THE PRESERVE

The City of Scottsdale’s McDowell Sonoran Preserve encompasses over 30,000 acres of permanently protected Sonoran Desert and mountains. It is home to a magnificent array of desert adapted plants and animals, and affords stunning views of the McDowell Mountains.

The Scottsdale Preserve also boasts an interconnected network of over 215 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Trail maps are available free of charge at all major trail heads, and can also be downloaded by visiting ScottsdaleAZ.gov and searching ‘Preserve maps.’

The trails can be accessed from one of eight major trail head facilities, and are open sunrise to sundown. Amenities vary at each trail head; visit the City’s website for more details.

The Preserve is divided into two primary regions – the Southern and Northern.

• The **Southern Region** is home to the McDowell Mountains, and contains some of the steeper and more challenging trails of the Preserve. The trails of the southern region are very rocky, so be sure to wear sturdy footwear.

  **Trail heads**: Sunrise, Lost Dog Wash, Gateway, Tom’s Thumb

• The **Northern Region** is comprised mainly of rolling desert topography, punctuated by a series of smaller mountains. The trails are much smoother than the south, with dramatically less rock. Because of these characteristics, the Northern Region is very popular with mountain bikers and equestrians. For mountain biking and horseback riding, there are a number of larger loops you can create using trails such as High Desert, Hawknest, Stagecoach, and The Divide.

  **Trail heads**: Pima Dynamite, Brown’s Ranch, Fraesfield, Granite mountain

PINNACLE PEAK PARK

Pinnacle Peak Park | 26805 N. 102nd Way

Pinnacle Peak Park features a moderate out-and-back trail through the pristine Sonoran Desert environment. The park is a total of 150 acres, and the trail length is 1.75 miles, one way. It’s a great hike for all ages and activity levels – with fantastic views!

Visit ScottsdaleAZ.gov and search 'Pinnacle Peak Park' for more information about the park, trail information, hours and more.

*Dogs are not allowed on the Pinnacle Peak Park trail.

COMMON MAMMALS YOU MAY SEE AT THE PRESERVE:

- Bobcat
- Coyote
- Desert Mule Deer
- Javelina
- Mountain Lion

TRAIL TIPS

• Entrance is free
• Trails are open sunrise to sunset
• Motorized vehicles, including electric bikes, are prohibited
• Dogs are welcome at the Preserve (not at Pinnacle Peak Park), but must remain on a leash at all times and you must clean up after them.
• Please stay on the official signed trails
• Know your limitations and choose a Preserve adventure that matches your abilities
• Bring ample water for you and your dog.
• Drink water before you arrive, so your body is pre-hydrated.
• Wear sunscreen and dress appropriately with light colored breathable clothing that covers your skin.
SCOTTSDALE’S MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

The history of preserving the desert in Scottsdale began in the 1970s and gained momentum in the 1980s. In 1990, the community’s vision for the Preserve began to solidify, and on October 3, 1994, the Scottsdale City Council officially dedicated the first parcels of land for inclusion in the Preserve. We’re excited and proud to celebrate 25 years of progress towards achieving the community’s goal of protecting the Preserve in perpetuity!

The Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve is a place like nowhere else on Earth. The Preserve is more than 30,500 acres, or almost 48 square miles, and is home to an unparalleled diversity of native plants and animals, a rich cultural history dating back 9,000 years, and extensive recreational opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and rock climbers.

When you visit the Preserve, please take a moment to contemplate and appreciate the vision, collaboration, and grassroots organizing of the citizens of Scottsdale. It was their foresight and determination that preserved this natural treasure for you and future generations to enjoy.

The City of Scottsdale will continue to manage the Preserve in accordance with the community’s vision which is to maintain scenic views, provide sustainable habitat for plants and animals, protect archaeological and historic sites, and provide educational and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Learn more about the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, visit ScottsdaleAZ.gov and search "Preserve".
Join the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy and the City of Scottsdale as we celebrate the McDowell Sonoran Preserve’s 25th Anniversary. In 1994, the City of Scottsdale dedicated the initial McDowell Sonoran Preserve, totaling 5 acres. More than two decades of continuous partnership between the Conservancy and the City have led to a Preserve of over 30,500 acres and more than 220 miles of trails. Join us October 1 at 3:00 p.m. at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts as we kick-off Preserve Month! Visit mcdowellsonoran.org or scottsdaleaz.gov for a full list of Preserve Month events.

Your support of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy ensures our legacy and secures our future! Our purpose is to empower awareness and actualize global preservation through science, research, learning and teaching. Through the work of our scientific team and the dedication of more than 650 volunteer stewards, we care for and study the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Please consider a financial investment to support the important work of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. To donate, visit mcdowellsonoran.org and click “Donate”. For more information, 480.998.7971 or info@mcdowellsonoran.org

Events!
For more information and a complete list of our FREE activities, visit mcdowellsonoran.org/events

Tour de Scottsdale
Sunday, October 13, 6:30 a.m., Market Street in DC Ranch
Our 16th annual Tour de Scottsdale kicks off with 2,000 cyclists riding around the Preserve through 30- and 70-mile courses. Proceeds benefit the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. For more information or to register, visit tourdescottsdale.net

Other Upcoming Events:

- **Tuesday, October 1, 5:30 p.m., Mustang Library**
  Biotic Bonanza - The Desert Ecology of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve
  RSVP to educationrsvp@mcdowellsonoran.org

- **Sunday, October 20, 3:00 p.m., Gateway Trailhead Amphitheater**
  Sonoran Sunday: Ten Essentials of Hiking

- **Tuesday, November 5, 5:30 p.m., Mustang Library**
  If Rocks Could Talk – Geology of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve
  RSVP to educationrsvp@mcdowellsonoran.org

- **Sunday, November 17, 3:00 p.m., Brown’s Ranch Trailhead Amphitheater**
  Sonoran Sunday: Wild Animals

- **Tuesday, December 3, 5:30 p.m., Mustang Library**
  Flora of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Part 1
  RSVP to educationrsvp@mcdowellsonoran.org

- **Sunday, December 15, 3:00 p.m., Gateway Trailhead**
  Sonoran Sunday: Skulls and Scat

For more information and a complete list of our FREE activities, visit mcdowellsonoran.org/events

*all photos credit: @lynnejanneyrussell*