



31 E. Fifth St.
Tempe, AZ 85281

Desert Conservation Commission

The Desert Conservation Commission advises the City Council and assists City staff in the establishment of essential policies, management plans, rules, and regulations relating to the acquisitions, planning, operation, use, care, conservation, restoration, and maintenance of areas, and design of future amenities and facility by the City for use as a preserve.

Additional powers and duties of the Commission include:

- assisting the Community Services Department staff liaison in the development of a continuing plan for the education, outreach, and recreation in preserves;
- assisting the Community Services Department and other City departments in establishing priorities at budget time for those items other than administrative functions relating to preserve policy, and forwarding recommendations to the City Council;
- identifying potential partnerships with public, private, and nonprofit entities to support and encouraging diverse participation of stakeholders in order to assist with the conservation of the preserve;
- receiving, accepting, and acquiring subject to final action by the City Council by gift, bequest, or devise real and personal property of every kind, nature, and description in the name of the City for preserve purposes subject to the terms of the gift; and,
- serving as a forum for public involvement to assure community input for planning, projects, and issues, and to meet all guidelines for public involvement where applicable.

The Desert Conservation Commission is composed of nine members who shall serve three-year terms for no more than two complete consecutive terms. Members are from each of the following parts of the community, with no more than two members filling the same category:

- representative from a tribal nation;
- expert in Sonoran Desert flora and fauna;
- representative from a group made up of outdoor recreation enthusiasts;
- expert in issues of water or riparian environments;
- expert in issues of historic or archeological preservation;
- representative from an organization that represents Tempe businesses;
- representative from an academic institution;
- Tempe resident serving on the Parks, Recreation, Golf, and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board; and
- Tempe resident, at-large.

For Desert Conservation Commission member positions where residency is not required, preference will be given to applicants who are Tempe residents or those working in Tempe. The Desert Conservation Commission conducts six regular meetings in a calendar year, with no more than two meetings held in any 30-day period. (City Code, Chapter 2, Article V, Division 23)



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Name	Term Expires	
Burt, Donald M.	12/31/2025	Representative from an Academic Institution
Gaffney-Loza, Kimberly	12/31/2025	Tempe Resident, At-Large
Neuheisel, Jane	12/31/2025	Tempe Resident, At-Large
John-Armenta, Dushawn	12/31/2026	Representative from a Tribal Nation
Leonard, Ricardo Juan	12/31/2026	Representative from a Tribal Nation
Stewart, Laura	12/31/2026	Expert in Sonoran Desert Flora and Fauna
Cholieu, Kelli	12/31/2027	Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts Group Representative
Lerner, Ph.D., Shereen	12/31/2027	Expert in Issues of Historic or Archeological Preservation Tempe Resident Serving on the Parks, Recreation, Golf, and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board
Quintero, Elba	12/31/2027	Expert in Sonoran Desert Flora and Fauna

Staff Liaison:

Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks Services, (480) 350-5811, alexander_jovanovic@tempe.gov