



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN
TRAIL SYSTEM**
PLANNING & PRESERVATION

Executive Summary 2017

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK & PRESERVE TRAILS MASTER PLAN



City of Phoenix
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



1. Executive Summary

Project Scope and Objectives

With more than 50 miles of existing designated trails (see *Figure 1: Existing Trails & Facilities*), South Mountain Park and Preserve (“the Preserve”) has become a mainstay for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and much more for both Valley residents and visitors.

in the City of Phoenix Charter Chapter XXVI–Phoenix Mountain Preserves. The DRAFT Preserve TMP proposes to accomplish these responsibilities through the following objectives:

City of Phoenix Charter Chapter XXVI Phoenix Mountain Preserves

- Maintain the Mountain Preserves, including native plant and animal communities, in their natural state to the maximum extent practicable; and
- Provide cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities primarily designed to heighten appreciation and enjoyment of the Arizona desert environment; and
- Provide equestrian, pedestrian (including handicapped), and vehicular (whether motorized or otherwise) access into the Mountain Preserves

The South Mountain DRAFT Trails Master Plan (Preserve TMP) was developed as a planning and implementation tool to address the challenges facing the Preserve from increased use, expanding adjacent development, and the growing network of potentially unsafe and unsustainable non-designated trails. The adopted 1989 South Mountain Park Master Plan was a guiding component for this process, which identified park needs, improvements, management objectives, and proposed actions.

The DRAFT Preserve TMP focuses on the role of trail use and its influence on the Preserve while seeking to accomplish the tiered responsibilities established

- Identify which non-designated trails can become part of the designated multi-use trail system and those which should be restored back to its natural condition
- Identify other needs specifically related to the trail system (public safety & awareness, updated signage, improved way-finding, trail naming designation)
- Bring management and visitor needs together to provide a safe, sustainable, and maintainable trail system



Visitors Participating in the National Trail Trek

Public Involvement

The following is a summary of the stakeholder and public meetings held as part of the DRAFT Preserve TMP public input process:



City Staff Sensing and Project Objective Development

February 19, 2016

Objectives: Identify project objectives and City staff needs to be accomplished with the Preserve TMP

Attendees: 8



Stakeholder Meeting

May 4, 2016

Objectives: Collaborate with stakeholders to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and conflicts to the South Mountain Park and Preserve trail system

Attendees: 41



Public Meeting Series #1

Pecos Community Center (PCC): June 8, 2016, SMEEC: June 9, 2016

Objectives: Inform public of the project, identify trail-related activities and needs, and identify public expectations when using the trail system

Attendees: 130

Map Mark-ups Received: 49



Public Meeting Series #2

PCC: September 21, 2016, SMEEC: September 24, 2016

Objectives: Review outcomes from June meetings, present conceptual trail alignment corridors, and solicit input on wayfinding

Attendees: 58

Comment Forms Received: 18



Public Meeting Series #3

PCC: December 6, 2016, SMEEC: December 8, 2016

Objectives: Present DRAFT Preserve TMP and proposed trail names for public review and feedback

Attendees: 79

Comment Forms Received: 32

Data
Collection

Data
Analysis

Master Plan
Development

Project Web Journal – <https://www.phoenix.gov/parks/southmntntrailplan>

In June 2016, the project team launched a project web journal with a link to the webpage on the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation website. The web journal provided information regarding project objectives, updates, time lines, and interactive maps for online comments from the public. Prior to each public meeting, the webpage was updated with information regarding public input received and with opportunities for the public to comment on the next phase of the

study. After each public meeting, the study webpage was updated to include the most recent information on the current status of the project study. The project web journal offered the public opportunities for online comments throughout the study until January 8, 2017. **191** comments were received through the web journal. The web journal is intended to remain available as a record of the master planning process.

DRAFT Preserve TMP

The DRAFT Preserve TMP (see *Figure 2: DRAFT Preserve Trails Master Plan*) incorporated input from the December public meetings, comments received online, City staff input, and email responses from the public to further refine and complete the identification of the recommended designated trails system.

The DRAFT Preserve TMP proposes the designation of 37 named trails and 17 connections. The named Designated Trails are shown in the table on the right.

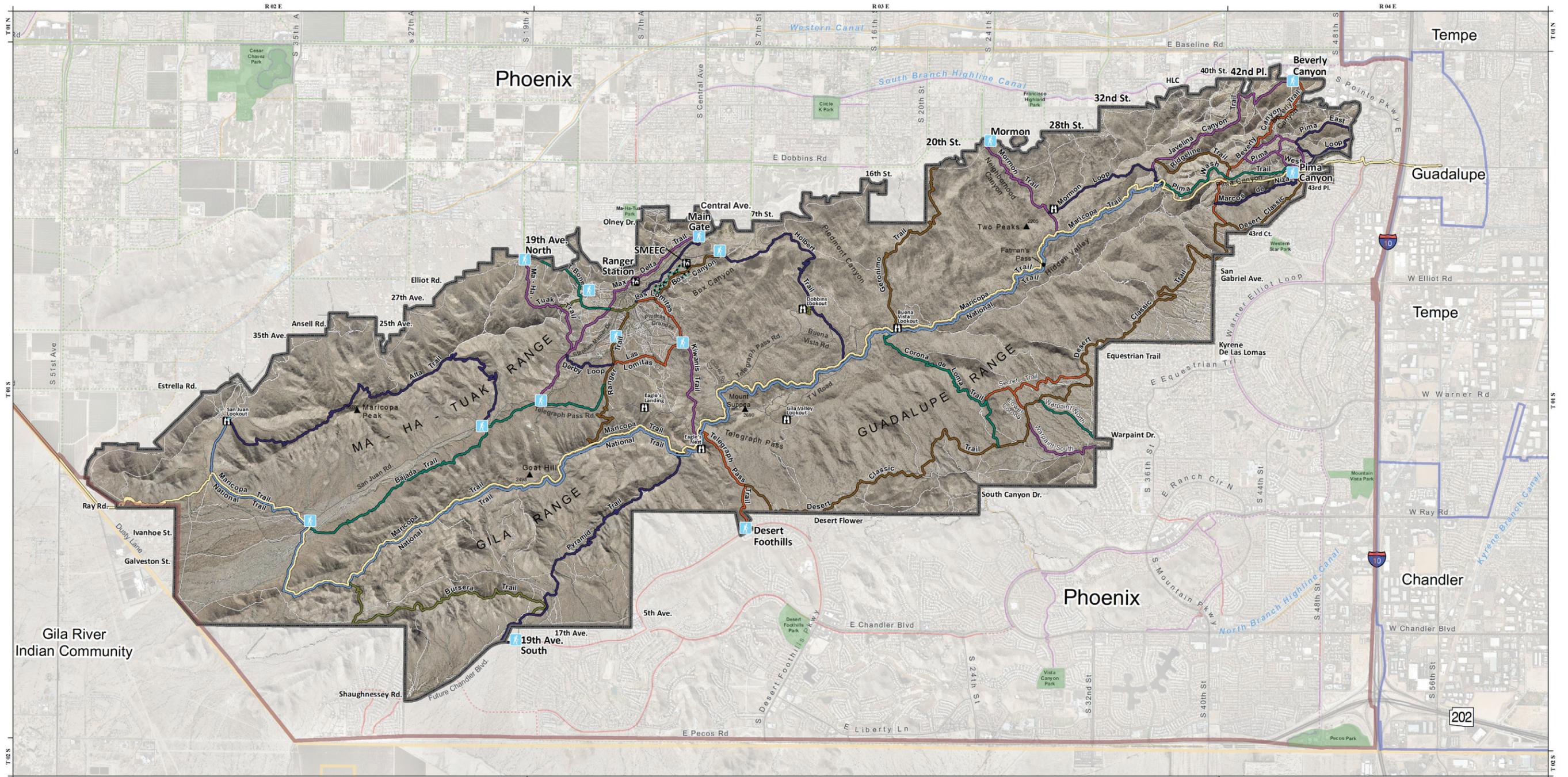
In addition to mapping existing designated trails to remain and proposed designated trails, the DRAFT Preserve TMP also identifies improvements to wayfinding and signage, planning methods for evaluating trail impacts over time, and recommended priorities for implementing the master plan.

DRAFT Preserve TMP

- 53 miles of currently designated trails
- 38 miles of existing non-designated trails to be added
- 3.9 miles of connector trails to be designated
- Over 80 miles of non-designated trails to be decommissioned and restored to natural condition
- Minor trail name changes to improve way-finding for visitors unfamiliar with the Preserve

Trail No.	Trail Name	EX. Designated Mileage	EX. Non-Designated Mileage	New Construction Mileage	TOTAL
1	Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail	1.6	4.0	3.9	9.5
2	Alta Trail	4.6	0.7	1.5	6.5
3	Gila Trail	2.4	3.5	0.5	6.4
4	T-Bone Loop Trail	1.0	2.4		3.4
5	Bajada Trail	4.9	1.1		6.0
6	Bursera Trail	2.9			2.9
7	Shaughnessey Connector Trail			1.1	1.1
8	Lost Ranch Trail	0.9	1.4		2.3
9	Mine Drop Loop		2.1		2.1
10	5th Avenue Loop	0.2	2.5		2.7
11	Max Delta Trail	2.3			2.3
12	Ranger Trail	1.9			1.9
13	Las Lomas Trail	2.3			2.3
14	Kiwanis Trail	1.1			1.1
15	Telegraph Pass Trail	1.1			1.1
16	Guadalupe Perimeter Trail	1.8	4.2	2.0	8.0
17	Judith Tunnell Trail	0.9			0.9
18	Box Canyon Trail	0.7			0.7
19	7th Avenue Access Trail		0.6		0.6
20	Holbert Trail	2.3			2.3
21	Piedmont Canyon Trail			0.9	0.9
22	Geronimo Trail	2.4		0.8	3.2
23	Corona de Loma Trail	1.9	3.2		5.1
24	Desert Classic Trail	8.7			8.7
25	Warpaint Loop Trail	1.9			1.9
26	Maricopa/ Sun Circle Trail	15.6			15.6
27	National Trail	14.4	1.8		16.2
28	Mormon Trail	1.5	1.5		3.0
29	Hidden Valley Trail		1.5		1.5
30	Marcos de Niza Trail	0.9	3.1		4.0
31	Javelina Canyon Loop Trail	3.0			3.0
32	Highline Connector Trail		0.8		0.8
33	Pima Wash Trail	1.5			1.5
34	Ridgeline Trail	0.6	1.0		1.6
35	Beverly-Pima Connector Trail	1.2	0.5		1.7
36	Beacon Hill Trail	1.1			1.1
37	Pima Canyon Loop Trail	3.5	1.7		5.2
TOTAL		91.1*	37.6	10.7	139.1*

* Trail mile totals reflect alignment lengths that exceed the physical mileage of trails due to alignments sharing segments of trail



Sources
 City of Phoenix, 2016
 Maricopa County, 2016
 ESRI Street Map, 2013

South Mountain Park

Trails

- National Trail
- Maricopa Trail
- Designated - Accessible
- Non-designated

Facilities

- Trailhead / Parking
- Ranger Station / Education Center
- Lookout

Street Trails & Paths System

City Maintained Trails

- Multi-Use Trail - Built
- Shared-Use Path - Built
- Multi-Use Trail - Proposed
- Shared-Use Path - Proposed

Privately Maintained Trails

- Multi-Use Trail - Built
- Shared-Use Path - Built
- Multi-Use Trail - Proposed
- Shared-Use Path - Proposed

Reference Features

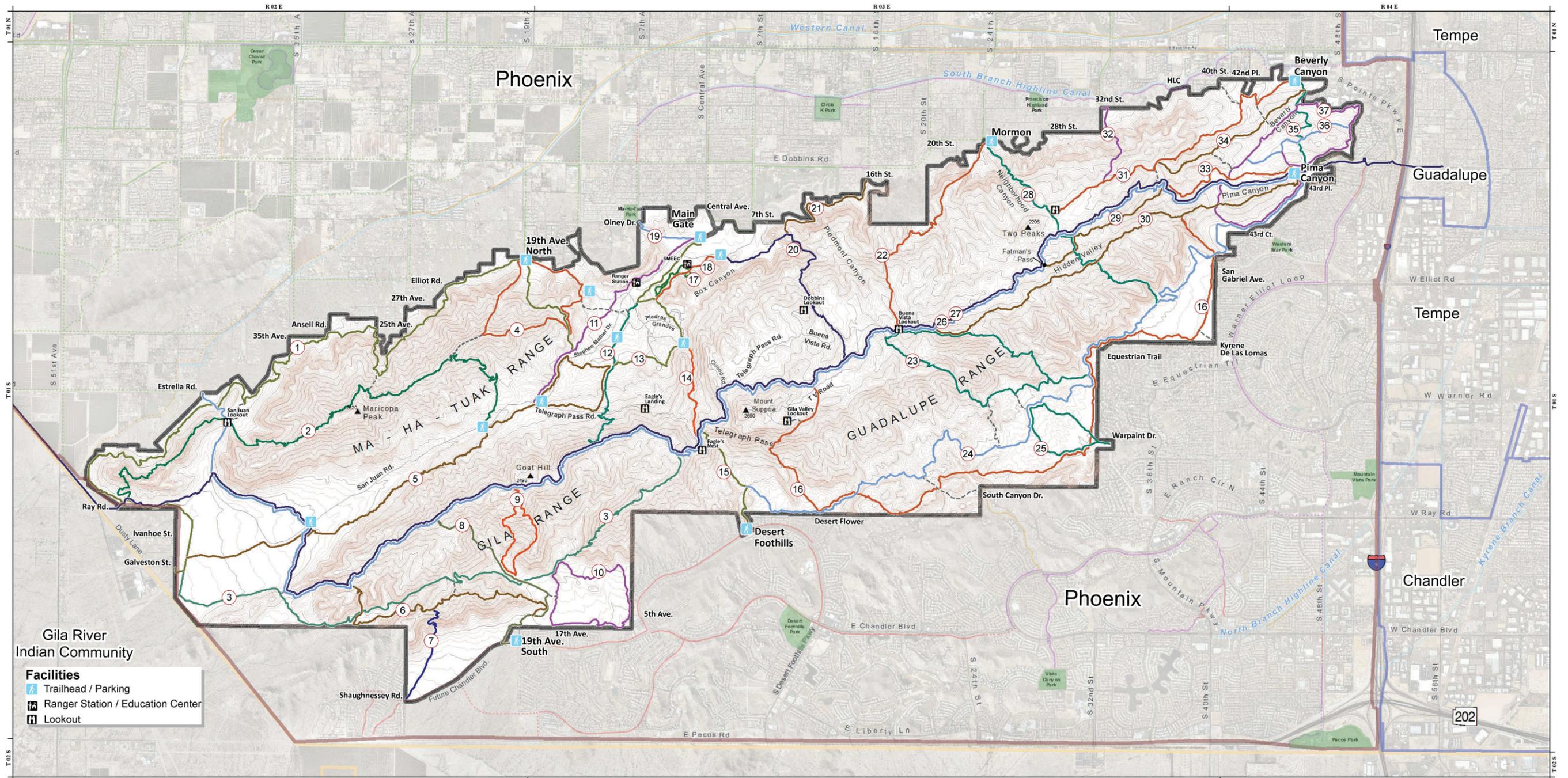
- Park Boundary
- Freeways
- Major Roads
- Local Streets
- Canal
- City of Phoenix Boundary
- Other City Boundary
- Gila River Indian Community Boundary
- City Park

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South Mountain Park
Trails Master Plan

Existing Designated Trails & Facilities

Figure 1: Existing Trails & Facilities



Sources
 City of Phoenix, 2016
 Maricopa County, 2016
 ESRI Street Map, 2013

Designated Trails

ID#	Name (Distance in Miles)
1	Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail (9.5 mi.)
2	Alta Trail (6.5 mi.)
3	Gila Trail (6.4 mi.)
4	T-Bone Loop Trail (3.4 mi.)
5	Bajada Trail/Loop (6.0 mi.)
6	Bursera Trail (2.9 mi.)
7	Shaughnessey Access Trail (1.1 mi.)
8	Lost Ranch Trail (2.3 mi.)
9	Mine Drop Loop Trail (2.1 mi.)
10	5th Avenue Loop Trail (2.7 mi.)
11	Max Delta Trail (2.3 mi.)
12	Ranger Trail (1.9 mi.)
13	Las Lomas Trail (2.3 mi.)
14	Kiwanis Trail (1.1 mi.)
15	Telegraph Pass Trail (1.1 mi.)
16	Guadalupe Perimeter Trail (8.0 mi.)
17	Judith Tunnell Trail (0.9 mi.)
18	Box Canyon Trail (0.7 mi.)
19	7th Avenue Access Trail (0.6 mi.)
20	Holbert Trail (2.3 mi.)
21	Piedmont Canyon Trail (0.9 mi.)
22	Geronimo Trail (3.2 mi.)
23	Corona de Loma Loop Trail (5.1 mi.)
24	Desert Classic Trail (8.7 mi.)
25	Warpaint Loop Trail (1.9 mi.)
26	Maricopa/Sun Circle Trail (15.6 mi.)
27	National Trail (16.2 mi.)
28	Mormon Trail (3.0 mi.)
29	Hidden Valley Trail (1.5 mi.)
30	Marcos de Niza Trail (4.0 mi.)
31	Javelina Canyon Trail (3.0 mi.)
32	Highline Connector Trail (0.8 mi.)
33	Pima Wash Trail (1.5 mi.)
34	Ridgeline Trail (1.6 mi.)
35	Beverly-Pima Connector Trail (1.7 mi.)
36	Beacon Hill Trail (1.1 mi.)
37	Pima Canyon Loop Trail (5.2 mi.)

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South Mountain Park Trails Master Plan
 2017

SOUTH MOUNTAIN TRAIL SYSTEM
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Figure 2: DRAFT Preserve Trails Master Plan