When One Size Doesn’t Fit All
Building Volunteers with a Spectrum of Opportunity

Claire Miller
City of Scottsdale
McDowell Sonoran Preserve
The Preserve is Born

- 1991 – Citizens form the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust
- Tax Votes
  - 0.2% - 1995 and 0.15% - 2004
- Land identified based on:
  - Intrinsic Value & Habitat
  - Unique Geo/Historic/Arch features
  - Scenic Value
  - Public Recreation opportunities
  - Connections to other open spaces
- Rec. Study Boundary (RSB)
  - Total – 34,000 acres
Preserve Rules

- From “Chapter 21” of the Scottsdale Revised Code
  - Hours: Sunrise to Sunset
  - No camping
  - Users must stay on trails
  - Dogs on leash at all times. Dog waste picked up and disposed of in trash receptacle
  - No motorized vehicles
  - No smoking, fires, fireworks or BBQ grills

(The Preserve is NOT a park!)
The People — Part of the Planning Process

- **The CITIZENS**
- **City of Scottsdale**
  - Scottsdale City Council
  - Preserve Staff
  - McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission
- **McDowell Sonoran Conservancy**
  - Staff and Volunteers
  - Pathfinders, Patrol, C&M, Research
- **Stakeholders**
  - User Groups: Hikers, Mountain Bikers, Equestrians, Rock Climbers
Preserve Management

- A Unique Partnership
  - COS – Owns, Operates and Maintains
  - MSC – Primary partner supporting the City in managing, protecting and promoting the Preserve – MOU in place
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE AND THE MCDOWELL SONORAN LAND CONSERVANCY REGARDING THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE

This agreement is made and entered into this ____ day of ___2011_, by and between the City of Scottsdale, an Arizona municipal corporation (hereinafter the "City") and the McDowell Sonoran Land Conservancy, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, doing business as the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy (hereinafter the "Conservancy").

WHEREAS the City owns and, acting through the Mayor and City Council, operates and maintains certain lands designated pursuant to Article 8, § 8 of the Charter of the City of Scottsdale as the McDowell Sonoran Preserve (hereinafter the "Preserve"); and

WHEREAS the Conservancy has provided, and wishes to continue to provide, staff and volunteers to assist and support the City in the important work of protecting, promoting, and managing the Preserve, and

WHEREAS in fiscal year 2009-2010, the Conservancy provided over 42,000 volunteer hours to the City to help promote the Preserve and also provided donated amenities, supplies, tools and equipment that are detailed in an annual financial statement to the City; and

WHEREAS the City has considered the value of the Conservancy's volunteer hours, donated amenities and supplies and has determined that the City will receive a clearly identified direct public benefit and in consideration agrees to provide use of City facilities by the Conservancy for functions related to supporting the Preserve; and

WHEREAS the Conservancy has been and will continue to be the City's primary partner in the Preserve, and

WHEREAS the City and the Conservancy wish to set forth their agreement for use of the City's facilities and responsibilities of the Conservancy.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City and the Conservancy agree as follows:

1) SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CONSERVANCY: The Conservancy, as authorized by the City, will provide staff and trained volunteers to assist the City in operations, maintenance, and outreach-related services and activities, in or directly related to the Preserve, which may include, but are not limited to, the following:
   a) A comprehensive volunteer stewardship program, including volunteer recruitment and training

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The Conservancy, as authorized by the City, will provide staff and trained volunteers to assist the City in operations, maintenance, and outreach-related services and activities, in or directly related to the Preserve, which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A comprehensive volunteer stewardship program, including volunteer recruitment and training
- Patrol – trail, Preserve conditions and user activity
- July 4th and New Years fire watch plans
- Storm Watch
- MAINTENANCE
- Access area caretaking
- Trail maintenance
- Work projects, such as habitat restoration, remediation, invasive plants, etc.
- Pathfinder trailhead hosts
- Education
- Guided hikes
- Family-oriented trailhead activities
- Classes and lectures, including trailside interpretation
- Youth and teen programs
- Facilitating scientific research
- Website and print resources
- Advertising, promotion, special events and membership activities, each with the sole purpose of promoting the use, protection and enhancement of the Preserve, which may include, but is not limited to, the providing financial support for Preserve amenities, maintenance, or activities, provided that all net proceeds derived from such advertising, promotion, events and activities are utilized to support programs and activities that protect and enhance the Preserve.
MSC Programs

- Construction and Maintenance
- Pathfinders, Pastfinders
- Patrol
- Research
- Education

www.McdowellSonoran.org
Construction and Maintenance

- Not a lot of “Construction” – but quite a bit of Maintenance!

- All aspects of maintenance
  - Trails
  - Access Area /Trailhead Caretaking
  - Restoration
  - Cactus Salvage
  - Fence/Sign Installation and Repair
  - Tree and Shrub Trimming
  - Invasive Weed Removal
  - Trash and Litter
  - And whatever else we need!
Patrol

- Primary function – Reporting on trails, Preserve condition and user activity
- Currently 125 +/- miles of trails – with more in the future
- Critical need, given limited city staff
- First line public interface
Education

- Guided Hikes
- Education Programs – Nature Guides
- Trailside Interpretation
- Pathfinders – Trailhead Hosts
- Family Friday Night Programs
- Saturday Morning Special Events
Research

• Various Research Projects in the Preserve
  • Flora and Fauna Inventory
  • Wildland-Urban Interface
  • Human Impacts - Trail Transects
  • Bird Inventory
  • Geology
  • Flying Insects
  • Reptiles – Herpetology

Information obtained in the various research activities will assist in the development of the Preserve Resource Management Plan.
MSC – Administrative Activities

• General Office Assistance – Answer phones, greet the public
• Event and Special Program Planning
• Grant Writing
• Fund Raising
• Public Outreach
• “Core Leadership Team”
• Graphic Design – Printed Information and Publications
• Photography
• Social Media Specialists
• Phone Surveys
• “Envelope Stuffing” Parties – preparing mass mail
• Mentoring Fellow Stewards
There’s something for just about everyone....
• Be creative…find new ways to get (and keep) people involved.

• Ask your volunteers what they like to do – or what they’re good at.

• Make them aware of the variety of opportunities available to them.

• Make sure they know they don’t always have to do the same thing – or they can do more than one thing…..

HAVE FUN!!!

MAKE IT REWARDING!

CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY CAN’T WAIT TO COME BACK!
QUESTIONS?

Contact Information: Claire Miller
clmiller@scottsdaleaz.gov
480-312-2504