



Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, Inc.

PMPC ACTIVITIES UPDATE: MARCH 2022

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:

- This *PMPC Activities Update* is a short summary of the status of current PMPC priority. The Covid virus continues to add limitations to all our lives, and of course, to the public monitoring and Mountain Preserve protection activities of the PMPC. Our monitoring has expanded and continues with good coverage; through both in person monitoring of the Preserves and attending Zoom Meetings.
- We will issue *PMPC Activities Update* quarterly, throughout 2022.

MARCH 2022 Edition:

PMPC REQUESTS:

1. PMPC Membership 2022 application is enclosed with this issue. Thank you for promptly submitting your application or renew online: www.phoenixmountains.org
2. Join PMPC members and plan to attend the next **Desert View Village Planning Committee Meeting** about Verdin Housing Development planned to be adjacent to Sonoran Desert Preserve: **March 1, 2022**; the time and Zoom meeting information to follow when PMPC knows that pertinent information. Your attendance strengthens PMPC's voice in monitoring, protecting and defending our Desert Mountain Preserves.
3. Please send PMPC those Preserve protection topics and issues you would like PMPC to monitor or track to:



pmpcaz@gmail.com

PMPC Representatives are ACTIVELY MONITORING the following:

- **The "Verdin" Housing Development Project (formerly the MacEwen 480):** 480-acres adjacent to the west edge of the Cave Creek Wash and south of Sonoran Drive. Two washes are impacted by this proposed project.
- PMPC's concerns are focused on specific issues with "Verdin's" project:
 - While PMPC is not opposed to development of this parcel; development must be consistent with the Desert Character Overlay (DCO) zoning requirements and standards; which define and protect sensitive areas adjacent to the Cave Creek Wash; as approved by the City of Phoenix.
 - Residential development, permitted in Sub-District A, must be of a **"very low density, scale and intensity"** due to the "many washes to be maintained in an undisturbed condition crossing this area..." See Section 653, Phoenix City Zoning Ordinance.
 - This parcel is wedged between the north/south segments of the Sonoran Preserve. Mesquite Wash – an important habitat for many desert species – runs through the heart of this property. This development will intrude on Cave Creek Wash, to the east of the property; an important wildlife corridor connecting the two Preserves.
 - Verdin's proposed application **"up-zones"** the land, increases density, negatively impacts animal corridors and negates the DCO standards.
- Should the Verdin rezone be approved, PMPC believes this action will:
 - Seriously degrade the fragile desert ecosystems in this area;
 - Sever the existing wildlife connection between the two Preserves; and,
 - Set a dangerous precedent whereby future developers can easily bypass the DCO protections in place to protect our unique desert landscapes.
- PMPC wants the **DCO maintained** in its **entirety - without compromise**. The DCO defines *"the nature of development, maintaining undisturbed areas, and provide guidance for new development to occur within the context of the fragile undisturbed desert."* Phoenix approved this DCO.
- It is our understanding, Verdin, the developer, has asked to be on the **March 1, 2022, Desert View Village Planning Committee** agenda.

MORE INFORMATION IS COMING!!

- Please join us in voicing our concerns in the highest numbers possible!!

Upcoming News & Events for PMPC & Preserves:

ANNUAL PMPC MEMBERSHIP DINNER – FALL 2022:

The Annual PMPC Membership Dinner was postponed in both 2020 and 2021, because of the Covid. Now this wonderful event is happening in Fall of 2022! *Save the Date* information to follow!

Wonderful News – PMPC announces Vice President:

PMPC welcomes our new Vice President – Ms. Teresa Zachariah! In addition to our new VP, all of our current PMPC Board Officers have again voluntarily extended their current-terms – until we can all have a public meeting to re-elect Board Officers, at the Annual PMPC Membership Dinner and Meeting, later this year.

Tremendous appreciation goes out to 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!

NEED NEW PMPC MEMBERS AND BOARD MEMBERS:

Another Covid impact is being felt on our members and volunteers, who support and participate in the PMPC organization and on the PMPC Board.

Our PMPC Public Meetings have been suspended and/or postponed; with the primary concern of Covid. Like so many other organizations and small businesses, our membership numbers are dropping; by about 25% - in addition – the number of active PMPC Board Members has also been reduced.

We ask our Members, and local citizens, to join PMPC and become active in our PMPC Board Activities!! The work of protecting and monitoring our Preserves has not lessened, but is increasing. As more and more people discover the joy of being in nature, this need will continue to grow. If you know of someone who loves the Preserves, please ask them to join PMPC.

PMPC needs the support and participation of our local community to protect our Desert Preserves!!

PMPC Continues to ACTIVELY MONITOR:

South Mountain Freeway 32 Acre Parcel:

The City of Phoenix has identified parcels for the 32-acre land exchange; and this is currently under review. Public information outreach and input will be needed soon. PMPC will keep you informed.

TRAIL #25 -- North Mountain to Lookout Mountain:

Official discussions continue with an ever-expanding coalition of people, who provide their input and support. Their goal is to cooperatively re-establish this 'natural surface' trail.

There is an issue related to one section of the proposed new route. The City of Phoenix is reaching out to the Moon Ridge Estate HOA; regarding a possible change in the route; or, possibly using the existing route that is on the HOA land. PMPC continues to monitor and participate in these on-going discussions.

Piestewa Peak Drought Pipeline Update:

PMPC continues to monitor the pathway of the drought pipeline through Piestewa Peak Preserve.

Construction continues on the water pipeline, and it includes work along the bike path near SR-51 north of Glendale. The water pipes are laid out and ready for installation; which is visible from SR-51. Current construction area includes installing new pipeline all the way to the north valley, and through the Dreamy Draw. Access to Dreamy Draw and Desert Preserve has been limited due to the current construction.



Photo Credit: Image above shows the Crossing the first major wash at the south end of Phoenix Mountains Preserve, looking north. Image from the Drought Pipeline Project Update, dated February 4, 2022

Preserve Land Donation Brochure/Website:

Currently PMPC is developing a Preserve Land Donation Brochures for distribution to the public; and it is almost complete. These Brochures will be available at both the North and South Mountain Environmental and Educational Visitor Centers (NMVC & SMEEC), and these brochures will be available directly from the PMPC website.