

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MEETING**

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**, and to the general public, that the **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD** will hold a meeting open to the public on **Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**

The Board may vote to convene an executive session on any item that is listed on this agenda for discussion or consultation with legal counsel to obtain legal advice in accordance with A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3).

OPTIONS TO ACCESS THIS MEETING

Watch meeting in-person at City Council Chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix, Arizona, 85003

Call-in to listen to the live meeting. Dial 602-666-0783. Enter the meeting access code **2339 771 4645** then enter in the Webinar password PksMtg! when prompted (7576841 from phones).

Observe - [April 24, 2025 - Webex Link](#)

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Each agenda item requires a separate sign-up form. If you wish to speak on multiple items, please submit a form for each one. Thank you for your understanding.

In-Person Requests to speak at a meeting:

Register in person at the front desk located at the City Council Chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix, Arizona, 85003.

Individuals may arrive up to 1 hour prior to the start of the meeting to submit an in-person request to speak. Requests to speak on individual items will not be accepted after the meeting has been called to order.

Virtual Requests to speak at a meeting:

This process is exclusively for virtual speakers and does not apply to in-person attendees requesting to speak.

To speak virtually via Webex, please use this link:

[April 24, 2025 - Virtual Request to Speak Link for Parks and Recreation Board](#)

- Virtual speakers must register by: **April 23, 2025**

If you have any issues with the form or if you wish to submit a comment to the board, contact **Laura Borson** at: laura.borson@phoenix.gov or 602-495-5215.

A complete packet of meeting materials will be posted 48 hours prior to the meeting at <https://www.phoenix.gov/parks>.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1.	CALL TO ORDER	Kelly Dalton, Chair
2.	INFORMATION ONLY	
	a. Code of Conduct Update (Jan-March 2025)	Jarod Rogers
3.	CONSENT ITEM(S): Consent items will be provided to the Board in writing and are not intended for formal presentation . Consent items may be voted on collectively, unless a Board member requests that any item be voted on separately. The chairperson may direct staff to formally present any consent item. These items are for possible action.	
	a. Parks Board Summary Minutes- March 27, 2025	Cindy Peiz
	b. Event and Vending Requests in City Parks	Alonso Avitia
	c. Approval of Telecommunication License at South Mountain Communication Towers to Bridge News	Theresa Faull
4.	INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM(S): Information and discussion items will be presented verbally to the Parks Board and are for discussion only. No action will take place on these items at this meeting.	
	a. RIO PHX Planning Initiative	Enrique Bojorquez Gaxiola Jarod Rogers
	b. Camp Colley Update	Claire Miller
	c. 2025 Parks and Recreation Summer Programs	Scott Coughlin Danielle Poveromo
5.	CALL THE PUBLIC	
6.	BOARD COMMENTS/REQUEST	
7.	DIRECTOR'S UPDATES	Martin Whitfield Brandie Barrett
8.	ADJOURNMENT	Kelly Dalton, Chair

For further information or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact:

Laura Borson At: laura.borson@phoenix.gov or 602-495-5215 or TTY: 7-1-1.

February 21, 2025.



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: April 24, 2025

From: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Subject QUARTERLY CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATE

This report provides the Parks and Recreation Board (Board) with a standing quarterly update regarding implementation of the Code of Conduct and ongoing education.

BACKGROUND

For additional background information, refer to previous Parks Board reports. Following Board approval in January 2021, staff implemented the Code of Conduct and began a 90-day education period regarding the new behavioral expectations for parks and park facilities. In April 2021, the trespass policy contained within the Code of Conduct took effect.

The goal of the Code of Conduct is to promote behavior that allows everyone to enjoy clean, safe, accessible, and inviting parks, facilities, and programs by providing clear expectations of acceptable behavior in flatland parks, desert and mountain parks and preserves, and other park facilities. The Code of Conduct was written in partnership with the community and several City departments, including the Law Department, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Police Department.

DISCUSSION

Educational Contacts and Trespass Notices

Staff continue to educate the community and park guests regarding the Code of Conduct. At the Board's request, the number of educational contacts made by staff in the field and the number of trespass notices and citations issued are tracked and reported to the Board on a quarterly basis.

Park Rangers have the authority to enforce Phoenix City Code violations through the issuance of Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaint (ATTC) citations. These citations are issued for violations of both criminal and civil violations that occur on park property. In addition, Park Rangers can enforce the Parks and Recreation Code of Conduct through the issuance of trespass notices. Some conduct violates both the Phoenix City Code and the Code of Conduct. Park Rangers generally lead with education to gain compliance, but, when education does not work and to address chronic and/or serious behavior, a Park Ranger may issue an ATTC, a trespass notice or both depending on the behavior.

From the week of December 30, 2024, to the week of January 27, 2025, urban park rangers made approximately 915 educational contacts. During this period, park rangers issued 143 trespass and order to leave the park notices and 28 citations. The trespass notices during this period were related to: 84 loitering with postage signage and loitering after closure, 29 using, possessing, selling drugs or drug paraphernalia, 7 dog at large, 4 order to leave; unlawful failure to comply, 3 prohibited wheeled devices, 3 prohibited public activities, 4 using or possessing alcohol, 2 abusing or vandalizing a park or amenities, 2 activities that may endanger self, others, wildlife, or park property, 2 smoking or starting fires, 2 unlawful conduct, one storing or leaving personal belongings unattended. The citations were for violations related to: 18 loitering after closure, 3 smoking/starting a fire in parks, 2 spirituous liquor in parks, 2 dog at large, one driving off road – parking (>10ft), one prohibited public activities (urinating/defecating in public), and one order to leave; unlawful failure to comply.

From the week of February 3 to the week of February 24, urban park rangers made approximately 898 educational contacts. During this period, park rangers issued 147 trespass and order to leave the park notices and 38 citations. The trespass notices during this period were related to: 69 loitering with postage signage and loitering after closure, 34 using, possessing, selling drugs or drug paraphernalia, 10 smoking and starting fires, 5 dog at large, 8 use of shopping carts or prohibited wheeled devices, 7 using or possessing alcohol, 3 unlawful conduct, 2 activities that may endanger self, others, wildlife, or park property, 2 prohibited public activities (urinating/defecating in public), 2 driving off-road in a City park, one aggressive intimidation or harassment, one burglary tools, one defacing natural areas, one using amenities outside of intended use, and one drunk and disorderly. The citations were for violations related to: 23 loitering after closure, 8 dog at large, 2 prohibited wheeled devices, one spiritous liquor, one smoking/starting fires, one feeding pigeons, one prohibited public activities (urinating/defecating in public), and one defacing natural areas.

From the week of March 3 to the week of March 24, urban park rangers made approximately 943 educational contacts. During this period, park rangers issued 177 trespass and order to leave the park notices and 30 citations. The trespass notices during this period were related to: 86 loitering with posted signage and loitering after closure, 44 using, possessing, selling drugs or drug paraphernalia, 11 using or possessing alcohol, 10 smoking/starting fires, 7 unlawful conduct, 5 prohibited wheeled devices, 4 order to leave; unlawful failure to comply, 3 dog at large, 2 storing or leaving personal belongings unattended, or doing laundry in restrooms or facilities, one aggressive intimidation or harassment, one prohibited public activities (urinating/defecating in public), one glass containers in parks, one activities that may endanger self, others, wildlife, or park property, and one riding electric bicycles or motorized vehicles off established roads. The citations were for violations related to: 22 loitering after closure and one loitering with posted signage, 5 dog at large, and 2 using or possessing alcohol. (See **Attachment A Table 1** for a weekly breakdown of the activity for end of December 2024, January 2025, February of 2025, and March 2025).

At the time of this report, no appeals have been received for adult nor juvenile trespasses at this time.

At the October 2023 Parks Board meeting, the Board requested a breakdown of the five parks experiencing the greatest Code of Conduct challenges. The attached table highlights names of the five parks and their associated number of violations each month. (**Attachment A Table 2**)

Staff will continue to lead with education about the Code of Conduct and report the number of educational contacts made and the number of trespass notices and citations issued to the board.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

Prepared by: Jarod Rogers, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director

Approved by: Brandie I. Barrett, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Attachment A

Table 1:

Date	Number of Educational Contacts	Number of Trespass Notices and Orders to Leave Issued	Number of Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaint (ATTC) Citations Issued
Week of March 24	238	57	15
Week of March 17	250	50	9
Week of March 10	243	19	2
Week of March 3	212	51	4
Week of February 24	221	35	4
Week of February 17	255	32	9
Week of February 10	169	40	20
Week of February 3	253	40	5
Week of January 27	231	33	7
Week of January 20	170	26	4
Week of January 13	195	43	7
Week of January 6	184	20	2
Week of December 30	135	21	8
Weekly Average 2024	392.6	49.3	6.6
Weekly Average 2023	386.3	16.3	4.0
Weekly Average 2022	276.4	4.9	1.1
Weekly Average 2021	501.6*	9.5*	N/A **

**The trespass policy went into effect March 22, 2021. Average of 42 weeks.*

*** ATTCs not tracked in 2021. ATTC tracking began the week of October 2, 2022.*

ATTC average for 2022 covers the weeks from October 2 through December 25.

****Beginning January 1, 2024, updates to the Access database allowed for improved data collection. These changes more accurately capture park ranger activity and filter out unrelated activity.*

*****On September 1, 2024, park rangers began using a new, updated, GIS based data collection tool that allows for more accurate reporting.*

Table 2:

Five Parks with greatest number of violations observed by Park Rangers. End of December 2024 to the last week of March 2025.

Month	Park #1	Violations Observed	Park #2	Violations Observed	Park #3	Violations Observed	Park #4	Violations Observed	Park # 5	Violations Observed
Jan 2024	Cesar Chavez	215	Hance	165	Desert West	94	Hayden	79	Cave Creek*	69
Feb 2024	Desert West	236	Cesar Chavez	203	Cave Creek*	158	Hance	156	Sueno & El Prado	87
Mar 2024	Hance	280	Cesar Chavez	202	Cave Creek*	198	Sueno	177	Hayden	92
Apr 2024	Hance	294	Cave Creek*	229	Cesar Chavez	143	Solano	122	Sueno	116
May 2024	Hance	264	Cesar Chavez	159	Cave Creek*	156	Hermoso	102	La Pradera	97
June 2024	Hance	380	Hermoso	346	Cesar Chavez	140	Cave Creek*	107	University	88
July 2024	Hance	287	Cave Creek*	148	Cesar Chavez	144	Hermoso	102	Sueno	97
Aug 2024	El Prado	127	Cave Creek*	127	Hance	123	El Oso	121	Cesar Chavez	107
Sept 2024	El Oso	265	Cave Creek*	164	Cesar Chavez	161	Hance	111	Sueno	99
Oct 2024	Hance	109	Cave Creek*	87	Sueno	83	Hermoso	56	Cesar Chavez & Cielito	44
Nov 2024	Cave Creek*	82	Sueno	72	Hance	44	Cesar Chavez	33	El Oso	32
Dec 2024	Sueno	92	Cave Creek*	83	Hance	62	Cortez	37	University	32
Jan 2025	Cave Creek*	96	Little Canyon	65	Hance	60	Encanto	53	Hermoso	47
Feb 2025	Hance	119	Little Canyon	67	Civic Space	54	Cave Creek*	46	Encanto	43
Mar 2025	University	75	Madison	70	Encanto	69	Cave Creek*	61	Hance	51

**The Cave Creek Parks include 6 connected parks.*

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Virtual meeting hosted on Webex.

<u>Board Members Present</u> Kelly Dalton Aubrey Barnwell (Virtual Webex) Ed Zuercher Sarah Porter Dorina Bustamante Tony Moya <u>Board Members Absent</u> Emma Viera	<u>Staff Present</u> John Chan Cynthia Aguilar Brandie Barrett Marty Whitfield Mark Gonzales Jarod Rogers Dustin Cammack Dr. Todd Davis (Virtual Webex) Tannia Ruiz Jana Benson Cindy Peiz	<u>Community Members</u> Geri Koeppel Scott Davis John Bawden Katashia Morgan Maggie Kelehan Jerry Van Gasse Tim Sierakowski
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dalton called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. with Board Members Zuercher, Bustamante, Porter, and Moya in attendance.

2. Information Only

2a. Quarterly Code of Conduct Update

Chairperson Dalton noted that this was information only and no action will be taken.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

3a. Parks and Recreation Board Summary Minutes – February 27, 2025

3b. Request to Vend at City Parks

3c. Request to Extend Closure of Hilaria Park

3d. Recommendation to City Council to Amend Ordinance S-35137 Resolution Approving Fee Model for City Golf Course Fees and to Modify the Jr. Golf Card Program

Board Member Bustamante made a motion to approve consent items 3a through 3d. Board Member Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

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4. WORK STUDY: PHOENIX TRAILS AND SAFETY

Director Cynthia Aguilar provided a summary of the Board's ongoing review of the Trails and Heat Safety Program, which began with the October 2024 update and continued through two work study sessions.

Board Member Barnwell joined the meeting virtually on Webex.

Deputy Director Rogers recapped prior work study discussions on South Mountain Park, highlighting its interconnected trails, multiple access points, and 16,000-acre size. He reviewed key data, including trail difficulty and rescue incidents, noting that the trail rating for the Holbert Trail had been corrected to reflect "difficult" on the map.

Following prior discussions, Parks and Recreation Department and Phoenix Fire Department staff evaluated the trail system at South Mountain Park including trail and mountain rescue difficulty, rescue data, and hiker volume, leading to the development of Option A. The proposal keeps most of the park's 128.3 miles of trails while proposing to restricts 6.71 miles of trails, which includes Holbert, Mormon, Hau'pal Loop, and access to the National Trail from Pima Canyon Trailhead, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during National Weather Service Extreme Heat Warnings. Access to the National Trail from other entry points across South Mountain Park/Preserve remain unrestricted. In addition, other trails accessed from the Pima Canyon Trailhead would also remain unaffected. No changes are proposed for Camelback Mountain or Piestewa Peak. A map was shared to show the impacted areas.

Under Option A, Holbert Trail, a 2.56-mile route with 1,000+ feet of elevation and 23,000 annual hikers, would be restricted at both the Holbert Trailhead and 7th Street walk-in access due to safety concerns.

Mormon Trail, a 1.35-mile trail with 700 feet of elevation gain and about 18,000 hikers per year, would also be restricted. This would include the closure of the Mormon Trailhead parking lot at 24th Street. This is the only trailhead in South Mountain Park proposed to be fully closed under Option A, using existing vehicular gates.

The Hau'pal Loop Trail, rated extremely difficult and averaging 65,000 hikers annually, would also be restricted. With steep grades exceeding 30 percent in some sections, the 2.8-mile loop poses increased rescue challenges. Trail closure signage would be posted

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on days with Extreme Heat Warnings, while adjacent trails such as the Ma-Ha-Tuak Perimeter Trail would remain open.

Finally, access to the National Trail from the Pima Canyon Trailhead, which sees over 200,000 hikers annually, would be restricted. However, the National Trail would remain open from all other access points. The Pima Canyon parking lot would stay open, maintaining access to other nearby trails. Closure signage would be installed at the trailhead to clearly notify hikers of the restriction during Extreme Heat Warning days.

Additionally, under Option A, 6.71 miles of trails at South Mountain Park would be restricted during Extreme Heat Warnings, while the remaining 121.59 miles would stay open and accessible during the nine-hour restriction window. No changes are proposed for existing restrictions at Camelback Mountain or Piestewa Peak.

Assistant Fire Chief Gonzales shared information on significant challenges associated with mountain rescues at South Mountain Park for the Fire Department. He emphasized the physical demands placed on Firefighters, who often carry 40 pounds of gear while navigating steep, rocky terrain, and added that rescues are more complicated when air support is unavailable.

Asst. Fire Chief Gonzales described the Holbert and Mormon Trails as difficult-rated routes with steep elevation gains, where rescues typically require labor intensive and time consuming big-wheel operations. The Hau'pal Loop Trail, rated extremely difficult, presents even greater challenges due to its steep grades and remote location, which further increase response and extraction times.

Assistant Fire Chief Gonzales noted that while a 1.25-mile service road can assist rescues on the National Trail from Pima Canyon, it's not always available. Most rescues occur deep in the preserve, requiring long, difficult travel that delays patient care and extraction.

Deputy Director Rogers introduced Option B, which would leave the Phoenix Trails and Heat Safety Program unchanged. Under this option, the existing restrictions at Camelback Mountain, Piestewa Peak, and South Mountain Park and Preserve would remain in place without any modifications.

Regardless of the Board's decision, the Department plans to proceed with with an update to the 10-year-old "Take a Hike, Do It Right" campaign with updated graphics,

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signage, trail maps, and expanded outreach through tourism and hospitality partnerships.

The Department will continue to engage the 300-member strong Park Steward volunteer group, and partner with the Office of Heat Mitigation for weekend trailhead outreach and water distribution during the hottest months of the year. The Department stressed balancing volunteer safety with effectiveness and plans to explore technology solutions like real-time closure updates to enhance the hiker experience.

Director Aguilar thanked the Chair and Board members and noted that the team was available to answer any questions.

Chairperson Dalton opened the floor for questions and asked Deputy Director Rogers whether any trails are completely inaccessible year-round under the current program.

Deputy Director Rogers responded by explaining that all Phoenix trails remain accessible 365 days a year, though some have restricted hours on extreme heat warning days. Typically, access is allowed during the early morning hours (5:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.) and again in the evening (after 5:00 p.m. until park closing).

Chairperson Dalton followed up by confirming that Piestewa Peak, Camelback Mountain, and South Mountain Park are currently accessible to the public even on days with Excessive Heat Warnings.

Deputy Director Rogers affirmed this is correct.

She then asked whether Option A would continue to allow public access on those days.

Deputy Director Rogers confirmed that it would.

Chairperson Dalton asked for clarification on how many miles of trails would remain open under Option A, noting it would restrict 6.7 miles at South Mountain.

Deputy Director Jarod Rogers responded that over 120 miles of trails would remain open all day under Option A. He also clarified that the 6.7 miles of restricted trails would still be accessible outside of the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Extreme Heat Warning days

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Chairperson Dalton asked whether the restriction would apply only during the hottest parts of the day.

Deputy Director Rogers affirmed that this was correct.

Board Member Sarah Porter asked Assistant Fire Chief Gonzales for clarification on the principles used to determine which trails at South Mountain Park were selected for restrictions.

Asst. Fire Chief Gonzales responded by explaining that the selection process aligns with the criteria already used for restrictions at Camelback Mountain and Piestewa Peak. The primary consideration is the difficulty of performing mountain rescues, specifically, how challenging it is for first responders to access and transport injured hikers.

Board Member Porter questioned the impact of Extreme Heat Warnings in shoulder months like April and October, expressing concern that lower temperatures might trigger warnings without posing significant risks. She suggested setting a minimum temperature threshold for restrictions.

Director Aguilar responded, confirming that a temperature graph was not included in the materials for the meeting. She noted that the topic had been discussed previously, including during the public survey process. However, since the Board had not provided direction to shift from using National Weather Service advisories to a temperature-based system, the current recommendation remains to follow National Weather Service guidelines.

Board Member Porter expressed concern that a 105°F temperature in April could trigger an Extreme Heat Warning, which may not pose the same risk as higher summer temperatures. She emphasized the need to consider a minimum temperature threshold for trail restrictions.

Board Member Bustamante recalled that both Extreme Heat Warnings and a fixed temperature threshold were considered. She noted the Board's conservative approach, aiming to balance safety while minimizing trail access restrictions.

Chairperson Dalton cautioned against setting arbitrary temperature thresholds without further discussion, reaffirming the Board's reliance on the National Weather Service's

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Excessive Heat Warning system. She noted that staff had not prepared data on a fixed temperature threshold but acknowledged the issue could be revisited later.

Board Member Porter stated she had raised the temperature threshold concern before, especially as temperatures rise in April. She noted that while the initial vote occurred during cooler months, the conversation needs to adapt as warmer weather approaches.

Board Member Porter asked for clarification, confirming that the Board could only vote on Option A or Option B as listed in the agenda.

City Attorney Dustin Cammack explained that the agenda must outline topics clearly, and while modifications are allowed, introducing new elements could be problematic. He recommended adding significant changes, like adjusting the temperature threshold, to a future meeting's agenda.

Board Member Porter expressed surprise, stating that the board has previously amended proposed action items without issue.

City Attorney Dustin Cammack clarified that major changes without prior public notice are not ideal. He recommended scheduling any significant actions for the next meeting if they differ from the agenda.

Board Member Porter asked what qualifies as a drastic change, noting her concern about temperature fluctuations in the shoulder months. She pointed out that a 105°F day in April may trigger an Excessive Heat Warning but may not pose the same risks as in peak summer.

City Attorney Cammack reiterated that the key legal standard is whether the public and board members were given proper notice of the actions to be taken.

Board Member Porter agreed to wait until the next meeting but expressed frustration.

Board Member Bustamante suggested that Board Member Porter and City Attorney Cammack might be discussing different aspects, one focused on procedural rules and the other on policy decisions.

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Board Member Porter requested that the heat advisory graphic be included for review at the next meeting. She also suggested evaluating the feasibility of keeping trails open during the shoulder months by comparing historical Extreme Heat Advisories with actual temperatures.

Chairperson Dalton expressed openness to revisiting the discussion but was not ready to support a motion on a specific temperature threshold at this meeting. She recommended moving forward with the current vote and addressing the temperature threshold issue at a future meeting.

Board Member Porter clarified that selecting Option A would expand trail access, recalling that the Board had previously voted to restrict access to all trails at South Mountain, so approving Option A would increase trail availability.

Chairperson Dalton confirmed that was correct.

Board Member Zuercher agreed with Board Member Porter, stating the Board has the authority to discuss changes to heat restriction criteria. While he didn't support changes, he saw no reason why it could not be considered.

Board Member Zuercher asked Asst. Fire Chief Gonzales whether the level of risk to Firefighters varies with temperature. He noted that Extreme Heat Warnings are influenced by seasonal conditions and public acclimation and questioned whether sudden temperature changes affect Firefighters similarly to how they impact the general public.

Chief Gonzales responded that, while the National Weather Service's system appears straightforward, the way heat warnings are determined is complex. He agreed that acclimation is a major factor, and that both the public and firefighters can experience physical strain when performing intense activity in unexpected heat.

Director Aguilar added that the National Weather Service bases its warnings on risk rather than temperature alone. If the level of risk is high in April, they issue a warning just as they would in July. The primary concern is public safety, not just how hot it is outside.

Board Member Zuercher supported using National Weather Service Extreme Heat Warnings as a clear, objective guideline and stated he would not support Board Member

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Porter's amendment. However, he disagreed with the idea that the Board couldn't discuss or propose changes at the current meeting.

Board Member Tony Moya asked for more details about the heat mitigation team's work, whether they had done it before, and if they focused on specific trails.

Deputy Director Rogers explained that from May to September, staff work with Park Stewards and the Office of Heat Mitigation at trailheads to provide water and educate hikers. They offer safety tips, recommend cooler hiking times, and suggest alternative routes, particularly for those not acclimated to the heat. He emphasized the program's focus on outreach and encouraged more volunteer involvement.

Director Aguilar acknowledged the legal guidance given to the board but clarified that members could still choose to discuss or propose amendments. If necessary, any amendments could be ratified in a future meeting.

Chairperson Dalton stated that while Board Member Porter was welcome to propose an amendment when a motion was made, she was not prepared to support it at this time.

Board Member Porter requested that the discussion remain open. She noted that extreme heat days were determined by hospital admissions for heat-related illness but questioned whether the observed trends were due to people adapting to heat or if early-season heat waves disproportionately affected vulnerable populations, such as unhoused individuals. She suggested that Dr. Davis might provide further insight.

Chairperson Dalton said this did not align with her understanding but welcomed further discussion when the appropriate experts were present. She asked if Dr. Todd Davis was available to comment.

Dr. Davis explained that most heat-related illnesses in hikers are due to exertion, as even well-hydrated and acclimated individuals can experience dangerous body temperature rises within 25 to 50 minutes. In severe cases, hikers can suffer heat stroke, leading to symptoms like nausea, seizures, or even death.

Dr. Davis also noted that while firefighters are more acclimated to heat, their physical exertion during rescues increases their risk of muscle breakdown and dehydration, which can cause kidney failure. Unlike hikers, firefighters must exert extra effort to not

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only reach the rescue site but also transport both themselves and the patient, further increasing their heat exposure.

Chairperson Dalton asked whether the heat risk remained significant if a Firefighter performed only one rescue in a day instead of multiple.

Dr. Davis confirmed that even a single high-heat rescue is dangerous. He explained that once a Firefighter reaches a critical level of heat exposure, each subsequent rescue becomes exponentially riskier.

Chairperson Dalton then brought up the issue of helicopter rescues in extreme heat, noting that many members of the public may not be aware that helicopters are sometimes unable to operate in high temperatures. She asked Dr. Davis to explain the risks associated with transporting a patient by ground instead of by air.

Dr. Davis emphasized that time is crucial in mountain rescues. Helicopter transport significantly shortens the time to medical care, while ground rescues using baskets or big-wheel stretchers are much slower and increase patient risk. On average, ground extractions take three to four times longer, delaying access to life saving treatment.

Chairperson Dalton asked if any Board members had additional questions or comments before opening the floor to public comments.

Board Member Dorina Bustamante expressed her appreciation for Director Aguilar and the park staff, acknowledging the challenges of managing one of the largest public park system in the United States. She emphasized that overseeing parks, swimming pools, golf courses, community centers, and mountain preserves is no small task and thanked the staff for their stewardship and advocacy.

Board Member Bustamante acknowledged the Board's role as community volunteers and praised park staff for their dedication. She emphasized that the proposed restrictions focus only on the most sensitive trail areas, covering a few miles rather than imposing widespread closures. She compared the approach to public safety advisories in activities like skiing or surfing, where guidance helps protect both people and the environment. She voiced support for the staff's recommendation, noting that the decision reflects a thoughtful, ongoing response to rising temperatures and public safety and not a final step.

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Chairperson Dalton thanked Bustamante for her comments and seeing no further remarks from the board, moved to public comment.

Geri Koeppel thanked city staff and the Board, supporting Option A as a reasonable solution. As a frequent hiker who's seen multiple rescues near Pima Canyon, she agreed with focusing on the most at-risk areas and individuals.

Scott Davis voiced concern that both options would restrict more trails than in past summers. He felt locals can manage the heat and found NWS warnings less intuitive. Citing confusion over past enforcement, he recommended better public education, such as QR codes for real-time updates, and noted that locking trailheads would likely deter most hikers.

John Bawden urged the Board to adopt Option A, describing it as a well-developed plan that would reduce rescues on high-risk trails and ease pressure on the Fire department. He warned that a full closure would cut off access for 85,000 Ahwatukee residents, while Option A offers a balanced solution. He stressed the importance of education over additional closures and shared his commitment as a new trail steward.

Tim Sierakowski urged the Board to keep parks unchanged, warning that new restrictions could jeopardize critical 3PI funding. He argued hiking should be a personal choice, not a government decision, and questioned why hikers face limits while outdoor workers operate in similar heat. He encouraged the Board to avoid unnecessary regulations and respect individual freedoms.

Katashia Morgan, described hiking as essential to her wellbeing and said she is acclimated to year-round heat. She urged the Board to prioritize education over restrictions, noting most rescues involve unprepared hikers.

Maggie Kelehan supported Option A but stressed that education, not restrictions, is key to safety. She cited fire department funding and response times as core issues and warned that reduced trail use could affect future funding. She urged the Board to pursue systemic, long-term solutions, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Chairperson Dalton noted that with no additional public comments, the discussion would return to the Board for questions, comments, or a motion.

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Board Member Zuercher asked about penalties for violating trail restrictions and how enforcement is handled. He also sought clarification on law enforcement's role.

Deputy Director Rogers explained that individuals on closed trails may be cited for being in a closed park. Rangers can issue fines or trespass individuals if needed, but he noted compliance has been high and the Department prioritizes education over enforcement.

Board Member Zuercher asked for confirmation that enforcement would be handled by Park Rangers rather than Police Officers.

Deputy Director Rogers confirmed this, stating that violations fall under park rules and are enforced through citations rather than police intervention.

Board Member Porter asked if the Board's established practices enforcing the Code of Conduct prioritizing education before citations apply.

Deputy Director Rogers confirmed the Department would prioritize education through social media, signage, and direct outreach before enforcing rules.

Board Member Moya clarified that the Code of Conduct was created to avoid police involvement, a strategy strongly supported by the Board.

Board Member Bustamante asked about the funding source for marketing and public education efforts.

Director Aguilar explained that there is no dedicated funding for the initiative, so the Department will use existing resources and a phased approach for signage and outreach. Some signage needs updating, and further planning will determine if external support is necessary for marketing and education efforts.

Board Member Bustamante asked if the Department had reviewed signage needs and integrated messaging on the Code of Conduct, restricted hours, and safety measures.

Director Aguilar confirmed the Department is aware of signage needs and will begin rolling out trail restriction signs and educational materials immediately as part of the current strategy.

**CITY OF PHOENIX
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
SUMMARY MINUTES**

March 27, 2025

Board Member Zuercher began by commending the Parks and Fire departments for their thoughtful and collaborative approach in balancing public access with public safety. He emphasized that the proposal of Option A effectively integrates education with appropriate restrictions and acknowledged the complexity of remote trail rescues.

Board Member Zuercher moved to approve Option A.

Board Member Aubrey Barnwell seconded the motion.

Chairperson Dalton confirmed the motion and asked if there was any further discussion before proceeding to a vote.

Board Member Porter explained her vote, emphasizing that the decision was an expansion of access but not a blanket restriction. She praised the collaboration between Fire and Parks staff to focus on high-risk trails rather than broad closures. She clarified the goal was not to limit personal choice, but to reduce unnecessary strain on first responders.

Chairperson Dalton thanked Board Member Porter for her remarks and, with no further discussion, called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously, with all board members voting in favor, 6-0.

Chairperson Dalton thanked everyone for their input and participation.

5. Call to the Public:

Jerry Van Gasse criticized the process for lacking public input and raised concerns about uninvestigated debris dumping and unaccounted park renovation funds. He called for increased transparency and accountability in park decisions.

Tim Sierakowski questioned the review process of the "mystery house" purchase and potential misuse of 3PI funds, citing past complaints about financial mismanagement and criticized the lack of action on safety and education issues he raised ten years ago.

6. Board Comments/Request:

**CITY OF PHOENIX
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
SUMMARY MINUTES**

March 27, 2025

Board Member Moya requested an update on summer programming and pool preparations.

Director Aguilar confirmed a full update, including pools and summer camp information, is scheduled for April.

Board Member Zuercher followed up on Trail 100 signage, praising the new adjustable signs for improving clarity, especially in the Dreamy Draw area.

Board Member Bustamante praised the city's golf program, noting the challenging greens at Encanto and highlighting the affordability, popularity, and accessibility of the courses through the city pass program.

Chairperson Dalton closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their participation.

7. Adjournment:

Chairperson Dalton adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: April 24, 2025

From: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Subject: EVENT AND VENDING REQUESTS IN CITY PARKS

This report requests Parks and Recreation Board (Board) approval for event production, marketing, community outreach, and vending activities at Marivue and Steele Indian School Parks. It also seeks approval to extend Steele Indian School Park's operating hours from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and authorization for the Parks and Recreation Director to execute the associated agreement and related documents.

BACKGROUND

Phoenix parks are reserved throughout the year for various events. Many events are produced by an event coordinator or community partners, and some are public events sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department. Some events are free to the public, while others require a registration fee. Some of the events charge booth entry fees to vendors who sell food and/or products to attendees. Producers who rent City parks and facilities are required to follow all City guidelines, including obtaining all applicable permits and licenses.

Vending, which is a typical component of events in parks, can also consist of selling admission, food and beverages, shirts or other concessions for fundraising purposes. Per Phoenix City Charter and Phoenix City Code 24-40, the board must approve commercial sales/vending in public parks. Each year, the Parks and Recreation Department brings the board an annual report requesting approval of all known requests for vending in parks; however, staff also receives requests for vending throughout the year, such as requests below, and brings them to the board for approval.

DISCUSSION

Black and Brown Unity Expo – Marivue Park (May 17, 2025)

The Black and Brown Unity Expo, hosted by Rhythm of Life and organized by Maryvale native Michael Laborin, is a vibrant community celebration centered on unity, empowerment, and giving back. Drawing an expected crowd of 400, the event fosters connection through music, food, and local vendors, while distributing 1,000 backpacks with school supplies and hygiene kits to local youth. Event attendees can enjoy delicious food, shop local vendors, and listen to the music as they celebrate the power of community, culture, and togetherness. Since 2019, the Expo has served as a powerful platform to strengthen Black and Brown community bonds, promote economic advancement, and inspire collective action through real-world examples of resilience and collaboration.

**Relentless Beats-Better Together Music Festival- Steele Indian School Park
(November 21-22, 2025)**

The Relentless Beats – Better Together Music Festival, scheduled for November 21–22, 2025, at Steele Indian School Park, is a two-day music and cultural festival featuring top artists, multi-stage performances, live activations, food, and exclusive merchandise. With an anticipated daily attendance of 8,000–10,000, the festival aims to engage a broad audience while boosting the local economy by supporting businesses and vendors. Music is scheduled to end by 10:15 p.m. each night, with crowd dispersal expected between 10:15 and 10:30 p.m., followed by event production shutdown activities from 10:30 to 11:00 p.m. Steele Indian School Park offers a central, accessible venue suited for a large-scale event, and Board approval is requested for vending and extended park hours from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Since the Relentless Beats – Better Together Music Festival will exceed the 3,000 attendee threshold, neighborhood notifications will be required. Organizers must notify residents, businesses, places of worship, and schools regarding parking and noise impacts. The agreement will require an expanded 1.5-mile radius community and public outreach notification plan. Staff will return to the Board with updated event details prior to the event.

As with all requests to vend, event organizers for these events will be required to follow all city guidelines and use requirements for sales, including any required insurance, permits and licenses.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests Board approval for event production, marketing, community outreach, and vending activities at Marivue and Steele Indian School Parks. It also seeks approval to extend Steele Indian School Park's operating hours from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and authorization for the Parks and Recreation Director to execute the associated agreement and related documents.

Prepared by: William Adams, Deputy Director
Alonso Avitia, Deputy Director

Approved by: Martin Whitfield, Assistant Director



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: April 24, 2025

From: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Subject: APPROVAL OF TELECOMMUNICATION LICENSE AT SOUTH
MOUNTAIN COMMUNICATION TOWERS TO BRIDGE NEWS LLC

This report requests Parks and Recreation Board (Board) approval of a South Mountain Communications Site License to BRIDGE NEWS LLC (BRIDGE NEWS) DBA KVPA-LD due to an assignment of Agreement No. 134262 (the KRCA Agreement) from KRCA TELEVISION, LLC (KRCA).

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Department manages approximately 100 license agreements with telecommunication companies at South Mountain Park. These companies provide broadcast signal for television, radio, emergency broadcast and broadband services.

These non-governmental telecommunication companies are granted permission through their contract to transfer broadcast capability on a tower from one company to another and/or to sublease/license at their site. In October 2018, the Board approved the Parks and Recreation Director to approve contract transfers due to the frequency of these companies transferring licenses. However, all other contractual matters such as reassignment through a sale must still come to the Board for approval.

DISCUSSION

The City entered into the KRCA Agreement on July 1, 2012 on Site No. 28, to provide KRCA with access to, and operation of, certain electronic broadcasting and communications facilities at South Mountain Park. KRCA does not create a lease, easement, or other estate or right in the park or any property.

In September 2023, KRCA was sold to BRIDGE NEWS under an Asset Purchase Agreement. On November 22, 2023, through the Asset Purchase Agreement, an Assignment and Assumption Agreement was finalized which transferred all KRCA's rights, title and interest to BRIDGE NEWS to perform KRCA's obligations. In April 2024, after the completion of these transactions, the City was notified of these actions.

To ensure the assignment transfer was compliant with the contractual obligations of the license agreement with the City, research was necessary to determine all required documentation was verified. Additionally, the financial accounting needed to be satisfactorily reconciled.

The account is up to date on monthly license fees to the City. The current license fee is \$3,207.97 plus tax, per month.

Upon Board approval, staff will execute a new license agreement with BRIDGE NEWS to reflect the assignment of the license to BRIDGE NEWS. The rate for BRIDGE NEWS will start at the current rate of \$3,207.97 plus tax, with an annual three percent escalator. The effective date will be on or around December 1, 2023, at the time BRIDGE NEWS acquired the assignment, and the term of the agreement will remain in alignment with all South Mountain tower agreements and expire June 30, 2032.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Board approval of a South Mountain Communications Site License to BRIDGE NEWS LLC DBA KVPA-LD due to an assignment of Agreement No. 134262 from KRCA TELEVISION, LLC.

Prepared by: Theresa Faull, Deputy Director

Approved by: Brandie I. Barrett, Assistant Director



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: April 24, 2025

From: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Subject: RIO PHX Planning Initiative

This report provides information to the Parks and Recreation Board (Board) regarding the RIO PHX planning initiative.

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Department has owned and managed the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area (HRA) since 2004 when the restoration project was completed. The Restoration Area serves as a riparian restoration area and recreation area that allows for various groups from around the valley to come and learn about Sonoran Desert riparian habitats.

The HRA features multiple trailhead access points along with over eight miles of bikeable, walkable pathways that allow access from 19th Avenue on the west side, stretching east all the way beyond Sky Harbor Airport on South Bank Trail, ultimately connecting with bike paths that connect to Tempe, Mesa and beyond.

A key update planned for the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area is a pedestrian bridge spanning over the river bed at 3rd Street alignment. This Street Transportation Project is currently in design with a timeline that anticipates the bridge being open to the public in 2030. There are also ongoing planning efforts to improve the 3rd Street alignment connecting the bridge to downtown.

DISCUSSION

The Parks and Recreation Department is a key partner with other agencies and Departments in planning efforts in and around the HRA. In 2023, the Planning and Development Department launched the RIO PHX initiative as a collaborative effort with various project and community partners to create a series of land use policy plans across a 20-mile Rio Salado corridor. This is a key implementation component of the Rio Reimagined regional project by promoting positive investment for the benefit of existing and future businesses, residents, and tourists, while identifying outstanding community needs and new opportunities on subtopics such as housing, employment, recreation, art, and ecological restoration.

The Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, is centrally located within the limits of the first RIO PHX planning area bound by Interstate 17 (north), Broadway Road (south), 32nd Street (east), and 19th Avenue (west). The RIO PHX plan will serve as a tool to complement the multi-decade investment in Rio Salado HRA by guiding land use decisions along and beyond the banks of Rio Salado.

More information about the project can be found on the RIO PHX website:

<https://www.phoenix.gov/administration/departments/pdd/planning-zoning/publications-plans-studies/rio-phx.html>

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information and discussion.

Prepared by: Enrique Bojórquez Gaxiola, Planning and Development Dept. Planner III
Jarod Rogers, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director

Approved by: Joshua Bednarek, Planning and Development Director
Brandie Barrett, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: April 24, 2025

From: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Subject: CAMP COLLEY UPDATE – 2025 SUMMER SEASON

This report provides the Parks and Recreation Board (Board) with an update on the operation of Camp Colley for the 2025 summer season.

BACKGROUND

Camp Colley is a 30-acre outdoor adventure camp located on the Mogollon Rim, approximately 50 miles north of Payson, Arizona. The camp is named after former Parks and Recreation Director James A. Colley. The camp mission is aligned with Mr. Colley's vision to provide structured, supervised outdoor nature education and experiences for underserved youth. Over the years, Camp Colley has provided wonderful outdoor experiences for thousands of children by teaching respect for the environment and highlighting the miracles of nature.

On November 16, 2023, with Board approval, the Parks and Recreation Department entered into an agreement with the Harden Education and Recreation Therapy Foundation (The H.E.A.R.T Center) for a two-year initial period, with three one-year options to extend for a maximum of five years.

The H.E.A.R.T. Center was established in 2014 with a mission to use horses and recreational therapy as a foundation for alternative education for youth with special needs. From 2008 to 2014, the Founder and Executive Director of The H.E.A.R.T Center led therapeutic youth programming through an equine therapy facility in Scottsdale that included overnight outdoor camps for four weeks each summer at Camp Colley, in conjunction with Camp Colley staff.

DISCUSSION

The H.E.A.R.T. Center operates under the Camp Colley mission by providing participants of all ages, capabilities, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds with a high-quality learning opportunity to understand a natural habitat, expand personal values, develop long social skills and achieve new personal growth in a camp environment in a smaller group setting during the summer months. The Operator oversees all camp administration, registration, programming, and transportation, while following American Camp Association (ACA) standards. The ACA standards focus on health, safety, and risk management to help ensure the well-being of campers and staff.

In the 2024 season, the H.E.A.R.T. Center hosted approximately 265 participants at camp. Feedback that the H.E.A.R.T. Center received from participant surveys was very positive. Many participants noted their desire to return to camp in the future. To support additional participation, this year camp registration opened in March, earlier than in previous years. The target is 400 campers for the 2025 season, including City campers as well as groups organized by the H.E.A.R.T. Center.

City staff are working with the Operator to prepare for the 2025 camp season. Similar to previous seasons, camp will offer a variety of activities including horses, hiking, archery, mountain biking, arts and crafts, camp games, and more. The camp can accommodate up to 100 campers at a time, however, The H.E.A.R.T. Center caps participation at 50 to 60 campers per week to provide an enhanced camp experience.

In partnership with the City, The H.E.A.R.T. Center's 2025 schedule includes four week-long sessions (5-day/4-night) and two three-day sessions for youth ages 10 to 17. Teen Leadership/Counselor in Training programs are available for teens aged 16 and 17 during all camp sessions. The teen program is designed to provide professional camp leadership training at a reduced cost. All summer 2025 camp opportunities are available through the City's ActiveNet online registration system. Cost per participant is \$175 for 3-day camp, \$275 for 5-day camp. Teen Leadership/Counselor in Training programs cost per participant is \$100 for 3-day camp, \$150 for 5-day camp.

The City promotes camp sessions to Phoenix youth in a variety of ways including fliers at City recreation centers, staff attendance at community and special events, email to families who attend City of Phoenix day camps, and via social media. The Department is exploring opportunities to secure funding to help provide sponsorships for future camp participants.

The H.E.A.R.T. Center promotes Phoenix camp sessions through their website for overnight campers age 7-15 with or without disabilities, Teen Leadership training for campers ages 16 & 17 and Vocational campers with disabilities ages 18-22. They also offer two, four-day family camp retreat sessions for families who have members with disabilities. Those interested can register directly through The H.E.A.R.T. Center at: hello@theheart-center.com/camps. All camp attendees will be provided with an experiential recreation camp that is inclusive of kids of all ability levels.

City staff and The H.E.A.R.T Center are excited to continue providing activities for Phoenix youth in a wonderful outdoor setting this 2025 summer camp season and additional upcoming seasons.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information and discussion.

Prepared by: Claire Miller, Parks Supervisor
Jarod Rogers, Deputy Director

Approved by: Brandie I. Barrett, Assistant Director



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: April 24, 2025

From: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Subject: 2025 Parks and Recreation Summer Programs

This report provides the Parks and Recreation Board (Board) with an update on the Department's 2025 summer programs, including PHXPlays Summer Camps and the Aquatics season.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Parks and Recreation Department offers safe and affordable summer programs for youth and families across the city. In addition to a wide range of classes at community centers and sports programs and events in parks, the department operates PHXPlays Summer Camps and opens the aquatic season, providing access to public pools and swim lessons.

DISCUSSION

PHXPlays Summer Camp

The Parks and Recreation Department offers summer day camps at 26 citywide community centers (**Attachment A**) for youth ages six to 12, Monday through Friday, from May to August. To provide families with a variety of options, the PHXPlays summer camps offer flexible registration choices including weekly or monthly camps. A daily drop-in option is also available to accommodate families' schedules. Prices vary and range from free to \$80 per week depending on the site.

All camps include a minimum of:

- Weekly themes such as superhero, circus, and safari week
- Arts, crafts, sports, games, team building activities, and STEM activities
- Daily meals with breakfast/lunch or lunch/snack options
- Onsite events and special activities
- Special guest presenters and entertainers
- Monthly field trips
- Camp t-shirts

The PHXPlays summer camp is marketed to participants who have previously enjoyed Parks and Recreation Department programs, including promotion on social media and distribution of flyers to nearby schools.

The 2025 PHXPlays summer camp registration opened on March 20, and will continue through the summer.

Historically, registration numbers increase within the first two weeks of the program. In 2024, total youth participant registration was 2,291. Additionally, the 2024 PHXPlays summer camps utilized 175 teen volunteers aged 13 to 17 years. Teen volunteers gain a variety of valuable skills that help them

in both personal and professional growth including leadership, teamwork, communication, customer service, time management, and problem solving.

The PHXPlays Summer Camp continues to offer youth and their families a safe, quality and affordable summer program.

Aquatics

Background

In 2024, City of Phoenix pools welcomed more than 267,000 visitors to the aquatic facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department provided programming including over 2,000 swim lesson classes, swim, dive and water basketball recreational teams, and water safety classes with over 12,000 participants.

In 2020 all swimming pools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Department lost the majority of its aquatic workforce and, like cities across the country, has continued to face aquatic staffing shortages. In 2021, the Department opened 12 pools with limited programming. In 2022, 14 pools were open for the entire summer. During 2023, 12 pools were open all summer with six additional pools being open in only June or July, therefore providing access to 15 pools for public use at one time. In 2024, 16 pools opened all summer, while two pools were open for one month, June or July; therefore providing access to 17 pools for public use at one time.

Staffing and Training

Preparation and recruitment efforts for the 2025 aquatics season began in March 2024, first with enhanced training for Assistant Managers and Pool Managers, followed by ongoing Lifeguard certification courses from August to April to encourage individuals to complete the course early in anticipation of working the following summer. Aquatics continues to utilize a variety of methods to promote job opportunities for positions including Cashier, Lifeguard, Swim Lesson Instructor, Assistant Pool Manager and Pool Manager. Recruiting methods include visiting high schools with direct interaction during lunch hours, physical education classes, career fairs, swim and dive teams, as well as other sporting events. Staff also distribute information to colleges through job fairs, participation at community events and through social media. To support recruitment efforts, the Department offers hiring and retention incentives ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000, depending on the position. These incentives have been effective in attracting both returning staff and new candidates.

While the Department has seen positive results from recent recruitment efforts, we can only open as many pools as we are able to hire Assistant Pool Managers and Pool Managers to operate them. To enhance recruitment efforts for these critical positions, the Department hosted eleven additional training sessions in 2024 for Assistant Pool Managers to better prepare them for opportunities for advancement in 2025. In addition, staff continued the hands-on Accelerated Assistant Manager Training program by identifying and training swim instructors interested in promoting to the assistant manager position for the 2025 season.

To further build the talent pipeline, new for the 2025 season, the Department is introducing a structured Head Lifeguard program to provide leadership development opportunities for second and third year employees. This initiative is designed to prepare staff for future promotion into the Assistant Pool Manager role. In addition, newly hired Assistant Pool Managers undergo extensive training throughout the spring in preparation for pool openings.

The Department will continue utilizing the Shallow Water Lifeguard position in 2025. Introduced in 2023, this role was created to support individuals interested in lifeguarding whose swimming skills do not yet meet the requirements for deep water certification. Previously, these candidates were

ineligible to enroll in certification courses. The Shallow Water Lifeguard certification allows participants to qualify in pools with a maximum depth of four feet, offering them an opportunity to develop their skills while gaining valuable experience and training.

The Department also engaged 2024 aquatics employees in off season events such as Fall-O-Ween, Trunk-or-Treat, the APS Electric Light Parade, and the Polar Plunge. These opportunities helped build enthusiasm for the job while promoting aquatics programming and employment opportunities. As a result of these retention efforts, 65 percent of aquatics staff from 2024 are returning for the 2025 season.

2025 Aquatics Season

The 2025 pool season runs Memorial Day weekend through the end of July, with select pools open through Labor Day, as denoted with an asterisk below. This summer, 20 of the City's pools will be operational. Pools were selected based on geographic location and pool attendance to ensure communities across the City have access to a public pool. In addition, staffing constraints were considered.

A total of 20 pools will open in 2025. The following 15 pools listed will be open during the entire aquatic season.

- Coronado
- Cortez*
- Deer Valley
- El Prado
- Encanto*
- Falcon
- Harmon
- Madison
- Maryvale*
- Paradise Valley*
- Pecos*
- Roosevelt*
- Starlight
- Sunnyslope*
- Washington

Four pools will be open for one month.

May 24, 2025, to June 26, 2025

- Cielito
- Perry

June 30, 2025, to July 27, 2025

- David C. Uribe
- Pierce

Additionally, thanks to the Department's partnership with Ability 360, Telephone Pioneer Park Pool will be open June 16-August 29, offering swimming programs for the community. This partnership will enable the pool to be opened for the first time since 2019.

The following five pools will be repurposed into neighborhood splash pads as part of the voter-approved General Obligation Bond program, and are not scheduled to open in 2025.

- Alkire
- Grant
- Holiday
- Marivue
- University

Eastlake Park pool is under renovation and expected to be completed in fall 2025. Roadrunner, Mountain View and Hermoso pools will not open this year due to staffing constraints.

The Department plans to provide transportation to city pools for youth who live in communities where pools will not be open and there is interest. In 2024, the Department provided transportation for youth from University and Grant Parks.

Programming

The Department will continue to restore aquatic programming, offering youth swim lessons at all open pools, adult swim lessons, water exercise and recreation swim teams at select pools. Youth swim lessons are for participants aged six months to 12 years old and will be held June 2 through July 24. Each session consists of eight, 30-minute classes. Due to the Department's commitment to ensure programs are affordable and accessible to everyone, each session is \$15, which equates to \$1.88 per class. These prices are the lowest in comparison to other nearby municipalities. Also, thanks to a donation of \$20,000 from the Arizona Diamondbacks and Presidential Pools, over 1,600 swim lesson spaces across all open pools will be discounted to \$3 and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Of the 20 open pools this summer, 16 will be designated Kool Kids pools that allow kids 17 years and younger to swim for free. Kool Kids donations this year include \$63,266 from the Milwaukee Brewers and \$7,500 from Salt River Project. Admission for open swim at non-Kool Kids locations is \$1 for kids. At all pools admissions are \$1 for seniors and \$3 for adults.

Registration for June swim lessons, water exercise classes and swim team will begin on April 24, 2025; and registration for July swim lessons and water exercise classes will begin on June 14, 2025. Registration will be ongoing throughout the summer as space is available.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information and discussion only.

Prepared by: Scott Coughlin, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director
Danielle Poveromo, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director

Approved by: Brandie I. Barrett, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director



Summer Camp Locations

June 2, 2025, through July 25, 2025

Pre-week and post-week camps offered at select locations.

Center	Address
Beuf Community Center	3435 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd.
Cesar Chavez Community Center	7858 S. 35th Ave.
Coffelt Recreation Center	1510 S. 19th Dr.
Deer Valley Community Center	2001 W. Wahalla Ln.
Desert West Community Center	6501 W. Virginia Ave.
Eastlake Community Center	1549 E. Jefferson St.
Faye Gray Recreation Center	5550 S. 20th St.
Harmon Recreation Center	1425 S. 5th Ave.
Hayden Recreation Center	420 W. Tamarisk Ave.
Holiday Park Recreation Center	4560 N. 67th Ave.
Longview Neighborhood Recreation Center	4040 N. 14th St.
Marc Atkinson Recreation Center	4535 N. 23rd Ave.
Maryvale Community Center	4420 N. 51st Ave.
Mountain View Community Center	1104 E. Grovers Ave.
Muriel Smith Recreation Center	2230 W. Roeser Rd.
Paradise Valley Community Center	17402 N. 40th St.
Pecos Community Center	17010 S. 48th St.
Playa Margarita Recreation Center	3615 W. Roeser Rd.
Soluna Apartments	950 N. 19th St.
South Mountain Community Center	212 E. Alta Vista Rd.
South Phoenix Youth Center	5245 S. 7th St.
Sunnyslope Community Center	820 E. Vogel Ave.
Sunnyslope Youth Center	1702 W. Peoria Ave.
University Recreation Center	1002 W. Van Buren St.
Vernell Coleman Recreation Center	830 W. Tonto St.
Washington Activity Center	2240 W. Citrus Way