Archaeological Parks as Open Space:
The Importance of Preserving Ancient Landscapes

Todd Bostwick, Ph.D.
Pueblo Grande Museum
Landscape is Place and Concept

- Landscape is a cultural perception of the environment
- Landscapes are imbued with stories and have sacred geographies
- Landscapes are “The spatial manifestations of the relations between humans and their environment” (Crumley and Marquardt 1990:73)
Archaeological Remains are the Threads that Tie Landscapes Together

Winter Solstice Sunrise from Hohokam Rock Art Panel
Archaeology Landscapes:
Constructed features and their relationships with the physical environment

- Rock Art
- Trails
- Fields
- Settlements
- Rock shelters
- Springs
- Washes

South Mountains
Landscape Contexts

- Viewsheds of sites
- Intervisability of features
- Line-of-sight connections
- Indigenous perceptions of the natural and built environments

Phoenix Mountains
Hohokam Petroglyph aligned with Equinox
Sunrise over Superstition Mountains

Double Butte, Tempe
Hohokam Petroglyph aligned with Summer Solstice Sunset on Western Horizon

Phoenix Mountains
Archaeological Parks in Arizona

Who is involved?

- National Park Service
- Local Municipalities
- Not-for-Profit Organizations
- Private Developers
- Native American Communities
Why Archaeological Park Development?

- Relieve the burden on existing parks
- Provide alternatives for public recreation
- Promote local heritage tourism and economic growth
- Preserve ancient and historic landscapes as open space
Pueblo Grande Archaeological Park

102-acre National Historic Landmark in Phoenix
Presenting the Past to the Public

- Conduct Site Evaluation
- Create a Master Plan with Advisory Board
- Address Preservation Issues
- Identify Visitor Experiences and Expectations
- Consult with Native Americans and other Local Constituents
- Consider Heritage Tourism Issues
- Create Ongoing Program Evaluation
The Importance of “Overall Setting”

“We recommend that the effects of the overall setting of a cultural park on the visitor’s experience be considered during all phases of park design and management.”

Four Peaks
Open Space in Phoenix:
7 Desert Mountain Parks
29,353 acres in Mountain Parks or Preserves

Phoenix Mountains Preserve
Sec. 3. Use of Mountain Preserve property.
(a) The City Council shall, upon the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board, establish by ordinance such permitted uses of the Mountain Preserves as are consistent with the following objectives:

Maintain the Mountain Preserves, including native plant and animal communities, in their natural state to the maximum extent practicable; and

Provide cultural, educational and recreational opportunities primarily designed to heighten appreciation and enjoyment of the Arizona desert environment, and

Provide equestrian, pedestrian (including handicapped) and vehicular (whether motorized or otherwise) access into the Mountain Preserves to the extent consistent with the foregoing objectives.
Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Pima County is rich in history, culture, regional character, and diversity, all of which contribute greatly to our collective heritage and community identity. Cultural and historical resources are those places that are created by and reflect upon the people who have lived for thousands of years in what is today Pima County. The citizens of Pima County have long recognized the value of preserving their cultural resources.

LEGEND

- Priority Archaeological Sites
- Priority Archaeological Site Complexes
- Priority Historic Sites
- Archaeological Sensitivity Zone
- National Register Properties

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Sharon Bronson, Chair • District 3
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Visit the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan website: www.pima.gov/scdp

Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan
County Administrator’s Office
130 West Congress, 10th Floor
Tucson, Ariz. 85701
520-791-8167
Santa Cruz River Valley National Heritage Alliance
Re-conceptualizing Open Space

- Open Space is Landscape
- Landscape consists of natural and cultural components and their relationships
- Preservation of Open Space should consider ancient and historic landscapes

Summer Solstice Sunrise over Four Peaks from a Hohokam Rock Art Site in the South Mountains