

Desert Open Space System Plan

Scottsdale, Arizona
November 1997

Acknowledgments

This plan was prepared by the Desert Subcommittee of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission. The McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the plan.

Staff from the Preservation Division and from the Community Services Department assisted the subcommittee.

The Desert Open Spaces System Plan incorporates portions of the following sections of the Scottsdale General Plan:

- Open Space Plan from the Environmental Design Element
- Parks and Schools Plan from the Public Facilities Element
- Trails Plan from the Circulation Element
- Streetscape Plan from the Environmental Design Element
- Drainage Plan from the Public Facilities Plan

In addition , the Desert Open Space System Plan also contains recommendations related to open space, preservation and/or recreation from Visioning and CityShape 2020, and from reports to City Council from commissions and task forces. These recommendations are contained in the following reports:

- Long Range Citizen Planning Efforts on Scottsdale's Future:
 - Scottsdale Visioning, November 1992
 - CityShape 2020, March 1996

- City Commissions and Task Forces:
 - McDowell Mountain Task Force, September 1993
 - McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, Ongoing Citizens Commission
 - Desert Preservation Task Force, April 1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vision: The Desert Open Space System is interconnected natural and desert character areas that have been permanently preserved to protect and maintain the beauty of the Sonoran Desert, provide a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, are accessible to the public, and maintain visual and functional linkages between community and regional open spaces.

Purpose: The Desert Open Space System Plan consolidates into a single document several existing planning documents that address the community's natural desert open space areas. Scottsdale has a long history of citizen interest and public actions to preserve valuable desert open space, including ongoing efforts to acquire the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

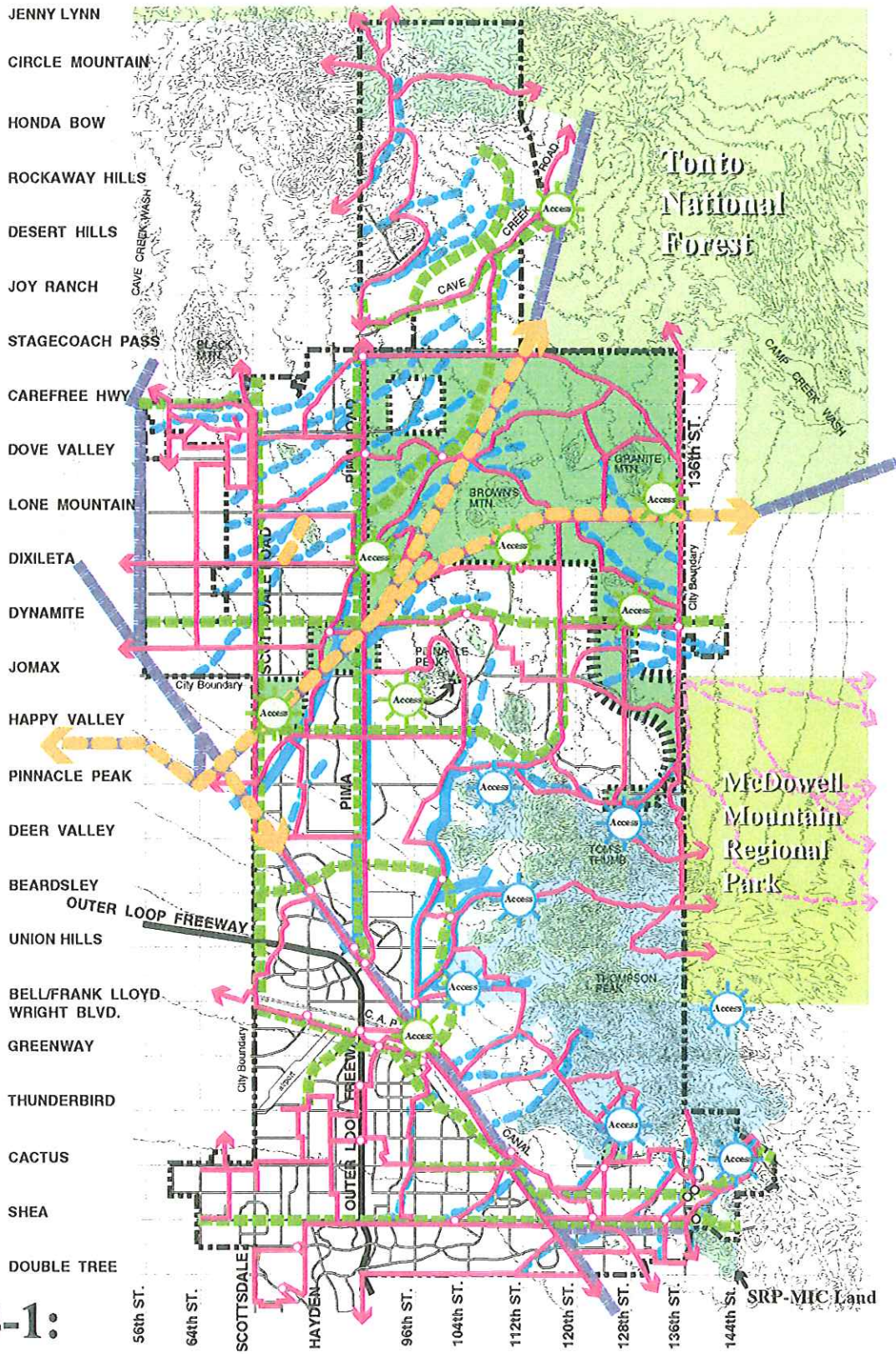
Meaningful Desert Open Space: The CityShape 2020 planning process developed six guiding principles including one to preserve meaningful open space. Meaningful desert open space is defined below. The components of the Desert Open Space System Plan represent the community's vision for meaningful desert open space.

Meaningful desert open space is defined as open space that due to its size, function, visibility, accessibility and/or strategic location is a community amenity or resource. Meaningful desert open space is open space the community can access or see. It also is open space that serves to protect a significant ecological area. Meaningful desert open space is divided into three categories: accessible desert open space, visual desert open space, and desert character open space.

Types of Meaningful Desert Open Space: In Scottsdale, meaningful desert open space is divided into three types: Visual Desert Open Space, Accessible Desert Open Space, and Desert Character Open Space. Visual Desert Open Space is protected land that is primarily a visual and/or environmental amenity. Accessible Desert Open Space is accessible to the public for passive and low impact recreational opportunities. Desert Character Open Space is created or restored through the development process and has a desert character.



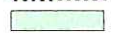







Components of Desert Open Space System: The Desert Open Space System Plan is comprised of several related components into a plan with functional and physical linkages among the parts. The five components of the plan are: McDowell Sonoran Preserve; Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area; Trails System; Vista Corridors, Desert Greenbelts and Utility Corridors; and Scenic Corridors and Streetscape. The plan focuses on open space in natural, or near natural desert areas. **The map on the following page shows the location of the major components on the Desert Open Space System Plan.**

Role in the Open Space System and System Linkages: A key element of the plan is to describe and to visually represent the interrelationship among the major open space components. A series of maps illustrates the system and the linkages for specific areas of the community.



Map 4-1:
Desert Open Space System Plan



-  Recommended Study Boundary for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve
-  Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area
-  Conservation Zoning
-  Planned Trails
-  Proposed Trails
-  Utility Corridors
-  Desert Greenbelts
-  Vista Corridors
-  Scenic Corridors, Buffered Setbacks, & Neigh. Collectors
-  Proposed Public Access Areas

* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.

CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Executive Summary.....	i
1. Introduction.....	1
2. The Community's Open Space Vision and Policies.....	3
3. Meaningful Desert Open Space.....	4
Visual Desert Open Space	
Accessible Open Space	
Desert Character Open Space	
4. The Desert Open Space System Plan.....	5
McDowell Sonoran Preserve	
Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area	
Trails System	
Vista Corridors, Desert Greenbelts and Utility Corridors	
Scenic Corridors, Buffered Setbacks, Neighborhood Collectors and Streetscape	
5. Integrated Desert Open Space System Plan Maps.....	23

Maps

Desert Open Space System Plan.....	ii
4-1 Desert Open Space System Plan.....	6
4-2 McDowell Sonoran Preserve.....	8
4-3 Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area.....	11
4-4 Trails on <u>General Plan</u> as Updated by Master Plans.....	14
4-5 Proposed Trails.....	15
4-6 In-Use Trails.....	16
4-7 Vista Corridors, Desert Greenbelts and Utility Corridors.....	19
4-8 Scenic Corridors, Buffered Setbacks and Neighborhood Collector.....	21
5-1 Index for Enlarged Integrated Desert Open Space System Area Maps.....	24
5-2 Integrated Desert Open Space System- Shea Corridor.....	25
5-3 Integrated Desert Open Space System- Preserve Gateway.....	26
5-4 Integrated Desert Open Space System- Central Preserve.....	27
5-5 Integrated Desert Open Space System- Dynamite Area.....	28
5-6 Integrated Desert Open Space System- Far North Scottsdale.....	29

1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Desert Open Space System Plan

This plan reflects the strong community interest in preserving significant portions of the Sonoran Desert in a natural condition and providing appropriate recreational opportunities to satisfy the outdoor interests of residents. The overall goal of the plan is to bring together in one document existing community policies and plans regarding natural desert open space.

Open space is a key element that defines the character of Scottsdale and exemplifies the outdoor oriented lifestyle residents enjoy. The natural desert environment represents a significant part of the community's open space and serves as a framework or skeleton around which development activities fit. Currently there are numerous plans, policies and documents that address one or more of the community's open space components.

The Desert Open Space System Plan provides several desired outcomes. First, the plan creates a clear statement of the community's vision for preservation, recreation and open space in a Sonoran Desert setting. Second, it serves as a guide for public and private decisions. Third, the plan encourages consistency and orderly implementation among components of the desert open space system. Finally, the plan serves as a communication tool.

The plan focuses on open space in natural, or near natural desert areas. It does not include developed open space areas that have a more urban or suburban character. However, connectivity to and linkage with developed open space areas such as parks and significant community resources such as Westworld and the Indian Bend Wash, are addressed.

How the Community got to this Historic Point

Scottsdale is a Sonoran Desert community. For many residents and visitors alike, the outdoors is critical to their lifestyle and the character of the community. Citizens and elected officials recognize open space as vital to what makes this city an attractive place to live, work, and visit. The majestic saguaro cacti and magnificent McDowell Mountains are signature elements for what makes Scottsdale a special place. The availability of natural desert open space and appropriate recreational opportunities attract visitors, supporting Scottsdale's important tourism industry.

Local attitudes towards living in the Sonoran Desert have evolved over the decades. There is a growing attitude that efforts to maintain the natural desert environment and scenic views of mountains, washes and rock outcrops need to be intensified and clearly defined, particularly as development moves to higher elevations with lush vegetation. As part of this, discussions have stressed the need to strike a balance between preserving open space in a natural state for its ecological and visual benefit with providing appropriate public access and needed recreational opportunities. Numerous public policies have responded to this growing community support for preservation, outdoor recreation, and open space. It is also important to balance the constitutionally protected rights of property owners with the public's desire for preservation and recreation.

Scottsdale's Preservation Ethic

Residents have consistently identified the importance of open space in the physical development of the community. This attitude goes back to the STEP committees of the late 1960's (community planning processes) where the concept for the Indian Bend Wash greenbelt was initially defined. More recently, through the Scottsdale Visioning process and CityShape 2020 (General Plan update process) dialogue, citizens identified the Sonoran Desert and meaningful open space as a very significant component of what makes Scottsdale a desirable community.

In Visioning, the Sonoran Desert was identified as one of four dominant themes for creating the city's future. During CityShape 2020, one of the six guiding principles that emerged is to Preserve Meaningful Open Space: "The City of Scottsdale is committed to promoting the acquisition, dedication, and the preservation of both natural area and developed open space as a community amenity and in support of the tourism industry in Scottsdale."

Two recent policy initiatives have greatly augmented the community's focus on preservation and open space. The first is the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and the second is the vision for meaningful desert open space from the Desert Preservation Task Force.

Early on Scottsdale relied primarily on zoning regulations to protect the mountains and desert character, first through the Hillside District and more recently through the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance. Recently, the community and elected officials have come to the realization that zoning alone could not achieve the broad community vision of preserving the McDowell Mountains and other large areas of mountains and desert.

The City Council appointed the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission in January 1994 to implement the concept for the Preserve conceived by the McDowell Mountains Task Force. Scottsdale established the initial McDowell Sonoran Preserve in October 1994 on 2,860 acres of City-owned land. The Preserve "shall maintain a character of openness, emphasize conservation and contain mostly passive recreational activities." (Resolution No. 4103). A .2% privilege and use tax increase was submitted to, and subsequently approved by, Scottsdale voters in 1995 to fund land acquisition for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The City reorganized and created a Preservation Division to manage implementation of the Preserve.

In 1996 the City Council appointed a Desert Preservation Task Force to define meaningful open space and to recommend strategies for desert preservation beyond the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The Task Force recommendations were included in the report A Strategic Plan for a Comprehensive Sonoran Desert Preservation Program. The task force identified approximately 19,500 acres outside of the Preserve area that should be preserved. These areas were selected based on their intrinsic value, their recreation value and their strategic location in creating an interconnected open space system among the Preserve, other open space areas in Scottsdale, the Tonto National Forest, the County Regional Park and surrounding communities.

2. THE COMMUNITY'S OPEN SPACE VISION AND POLICIES

The community vision is the starting point for developing the Desert Open Space System Plan. The vision and associated policies define what constitutes open space in Scottsdale and how the various open space areas should fit together. This section describes the vision for an open space system, and several policies that relate to the system as a whole.

Desert Open Space System Vision:

The Desert Open Space System is interconnected natural and desert character areas that have been permanently preserved to protect and maintain the beauty of the Sonoran Desert, provide a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, are accessible to the public, and maintain visual and functional linkages between community and regional open spaces.

Desert Open Space System Policies:

The following policies serve as a framework to guide the overall planning for and the establishment of an open space system. These policies are:

- ⇒ The interconnected Desert Open Space System should include large meaningful open space areas such as the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, trails, significant Scottsdale landmarks, scenic routes, major drainage courses, parks and recreational areas, major recreation destinations and regional linkages, natural areas, wildlife corridors, and the open space in utility corridors.
- ⇒ Significant natural and scenic resources should be protected and conserved, including scenic landmarks, scenic mountain views, major watercourses and riparian habitats, wildlife corridors, steep mountain sides, major peaks and ridges, boulder features, and other natural assets.
- ⇒ The natural desert environment should be preserved because it helps define community character and is a valuable economic, environmental and ecological asset maintaining wildlife corridors and the sensitive desert vegetation.
- ⇒ Existing visual and functional links among major open spaces should be maintained and new ones created during the design of development projects to create an interconnected open space system. Linkages include the regional and local trail system, pedestrian linkages, bicycle paths, scenic routes and visually important roadways, utility corridors and major destinations.
- ⇒ The primary criteria for identifying meaningful desert open space areas that should be considered for preservation are: a) contribution to an open space system; b) intrinsic value; c) community character; and d) tourism, recreation and access value.
- ⇒ Scottsdale's plans and programs that address particular pieces of the Desert Open Space System should be consolidated into an Open Space Element of the General Plan.

- ⇒ The public should be informed about historic and archaeological resources, archaeological preservation should be promoted, and archaeological surveys and mitigation should be improved.
- ⇒ Zoning regulations should be used to the extent feasible to identify and protect environmentally sensitive lands and to promote the public health, safety and welfare by providing appropriate and reasonable controls for the development of such lands.
- ⇒ All possible public and private sources should be explored to secure meaningful desert open space.

3. MEANINGFUL DESERT OPEN SPACE

Description:

One of the six guiding principles that evolved from CityShape 2020 is to *Preserve Meaningful Open Space*. The Desert Preservation Task Force developed the following definition which encompasses all open space that is in a natural or nearly natural condition. Meaningful desert open space includes both public and private land that may or may not be available for public use.

Meaningful Desert Open Space is defined as open space that due to its size, function, visibility, accessibility and/or strategic location is a community amenity or resource. Meaningful desert open space is open space the community can access or see. It also is open space that serves to protect a significant ecological area. Meaningful desert open space is divided into three categories: accessible desert open space, visual desert open space, and desert character open space.

Types of Meaningful Desert Open Space

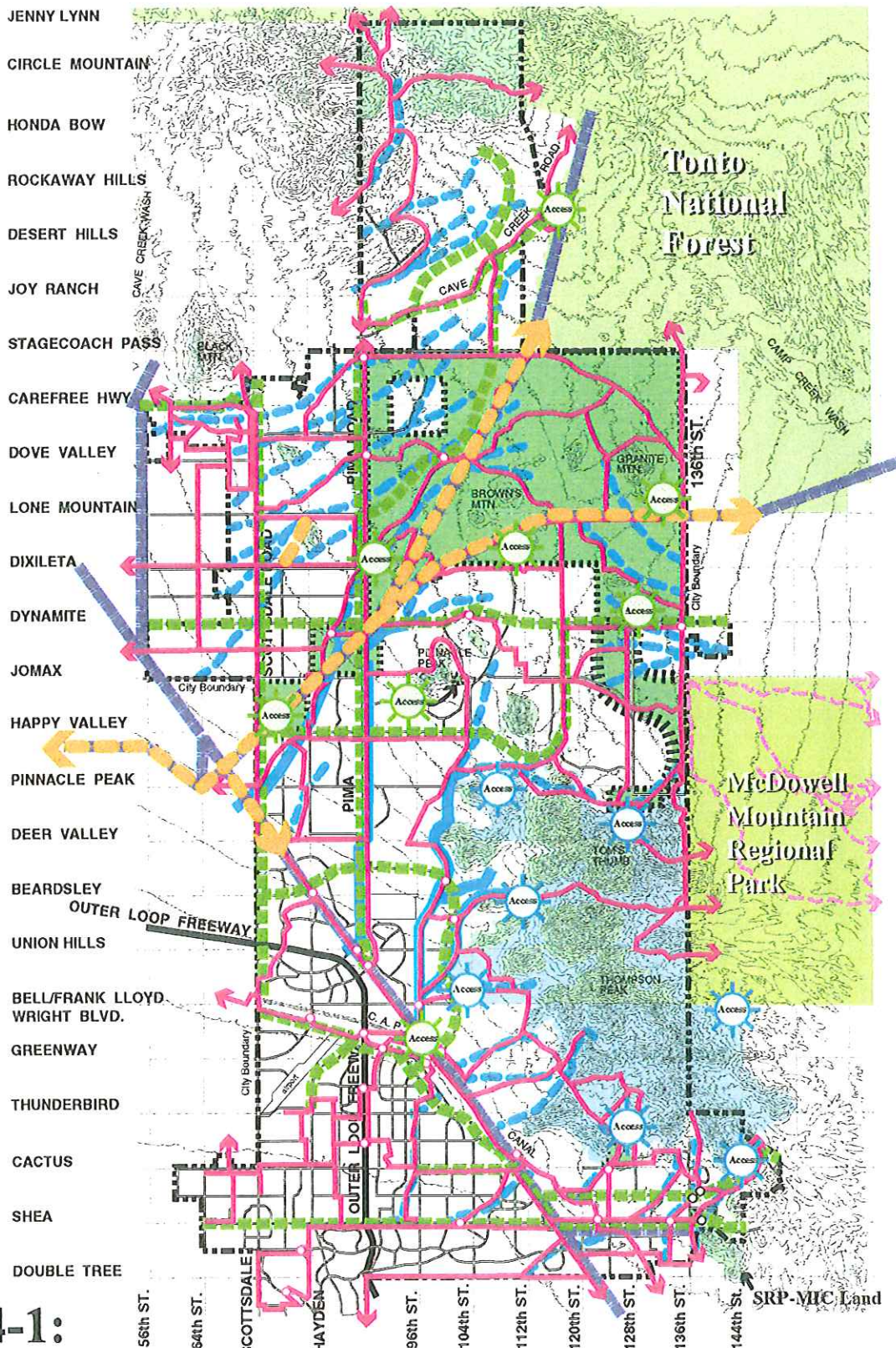
Land included in this plan has been defined as meaningful desert open space. Meaningful desert open space consists of: visual desert open space, accessible desert open space and desert character open space. Meaningful desert open space does not include natural desert areas that benefit an individual property or a neighborhood area. These areas are important for desert preservation and for maintaining a rural desert character but they are generally not visually or ecologically part of the community open space system. Each type of meaningful desert open space is described below.

1. **Visual Desert Open Space** is defined as open space that is primarily a visual and/or environmental amenity. It is protected and is maintained for perpetuity in an undisturbed condition. In general, visual desert open space is to be experienced from a distance and access will be greatly restricted to protect the area's ecological integrity as a means to maintain the natural Sonoran Desert and wildlife habitat. Visual desert open space includes:











- Habitat Conservation Areas- This encompasses environmentally sensitive and fragile areas such as habitats for desert plants and animals, wildlife corridors, wash corridors and riparian environments.
 - Mountain and Desert Conservation Areas- This encompasses environmentally sensitive and fragile areas such as unstable and steep slopes, wash corridors, scenic features, and archaeological sites.
 - Neighborhood Areas- This includes desert open space generally adjacent to development that serves to provide community identity and to maintain an overall desert and open character to an area. Included are wash corridors, scenic corridors, and scenic and/or buffered setbacks. A large common tract of natural desert owned by a homeowners association and easily viewed by the public from a public street or trail would fit the definition of visual desert open space.
2. **Accessible Open Space** is defined as open space that is accessible to the public for passive and low impact recreational opportunities. These desert open space areas will remain in a predominantly undisturbed condition except for the public access points and the shared use trails through them. Accessible desert open space includes:
- Public Use Areas- This includes all meaningful open space where passive and low impact recreational opportunities are permitted. Generally this open space will be accessed by a shared use public trail. Examples include mountain, desert and wash areas that are appropriate for public access and archaeological/historical sites and landmarks appropriate for interpretation.
 - Public Access Areas- This includes trailheads, access areas into the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, other mountain and desert conservation areas, and the portion(s) of parks that provide access to meaningful desert open space.
3. **Desert Character Open Space** is open space created or restored through the development process that is desert in character. Desert character is defined as looking similar to, and consisting of vegetation that is the same as, the original desert in the area.
- Restored Areas- This includes desert character open space created in conjunction with a development project. Examples include detention basins, restored drainage channels (washes), and open space along roads and between and among development.
 - Improved Areas- Included in improved areas are only those parks, other recreational facilities and golf courses that possess a predominantly desert character.

4. THE DESERT OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLAN

The Desert Open Space System Plan is comprised five major components. These include: McDowell Sonoran Preserve; Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area; Trails System; Vista Corridors, Desert Greenbelts and Utility Corridors; and Scenic Corridors and Streetscape. **The five components are shown on Map 4-1: Desert Open Space System Plan on page 6.**



**Map 4-1:
Desert Open Space System Plan**

-  Recommended Study Boundary for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve
-  Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area
-  Conservation Zoning
-  Planned Trails
-  Proposed Trails
-  Utility Corridors
-  Desert Greenbelts
-  Vista Corridors
-  Scenic Corridors, Buffered Setbacks, & Neigh. Collectors
-  Proposed Public Access Areas

* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.

This section describes each of the five components that comprise the Desert Open Space System Plan, the policies associated with each, the role each serves in the open space system and how the component is linked to other open space areas.

McDowell Sonoran Preserve

Description:

The Recommended Study Boundary for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve was established for the purposes of first protecting significant scenic views and habitat areas, and secondly for providing appropriate public access. The McDowell Sonoran Preserve currently consists of 3,745 acres of City-owned land. The Recommended Study Boundary encompasses 16,460 acres. In 1995 Scottsdale voters approved a .2% increase in the privilege and use tax to generate funds for land acquisition within the RSB. **The location of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and the Recommended Study Boundary are shown on Map 4-2 on page 8.**

The vision for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve is to create a preserve on almost 26 square miles of scenic Sonoran Desert in the McDowell Mountains and surrounding desert for the purpose of maintaining scenic views, preserving plant and wildlife, and supporting Scottsdale's largest industry, tourism, while providing appropriate public access and passive outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The McDowell Mountains are the city's most striking physical feature, rising to over 4000 feet and covering an area of 25 square miles. Situated strategically in the central part of the Scottsdale, they serve as a visual backdrop from all directions. The mountains possess a unique habitat for desert plants and animals. Scattered throughout the mountains are pre-historic artifacts and petroglyphs. More recently the mountains have experienced increasing passive recreation use including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and rock-climbing.

A network of strategically located public access areas have been planned for the Preserve. These access areas are classified based on size, characteristics and facilities proposed. **The generalized locations of Access areas are shown on Map 4-2: McDowell Sonoran Preserve.**

Each type of access area is described below:

- **Gateway to the Preserve-** The largest and most strategically located access area has been identified as the Gateway to the Preserve. The Gateway is planned in the vicinity of Bell Road and Thompson Peak Parkway. It will serve as a major passive recreational destination, a tourism attraction, a major staging area for exploration into the Preserve, a focal point for educational facilities and programs, and linkages to regional and citywide trails.
- **Major Community Access-** These areas provide public access to Preserve lands and other meaningful desert open space. These areas will generally contain public parking, including horse trailer and bus parking, restrooms, picnic areas, interpretative trails, educational

DYNAMITE

JOMAX

HAPPY VALLEY

PINNACLE PEAK

DEER VALLEY

BEARDSLEY

UNION HILLS

BELL/FRANK LLOYD
WRIGHT BLVD.

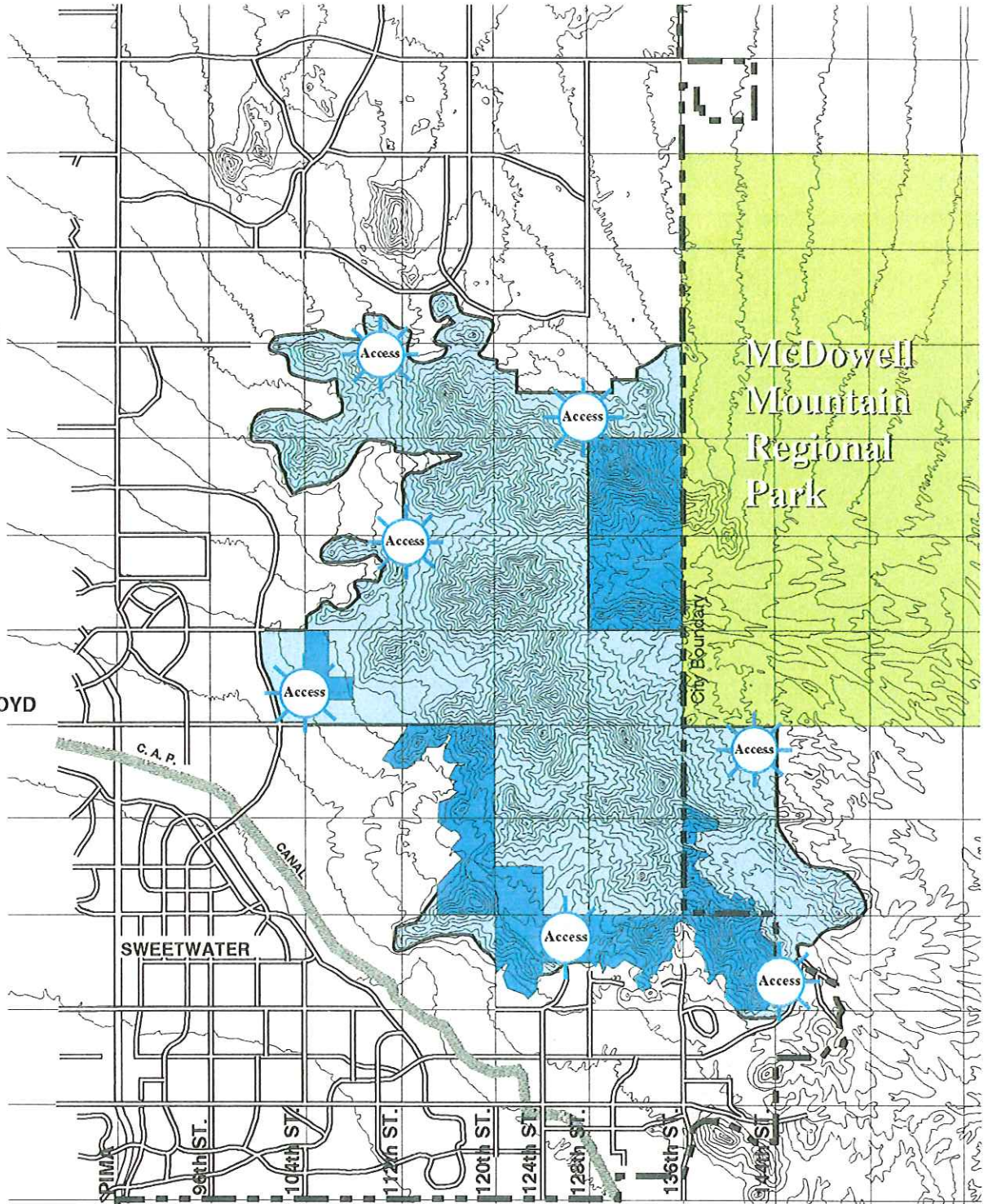
GREENWAY

THUNDERBIRD

CACTUS

SHEA

DOUBLE TREE



Map 4-2: McDowell Sonoran Preserve



Recommended Study Boundary: 16,460 acres



McDowell Sonoran Preserve: 3,745 acres



Generalized Locations for
Proposed Public Access Areas

* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.

displays and limited visitor information. These areas will be approximately 30-60 acres and accommodate 200-300 parking spaces when fully completed.

- **Minor Community Access-** These areas will be similar in function to major community access areas but smaller in size. The size of these areas will range from approximately 10-30 acres with between 50-100 parking spaces, including horse trailer parking.
- **Local Access-** These sites provide neighborhood entry to Preserve lands and other meaningful open space for hikers, bikers and equestrians without providing parking. Improvements will be limited to a trailhead and possibly directional trail signage and maps. Sufficient local access is required in neighborhoods to augment and to avoid overuse at community access areas.

Policies:

- ⇒ Provide a variety of opportunities for passive recreation such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and rock climbing.
- ⇒ Provide a superior opportunity for people to experience and enjoy the magnificent McDowell Mountains and Sonoran Desert.
- ⇒ Develop a non-paved public trail system for hiking, running, mountain biking, bicycling and horseback riding and link these trails with other city and regional trails.
- ⇒ Support tourism in the community by providing a significant public outdoor recreational attraction for visitors.
- ⇒ Provide enough access areas of sufficient size to accommodate public access needs.
- ⇒ Provide opportunities for education and research on the Sonoran Desert.
- ⇒ Preserve the diverse plant, wildlife and natural resources to maintain the biological diversity and long-term sustainability of the area's ecology.
- ⇒ Restore habitat characteristics, species diversity, and ecological processes of the natural communities in the Preserve to what they would be without human influence.
- ⇒ Maintain scenic views to preserve the aesthetic values of the area for all to enjoy and for their contribution to the quality of life of the community.
- ⇒ Protect historical and archaeological resources, such as petroglyph sites.

Role in the Open Space System and System Linkage:

The Preserve is a major community open space resource and passive recreation destination. It provides habitat for desert fauna and flora. The mountains are a visual backdrop framing the community.

The Preserve's central location makes it a key component of the overall desert open space system. It is linked to several other components of the system and to nearby developed open space facilities by trails and open space corridors.

The integrated desert open space system maps in Section 5. show the relationship of the various components of the open space system for specific areas of the community.

Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area

Description:

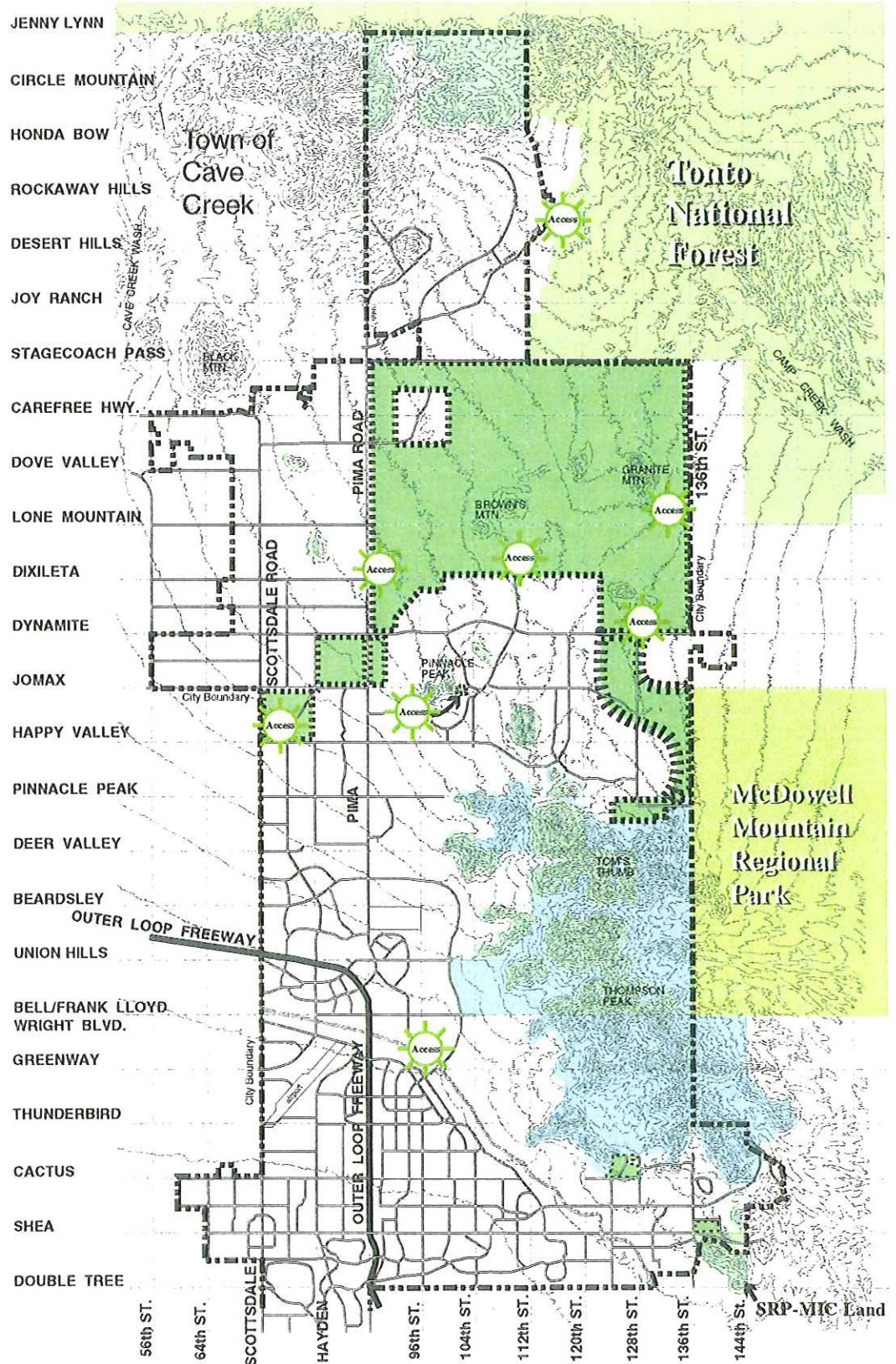
The Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area includes natural Sonoran Desert lands with particular intrinsic value and areas that possess opportunities for the public to enjoy passive recreation through public access areas and a trail system. This study area encompasses approximately 19,500 acres of land. This includes large contiguous areas of State and private land north of Dynamite Boulevard, additions to planned access areas at Pinnacle Peak and on the north and south side of the Preserve. Other areas that provide linkage between existing and planned open space areas are also included. The study area was identified by the Desert Preservation Task Force.

The Recommended Desert Open Spaces System Study Area is shown on Map 4-3 on the page 11.

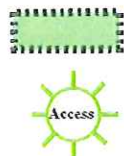
Policies:

Open space should define and serve as the framework around which the community develops.

- ⇒ The community needs to continue its aggressive commitment to desert preservation and the creation of an overall desert open space system.
- ⇒ Recognize the urgency of the situation and take steps immediately to ensure there is sufficient public open space preserved as the community develops.
- ⇒ Consider the long term needs of the community, and create a sustainable desert open space system for future generations.
- ⇒ Distinguish between Meaningful Desert Open Space and other open space. Meaningful Desert Open Space is desert open space which due to its size, function, visibility, accessibility and/or strategic location is a community amenity or resource.
- ⇒ Focus on preserving open space and act in a proactive manner to create a public desert open space system.
- ⇒ Capitalize on the region's open space amenities by linking and integrating Scottsdale's open spaces with open space resources and trail corridors in surrounding communities.



Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area



Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area

Generalized Locations for Proposed Public Access Areas

Recommended Study Boundary
Conservation Zoning

* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.

- ⇒ Develop a realistic funding program and creative acquisition strategies to preserve the approximately 19,500 acres of identified meaningful desert open space in the Recommended Desert Open Space Study Area.
- ⇒ Launch an aggressive public information program to provide opportunities for people to assist in the implementation of meaningful desert open space.
- ⇒ City development policies and regulations should foster conservation of natural resources and the natural desert and mountain environment and character.

Role in the Open Space System and System Linkage:

The Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area consists of land that has visual open space value and land that has access potential. The large desert area north of Dynamitè Boulevard contains several prominent landmarks such as Granite and Browns mountains. These areas are important habitat areas and provide connections to other open space areas. The study area includes corridors that will provide linkage to open space in surrounding communities. Many portions of the study area also possess significant recreational value.

The integrated desert open space system maps in Section 5. show the relationship of the various components of the open space system for specific areas of the community.

Trails System

Description:

Trails serve to provide users the opportunity to access and to traverse open space areas. Trails also serve to connect open space areas.

The trail system includes public trails that are generally planned to be shared by more than one type of user. There are two major components of the trail system: the trails which are classified into categories, and public access to the trail system. Public access areas are classified according to size, function and facilities. The term "shared use" applies to the trail system and refers to a trail that can be shared by different types of users including hikers, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists.

Trails link open space destinations both within the community and with destinations in adjacent communities. Two categories of trails exist in Scottsdale. These categories are:

- **Urban Trails-** Those which occur in areas of urban or suburban development densities, or where improvement of the trail surface is necessitated by the nature of the development within which it occurs.
- **Rural Trails-** Those which occur adjacent to natural washes or corridors through or near suburban development. These trails require little improvement of the trail surface.

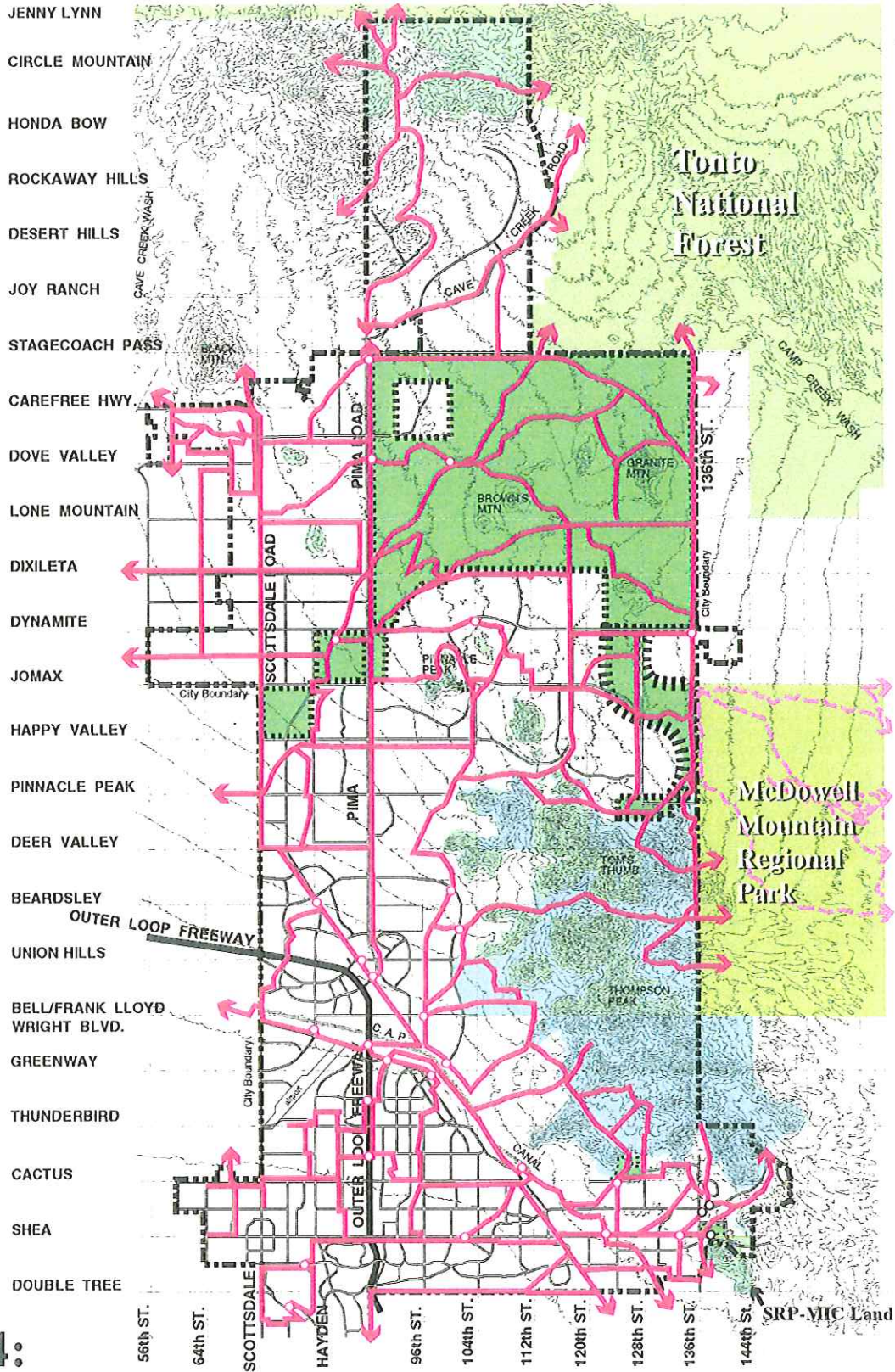
It is recommended that a third trail category be created to reflect the unique type of trail that will be more appropriate in areas such as the Preserve and other natural desert open space areas. This trail category, **Preserve Trails**, should be added to the General Plan and the Design Standards and Policies Manual (which contains the specifications for constructing different types of trails). This trail is defined as follows:

- **Preserve Trails-** Trails which occur within areas of accessible meaningful desert open space that are remote from or near, but not within, developed areas of the City. These trails are developed under low impact shared use standards, thus providing a high quality, wilderness type experience for the user. The trails should be designed to create the least amount of impact or disturbance to the area. In keeping with accepted trail standards, width should be sufficient to accommodate the proposed use(s) of the trail while not inviting any motorized use.

The next three pages, pages 14 to 16, contain trails maps that identify trails that possess different approval status. The first page is Map 4-4 of Trails on the General Plan as Updated by Master Plans. Map 4-5 shows the generalized location of Proposed Trails, and Map 4-6 shows the generalized location of Existing In-use Trails (trails that are currently in use but are not part of the City's existing or planned trail system).

Policies:

- ⇒ The goal of Scottsdale's trail system is to provide superior public opportunities for people to experience and enjoy the Sonoran Desert and its mountains.
- ⇒ Trails should be the thread that ties the overall Desert Open Space System together.
- ⇒ Trails should serve the following specific roles in the overall public open space system:
 - Serving as a medium for many low impact (passive) recreational opportunities.
 - Providing access to and routes through desert open space.
 - Providing access to vantage points for viewing and experiencing visual desert open space which is generally not accessible to the public.
 - Providing linkages between open space areas in Scottsdale and regional destinations or trails.
- ⇒ A new trail category, the preserve category, should be created in addition to the existing urban and rural categories, and standards that are appropriate for developing a preserve type trail in accessible meaningful desert open space should be designed.
- ⇒ Trails within meaningful desert open space should be designed and maintained so that public use will have a low impact on native plants, natural resources, or wildlife adjacent to the trails.
- ⇒ Scottsdale should take on a more proactive role in the acquisition, development and ongoing management of the public shared use trail system and access areas.



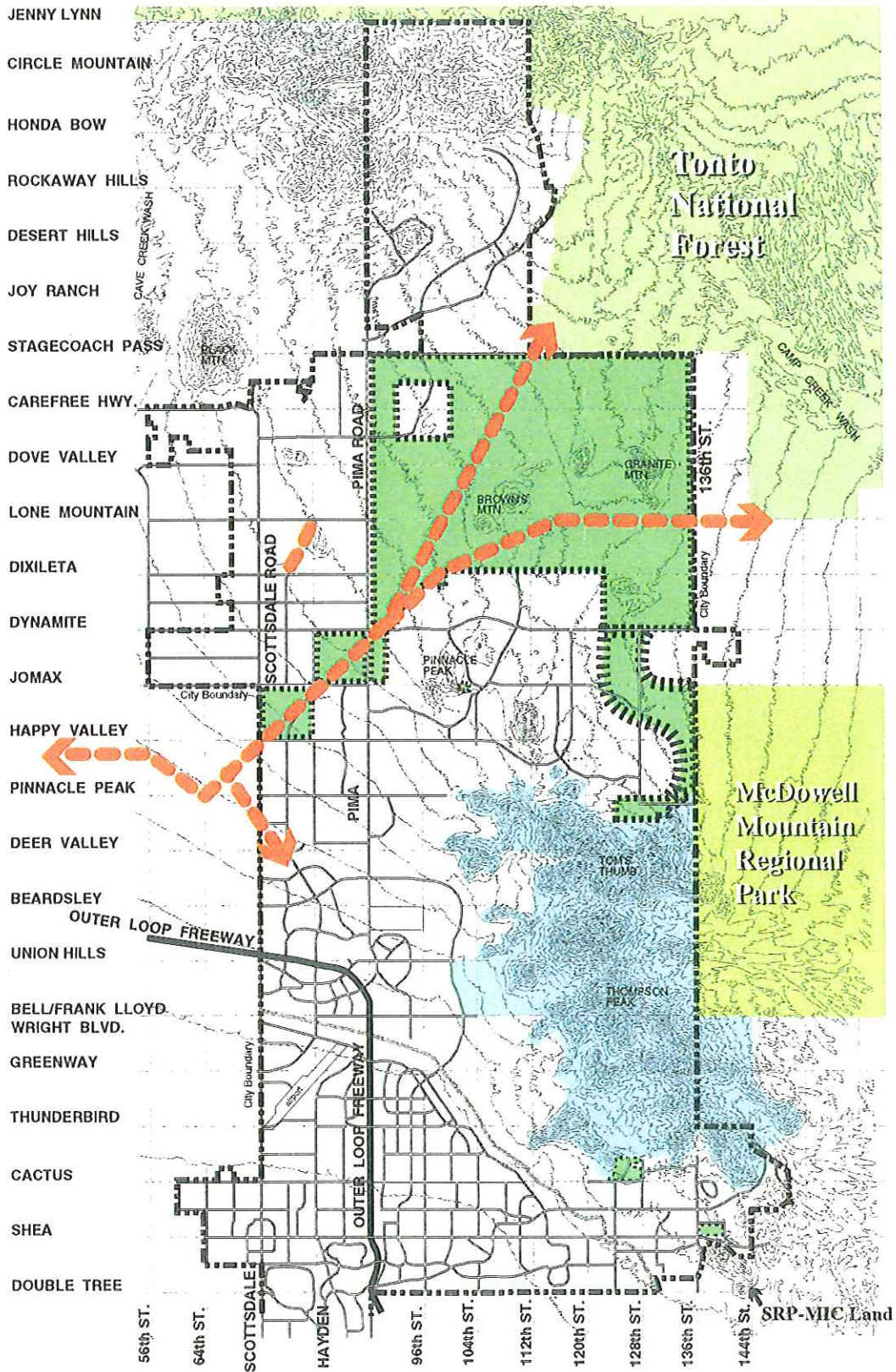
Map 4-4:
Trails on the General Plan as Updated by Master Plans



11/97

- Planned Trails
- Grade Separation
- - - Maricopa County Parks Trails
- - - Planned County Parks Trails
- Recommended Study Boundary
- Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area
- Conservation Zoning

* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.

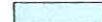




Map 4-5: Proposed Trails

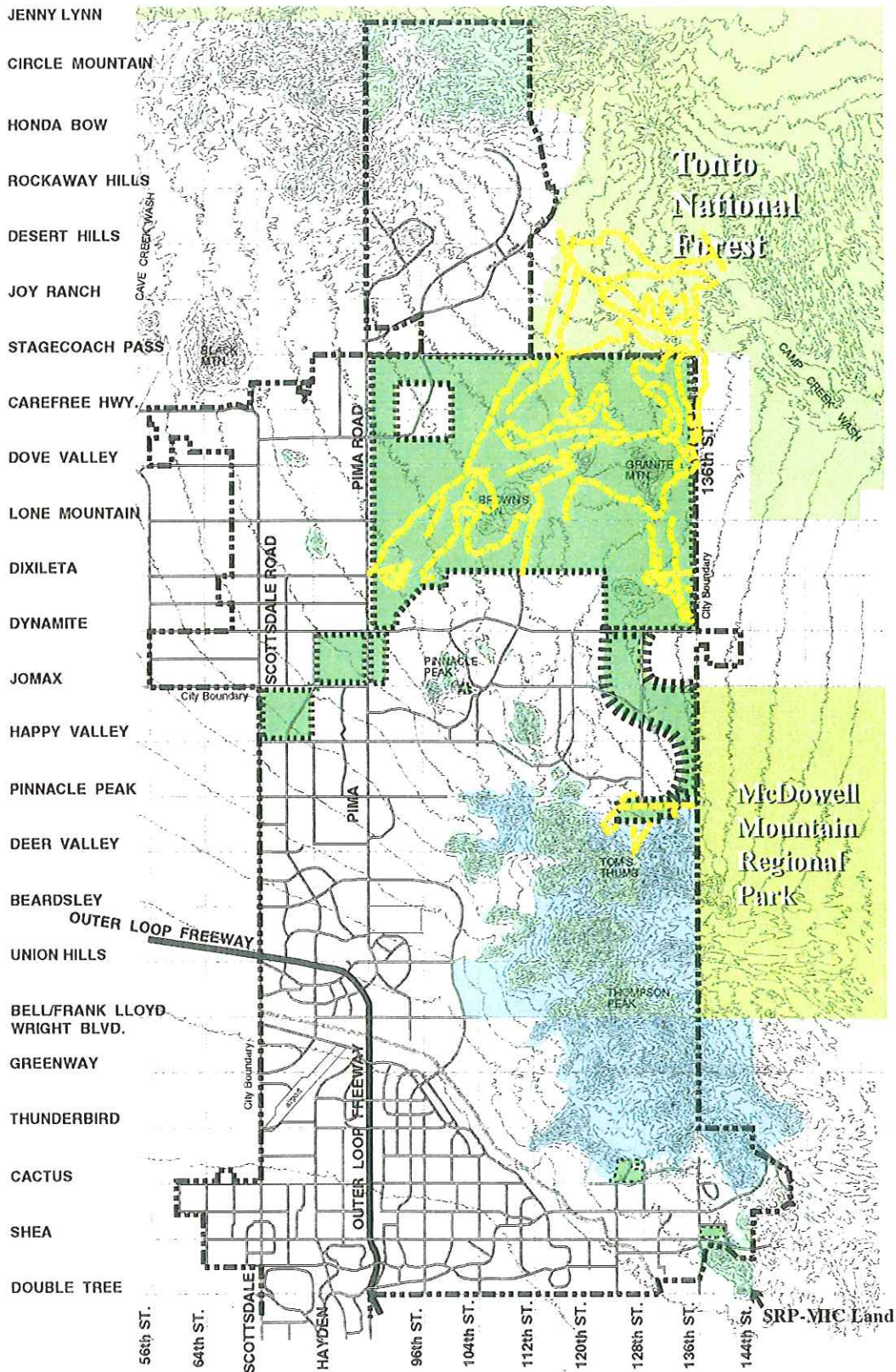


11/97

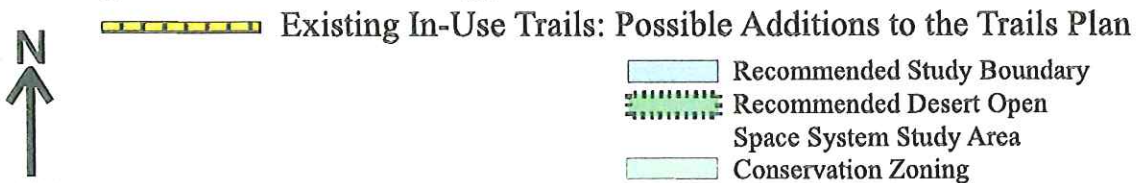
 Proposed Trails

-  Recommended Study Boundary
-  Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area
-  Conservation Zoning

* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.



Map 4-6: Existing In-Use Trails



11/97 * Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.

- ⇒ The trail system should allow for local, loop, and long distance hikers, joggers, mountain cyclists, rock climbers, and horseback riders.
- ⇒ An interconnecting trail system should be provided along scenic routes connecting horse privilege neighborhoods and Westworld with the McDowell Mountains and other major destinations.
- ⇒ Equestrian trails should not pass through non-horse privilege neighborhoods if at all possible.
- ⇒ Types and priorities for trail crossings appropriate for specific locations shall be determined.
- ⇒ Hikers, climbers, and riders can improve their safety by taking appropriate precautions and not exceeding their physical limitations in the mountainous areas. Hikers without climbing experience are advised not to climb rock cliffs and boulder piles.
- ⇒ Equestrian facilities, such as trailheads, should be provided along the major equestrian trails and at major destinations.
- ⇒ Trail access from existing residential areas in the East Shea Area to the McDowell Mountains should be maintained as shown on the adopted General Plan. Trail corridors will typically be a hundred feet, but not less than 25 feet wide.
- ⇒ Bicycle facilities should be designed to connect major activity areas, including schools and parks.
- ⇒ Comprehensive and proactive programs should be employed to promote cycling and walking as viable, economically desirable forms of transportation and recreation for both residents and visitors.

Role in the Open Space System and System Linkage:

The Trails System can best be described as providing mobility throughout the system. Trails provide opportunities for the public to access and to experience a particular open space area, and in many cases trails provide the link between open space components, and among park facilities, school sites and residential areas. Trails serve to link open space areas in Scottsdale with the open space systems in adjacent communities. Trails are generally located in linear open space corridors such as desert greenbelts, scenic corridors and utility corridors.

The integrated desert open space system maps in Section 5. show the relationship of the various components of the open space system for specific areas of the community.

Vista Corridors, Desert Greenbelts and Utility Corridors

Description:

This component of the Desert Open Space System includes linear corridors that contain meaningful desert open space. These corridors generally contain a shared use trail that both serves as a link to/between other open space areas and as a passive recreational experience.

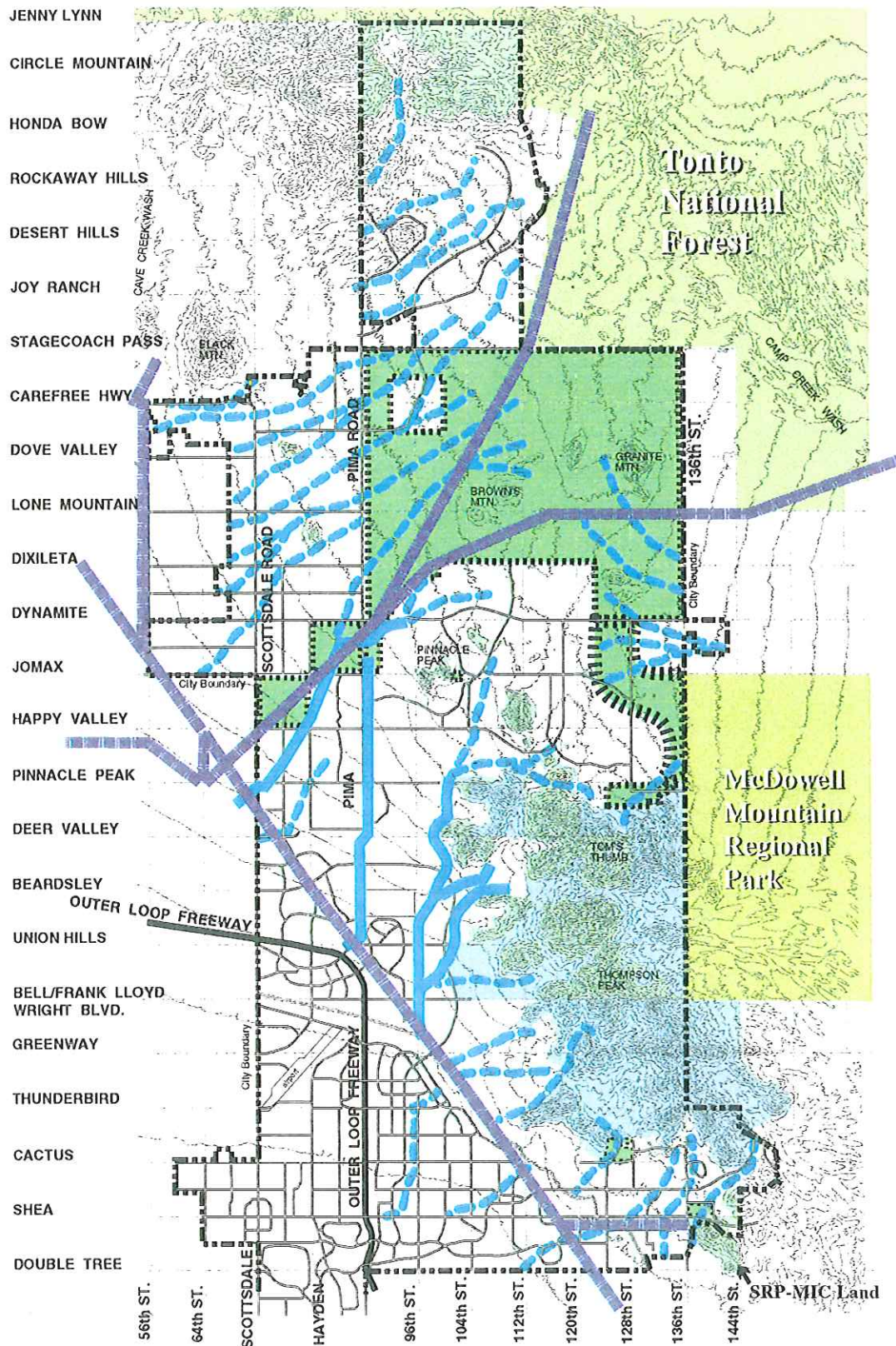
Natural washes and drainage improvements that have been designed to be meaningful desert open space are important parts of the system (a concrete channel or similar material drainage facility would not be considered meaningful desert open space). The proposed desert greenbelt system to manage special flood hazard areas north of the Central Arizona Project Canal (CAP) is an example as are washes that are maintained as vista corridors. Smaller washes that do not contain trails are an important part of the system from a habitat and wildlife corridor perspective when they are maintained as visual desert open space. The location of major drainage facilities and natural washes are not included on Desert Open Space System maps but are shown on City flood plain and drainage maps.

Utility corridors (e.g. transmission lines) that cross the desert providing corridor and/or trail opportunities are also included in this component of open space.

Map 4-7 on page 19 shows the generalized location of existing and proposed Vista Corridors, Desert Greenbelts and Utility Corridors. Major wash corridors, including those currently designated as Vista Corridors in master planned developments, are shown on the map. Not all potential Vista Corridors are shown because further study of drainage in Scottsdale is needed to accurately map all of the larger washes (over 750 cfs).

Policies:

- ⇒ Drainage facilities should be planned to control flooding north of the CAP canal, and all facilities should be planned as recreational and visual amenities that will embrace surrounding developed areas and/or blend into the natural desert character.
- ⇒ Drainage facilities that are compatible with the desert environment should be encouraged.
- ⇒ Washes should be retained in their natural condition unless storm water management facilities have been designated.
- ⇒ Washes should be used for open space, trails, and recreational facilities as long as the natural drainage properties are retained.
- ⇒ Flood control channel design criteria emphasis should be for sensitive aesthetic treatment and multiple uses that harmonize with the character of the adjacent neighborhood.
- ⇒ Desert greenbelt washes should be developed to eventually remove special flood hazard areas, while integrating with the Sonoran Desert environment. Opportunities for trails, paths,



Map 4-7: Vista Corridors, Desert Greenbelts and Utility Corridors



11/97

- - - - - Vista Corridors/Major Wash Corridors
- Desert Greenbelts
- Utility Corridors
- Recommended Study Boundary
- Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area
- Conservation Zoning

* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.

and recreation facilities, as anticipated in the General Plan, should be incorporated, while preserving the natural wash integrity.

- ⇒ A network of watercourses should be defined during the development process to channel stormwater flows into the desert greenbelts and/or planned storage facilities with the intent of removing potential flood hazards. This network should maximize the use of existing natural washes and minimize the potential for impacts on the surrounding desert.
- ⇒ Utilities and other public facilities sited in open spaces should be integrated into the design of those open spaces, with consideration given to materials, form, and scale.
- ⇒ Utilities should be located underground to prevent visual obstruction of desert vistas.
- ⇒ Scottsdale encourages natural desert or landscaped open space along utility corridors and some corridors should be included in the local and regional trails system.

Role in the Open Space System and System Linkage:

Major natural washes, certain drainage facilities and utility corridors can be important meaningful desert open space areas, depending upon the landscaping, design and amenities they possess. These components often contain trails and/or serve as vista corridors. They serve a vital role in linking other open space areas. They can provide important corridors for wildlife.

The integrated desert open space system maps in Section 5. show the relationship of the various components of the open space system for specific areas of the community.

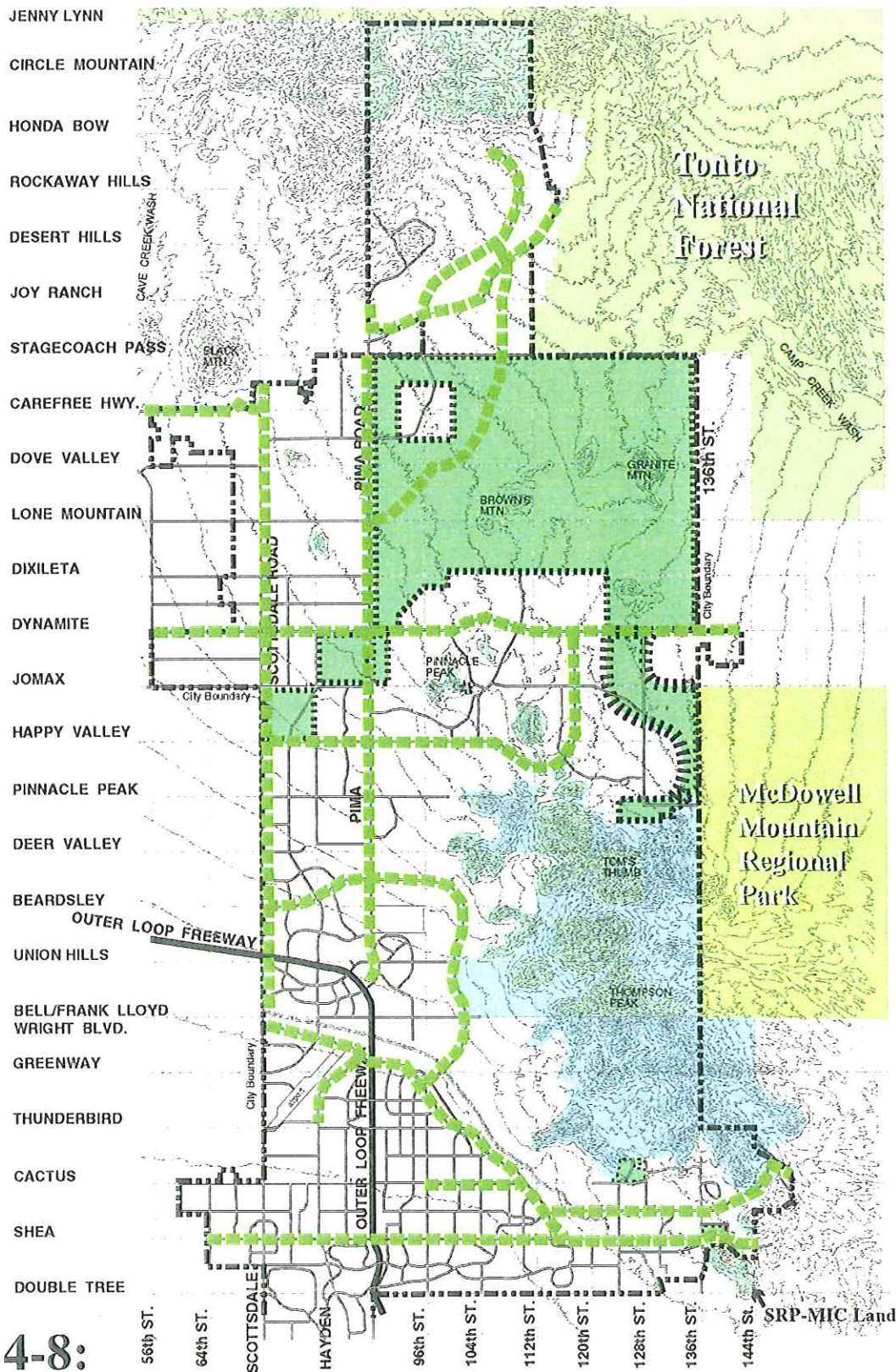
Scenic Corridors, Buffered Parkways, Neighborhood Collectors and Streetscape

Description:

Several major thoroughfares have been identified as Scenic Corridors or Buffered Setback/Parkways on the General Plan. The concepts for these streets provide a broad natural desert open space buffer between the thoroughfare and adjacent development. Frequently these corridors will contain a trail. In addition to scenic corridors and buffered parkways, Scottsdale has guidelines that apply to the landscaping, character and scenic views along streets. In 1997 Scottsdale City Council created a new street category, the Neighborhood District Collector, which provides a greater street width to meet these types of guidelines. The goal is to maintain the existing desert vegetation to the extent possible and to create a vista corridor.

Map 4-8 on page 21 shows the generalized location of approved Scenic Corridors, Buffered Parkways and Neighborhood Collectors.

The term streetscape is used to mean the complete street appearance and experience including landscaping in medians or along the edge of the right-of-way, sidewalks or paths, street lights, benches and other aspects of the overall character of public streets.



Map 4-8:
Scenic Corridors, Buffered Setbacks
and Neighborhood Collectors



11/97

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Designated on the General Plan
as Updated by City Council
- Recommended Study Boundary
 Recommended Desert Open
Space System Study Area
 Conservation Zoning

* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.

A new street classification was recently created- Neighborhood Collector. It is characterized by a right-of-way adequate for four lanes where only three lanes are to be constructed. The additional width is used for streetscape improvements such as landscaping, trails and paths.

Policies:

⇒ To provide for open space along major streets, a Scenic Corridor designation should be applied to these streets. This allows for a larger landscaped area that can minimize the impact of a highly traveled road adjacent to a neighborhood. This designation should be applied using the following guidelines:

There is a need for a landscaped buffer between streets and adjacent land uses.

An enhanced streetscape appearance is desired.

Views to mountains and natural or man made features will be enhanced.

⇒ Buffered setbacks on parkways may be implemented to provide the streetscape with a unique image that should also reduce the impacts of a major street on adjacent parcels. This type of designation is primarily an aesthetic buffer.

⇒ Desert appreciation roadside parks should be provided along scenic corridors

⇒ The Transitional streetscape area's landscape materials should include native plants or plants compatible with a desert environment. Special care should be given to the protection of existing vegetation and natural features which can be incorporated into the design.

⇒ Natural streetscape areas should be compatible with the natural desert. Plant selection should be those that are native to the desert and densities of planting areas should be similar to natural conditions.

⇒ Mature trees in public right-of-ways should be retained to preserve shade and the character of the street.

Role in the Open space System:

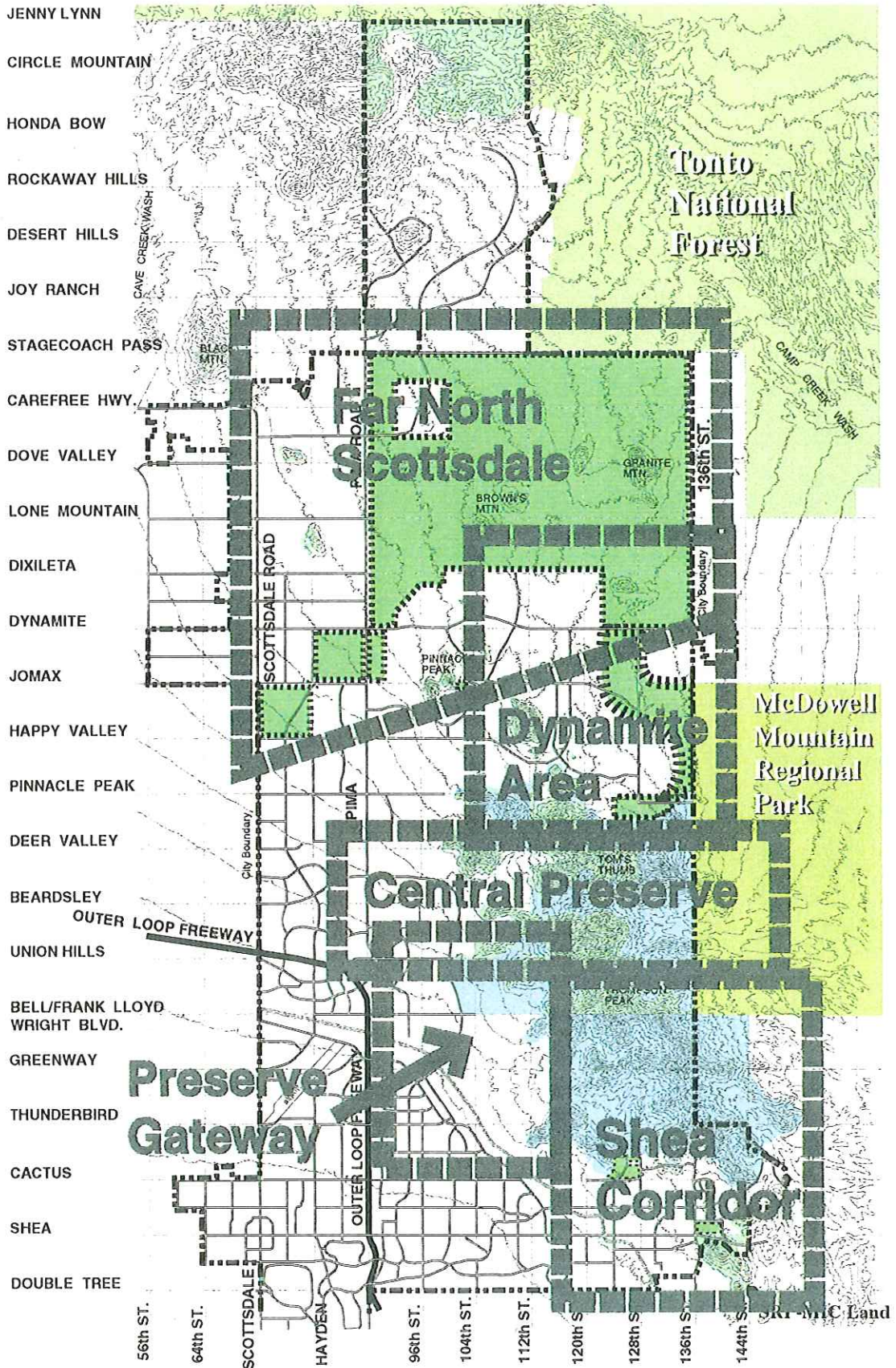
Scenic corridors, buffered parkways and other streets that have a desert character provide a unique linear open space experience that is available to all who travel on the adjacent thoroughfare. For some, this is the most significant desert experience they will encounter. These corridors provide a visual experience, and if they contain a trail or path, accessible open space. Corridors also serve to link other open space areas.

The integrated desert open space system maps in Section 5. below show the relationship of the various components of the open space system for specific areas of the community.

5. INTEGRATED DESERT OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLAN MAPS

The integrated desert open space system maps on the following pages combine the major open space components on a single graphic to show the relationship among the components.

Maps 5-2 to 5-6 on pages 25-29 have been prepared for specific portions of the Desert Open Space System Plan area. Map 5-1 on page 24 is the Index for Enlarged Integrated Desert Open Space System Area Maps showing the generalized locations of the five enlarged areas.






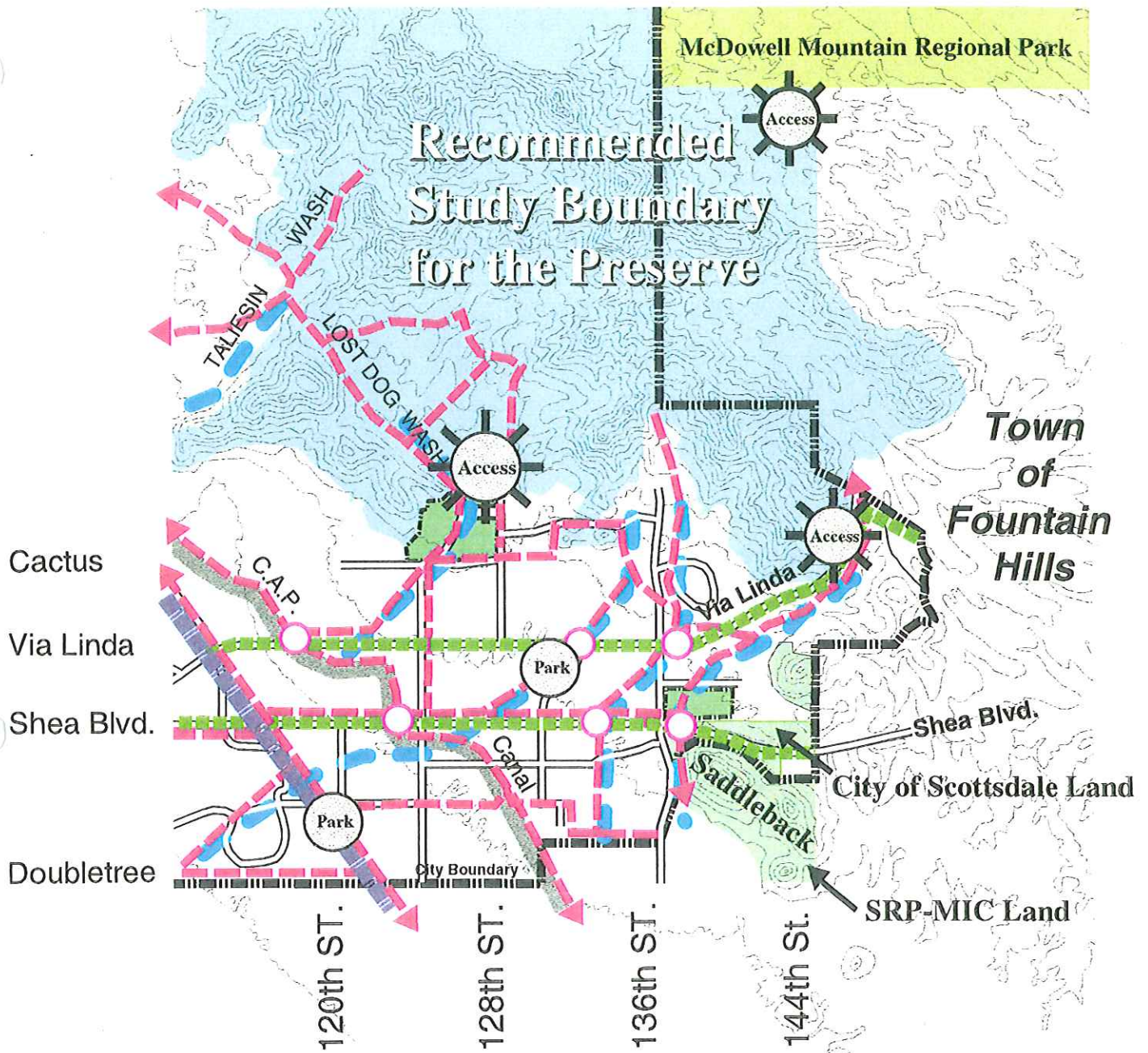
Map 5-1: Index for Enlarged Integrated Desert Open Space System Area Maps



11/97

* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.



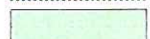





-  Recommended Study Boundary
-  Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area
-  Conservation Zoning



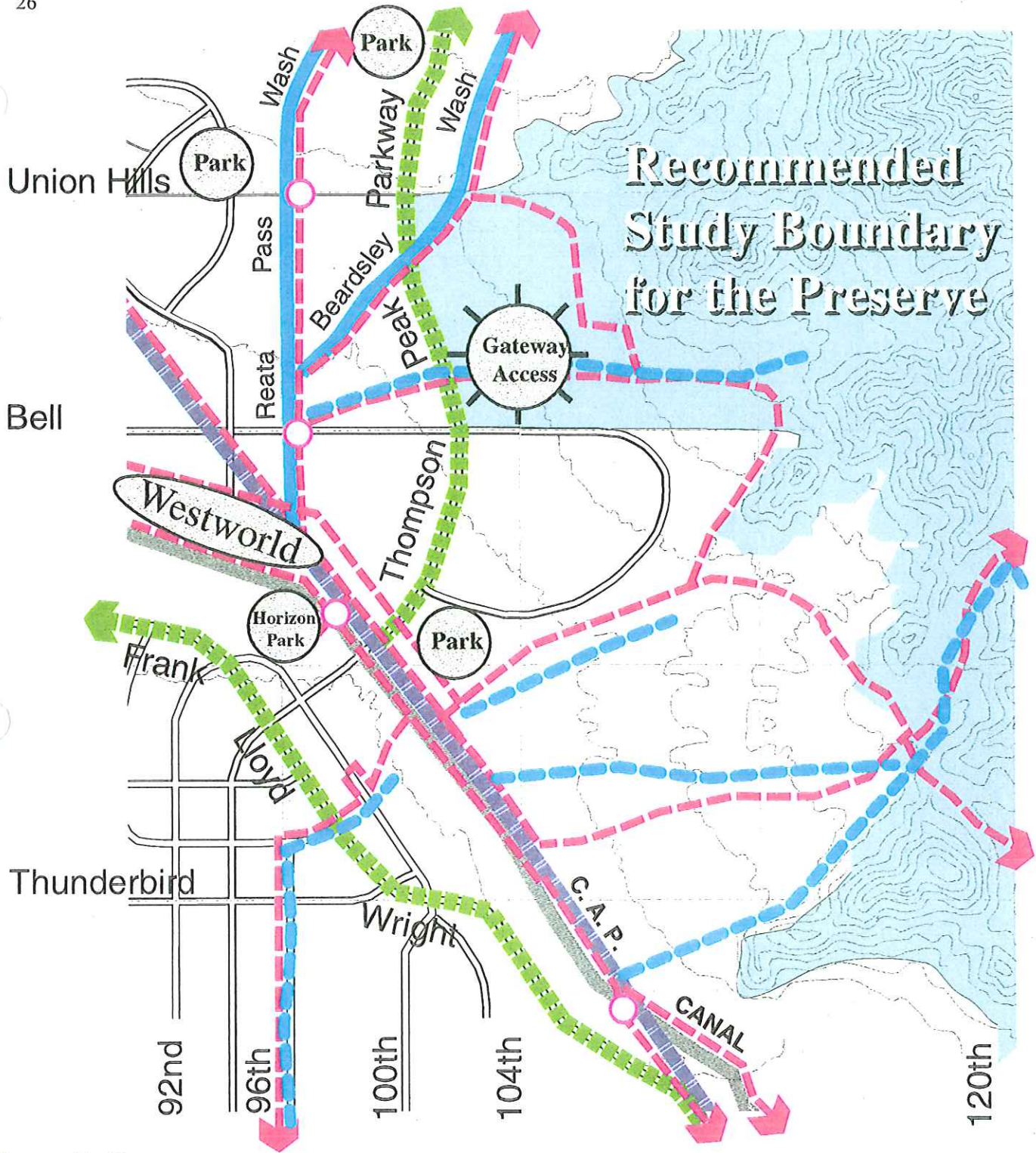
Map 5-2:
Integrated Desert Open Space System - Shea Corridor



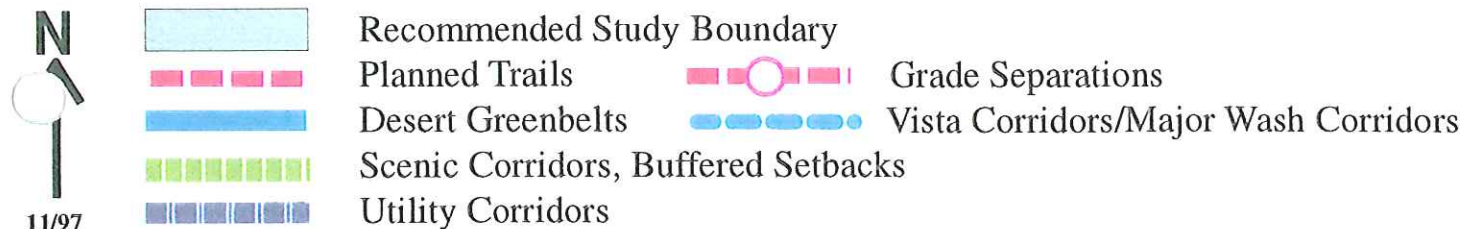
11/97

-  Recommended Study Boundary
-  Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area
-  Conservation Zoning (COS/HC Zoning)
-  Planned Trails
-  Grade Separations
-  Vista Corridors/Major Wash Corridors
-  Scenic Corridors, Buffered Setbacks
-  Utility Corridors

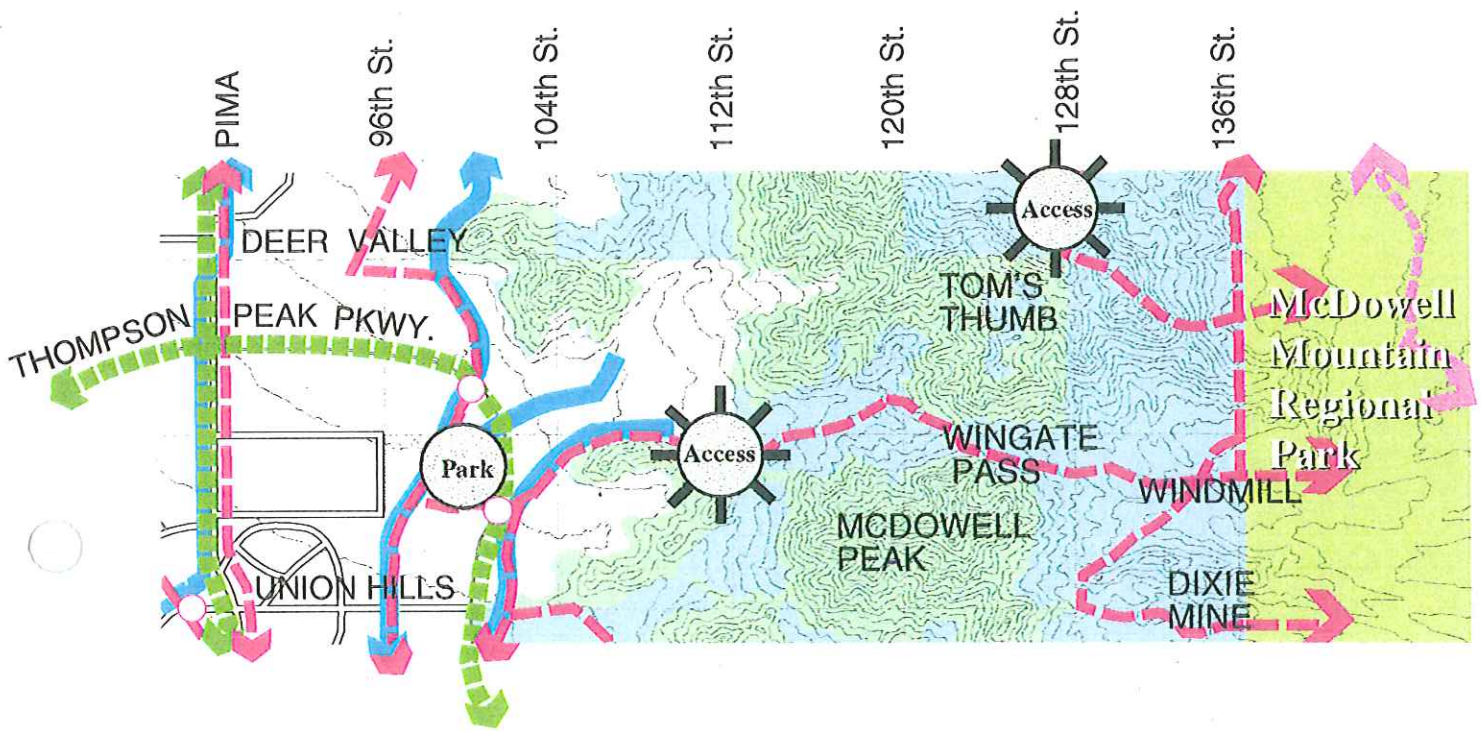
* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.



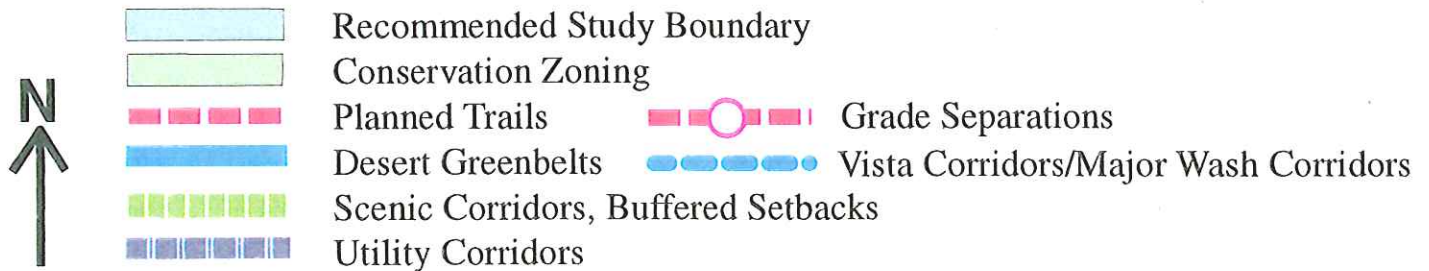
Map 5-3:
Integrated Desert Open Space System - Preserve Gateway



* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.

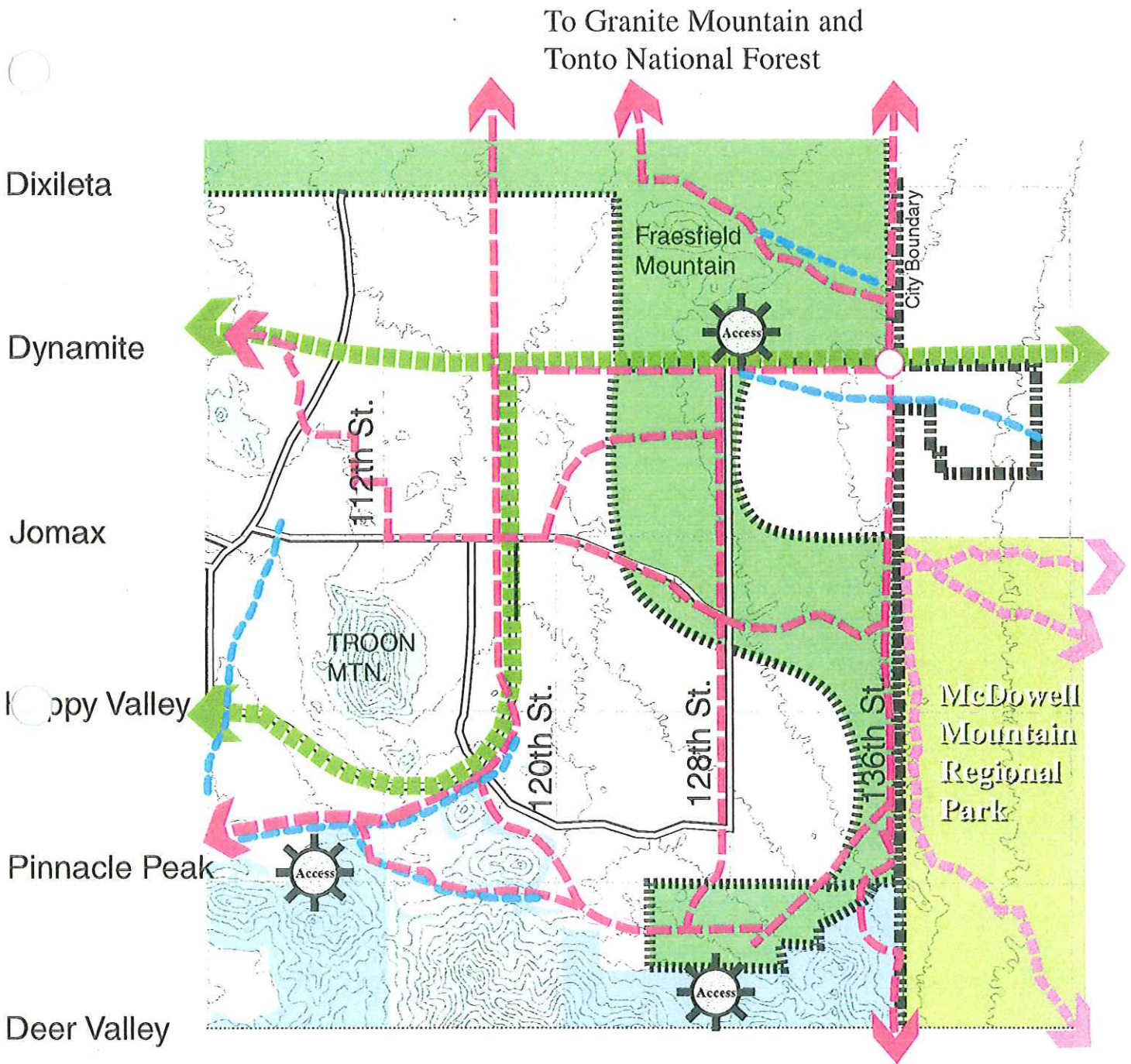


Map 5-4:
Integrated Desert Open Space System - Central Preserve

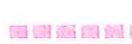



11/97

* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.



**Map 5-5:
Integrated Desert Open Space System - Dynamite Area**

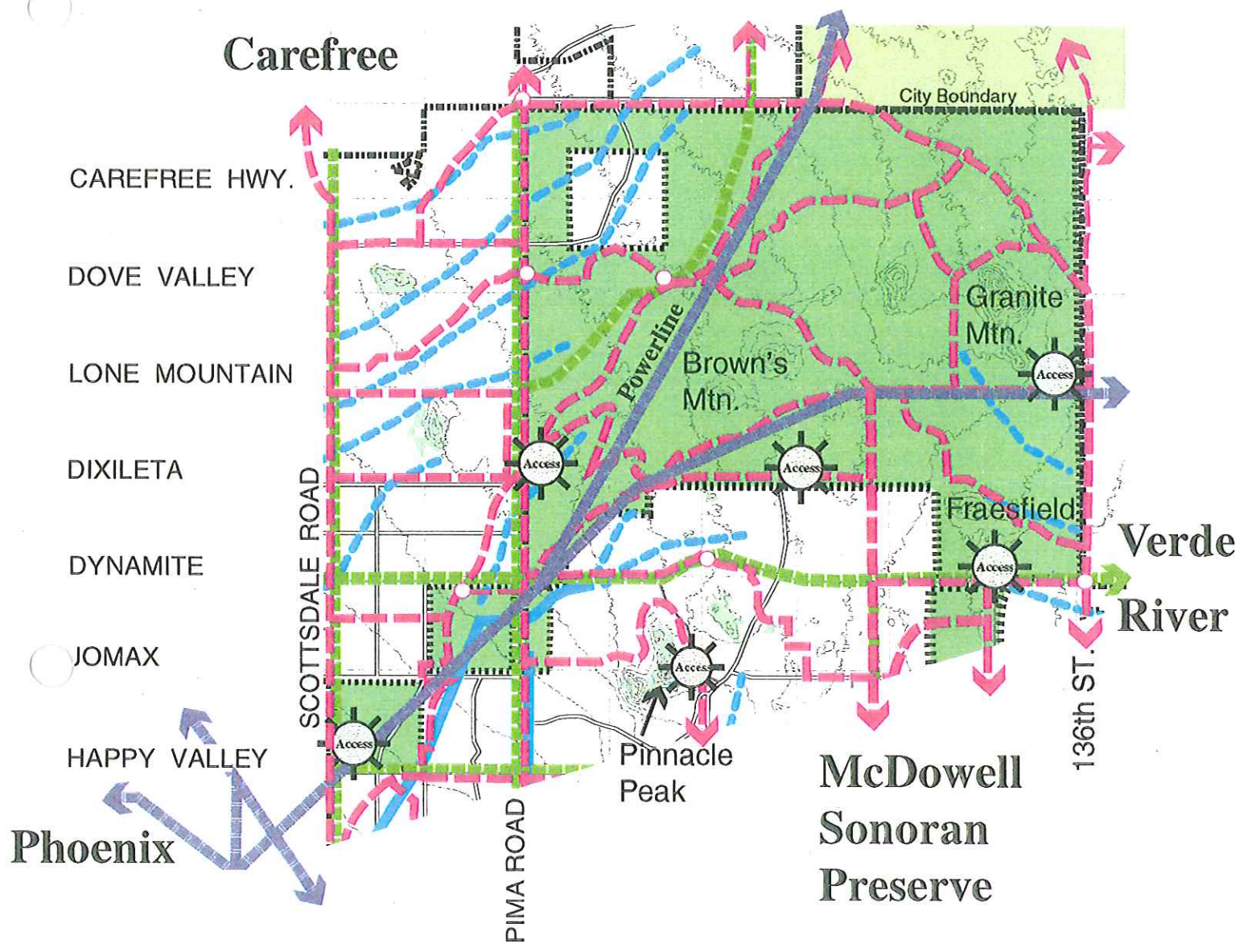
-  Recommended Study Boundary
-  Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area
-  Planned Trails
-  Grade Separations
-  County Park Trails
-  Conservation Zoning
-  Scenic Corridors, Buffered Setbacks
-  Vista Corridors/Major Wash Corridors

11/97


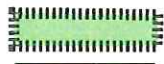
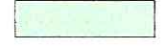







* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.

Tonto National Forest

Carefree



Map 5-6: Integrated Desert Open Space System - Far North Scottsdale

-  N
-  Recommended Desert Open Space System Study Area
-  Conservation Zoning (COS/HC Zoning)
-  Planned Trails
-  Grade Separations
-  Desert Greenbelts
-  Vista Corridors/Major Wash Corridors
-  Scenic Corridors, Buffered Setbacks
-  Utility Corridors
-  Planned Access Areas

* Notes: Locations are generalized. A permit is required for entering or using State Trust lands.