**TRAILS MASTER PLANS**

**what** is it?

Two documents that guide the planning and provision of unpaved trails and work in tandem to achieve the overall goal of creating a citywide network of interconnected trails for use by multiple non-motorized user groups. The Conceptual Trails Plan for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, accepted by the City Council in 1999, controls the provision of trails within the boundary of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The Trails Master Plan, approved by the City Council in 2004, guides the provision of trails within the City outside the Preserve.

**where** does it apply?

The Trails Master Plans include a total of 650 miles of trails. These trails may be located on publicly owned property such as the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, park land, or public rights-of-way, or may be located within public trail easements that pass through private property.

**who** needs to use it?

City staff use the Trails Master Plan to establish requests for public trail easement dedications and/or trail improvements from private developers, and to guide the provision of trails on publicly owned (non-Preserve property). The Conceptual Trails Plan for the Preserve is used by City staff to guide the construction of trails within the boundary of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Private landowners and the development community can use both plans to advance their understanding of where future public trails are likely to be located.

**why** was it developed?

Both the Trails Master Plan and the Conceptual Trails Plan for the Preserve were prepared to provide a comprehensive guide to the provision of an interconnected trail system.

**key** points:

1. The goal is to create a seamless network of unpaved trails that link neighborhoods to destinations including the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.
2. Trails are created so as to minimize disturbance to the natural environment.
3. Trails create close-to-home recreational opportunities.
4. Trails promote knowledge and understanding of the Sonoran Desert Environment.
5. The trail system provides opportunities for physical activity resulting in improved mental and physical health.
6. The three primary trail user groups are hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians.
7. Motorized vehicles are prohibited (per Ord. 17-62) from using Scottsdale’s public trails.

**where** is the full policy?

City Council Adopted - 2004
City Council accepted - 1999

Online at www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov
One Stop Shop/Records
City Libraries
Planning and Design Library - Community Design Studio

City of Scottsdale General Plan (2001)
Desert Foothills Character Area Plan (1999)
Dynamite Foothills Character Area Plan (2000)
McDowell Sonoran Preserve Access Areas Plan (1999)
McDowell Sonoran Preserve Ordinance (2000)

**references** and related documents:

- City of Scottsdale General Plan (2001)
- Desert Foothills Character Area Plan (1999)
- Dynamite Foothills Character Area Plan (2000)
- McDowell Sonoran Preserve Access Areas Plan (1999)
- McDowell Sonoran Preserve Ordinance (2000)