Wildlife Connectivity

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Central Arizona Conservation Alliance

an initiative of the Desert Botanical Garden

CAZCA is a collaborative initiative to develop, and align regional efforts to conserve, restore, and promote natural areas in and surrounding Maricopa County.
What lives and travels through Central Arizona today?

- A unique mix of plant and animal species
- Specialized adaptations & endemic species
- Niche habitats
- Home to one of the world’s highest pollinator populations
- Highest bird breeding densities anywhere in the world.

Round-tailed ground squirrel. Photo by Randall Babb, AZGFD
Animal Movement

• Searching for mates
• Foraging for food
• Shelter from the heat

Benefits

• Diversifies gene pool – strengthens biodiversity
• Ecological function – supports important ecoservices

Biodiversity: What’s in it for me?

The living elements of the planet are connected in complex webs of interdependent functions called ecosystems.

Healthy ecosystems provide many services.
Threats to biodiversity

Some of the most dramatic ecosystem changes are human caused.

- Degradation, fragmentation and habitat loss
- Spreading of invasive species
- Unsustainable use of natural resources
- Inappropriate fire regimes
- Changes of climate
- Changes within aquatic environments and water flows
Changes in Aquatic Environments & Water Flows
Habitat Loss Degradation Fragmentation

Lookout Mountain, Phoenix, AZ
Photo: Bill Yates