

# FRAMEWORK PLAN

The City of Surprise has a unique setting between the White Tank Mountains and the Bradshaw Mountains to the north, creating a substantial desert plain that is occasionally interrupted by major wash corridors. This natural setting of mountains connected by washes provides a unique opportunity to preserve and create a natural framework for the City.

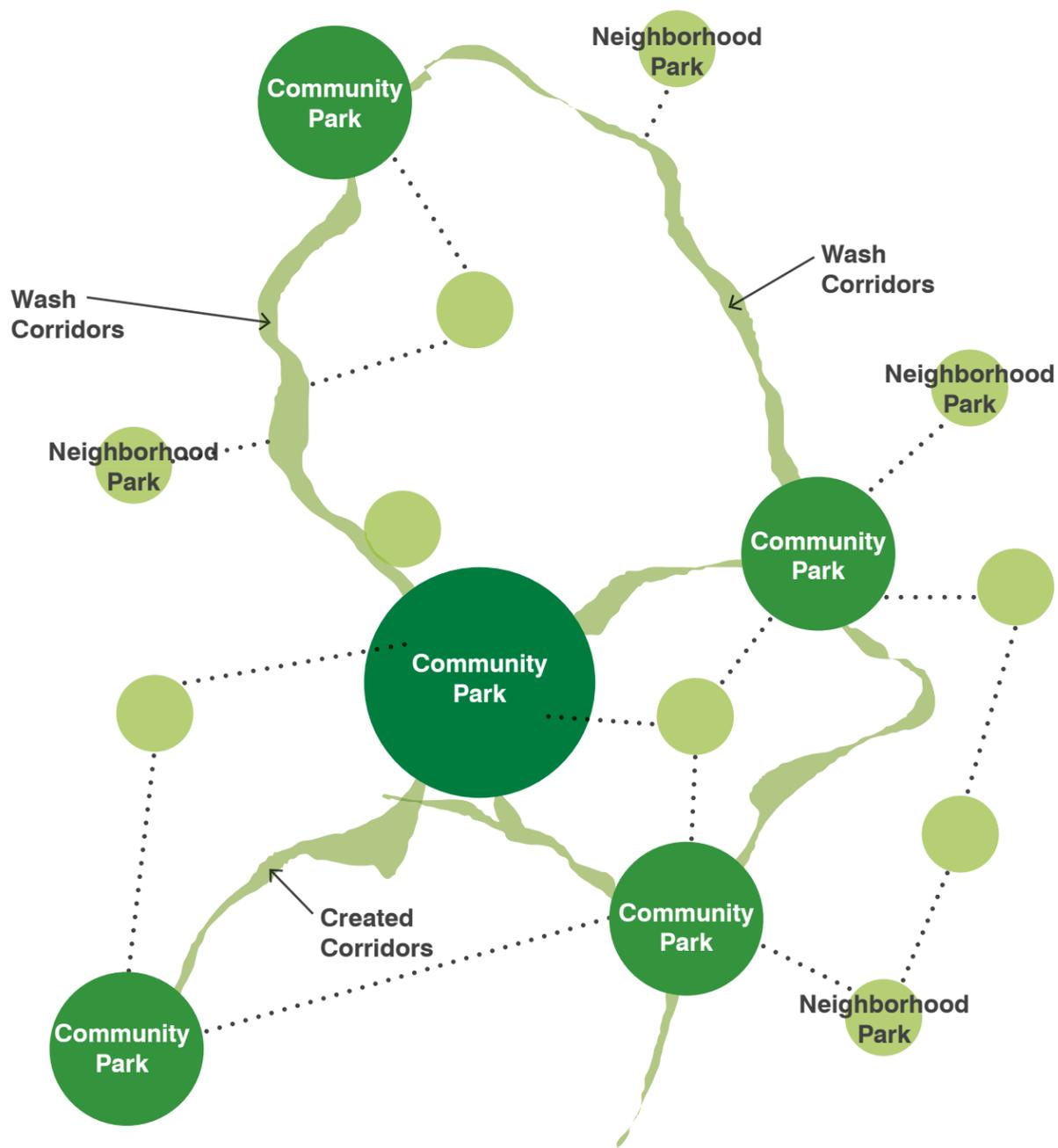
Similar to the City of Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash, Surprise has three similar, if not larger, washes. The City has the opportunity to be visionary by protecting and establishing Trilby Wash, 2 West Wash and Picacho Wash as the most important natural features in the City. In addition to the natural features, two man-made features, McMicken Flood Retarding Structure (McMicken Dam) and the Central Arizona Project (CAP), provide great opportunities for large open space corridors, conservation areas and wildlife corridors in what will be the future center of the City. McMicken Dam provides approximately 3,500-acres of open space in its pool area. While its first priority is protecting the community from major flood events, for the City it represents a significant open space area that will provide passive recreation, bikeways and trails, while sustaining desert wildlife. The CAP bisects the City from west-to-east, providing an important open space connection between the wash corridors. Upstream of the CAP, this large corridor has potential for a City Park that could include passive, as well as active recreation. Phoenix's Reach 11 Recreation Area is an example of the recreational uses possible within a very similar environment, including a major soccer complex, equestrian facilities, trails and open space.

## KEY COMPONENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK PLAN ARE:

- Natural Features as an overall Framework.
- Wash Greenways connect the City.
- Greenways will be a defining feature of the City.
- Conservation Lands Preserve Critical Habitat and Wildlife Corridors.

**“This natural setting of mountains connected by washes provides a unique opportunity to create a natural framework for the City.”**

## connected community framework diagram



DESERT WASHES



SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS



“White Tank Mountain Hike” by Mark Sontok, 29 January 2012, Flickr

# FRAMEWORK PLAN DIAGRAM

