

OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL LANDS

Opportunities to conserve open space and natural lands cover a wide range of possibilities, including partnerships with private property owners, County government and Federal agencies. Within the planning area of the City there are five opportunities identified to obtain residents' access to open space and natural lands:

WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK TRAILHEAD:

The Maricopa County Parks Department manages over 3,000 acres of natural areas that provide a variety of fee-based recreational opportunities, including day use picnic areas, hiking trails, competitive mountain bike courses and extended stay RV and tent camping. The current access to the White Tank Regional Park is along West Olive Avenue. The opportunity for the City is to partner with the County and a not-for profit organization, to develop a trailhead, and an environmental educational center accompanied by a day use park area that would provide access to the northern face of the mountain for residents and visitors.

MCMICKEN DAM CONSERVATION AREA:

Owned and operated by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County (FCDMC) provides flood protection for the cities in the Valley, including the City of Surprise. Originally constructed to protect Luke Air Force Base, McMicken Dam is being upgraded and fortified through an ongoing effort to reconstruct the entire length of the dam and outlet channel. The dam incorporates over 14 miles of flood retarding structure and over seven miles of an outfall channel that drains the dam to the Agua Fria River. The water storage area behind the dam and channel includes over 3,500 acres of possible conservation open space area, including a wildlife corridor and 15-miles of regional trails that represent a possible partnership between the City, Maricopa County Parks Department and FCDMC in what will soon be within the heart of the City.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS:

Wildlife corridors, as identified by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and reflected in the General Plan, require the unaltered preservation of natural washes and buffers to protect their natural and biological functions. As part of this Plan, the Greenways, parks and open space corridors are incorporated as buffers parallel to designated wildlife corridors, providing additional wildlife cover and separation

of human activities from wildlife habitat. The parameters for wildlife corridors will be further studied by the City with respect to their boundaries, development buffers and roadway crossings.

CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT (CAP) RECREATION AREA:

Owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and managed by the CAP Conservation District, this 15-mile long corridor presents a significant opportunity for the City to create a major east-west open space corridor and natural area preserve that links the north-south wash corridors through the middle of the City. The CAP runs through the City, providing an opportunity to protect and enhance native vegetation while providing passive and active parks and trails. The CAP corridor may provide ample open space for major sport facilities as the City expands north, with programming similar to City of Phoenix's Reach 11 Park.

BRADSHAW MOUNTAINS REGIONAL PARK:

Owned and managed by the United States Forest Service (USFS) this scenic landscape represents a potential City of Surprise branded Regional Park. The mountains at the northern edge of the City provide an opportunity for a regional park that is as significant as the White Tank Mountains are in the southern portion of the City. In the long-term, the City might elect to develop a partnership with the USFS to manage a major regional park through a public-private partnership similar to the McDowell Mountain Preserve in Scottsdale.

HASSAYAMPA NATURE PRESERVE:

Located along the banks of the Hassayampa River, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owns and manages approximately 80 acres. The opportunity for joint use and management would need to be explored with the BLM and could result on a significant partnership to extend the conservation of the Hassayampa River watershed similar to The Nature Conservancy's Hassayampa Preserve south of Wickenburg.

BRADSHAW MOUNTAINS



HASSAYAMPA RIVER

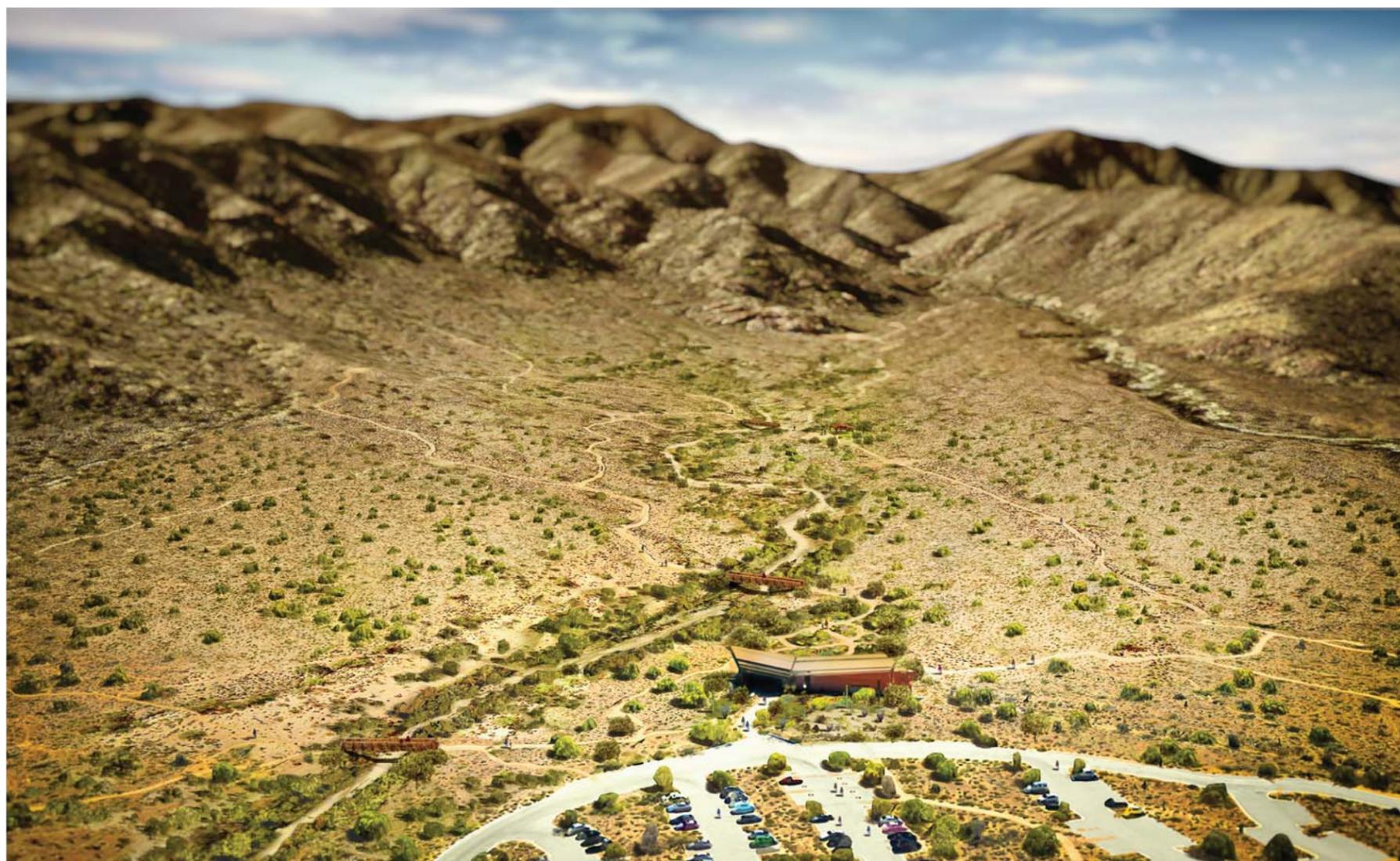


ILLUSTRATION OF WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK TRAILHEAD

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