

# The Unbelievable Story of How Scottsdale Created The McDowell Sonoran Preserve Against All Odds

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve in Scottsdale, Arizona, is a breathtaking natural treasure that spans over 30,000 acres of pristine desert landscape. This protected area is home to diverse flora and fauna, unique geological formations, and an extensive network of trails that attract hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts from around the world.

## The Birth of an Idea

In the late 1980s, as Scottsdale experienced unprecedented growth and urbanization, the threat of losing its precious desert wilderness became increasingly evident. Local residents, environmentalists, and community leaders recognized the urgent need to safeguard this natural habitat and preserve it for future generations.

## A Community United

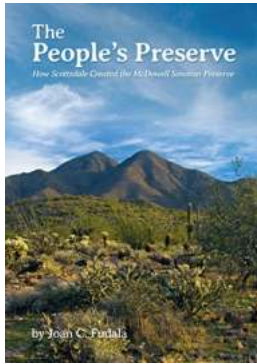
Recognizing the importance of community involvement, Scottsdale residents rallied together to generate support for the preservation of the McDowell Sonoran area. They organized meetings, initiated fundraising campaigns, and formed partnerships with local businesses, nonprofits, and government entities.

### **The People's Preserve: How Scottsdale Created the McDowell Sonoran Preserve**

by Dan Rouse (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 10080 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 108 pages
Lending	: Enabled



## **Strategic Land Acquisition**

The first and most crucial step in creating the McDowell Sonoran Preserve was acquiring the necessary land. Scottsdale and its supporters made substantial efforts to negotiate with landowners and persuade them to sell their properties for preservation purposes. Over the years, they were able to secure various parcels, increasing the size of the preserve and protecting valuable habitats.

## **Financial Backing and Partnerships**

Preserving thousands of acres of land requires significant financial resources. To address this challenge, the City of Scottsdale and local organizations partnered with private donors, corporations, and foundations to fund land purchases, trail development, and ongoing maintenance efforts. The success of these collaborations further showcased the community's commitment to preserving the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

## **Conservation Science and Research**

Understanding the intricacies of the ecosystem in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve was crucial for effective preservation. Scottsdale invested in scientific research and conservation studies to enhance their knowledge of the area's flora,

fauna, geology, and hydrology. This valuable information helps guide management decisions and ensure the long-term sustainability of the preserve.

## **Creating a Sustainable Future**

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve is not only a protected area but also a model for sustainability. Scottsdale has implemented innovative strategies to minimize the impact of visitors on the fragile desert environment. Conservation education programs, trail maintenance initiatives, and responsible tourism practices have helped preserve the natural beauty and integrity of the preserve.

## **Enhancing Recreation and Education**

Recognizing the importance of recreation and education, Scottsdale has developed an extensive network of trails and recreational facilities within the preserve. These efforts have not only provided a platform for people to connect with nature but also facilitated environmental education and research programs for schools and universities.

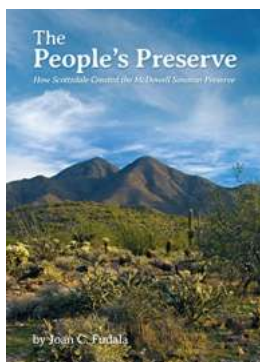
## **A World-Class Preserve**

Today, the McDowell Sonoran Preserve stands as a testament to the unwavering determination of the Scottsdale community. It offers residents and visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the wonders of the desert ecosystem, witness stunning sunsets over majestic mountains, and experience the tranquility and beauty of the Sonoran Desert.

## **In**

The creation of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve in Scottsdale is a remarkable success story of community engagement, strategic planning, and sustainable development. In preserving this natural treasure, Scottsdale has set an example for other cities to follow, demonstrating how the passion and dedication of a

community can overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges to protect and cherish their natural heritage.



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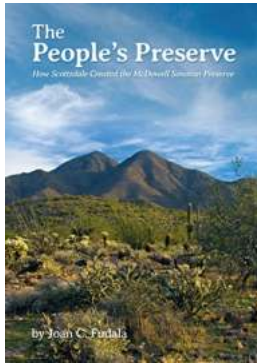
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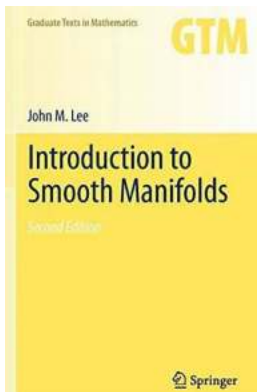
This book chronicles the history of creating the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

Creating, expanding and enjoying the preserve has been a community-wide, grass-roots movement since day one. Its core has been a partnership among citizen groups, city of Scottsdale elected officials and professional staff, outdoor enthusiasts, state and federal elected officials and agencies' staffs, the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, the hospitality industry, the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce, real estate developers, students, voters and everyone who's paid a sales tax in Scottsdale since 1995. In the face of what seemed insurmountable odds and costs, they came together to make the dream come true.



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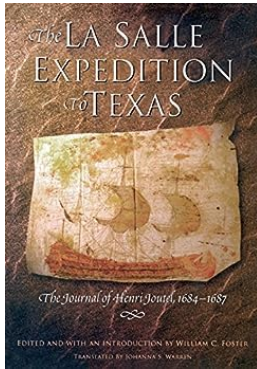
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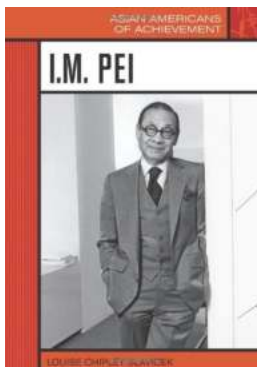
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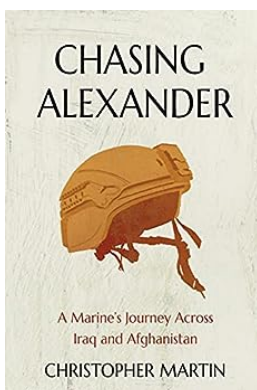
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