

# McDowell Mountain Regional Park



Park Master Plan Update



# Vision & Mission



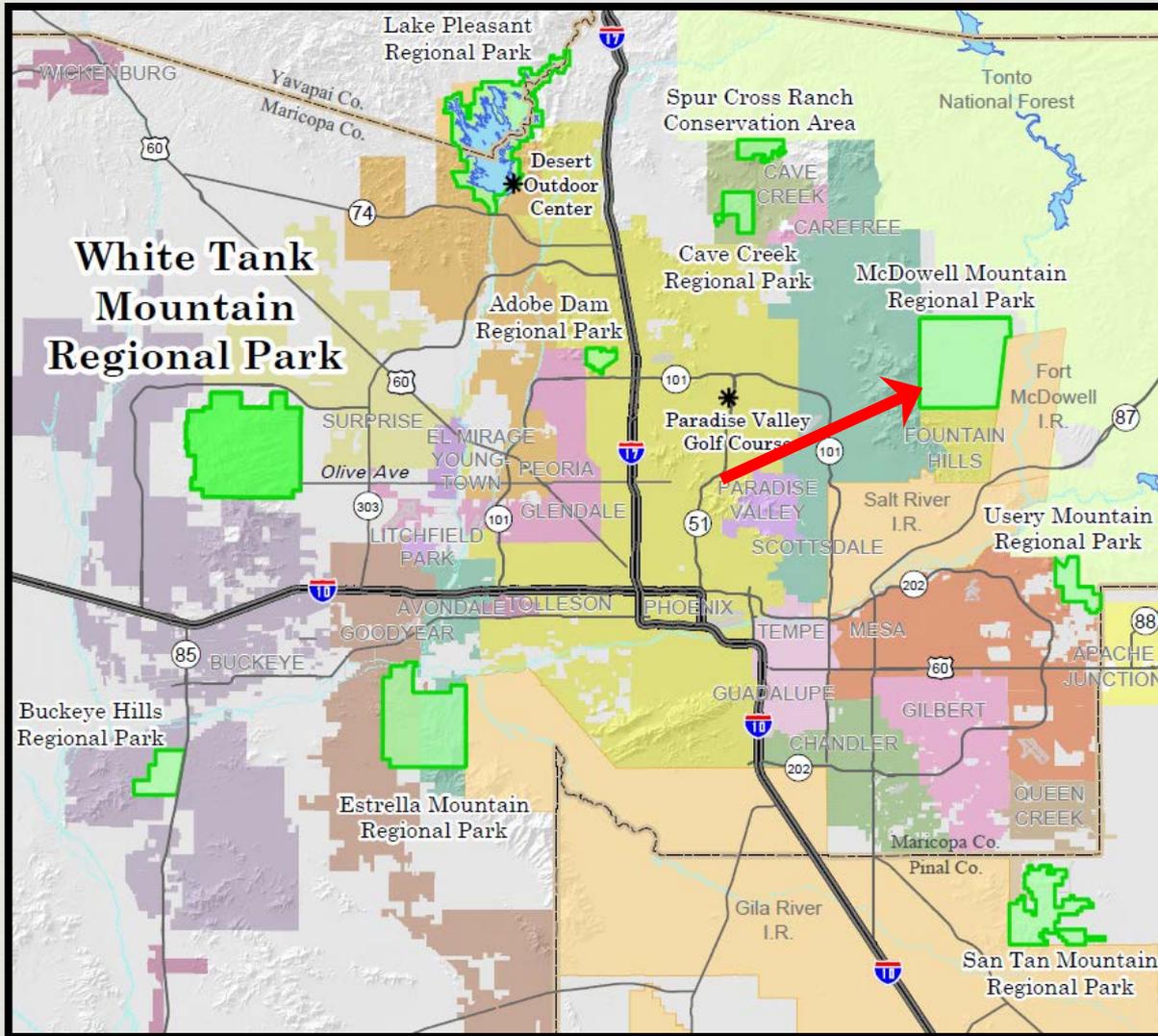
- ❧ Our vision is to connect people with nature through regional parks, trails and programs, inspire an appreciation for the Sonoran desert beauty and natural open spaces, and create life-long positive memories.
- ❧ Our mission, through responsible stewardship, is to provide the quality parks, trails, programs, services and experiences that energize visitors and create life-long users and advocates.

# What is a Master Plan?



- ❧ Outline of the long-range vision for the park
- ❧ Guides development priorities that will provide for both the public's enjoyment and the protection of the park's resources.
- ❧ Provides a conceptual planning framework for establishing those priorities
- ❧ Assist the park with upholding the standards for a "Quality County Park System" per the 2009 Strategic System Master Plan

# Park Location



McDowell Mountain Regional Park is comprised of 21,099 acres within the lower Verde River basin and is the third largest park in the County system.

Elevation ranges from 1,550 to 3,100 feet.

The park is located 4 miles north of Fountain Hills, southeast of the communities of Rio Verde and Tonto Verde, in the eastern foothills of the McDowell Mountains.

# Previous Planning



- ❧ 1967 – Original Plan McDowell Mountain Master Plan
- ❧ 1999 – Development of Trails Plan
- ❧ 2008 – Trails Plan Amendment
- ❧ 2011 – Trails Plan Update
- ❧ 2017 – Master Plan Update \*initiated

# 2009 Strategic System Master Plan: Recommendations

<b>Maricopa County Park</b>	<b>McDowell Mountain Regional Park</b>
<b>Operational Theme</b>	<b>Adventure and Outdoor Recreation Park</b>
<b>Priority Mandates</b>	
1 - Preserve the natural setting and environmental aspects of the park by heavily restricted use and limited public access.	
2 - Pursue limited development to enhance the quality and diversity of recreational opportunities.	
3 - Strategically develop facilities that increase the revenue generation capacity of the park and park system.	

**Figure 93 - McDowell Mountain Regional Park Operational Theme and Priority Mandates**

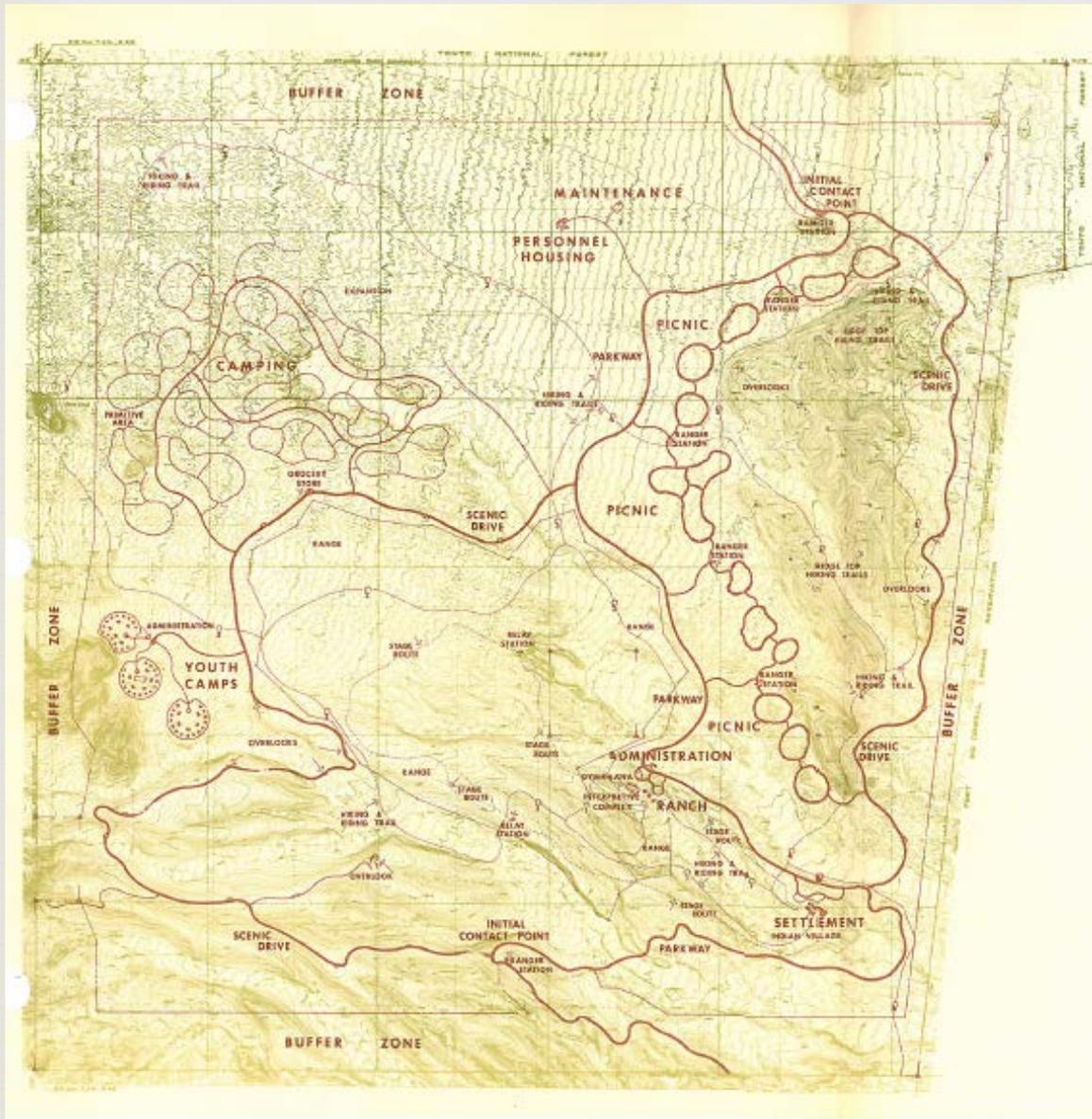
McDowell Mountain Regional Park is recognized for its diversity of user experiences, particularly diverse trails. Most of the facilities are in reasonably good condition, and are relatively passive in nature.

Land acquisition opportunities for additional buffering are extremely limited. It is recommended that McDowell Mountain Regional Park feature development that strengthens its existing reputation as a park for outdoor fitness, social fitness, and nature education.

# Plan Hierarchy



# 1967 Master Plan



## Original Features

- Ranch Complex
- Settlement Area
- Indian Village
- Picnic Grounds
- Campgrounds
- Hiking and riding
- Youth Camps
- Park
- Administration

# Boundary & Trails Today



McDowell Mountain Regional Park offers one of the most extensive trail systems of all the County Regional Parks with over 60 miles of multi-use trails and 14 miles of Competitive Track.

Our longest trail is the Pemberton Trail, a 15.3 mile loop throughout the park.

# Desired Outcomes of the Planning Process

- ❧ To meet community needs
- ❧ To meet County needs
- ❧ To build collaborative partnerships
- ❧ To be award winning

# Planning Timeline



## 18 month process

2017 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	2018 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2018 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	2018 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	2018 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	2019 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarters
Project Initiation	Stakeholder and Partner Meetings - Public Mtg. #1	Stakeholder and Partner Meetings - Public Mtg. #2	Final Partner & Stakeholder Meetings	Written Final Plan	Commission and BOS Approval

# How You Can Help

- Provide ideas and feedback on future park development opportunities
- Identify additional park opportunities
- Offer opinions on how to achieve these goals

Once both public meetings have concluded, presentation materials will be posted on the park's website at

<https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/park-locator/mcdowell-mountain-regional-park/park-information/park-projects/>

Feedback will be collected via a survey link on the page.

Public comments will be accepted through the close of business on Thursday, March 22.

# Thank you

