

CAREFREE  
ARIZONA



**2023 Existing  
Conditions Report**

*General Plan Update*



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# Introduction

The Town of Carefree is a picturesque, semi-rural residential community with unique shops, exceptional galleries, and gourmet restaurants, that have built up for the Town, a foundation of local identity and distinct character that all residents can claim with pride.

This Community Assessment provides a review of relevant data from local, regional, state, and national sources. The information contained herein is intended to summarize topics and trends within the Town that will serve as the foundation and help to inform the preparation of the 2024 General Plan.

Table 1: Municipal Limits & Planning Area

	Acres	Sq MI
Carefree Municipal Limits and Planning Area	5637.68	8.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>5637.68</b>	<b>8.81</b>

Source: Town of Carefree

## Regional Context

The Town of Carefree is located at the northern edge of the Phoenix Metropolitan Region in Maricopa County at the base of the local landmark peak, Black Mountain, and bordered by Continental Mountain to the north. Carefree sits between the Town of Cave Creek to the west and the northern neighborhoods of the City of Scottsdale to the east as shown in **Figure 1**. Cave Creek Road, Tom Darlington Drive (on the Scottsdale Road alignment), Pima Road, and Carefree Highway provide direct access to the community from surrounding areas.

## Town Municipal Limits and Planning Area

The Town’s municipal limits and planning area contain 5,637.68 acres (8.81 square miles) as shown in **Figure 2**.

Figure 1: Regional Context

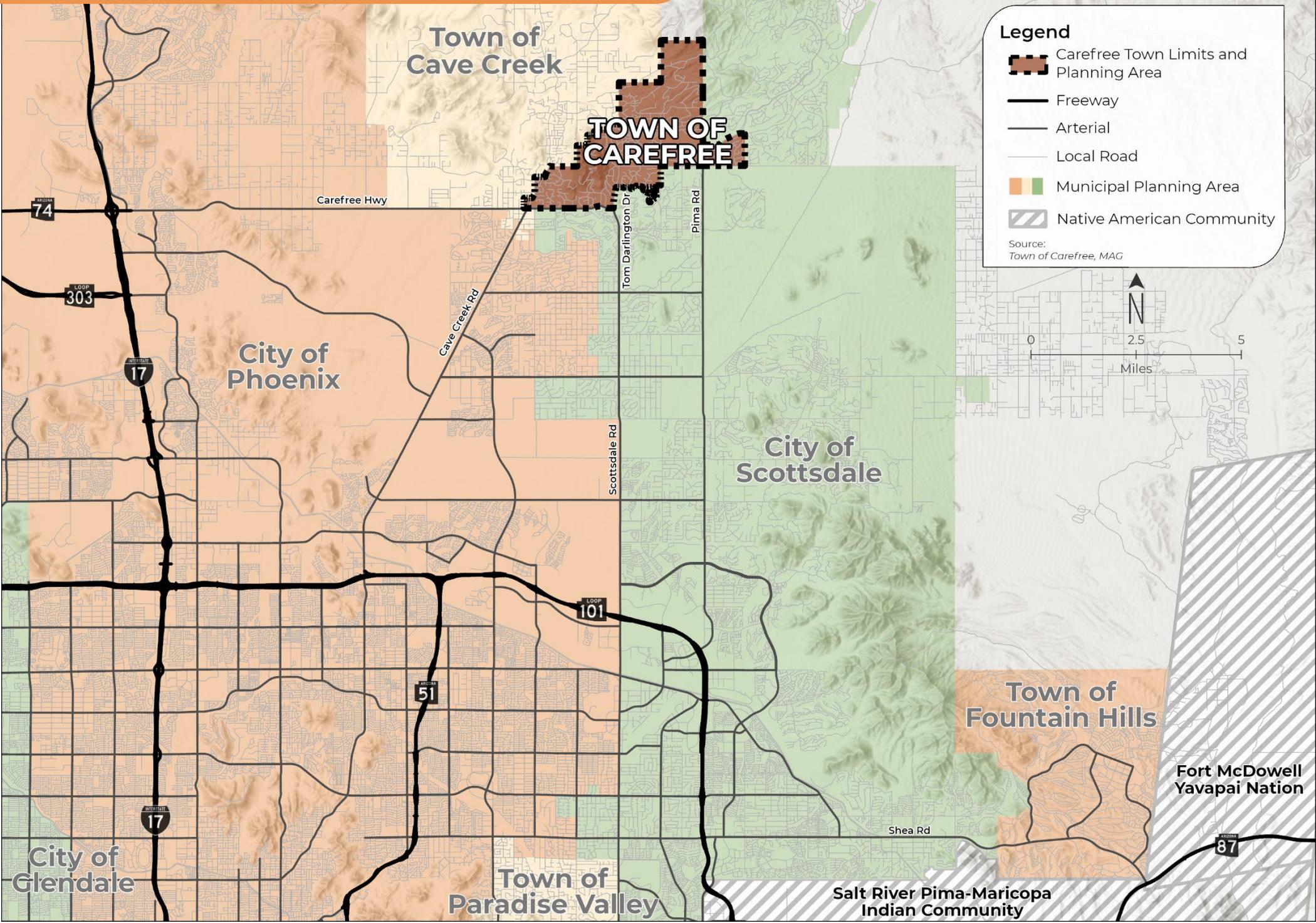


Figure 2: Municipal Limits and Planning Area Map

**Legend**

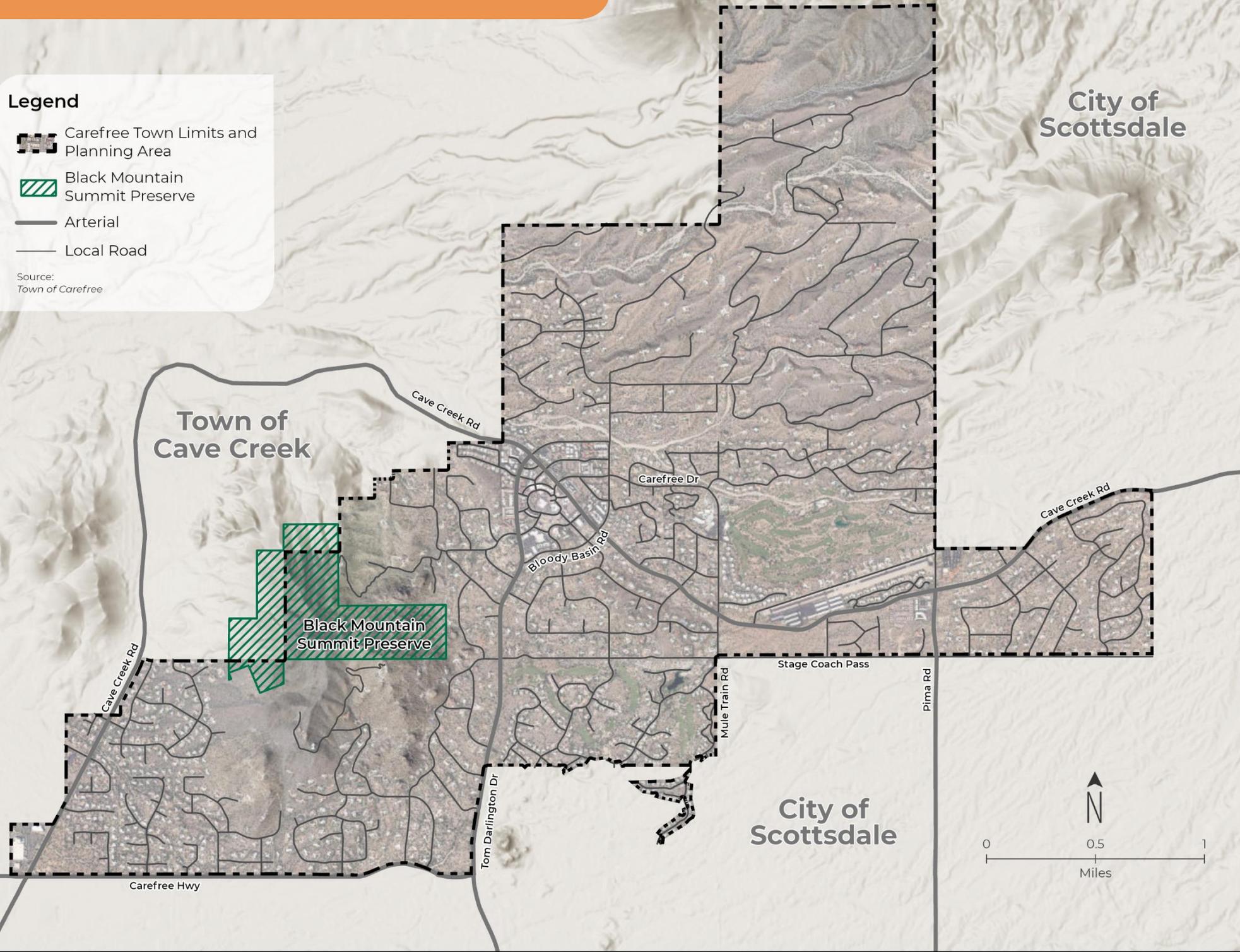
 Carefree Town Limits and Planning Area

 Black Mountain Summit Preserve

 Arterial

 Local Road

Source:  
Town of Carefree

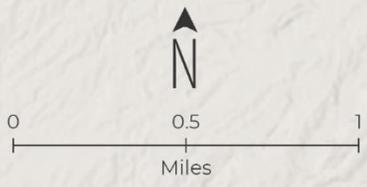


**City of Scottsdale**

**Town of Cave Creek**

**Black Mountain Summit Preserve**

**City of Scottsdale**

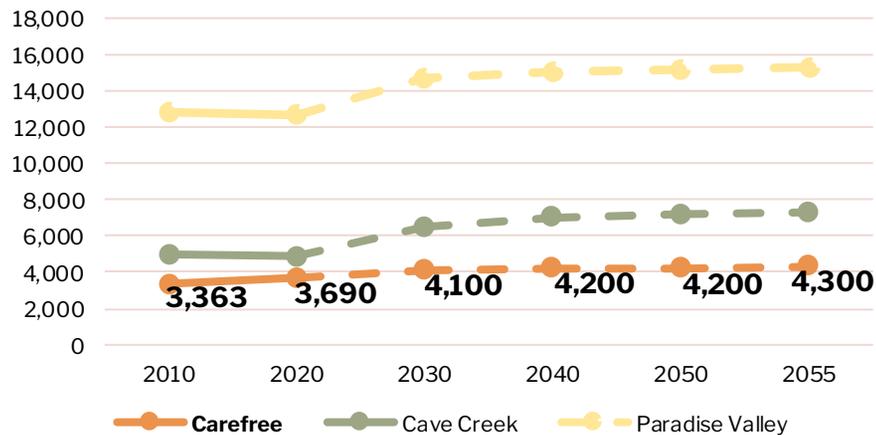


# Demographics

## Population Projections

The Town of Carefree has seen moderate, but steady growth for the past decade. Being landlocked by Cave Creek and Scottsdale, the Town's population is projected to start leveling out by 2040 as available vacant land becomes more limited. Per the most recent decennial census, Carefree's population in 2020 was 3,690.

Figure 3: Population Projections

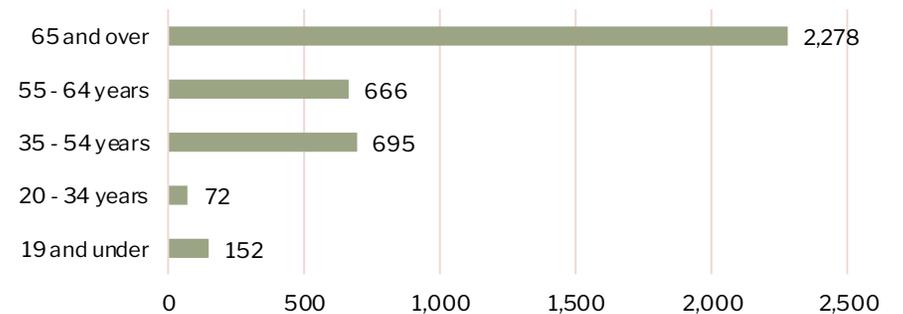


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Decennial Census, MAG June 2019 Socioeconomic Projections - Population & Employment

## Age

The largest age cohorts in the Town of Carefree fall within the ranges of people age 65 to 74 and 75 to 84 years as shown in Figure 4. These age cohorts make up 24.5% and 26.2% of the Town's population, respectively. This aligns with the Town's median age which is 69.4 and older than the State, County, and surrounding jurisdictions' median ages (see Table 2). Only 7.4% of the population of Carefree residents are under the age of 45.

Figure 4: Age Cohorts



Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates.

Table 2: Median Age Comparison

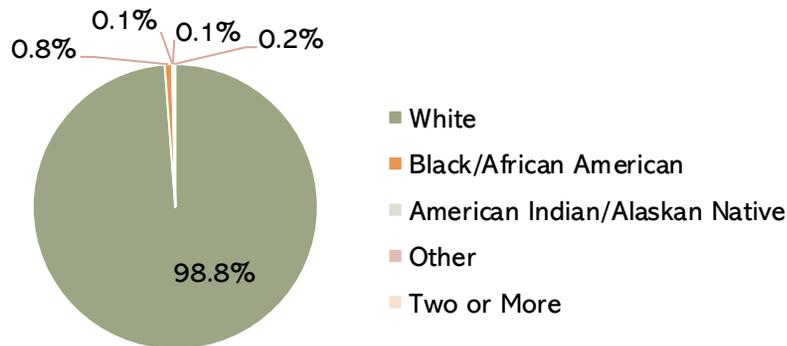
Jurisdiction	Median Age
Carefree	69.4
Cave Creek	53.3
Fountain Hills	58.6
Paradise Valley	54.9
Phoenix	33.9
Scottsdale	47.7
Maricopa County	36.6
Arizona	37.9

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates.

### Race & Ethnicity

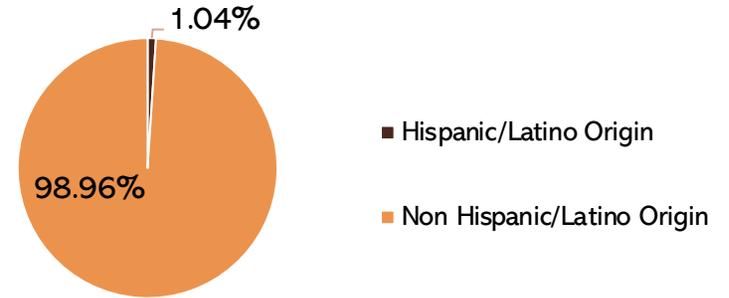
Of the 3,690 people who live in Carefree, approximately 98.8% identify as White. The remaining 1.2% of the residents in the Town include those who identify as Black/African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Other, and Two or More Races. Around 1.0% of the Town’s population identifies as Hispanic or Latino.

Figure 5: Race



Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates. Note: total percent may be .1% off due to rounding.

Figure 6: Hispanic/Latino Composition



Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates.

### Households

Carefree has 1,918 total households. The Town’s average household and family size is smaller than both the State and County and other comparison communities except Cave Creek.

Table 3: Households

	Total households	Average Household Size	Average Family Size	Family Households
Carefree	1,918	1.99	2.15	1,349
Cave Creek	2,990	1.93	2.14	2,245
Fountain Hills	11,408	2.2	2.67	7,724
Paradise Valley	5,798	2.49	2.81	4,588
Phoenix	580,835	2.82	3.51	370,384
Scottsdale	117,974	2.15	2.77	65,823
Maricopa County	1,596,784	2.73	3.33	1,047,899
Arizona	2,643,430	2.65	3.26	1,720,736

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates

# Land Use & Character

## Existing Land Use

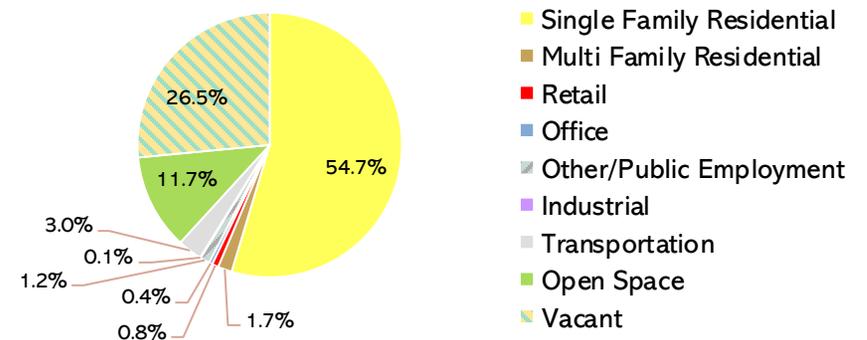
The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) aggregates all member agencies' land uses into one cohesive system that is utilized for regional transportation and socio-economic demographic analyses and projections. Please note that these uses are designated by MAG for regional analyses reflective of what currently exists as of 2022. While the Town of Carefree has no industrial land use or zoning, MAG classifies utility truckyards as industrial. Carefree is predominantly a low-density residential community surrounded by the natural beauty of the Upper Sonoran desert. As depicted in **Table 4**, Carefree's planning area is approximately 5,638 acres in size, 54.7% (3,081 acres) of which is currently single-family residential development. The Town also has 658 acres of dedicated open space, which includes both natural and improved open spaces. Over a quarter of the planning area at 26.5% remains vacant, however, a large portion of this undeveloped land is located around Black Mountain or in the northern foothills of Continental Mountain and will most likely see limited development due to the steep terrain. Most of the vacant land is in areas currently planned for the lowest density single family residential land uses in the community.

Table 4: Existing Land Use Distribution

Designation	Acres	Percent of Planning Area
Single Family Residential	3,081.43	54.7%
Multi Family Residential	97.00	1.7%
Retail	44.46	0.8%
Office	23.58	0.4%
Other/Public Employment	65.48	1.2%
Industrial	4.52	0.1%
Transportation	168.45	3.0%
Open Space	658.29	11.7%
Vacant	1,494.47	26.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,637.68</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: Maricopa Association of Governments 2020

Figure 7: Existing Land Use



Source: Maricopa Association of Governments 2020. Note: total percent may be .1% off due to rounding.

Figure 8: Existing Land Use Map

**Legend**

Carefree Town Limits and Planning Area

Arterial

Local Road

Existing Land Use (MAG, 2022)

Single Family Residential

Multi Family Residential

Retail

Office

Other/Public Employment

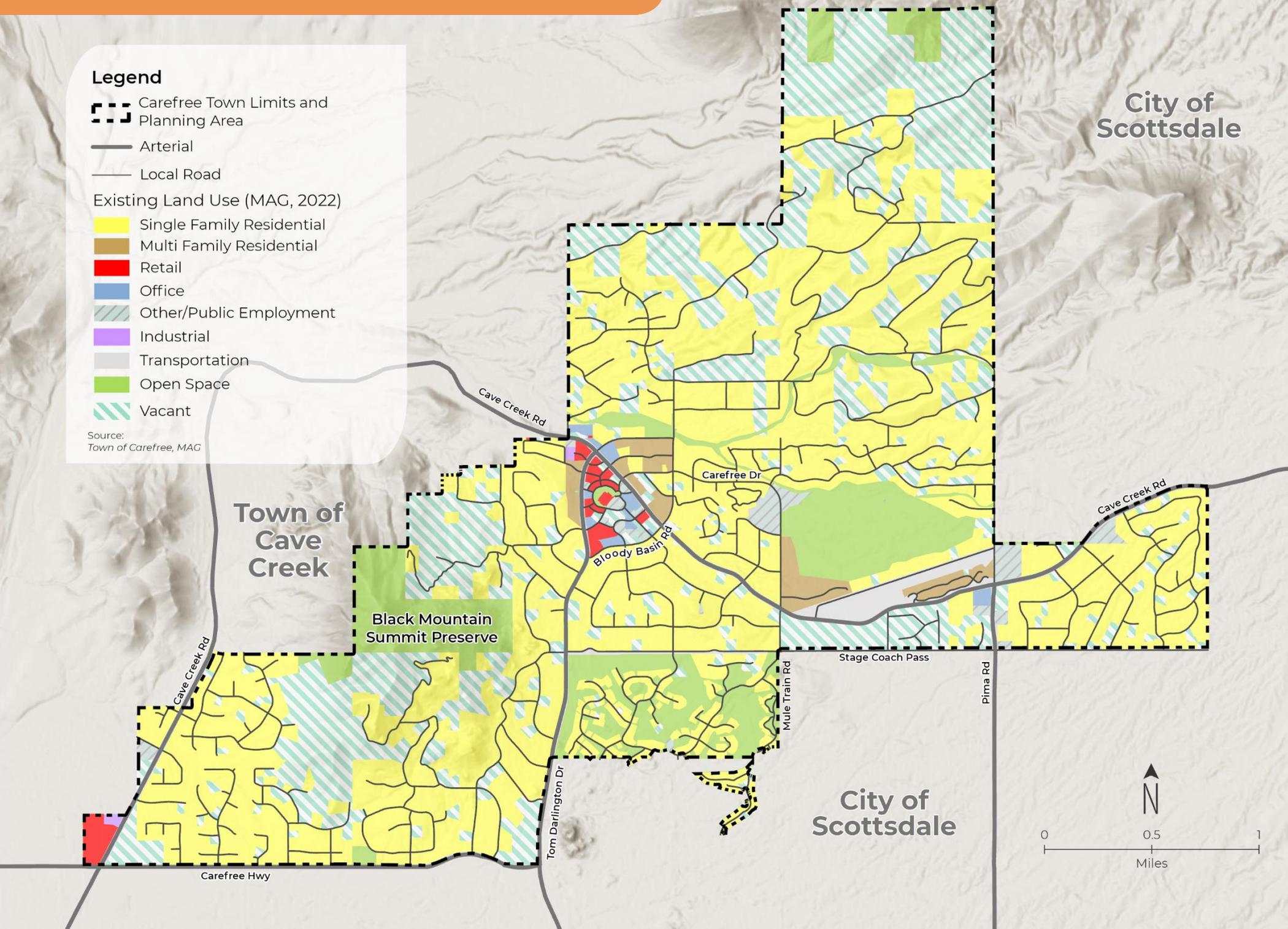
Industrial

Transportation

Open Space

Vacant

Source:  
Town of Carefree, MAG

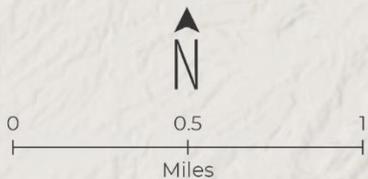


**Town of  
Cave  
Creek**

**Black Mountain  
Summit Preserve**

**City of  
Scottsdale**

**City of  
Scottsdale**



## General Plan Land Use

Carefree's planned land use is derived from the community's 2012 General Plan's Land Use Plan as depicted in **Figure 10**. The General Plan's Land Use Plan defines how land is planned to be used for the future and ultimately informs the regulatory zoning that dictates development. The planned Land Use from the current General Plan is predominantly Low, Very Low, and Rural Density Residential, which prescribe one dwelling per acre, one dwelling per two acres, and one dwelling per five acres, respectively. Collectively, they account for 4,660.1 acres of the planning area or 85%. A third single-family residential district also exists, Moderate Density Residential (about 7 dwellings per acre). The Moderate Density Residential land use is concentrated around the Carefree Town Center and the airport. When combined, they comprise a small portion of the entire community at only 120 acres, or approximately 2.2 % of the Town's total planning area. Carefree has dedicated just under 550 acres of land as Open Space/Recreation, or 10% of its planning area inclusive of the Black Mountain Summit Preserve, Golf Courses, Carefree/Cave Creek Cemetery, and preserved open space in the northern part of the Town.

Figure 9: General Plan Land Use

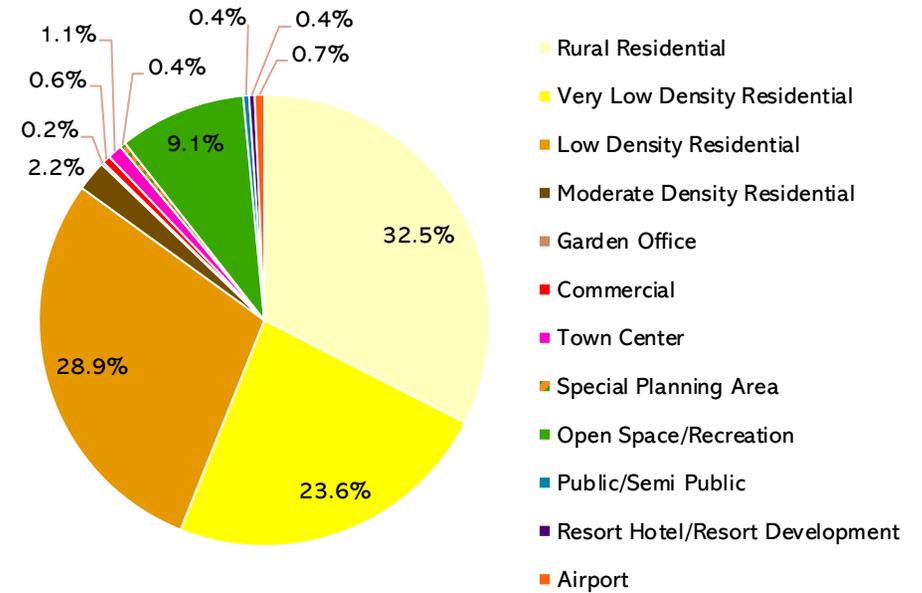


Table 5: 2012 General Plan Land Use Allocation

Designation	Acres	Percent of Planning Area
Rural Residential	1,732.08	31.6%
Very Low Density Residential	1,272.12	23.2%
Low Density Residential	1,585.66	28.9%
Moderate Density Residential	119.73	2.2%
Garden Office	9.69	0.2%
Commercial	31.98	0.6%
Town Center	57.63	1.1%
Special Planning Area	43.03	0.8%
Open Space/Recreation	549.37	10.0%
Public/Semi Public	23.04	0.4%
Resort Hotel/Resort Development	21.72	0.4%
Airport	37.57	0.7%
Right of Way (not a land use)	154.05	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,483.58</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Town of Carefree

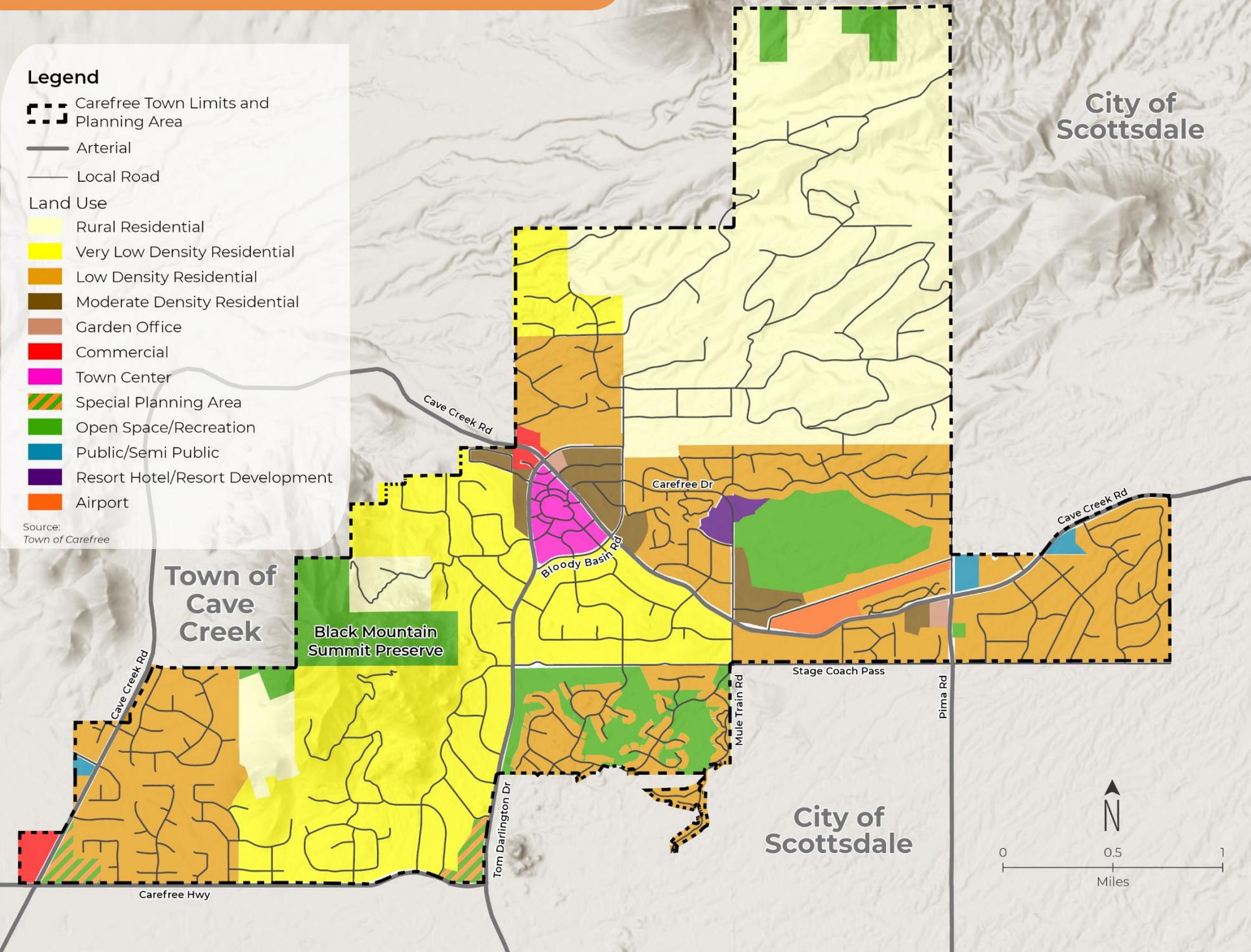
Source: Town of Carefree. Note: total percent may be .1% off due to rounding.

*Figure 10: Carefree 2030 Land Use Plan*

**Legend**

-  Carefree Town Limits and Planning Area
-  Arterial
-  Local Road
- Land Use**
-  Rural Residential
-  Very Low Density Residential
-  Low Density Residential
-  Moderate Density Residential
-  Garden Office
-  Commercial
-  Town Center
-  Special Planning Area
-  Open Space/Recreation
-  Public/Semi Public
-  Resort Hotel/Resort Development
-  Airport

Source:  
Town of Carefree



## Zoning

Zoning is the means by which municipalities implement their Land Use Plan from the General Plan. Carefree’s zoning code translates the long-term goals and policies of the Land Use Plan into the regulations and guidelines used for decision-making on future developments. While the Town’s land use and zoning designations are consistent, the zoning code identifies specific uses allowed within each zoning district and provides more detailed development requirements, such as density, setbacks, height, size, and development character.

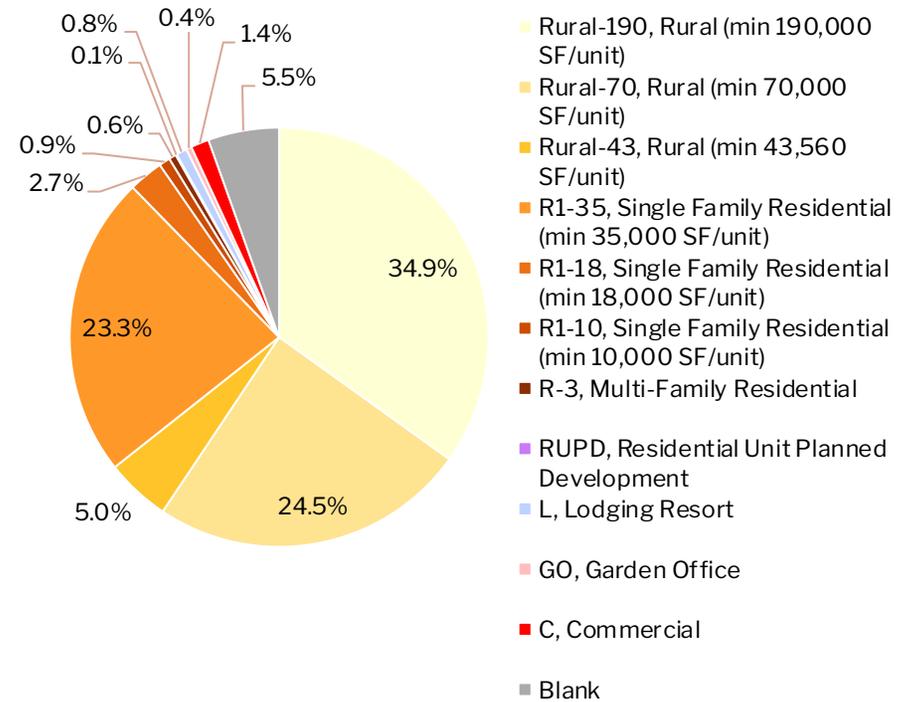
Table 6: Zoning Distribution

District	Acres	Percent of Municipal Limits
Rural-190, Rural (min 190,000 SF/unit)	1735.05	33.1%
Rural-70, Rural (min 70,000 SF/unit)	1274.21	24.3%
Rural-43, Rural (min 43,560 SF/unit)	228.30	4.4%
R1-35, Single Family Residential (min 35,000 SF/unit)	1198.62	22.9%
R1-18, Single Family Residential (min 18,000 SF/unit)	139.33	2.7%
R1-10, Single Family Residential (min 10,000 SF/unit)	44.98	0.9%
R-3, Multi-Family Residential	29.29	0.6%
RUPD, Residential Unit Planned Development	94.63	1.8%
Open Space/Recreation	50.18	1.0%
L, Lodging Resort	43.72	0.8%
GO, Garden Office	14.80	0.3%
C, Commercial	96.25	1.8%
Blank	284.98	5.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,234.34</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Town of Carefree

In the municipal limits of Carefree, 91.3% of the land is in a rural or single family residential zoning district. Most of these residential districts have low density requirements, such as the Rural-190 district that mandates a single-dwelling-unit minimum per 190,000 square feet. Even the higher density single family residential districts require a minimum of 10,000 square feet per dwelling unit. The remaining 9.7% of Carefree is zoned for Multi-Family, Residential Unit Planned Development, Lodging, Garden Office, Commercial, and Open Space/Recreation. With the exception of the Open Space/Recreation district, the other five districts tend to be located on the Town’s arterials and near the Town Center.

Figure 11: Zoning



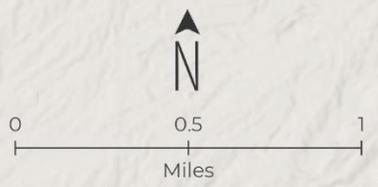
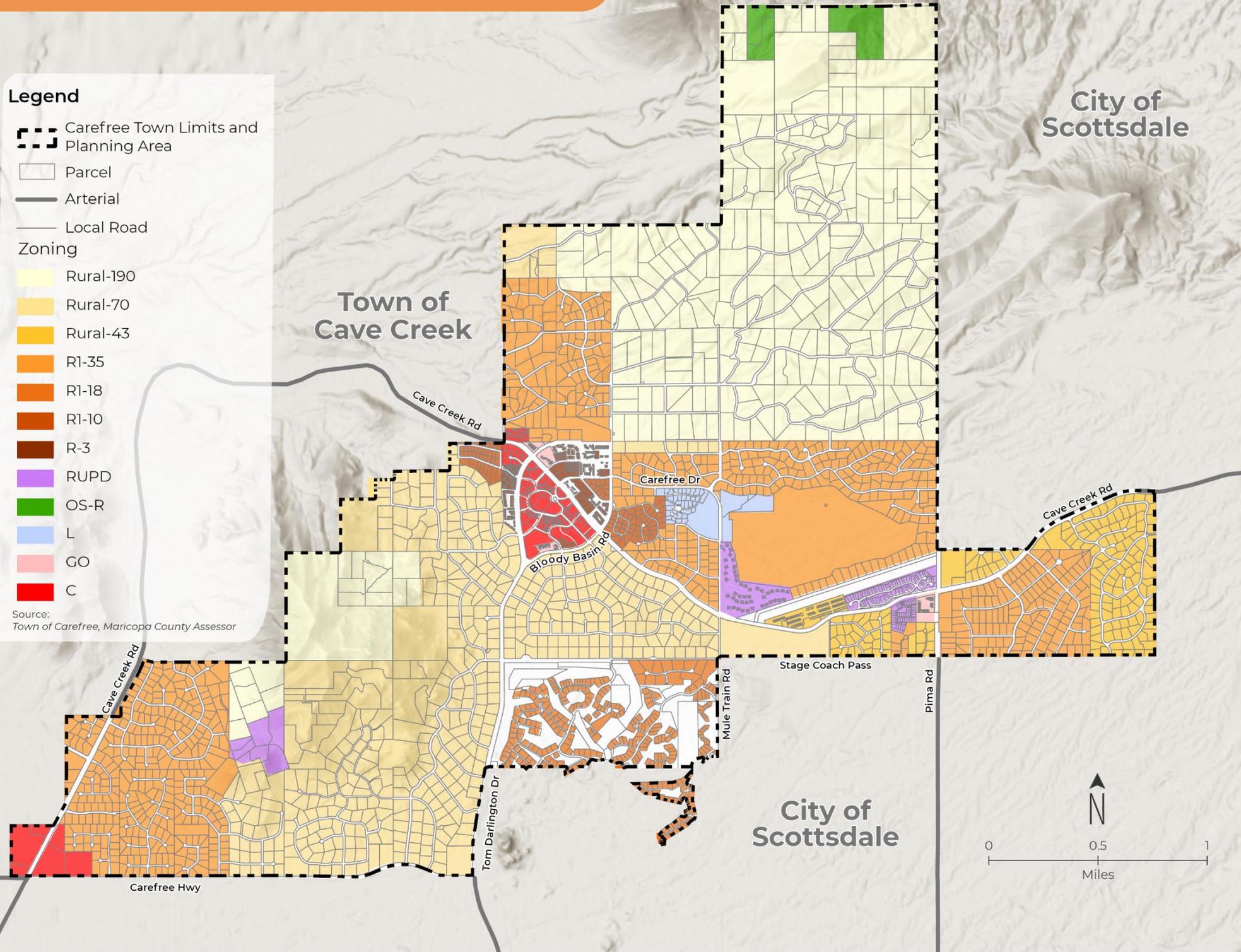
Source: Town of Carefree. Note: total percent may be .1% off due to rounding.

Figure 12: Zoning Map

**Legend**

-  Carefree Town Limits and Planning Area
-  Parcel
-  Arterial
-  Local Road
- Zoning**
-  Rural-190
-  Rural-70
-  Rural-43
-  R1-35
-  R1-18
-  R1-10
-  R-3
-  RUPD
-  OS-R
-  L
-  GO
-  C

Source:  
Town of Carefree, Maricopa County Assessor



## Land Ownership

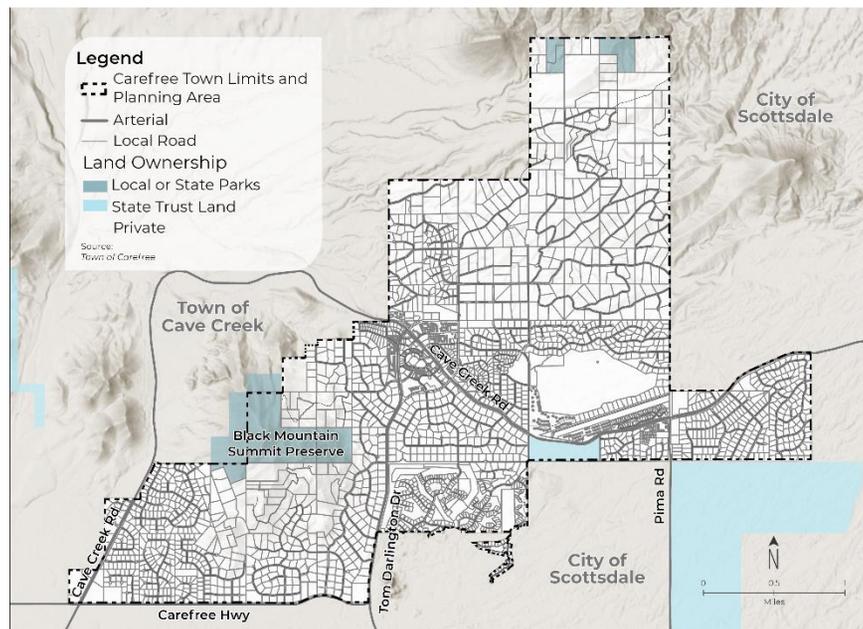
Land ownership across the Carefree Planning Area is primarily private owned accounting for 95.2%. The Black Summit Mountain Preserve comprises 2.8% of the planning area on the western edge. This preserve is held by the County and Desert Foothills Land Trust. Finally, the Arizona State Land Department manages State Trust Land, which encompasses the remaining 0.8% of the planning area just south of the airport and Cave Creek Road.

Table 7: Land Ownership Distribution

Description	Acres	Percent of Planning Area
Private Land	5369.14	95.2%
State Trust Land	45.31*	0.8%
Local or State Parks	223.24	4.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5637.69</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Bureau of Land Management. \*Note: Gross Acreage

Figure 13: Land Ownership Map



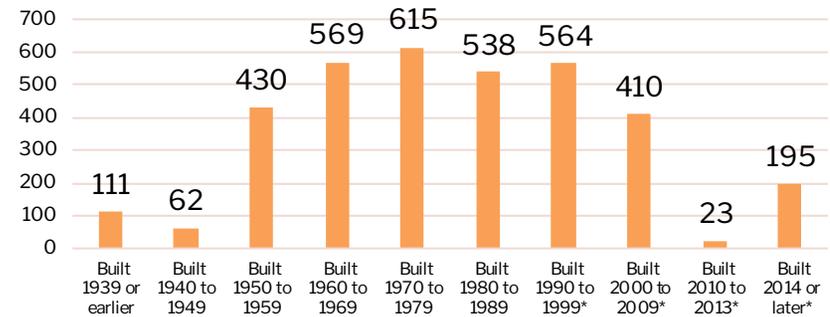
Source: Town of Carefree, Bureau of Land Management

## Housing

### Housing Age

Nearly two thirds of the housing stock in Carefree was built between 1960 and 1999.

Figure 14: Housing Age

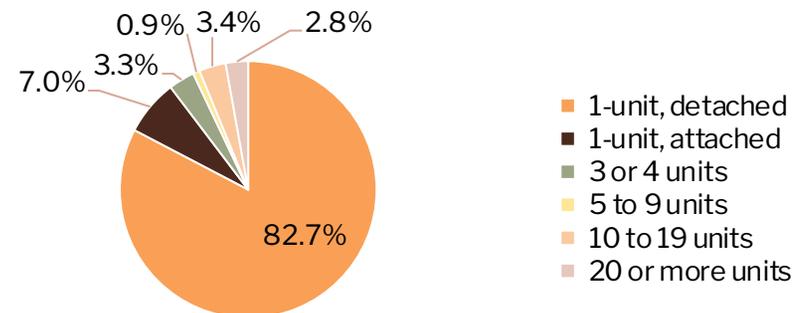


Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates. \*NOTE: Data supplemented with Town records

### Housing Type

Single unit housing types account collectively for 89.7% of the housing stock in Carefree. The remaining 10.3% accounts for the multiple unit housing located in few select locations throughout the Town.

Figure 15: Housing Type

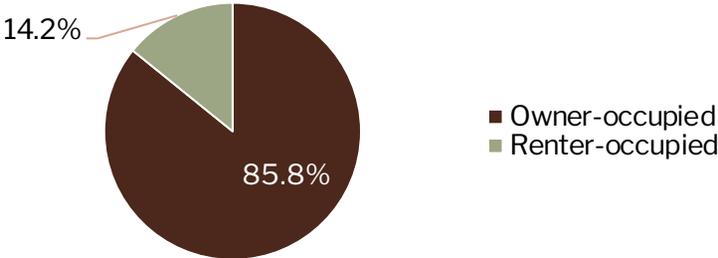


Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates. Note: total percent may be .1% off due to rounding.

### Housing Tenure

The vast majority of the housing stock in Carefree is owner occupied, accounting for nearly 86% of total housing units. Renter occupied units only account for 14%.

Figure 16: Housing Tenure

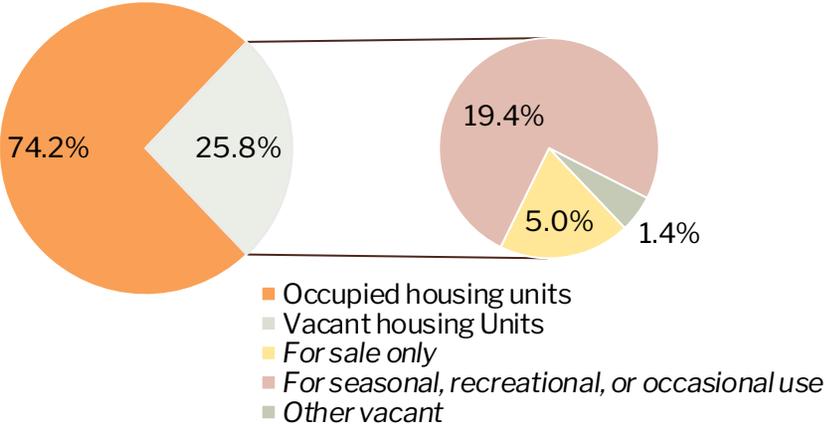


Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates

### Housing Occupancy

Nearly 3/4ths of the housing units in Carefree are occupied. The US Census Bureau categorizes vacant housing units inclusive of seasonal/2nd home units. Of the estimated 25.8% Vacant Units in Carefree, 19.4% are for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. 1.4% are other vacant and 5% are for sale.

Figure 17: Housing Occupancy



Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates

# Circulation

## Existing Roadway Network

The existing roadway network in the Town of Carefree is unique from the traditional grid pattern that has developed in the Phoenix Metropolitan area. Carefree is nestled between multiple mountain peaks, and the major roadways tend to radiate toward the Town Center, which serves as the hub of activity for residents and visitors.

## Existing Roadway Functional Classification

All roadways not listed below are considered Local or Private Streets.

### Arterials

Arterial streets are principal roadways for accessing the Town and its Commercial areas. The typical right-of-way width varies from 110 feet to 130 feet with up to 72 feet of pavement, 2 lanes in each direction and up to 16 ft. wide medians landscaped with native, drought tolerant plants and vegetation.

- Cave Creek Road
- Tom Darlington Drive
- Pima Road
- Carefree Highway (not located in Town limits but is a major connector to Interstate 17)

### Collector Streets

Collector streets collect traffic from the local street system and deliver it to the arterial street system. Primarily, they service residential uses, but in some cases they abut nonresidential uses such as the Carefree Resort.

Collector streets typically consist of 50 to 80 feet right-of-way width, 28 to 48 feet of pavement width and one lane in each direction.

- Carefree Drive
- Stagecoach Pass
- Mule Train Road
- Rising Sun Road
- Tranquil Trail
- Sundance Trail
- Pima Road (north of Cave Creek Road)

### Local Streets

Local streets service primarily residential uses, but in some cases they abut non-residential uses, as is the case in the Town Center. Local streets typically consist of a 50 foot wide right-of-way, 28 feet of pavement width and one lane in each direction. They experience low traffic counts and offer ample opportunities for pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian travel.

Figure 18: Street Classification

Legend

 Carefree Town Limits and Planning Area

 Black Mountain Summit Preserve

 Non-Town Arterial

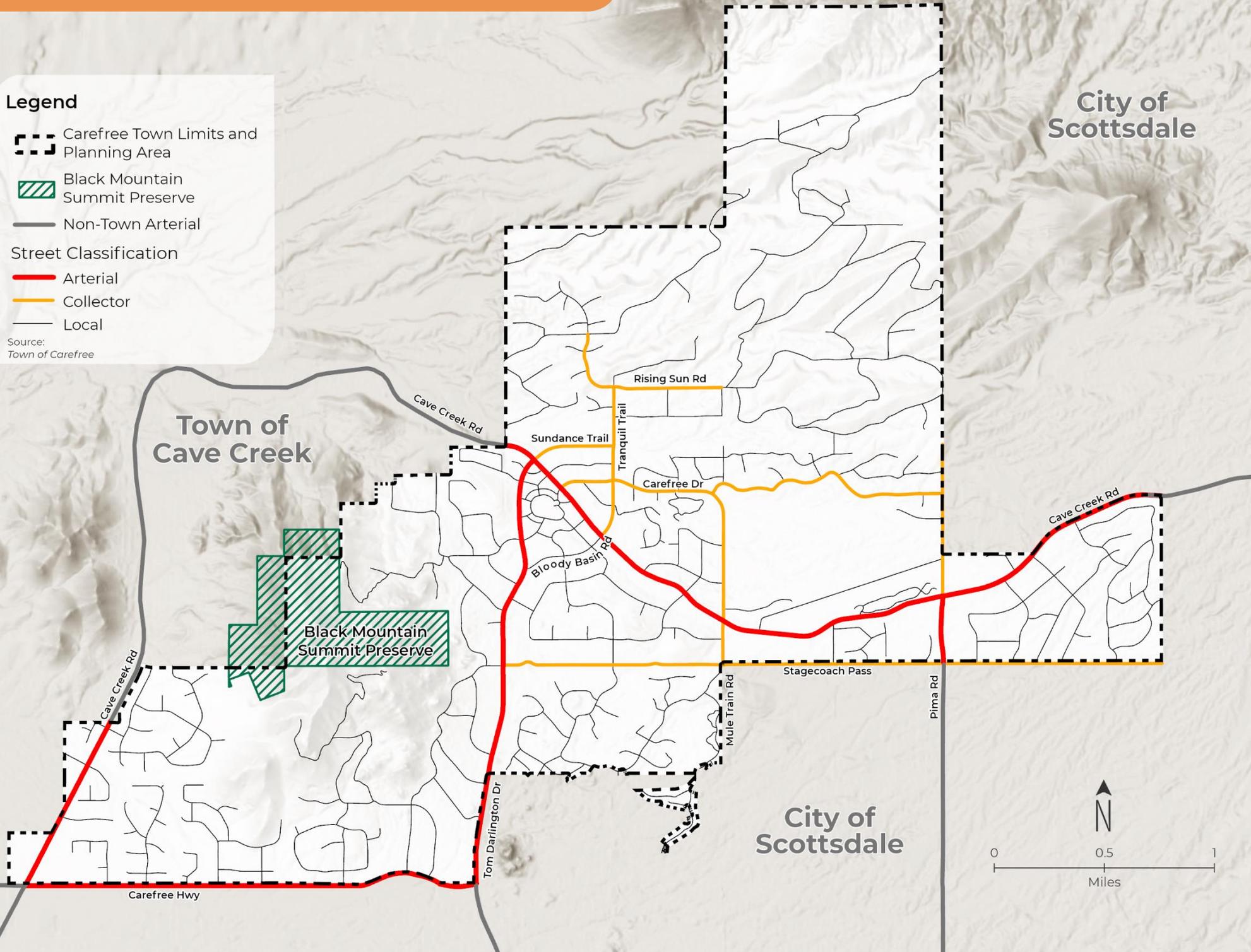
Street Classification

 Arterial

 Collector

 Local

Source:  
Town of Carefree



City of Scottsdale

Town of Cave Creek

Black Mountain Summit Preserve

City of Scottsdale

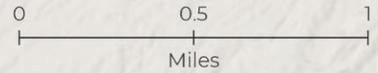
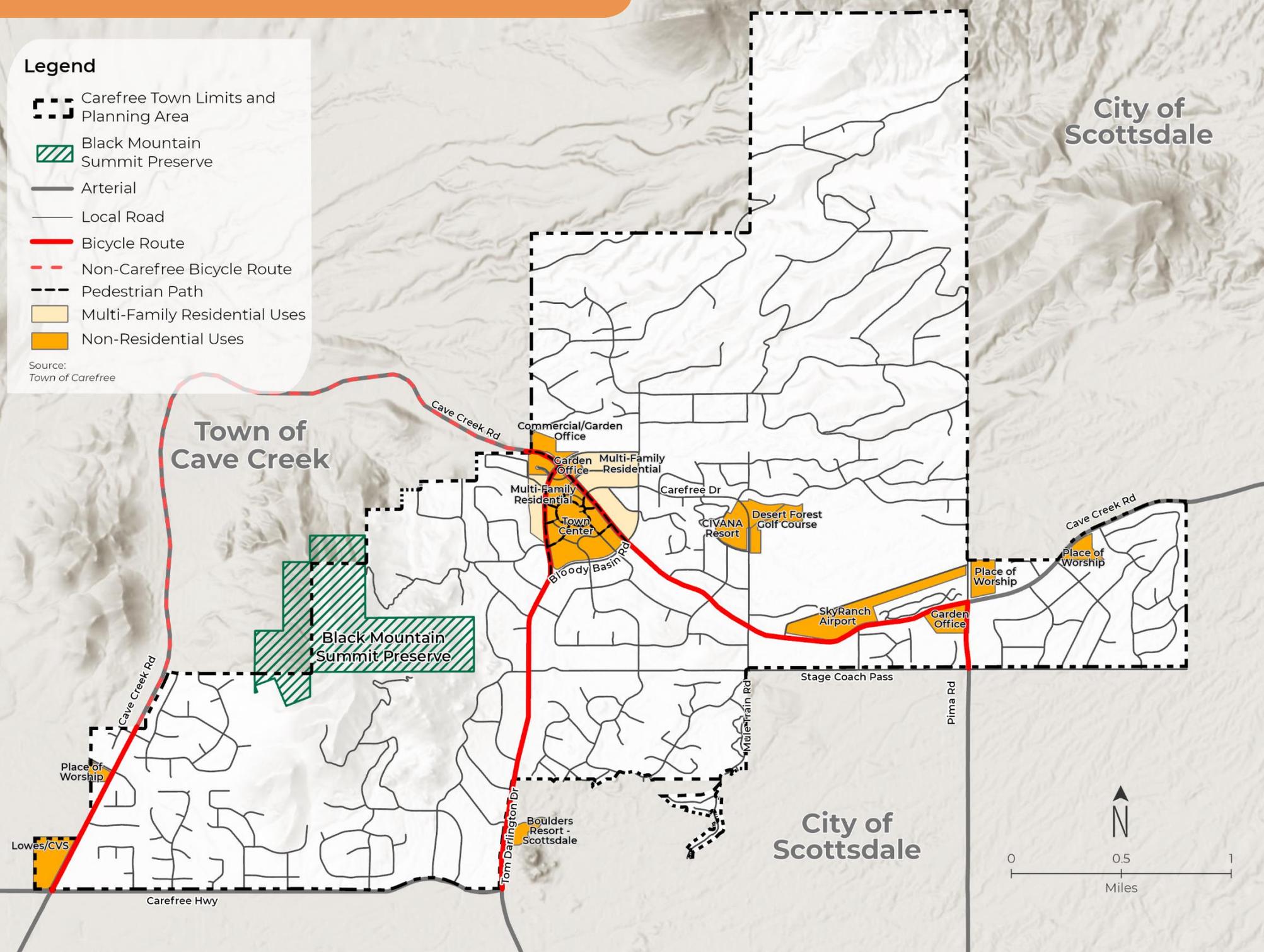


Figure 19: Pedestrian and Bicycle Network Map

**Legend**

-  Carefree Town Limits and Planning Area
-  Black Mountain Summit Preserve
-  Arterial
-  Local Road
-  Bicycle Route
-  Non-Carefree Bicycle Route
-  Pedestrian Path
-  Multi-Family Residential Uses
-  Non-Residential Uses

Source:  
Town of Carefree



## Traffic

Being a Town with a small resident population on the northern edge of the Phoenix metropolitan area, the main arterials of Carefree tend to have lower average daily traffic volumes for the region. The following traffic data are the annual average daily traffic (AADT) that MAG recorded in 2022:

### Carefree Roadway AADTs

- Cave Creek Road – 16,961
- Tom Darlington Drive – 14,425
- Carefree Highway – 18,506

## Transit

The Town of Carefree is not a member of Valley Metro, the Phoenix metropolitan transit authority, and, therefore, does not have transit service within its municipal limits.

## Pedestrian Facilities

### Existing On-Street Pedestrian Facilities

The following roadways are recognized by the Town as existing pedestrian path facilities adjacent to its roadways:

#### *Pedestrian Paths*

- Carefree Drive (between Cave Creek Road and the Carefree Resort)
- Tom Darlington Drive (between Cave Creek Road and Bloody Basin Road)
- Cave Creek Road (between the Town Center and Bloody Basin Road)
- Town Center (includes an inner radial network of pedestrian facilities)

### Existing Trails

Carefree has historically worked with the Desert Foothills Land Trust and interested citizens to preserve public access to trail easements for both pedestrian and equestrian use. Existing informal public trails are the segments of Galloway Wash, Grapevine Wash, and Rowe Wash under the management of the Desert Foothills Land Trust within the Town limits.

## Bicycle Facilities

### Existing On-Street Bicycle Facilities

The following roadways are recognized by the Town as on-street bicycle routes:

#### Bicycle Routes

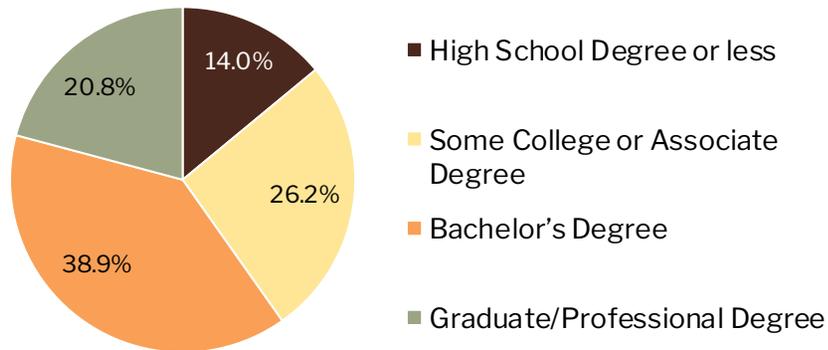
- Cave Creek Road (at the western limits of the Town between Carefree Highway and the north Town Limits)
- Cave Creek Road (from the Town Center to Pima Road)
- Pima Road (from the south Town Limits to Cave Creek Road)
- Tom Darlington Drive
- Carefree Drive

# Economic Development

## Educational Attainment

Carefree is highly educated with nearly 40% of the community having a Bachelor's Degree and 20% having a Graduate Degree.

Figure 20: Educational Attainment



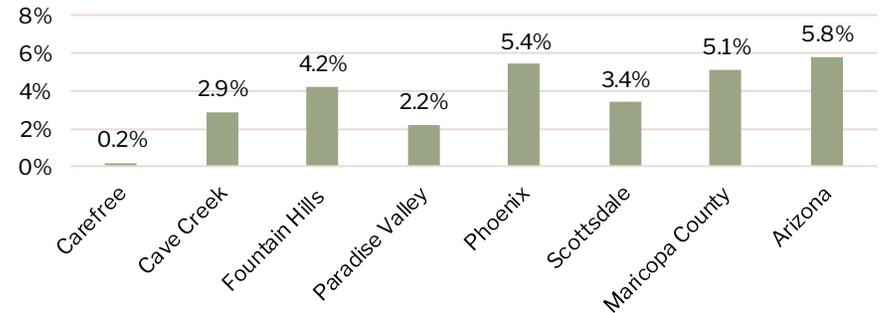
Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates. Note: total percent may be .1% off due to rounding.

## Employment

### Unemployment Rate

Carefree has a significantly low unemployment rate falling far below the State, County, and all other comparison communities.

Figure 21: Unemployment

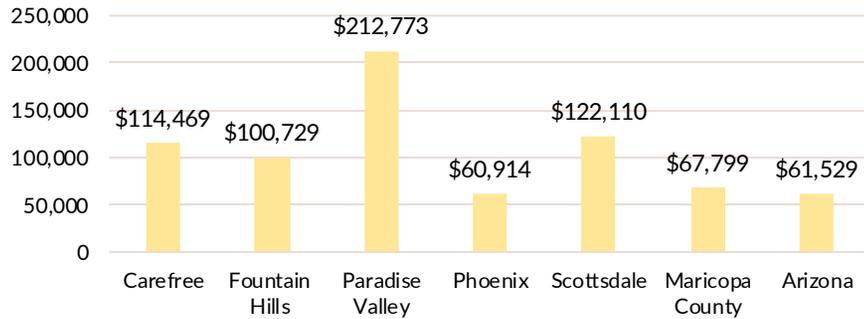


Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates

### Household Income

Carefree has a median household income of \$114,469, which is the third highest among comparison communities.

Figure 22: Median Household Income Comparison

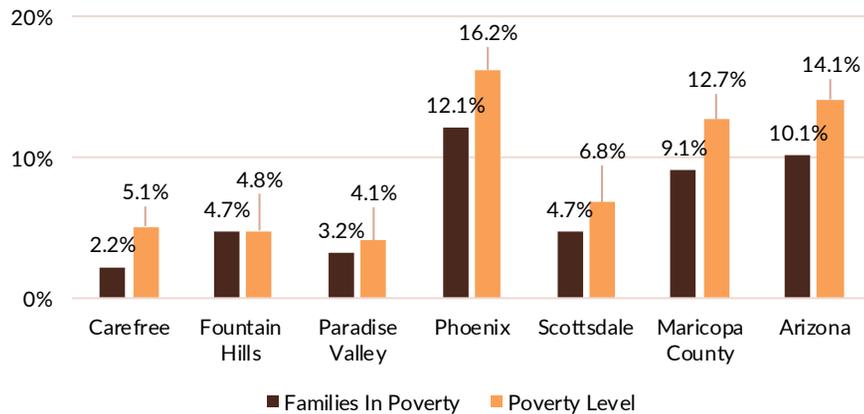


Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates. NOTE: Cave Creek excluded due to unavailable data from a limited sample size impacted from the COVID-19 Pandemic on Census Data collection.

### Poverty

Carefree has the third lowest amount of people experiencing poverty among comparison communities and the lowest level of families in poverty.

Figure 23: Poverty



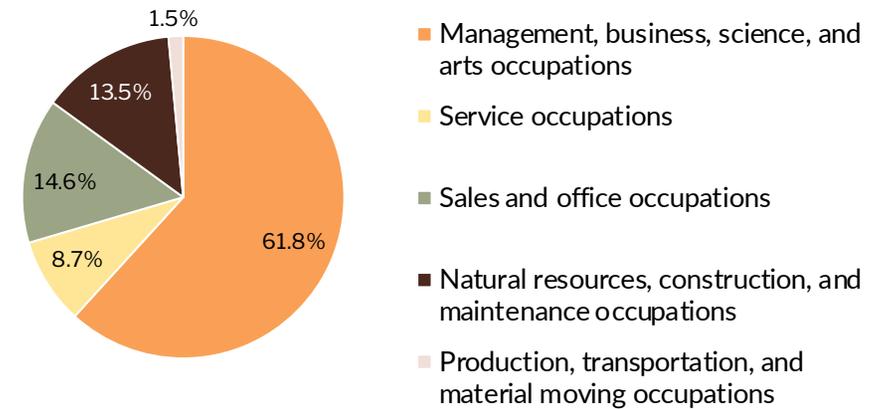
Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates. Note: Cave Creek omitted due to data limitations from impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### Labor Force

#### Occupations

Management, Business, Science and Arts Occupations account for over half of the occupations of people living in Carefree.

Figure 24: Workforce Occupational Distribution

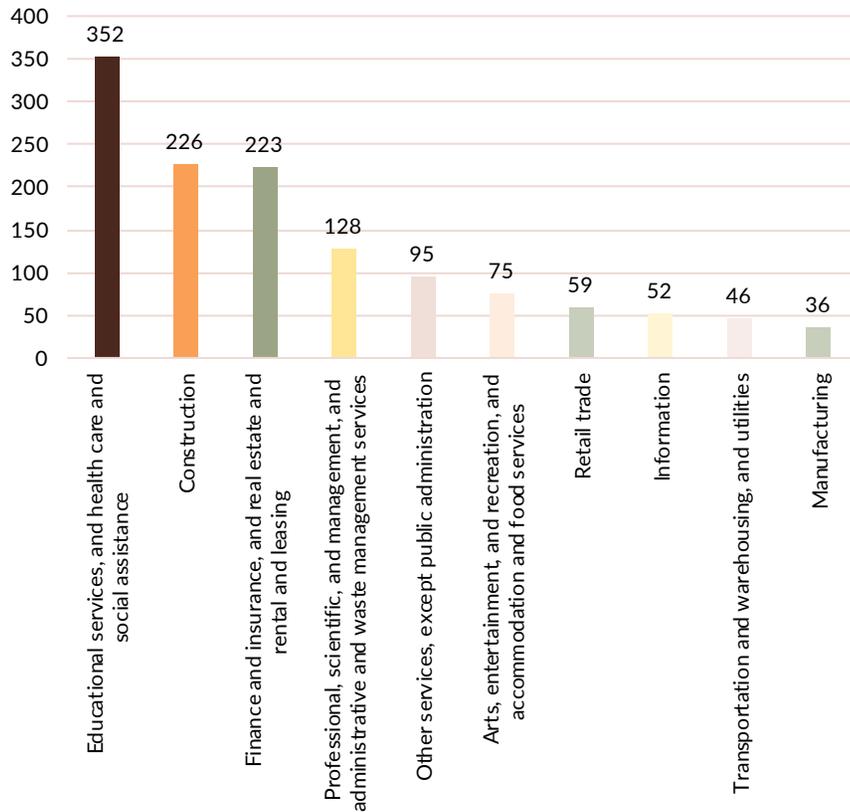


Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates. Note: total percent may be .1% off due to rounding.

### Industry Distribution

Carefree’s workforce is highly specialized in the educational services, healthcare and social services industry closely followed by construction and finance, insurance and real estate. Collectively these three industries account for over 60% of the Town’s workforce.

Figure 25: Industry Distribution

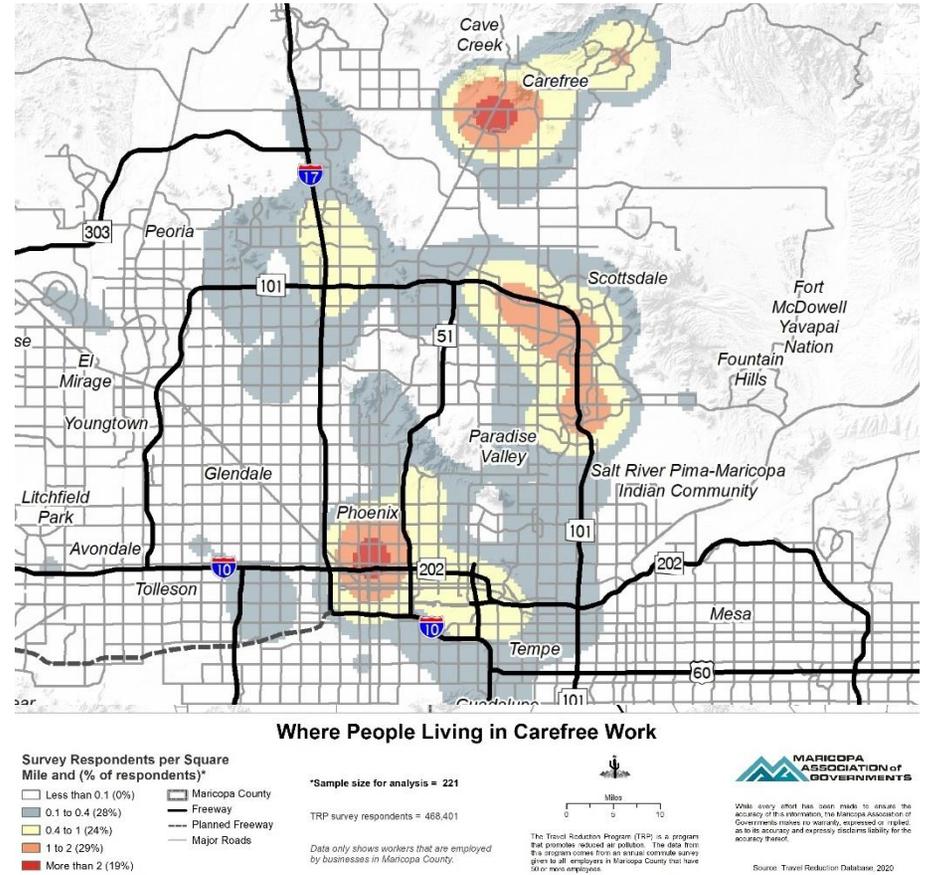


Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5 Year Estimates

### Where People Living in Carefree Work

The majority of people living in Carefree work outside of the community. Key employment clusters are located in Central Phoenix, along the Loop 101 Freeway and the Deer Valley Airport area along Interstate 17.

Figure 26: Where People Living in Carefree Work



Source: Maricopa Association of Governments Employment Viewer

## Top 10 Employers

The Civana Wellness Resort is the largest employer in the Town, with 140 employees. Other Major employers include retailers such as Bashas and Lowes and Corporate Sign Inc.

Table 8: Top 10 Employers

Rank	Employer Name	# of Locations	# of Employees
1	Civana Carefree Resort	1	140
2	Lowes	1	120
3	Bashas	1	60
4	Corporate Sign Inc	1	50
5	E F Charles Inc	1	30
6	Office On Easy Street Inc	1	30
7	Foothills Caring Corps Inc	1	30
8	Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Phoenix	1	30
9	Gudpod Corp	1	20
10	United States Postal Service	1	20

Source: Maricopa Association of Governments Employment Viewer

## Tourism & Hospitality

Carefree is committed to the continued success of the local tourism industry which pay homage to the Town’s original inception back in the 1950’s. Celebrating the beautiful desert landscape, Carefree has defined itself as a resort and lodging destination. Civana, formerly known as the Carefree Resort, was ranked #4 Wellness Resort experience in the world by Travel and Leisure Magazine in 2021. Other significant hospitality venues include the Spirit of the Desert and the Hampton Inn by Hilton located in the Village Center. A key 21-acre site, located at the northwest corner of Tom Darlington and Carefree Highway, has been identified by the Town for another potential resort development to maintain economic vitality.

## Village Center Redevelopment Plan

Building from the framework of the past, the Town updated the Village Center Master Plan in 2023 to meet State Statutory requirements for a redevelopment designation in the Village Center. Identifying key projects, initiatives, and redevelopment opportunities, the updated plan is guided by a vision with five core objectives for fostering a vibrant Village Center and a long term plan for implementation. As the true heart of the community, the Village Center is a key economic driver for the Town, with many small businesses and community programming around the arts.

# Open Space & Trails

The Town of Carefree prides itself in fostering a community where residents and visitors can easily access, enjoy, and marvel at the natural beauty of the surrounding Sonoran Desert. In general, open space provides recreational opportunities for individuals and families with a variety of interests and can serve as a gathering place for people to share common events and experiences. Carefree's open space preservation allows for that beauty of the desert to endure in order to contribute to healthy lifestyles and create opportunities for improving the sense of community identity.

## Black Mountain Summit Preserve

The Black Mountain Summit Preserve is the largest area of reserved open space in Carefree. The preserve is an area of regional conservation owned and managed by Maricopa County, with about 175 acres within Carefree's jurisdiction. There is a trail that leads to the summit of the peak that can be accessed in Cave Creek at the end of School House Road.

## Town-Owned Open Space

The Town of Carefree owns approximately 50 acres along the edge of the municipal limits north of Grapevine Wash. These areas have been intentionally set aside for the preservation of open space in the foothills of Continental Mountain.

## Carefree Desert Gardens

In the Carefree Town Center near the Sundial resides the Carefree Desert Gardens. There are a variety of features in the Desert Gardens, including two playground facilities, an outdoor amphitheater, restrooms, fountains, botanical gardens, walkways, ramadas, and art sculptures. Carefree Desert Gardens is accessible to the nearby residential areas via pedestrian and bicycle connections. It is also located less than 4 miles from the most distant subdivisions.

## Sundial Circle Plaza

Serving as the focal point of the Town Center, the Sundial Circle Plaza has been the home of the Carefree Sundial since 1959. It is currently claimed to be the third largest sundial in the Western Hemisphere, measuring over 90 feet in diameter. The plaza is frequently incorporated into local events that take place in the Town Center.

## Carefree/Cave Creek Cemetery

The Carefree/Cave Creek Cemetery is owned and managed by the Town of Carefree. The approximately 2.5 acres of the cemetery is considered open space because of its natural setting.

## Golf Courses

### Desert Forest Golf Club

Desert Forest Golf Club is a private golf and country club that features a full 18-hole golf course in the middle of Carefree. While only open for members, the land of the golf course does serve as an important and large area of open space within the Carefree Town Limits as it blends into the natural environment. Another unique aspect is the encouragement from the club for golfers to walk the course, minimizing the use of golf carts.

### Boulders Golf Club

The Boulders Club is another golf course that sits at the southern edge of Carefree. Only 9 of the 17 holes of the golf course are within the Town Limits. It is a semi-private country club and golf course that serves as another important open space area by blending into the natural environment in Carefree.

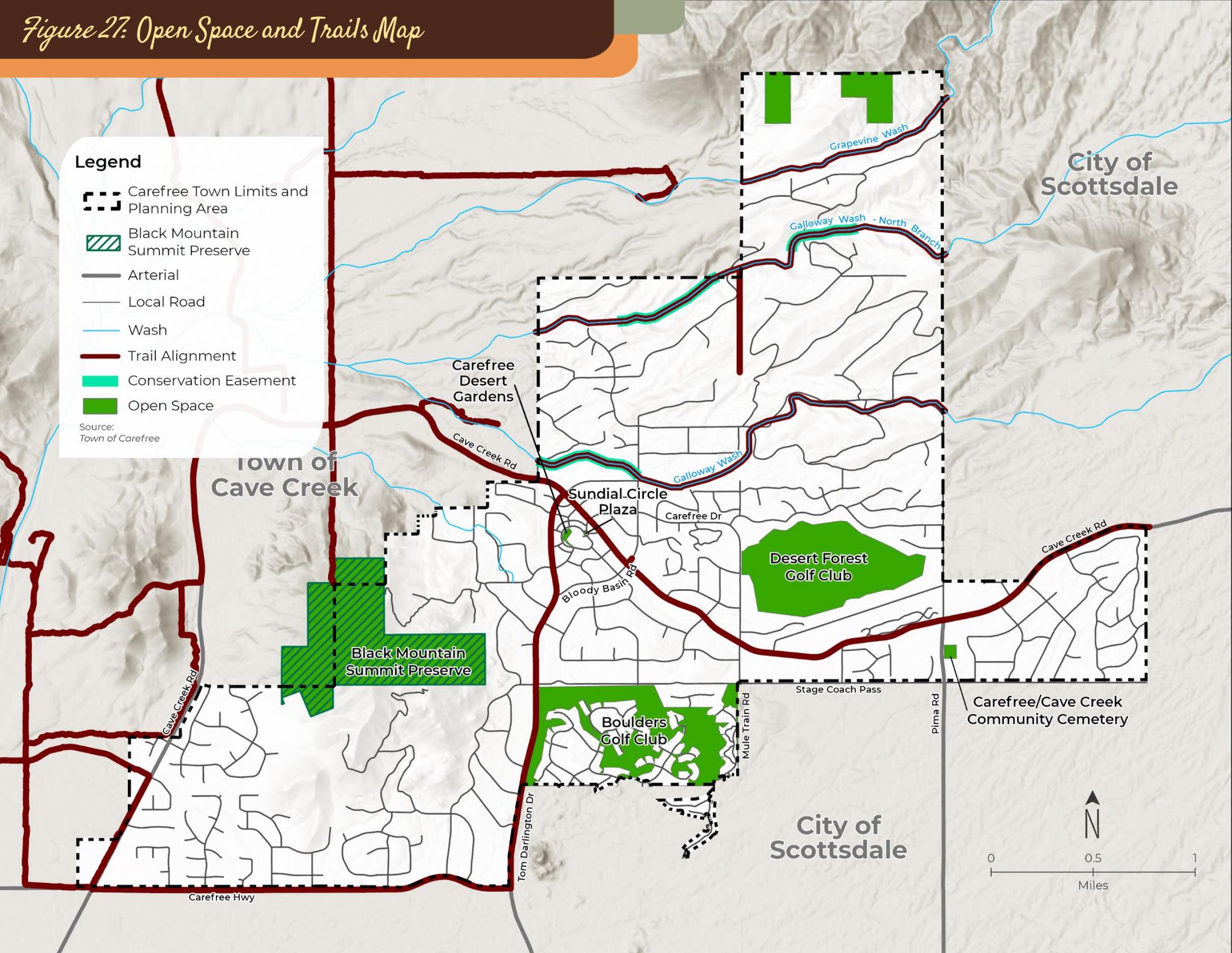
## Washes

There are four noteworthy washes that traverse or cross Carefree that may allow hiking, biking, and horseback riding. These washes are within floodplains as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and they cut across both private property and local streets. The Town of Carefree and Maricopa County Flood Control District regulate development in these FEMA floodplains. The Town additionally regulates development within non-FEMA floodplains to preserve the natural properties of the washes.

### Carefree Washes

- Grapevine Wash
- Galloway Wash
- Galloway Wash – North Branch
- Andora Hills Wash

Figure 27: Open Space and Trails Map



# Infrastructure & Services

## Utilities

### Water

The following two water providers operate within the Town of Carefree. Service areas are determined by property location and are shown in **Figure 28**.

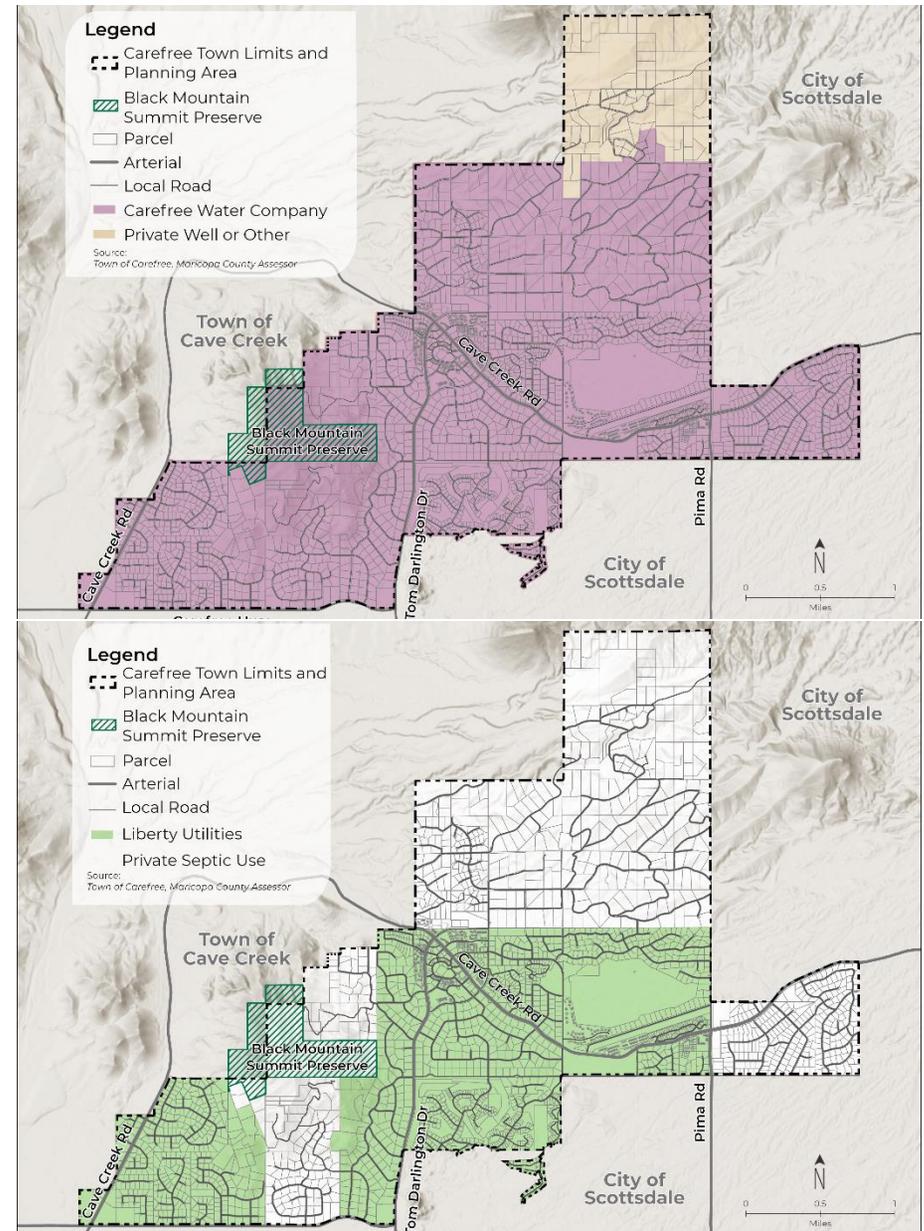
- Carefree Water Company

### Sewer/ Wastewater

The Town of Carefree has a single wastewater service provider that services the areas of the Town shown in **Figure 28**. Additionally, about half of the Town utilizes private septic systems.

- Liberty Utilities

Figure 28: Water (top) and Wastewater (bottom) Service Area Maps



Source: Town of Carefree, Maricopa County Assessor

## Electricity & Gas

Carefree's electric provider is Arizona Public Service (APS) Electric. Gas is exclusively provided by Southwest Gas.

## Solid Waste/ Recycling

The Town of Carefree does not provide solid waste nor recycling services. Maricopa County's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center takes mingled recycling and waste disposal at its transfer station. The Cave Creek transfer station is the closest one to Carefree at N 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Carefree Highway outside the Town limits. The following private companies are permitted to provide service within the Town.

- Waste Management of Arizona
- Republic Services
- Right Away Disposal (RAD)
- Scott Waste Services
- Area Disposal

## Public Safety

### Fire

Rural Metro Fire Department, Inc. provides fire protection services under contract as Carefree's Fire and Emergency Services provider. There is a single Carefree Fire Station located in the Town Center. Brush fire season typically occurs from the middle of April through September. Due to the rural, desert nature of Carefree, brush fires can occur within the Town limits. Town residents are encouraged to take the necessary steps to protect their homes and the community from these all too often preventable fires.

### Police

Police protection is provided by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office under an intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Carefree. The nearest Maricopa County Sheriff's Office location is in neighboring Cave Creek.

## Local Judicial Services

The Carefree-Cave Creek Consolidated Court is operated by the Town of Carefree however it is located in the Town of Cave Creek. This court handles municipal judicial matters and business. Cave Creek pays a service fee to Carefree to cover operational expenses.

## Town Center

The Carefree Town Center is the site of many local services for residents including the Town Hall, the Town Council Chambers, the Post Office, the Carefree Fire Station, and the Carefree Water Company Office.

## Schools

The Town is served by the Cave Creek Unified School District. There are no public educational facilities within the Town of Carefree.

## Community Services

### Medical Center

Carefree has a handful of medical service offices, but there is no hospital within its jurisdiction. The nearest hospital is Abrazo Cave Creek Hospital on Carefree Highway.

### Senior Centers

Carefree Manor Assisted Living, Heritage at Carefree Assisted Living, and Dream Street Care provide senior care/assisted living support within the Town limits of Carefree.

Figure 29: Community Amenities & Services Map

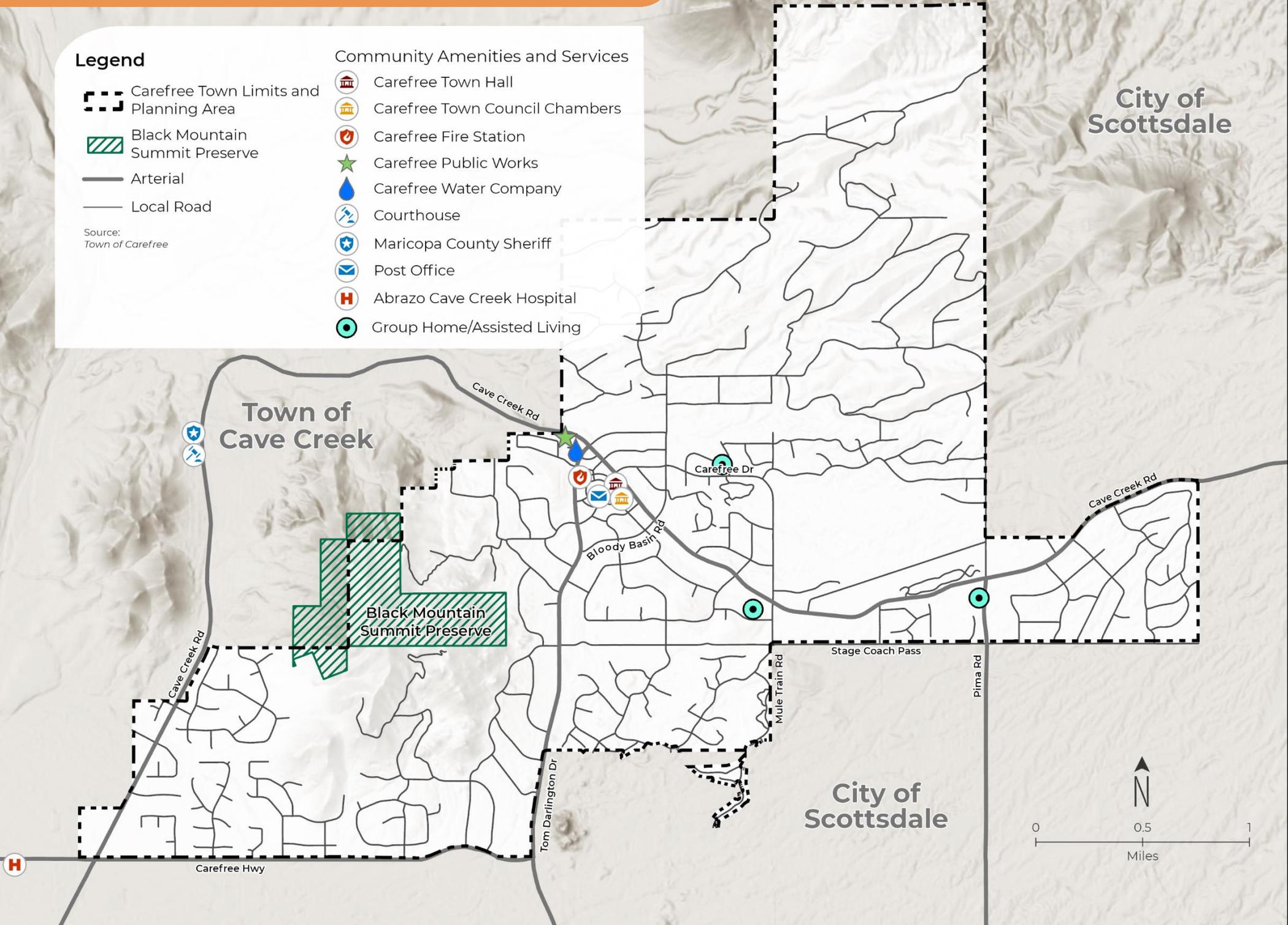
**Legend**

-  Carefree Town Limits and Planning Area
-  Black Mountain Summit Preserve
-  Arterial
-  Local Road

Source:  
Town of Carefree

**Community Amenities and Services**

-  Carefree Town Hall
-  Carefree Town Council Chambers
-  Carefree Fire Station
-  Carefree Public Works
-  Carefree Water Company
-  Courthouse
-  Maricopa County Sheriff
-  Post Office
-  Abrazo Cave Creek Hospital
-  Group Home/Assisted Living



**City of Scottsdale**

**Town of Cave Creek**

Black Mountain Summit Preserve

**City of Scottsdale**

