



Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, Inc.

PMPC ACTIVITIES UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 2020

PMPC fights the battles needed to keep these natural places intact so YOU can experience all of your favorite outdoor recreational activities in the Phoenix Mountain Desert Preserves.

HELLO PMPC MEMBERS: From Patrick McMullen, PhD, PMPC President: We now continue in providing the *PMPC Activities Update* – a short summary of current priority topics and status - to keep all our Members informed. The Coronavirus has added severe limitation to all our lives, and of course, to the public monitoring and Mountain Preserve protection activities of the PMPC. You can now expect to receive the PMPC Activities Update quarterly throughout this coronavirus year. *A request to PMPC Membership:* (1) PMPC Membership Dues Renewal Notice was delayed this year – please submit your membership dues – thank you!!! (2) Please send to the PMPC Board any Preserve protection topics & issues you recommend that need monitoring and tracking. Email PMPC at pmpcaz@gmail.com.

PMPC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER – POSTPONED UNTIL 2021

PMPC Annual Membership Dinner was postponed earlier in May 2020, because of the coronavirus – it is now postponed until 2021 – or until public meetings are allowable and risk-free to our Membership. In addition, all our current PMPC Board Officers have voluntarily extended their current-terms – until we can all have a public meeting to reelect our Board Officers. Tremendous appreciations goes out the PMPC Board Officers for their devotion and dedication to protecting our Phoenix Mountain Preserves. Thank you all for your continued help and support in the protection of the Phoenix Mountain Preserves!

~ PMPC Representatives attend Public Meeting and actively monitor the following Plans & Projects:

- Drought Pipeline Update:** PMPC continues to monitor the pathway of the drought pipeline through the City of Phoenix in order to protect our Desert Preserves and keep local communities knowledgeable of potential impact in their neighborhoods. The current construction area of installing the new pipeline all the way to the north valley - is now going through Dreamy Draw. So the Trails are closed now in September - but we are not sure which trails will be remaining.
- Rezoning Application of 160 Acres at 7th St. and Happy Valley Road:** PMPC Board Representatives are monitoring this Rezoning Process and have last year submitted a *PMPC Rezoning Opposition* Letter to City of Phoenix. The Developer's "Up Zone" application request would change and increase the existing zoning density. The Site Plan that we have been given for this 160 acres only shows the preliminary plan for the NW area of residential development. This is neither Hillside nor adjacent to the Sonoran Preserve. PMPC is currently trying to get a more detailed site plan for the 160 acres, making sure that the City asks that the Hillside Ordinance and the Edge guidelines be adhered to, along with a more compatible re-zoning. PMPC Board Representatives continue to attend hearings and meetings – and support the local community in opposition to this Rezoning.
- South Mountain Park – Major Rock Dump site:** As many Phoenix community members have seen, there is a major issue regarding the approval of the City of Phoenix of recent rock debris recently dumped in large portions all around South Mountain Park - not in the South Mountain Preserve. More attention is needed on this issue.
- Trail#25 – North Mountain to Lookout Mountain:** Official discussions continue regarding Lookout Mountain Connector Trail#25 that links North Mountain to Lookout Mountain Preserves. There is a coalition of people, including PMPC representative Libby Goff, HOA organizations and members, Save Our Mountains, active hikers and bikers, and local residents who cooperated to determine an alternative routing of the trails and presented a map showing them to the City of Phoenix. Various city subdivisions are studying and reviewing the routes and we are waiting for a response. PMPC monitoring continues.

~ Updates & Information about upcoming events in our Preserves:

- City of Phoenix Updates:** (A). South Mountain: The Ma-Ha Tuak Perimeter Trail is expanding into a 9.6-mile trail connecting with Maricopa Trail. The Park and Preserve hiking area improvements continue – except for the massive rock dumping in South Mountain Park. (B) South Mountain Freeway 32 Acre Parcel: The parcels for the 32-acre land exchange have been identified and are currently under review. Public information outreach and input are needed and will hopefully soon follow.
- Drones and Model Airplanes in North Mountain and Shaw Butte Preserve Areas:** A local community group has contacted PMPC on input regarding the drones and the model airplanes that have caused two fires in the Preserves when they crashed in the Preserve. The users of the drone and planes use a park as a take-off and landing site - which is legal, but not acceptable by the local community due to the crashes in the Preserves. One suggestion from the Community group is to remove permission to fly the drones and model airplanes in that local park. More attention is needed on this issue.