



Holbert Trail – South Mountain

March 23, 2024 (4th Saturday)

This is a moderate “up to” 4.7 mile Hike with panoramic views of South Mountain Park, and prehistoric petroglyphs.

WE Meet at the trailhead at 8:45 to start HIKE at 9:00 AM

Directions:
Enter South Mountain Park from Central Avenue. Just past the first guard gate, turn left toward the South Mountain Educational Center, and proceed East about 1/4 mile to the marked trailhead.

We turn around when half-tired, this hike is often 2 miles.



Bring: Newcomer, Water, Lunch, & P.M.A.

Call to let us know to expect you
Chuck H. (480) 236-4859

NA Meeting Included

The Wilderness is Open for Sharing!

History

Charles M. **Holbert** was referred to as the "Old Man of the Mountain". He was SoMo's (South Mountain's) first park custodian starting in February of 1929, lasting ten years. He said he explored every inch of the park be it on foot or horse, and felt responsible for all who wandered in the South Mountains. In 1958 a lookout point was named in his honor.

Overview

This trail has a great mixture of scenery and a moderate grade. Keep an eye out for rock art, especially the rare waterbirds. This description is from the trailhead at the lower end to the upper southern end.

Hike

There is a large parking lot with plenty of available spaces. Meet other Hikers at the Trailhead sign. From the trailhead be on the lookout for petroglyphs on the dark boulders in the first quarter mile. Soon we cross an area used for cookouts. The trail is pretty flat for almost a half mile.

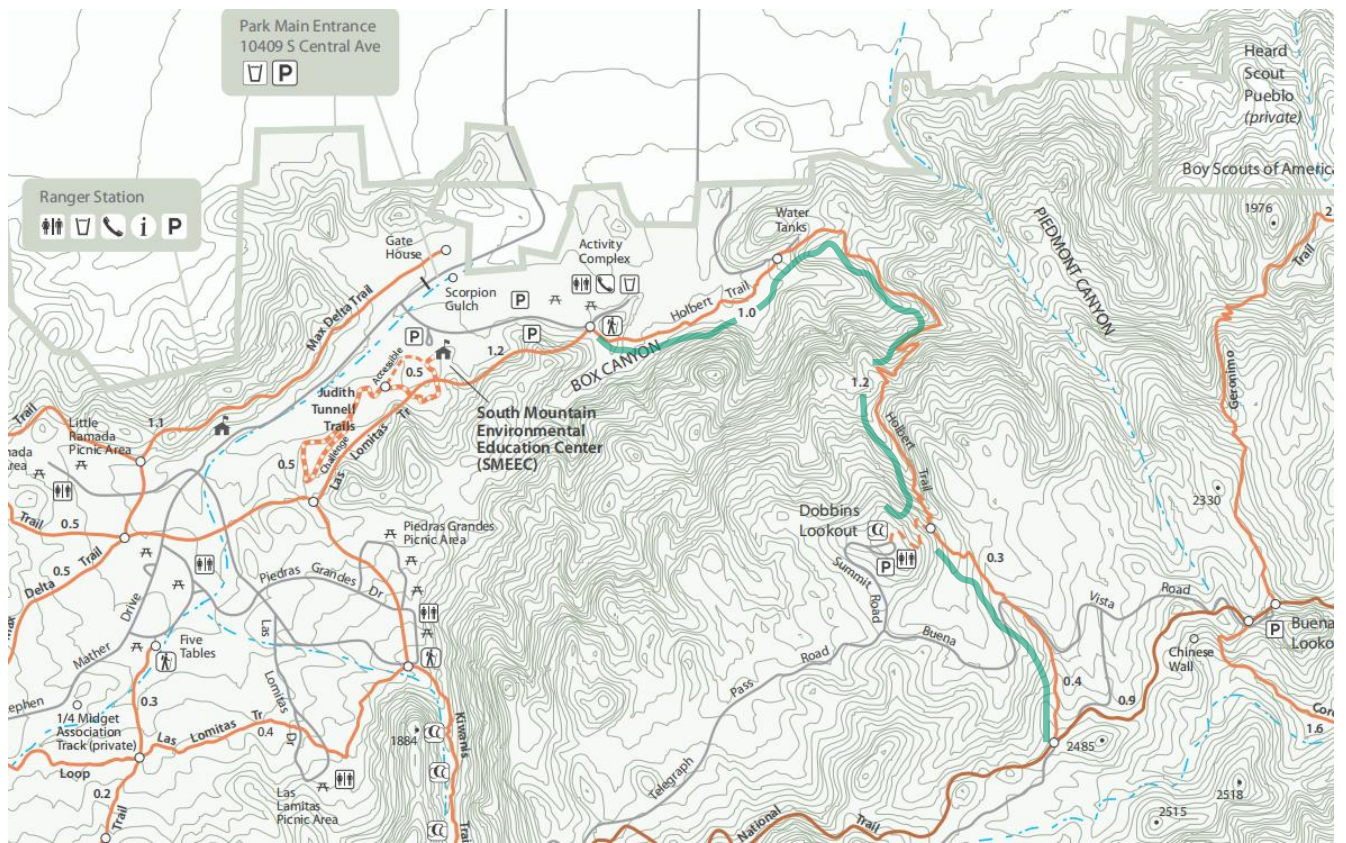
[0.50 mile] Follow briefly alongside a paved road to a water tank at 0.6 mi. The grade increases for about 1/4 mile, leaving evidence of civilization. After a few long and lazy switchbacks city views open up. Then we reach a saddle and follow along the upper part of a wash with a small box canyon at the end. The trail zig zags out of the canyon near Duckbill Rock.

[1.80 mile] The intersection with the short, steep spur trail up to Dobbins Lookout is near the top of the small canyon. Dobbins is a popular out-n-back turnaround. If you go up, check out the cool stone structure at the lookout. Out-n-back is 4.1mi

The pain of ascending feels like it's over as the trail dips through a wash and the grade eases until we cross Summit Road at 2.05 mi. The final stretch offers great views of the Valley. With exception of busy weekends in season it is quiet and surreal. The trail ends at 2.4 mi where it intersects Summit Road the second time as a "T" junction with the National Trail.

Synopsis

The three personalities of this trail get better with each step. The flat stroll through petroglyph alley does show signs of overuse. Bring a pair of binoculars to check the higher rocks for petroglyphs. The canyon midway is probably the most loved. Be on the lookout for views of the Four Peaks, the Estrella Range, as well as Downtown Phoenix.



Holbert Trail Map

"Protect the Preserve, Protect Yourself"

TRASH YOUR TRASH AND PICK UP PET'S WASTE

- Pack it in, Pack it out. Put litter – even crumbs, peels and cores – in garbage bags and carry it home.
- Use bathrooms or outhouses when available.
- Use a plastic bag to pack out your pet's waste to a garbage can.
- Keep water clean. Do not put soap, food, human or pet waste in lakes or streams.

LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

- Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them so others can enjoy them.
- Treat living and dead plants with respect. Carving, hacking or peeling plants may kill them.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

- Smoke only in an enclosed vehicle.
- Fires limited to designated areas.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

- Observe wildlife from a distance and never approach, feed or follow them.
- Human food is unhealthy for all wildlife and feeding them starts bad habits.
- Protect wildlife and your food by securely storing your meals and trash.

SHARE OUR TRAILS AND MANAGE YOUR PET

- Be considerate when passing others on the trail.
- Keep your pet on a maximum six-foot leash to protect it, other visitors and wildlife.
- Listen to nature. Avoid making loud noises or yelling. You will see more wildlife if you are quiet.
- Be sure the fun you have outdoors does not bother anyone else.

For more information on Leave No Trace, please visit www.LNT.org or call 1.800.332.4100

