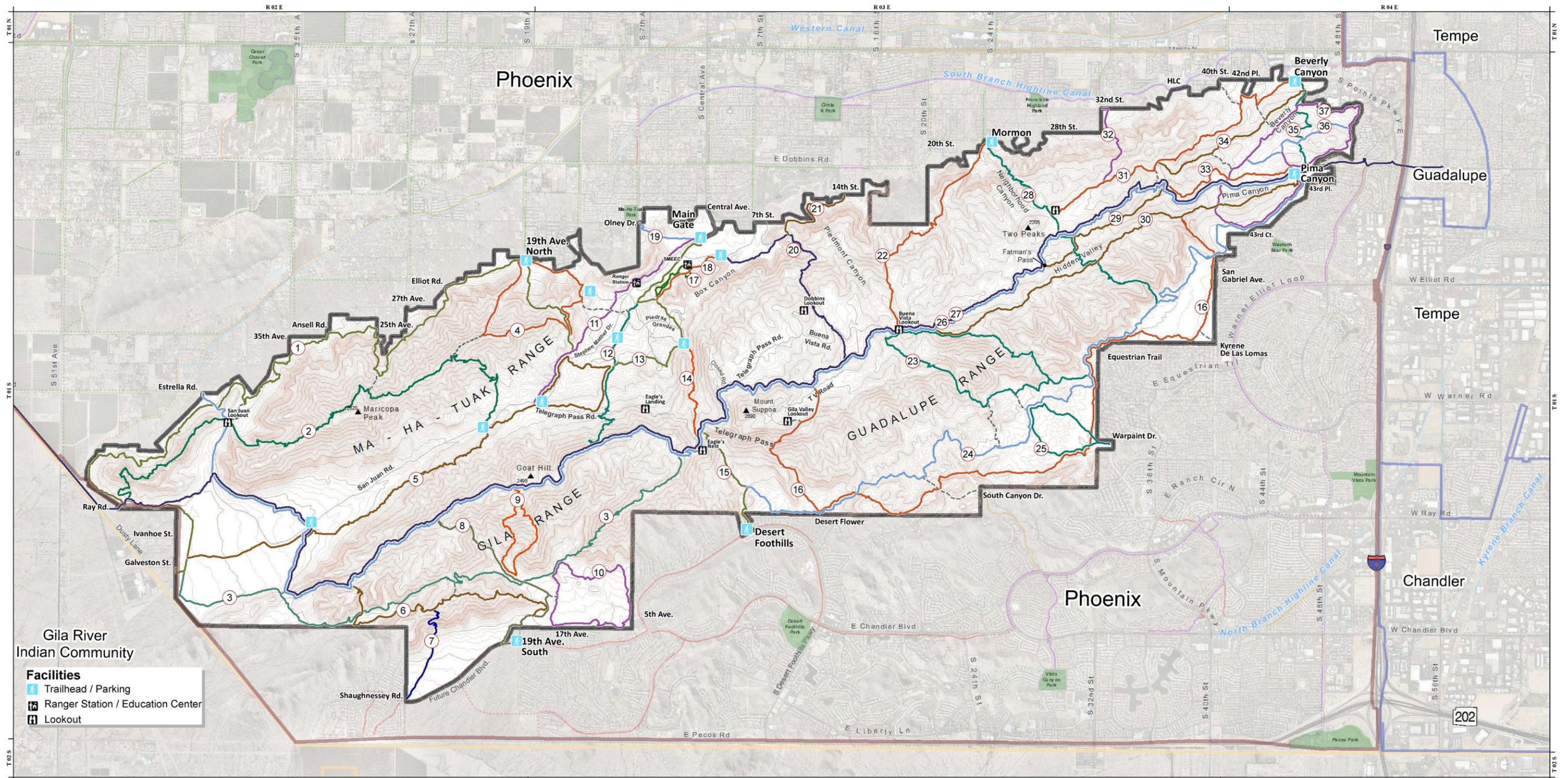
The 53 miles of existing designated trails will largely remain within the system with the exception of short sections of the Pima Loop East Trail, Pima Loop West Trail, Geronimo Trail, and Pyramid Trail being restored as part of the recommended realignments and improvements.

A total of 38 miles of existing non-designated trails are recommended to be added to the system with assessments and improvements where needed to comply with sustainable trail guidelines.

More than 80 miles of existing non-designated trails are intended to be restored over a phased period to help protect the Preserve and improve visitor experiences in all of the planning zones.

Trail No.	Trail Name	EX. Designated Mileage	EX. Non-Designated Mileage	New Construction Mileage	TOTAL
1	Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail	1.6	4.0	3.9	9.5
2	Alta Trail	4.6	0.7	1.5	6.5
3	Gila Trail	2.4	3.5	0.5	6.4
4	T-Bone Loop Trail	1.0	2.4		3.4
5	Bajada Trail	4.9	1.1		6.0
6	Bursera Trail	2.9			2.9
7	Shaughnessey Connector Trail			1.1	1.1
8	Lost Ranch Trail	0.9	1.4		2.3
9	Mine Drop Loop		2.1		2.1
10	5th Avenue Loop	0.2	2.5		2.7
11	Max Delta Trail	2.3			2.3
12	Ranger Trail	1.9			1.9
13	Las Lomas Trail	2.3			2.3
14	Kiwanis Trail	1.1			1.1
15	Telegraph Pass Trail	1.1			1.1
16	Guadalupe Perimeter Trail	1.8	4.2	2.0	8.0
17	Judith Tunnell Trail	0.9			0.9
18	Box Canyon Trail	0.7			0.7
19	7th Avenue Access Trail		0.6		0.6
20	Holbert Trail	2.3			2.3
21	Piedmont Canyon Trail			0.9	0.9
22	Geronimo Trail	2.4		0.8	3.2
23	Corona de Loma Trail	1.9	3.2		5.1
24	Desert Classic Trail	8.7			8.7
25	Warpaint Loop Trail	1.9			1.9
26	Maricopa/ Sun Circle Trail	15.6			15.6
27	National Trail	14.4	1.8		16.2
28	Mormon Trail	1.5	1.5		3.0
29	Hidden Valley Trail		1.5		1.5
30	Marcos de Niza Trail	0.9	3.1		4.0
31	Javelina Canyon Loop Trail	3.0			3.0
32	Highline Connector Trail		0.8		0.8
33	Pima Wash Trail	1.5			1.5
34	Ridgeline Trail	0.6	1.0		1.6
35	Beverly-Pima Connector Trail	1.2	0.5		1.7
36	Beacon Hill Trail	1.1			1.1
37	Pima Canyon Loop Trail	3.5	1.7		5.2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>91.1*</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>139.1*</b>

\* Trail mile totals reflect alignment lengths that exceed the physical mileage of trails due to alignments sharing segments of trail



**Sources**  
 City of Phoenix, 2016  
 Maricopa County, 2016  
 ESRI Street Map, 2013

**Designated Trails**

ID#	Name (Distance in Miles)
1	Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail ( 9.6 mi. )
2	Alta Trail ( 6.6 mi. )
3	Gila Trail ( 6.4 mi. )
4	T-Bone Loop Trail ( 3.1 mi. )
5	Bajada Trail/Loop ( 5.9 mi. )
6	Bursera Trail ( 2.9 mi. )
7	Shaughnessey Access Trail ( 1.1 mi. )
8	Lost Ranch Trail ( 2.3 mi. )
9	Mine Drop Loop Trail ( 2 mi. )
10	5th Avenue Loop Trail ( 2.6 mi. )
11	Max Delta Trail ( 2.3 mi. )
12	Ranger Trail ( 1.9 mi. )
13	Las Lomas Trail ( 2.3 mi. )
14	Kiwanis Trail ( 1.1 mi. )
15	Telegraph Pass Trail ( 1.1 mi. )
16	Guadalupe Perimeter Trail ( 8 mi. )
17	Judith Tunnell Trail ( 0.9 mi. )
18	Box Canyon Trail ( 0.7 mi. )
19	7th Avenue Access Trail ( 0.6 mi. )
20	Holbert Trail ( 2.3 mi. )
21	Piedmont Canyon Trail ( 1.2 mi. )
22	Geronimo Trail ( 2.4 mi. )
23	Corona de Loma Loop Trail ( 4.4 mi. )
24	Desert Classic Trail ( 8.7 mi. )
25	Warpaint Loop Trail ( 1.8 mi. )
26	Maricopa/Sun Circle Trail ( 23 mi. )
27	National Trail ( 15.5 mi. )
28	Mormon Trail ( 2.9 mi. )
29	Hidden Valley Trail ( 1.4 mi. )
30	Marcos de Niza Trail ( 4.0 mi. )
31	Javelina Canyon Trail ( 3.0 mi. )
32	Highline Connector Trail ( 0.8 mi. )
33	Pima Wash Trail ( 1.5 mi. )
34	Ridgeline Trail ( 1.6 mi. )
35	Beverly-Pima Connector Trail ( 1.0 mi. )
36	Beacon Hill Trail ( 1.1 mi. )
37	Pima Canyon Loop Trail ( 4.5 mi. )

**City of Phoenix**  
 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**South Mountain Park Trails Master Plan**  
 2017

**SOUTH MOUNTAIN TRAIL SYSTEM**  
 PLANNING & PRESERVATION

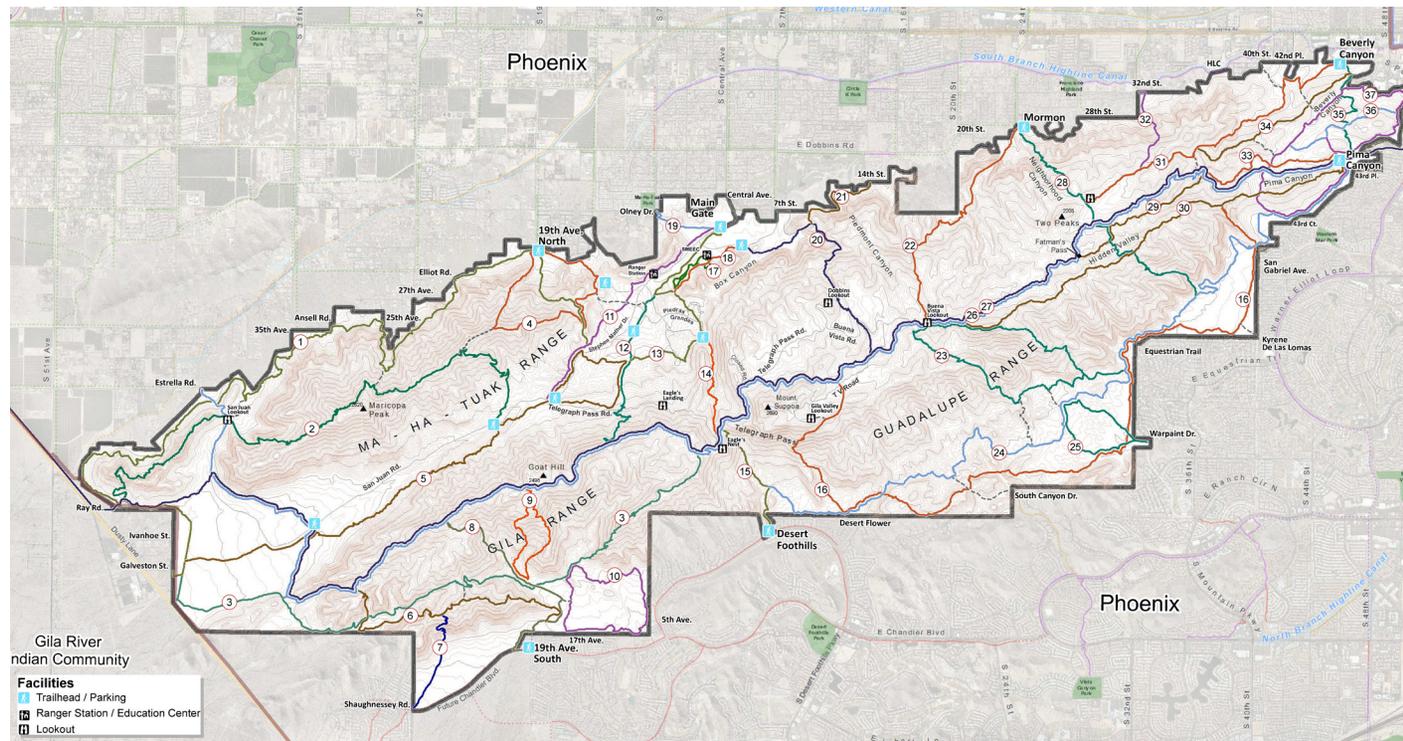
Figure 19: DRAFT Preserve Trails Master Plan



### 3. Master Plan Trail Alignments

#### Introduction

The following pages include additional information for each of the 37 named designated trails included in the Preserve TMP.



#### Designated Trails

- | ID# | Name (Distance in Miles)                 |
|-----|--|
| 1   | Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail ( 9.6 mi. )   |
| 2   | Alta Trail ( 6.6 mi. )                   |
| 3   | Gila Trail ( 6.4 mi. )                   |
| 4   | T-Bone Loop Trail ( 3.1 mi. )            |
| 5   | Bajada Trail/Loop ( 5.9 mi. )            |
| 6   | Bursera Trail ( 2.9 mi. )                |
| 7   | Shaughnessey Access Trail ( 1.1 mi. )    |
| 8   | Lost Ranch Trail ( 2.3 mi. )             |
| 9   | Mine Drop Loop Trail ( 2 mi. )           |
| 10  | 5th Avenue Loop Trail ( 2.6 mi. )        |
| 11  | Max Delta Trail ( 2.3 mi. )              |
| 12  | Ranger Trail ( 1.9 mi. )                 |
| 13  | Las Lomitas Trail ( 2.3 mi. )            |
| 14  | Kiwanis Trail ( 1.1 mi. )                |
| 15  | Telegraph Pass Trail ( 1.1 mi. )         |
| 16  | Guadalupe Perimeter Trail ( 8 mi. )      |
| 17  | Judith Tunnell Trail ( 0.9 mi. )         |
| 18  | Box Canyon Trail ( 0.7 mi. )             |
| 19  | 7th Avenue Access Trail ( 0.6 mi. )      |
| 20  | Holbert Trail ( 2.3 mi. )                |
| 21  | Piedmont Canyon Trail ( 1.2 mi. )        |
| 22  | Geronimo Trail ( 2.4 mi. )               |
| 23  | Corona de Loma Loop Trail ( 4.4 mi. )    |
| 24  | Desert Classic Trail ( 8.7 mi. )         |
| 25  | Warpaint Loop Trail ( 1.8 mi. )          |
| 26  | Maricopa/Sun Circle Trail ( 23 mi. )     |
| 27  | National Trail ( 15.5 mi. )              |
| 28  | Mormon Trail ( 2.9 mi. )                 |
| 29  | Hidden Valley Trail ( 1.4 mi. )          |
| 30  | Marcos de Niza Trail ( 4.0 mi. )         |
| 31  | Javelina Canyon Trail ( 3.0 mi. )        |
| 32  | Highline Connector Trail ( 0.8 mi. )     |
| 33  | Pima Wash Trail ( 1.5 mi. )              |
| 34  | Ridgeline Trail ( 1.6 mi. )              |
| 35  | Beverly-Pima Connector Trail ( 1.0 mi. ) |
| 36  | Beacon Hill Trail ( 1.1 mi. )            |
| 37  | Pima Canyon Loop Trail ( 4.5 mi. )       |

## Implementation

The implementation of the Preserve TMP will require further field review of the trail conditions to assess both existing designated and proposed designated trails for improvements and maintenance needs that would improve their safety, maintainability, and sustainability.

### Mountain Trail Design and Construction Criteria

- Trail alignment must be designed and constructed to be harmonious with the environment and follow the natural contours of the terrain
- Trail must be sustainable (see below)
- Trail must be maintainable (requiring minimal maintenance) and be cost-effective
- Trail should provide public access to a variety of terrain, challenges, and vistas/viewpoints
  - Minimize use of foreign materials including soil stabilizers, concrete, and other armoring methods
  - Avoid constant grades, steep slopes, steep cross slopes, sharp turns, tight switchbacks, fall line alignments, and poor unstable soils when possible
- Trail should incorporate erosion control methods such as grade reversals, drain dips, and outslopes.
- Trail should be 48" standard width for multi-use, minimum 36" where necessary
- Trail grades up to 8% are considered optimal, 12% maximum grade for distances less than 150 yards long (must

- incorporate grade reversals where possible)
- Trail grades over 12% are considered unsustainable and are strongly discouraged
  - Trail cross slope should be 3–6%
- Trail lateral clearance (from trail edge) should be a minimum of 18" and be clear of vegetation
  - Trail vertical clearance should be a minimum of 10' and be clear of vegetation

### Non-Designated Trail Closure/Restoration Criteria

- Trail is not sustainable according to the criteria above and are located as to make this unachievable
- Trail is not maintainable due to natural terrain, soil condition, or other criteria
- Trail has poor alignment and needs to be re-routed
  - Trail needs to be properly aligned for positive drainage and minimal maintenance
  - Trail negatively impacts the natural environment (flora, fauna, habitat, natural watershed)
- Trail impedes on and/or impacts cultural resources
- Trail runs parallel to other trails going to the same location
- Trail causes neighborhood conflicts and concerns

NOTE: where it is deemed that a non-designated trail is to be closed for restoration, a sign will be posted indicating this. It is expected that the users stay on designated trails only per City Code PCC 24-36.

## Maintainability Criteria

- The trail is graded appropriately for positive drainage including the use of outsoles, directing sheet flow off the trail tread
- The trail incorporates drainage structures, such as bevel dips, drain dips, and climbing turns where appropriate
- The trail is designed to minimize erosion, soil loss, and soil degradation
  - The trail uses native/natural surface treatment preferably a solid surface substrate such as a natural surface material that packs well and is not loose or sandy
- Low maintenance trails have gentle grades and elevation gains

Note: Erosion, misuse, heavy use, heavy rains and other factors have a negative effect on trail conditions requiring more than routine maintenance.



## Signage

A comprehensive wayfinding and education signage package is recommended as part of the implementation of the Preserve TMP.

Recommendations include:

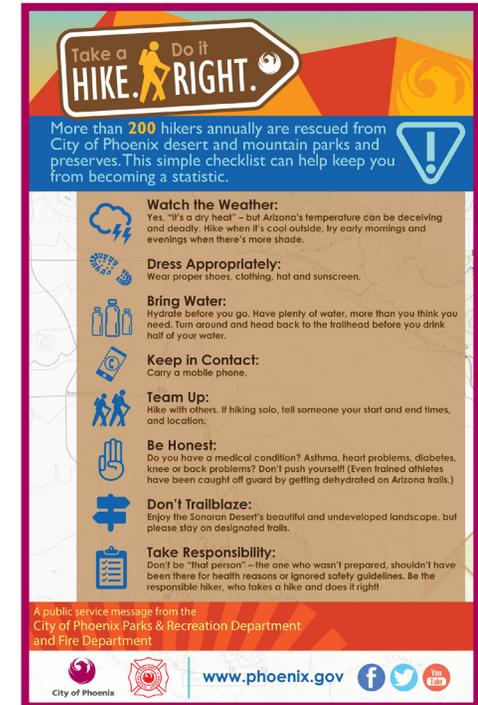
- Adding directional and mileage sign posts at intersections between all designated trails
- Inclusions of both full trail system and local trail maps at trailheads
- Updating the trail rating and signage system to be more easily understood by visitors



## Safety

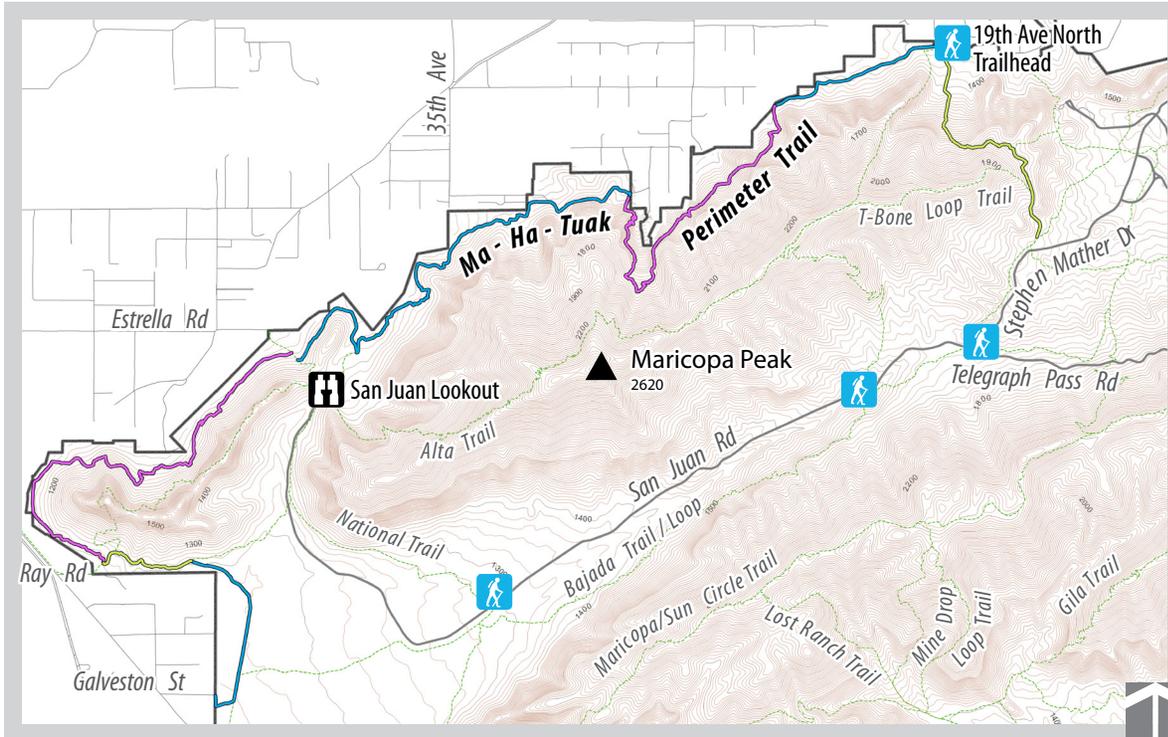
The City has enacted an important safety campaign to inform trail users of the unique risks associated with trail use in the desert heat.

Integration of this, "Take a Hike, Do it Right!" campaign and other safety- related programs goes hand-in-hand with the wayfinding elements of the Preserve TMP. Trail renaming, wayfinding signage, and education signage all become part of the larger preventative planning to better prepare trail users and reduce the need for rescues in the Preserve.



# Trail Segment 01: Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation / Neighborhood Interface / Solitude



	Existing designated trail	1.6 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	4.0 miles
	New trail construction	3.9 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>9.5 miles</b>

This new trail alignment is needed to provide a designated trail for residents on the west side of the Preserve that is comparable in accessibility and experience to Desert Classic Trail. The need for perimeter trails such as the Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail is identified in the 1989 Master Plan.

Unnamed existing non-designated segments include a section of trail near Dusty Lane that would connect the Gila Trail to the Maricopa/Sun Circle Trail. Named non-designated trail segments include Dead Man's Pass near the San Juan Look Out, and the non-designated perimeter East Laveen Trail.

New trail segments will need to be constructed from near Ray Road around the western-most ridgeline of the Ma-Ha-Tuak Range, and to provide a connection between trail segments near 27th Avenue that keeps the alignment within the Preserve boundary.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Ma-Ha-Tuak Trail

Non-designated Trails: Dead Man's Pass, East Laveen Trail

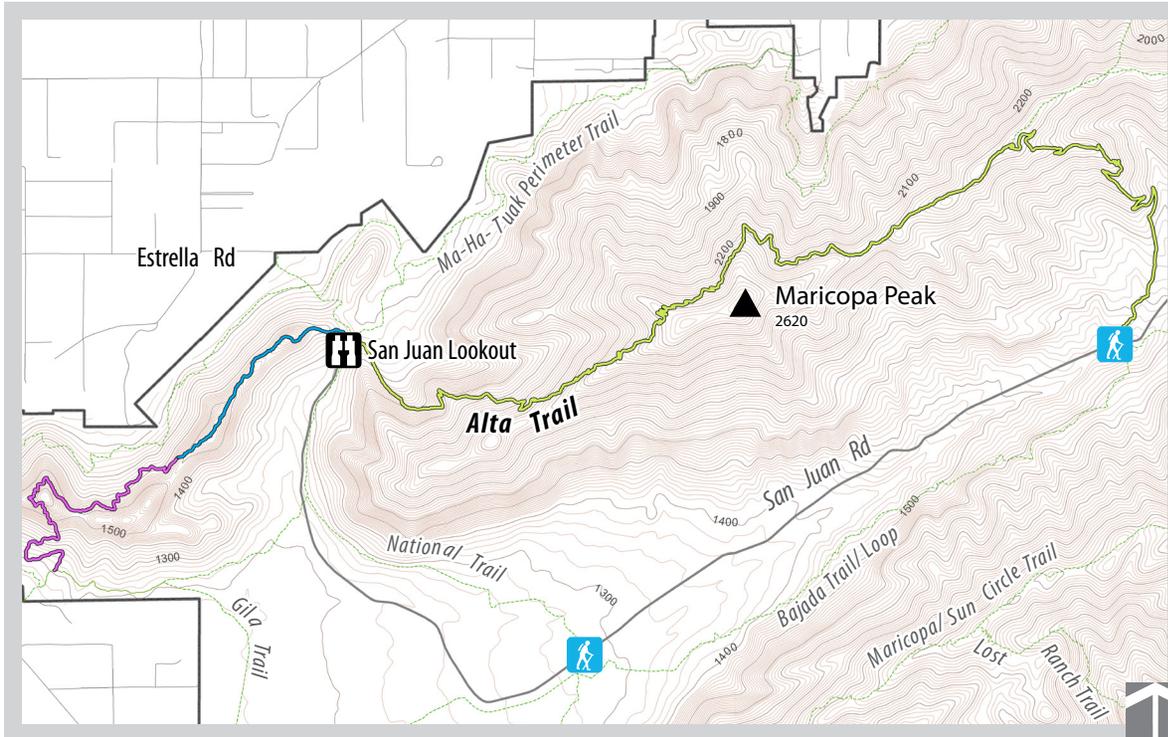
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: 19th Avenue North Trailhead, San Juan Look Out, Galvistan Street, Elliot Road

Other Trail Connections: Gila Trail, Bajada Trail, Maricopa Trail, Alta Trail, National Trail, T-Bone Loop Trail, Max Delta Trail

# Trail Segment 02: Alta Trail

Planning Zone: Neighborhood Interface/Solitude



	Existing designated trail	4.6 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.7 miles
	New trail construction	1.2 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>6.5 miles</b>

The existing designated Alta Trail is one of the original and historic trails within the Preserve. The Preserve TMP includes extending the existing back country trail alignment from San Juan Lookout along the west ridgeline of the Ma-Ha-Tuak Range on an existing non-designated trail. A segment of new trail is needed to provide a connection to the Maricopa Trail and potential future west access points.

The existing trail alignment includes sections of steep climbs from the San Juan Road Trailhead and San Juan Look Out where sustainability analysis of the existing alignment is recommended to identify sections where the maintainability of the trail can be improved.

### Existing Named Trail Segments:

Designated Trails: Alta Trail

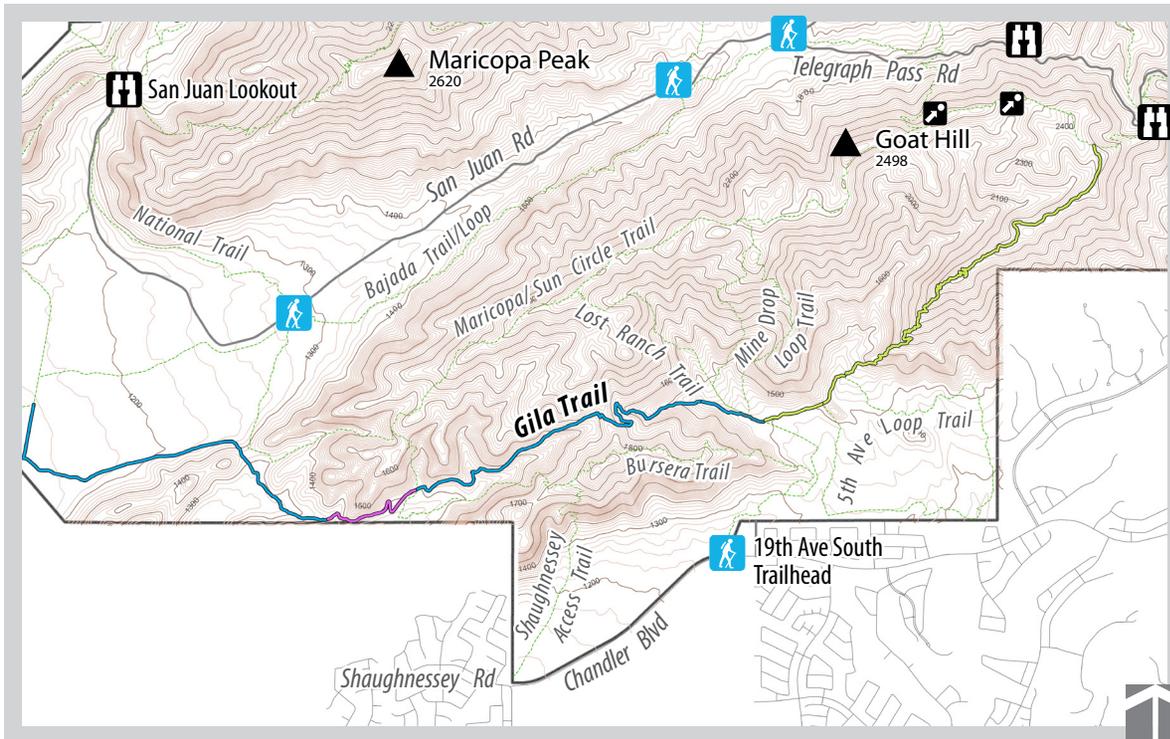
### Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: San Juan Road Trailhead, San Juan Look Out

Other Trail Connections: Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail, Maricopa Trail, National Trail, Bajada Trail, unnamed connector trails to T-Bone Loop Trail and Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail

# Trail Segment 03: Gila Trail

Planning Zone: Neighborhood Interface / Solitude



	Existing designated trail	2.4 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	3.5 miles
	New trail construction	0.5 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>6.4 miles</b>

Gila Trail is a well loved existing non-designated trail that provides a back country experience lower down the north side of the Gila Range from the Bursera Trail. The Preserve TMP includes adopting the majority of the existing alignment into the system along with incorporating the current Pyramid Trail to connect to National Trail on the east. A segment of the alignment west of Bursera Trail will be decommissioned where it leaves the Preserve, with new construction required to complete the alignment between the west end of National Trail to the new Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail and a potential future west access near the Galvistan Street alignment.

The Preserve TMP also recommends incorporating a constructed mountain bike obstacle at the fork with Lost Ranch Trail to help inform trail users of the types of terrain and ride challenges they would face further along the alignment.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Pyramid Trail

Non-designated Trails: Gila Trail, Kebo Trail

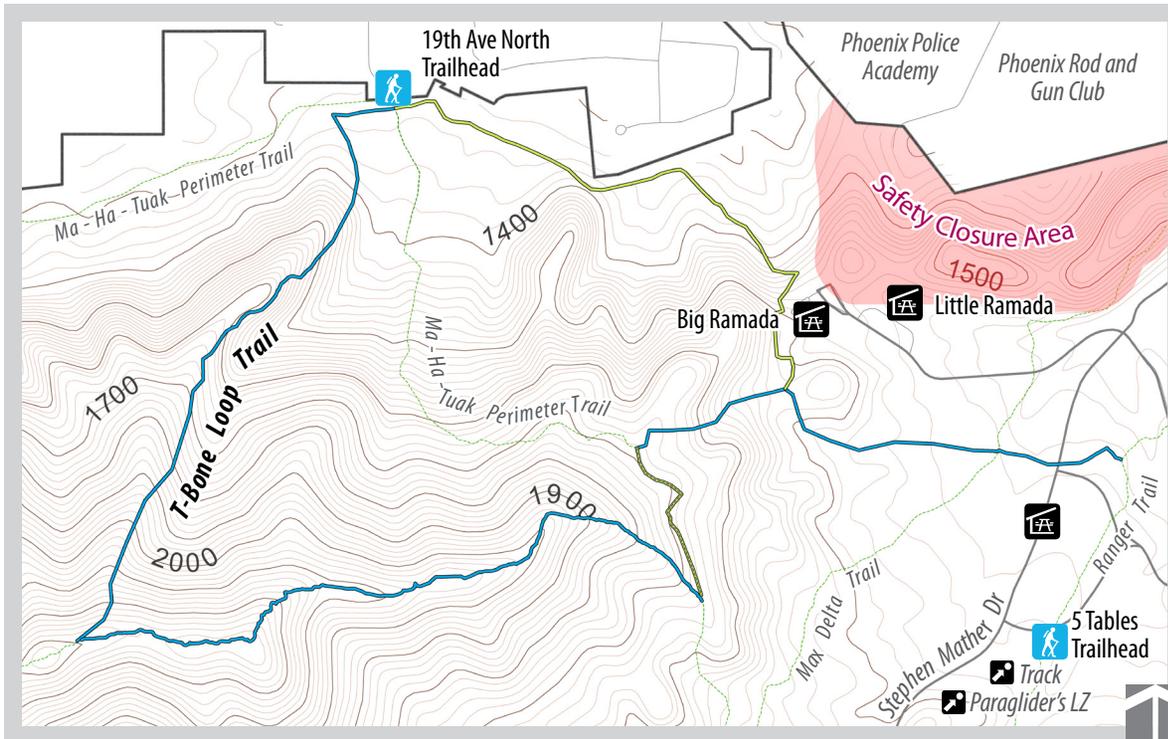
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Galvistan Street

Other Trail Connections: Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail, National Trail, Maricopa Trail, Lost Ranch Trail, Mine Drop Loop Trail, 19th Avenue Loop Trail, unnamed connector trails to National Trail and Bursera Trail

# Trail Segment 04: T-Bone Loop Trail

Planning Zone: **Developed Recreation**



	<b>Existing designated trail</b>	<b>1.0 miles</b>
	<b>Existing non-designated trail</b>	<b>2.4 miles</b>
	<b>New trail construction</b>	<b>0.0 miles</b>
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>3.4 miles</b>

The T-Bone Trail takes its name from the historic T-Bone Steakhouse which is located north of the Preserve a short trip out of the 19th Avenue Trailhead.

The Preserve TMP includes modifying the existing trail alignment to form a half-day loop opportunity that incorporates currently non-designated trail segments to the ridgeline of the Gila Range. These segments, which follow separate ridgelines, require assessment and improvement to be sustainable and added to the system.

A section of the current T-Bone Trail alignment that connects to the Max Delta Trail will be signed as a unnamed designated connector trail.

This alignment change from the existing T-Bone Trail removes all segments of the trail that were north of the ridgeline near the Phoenix Police Academy and the Phoenix Rod and Gun Club facility.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: T-Bone Trail, Ma-Ha-Tuak Trail, Crosscut Trail

Non-designated Trails: Warrior Trail

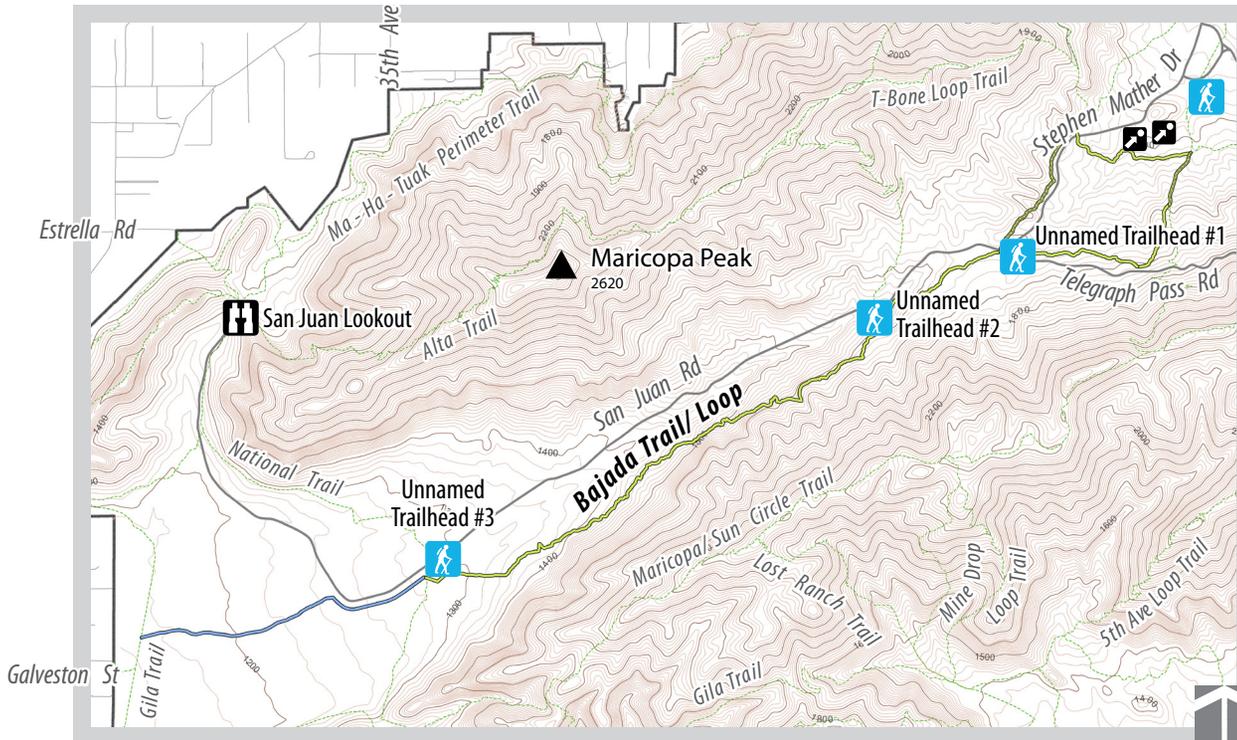
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: 19th Avenue Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail, unnamed connector trails to Alta Trail, Max Delta Trail, and Ranger Trail

# Trail Segment 05: Bajada Trail

Planning Zone: San Juan Road/ Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	4.9 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	1.1 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>6.0 miles</b>

The Bajada Trail is the central out-and-back trail that brings visitors through the San Juan Valley between the Gila and Ma-Ha-Tuak ranges. The existing designated trail will be extended from the Bajada Trailhead west to the Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail following the alignment of an existing non-designated trail which parallels a natural wash as well as a short length of San Juan Road.

The east end of the trail alignment forms an approximately 2-mile loop originating at the first trailhead at the intersection of San Juan Road and Telegraph Pass Road. This Bajada Loop, which includes sections of Max Delta Trail and Ranger Trail, provides visitors with alternating views of the protected valleys of the Preserve and exposed views of the City on relatively accessible terrain. The ease of access, variety of views, and relatively limited terrain challenges make this loop trail segment ideal for winter visitors to experience the Preserve from one of its interior trailheads.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Bajada Trail, Derby Loop Trail, Ranger Trail, Max Delta Trail

Non-designated Trails: Unnamed

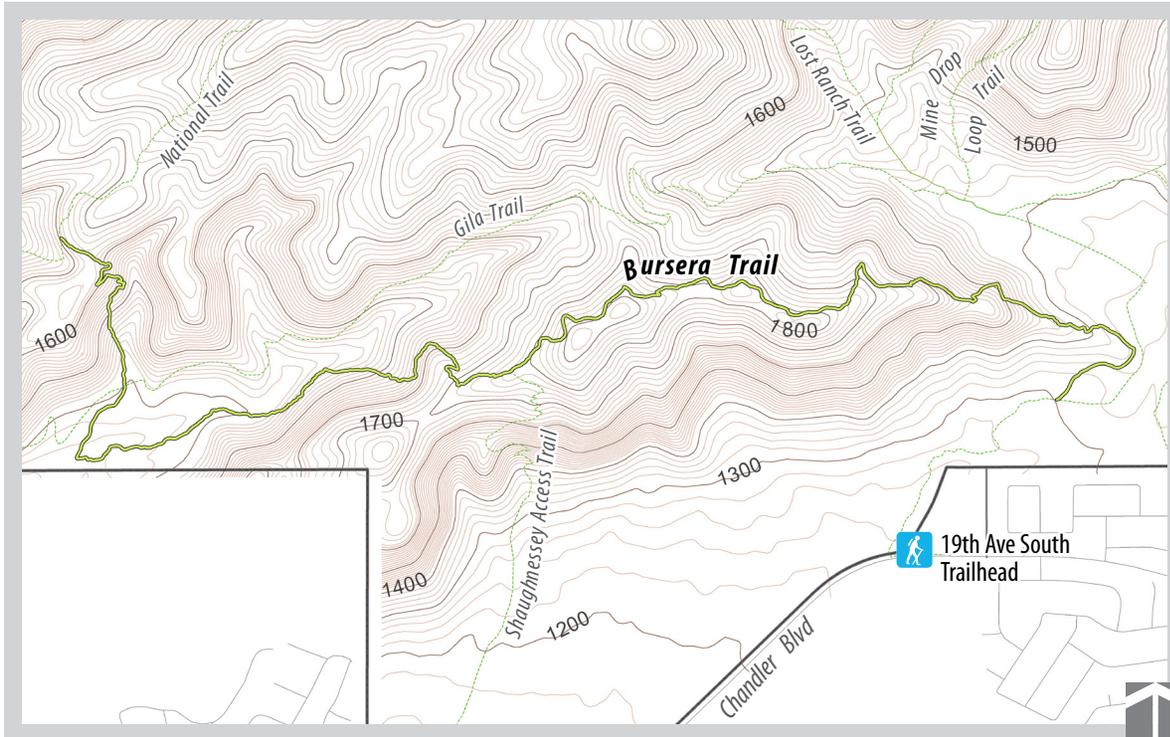
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: San Juan Road Trailheads, Bajada Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail, Maricopa Trail, Alta Trail, National Trail, T-Bone Loop Trail, Max Delta Trail

# Trail Segment 06: Bursera Trail

Planning Zone: Solitude



	Existing designated trail	2.9 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>2.9 miles</b>

The existing designated Bursera Trail is a recently constructed trail added around 2010 to provide access from the Ahwatukee side of the Preserve to National Trail. The name, “bursera”, is an homage to the Elephant Tree whose botanical name is *Bursera microphylla*. The Preserve is part of the northern-most extents where the Elephant Tree occurs making it a rare find in the region. Many trail users also refer to this trail by the name, “Bee’s Knees”, reportedly as reference to a bee hive encountered nearby after it’s construction.

No changes are recommended to this recently constructed trail, though the designation of an unnamed connector to Gila Trail and additional access from the new Shaugnessey Connector Trail should create opportunities for trail users to incorporate Bursera Trail into different loop trail experiences.

### Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Bursera Trail, Bee’s Knees Trail

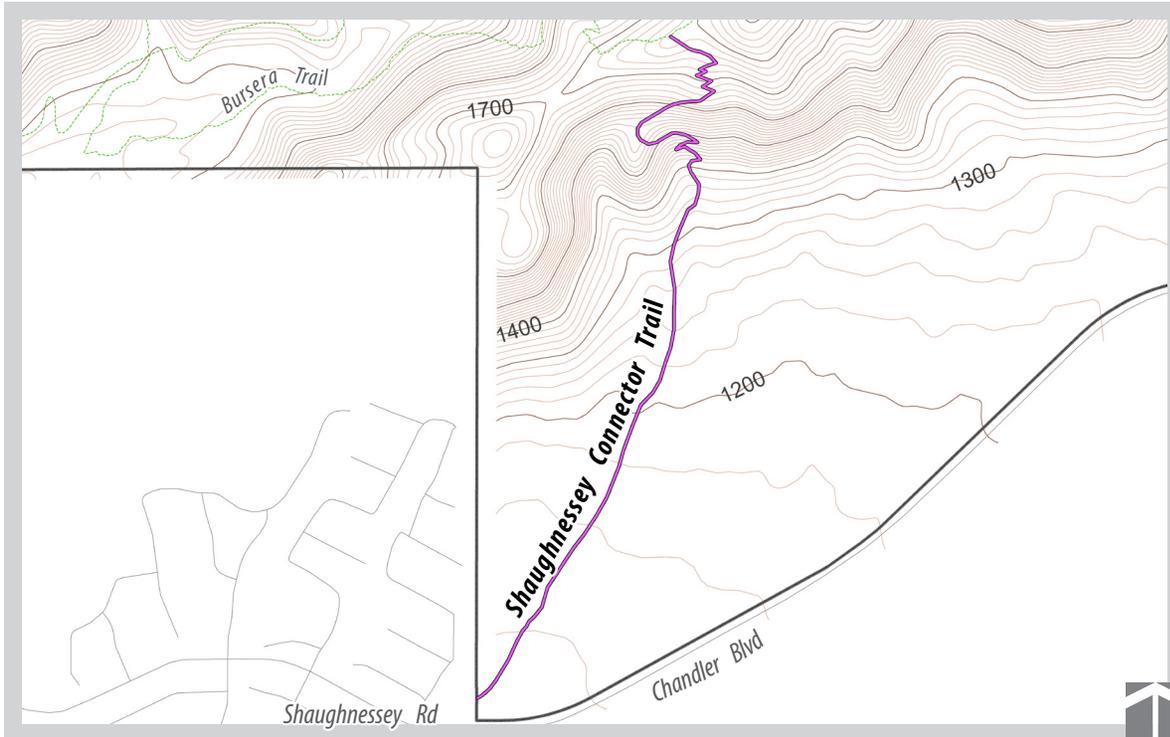
### Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: None (indirectly from the 19th Avenue South Trailhead off of Lost Ranch Trail)

Other Trail Connections: Lost Ranch Trail, Maricopa Trail, Alta Trail, National Trail, Shaugnessey Connector Trail, Gila Trail, and an unnamed connector to Gila Trail

# Trail Segment 07: Shaughnessey Connector Trail

Planning Zone: Neighborhood Interface/Solitude



	Existing designated trail	0.0 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	1.1 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>1.1 miles</b>

The Shaughnessey Connector Trail originates at the intersection of Shaughnessey Road and Chandler Boulevard where a short paved walk-in provides an existing access point into the Preserve. A short section of this trail will incorporate a non-designated trail that extends from the paved access to the cul-de-sac at Amberwood Drive. New trail will need to be constructed to provide the majority of this alignment to its connection to Bursera Trail.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Non-designated Trails: Shaughnessey Trail

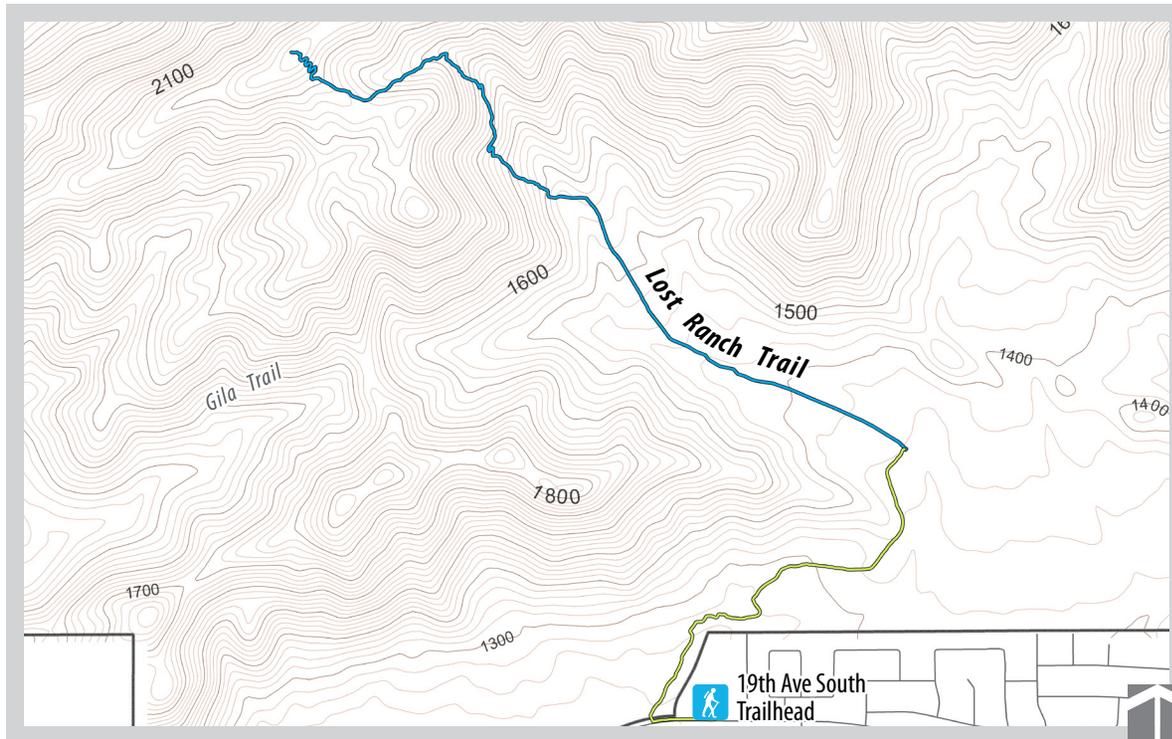
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Shaughnessey Road

Other Trail Connections: Bursera Trail

# Trail Segment 08: Lost Ranch Trail

Planning Zone: Neighborhood Interface/Solitude



	Existing designated trail	0.9 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	1.4 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>2.3 miles</b>

Lost Ranch Trail combines segments of existing designated trail with a well-known non-designated trail to formally adopt a popular alignment into the designated trail system. The lost ranch or lost camp site is one of the many mysterious areas within the Preserve where ruins that include a chimney and foundations can be easily seen and accessed from the non-designated trail that forks off of Gila Trail and climbs up and through the Gila Range over to National Trail.

Access for the trail will be from the 19th Avenue South Trailhead on what has been known as Pyramid Trail. The Preserve TMP removes the name Pyramid Trail from the designated trail system, which will become part of the Lost Ranch Trail and Gila Trail alignments.

Incorporation of the non-designated trail alignment into the trail system will require additional trail signage, sustainability improvements, and safety improvements as well as public education to help protect the historic features that make this trail experience unique.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Pyramid Trail

Non-designated Trails: Lost Ranch Road, Lost Ranch Ruin Trail, Gila Trail (partial), Lost Ranch Mine Trail (partial)

## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: 19th Avenue South Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Bursera Trail, Gila Trail, Mine Drop Loop Trail, Maricopa Trail, National Trail, unnamed connector trail to 5th Avenue Loop Trail

# Trail Segment 09: Mine Drop Loop

Planning Zone: Solitude



	Existing designated trail	0.0 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	2.1 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>2.1 miles</b>

Mine Drop Loop Trail combines two existing non-designated trails to create a looped connection between National Trail and Gila Trail. The west fork of the loop has many unofficial names including Lost Ranch Mine Trail and Mine Drop Trail, both referencing small claim mines that can be found in the area. The east fork is known locally as Eliminator or Eliminator II. Both forks of the Mine Drop Loop Trail provide challenging trail experiences, climbing approximately 1000 feet across steep mountain faces from their connections to Gila Trail to the fork where they join in a small saddle before crossing north along the ridge to National Trail.

Incorporation of the non-designated trail alignments into the trail system will require additional trail signage and sustainability improvements. The challenging nature of the loop provides unique opportunities for back country trail users, but signage from National Trail as well as Gila Trail is needed to inform trail users unfamiliar with the alignment of the trail and terrain conditions.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

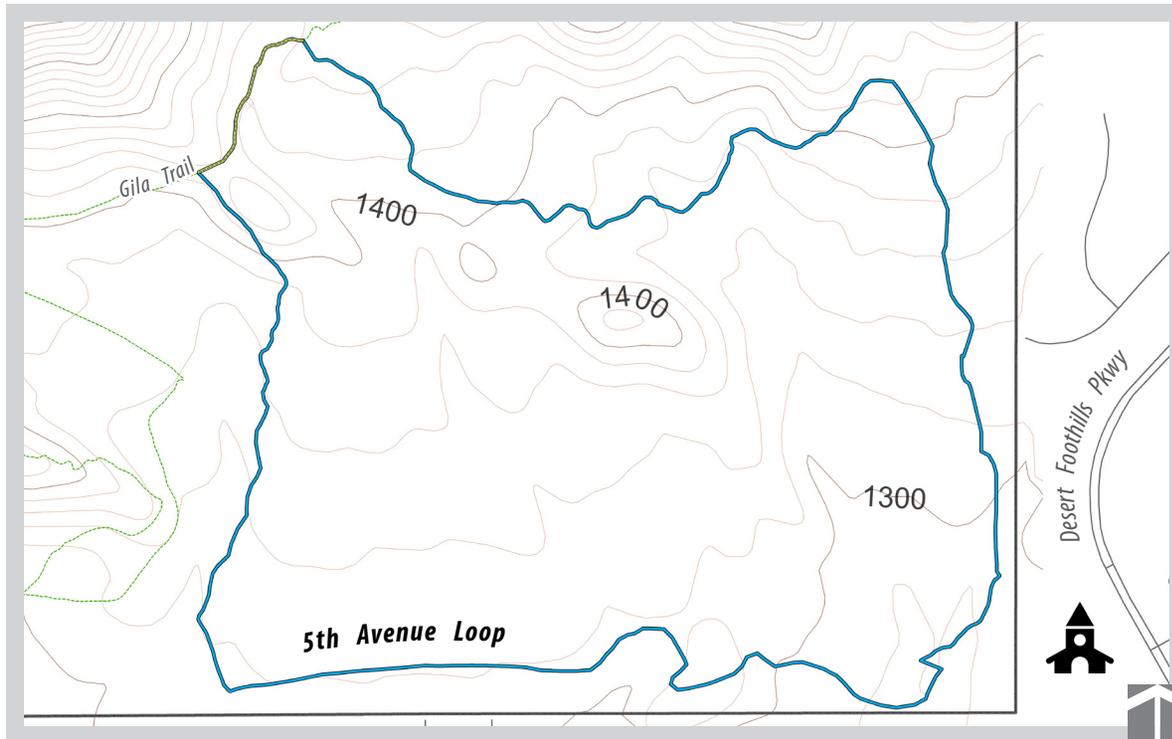
Non-designated Trails: Lost Ranch Mine Trail, Mine Drop Trail, Eliminator, Eliminator II

## Access Points and Connections:

Other Trail Connections: Gila Trail, Lost Ranch Trail, Maricopa Trail, National Trail

# Trail Segment 10: 5th Avenue Loop

Planning Zone: Neighborhood Interface



	Existing designated trail	0.2 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	2.5 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>2.7 miles</b>

5th Avenue Loop Trail will formally adopt two segments of non-designated trails that provide access to the Preserve from the Ahwatukee area. The eastern and northern alignment of the loop includes a section of existing non-designated trail near Desert Foothills Parkway that crosses a large retention basin into the Preserve from a sidewalk often accessed by users who have parked in a nearby church parking lot. Access from the church is not sanctioned and a new, designated legal access point from 5th Avenue is required as part of the adoption of this trail alignment into the designated trail system. The western existing non-designated trail originates as a walk-in through a drainage outlet on 17th Avenue. The connecting southern segment, indicated as existing non-designated trail, traverses an area that is actively being used by OHVs with multiple non-designated trails crossing back and forth between the minor drainages of an alluvial fan. Laying out the designated trail alignment will require additional assessment to identify a sustainable trail alignment with improvements and reclamation of the remaining non-designated trail sections.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Pyramid Trail (partial)

Non-designated Trails: Gila Trail (partial)

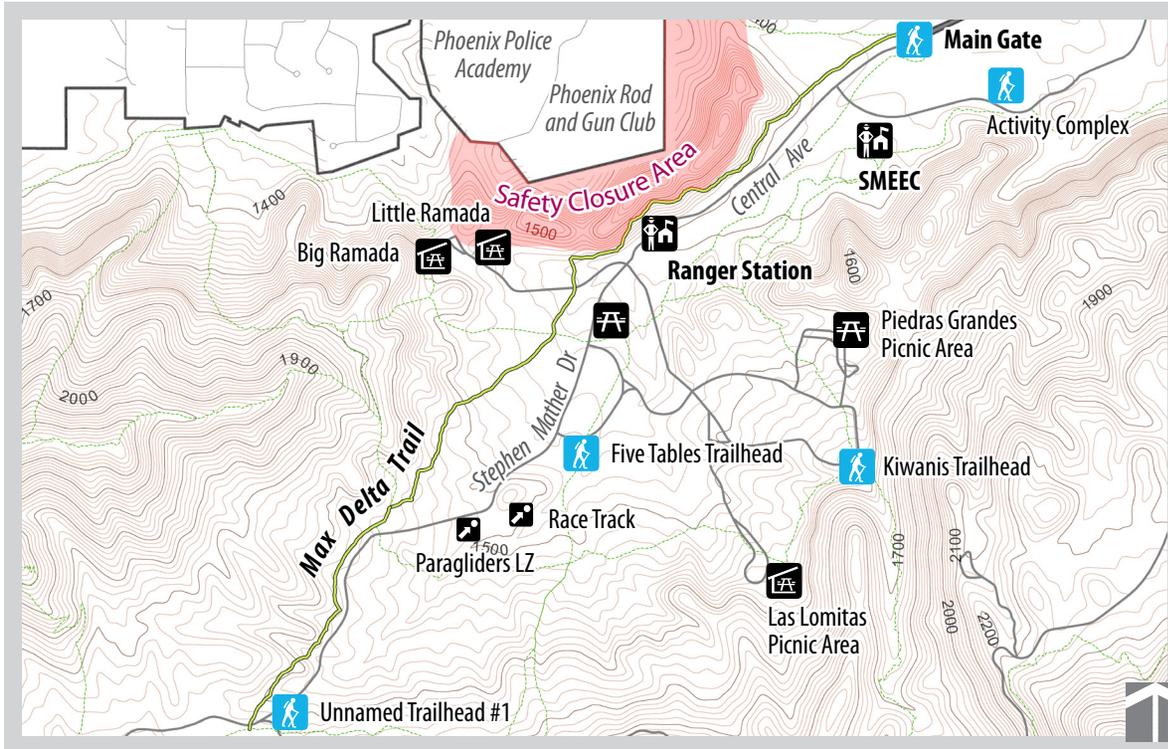
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Desert Foothills Parkway

Other Trail Connections: Gila Trail, unnamed connector trail to Bursera Trail

# Trail Segment 11: Max Delta Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	2.3 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>2.3 miles</b>

Named for the historic Max Delta Mine that is closed to the public for safety reasons, the Max Delta Trail is a recognized landmark trail in the central activity area of the Preserve. The existing designated trail follows Central Avenue/Stephen Mather Drive from the Preserve’s main gate entrance to the junction of San Juan Road and Telegraph Pass Road. As such, it is a highly accessible trail with trailheads at either end of its 2.3 mile length.

Recent adjustments to the trail alignment were performed to keep the trail on the south side of the ridgeline that separates the Phoenix Rod and Gun Club and the Preserve activity areas. Reclamation of the non-designated trails that continue to branch off of Max Delta Trail or that are visible from Max Delta Trail in this location are a high priority for implementing the recommendations of the Preserve TMP.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Max Delta Trail

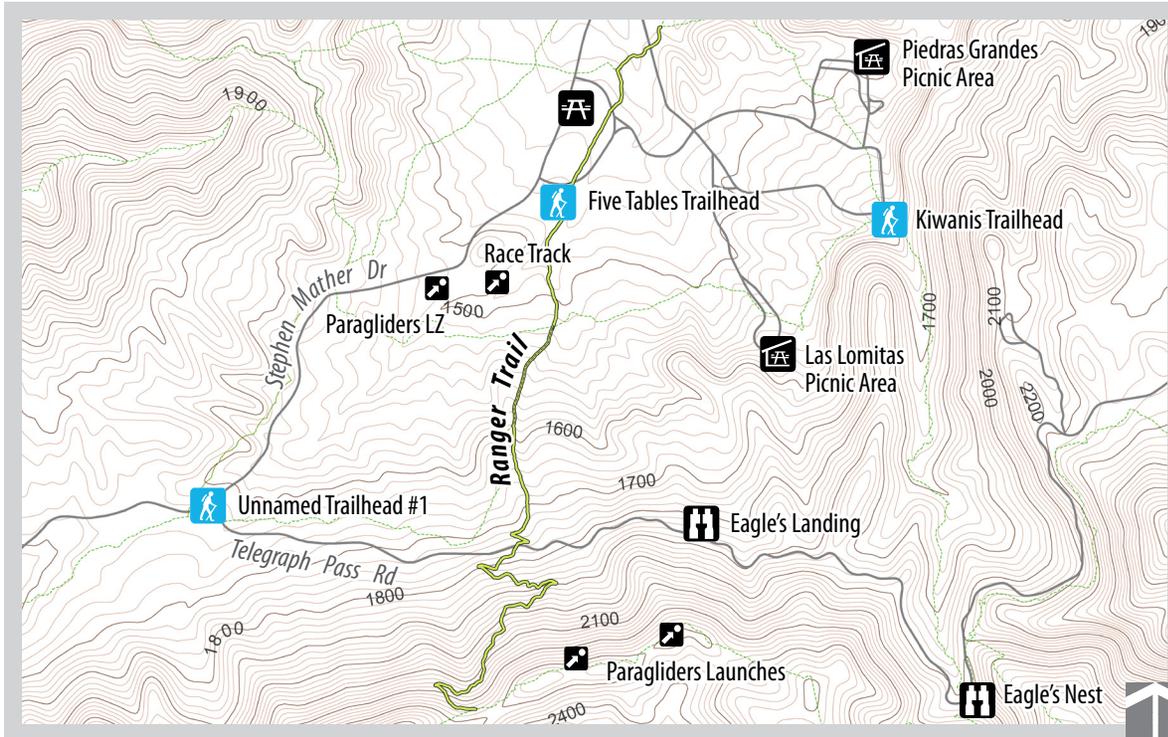
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Main Gate Trailhead, San Juan Road Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: 7th Avenue Access Trail, Los Lomitas Trail, Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail, Bajada Trail, unnamed connector trail between T-Bone Loop Trail and Ranger Trail

# Trail Segment 12: Ranger Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	1.9 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>1.9 miles</b>

Ranger Trail appears on early master plans for the Preserve, including its first appearance in a 1940 map for the Phoenix South Mountain Park Master Plan where it is shown as an existing unnamed bridle trail.

The trail begins in relatively gentle, open terrain on its north end before climbing significantly once the trail crosses Telegraph Pass Road to National Trail.

No changes are recommended for this trail alignment, though restoration improvements over time to the setting and the addition of historical education signage that point out its place in the history of the Preserve may make it more inviting and unique.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Ranger Trail

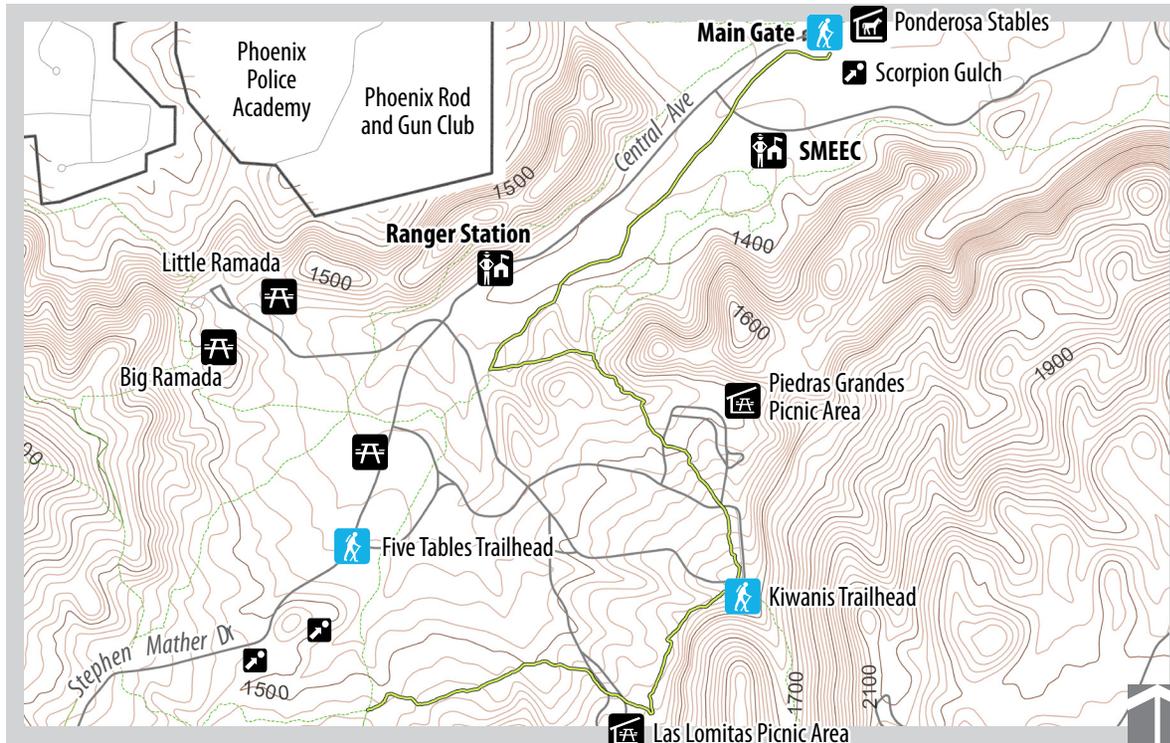
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Five Tables Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Maricopa Trail, National Trail, Bajada Trail, Los Lomitas Trail, unnamed connector trail to Max Delta Trail and T-Bone Loop Trail

# Trail Segment 13: Las Lomitas Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	2.3 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>2.3 miles</b>

Las Lomitas Trail lies in the central activity area of the Preserve and is one of the primary equestrian trails from Ponderosa Stables near the Central Avenue entrance. Sections of this trail follow the large wash from behind Ponderosa Stables southwest below the SMEEC past the ranger's maintenance yard to the junction with Ranger Trail. The designated trail then forms a half loop between various picnic and activity areas including the historic Piedras Grandes Picnic Area. The trail name, "Las Lomitas" is shared with one of these picnic areas that date back to the original CCC improvements from the 1930s.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Las Lomitas Trail

## Access Points and Connections:

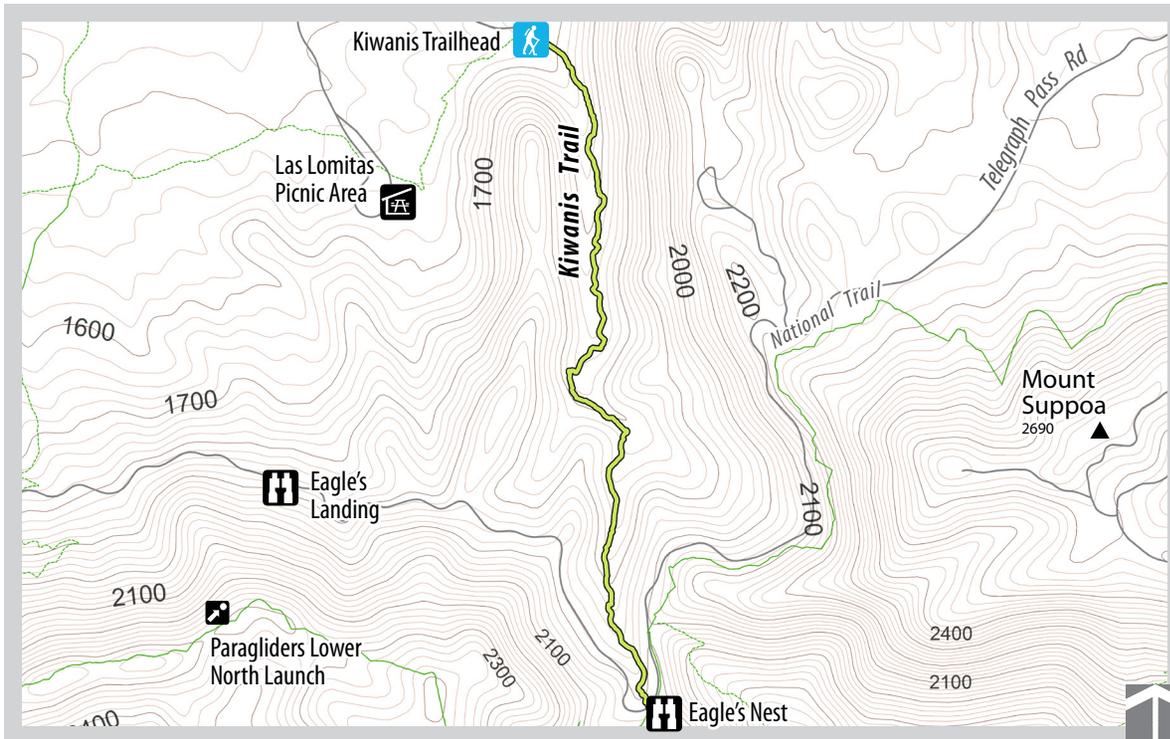
Access Points: Main Gate Trailhead, Kiwanis Trailhead, Piedras Grandes Picnic Area (via road), Las Lomitas Picnic Area (via road)

Other Trail Connections: Box Canyon Trail, Ranger Trail, Kiwanis Trail, Bajada Trail

While no changes are recommended for the trail alignment, the adjoining braided washes and non-designated trails can make navigating Las Lomitas Trail difficult for those who are unfamiliar with it. Recommendations include improved wayfinding signage, working with Ponderosa Stables to favorably balance trail location and sustainability with equestrian needs, and reclaiming non-designated trails.

# Trail Segment 14: Kiwanis Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	1.1 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>1.1 miles</b>

Built in a day by volunteers from the Phoenix Kiwanis Club in 1925, Kiwanis Trail is the oldest designated trail in the current system.

No recommendations are included for this trail alignment which has provided an opportunity to enjoy the Preserve for generations. Sustainability assessment and maintenance typically required for all trails should be considered as a regular trail management requirement.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Kiwanis Trail

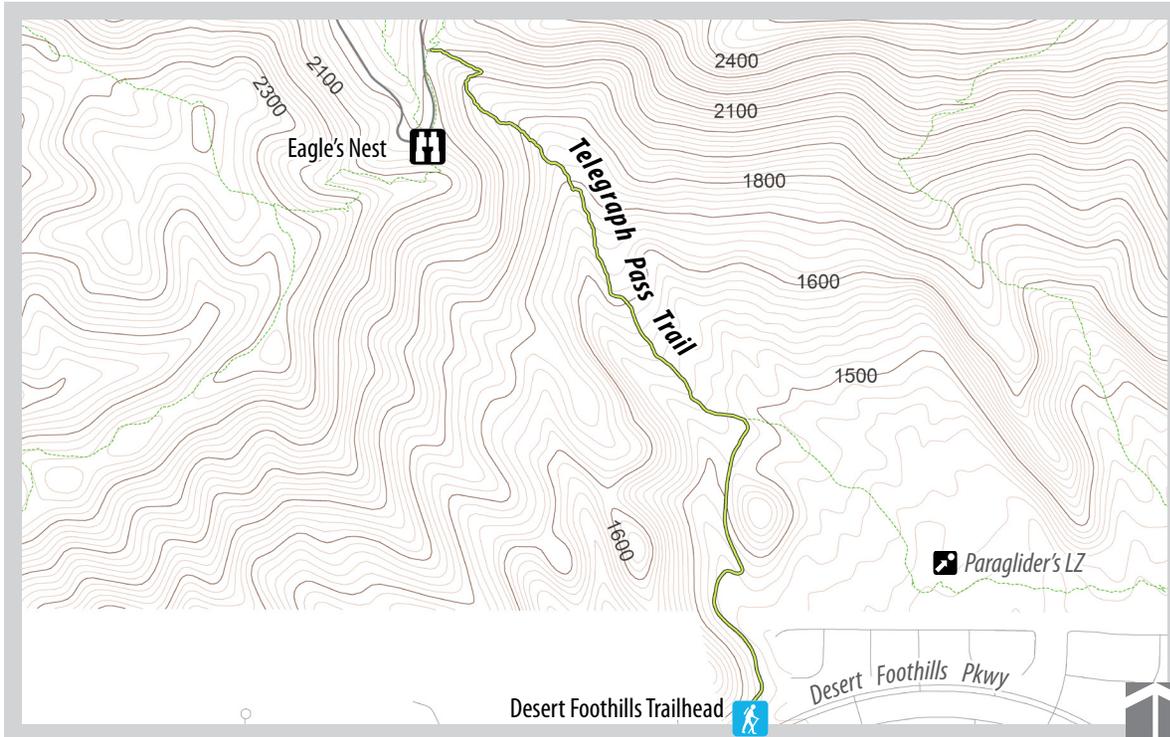
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Kiwanis Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Maricopa Trail, National Trail, Las Lomitas Trail

# Trail Segment 15: Telegraph Pass Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	1.1 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>1.1 miles</b>

Named after the mountain pass where a late 19th century telegraph line was constructed north to the Prescott area, Telegraph Pass Trail was identified in the 1989 Master Plan and subsequently designated and improved. The Desert Foothills Trailhead at the trail's southern end provides parking and improved facilities for trail users entering from the south, while the north end of the trail is marked by a bench and slight widening of Summit Road where Telegraph Pass Trail joins National Trail.

No alignment changes are recommended for this existing designated trail. However, trail sustainability is an issue and requires further evaluation and maintenance.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Telegraph Pass Trail

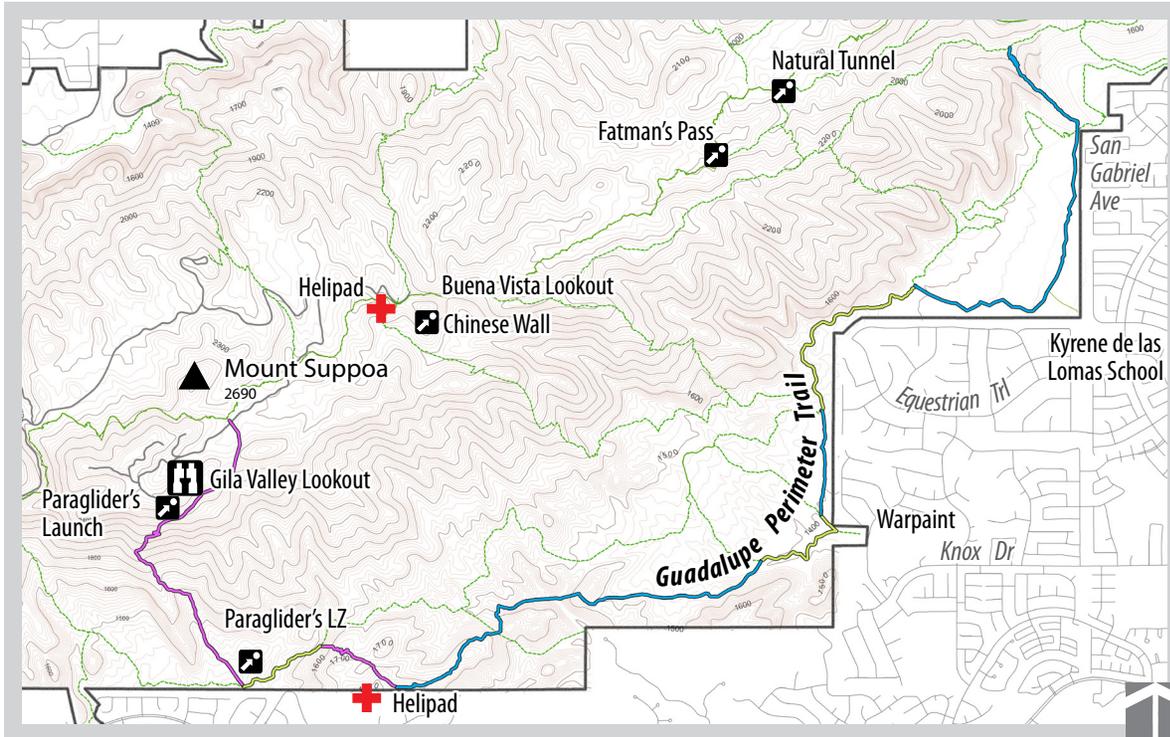
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Desert Foothills Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Desert Classic Trail, Maricopa Trail, National Trail

# Trail Segment 16: Guadalupe Perimeter Trail

Planning Zone: Neighborhood Interface / Natural Recreation/Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	1.8 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	4.2 miles
	New trail construction	2.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>8.0 miles</b>

Guadalupe Perimeter Trail consolidates multiple known and popular non-designated trails to provide a much desired alternative to Desert Classic Trail closer to the Preserve boundary. Constructed sections of trail will be required to complete these connections, with the western-most section of trail from Desert Classic Trail to National Trail and the Gila Valley Lookout being primarily new trail.

While many trails from the east side of Ahwatukee provide connections to National Trail and access into the heart of the Preserve, there is a lack of truly multi-modal trails between Pima Canyon Trailhead and 19th Avenue South Trailhead. The steepness and terrain conditions for many trails such as Telegraph Pass Trail and the new Mormon Trail extension are largely suited for hiking only and may even prove challenging for inexperienced hikers. The opportunity to create a bikeable, hikeable trail section with the completion of the Guadalupe Perimeter Trail would be a welcome addition to the many other trail opportunities identified in the Preserve TMP for the southeastern Preserve.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Desert Classic Trail (partial), Warpaint South Trail (partial)

Non-designated Trails: Chihuahua Ridge Trail, Family Fun Trail, Bronco Flats Trail, Sidewinder Trail (partial), Helipad Trail, Goat Trail

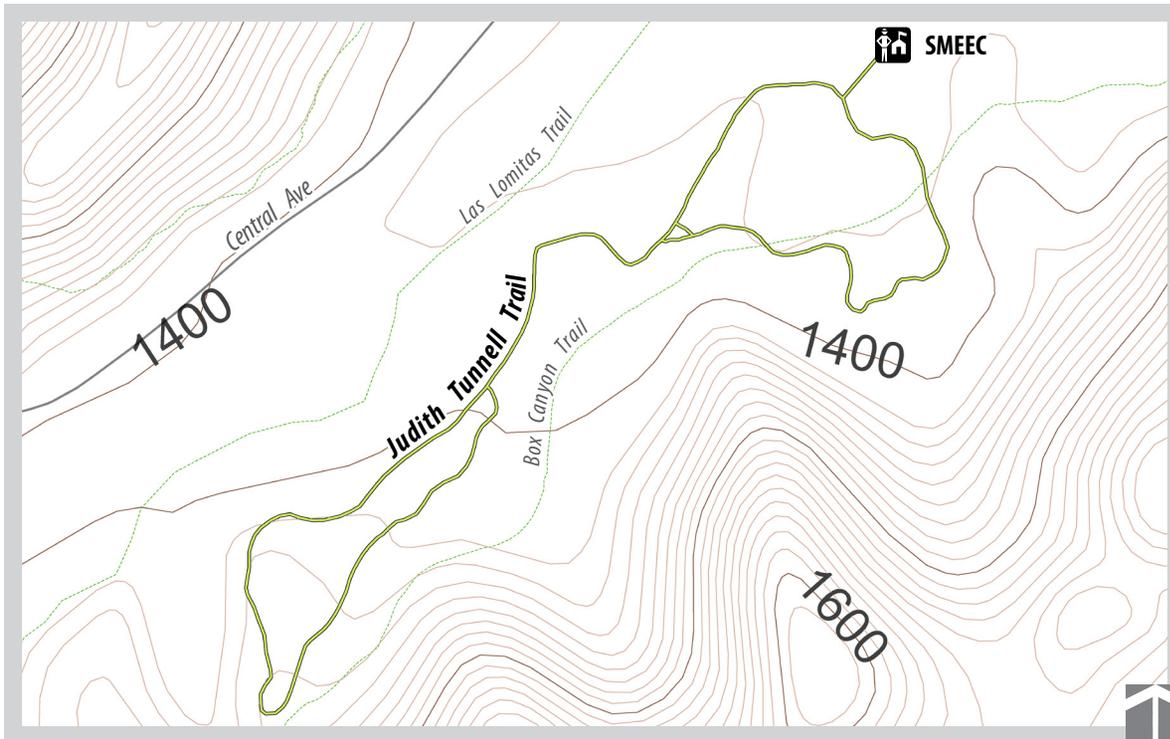
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: San Gabriel Avenue, Equestrian Trail, Kyrene De Las Lomas Elementary School, South Canyon Drive, Warpaint Drive

Other Trail Connections: Marcos de Niza Trail, Desert Classic Trail, Corona de Loma Loop Trail, Warpaint Loop Trail, Maricopa Trail, National Trail, unnamed connectors to access points

# Trail Segment 17: Judith Tunnell Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	0.9 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>0.9 miles</b>

Judith Tunnell Trail is a barrier free, wheelchair accessible interpretive trail accessed from the SMEEC. Interpretive signages, petroglyphs, and native vegetation are curated for trail users.

No changes are recommended for the trail alignment, which remains a unique opportunity for universally accessible trail use within the Preserve.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Judith Tunnell Trail

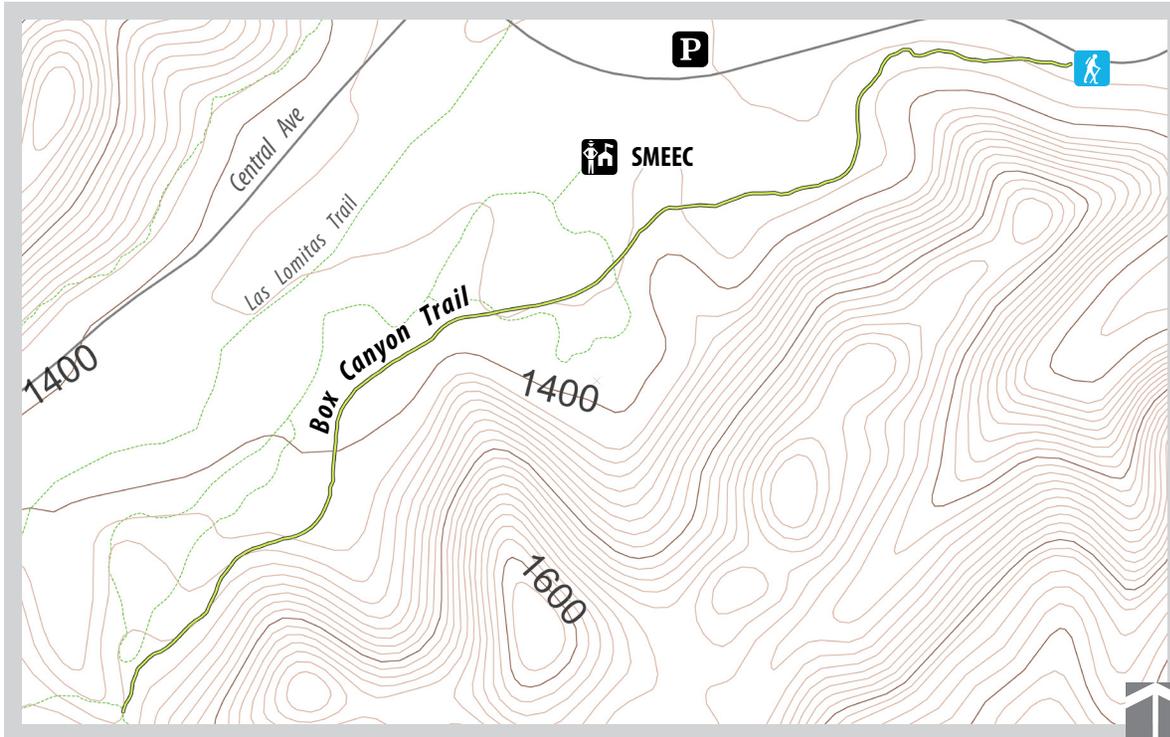
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: SMEEC

Other Trail Connections: Box Canyon Trail

# Trail Segment 18: Box Canyon Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	0.7 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>0.7 miles</b>

Known currently as Box Canyon Loop Trail, this short trail segment connects the Holbert Trailhead with Las Lomitas Trail near the Piedras Grandes picnic area.

The Preserve TMP recommends removing “loop” from the name of the trail to reduce confusion for visitors who might otherwise assume the trail forms a loop back to the trailhead. Other recommendations include improved wayfinding signage and reclaiming the many non-designated trails that intersect this alignment or can be readily seen from it and encourage off-trail activity.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Box Canyon Loop Trail

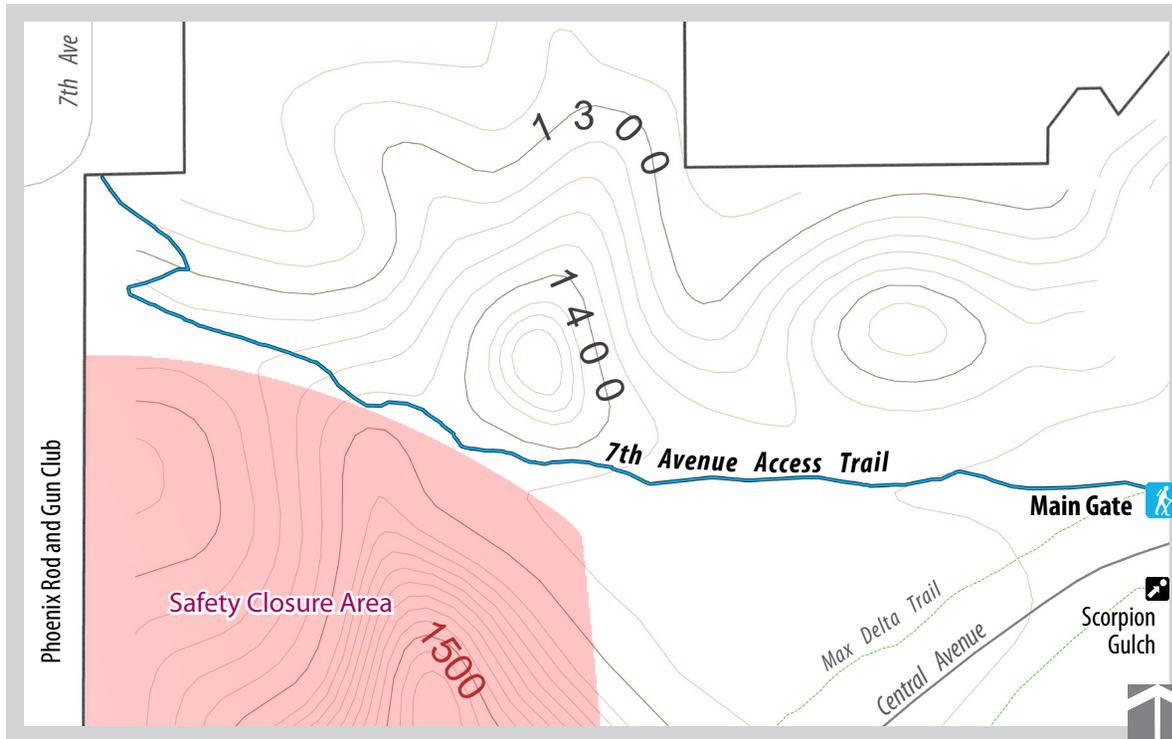
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: SMEEC

Other Trail Connections: Box Canyon Trail

# Trail Segment 19: 7th Avenue Access Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	0.0 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.6 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>0.6 miles</b>

This new trail alignment will provide a designated trail for residents on the north side of the Preserve west of the Central Avenue drive-in access point to enter the Preserve. It also provides an opportunity for visitors to park at the Ma-Ha-Tuak Park directly opposite the Preserve on 7th Avenue and walk in.

Implementation will primarily require sustainability assessment and improvements to an unnamed existing non-designated trail along with wayfinding and safety signage. Final alignment of the trail should be coordinated with the Phoenix Rod and Gun Club. Even though the trail is not in line with their ranges, coordination will be an added measure to ensure trail user safety is being planned into the trail creation as well as the Club being made aware of the new trail's presence.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Non-designated Trails: Unnamed

## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Olney Drive/7th Avenue, City of Phoenix Ma-Ha-Tuak Park, Main Gate Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Max Delta Trail

# Trail Segment 20: Holbert Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



Existing designated trail	2.3 miles
Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>	<b>2.3 miles</b>

Named for South Mountain Park’s first custodian, Charles Holbert, this historic designated trail is a staple of the trail system connecting from a large developed trailhead to the equally historic Dobbins’ Lookout at the highest point in the Preserve accessible to hikers. The trail intersects with vehicle-accessible points three times along its length which allows trail users of varying experience levels to plan an excursion that is best fitted to their abilities and needs.

No changes are recommended for the trail alignment, though maintenance and sustainability evaluations are recommended to help identify ways the popular alignment can be improved for management purposes.

### Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Holbert Trail

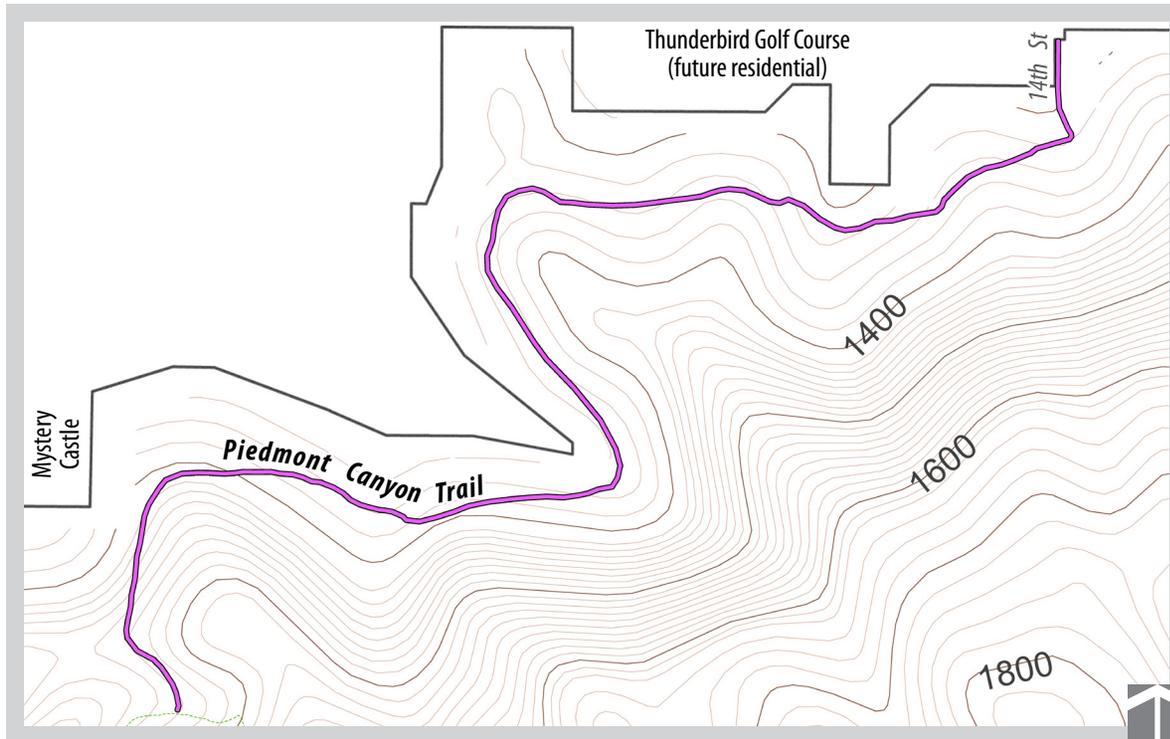
### Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Holbert Trailhead, Dobbins’ Look Out

Other Trail Connections: Box Canyon Trail, Maricopa Trail, National Trail, Piedmont Canyon Trail

# Trail Segment 21: Piedmont Canyon Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation / Natural Recreation



	Existing designated trail	0.0 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.9 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>0.9 miles</b>

This new trail alignment will provide another new designated trail for residents on the north side of the Preserve east of the Central Avenue. The existing Thunderbird Golf Course that occupies the property north of the trail adjacent to the Preserve is expected to convert to a new single family residential master planned community in the near future. With the new development, a multi-use trail along 14th Street will provide the walk-in access to Piedmont Canyon Trail.

Implementation will primarily require a new trail alignment be staked and constructed from Holbert Trail near the water tank to the 14th Street alignment. Placement of the trail will require careful consideration of impacts to the visual quality of the north slope, and the proposed alignment is recommended to make use of knolls and ridges to obscure much of the trail's visibility from off site viewers.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Non-designated Trails: Unnamed

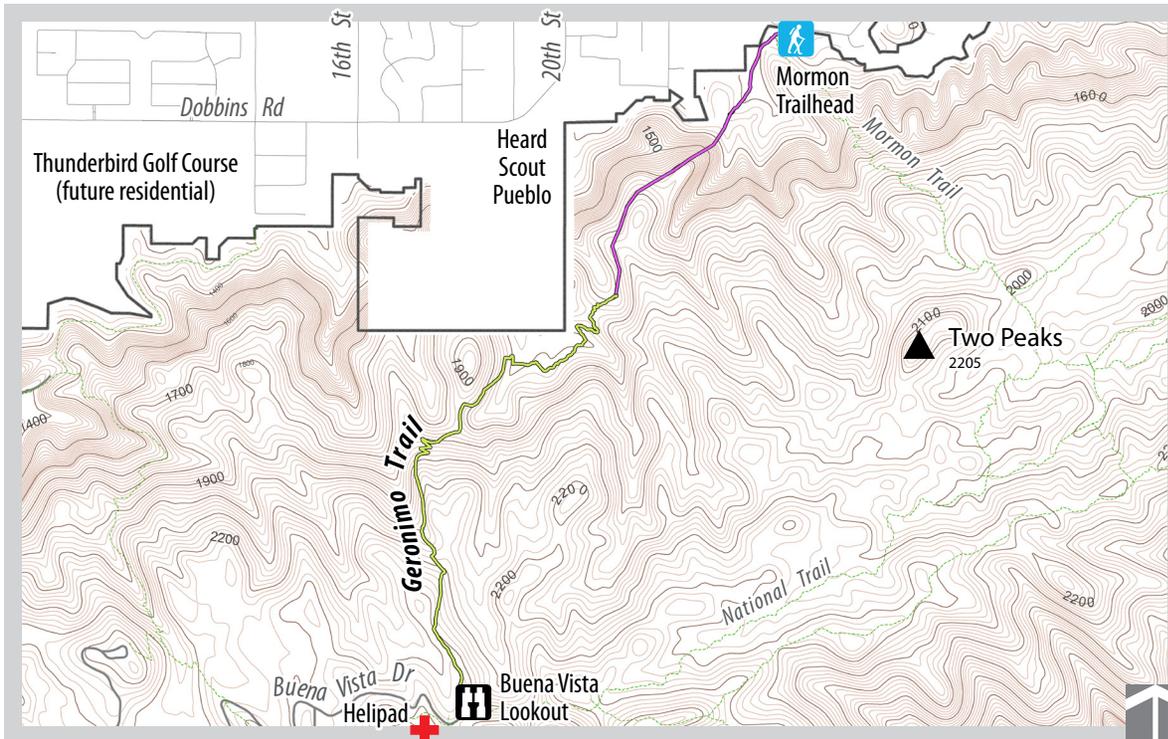
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: 14th Street

Other Trail Connections: Holbert Trail

# Trail Segment 22: Geronimo Trail

Planning Zone: Neighborhood Interface / Natural Recreation



	Existing designated trail	2.4 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.8 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>3.2 miles</b>

Geronimo Trail is the second oldest designated trail in the current system, with Kiwanis Trail being the only trail that has been in the system longer. Originally called Hieroglyphics Trail, its construction was sponsored by the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce and completed in 1930.

Access to Geronimo Trail from outside of the Preserve has been poorly defined and the Preserve TMP recommends rerouting a portion of the trail alignment so the entrance comes from the Mormon Trailhead. This will require the decommissioning of a segment of this historic trail as well as new trail construction. The new alignment should be located behind the ridgeline to help minimize visibility of the trail from the residences below as well as visibility of the residences from the trail.

In addition to other typical wayfinding signage, signage marking the boy scout trail connection as a private trail is recommended.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Geronimo Trail, Hieroglyphics Trail

## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Mormon Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Mormon Trail, Corona de Loma Loop Trail, Maricopa Trail, National Trail

# Trail Segment 23: Corona de Loma Loop Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation / Neighborhood Interface / Natural Recreation



	Existing designated trail	1.9 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	3.2 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>5.1 miles</b>

Corona de Loma Loop Trail incorporates the existing designated Corona de Loma Trail with the non-designated trail known as Old Man Ames as well as other names to form a rugged looped access from the east Ahwatukee side of the Preserve. The black rock formation known as the Chinese Wall is a notable feature that can be seen from this trail near its summit at Buena Vista Lookout.

Sustainability assessment of the various segments is needed to identify specific improvements for trail maintainability. Wayfinding and user education signage are recommended to help potential trail users assess their abilities to negotiate the trails.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Corona de Loma Trail, Secret Trail, National Trail, Maricopa Trail

Non-designated Trails: Old Man Trail, Ames Trail, Old Man Ames Trail

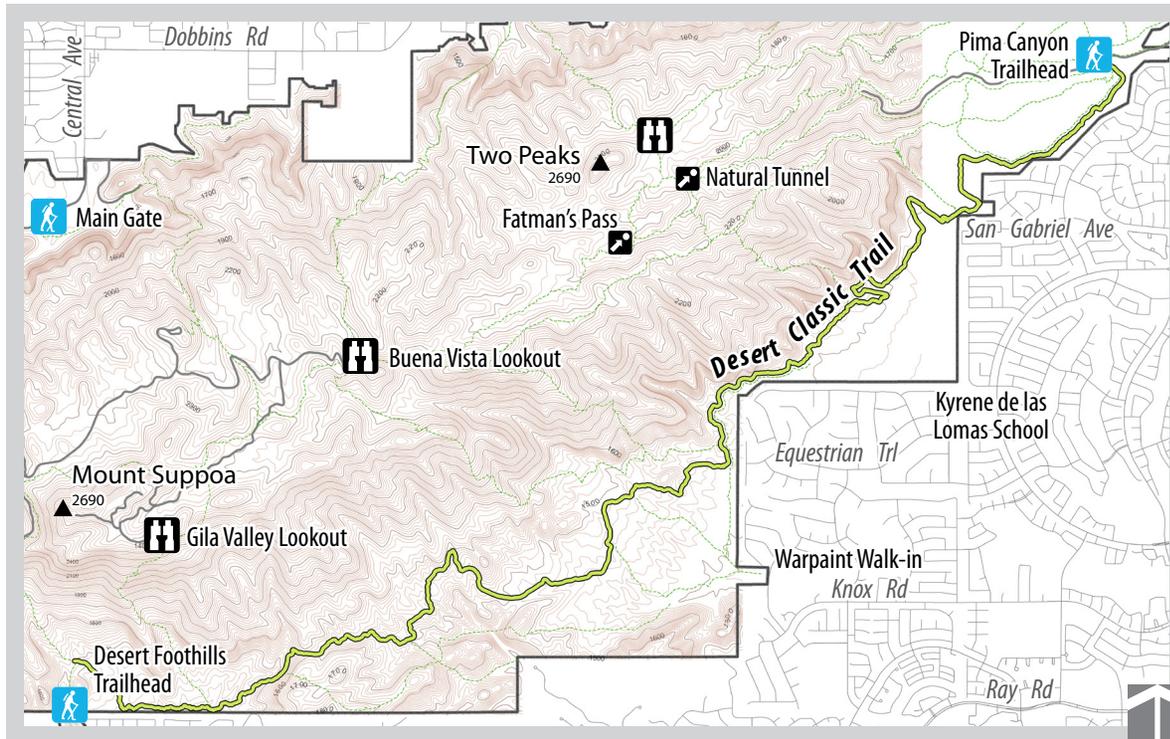
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Buena Vista Loopout

Other Trail Connections: BMaricopa Trail, National Trail, Desert Classic Trail, Marcos de Niza Trail, Guadalupe Perimeter Trail, Geronimo Trail

# Trail Segment 24: Desert Classic Trail

Planning Zone: **Developed Recreation**



	<b>Existing designated trail</b>	<b>8.7 miles</b>
	<b>Existing non-designated trail</b>	<b>0.0 miles</b>
	<b>New trail construction</b>	<b>0.0 miles</b>
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>8.7 miles</b>

Desert Classic Trail, or “DC”, is an immensely popular existing designated perimeter trail on the Ahwatukee side of the Preserve. Well used by trail users of all types and abilities, the primary needs for the trail include access improvements and relief to other alternatives within the designated trail system. The Guadalupe Perimeter Trail is intended as a reliever for DC to give trail users other options within the designated system.

Maintenance and ongoing sustainability assessments are recommended along with wayfinding to the various access points and alternative loops.

Desert Classic Trail follows the toe of the Guadalupe Range with many non-designated trails being blazed to access it from the nearby development. Reclamation of these non-designated trails will likely be an ongoing effort but should be prioritized with the designation and implementation of the Guadalupe Perimeter Trail.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Desert Classic Trail, DC

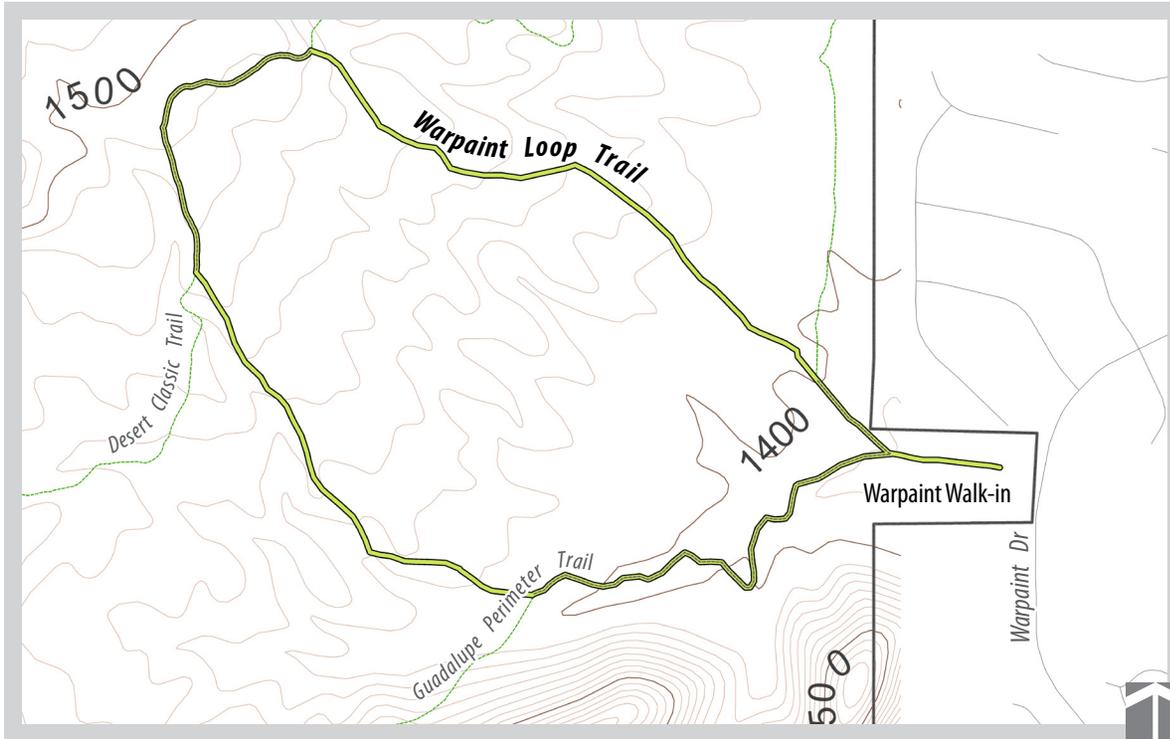
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Pima Canyon Trailhead, San Gabriel, Equestrian Trail, Desert Flower, Desert Foothills Trailhead (via Telegraph Pass Trail)

Other Trail Connections: Maricopa Trail, National Trail, Pima Canyon Loop Trail, Pima Wash Trail, Marcos de Niza Trail, Guadalupe Perimeter Trail, Corona de Loma Loop Trail, Warpaint Loop Trail, Telegraph Pass Trail, many unnamed connectors

# Trail Segment 25: Warpaint Loop Trail

Planning Zone: Neighborhood Interface



	Existing designated trail	1.9 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>1.9 miles</b>

Warpaint Loop Trail combines the existing designated Warpaint North and Warpaint South trails into a single looped trail with access at the walk-in off of Warpaint Drive.

Improvements will be required where the two trails fork near the entrance to address trail sustainability at the wash crossing and to keep the alignment within the Preserve boundary.

Wayfinding signage and a sustainability assessment are also recommended.

### Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Warpaint North Trail, Warpaint South Trail, Desert Classic Trail (partial)

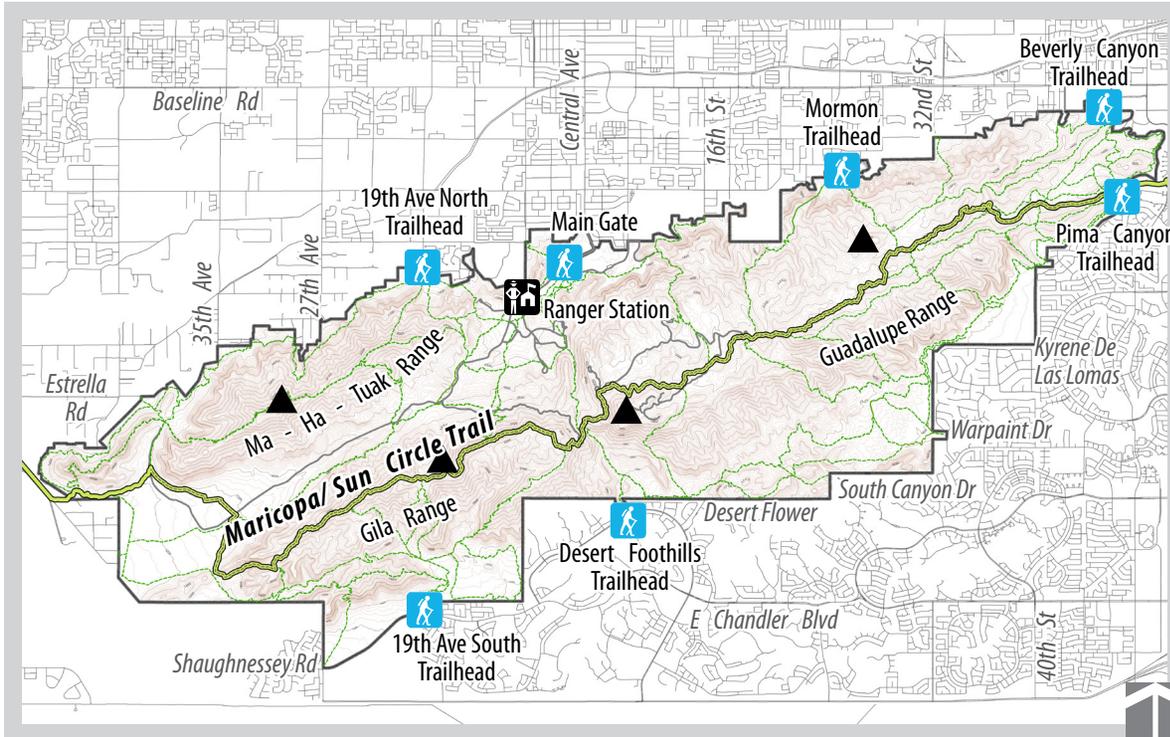
### Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Warpaint Drive

Other Trail Connections: Desert Classic Trail, Guadalupe Perimeter Trail, unnamed connector trail to Corona de Loma Loop Trail

# Trail Segment 26: Maricopa Sun Circle Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation / Neighborhood Interface



	Existing designated trail	15.6 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>15.6 miles</b>

Identified as Segment 7 of the Maricopa Regional Trail System, this section connects National Trail to the over 140 miles of trails that circle the greater Phoenix-Metro area known as the Sun Circle Trail. While this trail is largely existing, signage identifying the trail and its connections to the regional system need to be included with other wayfinding and signage improvements as part of the implementation of the Preserve TMP.

The eastern segment of the Maricopa/Sun Circle Trail outside of the Preserve that connects the old Pima dirt road with the City of Guadalupe has been in negotiation but not yet implemented at the time of writing. The western extension from the Preserve along Dusty Lane may also be impacted by the construction of the Loop 202 Freeway which had begun at the time of the Preserve TMP completion. Adjustments required to maintain the connection to the wider system will need to be assessed by trail managers as these off-Preserve improvements occur.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Maricopa Trail, Sun Circle Trail, National Trail

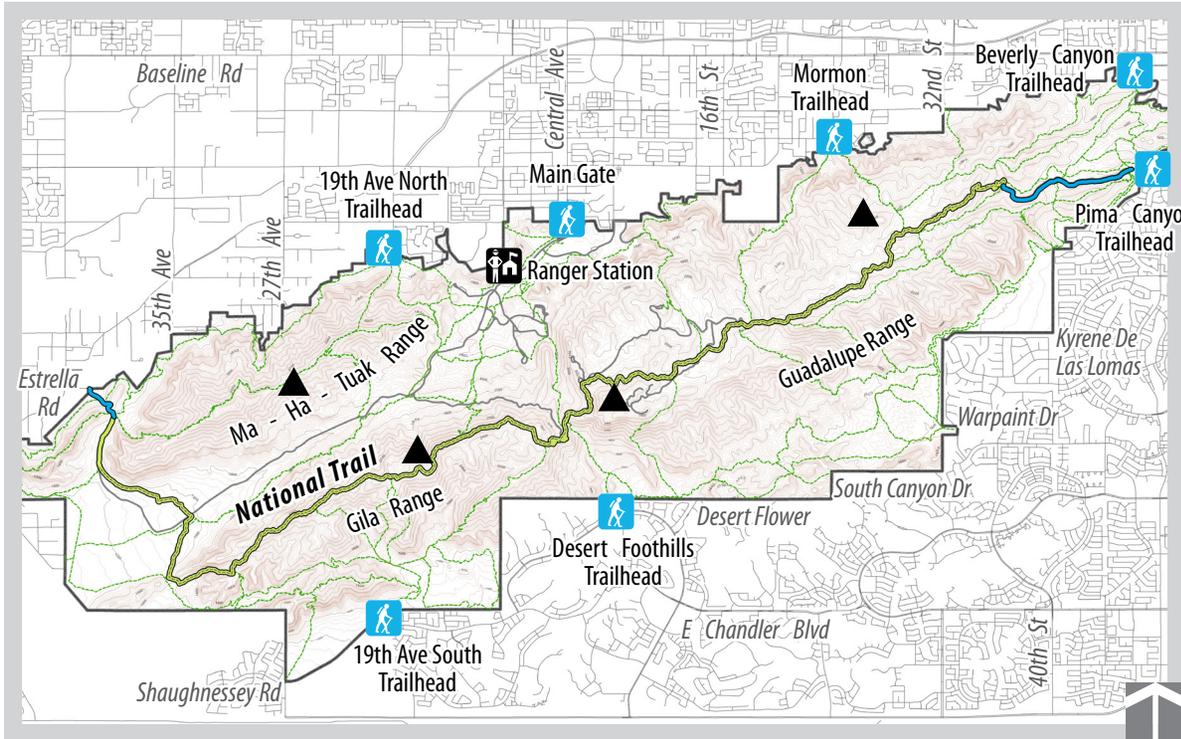
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Pima Canyon Trailhead, Ray Road, Buena Vista Lookout, San Juan Road Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: National Trail, Guadalupe Perimeter Trail, Bajada Trail, Gila Trail, Busera Trail, Lost Ranch Trail, Mine Drop Loop Trail, Ranger Trail, Kiwanis Trail, Telegraph Pass Trail, Corona de Loma Loop Trail, Holbert Trail, Geronimo Trail, Mormon Trail, Marcos de Niza Trail, Hidden Valley Trail, Pima Wash Trail, Pima Canyon Loop Trail, Beverly-Pima Connector Trail

# Trail Segment 27: National Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	14.4 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	1.8 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>16.2 miles</b>

National Trail is one of the original historic trails within the system, combining a number of older trails from the time of the CCC improvements with new sections of trail.

The Preserve TMP includes completing the extension of National Trail past the San Juan Lookout to Estrella Road on the west. It also includes extending the trail to the east to Pima Canyon Trailhead.

National Trail provides users with a variety of trail conditions and some segments of the trail can challenge trail users of even intermediate ability whatever activity they pursue. Features such as the waterfall, a rock strewn technical section east of Buena Vista Lookout, are unique attractions that should be protected. An existing natural rock feature known as the gateway already exists near the connection with Mormon Trail that provides bikers an opportunity to assess whether they should progress on National or follow Mormon Trail instead. This serves as a model for what could be constructed at other trailheads along with signage and wayfinding improvements.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: National Trail, Maricopa Trail, Sun Circle Trail

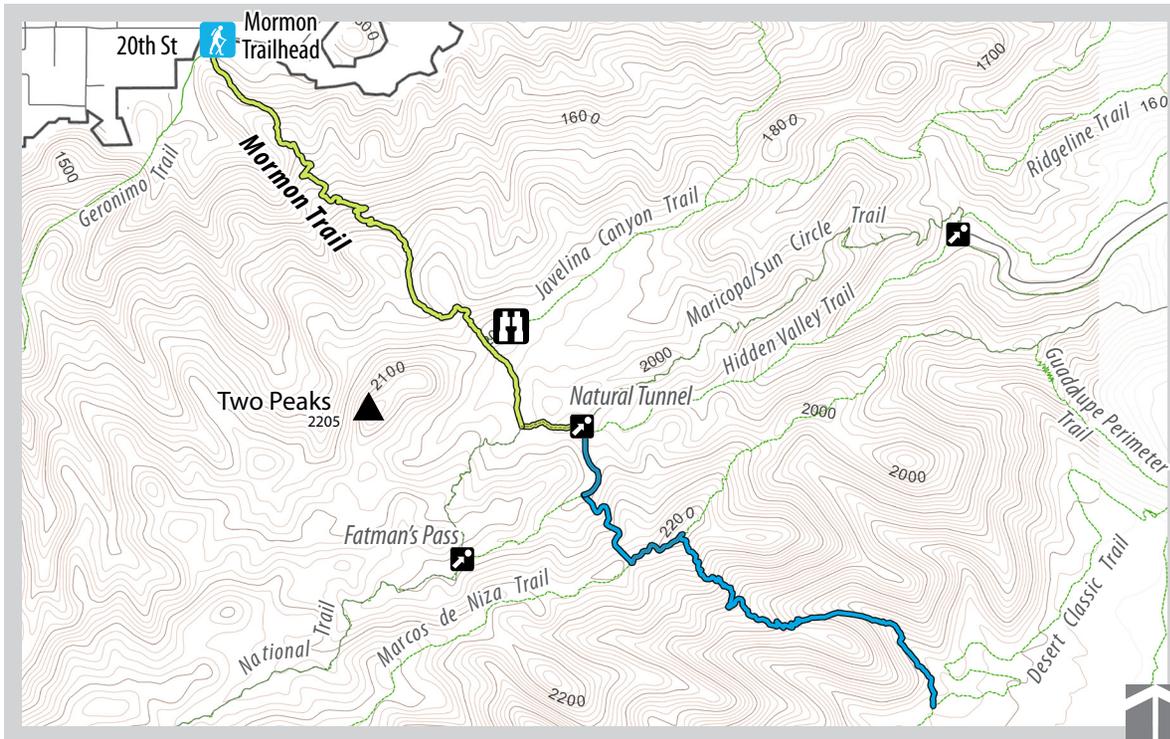
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Pima Canyon Trailhead, San Juan Lookout, Estrella Road, Buena Vista Lookout, San Juan Road Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: National Trail, Guadalupe Perimeter Trail, Bajada Trail, Gila Trail, Busera Trail, Lost Ranch Trail, Mine Drop Loop Trail, Ranger Trail, Kiwanis Trail, Telegraph Pass Trail, Corona de Loma Loop Trail, Holbert Trail, Geronimo Trail, Mormon Trail, Marcos de Niza Trail, Hidden Valley Trail, Pima Wash Trail, Pima Canyon Loop Trail, Beverly-Pima Connector Trail

# Trail Segment 28: Mormon Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation / Neighborhood Interface



	Existing designated trail	1.5 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	1.5 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>3.0 miles</b>

Mormon Trail is also one of the oldest historic designated trails in the Preserve trail system, appearing on the earliest master plans for South Mountain Park.

The Preserve TMP includes incorporating a section of the Hidden Valley Trail through the natural tunnel into this alignment in order to then integrate the non-designated trail known as Young Man Trail. This will create the only trail alignment that bisects the Preserve from northwest to southeast over the central mountain ranges.

Sustainability assessment of the segments is needed to identify specific improvements for trail maintainability, particular for the existing non-designated segments of trail. Wayfinding and user education signage are recommended to help potential trail users assess their abilities to negotiate the trails.

### Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Mormon Trail, National Trail (partial), Maricopa Trail (partial)

Non-designated Trails: Young Man Trail, Midlife Crisis (partial), Hidden Valley Trail (partial)

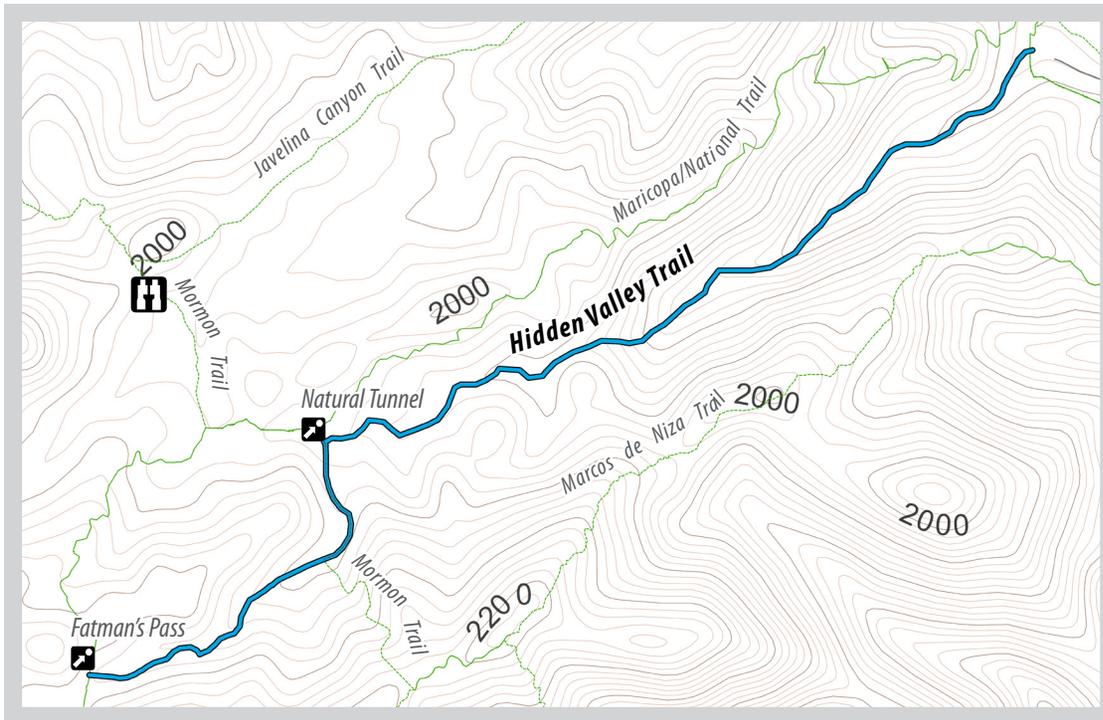
### Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Mormon Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Maricopa Trail, National Trail, Geronimo Trail, Javalina Canyon Trail, Hidden Valley Trail, Marcos de Niza Trail, Desert Classic Trail

# Trail Segment 29: Hidden Valley Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation / Natural Recreation



	Existing designated trail	1.5 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>1.5 miles</b>

Hidden Valley Trail is a popular but existing non-designated trail that brings visitors into some of the more iconic and secluded areas of the Preserve that is popular with sight seers and climbers. The two connections with National Trail, Fatman's Pass and the natural tunnel or bridge, are well known geologic features that have attracted visitors since before the purchase of the land into the City of Phoenix park system. Designating this trail makes access to these areas formally acceptable, aligning with visitor behavior.

The section of the alignment that extends east of the natural bridge follows an existing wash. Technically known to be used as a non-designated trail, the adoption of this segment into the system requires sustainability assessment that will likely include adjusting the trail alignment into a more maintainable situation outside of the wash itself. Wayfinding and user education signage are also recommended.

### Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Non-designated Trails: Hidden Valley Trail

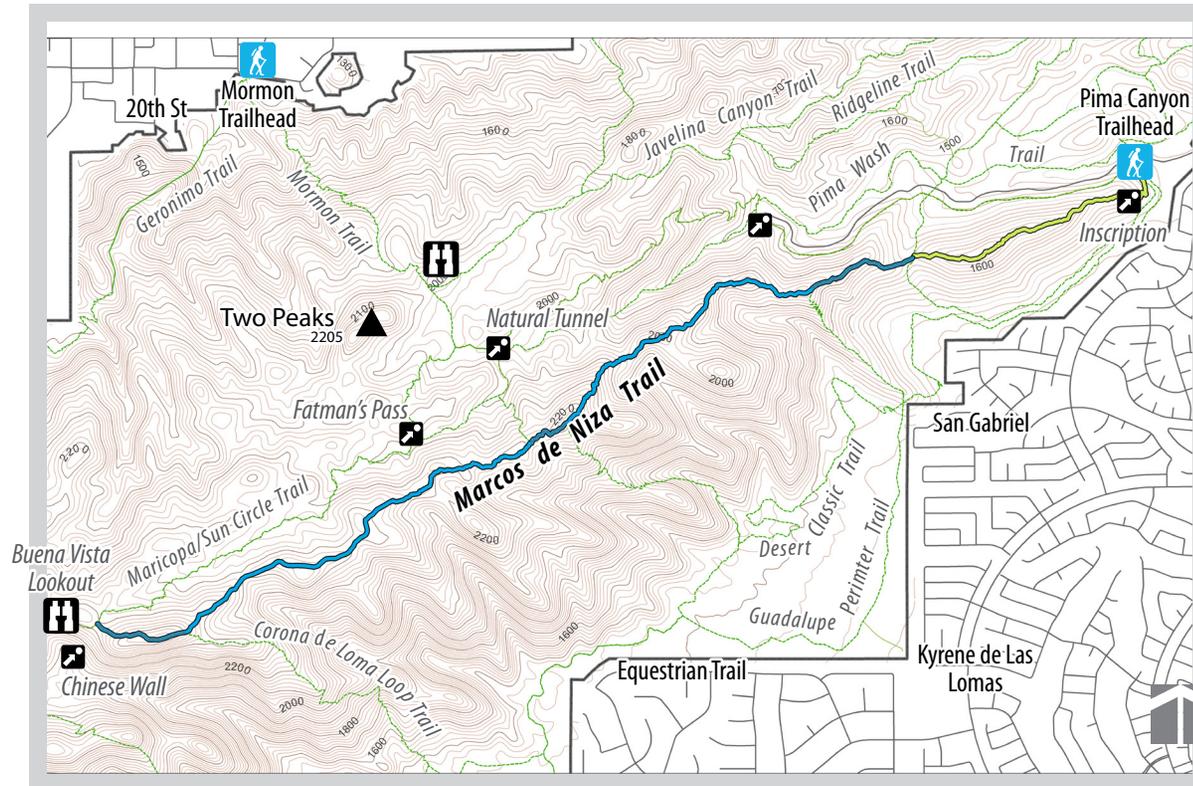
### Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: None

Other Trail Connections: Maricopa Trail, National Trail, Mormon Trail

# Trail Segment 30: Marcos de Niza Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation / Natural Recreation



## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Marcos de Niza Trail

Non-designated Trails: Scott's Ridge Trail, Midlife Crisis Trail

## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Pima Canyon Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Maricopa Trail, National Trail, Mormon Trail, Pima Canyon Loop Trail, Desert Classic Trail, Guadalupe Perimeter Trail, Beverly-Pima Connector Trail, Corona de Loma Loop Trail

	Existing designated trail	0.9 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	3.1 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>4.0 miles</b>

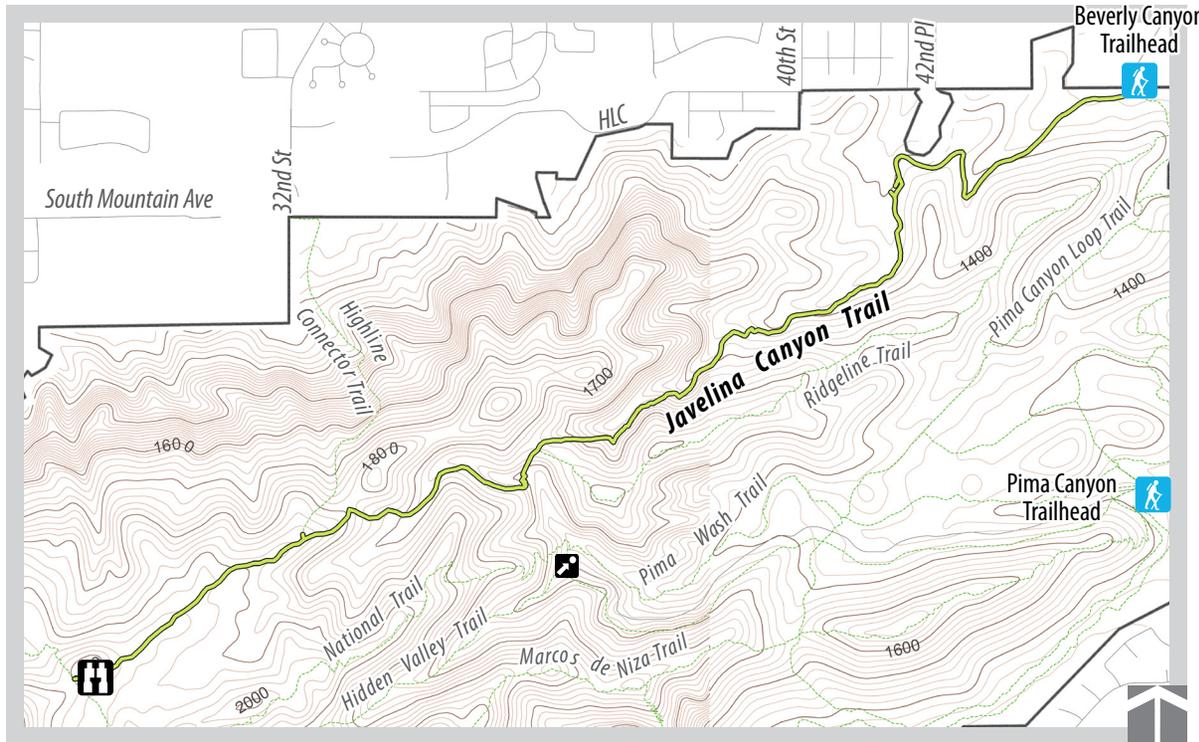
Marcos de Niza Trail is named for an inscription attributed to the Franciscan Marcos de Niza, credited with being the first European to visit the area. While known to be a fake, the inscription is nonetheless a protected landmark in the Preserve near the beginning of the trail.

The Preserve TMP includes incorporating the existing non-designated Scott's Ridge Trail and Midlife Crisis Trail to make the Marcos de Niza a more rugged, parallel trail to National Trail between Pima Canyon Trailhead to just east of the Buena Vista Lookout.

Rock forms and other trail characteristics will likely restrict non-hikers from using the trail from end-to-end, and users will need sufficient information and signage to help assess their abilities in relation to planned trail excursions.

# Trail Segment 31: Javelina Canyon Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	3.0 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>3.0 miles</b>

The Preserve TMP recommends combining two existing designated trails to create a single trail alignment that extends from the Beverly Canyon Trailhead to Mormon Trail. Removing the designation, “Mormon Loop Trail” from the system is consistent with the Preserve TMP objective of improving wayfinding through trail naming along with recommending signage at trailheads, trail intersections, and trail maps be updated.

The small remnant section of the former Mormon Loop Trail will become an unnamed connector trail to National Trail and Pima Wash Trail.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Javelina Canyon Trail, Mormon Loop Trail

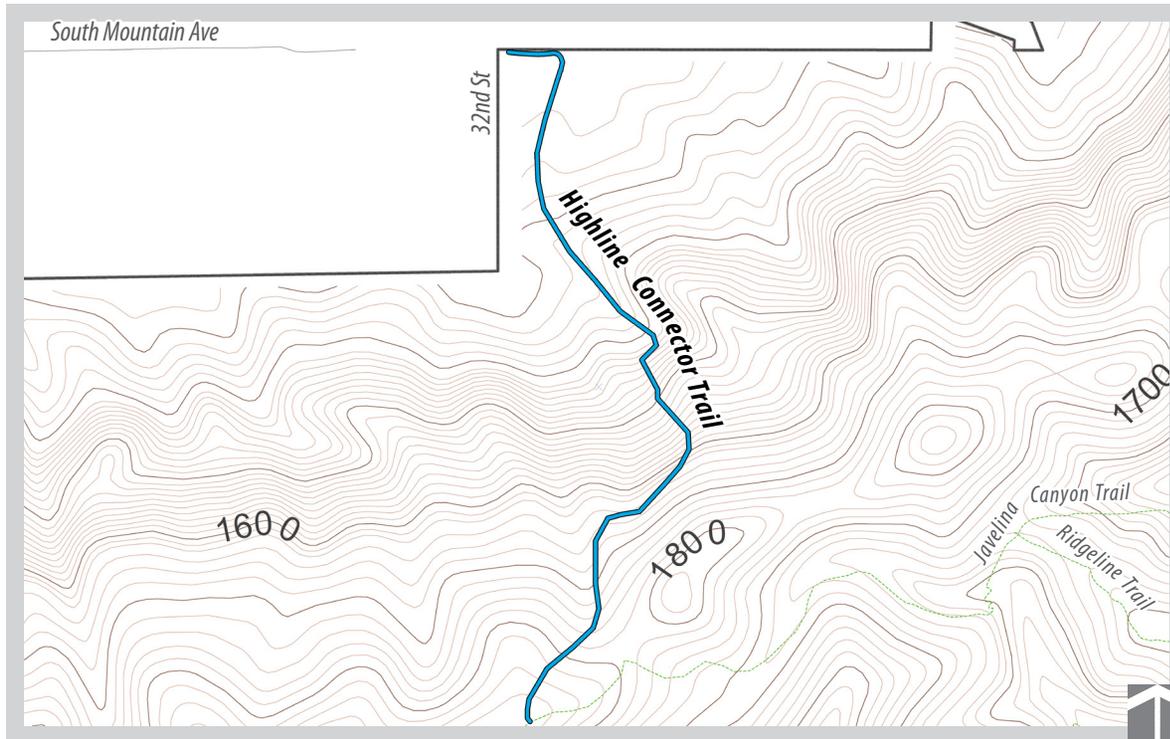
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Beverly Canyon Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Mormon Trail, Highline Connector Trail, Ridgeline Trail, Beverly-Pima Connector Trail, unnamed connector trails to National Trail, Ridgeline Trail, and Pima Canyon Loop Trail

# Trail Segment 32: Highline Connector Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	0.0 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.8 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>0.8 miles</b>

The Highline Connector Trail is an existing non-designated trail that is a very short distance from the Highline Canal. Trail users on this end of the Preserve make use of the Highline Canal Multi-use Path in order to create looped routes back to one of the access points nearby.

The adoption of this trail into the system should include sustainability and maintainability assessments to ensure it meets City trail design criteria, though the existing alignment avoids following fall lines and other common issues with non-designated trails that have been blazed rather than purposefully constructed. The colloquial name for the trail, "Devastator", provided potential trail users an idea of what level of difficulty to expect. With the renaming of the trail, signage and wayfinding at 32nd Street and off Javelina Canyon Trail should fulfill this need instead.

### Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Non-designated Trails: Devastator Trail, 32nd Street Trail

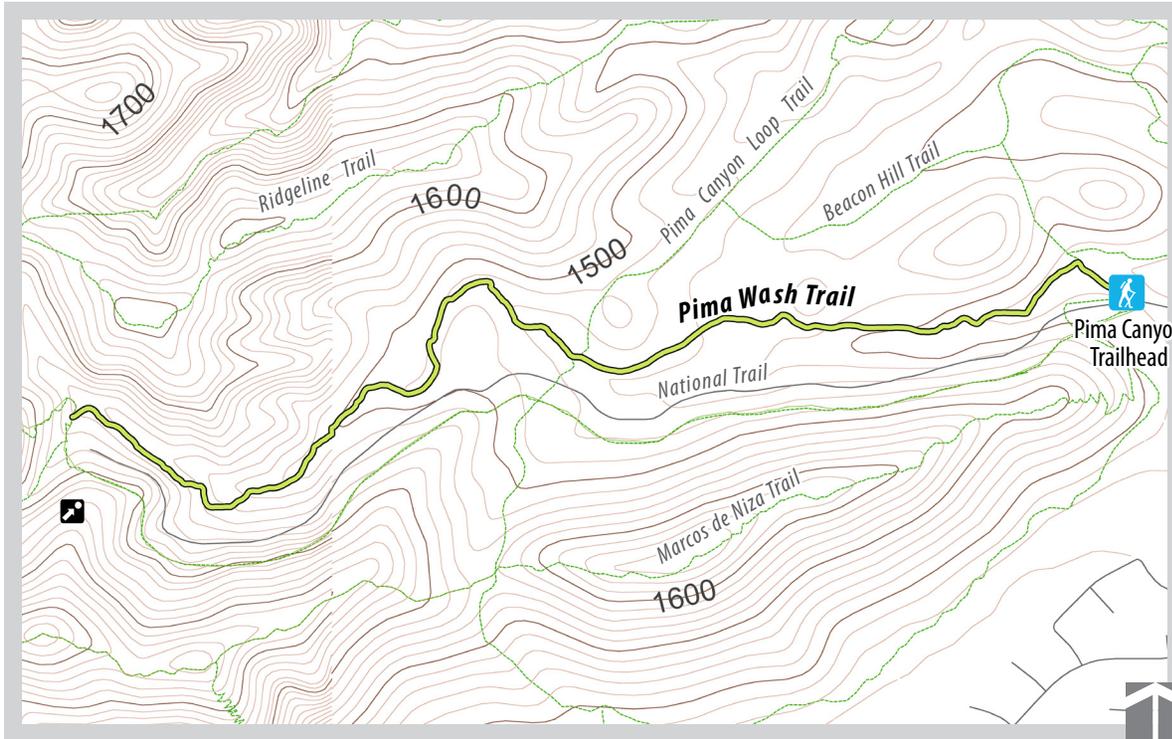
### Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: 32nd Street

Other Trail Connections: Javelina Canyon Trail

# Trail Segment 33: Pima Wash Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



Existing designated trail	1.5 miles
Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>	<b>1.5 miles</b>

The existing designated Pima Wash Trail is recommended to remain as part of the designated trail system, and is an easily identified and accessible trail from the Pima Canyon Trailhead. Wayfinding signage and the reclamation of non-designated trails that intersect it are needed improvements to aid visitors and enhance user experience.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Pima Wash Trail

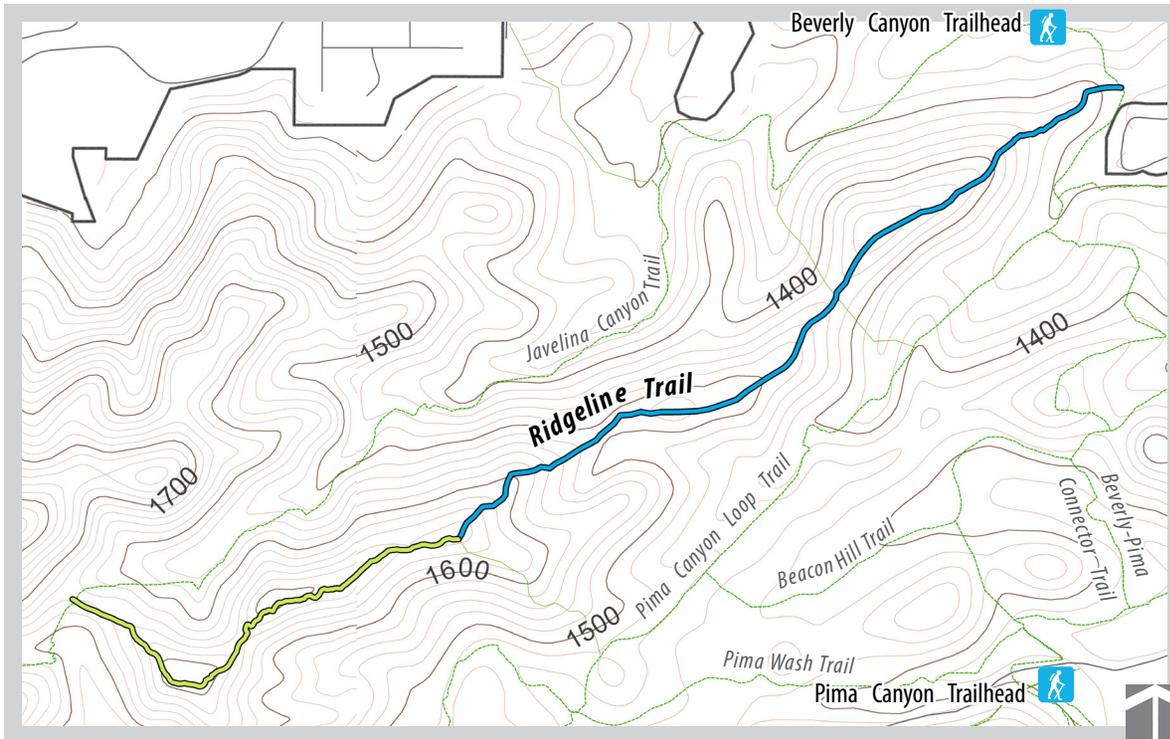
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Pima Canyon Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Maricopa Trail, National Trail, Hidden Valley Trail, Beverly - Pima Connector Trail, Pima Canyon Loop Trail,

# Trail Segment 34: Ridgeline Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	0.6 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	1.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>1.6 miles</b>

The Preserve TMP recommends that the Ridgeline Trail be extended to incorporate an existing non-designated trail near the Beverly Canyon Trailhead. By making this extension, the trail will follow the primary ridgeline between Beverly Canyon and Javelina Canyon with the intent the trail name will be more intuitive to identify for new visitors. The section of existing designated trail that was part of the original alignment is recommended to become a designated unnamed connector trail to the Pima Canyon Loop Trail.

As with all trails in the Pima Canyon area, wayfinding signage and the reclamation of non-designated trails that intersect it are needed improvements to aid visitors and improve user experience.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Ridgeline Trail

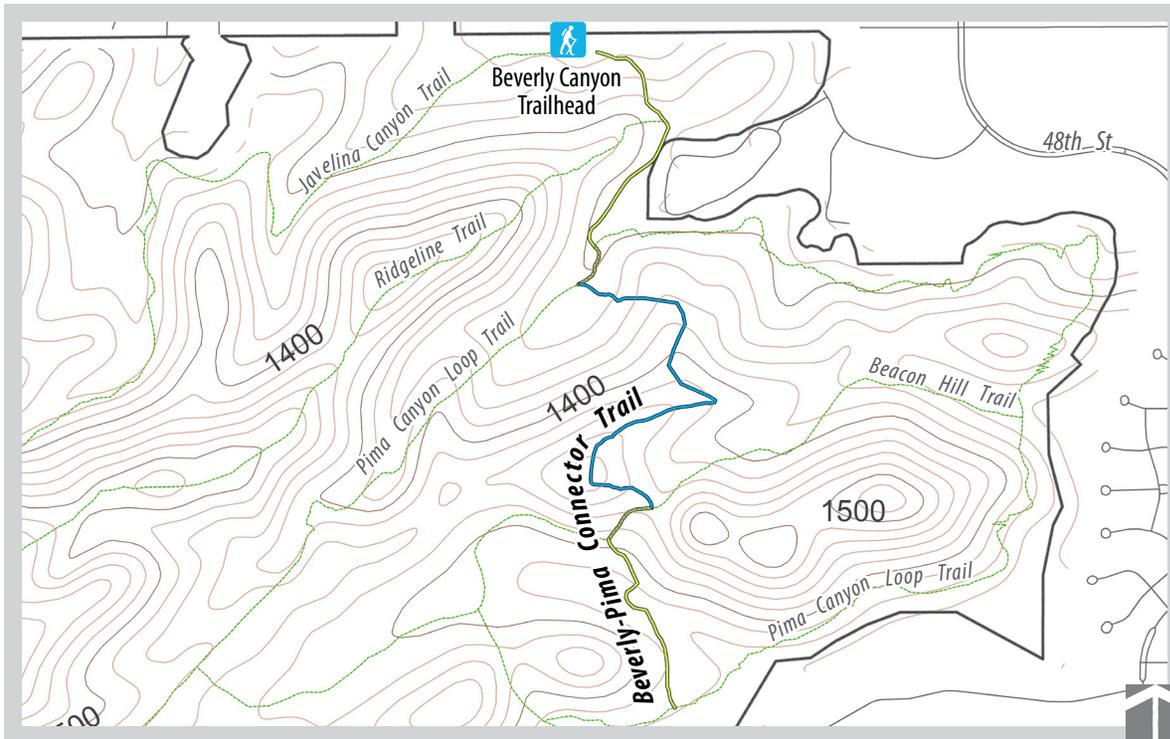
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Beverly Canyon Trailhead (via connector trail)

Other Trail Connections: Javelina Canyon Trail, Beverly - Pima Connector Trail, unnamed connector trails to Javelina Canyon Trail and Pima Canyon Loop Trail

# Trail Segment 35: Beverly-Pima Connector Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	1.2 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.5 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>1.7 miles</b>

The Beverly-Pima Connector Trail is recommended by the Preserve TMP to simplify the designated trail system near Pima Canyon and integrate wayfinding into the trail naming conventions. The alignment includes sections of two previously designated trails whose alignments and names created some confusion by referencing loops and cardinal directions that included at least one figure eight rather than a loop.

As with all trails in the Pima Canyon area, wayfinding signage and the reclamation of non-designated trails that intersect it are needed improvements to aid visitors and improve user experience. The removal of small segments of currently designated trail from the previous Pima West Loop and Pima East Loop alignments also requires reclamation along with wayfinding signage to better direct trail users in this heavily traversed and impacted area of the Preserve.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Pima East Loop (partial), Pima West Loop (partial), Beverly Canyon Trail (partial)

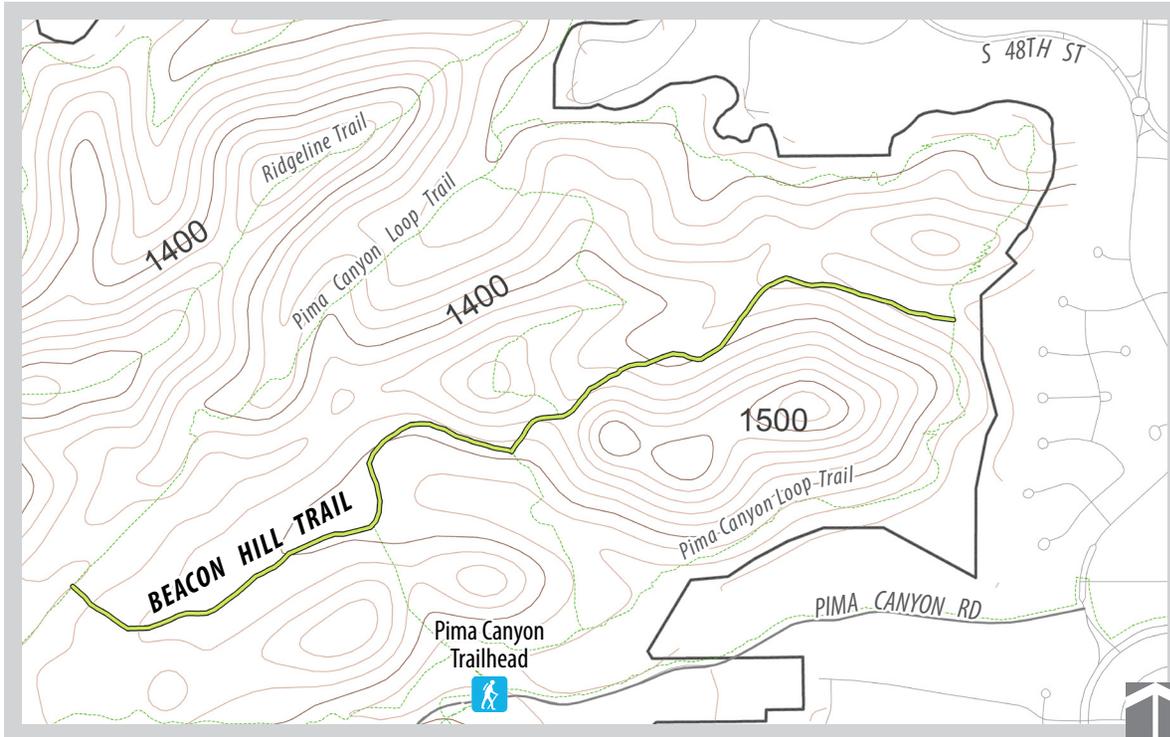
## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Beverly Canyon Trailhead, Pima Canyon Trailhead (via Pima Canyon Loop Trail)

Other Trail Connections: Javelina Canyon Trail, Ridgeline Trail, Pima Canyon Loop Trail, Beacon Hill Trail

# Trail Segment 36: Beacon Hill Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	1.1 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	0.0 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>1.1 miles</b>

This proposed trail alignment is also recommended by the Preserve TMP to simplify the designated trail system near Pima Canyon and integrate wayfinding into the trail naming conventions. The alignment composed of the east-west segments of the previous Pima West Loop and Pima East Loop trails and is named for the hill it passes where an airway beacon served as a prominent landmark.

As with all trails in the Pima Canyon area, wayfinding signage and the reclamation of non-designated trails that intersect it are needed improvements to aid visitors and enhance user experience. The removal of small segments of currently designated trail from the previous Pima West Loop and Pima East Loop alignments also requires reclamation along with wayfinding signage to better direct trail users in this heavily traversed and impacted area of the Preserve.

### Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Pima East Loop (partial), Pima West Loop (partial)

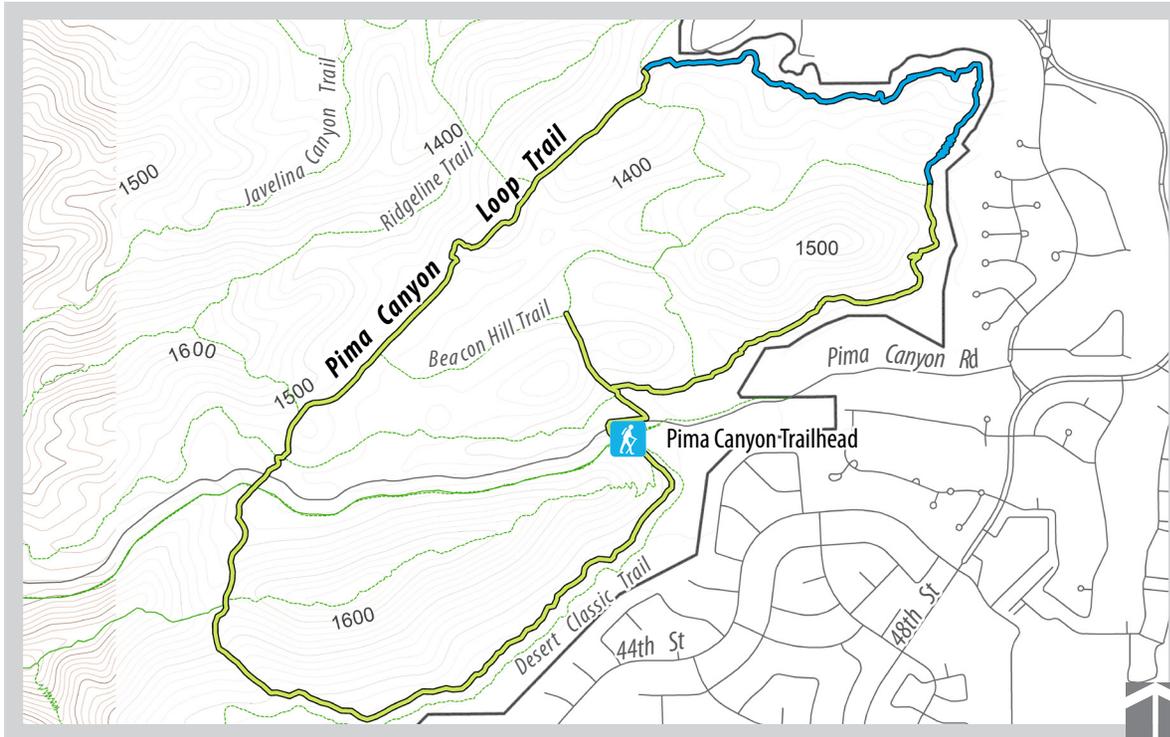
### Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: None

Other Trail Connections: Pima Canyon Loop Trail, Beverly-Pima Connector Trail

# Trail Segment 37: Pima Canyon Loop Trail

Planning Zone: Developed Recreation



	Existing designated trail	3.5 miles
	Existing non-designated trail	1.7 miles
	New trail construction	0.0 miles
<b>TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH</b>		<b>5.2 miles</b>

This Pima Canyon Loop Trail consolidates a number of existing designated and non-designated trails to create a 4-1/2 mile true loop trail that can be accessed from either Pima Canyon Trailhead or Beverly Canyon Trailhead.

As with all trails in the Pima Canyon area, wayfinding signage and the reclamation of non-designated trails that intersect it are needed improvements to aid visitors and enhance user experience in this heavily traversed and impacted area of the Preserve.

## Existing Named Trail Segments and Known Unofficial Names:

Designated Trails: Beverly Canyon Trail, Pima East Loop (partial), Pima West Loop (partial), Desert Classic (partial)

## Access Points and Connections:

Access Points: Beverly Canyon Trailhead, Pima Canyon Trailhead

Other Trail Connections: Beverly-Pima Connector Trail, Beverly-Pima Connector Trail, Beacon Hill Trail, Pima Wash Trail, Maricopa Trail, National Trail, Marco de Niza Trail, unnamed connector to Ridgeline Trail and Javelina Canyon Trail



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN  
TRAIL SYSTEM**  
PLANNING & PRESERVATION

## Appendices

# SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK & PRESERVE TRAILS MASTER PLAN



**City of Phoenix**  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

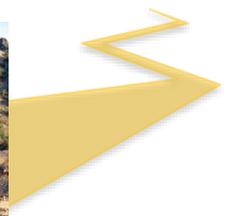


# Appendix A

## *Public Involvement Report*



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN  
TRAIL SYSTEM**  
PLANNING & PRESERVATION



# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT REPORT

## SOUTH MOUNTAIN TRAILS PARK AND PRESERVE TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Prepared by:



On behalf of:



February 2017





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February 2017

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The South Mountain Park and Preserve Trails Master Plan Study (SMPTMP) included an extensive Public Involvement Program. Stakeholders participated in the study by attending public workshops, submitting online comments, or providing input via e-mail and telephone calls with study team members. This document outlines the four phases of the public involvement plan, which correspond to the project outreach activities and objectives.

### Public Input

The following is a summary of the opportunities for input provided to the community from February 2016 through January 2017.

- South Mountain Park and Preserve Master Plan Study page posted on City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation website and updated before and after each meeting: **June 2016 – January 2017**
- Study E-mail Distribution List: **412 e-mail addresses**
  - Email announcements: **10**
- Stakeholder Kick-off Meeting, May 4, 2016: **41 attendees**
- Online study comments received: **191**
- Public Meetings Round #1, Pecos Community Center, June 8, 2016: **85 attendees**
  - Comment Forms Received: **47**
- Public Meetings Round #1, South Mountain Environmental Education Center, June 9, 2016: **45 attendees**
  - Comment Forms Received: **34**
- Public Meetings Round #2: Pecos Community Center, September 21, 2016: **28 attendees**
  - Comment Forms Received: **18**
- Public Meetings Round #2: South Mountain Environmental Education Center, September 24, 2016: **13 attendees**
  - Comment Forms Received: **5**
- Public Meetings Round #3: Pecos Community Center, December 6, 2016: **52 attendees**
  - Comment Forms Received: **32**
- Public Meetings Round #3: South Mountain Environmental Education Center, December 8, 2016: **27 attendees**
  - Comment Forms Received: **16**





# 1.0 Approach

This Public Involvement Report documents the four phase public involvement activities implemented from February 2016 through December 2016 to obtain community input into the SMPTMP. The complete Public Involvement and Communications Plan is located in Appendix, Section 4.0.

## 1.1 Study Public Involvement Goals

- Identify and inform interested and affected community stakeholders about the study purpose and need
- Provide opportunities for public input during the study to help identify the nondesignated trail network and other needs related to the trail system, as part of the Master Plan Development
- Develop a network of stakeholders who will remain in contact with the City and help provide two-way communication to the various user groups of the preserve's trail system following the completion of the SMPTMP project
- Seek input from community members, user groups, visitors and other stakeholders to assist in the development of alternatives and finalization of a trails master plan

## 1.2 Study Purpose and Need

With more than 50 miles of designated trails, South Mountain Park and Preserve has become a mainstay for hiking, biking, horseback riding and much more for both Valley residents and visitors. To ensure we protect and preserve this valuable resource for future generations to enjoy, the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is preparing the South Mountain Park and Preserve Trails Master Plan.

The Master Plan includes the following objectives.

- Identify which of the non-designated trails can become part of the designated multi-use trail system, and which need to be restored back to a natural condition
- Identify other needs specifically related to trails
- Bring management needs and visitor expectations together to provide a safe, sustainable and maintainable trail system.



### 1.3 Outreach Phases

The following list outlines the four public involvement phases implemented from February 2016 through December 2016.

#### Phase I: Project Initiation – February through May 2016

- **Purpose:** Inform stakeholders of the study purpose, process and schedule. Present information and guidelines for the preserve and Charter and City Code for the South Mountain Park Preserve Trail System.

Tools used during this period to provide information and to collect input include the following:

- SMS database
- Email announcement
- Stakeholder kick-off meeting with key representatives from associations, community organizations and user-groups
- Resource maps and relationship matrix

#### Phase II: Public Involvement Initiation - March through May 2016

**Purpose:** Inform stakeholders of the study purpose, process and schedule. Present information and guidelines for the preserve and Charter and City Code for the South Mountain Park Preserve Trail System. Provide opportunities for input on visitor experience of the existing trail system. Demonstrate the launch of the interactive web-based tools for public participation and comment for this study.

Tools used during this period to provide information and to collect input include the following:

- SMS database
- Email announcement
- Online engagement tool/project webpage
- Public meetings #1 with community organizations, user-groups, residents and Home Owner Associations (HOA's)
- Poll everywhere interactive voting exercise
- Resource maps and visitor experience matrix
- Project Fact Sheet #1



### **Phase III: Alternative Development and Refinement - May through July 2016**

**Purpose:** Inform stakeholders of the public input received from public meetings #1 and online comments. Seek public input on the proposed Conceptual Trail Alignments.

Tools used during this period to provide information and to collect input include the following:

- SMS database
- Email announcement
- Online engagement tool/project webpage
- Public Workshop meeting #2 with community organizations, user-groups, residents and Home Owner Associations (HOA's)
- Resource maps and conceptual trail map
- Project Newsletter #1

### **Phase IV: Develop and Finalize Trails Master Plan - July through January 2017**

**Purpose:** Inform stakeholders of the public input received from public meetings #2 and online comments. Seek public input on the proposed designated trail alignments and proposed trail naming system.

Tools used during this period to provide information and to collect input include the following:

- SMS database
- Email announcement
- Online engagement tool/project webpage
- Public meetings #3 with community organizations, user-groups, residents and Home Owner Associations (HOA's)
- Proposed designated trails map and trail naming system/comment form
- Project Newsletter #2



## 2.0 Public Input Received

The following is an overview of the feedback received during the two public meetings.

### 2.1 Stakeholder Kick-Off Meeting – May 4, 2016

A stakeholder meeting for the South Mountain Park and Preserve Trails Master Plan was held on May 4, 2016 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at South Mountain Community College, 7050 South 24th Street, in Phoenix.

The purpose for the meeting was to:

- Introduce the study purpose and discuss the goals of the study.
- Provide information about the City Charter Chapter XXVI for preservation of the preserve and trails.
- Seek input from stakeholders about the relationship between user groups and the trail system.
- Seek input from stakeholders about the how the city can reduce off-trail recreational activities and maintain a sustainable trail system.

#### Meeting Notification

The following methods were used to notify stakeholders about the meeting.

- Phone calls and emails – Stakeholders were called and emailed at their organization/user-group to inform them about the upcoming study and meeting and to obtain a key contact from their organization/user-group
- Meeting announcements email blast – An email announcement was sent to 168 stakeholders on April 22, 2016 inviting them to the meeting. A reminder email announcement was sent on April 28, 2016.

#### Format

Attendees were greeted at the registration table, signed in and were encouraged to sit with user-groups outside of their organization. The meeting set-up included 15 tables with 6 to 7 people per table. Each attendee was provided an agenda and relationship matrix (Assessing: Your relationship with the South Mountain Park Trail System).

The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department and Study Team gave a presentation on the purpose of the study, process for the study and anticipated project schedule. The city also provided history of the trails and the current state of the trail, as well as the preserves Charter and City Code. Following the presentation, attendees were asked to individually assess their relationship with the



South Mountain Park Trail System. Attendees were led in group discussions and worked together as a table to categorize their priorities for the draft master plan.

Following the meeting, attendees could view South Mountain Park and Preserve panel maps, speak with study staff members and provide additional comments on the maps.

### **Key Findings**

- Need full assessment of trails: Why do they exist? Are they needed? Are they appropriate?
- All uses impact trails and require maintenance over time
- Management and maintenance requires funding which is lacking
- Conflicts could be result of poor user education, lack of knowledge of etiquette and safety
- Many skilled and knowledgeable volunteers available and interested, but need means to coordinate
- Difficult to identify designated trails and park features, both while at the preserve and through variety of maps. Example, many non-City resources include non-designated trails in their trails maps for South Mountain Park Preserve
- Communication tools needed for user group awareness, maps (downloadable) and phone apps
- Parking impacts to neighborhoods need to be addressed

### **Stakeholder Recommendations**

- Identify the Preserve's trail carrying capacity as part of Master Plan
- Assess trails within the system as part of Master Plan
- Use physical character/design to filter uses rather than signage. For example, tech barriers
- Appropriate funding needs to be allocated for realistic trails maintenance program
- Define trail destinations and the trails that take a person there better
- Educate users on trail use, etiquette and safety
- Develop guidelines of criteria for when to close or create a new trail
- Need appropriate trail head locations with signage/identification of trails
- Permit system, such as is currently in place for paragliding, could be set up for other uses that are not currently allowed but occur and lead to travel off of non-designated trails
- Look for multiple funding sources

## **2.2 Public Meetings #1 – June 8 and 9, 2016**

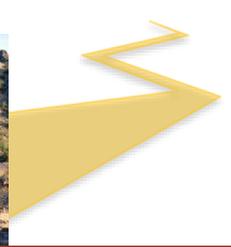
Two public meetings were held for this first series for the South Mountain Park and Preserve Trails Master Plan. The first meeting was held on June 8, 2016 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Pecos Community Center, Senior Center Room, 17010S 48th Street, in Phoenix. The second meeting using the same format was held two days later on June 9, 2016 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at South Mountain Environmental Education Center, Training Room, 10409 S Central Avenue, in Phoenix.



A combined total of **130** attendees plus City staff and the consultant team participated in the two meetings.

The purpose for the meeting was to:

- Inform the public about the study and project schedule
- Provide information on the trails master plan guidelines and criteria with regard to:
  - Role of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board
  - Requirements of the City of Phoenix Charter Chapter XXVI
  - Authority provided by the City of Phoenix trails ordinance
  - Role of trails design and construction guidelines in designating trails
- Provide information on the history of the park - 100 years in the making
- Describe the purpose for the master plan study today
  - Many trails being actively used that have not been designated by the City.
  - These non-designated trails may or may not be safe, sustainable, maintainable, or considerate of the need to “preserve the Preserve”.
- Provide information on the study goals
  - Identify which of the non-designated trails can become part of the designated multi-use trail system and which need to be restored back to a natural condition.
  - Identify other needs specifically related to trails that can be addressed through the trail master planning process.
  - Bring management needs and visitor expectations together so sustainable management actions can be taken.
- Describe the existing trail system and provide opportunities for the public to provide feedback on:
  - The biggest challenges for trail users; how to determine if a trail is designated and the primary reasons people use non-designated trails.
  - Identify designated and undesignated trail network, issues, needs, desires, unmarked trails, and usage patterns.
  - Identify additional undesignated trails used by the public not captured on the park and preserve maps.
  - Identify visitor experience types throughout the Park and Preserve based on personal, user experience
    - Solitude, Natural Recreation and Populated Recreation
- Demonstrate the launch of the interactive web-based tools for public participation and comment for this study.
- Provide information on the upcoming public meetings and continued opportunities for public input throughout the study.



## Meeting Notification

The following methods were used to notify stakeholders about the meeting.

- Phone calls and emails – Stakeholders were called and emailed at their organization/user-group to inform them about the upcoming study and meeting and to obtain a key contact from their organization/user-group
- Meeting announcements email blast #1 – An email announcement was sent to 168 stakeholders on April 22, 2016 inviting them to the meeting.
- Meeting announcements email blast #2 - A reminder email announcement was sent to 168 stakeholders on April 28, 2016.
- Website – The meeting announcement was posted on the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation website.
- Social media – The meeting announcement was shared on the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation social media pages.
- Networking - Organizations, user-groups and Home Owner's Associations (HOA's) shared the meeting announcement information by posting to their websites and social media pages.

## Format

The meeting set-up included 15 tables with 8 people per table and 3 tables in the back of the room with maps of the preserve. Attendees signed in at their table and were provided with agenda, fact sheet and visitor experience handout. Attendees also received log-in instructions for the Poll Everywhere exercise and a handout/comment form with the Poll Everywhere questions. The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department and Study Team gave a presentation on the purpose of the study, process for the study and anticipated project schedule. The city also provided history of the trails and the current state of the trail, as well as the preserves Charter and City Code.

During the presentation, attendees had the opportunity to participate in a Poll Everywhere exercise by voting using their cellular phones. Attendees also had the option to participate in the polling exercise by providing their vote on their comment forms. Following the presentation, attendees participated in a mapping exercise where they could indicate their visitor experiences on the preserve maps.

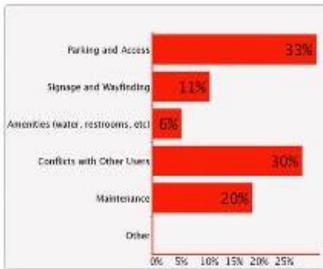
Following the meeting, attendees could view South Mountain Park and Preserve panel maps, speak with study staff members and provide additional comments on the maps.



## Key Findings

An interactive exercise using Poll Everywhere was conducted during the presentation to engage the participants regarding the existing trails. The following are the results of the polling exercises (Red: June 8th Meeting, Green: June 9th Meeting):

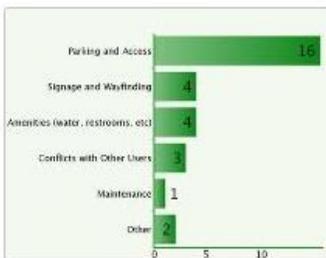
### What is the biggest challenge for trail users?



Response options	Count	Percentage
<b>Parking and Access</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33%</b>
Signage and Wayfinding	8	11%
Amenities (water, restrooms, etc)	4	6%
Conflicts with Other Users	21	30%
Maintenance	14	20%
Other	0	0%



### What is the biggest challenge for trail users?

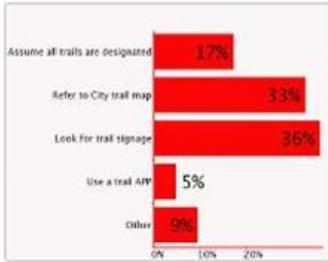


Response options	Count	Percentage
<b>Parking and Access</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>53%</b>
Signage and Wayfinding	4	13%
Amenities (water, restrooms, etc)	4	13%
Conflicts with Other Users	3	10%
Maintenance	1	3%
Other	2	7%





### How do you determine if a trail is designated?



Response options	Count	Percentage
Assume all trails are designated	11	17%
Refer to City trail map	21	33%
Look for trail signage	23	36%
Use a trail APP	3	5%
Other	6	9%

86%  
Engagement

64  
Responses

### How do you determine if a trail is designated?

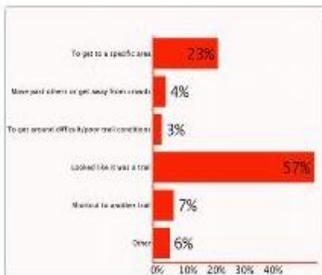


Response options	Count	Percentage
Assume all trails are designated	4	13%
Refer to City trail map	3	10%
Look for trail signage	18	60%
Use a trail APP	3	10%
Other	2	7%

86%  
Engagement

30  
Responses

### What is the primary reason people use non-designated trails?



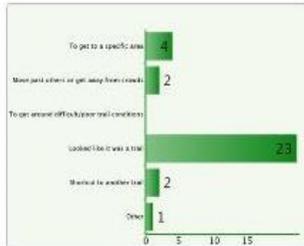
Response options	Count	Percentage
To get to a specific area	16	23%
Move past others or get away from crowds	3	4%
To get around difficult/poor trail conditions	2	3%
Looked like it was a trail	40	57%
Shortcut to another trail	5	7%
Other	4	6%

95%  
Engagement

70  
Responses



**What is the primary reason people use non-designated trails?**



Response options

Response options	Count	Percentage
To get to a specific area	4	13%
Move past others or get away from crowds	2	6%
To get around difficult/poor trail conditions	0	0%
Looked like it was a trail	23	72%
Shortcut to another trail	2	6%
Other	1	3%

91%  
Engagement

32  
Responses

After each poll question, attendees were asked if they wanted to share their responses. The following verbal responses comments were received during the meeting:

**Poll question #1 - What is the Biggest Challenge for Trail Users?**

- Parking & Access
  - Park-goers are street parking in private property communities where no street parking is allowed. HOA claims unsafe for homeowners having access to and from their homes.
  - Mineral Canyon HOA same concerns as above.
  - 16th street (probably mistaken for 24th street) needs parking
  - Dobbins lookout car congestion at sunset
- Conflict with users
  - Conflict between mixed biker & hiker trails
  - Trash & urination behind homes

**Poll question #2 - How do you determine if a trail is designated?**

- Signage
- Other: Old guidebooks because there are so many maps online that he doesn't trust to be accurate

**Poll question #3 - What is the primary reason people use non-designated trails?**

- It looked like it was a trail



## Preferred Trail System

Participants at the first public meetings had the opportunity to mark which of the non-designated trails they felt should become part of the designated system and which should be restored. Many comments were received in favor of seeing popular non-designated trails become part of the designated system.

### 2.3 Public Meetings #2 – September 21 and 24, 2016

Two public meetings were held for this second series for the South Mountain Park and Preserve Trails Master Plan. The first meeting, which included a formal presentation followed by a table exercise, was held on September 21, 2016 from 6:00 to 8 p.m. at Pecos Community Center, Senior Center Room, 17010S 48th Street, in Phoenix.

The second meeting was held on Saturday morning, September 24, 2016 from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at South Mountain Environmental Education Center, Training Room, 10409 S Central Avenue, in Phoenix. This meeting was conducted as an open house format with the intention of allowing park visitors and trail users to attend and participate before or after their other activities at the Preserve.

A combined total of **58** attendees plus City staff and the consultant team participated in the two meetings.

Following a presentation during the Pecos Community Center Meeting on how the public input from Meeting Series #1 was used in the planning process, the public was asked to provide comments on trail naming, wayfinding, and proposed conceptual trail alignments. Participants in the Saturday meeting at the SMEEEC were given the same information in one-on-one discussions with City staff and the Consultant team during the open house.

## Meeting Notification

The following methods were used to notify stakeholders about the meeting.

- Meeting announcements email blast #1 – An email announcement was sent to the stakeholder email distribution list on August 10, 2016 inviting them to the meeting.
- Meeting announcements email blast #2 - A reminder email announcement was sent to the stakeholder email distribution list on September 6, 2016.
- Website – The meeting announcement was posted on the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation website.
- Social media – The meeting announcement was shared on the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation social media pages.
- Networking - Organizations, user-groups and HOA's shared the meeting announcement information by posting to their websites and social media pages.



## Format

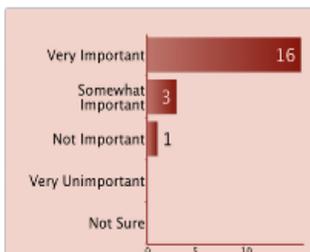
The meeting set-up included 16 tables with 6 people per table. Attendees signed in at their table and were provided with a project newsletter and comment form which included the conceptual trail alignment map. The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department and Study Team gave a formal presentation on the public input received from the June workshops, mapping exercises and online comments received on the visitor recreation experiences. At the meeting held on September 21, attendees participated in a Poll Everywhere exercise to provide input on trail naming. During the Saturday meeting, attendees were asked the same questions and provided their trail naming responses on their comment cards. Attendees received a Conceptual Trail Alignment Map and were instructed to identify a location on the map they wish to comment and write specific comments as they corresponded to the location. Attendees were given four questions to respond to on the comment form:

- Where do you AGREE with a conceptual trail alignment?
- Where do you DISAGREE with a conceptual trail alignment?
- Where is there SAFETY or other concerns which need to be addressed?
- What name do you use today for the conceptual trail?

Following the meeting, attendees could speak with study staff members and provide additional comments on the conceptual trail alignment maps.

## Poll Everywhere Responses:

### How important is it to have consistent trail names?

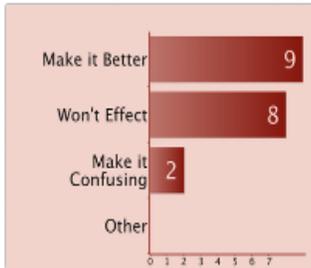


Response options	Count	Percentage
<b>Very Important</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>80%</b>
Somewhat Important	3	15%
Not Important	1	5%
Very Unimportant	0	0%
Not Sure	0	0%





### How will renaming the trails impact your experience?



Response options	Count	Percentage
Make it Better	9	47%
Won't Effect	8	42%
Make it Confusing	2	11%
Other	0	0%

90%  
Engagement

19  
Responses

#### Trail Naming Key Findings:

- Consistency of a trail naming system is very important.
- Renaming the trail system will impact user experience by making it better.
- Many popular non-designated trails have widely known names which should be kept to the extent possible.
- Avoid use of “theme-park” names. (i.e. – naming trails after desert animals, vegetation, etc.)
- Use of names that aid in wayfinding would be helpful.

#### Additional Comments:

- A consistent trail naming system would help people identify trails and know where they are, improving safety, and provides ability to plan distances.
- Better signage and wayfinding would improve safety and primarily benefit new or out-of-state visitors.
- Regular users did not prefer modifications to existing trail names, but most participants in the meetings recognized the intent was for very limited name changes to help those who are not familiar with the trail system where the naming could be confusing.





### Conceptual Trail Alignments Key Findings:

The participants in the meetings were presented with the Conceptual Trail Alignments and asked to provide comments on which alignments should be included in the designated trail system, which should not be included, and to comment on other issues related to the trail locations.

- Participants were largely in favor of including many proposed conceptual trails in the designated trail system.
- General concern was expressed by some that too many trails becoming designated would impact the solitude experience in parts of the Park.
- Many comments on these same alignments identified above expressed being in favor of seeing the trails designated.
- The public expressed opposition to the proposed perimeter trail alignment between 28<sup>th</sup> Street and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. In response, this alignment was not included as part of the DRAFT Trails Master Plan.
- Parking and access continued to be concerns, which the public was informed would be considered in more detail with a separate facilities plan project.
- Many comments recommended signage to improve safety (water recommendations, activities and wildlife that may be encountered on trails, etc.) is a need.
- A number of participants comments on the trail known as “Devastator Trail” as needing improvements to become a multi-use trail or to be considered sustainable.
- Commenters noted the Pima Canyon area is most confusing and needs better trail marking as well as signage.
- Participants noted that maps of local trails from trailheads, not just overall trail system maps, would be helpful.
- Some participants expressed Interest in seeing parallel segregated trails to reduce conflicts. Example, downhill trail for higher speed bikers as part of Geronimo Trail alignment would benefit hikers and bikers.
- Comments on the types of trail uses available from areas other than Pima Canyon should be considered. For example, smaller loops of 1 to 2 miles in areas other than Pima Canyon are needed for short hikes.



## 2.4 Public Meetings #3 – December 6 and 8, 2016

Two public open houses were held for this third and final public meeting series for the South Mountain Park and Preserve Trails Master Plan. The first meeting was held on December 6, 2016 from 6:00 to 8 p.m. at Pecos Community Center, Senior Center Room, 17010S 48th Street, in Phoenix. The second meeting was held on December 8, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at South Mountain Environmental Education Center, Training Room, 10409 S Central Avenue, in Phoenix. Both meeting was conducted as an open house format with boards and maps available for mark-up.

Participants in the public meetings were presented with the proposed DRAFT Trails Master Plan and trail names and asked to provide comments.

A combined total of **79** attendees plus City staff and the consultant team participated in the two meetings.

### Meeting Notification

The following methods were used to notify stakeholders about the meeting.

- Meeting announcements email blast #1 – An email announcement was sent to the stakeholder email distribution list on October 21, 2016 inviting them to the meeting.
- Meeting announcements email blast #2 - A reminder email announcement was sent to the stakeholder email distribution list on December 2, 2016.
- Website – The meeting announcement was posted on the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation website.
- Social media – The meeting announcement was shared on the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation social media pages.
- Networking - Organizations, user-groups and HOA's shared the meeting announcement information by posting to their websites and social media pages.

### Format

The meeting set-up included 12 tables with 6 people per table. Attendees signed in and were directed to an open table. A staff member lead the table discussion by providing an overview on comments received from the public and how it help identify the proposed trail alignments and proposed trail naming system. Attendees were provided a project newsletter as a takeaway which also included a map of the proposed trail alignments. Attendees were able to speak to the study project team and ask questions regarding the next steps in the draft master plan.



## Proposed Trail Alignments and Proposed Trail Naming System

Attendees were provided a 11x17 comment form which included a map of the proposed trail alignments and trail naming system. Attendees were given the opportunity to provide their individual comments on the proposed trail alignments and trail naming system. Attendees were asked the following two questions for input:

**Where do you have COMMENTS on the proposed trail names?**

**Where do you have COMMENTS on the Draft Trails Master Plan alignments?**

### Key Findings:

- Majority of proposed additions to the designated trail system are welcome. Concerns were raised about designating trails near back of homes.
- Public is opposed to adding the extension of the proposed Javelina Canyon Loop Trail between 32nd Street and Beverly Canyon Trailhead. Concerns include impacts to the steep natural slopes and cultural artifacts in the area as well as security and privacy for the residents.
- Better signage and trail definitions are a public priority and frequent comment. Numbers in addition to QR codes to help wayfinding. Simple signage, easy to understand preferred.
- Neighborhood relationship to trails and parking areas are a concern. (Security behind houses, at trailheads, crime that could come into neighborhoods with more outside intrusion into their communities)
- Balancing trail access and neighborhood needs is a common concern.
- Access and new trails on the west side of the Preserve are very welcome and needed
- Connectors between designated trails are needed. The public would like to see additional non-designated trail connectors from those shown on the Draft Master Plan.
- Public would like to see trails with varying degrees of technical or physical ability continue to be challenging when added to the system.
- Maintenance of the existing trail system is a concern where erosion is frequent from use and rain. Telegraph Pass Trail is an example that was cited. Need to adequately fund parks maintenance for both existing and new facilities.
- Warpaint Trail Access is a known concern that needs resolution. The addition of the Guadalupe Perimeter Trail also makes use of this already problematic access point.
- Signage for trail connection points and merged alignments is important. Some public concern over if this may be confusing.
- Keeping traditional names was very welcome, but examples like “Old Man Trail” and “Young Man Trail” raised concerns.



## SOUTH MOUNTAIN TRAIL SYSTEM PLANNING & PRESERVATION



- Fair number of comments expressed appreciation for the process. Examples include:
  - Thank you for the work on this. South Mountain is why I live in Ahwatukee
  - Thanks for allowing the public input being in the decision making process!!!
  - The trail names seem fine to me. No real opinion on the names
  - Thank you for doing this.
  - New loop trail options are excellent, but: Keep existing recognized trail names (adding extension is good)
  - This type of process is outstanding and thinks it should occur on a more regular basis, every 5-7 years
  - Thank you for having these meeting and sharing information
  - Thank you for not putting a trail at 28th St.
  - thank you for consideration for not using the feeder trail behind 30th St. at Desert Rose
  - Thank you for designating and / or adding new trails from Ahwatukee
  - Overall looks like a great plan. Like the idea of loop trails, will be a great improvement.
  - I greatly appreciate the park and Rec Dept. efforts to include public commentary. It has been a pleasure to talk with Park Rangers and Supervisory Officers. Thank you for your professionalism.
  - Strong support for solitude designation in west end of park. Should be emphasized for Sonora abatement for coming bypass the proposed “loop” trails are marvelous
  - Thank you for the opportunity to comment and respond!





## 3.0 Outreach/Communications Methods

The following is an overview of the tools and techniques used during the study.

### 3.1 Stakeholder Management System

Stakeholder contacts of community organizations, recreational organizations, village planning committees, Home Owner's Associations and residents was created and stored in the project database. Requests for information from stakeholders were documented in the database. Stakeholders contact information was stored in the database, including their email address for distribution of electronic study updates. A total of 441 stakeholders were identified. A stakeholder contact list was exported from the database.

### 3.2 E-Mail Updates and Public Meeting Notifications

Stakeholders were encouraged to sign up for the study's e-mail distribution list to receive meeting notices, reminder notices and electronic updates. The initial email distribution included 168 stakeholders. The final stakeholder list included 412 e-mail addresses. The following is a list of email updates sent throughout the project study.

- April 22, 2016 - Your Invitation to South Mountain Park Trails Stakeholder Meeting. Email announcement about the study and invitation to stakeholders for a workshop kick-off meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2016.
- April 28, 2016 – Reminder South Mountain Park Trails Master Plan Stakeholder Kick-Off Meeting. Meeting scheduled to be held May 4, 2016.
- May 25, 2016 - Your Invitation to South Mountain Park Trails Public Workshop. Email announcement for June 8 and 9 Public Workshops. Email also included a flyer with the workshop information.
- June 3, 2016 - Reminder Invitation to South Mountain Park Trails Public Workshop. Public workshops scheduled for June 8 and 9, 2016.
- August 10, 2016 - It's Your Preserve! Help Plan the Next 100 Years. Announcement of online engagement tool and Save the Date for September meetings.
- September 6, 2016 – Meeting announcement South Mountain Park and Preserve Trails Master Plan September Public Workshops. Meetings scheduled for September 21 and 24, 2016.
- October 7, 2016 - Make a Difference! The Preserve is Your Stewardship, too! Reminder email for comments on the Conceptual Trail Alignments by October 16, 2016.
- October 21, 2016 - Save the Date South Mountain Park and Preserve Trails Master Plan Final Public Meetings to be held in December 2016.



- December 2, 2016 – Meeting reminder for Final Public Meetings. Meetings scheduled to be held December 6 and 8, 2016.
- January 3, 2017 – Last Chance to Comment on the Proposed Draft Trails Master Plan. Email reminder for online comments on the proposed dedicated trails and trail naming system deadline was January 8, 2017.

### 3.3 Study Fact Sheet, Flyer and Newsletter

**Public workshop flyer** was created and distributed in the May 25, 2016 email blast. The public workshop flyer provided a brief description regarding the project study and information regarding the upcoming June workshops.

**Project fact sheet** was created in June and distributed at the June 8 and 9, 2016 public meetings. The fact sheet provided background information regarding South Mountain Park and Preserve and stats on the park today. The project fact sheet also included information on planning for the next 100 years for the preserve and objectives for the South Mountain Trails Master Plan Study, schedule for the study and interactive website information for online comments.

**Project flyer** was created in September 2016 for the South Mountain Park and Preserve staff to distribute at the park to visitors. The flyer provided information regarding the South Mountain Park and Preserve Study, online engagement tool and information on the upcoming September public meetings.

**Project newsletter #1** was created for the September 21 and 24<sup>th</sup> public meeting workshops. The newsletter provided project information and public input received from the June public workshops and online comments. The newsletter listed the desired and future trail experiences identified by the public and key findings of challenges and needs for trail users.

**Project newsletter #2** was created for the December 6 and 8 final public meetings. The newsletter included public input received from the September public workshops and online comments with regard to the Conceptual Trail Alignments and Wayfinding. The newsletter also included the objectives for trail naming, loops and connectors and a map of the proposed designated trail alignments.



# SOUTH MOUNTAIN TRAIL SYSTEM PLANNING & PRESERVATION



### 3.4 Study Webpage

In June 2016, the project team launched a study webpage with a link to the webpage on the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation website. The study webpage provided information regarding the study objectives and included interactive maps for online comments from the public. The study webpage link was included in the email announcements and printed materials for the study. Prior to each public meeting, the study webpage was updated with information regarding public input received and with opportunities for the public to comment on the next phase of the study. After each public meeting, the study webpage was updated to include the most recent information on the current status of the project study. The project webpage offered the public opportunities for online comments throughout the study until January 8, 2016.

City of Phoenix > Parks and Recreation > South Mountain Trail Plan

#### South Mountain Park Trails Master Plan



Visit the [South Mountain Park Trails Master Plan](#) interactive project website and provide valuable feedback necessary to the development of the trails master plan.

**SOUTH MOUNTAIN TRAIL SYSTEM**  
PLANNING & PRESERVATION



### 3.5 News media, social media and print media

Throughout the study, electronic updates were provided to stakeholder groups who were shared project information with their network. Many of the organizations shared the public meeting information by posting on their webpage or social media to help promote public input at the public meetings. A reporter with the Ahwatukee Foothills Newspaper attended the September 21 and December 6 public meetings and printed articles about the project. News Channel 5 attended the December 6 meeting and interviewed a Project Team member for their on-air broadcast.



Alonso Avitia, City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation interview with CBS 5 December 6, 2016 Public Meeting



Ahwatukee Foothills News Article Last Chance to Comment on the Proposed Trail Alignments

# Language Glyphs



*What's in a name?*

## Appendix B

*Additional Resources, Links, and Documents*

http://southmountainhistory.blogspot.com/2008/06/kiwanians-build-5940-feet-of-trail-to.html

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing the URL: <http://southmountainhistory.blogspot.com/2008/06/kiwanians-build-5940-feet-of-trail-to.html>. The browser tabs include "Geronimo Trail - South Mount..." and "South Mountain History: Ki...". The browser's menu bar shows "File", "Edit", "View", "Favorites", "Tools", and "Help". Below the browser window is a blue header for "South Mountain History" with the text: "Historical information about Phoenix, Arizona's South Mountain Park (aka Phoenix Mountain Park) Please send tips (dates, photos, etc) and comments to: SouthMountainHistory@gmail.com".

**Historical Maps**  
1934-1936 Master Plan Map  
1942 Park Map  
1964 Park Map

**Blog Archive**  
▶ 2016 (1)  
▶ 2010 (1)  
▶ 2009 (4)  
▼ 2008 (45)  
▶ August (2)  
▶ July (23)  
▼ June (20)  
Little Known South Mountain Natural Bridge  
Opening Of Mountain Park Well Assures Corps Camp  
Forestry Men Coming Soon  
Drilling Of Park Well Gets Under Way Here  
U. S. Will Ask Bids For Civilian Camps  
U. S. Releases \$3,000,000 For Arizona Civilian Cam...  
400 CCC workers promised for South Mountain - 10/1...  
South Mountain Master Plan Map (est 1934-1936?)  
Random Notes  
Dedication of Heard Scout Pueblo - 1925  
Hieroglyphics Trail Formally Opened And Dedicated ...  
New Mountain Park Opens Vast Territory For Recreat...  
C. M. "Charlie" Holbert, First Park Custodian Dies...  
New road on South Mountain with Telegraph Pass in ...  
**Kiwanians Build 5,940 Feet Of Trail To Top Of Tele...**  
Phoenix Mountain Park Trips Reveal History Of Sout...  
View from Telegraph Pass before the Ahwatukee Foot...  
City To Protect De Niza Rock  
Hikes In Park Planned Today  
Introduction

**About Me**  
South Mountain Richard  
View my complete profile

Monday, June 16, 2008  
**Kiwanians Build 5,940 Feet Of Trail To Top Of Telegraph Pass In Phoenix Mountain Park - 4/15/1925**  
"AZR", Phoenix, Tuesday Morning, April 15, 1925  
Kiwanians Build 5,940 Feet Of Trail To Top Of Telegraph Pass In Phoenix Mountain Park  
**NEW PARK MADE ACCESSIBLE BY CIVIC WORKERS**  
Rome wasn't built in a day-but there wasn't any Kiwanis club in Caesar's time and building was considerably slower.  
Yesterday the members of the Phoenix Kiwanis club gave a practical demonstration of what cooperative action can do when scientifically applied. Three score and 10 members of the local club left Phoenix about 8:30 o'clock in the morning, motored to the base of the new Phoenix Mountain park, took off their coats and went to work. At 2 p. m. the Kiwanians had completed a trail to the top of the mountains right into "Telegraph Pass," a distance of 5,940 feet.  
Kiwanis Trail affords access to the summit of the new mountain park which has been isolated as a recreation spot for valley citizens due to the rough, treacherous climb through canyons and over rocks and cactus. Now the mile and 220 yards of trail can be climbed on foot or on horseback, the trail being sufficiently wide and solid enough for horse travel.  
When the Kiwanians reached the base of the mountains they were given instructions by Jim Dobbins who was appointed superintendent by the club. City Manager Hitchcock and Henry Chambers were made "straw-bosses" and the Kiwanians were divided into three groups. Dobbins taking charge of one group while Chambers and Hitchcock took charge of one crew each. The trail was divided into two sections with Chambers' gang taking the top section from 3,100 feet up. Dobbins' crew started at the bottom and worked toward the top while Hitchcock's gang worked from 3,100 feet down. At 12:20 Henry Chambers and his crew had completed the top section of the trail, while two sections of 200 feet and 400 feet each remained to be completed on the lower part.  
The Hitchcock and Dobbins' crew answered the dinner bell at 12 o'clock and on returning to the foot of the mountains they were treated to an elaborate spread prepared by Chefs Guy Alsap, "Harp" O'Malley, Joe Melcer, and Earl Brewster. Everything from olives to Budweiser was provided for the trail builders. After lunch the Kiwanians rested for three quarters of an hour and returning to the uncompleted sections of the trail finished the job at exactly 2 o'clock.  
The trail reaches the topmost point of "Telegraph Pass," which is the high point of the old trail used by the Pony Express in carrying mail from Maricopa to Fort Whipple in the pioneer days of Arizona.  
Chambers' crew on completing their work to "Telegraph Pass" turned northeast, and built a trail to the top of Kiwanis Peak where a beautiful view of the Gila River valley and the Salt River valley greets the eye.  
Paul Beutke of the Union Auto Transportation company was chairman of the transportation committee and provided Union Auto busses to carry the laborers to their work. Henry Chambers provided the tool car for the picks, shovels, rakes and bars. Earl Brewster and a large Union Oil truck transported the "eats" and the chefs to the base of the mountain for the big spread.  
Shortly after noon the A. L. Moore and Sons ambulance made a hurry call to the base station bringing all the physician members of the Kiwanis club. They also partook of the appetizing luncheon prepared by the luncheon committee and after enjoying the "feed" cleared a large parking space where persons desiring to climb the mountains can park their cars.  
The presence of mind of Roy Murray saved many bruised fingers and many callouses-Roy reached the base of operations early and provided each workman with a pair of leather-faced canvas gloves. Some Kiwanians wore out their first pair of gloves, but others were available. Joe Melcer had ice-cold Budweiser for the boys and on their return from the trail-blazing he stood ready with chilled beverage for the thirsty.  
Guy Alsap had a new one for the occasion. Individual bricks of ice cream in dainty paper cartons, each brick moulded with a "chicken" of lemon ice cream in the center. Cigars and cigarettes followed the lunch and 70 Kiwanians made merry despite the fact that they had labored in the hot sun swinging picks and shovels for nearly four hours.  
The trail averages two feet in width and was cut through rocky country and in some instances boulders weighing nearly a ton were pried out of the way. A good firm foundation is given the trail by decomposed granite which the Kiwanians shoveled from the side of the mountain. Cactus and underbrush were cut away and rock walls built to make the trail as short as possible. The work was well done under the supervision of Jim Dobbins and his "straw bosses" and will be a lasting monument to the energy of the Phoenix Kiwanis club. Signs have already been ordered by the club and will be placed along the highway south of town, to guide those who wish to take advantage of the only accessible road to the top of Phoenix Mountain park.  
Many Kiwanians will be suffering from sunburnt faces, calloused hands and aching muscles today, but they worked with a determination and feel that they have accomplished something. The enjoyment of working, a picnic lunch and a trail to one of the beauty spots of the valley repaid them for their work.  
President Art Esgate of the Phoenix Kiwanis club, in direct charge of all activities, praised the club members for their willingness to get in and hustle and he himself swung a 12-pound sledge hammer and helped shovel dirt on Kiwanis Trail. No Kiwanian slacked in his work, each man swinging sledge and pick, shovel or what-not.  
Posted by South Mountain Richard at 10:16 PM

**1 comment:**  
DesignStuff said...  
Thank you for posting, this was very interesting and pretty funny that Budweiser played a role in motivating the workers.  
May 7, 2014 at 4:59 PM  
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Newer Post Home Older Post  
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# RangerGlyphs

2011 ~ Vol. 4

Natural Resources Division Newsletter

*What's in a name?* With the recent naming of two new trails at South Mountain Park I started to wonder how different areas came about their names.

Pima legend had the original name of South Mountain Park being “Greasy Mountain” from the story of Trickster Coyote stealing a heart from the fire. While stopping to eat it on the run he spilled the hot grease on the mountain, which is why the mountains north of the Gila River are stained a dark brown. Later on the mountains were called Salt River Mountains, due to their proximity in the Salt River Valley, and in the 30’s took on the name we know today; South Mountain Park.

Entering into South Mountain Park, off Central Ave, you are now on Stephen Mather Drive. Mather was the man responsible for the creation of the National Park Service and instrumental in helping coordinate the early engineering of South Mountain Park. He suggested rather than making SMP a National Monument and encountering difficulties in getting necessary appropriations to develop the park, that instead have the Honorable Carl Hayden introduce a bill in Congress allowing the City of Phoenix to purchase the land for \$18,000.

Prior to the land being purchased in 1924, South Mountain Park had a major construction project. In 1873 it was decided that the telegraph line that went from San Diego to Maricopa Wells was to be extended north to Prescott. That pass that the telegraph went through is known today as Telegraph Pass. Spanning the center of the park Telegraph Pass can be accessed from the Desert Foothills Trailhead, located of course in Desert Foothills!

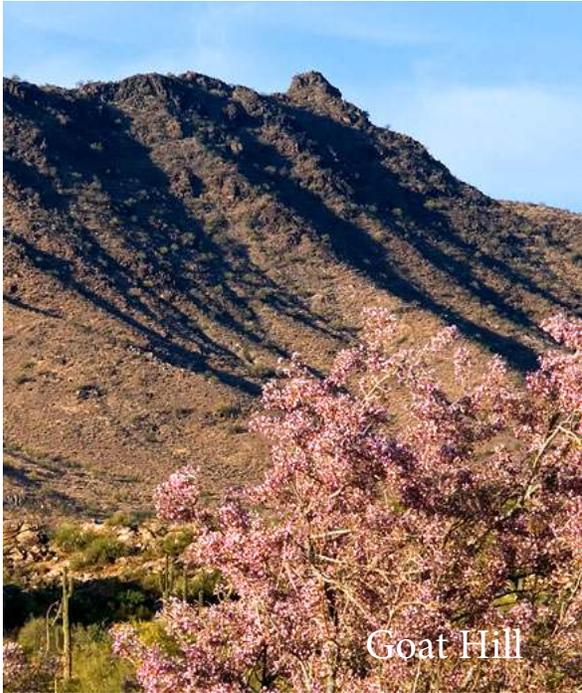
With no money to build trails after SMP was purchased, the first two trails were privately funded. Hieroglyphic Canyon Trail was sponsored by Dwight Heard, and the Kiwanis Trail by the Kiwanis Club. Why Hieroglyphic Canyon vs. Petroglyphs Canyon? Perhaps due to America’s fascination with all that was Egyptian at the time and the lack of public knowledge to what petroglyphs were. In newspaper reports of that time petroglyphs were referred to as pictographs, which are a drawn or painted on the rock surface (similar to what is found in Egypt) vs. petroglyphs which are an engraved pictures created by removing parts of the rock to create the design.

Mining was common at South Mountain Park in the 1880’s. Over 7,000 oz of gold, 5000 oz of silver and 28,000 lbs of copper were eventually mined out of SMP. The most famous of all the claims was the Max Delta Mine. Today all mines are closed to the public. The Max Delta Trail takes you by one of the bigger claim sites.



**Hiking up Pyramid Trail, Telegraph Pass (prior to Ahwatukee Foothills), View from Eagle’s Nest**

# A Rose by any other Name



Goat Hill

Goat Hill, so named for the supposed sheep/goat that were herded in the area as late as the 1940's, is the most prominent peak west of Ranger Trail. East of Goat Hill you will espy Eagle's Nest, the stone structure built in the '30s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Look down, and the pull out you see on the Summit Road is called Eagle's Landing, a prime location for taking photos of the Phoenix City Skyline and sunset shots across the mountains.

Hidden Valley was named in the 1930's by the then Landscape Superintendent of the CCC. He wrote in an article titled *Little Known Wonders of the South Mountain's* "...continue up this canyon and you will come to a beautiful valley circular in shape with a large flat rock in the center out of which grows quite a number of cactus, apparently grown out of the solid rock face. We named this Hidden Valley as it is enclosed by peaks all around". He continues with a description of what we know today as Fat Man's Pass, "If you take the time to continue up the wash toward the west you will soon come to a crevice in the granite about a foot wide and worn smooth as glass by the addition of water, all of which has come through this opening in its way to the lower levels. We named this place Fatman's misery, as it is quite a close fit for an ordinary person.

Marcos de Niza Trail, so named for the rock bearing the 1839 inscription of the Franciscan Padre. De Niza accompanied Francisco Vásquez de Coronado on his search for the Seven Cities of Cibola. It was determined to be a fake inscription, but is still a very cool folklore tale.

Holbert Trail was named after the first caretaker of South Mountain Park, Charles M. Holbert. Dobbins Lookout got its name from J. C. Dobbins, who was Chairman of the City of Phoenix planning committee in the 20's when the park was petitioning the United States Government to purchase 17,000 acres of land to make SMP a reality.

The park's most interesting geological wonder is the "Chinese Wall" a natural dike made of black lava stretching like the Great Wall of China over the top of South Mountain from due east and west. You can see this wonder if you park at the Buena Vista (Pretty View) Lookout and walk south to the Corona del Loma (Crown Hill) Trail.

Why not, on your next hike, venture out to the Ahwatukee side and see what we have been working on. These 247 acres of State Trust land, known as the 620 were purchased in April 2009. We added 165 acres to the preserves with two new trails for you to explore; the Pyramid and the Bursera. The first was named after the shape of the mountain. Some locales call it the Gila View trail since most of the trail you have a view of the Gila Indian Community. Named for the rare Elephant Tree found in SMP, Bursera Trail pays homage to this Torchwood family member, whose relatives produce the aromatic frankincense and myrrh.



Dobbin's Lookout & Holbert Trail



# SouthScene



How fun to run into Google maps car documenting South Mountain Park. Talking to the guy responsible for taking pictures, it seems he just drives around neighborhoods in various cities and takes pictures marked on a grid he has. As of right now they do not have the proper authority to come into the interior of the park to take pictures, but how cool to have *Street View* pictures all the way up the Summit Road. Pop onto Goggle maps and see if you can see the snap of the entrance of SMP he took Sunday!

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Phoenix Summit Challenge is just around the corner. Held on November 4 – 6<sup>th</sup> this event invites outdoor enthusiasts of all abilities to climb multiple summits in the City of Phoenix. Registration starts August 6, 2011 at 10:30 am and the spots fill fast! Whether you choose to climb all 7 summits in one day or two, participate in the 4 summit option, or in the all access challenge this is one fun weekend! We celebrate on the 6<sup>th</sup> with a dinner held at the Phoenix Zoo, band, Zoo Lights, and a raffle full of amazing prizes. Visit <http://www.phoenix.gov/recreation/rec/parks/preserves/specials/summit/index.html> and learn how you can be a part of it all!



## Road Closures

It is hard telling folks that they can not drive up to the top of the mountain to see the sunset, especially when their car is full of out of town visitors. To make sure this doesn't happen to you, before you load up the car first stop by

<http://phoenix.gov/recreation/rec/parks/preserves/locations/south/index.html>

and check out our web page updated with the latest information on hours, road closures, and special events happening in the park!



A BIG thank you to Frank Zullo for his article and pictures of Goat Hill, Holbert Trail, and the rock etchings. If you have a story you would like to share, drop me a line, I'd love to hear it! [elizabeth.smith@phoenix.gov](mailto:elizabeth.smith@phoenix.gov)

This publication can be provided in an alternate format upon request. Call 602-262-6862 (voice) or 602-262-6713 (TTY). 602-534-3787 (FAX). E-mail: [Receptionist.PKS@phoenix.gov](mailto:Receptionist.PKS@phoenix.gov)

# EastScene

## Hot Stuff

The intense heat creates the mirage of water in the distance while the air conditioning blasting from the vehicle cools enough to forget ones thirst. Outside of the ice box environment, the temperature is nearing 115 degrees. The intensity of the Arizona sun is felt briefly when briskly walking from covered parking to misty cooled mall. Such is the summer scene for many Phoenicians as they try to sidestep the heat that prevails across the state. Among the masses taking refuge from high temperatures are the few who embrace the scorching summer dog days for some hot hiking. Hiking in Phoenix's desert mountain parks during the summer months is an entirely different experience. Crowds are non-existence and finding a parking spot at the normally over-crowded trailhead is not a concern. For those unaccustomed to walking the trails during the blazing heat of the summer, a few points need to be considered. If you are used to making record times on the trail or feel you must finish what you started, remember this is not your same winter hike. Keep in mind the heat will slow you down, WAY down. Here is your chance to take it slow and notice all those natural wonders along the trail.

The desert has a more tranquil and reflective feel as you traverse the trails. Fewer birds and mammals are out and about, however the buzzing sound of the desert cicada distracts your mind from the heat. Getting to share the shade of a tree with a rock squirrel or whiptail lizard gives the desert hike a more intimate feel and perhaps lends one a realization of how flora and fauna adapt to endure their environment.

Hiking under the Arizona sun warrants your own adaptation to the heat in order to enjoy your experience. While wearing less clothing is initially appealing and can rid you of strange tan lines, a light long sleeve shirt, a wide brimmed hat, and shorts/pants is the more appropriate attire. A healthy dose of sunscreen still allows sun worshippers some color (pale is the new tan ☺) and diminishes your risk of skin cancer as well as pesky age spots. Unless you are blessed with the desert tortoise's ability to store water or the black throated sparrow's knack for survival on moisture consumed from seeds, drinking a water based beverage is the key to your survival. Exhausting your water supply can quickly turn into an emergency. Use common sense – hydrate, hydrate before you even set out on your hike, drink more during your wanderings, and again knock back even more after your hike is through (mind you beer is NOT the new water and is actually dehydrating). So get out there, slow down, drink up, be a quitter, and don't become a statistic of heat related rescues. (110 is the new 109 ☺)

~Sean Peters



Temperature (°F)

	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	126	130					
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity

Caution
  Extreme Caution
  Danger
  Extreme Danger

### Hot Weather Hike Suggestions

Kiwanis, Mormon, and Desert Classic trails, all found at South Mountain Park, can be hiked around 6PM when the sun is low enough that the majority of your hike will be in the shade. Do bring a head lamp or flashlight in case your hike goes longer than expected. Early morning hikes along the Bajada or Bursera trails will also find you in the shade. Rangers recommend hiking prior to 10 AM & after 6PM before the temperature gets too hot. Always bring more water than you think you will need!

# NatureBytes

## *Mysterious Rock Markings* - By Frank Zullo

Whenever I hike in South Mountain Park, I am always on the lookout for prehistoric Hohokam rock art. Sometime however, I like to focus on the "art of rocks" instead. With such a variety of shapes, colors and interesting detail, rocks often prove to be incredible photo subjects. On one such hike I captured an intriguing image that looks like some ancient map of the Mediterranean, complete with the boot of Italy and the African coastline. Where the water would be, this map of stone showed a grooved pattern that could pass for a stylized version of sea floor terrain.

I soon realized the cross-hatch grooves reminded me of a petroglyph commonly made by the Desert Archaic people. If this was scratched out by some prehistoric glyph maker, it would have to be several thousand years old. That's how long it would take for the etched surface to build up a full coat of reddish brown desert varnish again. That fits easily, since the Archaic culture dates back some 8,000 years in the Southwest. It was more likely, however, these grooves were a product of natural weathering, yet I was still puzzled as to how the cross-hatch pattern could occur. So I contacted Peter Kresan, a retired University of Arizona geosciences instructor, to see what he thought. Kresan concurred with the idea of weathering as a probable cause and told me about various types. The one I thought fit best was a chemical variety caused by rainwater of a slightly acidic nature due to dissolved carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This water can pool in tiny fractures causing them to enlarge over time, which in turn leads to increased water contact and accelerated weathering of the original crack. Identifying a



plausible natural process was helpful but not conclusive in solving this mystery, so I returned to the site searching for more clues. I quickly found similar grooves that were more randomly placed lending more credence to their natural origin. Then I found what I was really looking for. Tucked away in an area of relatively recent exposure, I saw a small pattern of very fine fractures (pictured at left) with a distinct crisscross pattern. That convinced me the grooves in question could easily have occurred naturally. So instead of being signs of Archaic people from a few thousand years ago, they were Mother Nature's art millions of years in the making. To see this for yourself, park at Buena Vista Lookout and walk the road you drive in on back a short distance to pick up the National Trail heading west. After hiking up a slight rise, the trail levels out and soon you start catching views on your left of the Chinese Wall (pictured below).



This structure was formed by a lava flow extruding from a crack in the Earth's crust. The magma had a similar mineral makeup to granite, but because it cooled quickly when exposed to the outside air, it formed fine grained rhyolite instead. As you continue, the view of the Chinese Wall becomes more from the side. When you just lose sight of the wall, look ahead to where the National Trail makes a sharp bend to the left.



That's where the rock is (33°20.536' - 112°02.882' for those with GPS). The grooved weathering is on top towards the end where a barrel cactus grows. Total hike from parking lot is 0.26 miles one way. There is a cleared area just off the trail to access the view on top of the rock. Please be careful not to trample any desert vegetation.