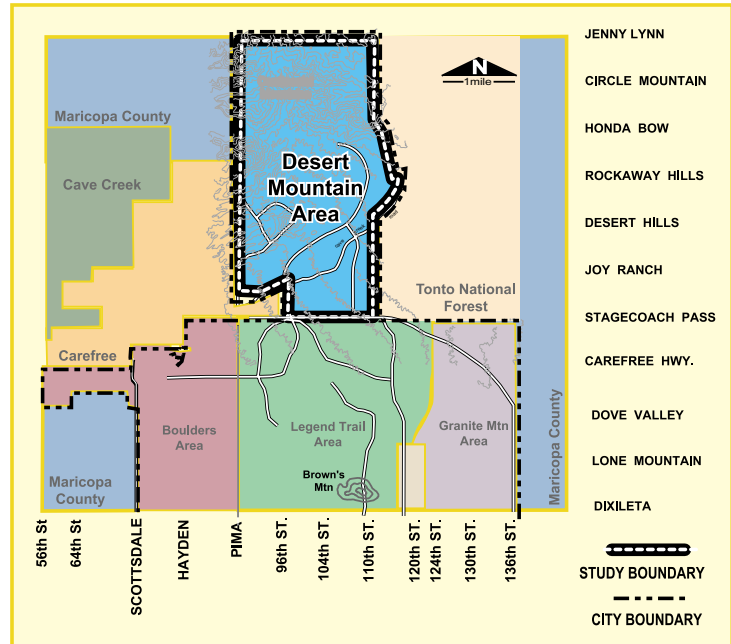


DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARACTER AREA

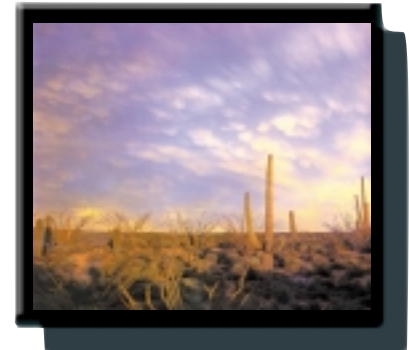
General Description of the Area:

The area is bounded on the north and northeast by the Tonto National Forest, on the east by roughly 112th Street (and the Tonto Hills Subdivision along the Tonto National Forest), on the south by the Stagecoach Pass Road section line, and on the west by Pima Road. Most of the west and southwest edges abut the Town of Carefree.



Overview of the Area:

Portions of the area have significant evidence of prehistoric Native American cultures as well as some of the earliest European activity in the metropolitan area. Gold Hill, in the northeast quadrant, shows extensive impacts from mining. Similar mining impacts occur in and around the north half of this character area. There remain a few scattered remnants of decades of ranching activity. This area has a great deal of topographic relief and includes some of the highest elevations in the city at just under 5,000 feet. As a result, the climate of the area is distinctively wetter, cooler, and windier than most parts of the Scottsdale.



Character Features and Elements:

The combination of high rugged mountains, prominent ridges, and deep, lushly vegetated washes create a dominant desert setting for the area. Across much of the area the viewshed includes mountains 50 to 100 miles away. The Desert Mountain master planned development, one of the largest in the city, has set distinctive design styles and patterns for much of the area. The bulk of neighborhoods in the area are gated and arranged in unconnected sub-units. The buildings embody strong southwest (either Pueblo or Ranch) style formats with distinctive contemporary interpretations. Rough stucco, stonework, heavy rough hewn timbers, deeply inset windows and overhangs, metal roofs, and outdoor artwork combine to create a unique setting for the built environment. Landscaping is predominantly native materials that blend into the Upper Sonoran setting.



How This Area Fits into Community:

The area is primarily an exclusive residential area for many part-time residents from around the world. This area contributes significantly to the high quality desert resort lifestyle image which is recognized across the country and around the world. Limited services will be available to serve the local population. This area provides a significant transition to permanent open spaces and will always be the most northeastern extent of the metropolitan region.