



PHOENIX MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COUNCIL LOOKOUT

Fall 2023 Newsletter



The grand reopening of Dreamy Draw Recreation Area was held on September 7, 2023. The ribbon cutting ceremony was led by District 3 Councilwoman Debra Stark and Jarod Rogers, Deputy Director of the Natural Resources Division. Members of the PMPC were there to celebrate the event after years of work to protect these preserves.

The area was closed in 2021 for the installation of a 66-inch diameter waterpipe running through the preserves. The pipeline provides an alternate water supply to north Phoenix residents to address the heightened drought concerns throughout the valley and Southwest. The PMPC played a critical role in galvanizing the public



*Courtesy of City of Phoenix Parks
& Recreation Department*

and working with the City of Phoenix to reroute the pipeline along the edge of the preserves.

While the pipeline was being installed, the City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation Department took the opportunity to renovate the Dreamy Draw Trailhead. The parking area was expanded, restrooms were improved to now have 6 gender-neutral stalls, existing ramadas were renovated, three small ramadas with cooking grills were built, and the entire trailhead area is now more ADA accessible. A redesigned bike path reopened in May that includes an adjacent natural surface for hiking.



The trailhead is now open from sunrise to 7 pm. This trailhead is not affected by heat closures. PMPC will be visiting often to ensure revegetation efforts continue and trees that do not survive during the warranty period are replaced.

“PMPC understands that we must continuously work and cooperate with others to protect these mountain areas and these preserves now and into the future.”

- Libby Goff at the Dreamy Draw Grand Reopening

In June, the PMPC Board was given a presentation by Wayne Colebank and Judy Mielke of Logan Simpson. Logan Simpson is a landscape architect of record for the Dreamy Draw project based out of Tempe. During the presentation, the board heard about the plans for restoration and revegetation of preserve land that was disturbed because of the pipeline installation. At the beginning of the project, the top 2 – 3 inches of desert pavement (soil and rock) was salvaged then redeposited over the disturbed area. To match the rock color of surrounding areas, the desert pavement was stained with Natina.

Natina is a natural product used to create a brown finish on rock, concrete, and galvanized steel. The water-based product is non-toxic and safe for wildlife. Natina is applied to an area and the reactive color treatment creates a brown hue when combined with heat and sunlight. The rock coloring will last for decades without fading, cracking, or peeling.

If out hiking or riding in the Dreamy Draw area, you’ll notice a yellow color across the landscape as seen in the picture below. This color is not a discoloration from Natina, it is the straw in the hydroseeding applied to promote the growth of native flora.



References

Natina Products LLC. (2023). FAQ's. <https://www.natina.com/about/faq/>





**PMPC
Fall
2023
Social
Event
& Hike**

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**WHERE: THE NEWLY RENOVATED DREAMY DRAW PARK
TRAILHEAD & RAMADA**

Take advantage of visiting the recently reopened Dreamy Draw Recreation Area and exploring the updated trails and facilities. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the fall weather and catch up with PMPC members and news.

We have a short hike planned for those interested starting at 10:30 AM.

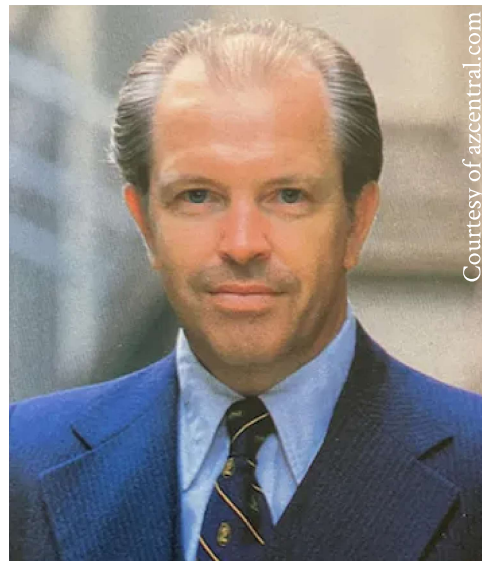
For added fun, we'll have slingshots and seed balls courtesy of the Parks & Recreation Department to help the area's revegetation process!

Water and trail snacks will be available at the ramada.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF A PARK PATRIOT

SAYING GOODBYE TO GARY DRIGGS

Throughout the 60's and 70's, Gary Driggs was an advocate for open spaces in the City of Phoenix. In late 1970, Gary was approached by a developer for a loan from Western Savings Bank to build homes on 129 acres near Echo Canyon. His love of hiking and mountaineering spurred Gary into action to help save Camelback Mountain from development. He teamed up with his brother, Mayor of Phoenix John Driggs and many others to include the PMPC, to preserve Camelback Mountain from further development. A deal was reached with the developer for the city to acquire 91 of those 129 acres for a park. His work continued throughout the 1970's to champion for public access to the mountain.



He published *Camelback: Sacred Mountain of Phoenix* in 1998 and *Camelback Mountain (Images of America: Arizona)* in 2008.

Gary Harmon Driggs of Paradise Valley passed away at his home at the age of 89 on Aug. 22, 2023. Gary grew up in Phoenix and graduated from West High School in 1952. He was an Eagle Scout and founded the Kachinas, a rock-climbing Boy Scout group, which pioneered many of the Arizona climbing routes in the 1940s and 1950s. At the age of 17, he was the first recorded person to climb to the top of the Praying Monk rock formation on Camelback Mountain.

Gary completed his undergraduate studies at Brigham Young University, where he met his future wife, Kay Taylor. The couple attended Indiana University where Gary completed a Doctorate in Business Administration, while Kay earned her master's degree in literature. Following their graduate degrees, they returned to Gary's hometown, Phoenix, where they lived the rest of their lives. Gary worked at Western Savings, eventually serving as CEO for over 15 years. His vision for Phoenix's development, especially in the East Valley, can be seen today in numerous commercial buildings, home developments, and shopping areas. In the 1990s, Gary built a second career in hospitality, including management of nine hotels. Throughout his career, Gary demonstrated remarkable resilience, optimism, and an ability to grow businesses.

Outside of work, Gary remained a lifelong mountaineer. Gary combined his passion for hiking and Arizona to make lasting contributions to the community. In 1973, he led the establishment of Camelback Mountain and Echo Canyon as a city park, partnering with his brother John, mayor of Phoenix at the time. Gary came up with the summit trail route on Camelback, which ensured the public had access to the top. He also played a pivotal role in establishing and expanding the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. In the 1990s he wrote the book, *Camelback, Sacred Mountain of Phoenix*, describing in words and photos the history of the mountain, its natural environment, how it became a park, and how Phoenix grew up around it. Gary later spoke about the impact of this legacy, saying, "To me, the most redeeming and interesting thing about the Phoenix area is the access to incredible hiking. Next to a metropolitan area, you can literally feel like you're in a wilderness."

Read the full obituary at AZ Central.

References

AZ Central. (2023). *Gary Harmon Driggs Obituary*. <https://www.azcentral.com/obituaries/par071786>

Saunders, A. (May 1, 2015). *Over the Hump*. Phoenix Magazine. <https://www.phoenixmag.com/2015/05/01/over-the-hump/>



RENAMING TRAILS

The relationship between the City of Phoenix Natural Resources Division (NRD) and the tribal communities in the Phoenix area has improved over the past few years. There is a monthly meeting between city representatives and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO) of the Gila River Indian Community and the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community. Rather than informing the tribal communities of decisions made about their homeland, the city is now involving the THPOs early in the process to understand how they want to be represented to non-native people and incorporate that into our Parks and Preserves.

This partnership led to the naming of new trails at the Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) Muhadag Do'ag (aka South Mountain Park/Preserve). Hau'pal Trail at South Mountain Park/Preserve is named for the red-tailed hawk in the language of the Akimel O'odham. They have also worked together for the renaming of Pueblo Grande Museum to S'edav Va'aki Museum. S'edav Va'aki is O'odham for "central large multi-story structure".

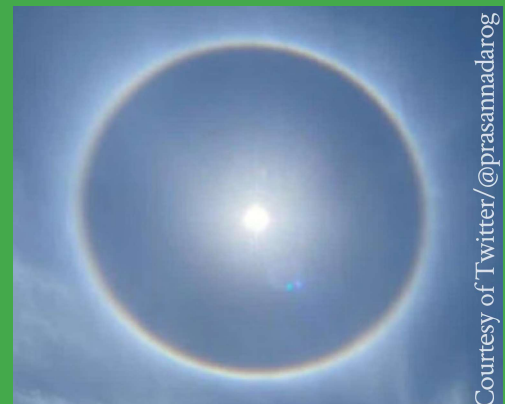
This partnership has continued to rename trails at South Mountain Park/Preserve to represent the history of this sacred location.

TONDUM WIHOM TRAIL

At South Mountain Park/Preserve, Geronimo Trail will soon be getting a new name. Geronimo was an Apache shaman and military campaign leader. He led campaigns against Mexico and U.S. militaries, raiding ranches, wagon trains, and prospectors for supplies. There is no proof he traveled through South Mountain. Even if he had, South Mountain is a sacred place to the O'odham and Piipaash and deserves to be respected as such. Tondum Wihom is O'odham for Bright Lightning. It relates to the Oriole song and is how a person or animal who survives a lightning strike is described in the O'odham language.

TASH KAVAD LOOP

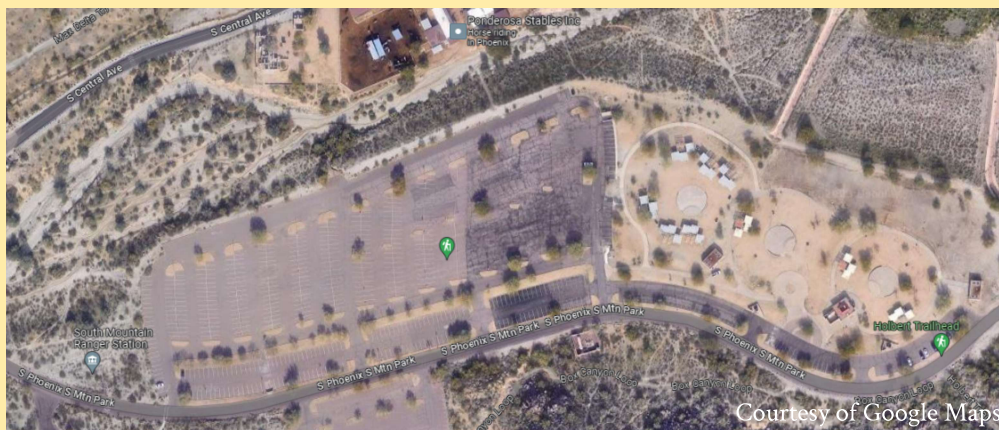
Warpaint Loop was a neighborhood access trail that is now on the official trail map of South Mountain. It is considered the trailhead to Corona del Loma and connects users to the Desert Classic Trail. Currently named for the street the trailhead is on, it will be getting a new name celebrating Phoenix heritage. This loop will be renamed Tash Kavad Loop meaning Sun Shield in the O'odham language. According to O'odham oral history, Tash Kavad refers to the natural phenomenon where a halo is seen around the sun. This is considered to be a spiritual experience to the observer.



SOUTH MOUNTAIN ACTIVITY COMPLEX RENOVATIONS

South Mountain Park/Preserve will be celebrating its centennial in 2024. In preparation for this celebration, the Natural Resources Department is planning renovations to the Activity Complex located near the start of the Holbert Trail. A South Mountain 100 committee has been formed to plan the celebration and renovations. This committee is working with the tribal communities to get their input on how to represent the cultural significance of Muhadag Do'ag.

The city's goal is to have these renovations completed for the centennial celebrations.



3RD SHIFT PARK RANGERS

City of Phoenix Urban Parks now have Park Rangers patrolling overnight. Seventeen new recruits started the ranger academy and field training in July to prepare for patrols starting in September. These new Park Rangers will patrol the 186 urban parks throughout the city.

Since February of this year, a private security company has been patrolling the parks as part of a pilot program. After three months of data collection, these security guards encountered 685 people in parks after closing. They called 911 three times after finding people unresponsive.

These Park Rangers will only be patrolling urban parks, not the preserves. South Mountain Park/Preserve will continue having daily trespassers after hours who vandalize, graffiti, litter, and drive through the open desert until attention is brought to this issue.



References

Kwan, A. (May 5, 2023). City of Phoenix hiring overnight park rangers as cleanup plans for 'The Zone' gets underway. Arizona's Family. <https://www.azfamily.com/2023/05/05/city-phoenix-hiring-overnight-park-rangers-cleanup-plans-zone-gets-underway/>

Estes, C. (May 10, 2023). Phoenix park security patrols find drug use, fires, vandalism. KJZZ. <https://kjzz.org/content/1846490/phoenix-park-security-patrols-find-drug-use-fires-vandalism>



EXTENDING TRAIL CLOSURES

At the end of September, the City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation Board unanimously approved the policy change for closing some of the most popular trails in the city. The two trails on Camelback Mountain and all trails at Piestewa Peak were closed from 11 am to 5 pm on days when the National Weather Service (NWS) issues an excessive heat warning between May 1 and September 30. The new policy now in effect is to close the two trails on Camelback and all trails at Piestewa Peak from 9 am to 5 pm when the NWS issues an excessive heat warning. This applies all year round.

This policy change is an effort to ensure hikers are off the mountain before the temperatures reach dangerous levels. The City of Phoenix Fire Department recommended this change to better protect the public and to protect fire fighters. Working 24-hour shifts, fire fighters trained in technical rescue sometimes hike these trails multiple times per shift for rescues.



MEET YOUR BOARD

Jeannie Swindle is one of the new members of the PMPC Board and is now our Vice President! A twenty-four-year resident of Phoenix, Jeannie and her husband, Geoff Reed, are daily hikers on the Piestewa Peak and Dreamy Draw Mountain trails. Weekend hikes have them exploring many other beautiful preserve parks and trails. Jeannie was introduced to PMPC through her activism and leadership efforts with the No Pipe/Save Our Preserve & Neighborhoods community group. Their collaborative efforts with PMPC, former State Representative Aaron Lieberman, and City of Phoenix officials were successful in rerouting a portion of the massive Drought Pipeline away from the preserve mountains and upper North 22nd Street neighborhood.

Committed to protecting, enhancing, and expanding the mountain preserves, Jeannie wants to ensure that current and future generations can continue to enjoy their natural beauty. She believes that it is our individual and collaborative responsibility to actively participate in and support conservation efforts to protect the preserves, one of Phoenix's greatest assets. She is excited to serve on the PMPC board, raise awareness of, and contribute to its efforts to address critical issues such as wildlife and native flora protection, climate change, and urban encroachment.



Professionally, Jeannie has spent over three decades working in the healthcare and medical device industries. As an independent consultant, she specializes in biomedical communications and works with emerging companies to bring innovative devices, therapies, and services to market that address healthcare needs.



HONORING OUR PRESIDENT

Congratulations to Tice Supplee, Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon Southwest and PMPC President being awarded the David N. Pashley Lifetime Achievement Award by Partners in Flight (PIF) and her induction into the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame!

PIF is an international bird conservation partnership with the mission of keeping common birds common and helping species at risk through voluntary partnerships and dedicated work. The David N. Pashley Lifetime Achievement is given to one individual each year, beginning 27 years ago, who has made outstanding contributions consistently throughout their career to advancing PIF's mission and conservation efforts for priority birds and habitats. It is one of the highest honors that exists in the bird conservation world.

The Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame is a partnership between Wildlife for Tomorrow and the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The award recognizes organizations and individuals who have demonstrated passion and leadership in shaping the future of wildlife conservation and protection of natural resources in Arizona. All inductees have played a vital role in preserving our natural heritage for future generations to enjoy. Tice joins the list of inductees that includes Senator Barry Goldwater, sportswriter Ben Avery, the Phoenix Herpetological Society, Congressman Mo Udall, and Senator John McCain.



We join so many others across the state in celebrating Tice's career in conservation of wildlife and open spaces throughout Arizona!



Courtesy of YouTube/@PhoenixMountains

WE ARE NOW ON YOUTUBE!

Videos found in the PMPC archives have been made available on YouTube. You can watch a public service announcement from Barry Goldwater and an interview with Maxin Lakin and Ruth Hamilton that aired on PBS in 1999.

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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