

# DESERT OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLAN

## what is it?

The Desert Open Space System Plan was a report to City Council from the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission/Desert Subcommittee. It consolidates several city plans, policies, and standards into one comprehensive open space plan. The interconnected natural and desert character areas in the plan form a system that provides public access, a variety of recreational opportunities, and linkages between community and regional open space.

## where does it apply?

Maps in the plan depict components of the system on land north of Doubletreee.

## who needs to use it?

City Council, Boards and Commissions, City staff, Property Owners, Developers, and Citizens. The plan continues to serve as a reference for defining desert open space planning concepts.

## why was it developed?

The plan represents the community's vision for a meaningful desert open space system by consolidating several planning documents into one. It is comprised of several related components that together form an interconnected system. The plan encourages consistency and orderly implementation of components of the system and it serves as a guide for public and private decisions.

## key points:

- 1 Open space is a key element that defines the character of Scottsdale and exemplifies the outdoor oriented lifestyle residents enjoy.
- 2 The five components of the interconnected system in the plan are: McDowell Sonoran Preserve; Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area; Trails System; Vista Corridors, Desert Greenbelts and Utility Corridors; and Scenic Corridors and Streetscape. (City Council and Scottsdale voters added the Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area to the planned Preserve Boundary in 1998)
- 3 The Plan describes and visually represents the interrelationships among major open space components in a series of maps. A key element of the plan is linkages.
- 4 Meaningful desert open space is divided into accessible desert open space, visual desert open space, and desert character open space.
- 5 The adopted Scottsdale 2001 General Plan has an Open Space Chapter including an Open Space & Recreation Element and a Preservation & Environmental Planning Element.
- 6 Since 1997, Council has approved changes to several of the planning documents that were components of the desert open space system including trails, Scenic Corridors and the General Plan.

McDowell Sonoran Preserve & Parks and Recreation Commissions approval; City Council report - November 1997

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## where is the full policy?

Planning and Design Library - Community Design Studio  
City of Scottsdale Preservation Office

## references

### and related documents:

- City of Scottsdale General Plan (2001)
- Recommended Study Boundary for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve map
- Trail System Master Plan (2004)
- McDowell Sonoran Preserve Conceptual Trails Plan (2004)
- Vision 2010: Parks Master Plan (1998)
- A Strategic Plan for a Comprehensive Sonoran Desert Preservation Program (1997)
- Recommended Desert Open Space System Standards (1997)
- Scenic Corridor Design Guidelines (2003)
- Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance (1991, updated 2004)

JENNY LYNN  
CIRCLE MOUNTAIN  
HONDA BOW  
ROCKAWAY HILLS  
DESERT HILLS DR.  
JOY RANCH RD.  
STAGECOACH PASS  
CAREFREE HWY.  
DOVE VALLEY RD.  
LONE MOUNTAIN RD.  
DIXILETA DR.  
DYNAMITE BLVD.  
JOMAX RD.  
HAPPY VALLEY RD.  
PINNACLE PEAK RD.  
DEER VALLEY RD.  
BEARDSLEY RD.  
UNION HILLS DR.  
BELL RD./FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BLVD.  
GREENWAY RD.  
THUNDERBIRD RD.  
CACTUS RD.  
SHEA BLVD.  
DOUBLE TREE RANCH RD.  
McCORMICK PKWY.  
INDIAN BEND RD.  
McDONALD DR.

