



Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, Inc.

PMPC ACTIVITIES UPDATE: JANUARY 2021

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021 PMPC MEMBERS:

From Patrick McMullen, PhD, PMPC President: The Covid-19 pandemic has changed so many things. It is now looking likely that the “Lock Down” will continue through until the summer of 2021; especially with the new “very contagious” strain of Covid-19. We are lucky to be in Phoenix because we have the Mountain Preserves and Parks to bring calmness and beauty while we take a hike – while keeping social distance and face masks active when around others.

This Activities Update includes the recognition of **THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PMPC!!** Please note that there are TWO sections to keep everyone informed: Section 1 – Activities Update – a short summary of current priority topics and status; and, Section 2 – Highlight of PMPC 50 Years of Public Service Activities. PMPC continues our commitment to public monitoring and Mountain Preserve protection activities. You can now expect to receive the PMPC Activities Update quarterly throughout this coronavirus year.

THREE REQUESTS TO PMPC MEMBERS:

- (1) **PMPC Membership:** It's time for our Annual Membership Renewal Drive! Thank you for promptly submitting your membership dues with the attached form and envelope.
- (2) Please **extend an invitation to others to join PMPC** – the more members we have, the stronger we are able to monitor, protect and defend our Desert Mountain Preserves.
- (3) Please send your Preserve protection topics and issues that deserve monitoring and tracking to: pmpcaz@gmail.com

SECTION 1: CURRENT PMPC PRESERVE PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

1. **Coronavirus Updates from the City of Phoenix:** From Phoenix Parks and Preserves Supervisor Claire Miller: In response to the growing number of Covid-19 cases, the City of Phoenix has again closed all ramadas, picnic tables, sports fields, and other public access area, but not Park playgrounds. Closures do not include the Mountains Preserve trails. City employees will work from home thru Feb 2021. North Mountain Visitor Center is OPEN, but with limited capacity and hours. There may be days when volunteers are not able to open. Masks are required. A limited number of visitors is allowed in the center at one time. NMVC: <https://northmountainvisitorcenter.org/> 602-343-5125.
2. **Cave Creek Wash – MacEwan 480 Acre Development Plan – Rezoning Issue:** The approximately 480 acres to the west side of the Cave Creek Wash, and south of the Sonoran Drive is set for rezoning. **PMPC and the local community group “Save Our Sonoran Preserve”** are very concerned that the Desert Character Overlay and the Edge Guidelines will be adhered to in the development of this environmentally sensitive site in the north Phoenix area, adjacent to the Sonoran Preserve on its south and east boundaries. The Overlay designation requires a lower density of development in the north third of this site. PMPC has requested and will continue to request the City of Phoenix to have the developer adhere to this overlay in the site plan design, as well as assuring public access to public lands through the site. So far the developer and the City have ignored the Desert Character Overlay density parameters.
3. **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. Our **PMPC Legal Attorney investigated this situation** and determined that since the rock-dumping has already happened – new City of Phoenix Administrative Procedures are needed to protect the future of our Parks and Preserves; with community input and formal review procedures. PMPC sent a Letter regarding this situation to the City of Phoenix, requesting community participating in the drafting of this new Administrative Procedures.
4. **Trail#25 – North Mountain to Lookout Mountain:** On November 24th, representatives of Pointe Mountainside HOA, Hillcrest IX HOA, PMPC, SOMF and Lookout Mountain Golf Course met with City of Phoenix Natural Resources Division North Area Park Preserve Supervisor Claire Miller, to review and hike the proposed realignment of Trail 25 that connects the preserve south of Thunderbird to Lookout Mountain. Supervisor Miller and North Area Park Preserve Manager, Josh Parnell then flagged the trail. The group met again on December 28th to hike the flagged trail and make any necessary adjustments. **The main goals are to realign the trail in dedicated Multi-use Trail**

Easements or as close as possible to them and to route the trail away from the golf cart path and back onto natural surface areas. This exciting new alignment routes the trail away from the golf cart path and through natural areas; bringing the hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers closer to the natural desert environment; with stunning views of the surrounding mountains to enjoy. Trail creation and realignment is a multi-step, multi-year process; involving various City departments and community stakeholder groups and the public. Stay tuned for future updates!

SECTION 2: PMPC PRESERVE PROTECTION ACTIVITIES - 50TH ANNIVERSARY

COMING SOON: PMPC will be publishing a special ***“PMPC 50th Anniversary Booklet”*** in February 2021 to include specific stories and pictures of the local group of people who made it all happen! **SOON!!**

Founding of Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council – PMPC grew out of a grass roots movement, which began over 50 years ago and continues today. It has become a “cause” in which ordinary people are deeply and emotionally involved to preserve the mountains in their natural state. Efforts by individuals to save these mountains from development within the city limits of Phoenix began in the early 1960s, but coalesced into a group effort when the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council was founded in August, 1970.

The Desert Mountains Preserves became public law in 1985 – Chapter 26, City of Phoenix Mountains Preserves. In Section 3 (a) *The City Council shall, upon recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board....Maintain the Mountains Preserves, including native plant and animal communities, in their natural state to the maximum extent practicable...*” The Preserves were established with defined pathways for maximum protection of hikers, and to maintain the *natural state* of the Desert Mountains for plant and wildlife for *all our* future generations.

PMPC Proclamation by Arizona Legislative and Special Recognition for Ms. Maxine Lakin. The ceremony was held at the House of Representatives, on Monday, March 16, 2020. This Proclamation was presented and read by Representative Aaron Lieberman:

State of Arizona Legislative Proclamation

50 Year Anniversary of the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council

Whereas, *The Phoenix Mountains Preserve Council grew out of a grass roots movement which began over 50 years ago and continues today; and*

Whereas, *preservation of Phoenix Mountain Preserves has become a 'cause' in which ordinary people are deeply and emotionally involved in; and*

Whereas, *efforts by individuals within the city limits of Phoenix began in the early 1960's, but coalesced into a group effort when the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council was founded in August 1970; and*

Whereas, *The Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council has been in the vanguard of every effort made since its formation to preserve the mountains within the boundaries of Phoenix; and*

Whereas, *the Council's stated objective is 'Setting aside the Phoenix Mountains as a unique wilderness park,' and the Council has agreed 'to enlist the enthusiastic support of all persons who want to preserve the natural beauty' of the mountain range; and*

Whereas, *the need to protect Phoenix's Mountain Preserves is never ending, as the Council has just recently fought some high-profile battles for its protection; and*

Whereas, *the mountains are mute, yet inspirational, The Phoenix Mountain Preservation Council has and will continue to speak up for them.*

Therefore, *I, Representative Aaron Lieberman, invite the Members of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, to join me in recognizing this group for their integrity, strength, devotion, selflessness, drive, and dedication to the preservation of Phoenix's mountain ranges and their beauty for the past 50 years.*

**Representative Aaron Lieberman
Arizona State Legislature
Legislative District 28**