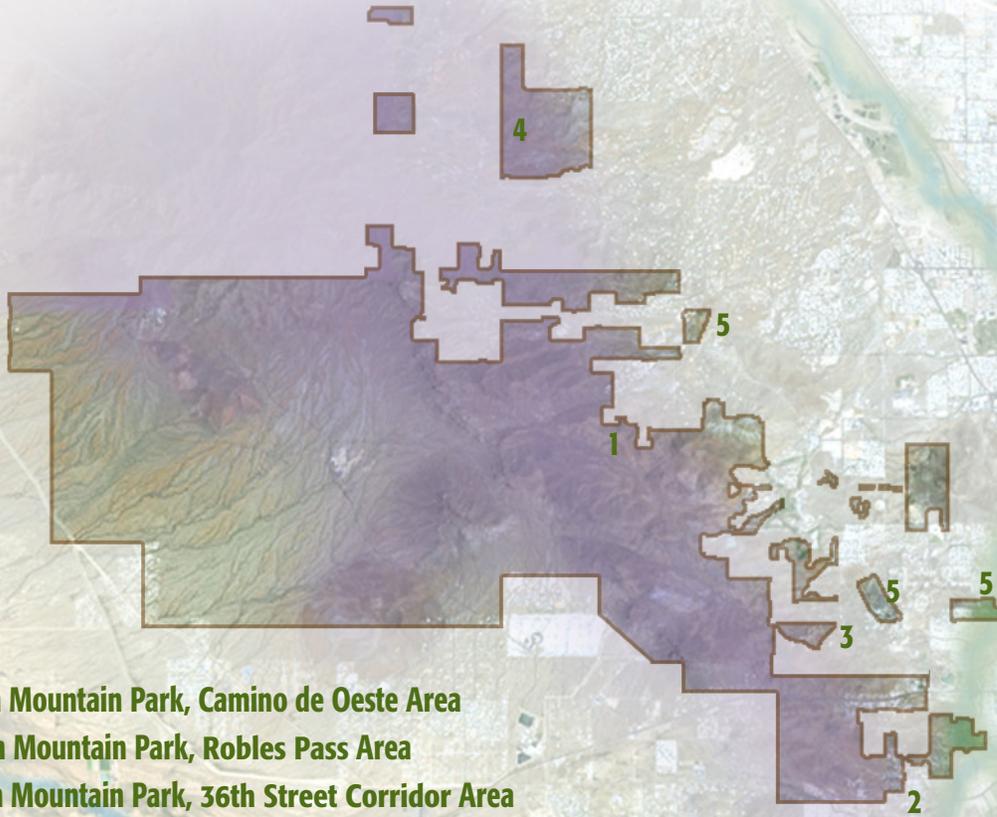


Tucson Mountains Reserve



- 1 Tucson Mountain Park, Camino de Oeste Area
- 2 Tucson Mountain Park, Robles Pass Area
- 3 Tucson Mountain Park, 36th Street Corridor Area
- 4 Sweetwater Preserve
- 5 Aquisitions that Contribute, including Feliz Paseos Park



Pima County photo.



Photo by Loy Neff.

Tucson Mountain Park

Created in 1928, Tucson Mountain Park is Pima County's first mountain park and one of the most visited sites in Pima County. Over a million visitors take a scenic drive through, or take time to stop and visit Tucson Mountain Park annually. At approximately 20,000 acres, it is one of the largest natural resource parks owned and managed by a local government in the U.S. The Park offers spectacular views, over 62 miles of non-motorized trails for hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers, picnic areas, campground site, and nature programs offered by County interpretive staff. For more information, visit www.pima.gov/nrpr.

West Branch Archaeological Site Complex

The large prehistoric West Branch Site is part of a complex of prehistoric resources extending into eastern Tucson Mountain Park and associated with the west branch of the Santa Cruz River. Settled by A.D. 950, the West Branch Site soon became one of the largest villages in the Tucson area. A large portion of the West Branch Site is on lands outside the park and have been lost to development in recent years, which underscores the importance of the role of the Reserve lands in preserving heritage resources.



Petroglyphs in Saguaro National Park. Photo by Sam Negri.



Cholla cactus flower. Photo by Bill Singleton

Saguaro National Park

Once part of Tucson Mountain Park, the Tucson Mountain District of Saguaro National Park (SNP) was established in 1961, creating a large contiguous landscape of federally and locally owned land. The west unit of SNP contains over 500 plants species, including the Giant saguaro, an iconic symbol of the West.

The Tucson Mountains Reserve contains some of the most well-known outdoor recreation sites in Pima County. The reserve consists of Tucson Mountain Park, Sweetwater Preserve, Feliz Paseos Park and other nearby County-owned properties. It is adjacent to Saguaro National Park West (SNP). Tucson Mountain Park (TMP), located west of I-10 at the end of Speedway, is Pima County's largest natural resource park and is one of Tucson's most visited natural areas. Known for its saguaro-studded hills, TMP is home to a myriad of species, including Gray foxes, javelina, Gila monsters, bats, well over one hundred species of birds and occasionally resident mountain lions. Habitats range from rocky mountain slopes to expansive vistas and riparian corridors offering spectacular views and dramatic sunsets. The County has acquired over 2,700 acres since 1997 in the Tucson Mountain Park area. Continuing efforts by the County to acquire lands and establish wildlife corridors will help to prevent this area from becoming a biological island surrounded completely by development.

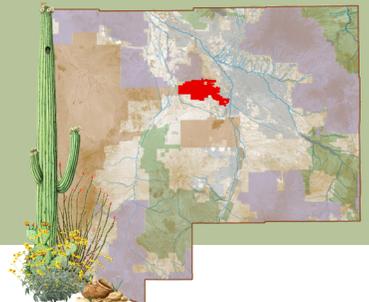


Photo by Arizona Sonora Desert Museum

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Founded in 1952, the world-renowned Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (ASDM) is located within the Tucson Mountain Park boundaries along Gates Pass Road, and is considered a zoo, botanical garden and natural history museum all in one. The Museum is home to over 300 animal species, 1,200 plant species representative of the Sonoran Desert and spectacular views. ASDM is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the Sonoran Desert. The Museum is considered by most experts one of the top facilities of its kind in the world. It is one of Tucson's most popular visitor destinations.