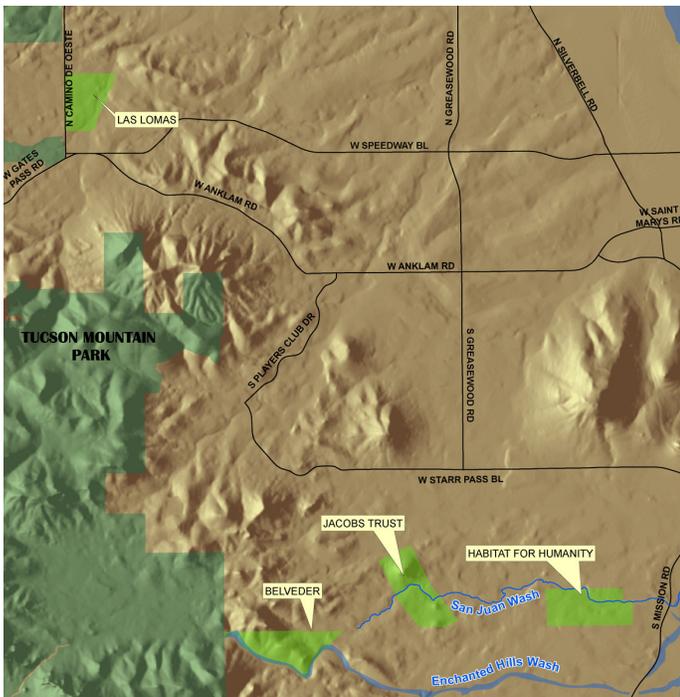


Tucson Mountain Reserve



Las Lomas Property (Feliz Paseos Park)

The County acquired the 50-acre Las Lomas property in two phases in September 1998 and June 1999 for \$730,000. The property was long envisioned to be used for a universal access trail park. In 1998, the Pima County Board of Supervisors formed a committee to explore using the Las Lomas property for such a site. The committee co-chairs were Bob Mora, one of the leading advocates for the disabled community, nationally, and here in Tucson, and Ms. Laurel Park, an adjacent resident to the Las Lomas property. Today, the Feliz Paseos Park has made that vision a reality. The park features a universally accessible trail system with interpretive signs, and includes a parking area and small plaza with a large ramada and two ADA accessible family restrooms. The park is intended for use by everyone, regardless of ability, and the emphasis is on recognizing and accommodating the special needs and capabilities of people with disabilities. Feliz Paseos Park is a successful example of a public-private partnership and makes a beautiful area universally accessible to all. This is one of the first such parks of its size in Arizona.

Acquisitions that Contribute to the Reserve, Las Lomas, Jacob's Trust, Habitat for Humanity, Mission and 33rd Street Properties

Fee Lands: 219 acres
 Cost: \$2,440,568
 Acquired: Between June 1999 and September 2010
 Fund: 1997 and 2004 Bond Funds
 Partner: Arizona Land and Water Trust

Background

The Tucson Mountains Reserve includes additional properties acquired that are not directly adjacent to the Tucson Mountain Park but nonetheless contribute significant value to the Reserve. These additional acquisitions are all in close proximity to Tucson Mountain Park.



Feliz Paseos Park - photo by Nicole Fyffe



Feliz Paseos Park - photo by Nicole Fyffe

Jacob's Trust Property

Like the County's Belvedere Estates acquisition, the 80-acre Jacob's Trust property, acquired for \$601,336, further contributes to conservation of open space along the 36th Street corridor, from Tucson Mountain Park to the West Branch of the Santa Cruz River. The San Juan Wash, an important drainage to the Santa Cruz River, crosses through privately owned and County owned lands on its way to the West Branch via the wash corridor. The site has remnants of past mining activity but is still a rich Sonoran Desert upland habitat. The site is available for hiking and general nature enjoyment. No facilities, development or dedicated access has been made available at this time.

Habitat for Humanity Property

The 80-acre Habitat for Humanity property was acquired in 2008 for \$1,102,832, of which \$1,002,832 came from County 2004 Bond funds and \$100,000 from the City of Tucson. As briefly described above, the San Juan Wash also runs through this property and into the Santa Cruz River. The effects of upstream urbanization on San Juan Wash can be profound, since this can induce more down-cutting on other West Branch properties. This riparian corridor is significant with relatively dense bank vegetation. The property also contains one recorded archaeological site, which consists of scattered chipped stone artifacts that probably date back to the pre-Hohokam Archaic period. The property has a limited number of existing dirt roads and trails crossing the property. Walk-in access gates have been installed on two sides off La Cholla and 36th Street to allow continued walking and biking use of the site. No other development has been done on the property and future trails, ramadas and other site infrastructure planned for the site will require additional funding in the future.



Jacob's Trust Property - photo by Trilby Dupont



Trail along Santa Cruz River on Mission and 33rd Street property. Photo by Kerry Baldwin.

Mission and 33rd Street Property

The most recent acquisition in the 36th Street Corridor area was in September 2010, when the County acquired the 9-acre Mission and 33rd Street property for \$191,896. The property is located northeast of the County's Habitat for Humanity property, on the west side of Mission Road and north of 36th Street. This acquisition protects another segment of the San Juan Wash, which runs from the Tucson Mountains, through portions of Tucson Mountain Park, through the County-owned Jacobs Trust and Habitat for Humanity properties, through the Mission and 33rd property, under Mission Road and onto properties owned by the Pima County Regional Flood Control District along the West Branch of the Santa Cruz River.



Cholla cactus flowers. Photo by Bill Singleton



Trees along San Juan Wash on the Habitat for Humanity property. Photo by Kerry Baldwin.