



The Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council joins a range of conservation groups, educators, and community leaders, in support of Conserving Arizona - Ballot Proposition #106.

Voting yes on 106 is a key to preserving more land around our communities.

However the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona (plus a national home builder association) is backing a competing ballot measure and is funding a misleading campaign against Prop 106 also.

You've probably seen the blizzard of flyers in you mailbox from 'Save Our Trust' - a.k.a. the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona. Their misleading campaign distorts key parts of the reform package and makes many false claims.

In a statement responding to the homebuilders false claims, Conserving Arizona's Future chairman Patrick Graham said, "Prop 106 is the only opportunity for Arizonans to protect our special places across the state from development. We cannot stand by while builders, looking to make more money, make false claims. Thousands of teachers support Prop 106. This is not about building houses. It is about building communities and a future for our children."

To learn more about the reasons why voting Yes on 106 makes sense visit the Conserving Arizona's Future at: www.conservingarizonasfuture.org/.

EVENTS CALENDAR

November 6th: PMPC Meeting Desert Biotonical Garden, 7:00 p.m. Look of signsat entrance that lead to PMPC meeting room.

Third Saturday of the Month all winter: Coffee house & music events, North Mountain Visitor Center, 12950 N. 7th Street, (west side of 7th Street, just south of Thunderbird Rd.) From 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

November 18th, Ron Hoyos, Acoustic Rock.

December 16th, Bob Plack, The Campfire Cowboy.

January 20th, Anthony Wakeman and Lou Gonnig, Native American Flute and Traditional Navajo vocals.

LOOKOUT

Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 26121
Phoenix, Arizona 85068-6121

Executive Board:

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The Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council is dedicated to protecting our Phoenix Mountains Preserves.

<http://www.phoenixmountains.org>



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Invasive Grasses Being Targeted

Invasive plants, especially buffelgrass and fountain grass, have become a significant threat the integrity of the Mountain Preserves. This threat is now being matched with 'on the ground' actions targeting these plant invasions according to Jerry Wiehner, Parks Supervisor.

Staff membes have been trained following the model of the successful Sonoran Desert Weedwackers of Tucson, have begun identifying key areas to be addressed, and are tackling priority areas, he said. Added to the mix is a contingent of Sheriff Aripo's 'chain-gang' detail. Wiehner said that being able to utilize this work force, at least once a month, has helped in concentrating removal efforts on areas where the invasive grasses are growing fastest.

Expanded efforts in recent months are coming from all quarters and may be coming just in time. When PMPC member Scott Frische looks at Shaw Butte he sees the unfortunate result of well timed summer rains - a hillside covered in buffelgrass. His concern; a fire there could erase all the Sonoran Desert plants since the grass acts as a conduit for the fire. He adds the damage could cover a large area and be permanent since portions, like a small forest of ocotillos, might never regrow.

Plant eradication efforts mark an important step in the stewardship role of preserving the Preserves. But more education, volunteers, cooperation, and money will be needed to expand this effort rapidly enough to assure that the Mountain Preserves and South Mountain preserve the plants and wildlife of the Sonoran Desert. The next critical step is enlisting more city departments and neighborhood organizations. By removing invasive plants from business lots, city property, and homeowner yards infestation of nearby Mountain Preserve land can be avoided.

One success, on this front, has been landscape work at the Covenant of Grace Church near Shaw Butte in the North Mountain Preserve. Feed by the water of a small wash, part of church property had become a nursery for fountain grass which contributed to the spread of seeds through the neighborhood. Last month, church staff dig out over 30 large clumps of fountain grass. Their work has removed this large source of seeds so the spread of fountain grass towards the Mountain Preserve will be slowed considerably.

PHOENIX
MOUNTAINS
PRESERVATION
COUNCIL, INC.

WHY THE PHOENIX MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COUNCIL SUPPORTS PROPOSITION 106; CONSERVING ARIZONA'S FUTURE.

Thirty years ago Phoenixians worked together to conserve the Phoenix Mountains Preserve. Now, we all have the chance to expand this kind of land conservation to more communities across the state by voting Yes on 106 – Conserving Arizona's Future.

We know Arizona as varied landscapes filled with unique birds, plants, and wildlife that are recognized worldwide. We know, too, that our state is a great place for outdoor recreation. Then of course – here, there, almost everywhere, we see record growth.

When the Phoenix Mountains Preserve was created in the 1970's, we could not imagine that these remote areas would become known as great central-city refuges; nor could we imagine how much they are enjoyed today. This preserve was formed using the land conservation approach that Yes on 106 - Conserving Arizona's Future, will give to communities statewide.

The main reason we support Yes on 106 is that it will finally allow the Arizona State Land Department to sell land to communities - not just developers. This change is needed so voter-approved plans, like the new Phoenix Sonoran Preserve in the North valley, can be accomplished. But just as important, Yes on 106 will conserve 58 more natural areas all around our state.

Yes on 106 also modernizes some operations at the State Land Department, but still keeps in place the Trust funding system that aids our teachers and schools. Plus, communities will gain a voice in future planning of State Trust Lands.

Overall, Conserving Arizona's Future - Yes on 106, is the best package of state land reforms that we have seen because it preserves more land near more communities (694,000 total acres – 330,000 acres immediately).

Since we have seen this type of land conservation work before, your neighbors on the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council ask that you vote Yes on 106 Conserving Arizona's Future.

<http://www.phoenixmountains.org>
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Current Issues of Concern

PMPC alerts voters to three Ballot Initiatives that, if passed, could effect the proposed expansion of the Preserve and negatively impact the existing Mountain Preserves. Please consider:

No on Proposition 105 - a measure designed to compete with Proposition 106 and confuse voters. Offers a meager amount of conservation of State Trust Land. Key sponsor - Central Arizona Home Builders.

Yes on Proposition 106 - a measure that offers conservation of over 690,000 acres of State Trust Land. Supported by a broad range of educators, community leaders, and environmental organizations.

No on Proposition 10X - so-called 'Property Rights' (eminent domain measure that goes further to provide compensation to any property owner affected by zoning or similar so-called 'taking'. If compensation is not provided then the use must be allowed. This ballot measure would negatively affect neighborhoods and the Preserves. A similar measure passed in Oregon has taxpayers there facing over five billion dollars in landowner compensation claims.

What's happening in your favorite Preserve? Let us know at:
info@phoenixmountains.org



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Rangers Begin Increased Enforcement of City Leash Law

Regardless if you are a horseback rider, mountain bike rider, or like to hike - we all have a story about confronting a dog running off leash and the subsequent incident or accident that occurred.

Now the Parks & Recreation Department is taking the growing problem of dogs running loose more seriously. Education is the first step but dog owners can be fined also. Part of the education program includes cleaning up dog feces that are increasing on popular trails.

Not only are recreational users threatened by the unpredictably of a dog off leash but the pet can also run into trouble of its own - like a snake bite.

The smart approach for pet and people is to keep dogs on leash at all times.

Dogs off leash can be dealt with by Park Rangers. But, Rabies Animal Control of Maricopa County should be called in more serious instances. For reporting problems within the Preserves contact the Ranger division covering the area you visited.

Contact Rangers at:
North office (northern Preserves)
(602) 262-7901.
Papago office
(602) 262-8318.
South office (South Mountain)
(602) 262-7393.

Contact Maricopa County Animal Care and Control at: 602-506-7387.

From the City of Phoenix web site:

"Today the preserves are more crowded than ever, and complaints about off-leash dogs are on the rise. People on horseback, mountain bikers, and hikers with leashed dogs are some of the users at risk from an off-leash dog, even a friendly one. Even when the trails look empty, there's always someone around the next bend. Be a good neighbor – keep your dog leashed at all times.

There are lots of other good reasons to keep your dogs leashed:

It's the law. The city's leash law applies to all Phoenix parks and desert/mountain preserves.

An unleashed dog can more easily end up with a rattlesnake bite or a paw full of cactus needles."

Winter Schedule for Visitor and Education Centers

North Mountain - Visitor Center
Operating hours for the winter, October through April are: Wednesday through Saturdays - Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays Open - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Closed Monday & Tuesday.)

South Mountain - Education Center
Operating hours for the winter, October through April: Wednesday through Saturday - Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday Open - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Closed Monday and Tuesday.)

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