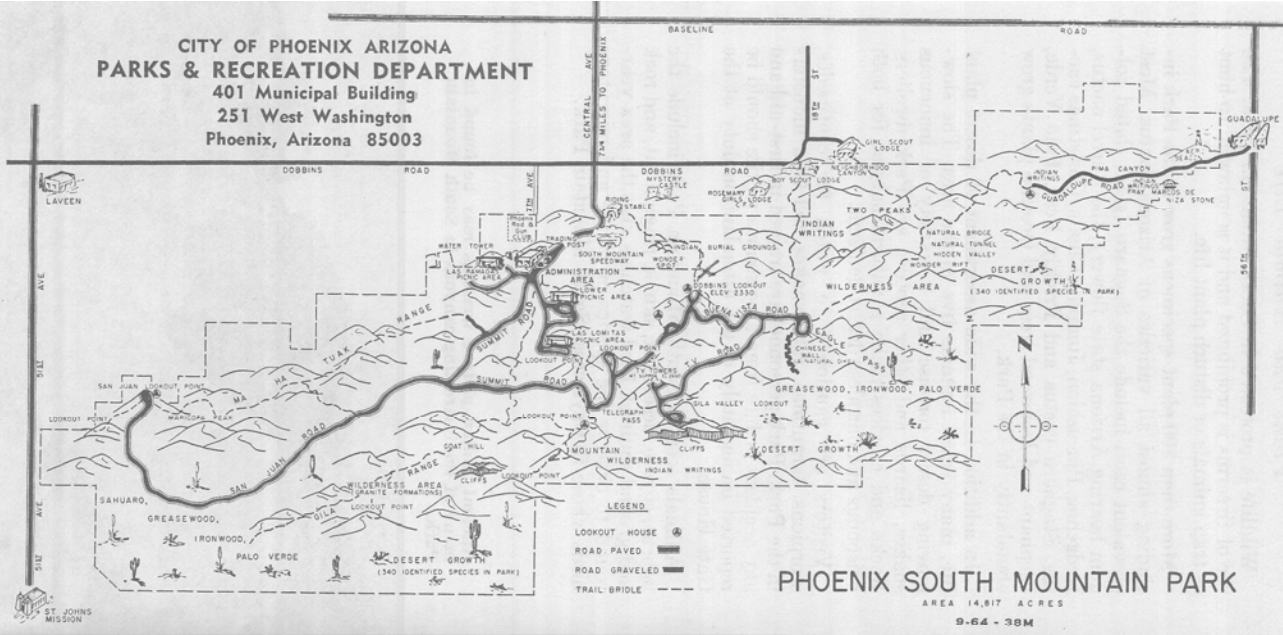


CITY OF PHOENIX ARIZONA  
**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
 401 Municipal Building  
 251 West Washington  
 Phoenix, Arizona 85003



Dobbin's Lookout

*SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK*  
*City of Phoenix, Arizona*

## Welcome . . .

South Mountain Park is the world's largest desert mountain park operated by a municipality. The Park extends almost eleven miles east to west and averages about three miles north to south. Except for access roads, trails and a few scattered developed areas, the Park remains in its natural state. Picnicking, hiking, riding and just plain relaxing are popular with Park visitors. Whatever your preference, we hope that your visit will be enjoyable.

### How It All Began . . .

In 1920, a group of farsighted Phoenix residents recognized the potential of the Salt River Mountain Range and dedicated themselves to conservation of the area for future generations.

Under the leadership of James C. Dobbins, a citizens' committee was organized to preserve this land for public benefit. On April 23, 1924, an executive order issued by the President of the United States made 13,434 acres available to the City of Phoenix for recreational purposes. Between 1924 and 1936, 640 acres were acquired from the State of Arizona and an additional 743 acres were donated by citizens. Today, the Park totals 14,817 acres.

**The Platform, a 50' circular cement slab, provides recreation for dancers and skaters.**



**Picnic facilities accommodate large groups or families. Barbecue pits are located adjacent to the picnic tables under roofed ramadas.**

### Let's Have a Picnic

Picnic facilities at the Park range from accommodations for a steak fry for two to a giant barbecue for 5,000 people. The Park has three major picnic areas equipped with tables and benches, drinking water, electric lights, containers for garbage disposal, rest rooms and fire pits with grilles for cooking. Cement platforms are available for dancing or roller skating.

These three areas are:

**LAS RAMADAS** — An eight-table roofed ramada with a 50 x 70 foot platform. This location offers an excellent view of the valley.

**LAS LOMITAS** — A twelve-table roofed ramada with a 65 x 95 foot platform.

**PIEDRAS GRANDES** — Lower picnic area for small parties. There are five single and four double ramadas, four 15 x 30 foot platforms, two 12 x 15 foot platforms, and 50 individual tables with attached benches in the area. Water is available and most individual tables have lights and ramadas.

Electricity in the picnic area is turned on at 8 a.m. and off at closing time. Electrical capacity will not accommodate cooking appliances.

**RESERVATION OF PICNIC AREAS** — Reservations and additional information may be obtained from the Park Supervisor by: Mail — 10919 South Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, or by telephone — 276-2221. South Mountain Park is located on South Central Avenue, eight miles from downtown Phoenix.



**Unusual rock formations and a variety of plant life make hiking in South Mountain Park a favorite sport for both youngsters and adults.**

### *Dobbin's Lookout and Mount Suppoa*

One of the most scenic park trips is a drive up the winding road to Dobbin's Lookout. The road to the Lookout goes through Telegraph Pass, where the first telegraph line came into Phoenix, up to the stone ramada and observation area. Elevation at Dobbin's Lookout is 2,330 feet, 1,210 feet above Phoenix. A bronze directional marker at the Lookout aids visitors in finding points of interest in the Valley below.

From Dobbin's Lookout, the road continues to Mount Suppoa, elevation 2,660 feet. The Gila Lookout on Mt. Suppoa offers an unobstructed view of the country-side surrounding South Mountain Park.

Phoenix, and the Salt River Valley bordered by Squaw Peak and Camelback Mountains are visible to the north, and the outline of the Bradshaw peaks near Prescott can be seen in the distance.

Glendale is visible to the northwest. Tempe, Mesa, Chandler and Williams Field can be seen backed by Four Peaks, Picket Post Peak and the Superstition Mountains to the east.

Looking south, Maricopa, an early railroad junction town; the Gila River Crossing, an old Indian fording place; and Pima Buttes are in view. Litchfield, Luke Field, the White Tank Mountains and the Estrella Mountain Range are seen to the west.

Mount Suppoa is also a communication point from which radio and television transmitters provide service for the central portion of the State.

### *Plant and Animal Life*

Wildlife is protected in South Mountain Park. The use of firearms is prohibited and it is unlawful to hunt or trap animals or disturb plant life.

More than 300 plant specimens grow in the Park including almost all varieties of Arizona cactus. Most prevalent cacti include the Saguaro (giant fluted column bearing Arizona state flower), the Barrel cactus, Hedgehog, Pincushion, Jumping Cholla, Christmas cactus, Staghorn cactus and Prickly Pear. Palo Verde, Elephant and Ironwood trees and Ocotillo plants grow abundantly in the Park.

In addition to the wide assortment of desert plant life, many small animals live in the area. The slow-moving desert tortoise and a variety of innocuous snakes, lizards and other reptiles are Park dwellers. Rocks and crevices make a natural habitat for both poisonous and harmless desert denizens.

Visitors are cautioned to watch for centipedes, scorpions, tarantulas, rattlesnakes and Gila monsters in the Park. Park personnel are trained in first-aid and any accident or bite from a poisonous reptile should be reported immediately to the attendant on duty at the Gate House.

Animals seen in South Mountain Park include the bobcat, coyote, desert fox, skunk, ringtail cat, and rock and ground squirrel. Bird watchers visit the area year-round to observe the species of native and migratory birds whose flyways cross South Mountain Park.

**Ancient Indian picture writings may be found in many of the interesting canyons in South Mountain Park.**





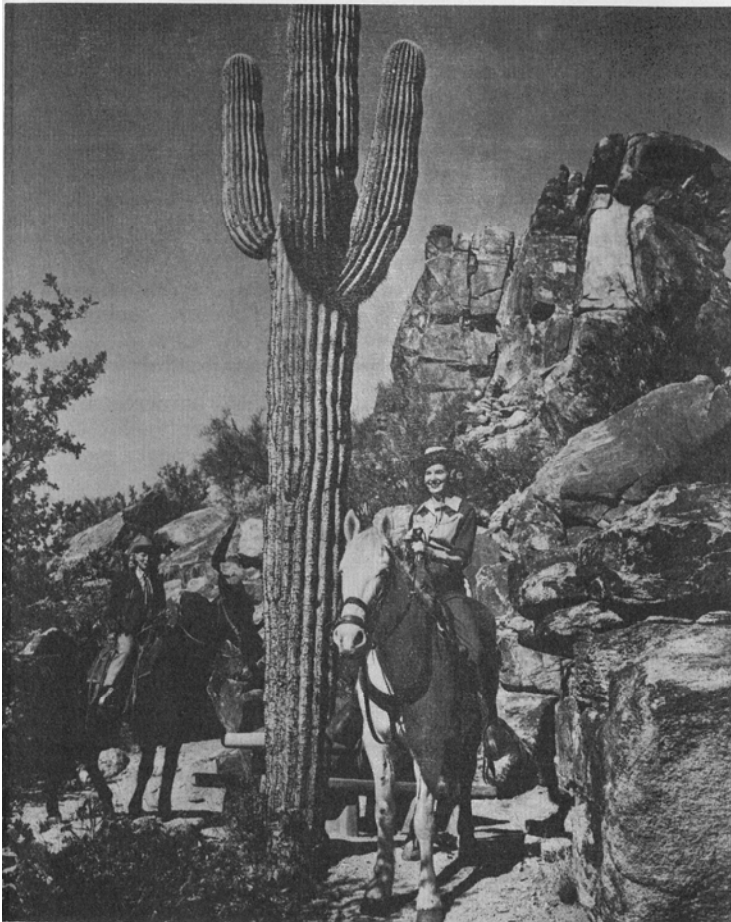
## Pathways to Nature

Forty miles of hiking and saddle trails take the traveler to many points of interest within the Park. The most popular trail leads to Hidden Valley. From this trail many unusual geological formations are seen, including the window rock and natural tunnel.

The historic Marcos de Niza rock is located in Pima Canyon in the eastern portion of the South Mountain Park. An inscription in sixteenth century Spanish reads: "Coronado; where he passed from Mexico to Aycos (Acoma) in the Year of Our Lord 1539."

The inscription indicates part of the route taken by Coronado on his search for the "Seven Cities of Cibola," legendary cities of gold and wealth. Hieroglyphics (ancient Indian writings) are also found on the canyons of the Park. Artifacts discovered in many places indicate the mountain range was a site of sacred shrines in addition to being used as hunting grounds.

**Forty miles of saddle and hiking trails give visitors an opportunity to observe wildlife in South Mountain Park.**



*Scholin 1965*

## PICNIC and RECREATION AREAS

