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## **The Story of Fountain Hills**

The land that became Fountain Hills started as the P-Bar Ranch, whose more recorded history begins in 1935. The history of legal ownership of the land is very hard to trace prior to that time.

In 1955 the owner of the P-Bar Ranch (Delsie Robbins) sold it to an unknown person. Then Robert Evans, a Paradise Valley architect, gained title to the land during that same year. In 1956 Fred Eldean bought Evans' ranch land and another parcel known as Moore's Pasture, land to the north of the old P-Bar.

In 1964, Page Land and Cattle Company (Fred Eldean, President) swapped some California land holdings for a deed to just under 6900 acres of P-Bar lease land. This swap gave private ownership to the south 11,380 acres of the old P-Bar Ranch. The northern portion of the ranch became McDowell Mountain Park and Maricopa County land.

Robert McCulloch, the developer of Lake Havasu City, heard about the proposed Orme Dam prior to his purchase of over 12,000 acres of land, in 1968, which later became Fountain Hills. There was a proposal before the United States Congress to build Orme Dam at the confluence of the Salt and Verde Rivers forming a lake that would have inundated most of the Fort McDowell Indian Community, but would have made Fountain Hills a lakeside community.

During 1968 and 1969 construction of the fountain and main roads into Fountain Hills and some of the infrastructure of the new town took place. One of the designers of Fountain Hills was C. V. Wood, also one of the designers of Disneyland. Congress also approved the Orme Dam at this time.

December 15, 1970 is considered to be the birthday of Fountain Hills because that is the day the fountain was turned on for the first time.

1970 and 1971 saw more roads built, electric and sewer lines laid, and water storage tanks built. Every developer needs a sales office, so one was built overlooking the fountain, what is now Messingers Mortuary. McCulloch had a unique sales strategy. He purchased older prop jet airplanes when the airlines got rid of them, and, beginning in 1972, flew people out to Fountain Hills, primarily people from major cities in the east. They were provided airfare, lodging and meals. Lodging was initially in Scottsdale until apartments could be completed in Fountain Hills. In 1973 the La Fuente Apartments were opened and lodging was now provided in Fountain Hills. The La Fuente Apartments are now condominiums located at the corner of Saguaro Blvd. and Gunsight Drive.

Sales of homes were brisk and businesses started opening in town. The first house in Fountain Hills to be occupied is on Calaveras and Sally Ballee and her two children moved in on February 12, 1972.

Also in 1972: Businesses opened: Fountain Mountain, U-Tote-M, and a milk delivery service. The great-great grandson of Horace Greely rode from Wisconsin to Fountain Hills on horseback.

1973 brought these openings and events: Openings: Valley National Bank, Mr. G's Interiors, Del Camino Nursery, Huck Finn's Restaurant, Village Bazaar Shops, Paul's Hardware and McDowell Mountain Stationary. In addition, the golf course opened for play, the second phase of condominiums to be built were completed and, finally, there was telephone service in town thanks to the operation of the new Mountain Bell switching center.

1974: The opening of Basha's, our first pharmacy (Don's Pharmacy) and the publishing of our weekly newspaper, the Fountain Hills Times. Our first telephone directory was published this year as well by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gridley.

The town continued to grow, slowly at first, then gaining momentum. Several town highlights through the early years are:

1975: First Annual Arts and Crafts show, attendance of 20,000. (This show continues to this day, it is a premier arts and craft show sponsored by the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce). Largest 4th of July celebration in Arizona.

Buick commercial shot in Fountain Hills. Bobby Riggs and other Hollywood celebrities attended the grand opening of the Fontana Racquet and Swim Club.

1976: Botanical Garden opened. Library opened. An April hailstorm dropped ice balls on Fountain Hills, looked like a winter wonderland. First citizen groups formed to study the feasibility of incorporation.

1978: Construction was booming. The community's Fiesta Bowl parade float won top prize. Count Basie played to a large audience in the park.

1979: 364 building permits were issued. Study and controversy concerning incorporation continued. Channel 8 (PBS) sponsored the first fair in Fountain Hills as a thank you to its viewers (this became the second arts and crafts event to be held each year along with the arts and crafts festival. Both are currently sponsored by the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce)

1981: Orme Dam project formally abandoned by Congress after years of opposition by the Fort McDowell Indian Nation, the Maricopa and Tucson Audubon Societies, the Young Republicans Committee to Save Fort McDowell, ASU students, Salt River tubers, the Arizona Wildlife Foundation, the National Wildlife Society and the Tempe Democrats Against Orme.

1982: A major storm roared through town damaging 32 homes. Slowdown in building because of nationwide economy. White Castle Days (White Castle hamburgers) was held at The Pub.

1983: Economic upturn. Incorporation vote taken, defeated. Great 8 Fair drew 62,000 people. 170,000 White Castle hamburgers sold at White Castle Days. 25,000 people attended the Arts and Crafts Festival.

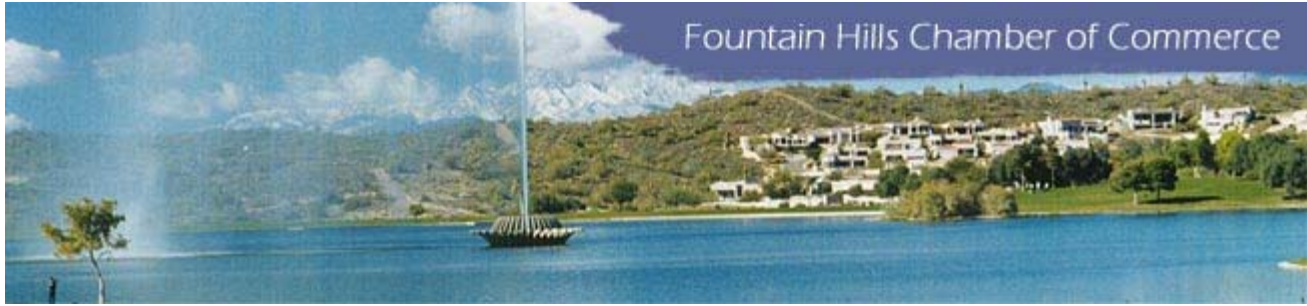
1986: Economic upswing continues. Fountain Hills becomes well settled and attracts more than 100,000 visitors annually.

1988: Incorporation lost by 65 votes. After many years of controversy, studies, and votes Fountain Hills finally became incorporated on December 5, 1989.

Our wonderful town has grown by leaps and bounds. Our population has grown to an estimated 21,740 in 2002. The 1980 census showed a population of 2,772- quite a growth spurt!

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## ***THE FOUNTAIN***

From the Center of a man-made lake, one of the "World's Highest Fountains" sends a snow-white jet stream of water 560 feet into the blue desert sky. It is the centerpiece and landmark of Fountain Hills, a community of rolling hills and spectacular mountain views located just east of Scottsdale, Arizona, thirty miles from downtown Phoenix.

The performance of The Fountain exceeds its nearest rivals. At Canberra, Australia, the Captain Cook Memorial Jet attains an operating height of 450 feet, while in Lake Geneva, Switzerland, Le Jet D'Eau has a maximum height of 435 feet, New York City's Delacourte Fountain Rises 400 feet, and Pittsburg's new Point Fountain, 500 feet.

At 560 Feet, being one of the "World's Highest Fountains" it is 5 feet taller than Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. It reaches 110 feet higher than the Great Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt, and is more than 3 times as high as Old Faithful Geyser in Yellowstone Park.

### **A Dramatic Landmark**

The Fountain is a sight to enjoy from almost every vantage point in Fountain Hills. It was conceived as a dramatic man-made attraction to accentuate the natural beauty of the surrounding desert hills and mountains. It is also symbolic of the spirit and enterprise of the people who live in this sunny, southwest region...the same spirit and enterprise that is making Fountain Hills an outstanding community for good living today and tomorrow.



Towering high above the lake, The Fountain dominates the view from The Avenue of the Fountains, a commercial thoroughfare in Fountain Hills. The center section of this palm tree-lined avenue has additional fountains, plus pools and waterfalls.

The Fountain utilizes re-circulated and reclaimed water from the 28-acre lake at its base, water which is also used to irrigate the surrounding park. At its present schedule of operation, the annual water evaporation factor is less than the amount required to irrigate an acre of cotton in a year.

### **Facts on The Fountain's Operation**

High-pressure 600 HP pumps located in a specially designed pumphouse on the lakeshore draw water from the lake and deliver it through an 18-inch diameter pipeline to the nozzle of The Fountain. At full operation, water pressure at the nozzle is 375 pounds per square inch flowing at a rate of 7000 gallons per minute. This gives a velocity of 68.5 feet per second and puts more than 8 tons of water (approx. 2000 gallons) in the air above the nozzle. The nozzle is the heart of The Fountain's phenomenal performance. The uniquely engineered nozzle weighs nearly 2,000 pounds. It is mounted on a concrete base structure at the approximate center of the lake. Water is directed through its three sections to produce a turbulence-free flow with power which results in the great height the water column can reach.

Designed and built in Zurich, Switzerland at the famed Institute for Hydraulic Research, the nozzle received extensive testing before being placed in its home at Fountain Hills. Its location was selected with full regard for average prevailing wind direction and speed.

### **Operation**

The Fountain operates 15 times a day, as weather and wind velocity permit, on a schedule of 10 minutes operation every hour on the hour between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. seven days a week.



### **Brilliant Night Illumination**

At night The Fountain becomes a jet of gold and white against the starry desert sky when lighted. Golden spotlights situated in the base of the

jetspray send glowing illumination up the first 300 feet of the column where it blends with a contrasting silver - white light on the upper portion. This light comes from powerful mercury vapor lamps located along the lakeshore.

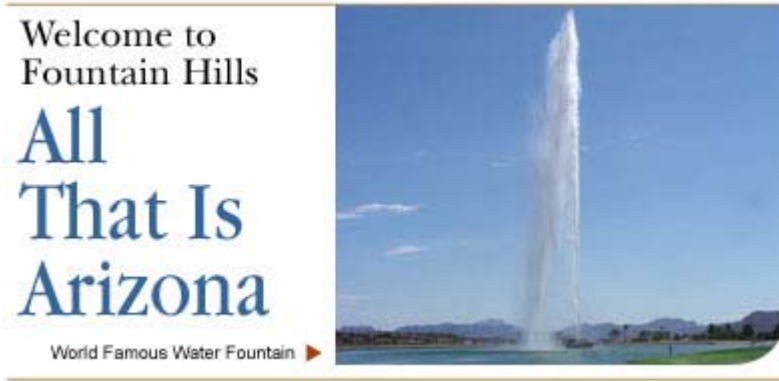
The striking effect of lights and spray make The Fountain an inspiring "night sight" to see at Fountain Hills.

### **The Fountain-A Thing of Beauty**

The developer of Fountain Hills constructed The Fountain and surrounding lake to create a thematic centerpiece for a community designed for beauty throughout.

Since The Fountain first went into operation on December 15, 1970, it has been visited by thousands of people in all walks of life from all over the country. Almost without exception, The Fountain has been a source of acclaim for its aesthetic values most of all.

And now you are ready to enjoy it yourself.



Fountain Hills is situated on the eastern slope of the McDowell Mountains about 500 feet in elevation above Phoenix. This majestic range naturally separates the community from Scottsdale and the rest of metro Phoenix.

Fountain Hills could be described as an upscale community with hometown character. The richness and quality of life here is evident the moment you crest the mountain pass leaving behind the hustle and bustle of Scottsdale and the rest of the Valley.

The community's most valuable asset is its beauty. Incredible views and natural terrain provide for a wide range of outdoor activities including hiking, biking, boating and some of the more challenging and picturesque golf courses you'll find in the country. The statement, "Come for a day; stay for a lifetime," holds true for Fountain Hills.



***One Destination, Many Adventures...  
Experience It!***



A peaceful and idyllic atmosphere surrounds this family oriented community of Fountain Hills which is also home to fine resorts and is perfect for a single destination vacation. Fountain Hills affords the visitor one of the last great destinations in the Valley with unsurpassed desert beauty.

The area offers some of the best opportunities to experience the Sonoran Desert available in the Southwest. Relax poolside at one of our fine resorts, hotels, or bed and breakfasts or play a round of golf on one of seven local golf courses. For the more adventurous type, enjoy hiking, horseback riding, Hummer tours, water sports on the Verde River or Saguaro Lake, or take a scenic desert drive, one of the finest in the valley, all right out our back door.

Fountain Hills is located close to well known shopping, restaurants and the arts. It is just a short drive to the famous White Mountains or a day trip to the red rock beauty of Sedona, the natural wonders of the Grand Canyon or the southwestern atmosphere of Tucson. Come experience a place where a single destination offers so many different adventures. Come experience Fountain Hills.

# Fountain Hills

## Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Fountain Hills is a planned, family-oriented community established in 1970. Before 1970, the area was part of one of the largest land and cattle holdings in Arizona. It was purchased by Robert McCulloch in the late 1960s and designed by Charles Wood, Jr. (designer of Disneyland in southern California). Fountain Hills' centerpiece is one of the world's tallest man-made fountain which attracts thousands of visitors each year. Fountain Hills is surrounded by the McDowell Mountains to the west, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation to the east, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community to the south and McDowell Mountain Regional Park to the north.

### Basic Information

Founded: 1970	Distance to Major Cities:
Incorporated: 1989	Phoenix: 18 miles
Elevation: 1,700	Tucson: 133 miles
Located in Maricopa County	
Nearby Highways: HWYS SR 87	

### Population

	1990	2000	2008
Fountain Hills	10,030	20,235	25,995
Maricopa County	2,122,101	3,072,149	3,987,942
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,629,455

Sources: Arizona Department of Commerce and US Census Bureau

### Principal Economic Activities

Among the community's largest employers are Fountain Hills School District, Safeway, MCO Properties Inc., Bashas', SunRidge Canyon Golf Course, Town of Fountain Hills, Golf International, Eagle Mountain Golf Course and the Gaming Center at the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. There are also more than 1,000 small businesses including fast food, retail, specialty shops, and home-based businesses.

### County Employment

	2008
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	372,500
Professional and Business Services	313,800
Government	220,800
Educational and Health Services	210,800
Leisure and Hospitality	183,100
Financial Activities	147,600
Mining and Construction	141,400
Manufacturing	131,100
Other Services	69,000
Information	29,900

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).



### Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2008
Civilian Labor Force	5,473	10,869	13,512
Unemployed	135	174	317
Unemployment Rate	2.5%	1.6%	2.3%

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

### Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2008
New Bldg. Permits	81	1,124	171
Taxable Sales (\$)	0	336 million	402.7 million
Net Assessed Value (\$)	84 million	212.4 million	684.7 million

Sources: Arizona State Univ., AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Assoc. 1990 and 2008 New building permit data incomplete: One or more months not available; NOTE: In 1990, the Town of Fountain Hills did not participate in the Arizona Department of Revenue Municipal Privilege Tax Collection Program.

### Scenic Attractions

Fountain Hills is surrounded by open spaces. To the east and north are the Salt River, Saguaro Lake (12 miles), and Canyon Lake (80 miles). Bartlett Lake and Horseshoe Lake on the Verde River, are both within 50 miles. All of these provide picnic facilities and water recreation including swimming, water skiing and boating. All of the attractions of the metropolitan areas are available to residents of Fountain Hills just a short drive away including cultural programs, college and professional sports, and horse and dog racing.

# Fountain Hills

## Community Profile

### Community Facilities

Fountain Hills offers a broad range of community facilities including a community center, library, several parks, children's playground, several tennis and basketball courts, baseball fields, and a 25-acre park. In addition to the original Fountain Hills Golf Course, two new 18-hole facilities, SunRidge Canyon and Eagle Mountain, have opened. In February, Fountain Hills is the site of the annual Fountain Hills Great Fair. The Chamber of Commerce also sponsors the Fountain Festival of Arts and Crafts in mid-November, and hosts the only Thanksgiving Day Parade in the State of Arizona. Other events include an annual Fourth of July Celebration and the annual lighting of luminaria along major streets during the Christmas season.

Educational Institutions	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	N
Middle School	Y	N
High School	Y	N
Vocational/Technical College	N	Y

### Financial

Number of banks: 5

### Government

Fire Department: Fountain Hills Rural/Metro Fire Department  
Law Enforcement: Sheriff's Office

### Airports

Nearby Mesa Falcon Field, 10 miles south, Scottsdale Airpark 13 miles southwest & Phoenix Sky Harbor International, 30 miles southwest.

### Medical

Scottsdale Healthcare Family Clinic.

### Hotel & Lodging

Number of Rooms: 85  
Meeting Rooms: 7  
Capacity of Largest Facility: 200

### Industrial Properties:

Firerock Industrial Park: 145 acres, planned development, fully developed lots include streets, sewers, water and telephone, natural setting. Not a typical industrial park - designed with open space, natural desert topography.

### Utilities

Electricity	Salt River Project	602.236.8888
L.P. Gas	Fountain Hills L-P Gas	480.837.9522
Sewer	Fountain Hills Sanitary District	480.837.9444
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Trash Pick-up	Waste Management	480.837.9373
Water	Chaparral City Water Company	480.837.9522

Cable Providers: Y  
Digital Switching Station: N  
Internet Service Provider: N  
Cable Internet Service Provider: Y  
Fiber Optics: N

### Taxes

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2008
Elementary/High Schools	5.88	6.29	3.21
City/Fire District	1.12	0.33	0.20
Countywide	3.51	3.35	2.33
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10.51</b>	<b>9.97</b>	<b>5.74</b>

Source: Arizona Tax Research Association  
Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation  
School district participates in the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT).  
Fountain Hills Fire Dist. dissolved in 2002.

Sales Tax	2008
City/Town	2.60%
County	0.70%
State	5.60%

Sources: League of Arizona Cities & Towns, Arizona Dept. of Revenue

### Weather

	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Precip. (in.)
January	53.5	85.9	0.8
February	37.0	67.0	0.8
March	39.4	72.0	0.9
April	43.7	75.5	1.2
May	48.8	83.7	0.3
June	58.0	93.5	0.2
July	66.3	103.1	0.1
August	75.5	105.5	1.1
September	74.7	103.9	1.0
October	66.6	98.6	1.1
November	53.4	86.3	0.9
December	42.3	74.3	0.8
	36.1	66.9	1.0

Source: Western Regional Climate Center  
Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1968-1985.  
Average Total Snowfall 0.0". Nearest data available from Scottsdale, AZ.

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce Communications Division in cooperation with local sources.

For further information contact:

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Fountain Hills, AZ 85268  
Phone: 480.816.5109, Fax: 480.837.3145  
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Prepared on 9/2/2009

## Fountain Hills named 'Best Affordable Suburb' in state

by *Beth Duckett* - Feb. 24, 2009 02:03 PM  
*The Arizona Republic*

Fountain Hills has been named Arizona's "Best Affordable Suburb" by BusinessWeek, edging out other communities near Phoenix with populations of 5,000 to 60,000 people.

The national magazine featured the accolade in its Feb. 19 online story, "Best Affordable Suburbs in the U.S. 2009." Locations were reviewed for their livability, education, crime, economy and affordability.

BusinessWeek lauded the northeast Valley town for its "natural beauty" and outdoor activities such as hiking, biking and golfing.

The article mentioned the town's centerpiece fountain. The tourist magnet gushes water up to 560 feet in the air, which is higher than the Washington Monument.

The median home price in Fountain Hills is \$380,182, according to BusinessWeek. Scottsdale, by comparison, had a median price for 2008 at \$476,250. The median price in Phoenix for last year was \$160,000.

Mayor Jay Schlum said Fountain Hills has "good real estate value." Besides high-performing schools and low crime, the town

has small town flavor and award-winning parks, he said.

"We are a community that is oriented to an outdoor active lifestyle," Schlum said in an email, "And that draws out a youthful energy."

In a 2008 market study, Arizona State University Realty Studies gave Fountain Hills a housing resale affordability index of 63, compared to 106 for all of Maricopa County. The highest rating was 135 for Avondale.

BusinessWeek limited the suburbs to within 25 miles of the most populated city, with median family incomes of \$51,000 to \$120,000 and low crime rates. Places with bad weather, lack of diversity, high divorce rates and few children were penalized.

Topping the list was Pewaukee, Wis., a small Milwaukee suburb with a "picturesque" fishing lake of the same name.

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### Fountain Hills Utilities and Services

AZ Driver's License	For information call the Motor Vehicle Division (602) 255-0072.
Automobiles	Out-of-state automobiles must pass vehicle inspection tests before they can be licensed in Arizona. Emissions Testing (602) 470-4646 Motor Vehicle Division (602) 255-0072.
Cable TV	Cox Communications (623) 594-1000
Electricity	Salt River Project (602) 236-8888
Gas	Southwest Gas (602) 861-1999 Arizona Propane (480) 990-2245 NOTE: Part of Fountain Hills has natural gas, the balance has propane.
NPOA/NCOA	Neighborhood Property Owners Association/Neighborhood Committee of Architecture (480) 837-5317
Newspapers	The Fountain Hills Times (480) 837-1925 The Arizona Republic (602) 444-1000 The Phoenix Business Journal (602) 230-8400
Pet Licensing	(602) 506-7387
Post Offices, Statewide	(800) 275-8777
Property Tax	Maricopa County Treasurer's Office (602) 506-2348
Schools & Child Care	Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools (602) 506-3866 Fountain Hills Unified School District Main Phone (480) 664-5000 AZDHS Office of Child Care Licensing (602) 364-2539 DES Assistance in Locating Quality Child Care 1-800-308-9000 AZ Community College Association (480) 557-5730
Sewer	Fountain Hills Sanitary District (480) 837-9444
Telephone	Qwest (800) 244-1111
Town Hall	(480) 837-2003
Trash	Rubbish Solutions (480) 816-8989 Arizona Sanitation Services (480) 736-0201 Waste Management (623) 492-0103 Allied Waste Services (480) 627-2700 AZ Trash Guys (602) 531-0057 NOTE: All services provide recycling options.
Voter Registration	(602) 506-1511 You can also call the Fountain Hills Town Hall (480) 837-2003.
Water	Chaparral City Water (480) 837-9522