

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING AND WORK STUDY SESSION  
\*\*\* Item 4a. Attachment A Revised\*\*\***

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, March 27, 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 **2634 106 6881** then enter in the Webinar password PksMtg! when prompted (7576841 from phones).

**Observe** - [March 27, 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 individual item.

**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:

**[March 27, 2025 - Virtual Request to Speak Link for Parks and Recreation Board](#)**

- Virtual speakers must register by: **March 26, 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](mailto: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 ITEM(S): Information items will be provided to the Board in writing and are not intended for formal presentation unless otherwise requested by a Board member or required for future policy consideration.	
	a. Quarterly Code of Conduct Update	Jarod Rogers
3.	CONSENT ITEM(S): Consent items will be <b>provided to the Board in writing and are not intended for formal presentation</b> . 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- February 27, 2025	Laura Borson
	b. Requests to Vend at City Parks	Alonso Avitia
	c. Request to Extend Closure of Hilaria Rodriguez Park	Joe Diaz
	d. Recommendation to City Council to Amend Ordinance S-35137 Resolution Approving Fee Model for City Golf Course Green Fees and to Modify the Jr. Golf Card Program	Scott Coughlin
4.	DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM(S): Discussion and Possible Action items are for information, discussion, and possible action.	Jarod Rogers Mark Gonzalez
	*a. Phoenix Trails and Heat Safety Program <b>(Revised ATTACHMENT A)</b>	
5.	CALL TO THE PUBLIC: Citizens are provided time to make statements to the Board. <i>(Those desiring to make a statement should have informed staff in advance of the meeting by following the instructions on this notice.)</i> We welcome citizen input; however, items brought to the Board's attention cannot be discussed unless they are listed as an agenda item. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to requesting staff to study the matter or rescheduling the matter for further consideration and/or decision at a later date.	
6.	BOARD COMMENTS/REQUESTS – The Chairperson will entertain Board member comments or requests <b>without Board discussion</b> .	
7.	ADJOURNMENT	Kelly Dalton, Chair

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

**Laura Borson** At: [laura.borson@phoenix.gov](mailto:laura.borson@phoenix.gov) or 602-495-5215 or TTY: 7-1-1.

February 21, 2025.



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** February 27, 2025

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** QUARTERLY CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATE

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This report provides the Parks and Recreation Board (Board) with a quarterly update on the implementation of the Code of Conduct and ongoing education efforts from October to December 2024.

### BACKGROUND

For additional background information, refer to Parks Board reports completed from January 2021 to December 2023. 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 continues 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 October 7 to the week of October 28, urban park rangers made approximately 907 educational contacts. During this period, park rangers issued 136 trespass and order to leave the park notices and 42 citations. The trespass notices during this period were related to: 63 after hours park use, 50 using or possessing drugs/paraphernalia, 8 shopping carts, 4 dog at large, 3 alcohol without a permit, one loitering, one glass containers, one tobacco/fire restrictions, one failure to comply with an order to leave, one bathing/sleeping in restrooms, one vending without a permit, one unattended items, and one vandalism. The citations were for violations related to: 36 after hours park use, 2 alcohol without a permit, 2 shopping carts, one vandalism and one dog at large.

From the week of November 4 to the week of November 25, urban park rangers made approximately 699 educational contacts. During this period, park rangers issued 142 trespass and order to leave the park notices and 40 citations. The trespass notices during this period were related to: 86 after hours park use, 33 using or possessing drugs/paraphernalia, 5 tobacco/fire restrictions, 4 shopping carts, 3 using amenities outside of intended purpose, 2 dog at large, 2 throwing objects, 2 spirituous liquor, one parking after hours, one unattended item, one urinating/defecating, one vandalizing amenities, and one aggressive intimidation or harassment. The citations were for violations related to: 37 after hours park use, one spirituous liquor, one shopping cart, and one dog at large.

From the week of December 2 to the week of December 23, urban park rangers made approximately 635 educational contacts. During this period, park rangers issued 101 trespass and order to leave the park notices and 33 citations. The trespass notices during this period were related to: 46 using or possessing drugs/paraphernalia, 31 after hours park use, 10 unlawful conduct, 3 failure to comply with an order to leave, 2 driving off road, 2 shopping carts, one using amenities outside of intended purpose, one dog at large, one spirituous liquor, one aggressive intimidation or harassment, one littering, one use of ramadas more than 4 hours per day, and one entering closed park areas. The citations were for violations related to: 28 after hours park use, 3 driving off road, one littering, and one spirituous liquor. (See **Attachment A Table 1** for a weekly breakdown of the activity for October, November, and December).

At the time of this report, two trespass notices have been issued to juveniles with no citations. 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 and enforce the Code of Conduct and report the number of educational contacts made and the number of trespass notices and citations issued to the board.

A report with data from the first quarter of 2025 will be provided to the Board in the April packet.

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:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Educational Contacts</b>	<b>Number of Trespass Notices and Orders to Leave Issued</b>	<b>Number of Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaint (ATTC) Citations Issued</b>
Week of December 23	127	31	1
Week of December 16	112	23	2
Week of December 9	158	26	28
Week of December 2	238	21	2
Week of November 25	174	20	5
Week of November 18	207	50	11
Week of November 11	177	35	12
Week of November 4	141	37	12
Week of October 28	207	36	17
Week of October 21	246	42	10
Week of October 14	202	28	7
Week of October 7	252	30	8
Week of September 30	364	38	9
Week of September 23	370	33	6
Week of September 16	394	36	3
Week of September 9	342	52	19
Week of September 2	368	30	9
Week of August 26	278	40	7
Week of August 19	431	70	5
Week of August 12	455	68	7
Week of August 5	387	80	3
Week of July 29	434	65	6
Week of July 22	482	65	5
Week of July 15	466	106	7
Week of July 8	431	76	4
Week of July 1	321	54	8
Week of June 24	488	53	2
Week of June 17	345	36	4
Week of June 10	446	47	3
Week of June 3	614	308	7
Week of May 27	452	45	6
Week of May 20	337	73	4

Week of May 13	512	93	7
Week of May 6	520	39	4
Week of April 29	558	39	6
Week of April 22	533	60	8
Week of April 15	428	46	12
Week of April 8	557	41	2
Week of April 1	489	21	3
Week of March 25	498	28	4
Week of March 18	585	50	2
Week of March 11	454	43	3
Week of March 4	596	30	2
Week of February 26	568	47	11
Week of February 19	604	29	2
Week of February 12	390	39	4
Week of February 5	611	48	7
Week of January 29	458	37	3
Week of January 22	441	29	6
Week of January 15	289	35	8
Week of January 8	388	27	1
Week of January 1***	489	31	9
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**

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

\*The Cave Creek Parks include 6 connected parks.



**DRAFT**

**CITY OF PHOENIX  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
SUMMARY MINUTES  
February 27, 2025**

<b><u>Board Members Present</u></b>	<b><u>Staff Present</u></b>	<b><u>Community Members Present</u></b>
Kelly Dalton Emma Viera Aubrey Barnwell (Virtual-Webex) Ed Zuercher Sarah Porter Dorina Bustamante	John Chan Cynthia Aguilar Brandie I. Barrett Marty Whitfield Todd Shackelford Jarod Rogers Dustin Cammack Tannia Ruiz Chief Tim Kreis Chief Tim Jones Tom Ford Tim Frieders Dr. Nick Staab Dr. Todd Davis Tannia Ruiz Jana Benson Laura Borson	Jes Dobbs Timothy Sierakowski Jerry Van Gasse Maggie Kelehan Deirdre Pfeiffer John Bawden Robert Pittaway Marcel Van Der Stroom Alicia Judy Hilary Van Der Stroom Geri Koeppel Tim Gammage II Bob Cogill Ed Nusbaum Josh Fowler Julia Taggart Meeka Vigue Michael Duffy Christopher Bagby John Coleman Marion Cholieu (Virtual-Webex) Kelli Cholieu (Virtual-Webex)
<b><u>Board Members Absent</u></b> Tony Moya		

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. INFORMATION ONLY**

**a. Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Preliminary Capital Improvement Program Budget**

Jes Dobbs expressed concerns about the accuracy of the CIP list, stating that North Mountain and South Mountain Park/Preserve remain incomplete. She emphasized the need to focus on

maintaining existing trails and keeping them open year-round, especially as the nation is approaching challenging times.

Tim Sierakowski expressed concerns that the budget is not updated.

Jerry Van Gasse expressed concern with PPPI funds and requested monthly expenditure reporting.

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

### **3. CONSENT ITEMS**

**3a. Parks and Recreation Board Summary Minutes – January 23, 2025**

**3b. Operating Agreement with Saint Mary’s Catholic High School for Monterey Park**

**3c. Sponsorship Agreement with Integrity Foundation for Telephone Pioneer Park Playground Equipment Project**

**3d. Request to Vend in City Parks**

**3e. Approval of Telecommunication License at South Mountain Communication Towers to SBA Towers XI, LLC**

Board Member Bustamante made the motion to approve consent items 3a through 3e. Board Member Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

### **4. WORK STUDY: PHOENIX TRAILS AND HEAT SAFETY**

Director Aguilar provided a recap of last month’s Work Study session and explained that today’s presentation would focus on information requested by the Board at that meeting. She noted that this item was for information and discussion, and that no action is scheduled to occur today. She provided an outline of the presentation topics, including trail access points and mountain rescues at South Mountain Park/Preserve Park (SMP), trail difficulty ratings, updates on the *Take a Hike. Do it Right.* campaign, signage improvements, the role of Park Rangers and volunteers, survey results and the feasibility of extending trail hours. Director Aguilar introduced the presenters, which included Deputy Parks and Recreation Director Jarod Rogers, Executive Assistant Fire Chief Tim Kreis, and Deputy Fire Chief Tim Jones, with additional contributions from National Weather Service Meteorologist Tom Frieders and Dr. R. Nicholas Staab, MD, MSPH Assistant Medical Director, Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

Deputy Director Rogers provided an overview of the more than 25 designated trail access locations at South Mountain Park/Preserve, which has a 44-mile perimeter and consists of more than 16,400 acres. He presented maps illustrating the seven trailhead parking lots and nine designated walk-in access points around the perimeter of the park, including information on which locations are gated. He also showed a map denoting access points internal to the park, including trailheads and walk-in access, and emphasized the importance of accessing the preserve trails at these locations for the long-term health of the ecosystem.

Deputy Director Rogers shared information on the Maricopa County Trail Difficulty Rating System, which was developed as part of a regional effort for trails in Maricopa County in 2012 and is used by the City of Phoenix trail system. The system uses international symbols and colors to indicate varying levels of trail difficulty, categorized into six tiers ranging from easiest to extremely difficult. The City of Phoenix system includes 276 miles of trails, with more than 80 percent of trails classified as easy, moderate or moderate/difficult.

Deputy Director Rogers reviewed a series of maps showing 128 total miles of trails by difficulty rating at South Mountain Park/Preserve. He noted the presence of numerous connector trails within SMP and compared its trail ratings and size of preserve land to Camelback Mountain by showing a scale map of Camelback Mountain with an overlay of the perimeter of South Mountain Park/Preserve. He shared that the Phoenix Mountains Preserve has 44.3 miles of trails, including a 1.2-mile summit trail rated as extremely difficult.

Asst. Chief Kreis presented a map of trail difficulty levels noting emergency response locations and historical rescue data from 2021 to present based on all available cell phone pings. Of the 132 rescue calls at South Mountain Park/Preserve, 87 (66 percent) had mappable location data. Patient locations were mapped to the nearest trail to identify patterns between trail difficulty and rescue incidents. Rescues were evenly distributed between moderate and moderate/difficult trails, with 34 incidents (39 percent) on each. Thirteen rescues (15 percent) occurred on difficult trails, while only two were on easy trails, and none were recorded on the easiest or extremely difficult trails. In four cases, the patient was found in a parking lot or visitor center rather than on a trail. Rescue incidents were more concentrated on the east side of South Mountain Park/Preserve, though the mountain's extensive and interconnected trail system provides numerous access points.

Asst. Chief Kreis reviewed four common deployment locations at SMP for the Fire Department Tacitcal Rescue Teams (TRT). The presentation included an evaluation of those trails, demonstrating the physical challenges associated with each route. Various maps identified locations with a history of high rescue activity, particularly along the National Trail and other heavily utilized routes. Aerial images and fly-over videos showcased trail conditions, noting areas with steep inclines, rugged terrain and potential hazard zones.

Asst. Chief Kreis continued with an overview of rescue demographics and injury data for South Mountain Park/Preserve. More than 80 percent of rescues involved Arizona residents, particularly those from the Valley. The most common injuries include ankle and leg issues as well as head and neck trauma. A review of mountain rescues shows that 56 percent of patients experience a medical emergency, with the most common issues being weakness (71 cases), dizziness (51), heat illness (40), chest pain (26), and altered mental status (25). Asst. Chief Kreis reported that injuries most often involve the ankle/foot, arm/shoulder/hand, or head/neck. During summer months, medical emergencies increase, accounting for 76 percent of rescues, with heat illness (49 cases), weakness (38), and dizziness (32) as the most frequent complaints. He reported that South Mountain Park/Preserve accounts for 23 percent of mountain rescues annually and 18 percent during the summer.

Deputy Director Jarod Rogers presented on the feasibility of keeping select trailheads at South Mountain Park/Preserve open on heat warning days. Closing select trails at SMP presents logistical challenges due to the park's extensive 128-mile interconnected trail system spread

across nearly 17,000 acres of rugged terrain. The park has seven perimeter parking lot trailheads and nine walk-in access points, all providing entry to multiple trails. Since all trails are connected, hikers can access any part of the system from any entry point. Data included visitor usage, parking availability and trail connectivity, highlighting key trailheads such as the Pima Canyon, 19th Avenue and Baseline entrances, which experience high foot traffic. Data from 2024 showed significant visitation at these locations, with the Central Avenue Main Entrance being the most frequently accessed.

Deputy Director Rogers explained that while closing exterior trailheads could help limit access, it would not fully restrict entry.

Deputy Director Rogers shared information on efforts to enhance trail safety and outreach, including updated public information campaigns, extended trail access considerations and the role of park staff and volunteers. He shared that updates to the "Take a Hike. Do It Right." initiative could include new signage, updated maps and real-time communication tools, at an estimated cost of \$350,000.

Deputy Director Rogers shared that South Mountain Park/Preserve, Phoenix Mountains Preserve, Phoenix Sonoran Preserve, and Deem Hills are open year-round from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., though trailhead parking lot gates close at 7 p.m. In 2020, the Parks and Recreation Board approved extending evening parking lot hours until 9 p.m. at North Mountain Park, Pima Canyon Trailhead, and Piestewa Peak Trailhead from June through September, allowing later trail access. Finally, Camelback Mountain is open from sunrise to sunset. He reviewed a visual showing trail availability for those trails subject to restrictions on National Weather Service Extreme Heat Warning days demonstrating a 94 percent availability of trail hours in 2024.

Deputy Director Rogers explained that a possible option for expanding summer trail hours is opening trails earlier. With the earliest sunrise around 5:17 a.m., noting that an earlier start would allow hikers to begin before sunrise and complete a two-hour hike with some daylight. Adjusting trail hours could have a potential impact on established Park Ranger shifts, and a change in these shifts would require communication and coordination with employees and the labor organization that represent Park Rangers.

Deputy Director Rogers described the key role that Park Rangers play in enforcing trail restrictions, placing signage and educating visitors. He also described the City's Heat Injury & Illness Prevention Program. Additionally, he provided information on the impact of Park Stewards in education and outreach, with 301 active stewards contributing 15,897 volunteer hours valued at over \$532,000. Collaboration with the Office of Heat Response resulted in 57 volunteers distributing 20,824 water bottles and engaging with nearly 30,000 hikers at trailheads. These combined efforts aim to enhance hiker safety while maintaining accessibility and responsible trail management.

Deputy Director Rogers noted that at the October 2024 meeting, the Board asked staff to seek public input on whether trail restrictions should be based on NWS Excessive Heat Warnings days or a specific temperature threshold, and whether trail restrictions should begin at 7 a.m. He reviewed the results of the survey. Fifty-one percent, or 553 of the 1,081 respondents, were from the City of Phoenix. Results revealed that 60 percent of Phoenix respondents support a trail heat safety program, and 65 percent of Phoenix respondents oppose using the National Weather

Service's Excessive Heat Warning as the primary threshold. Instead, 47 percent prefer closures based on forecasted temperatures, with 110°F being the most favored threshold. The most common preference for the start time for heat warning closures was 8 a.m. (144 Phoenix respondents), followed by no closure (127 Phoenix respondents) and 7 a.m. (114 Phoenix respondents).

Tom Frieders, Warning Coordination Meteorologist from the National Weather Service, presented on the HeatRisk system and its impact thresholds. He explained that HeatRisk considers factors such as the rarity of extreme heat, the duration of high temperatures including nighttime lows, and potential health impacts based on CDC data. The HeatRisk system categorizes heat events into different levels, with extreme heat watches and warnings issued when conditions pose an elevated risk to public health. A graph of Phoenix heat impact levels demonstrated how peak heat risk occurs during the summer months, aligning with increased concerns for heat-related illnesses.

Dr. Nicholas Staab, MD, MSPH, presented data from the county's heat-related dashboard, which tracks deaths and illnesses weekly to identify at-risk populations and guide interventions across the county. He reported that heat-related deaths in Maricopa County have increased over the past decade, with 2024 data set for release soon. Contrary to assumptions, the data does not indicate that long-term Arizona residents become more acclimated to the heat, as they account for the majority of heat-related deaths compared to other in-state and out-of-state residents. He shared that in 2023, 72 percent of heat related deaths occurred on days with an excessive heat warning.

Director Aguilar concluded the presentation and stated that staff would be happy to answer any questions from the Board.

Chairperson Dalton inquired about the City of Scottsdale volunteer program and asked if volunteers work during the summer.

Director Aguilar responded that the group is managed by a non-profit organization and the City of Scottsdale encourages volunteers not to volunteer in the mountains Memorial Day to Labor Day due to the heat.

Chairperson Dalton asked how the Fire Department evaluates trail difficulty for rescues.

Phoenix Fire Department Special Operations Deputy Chief Tim Jones explained that rough trail terrain makes mountain rescues difficult. When a trail is more accessible, crews can plan out equipment that will be needed for the rescue. Other variables include whether a helicopter and hoist will be required, the distance of the patient from the trail access point, the temperature, difficulty of the trail, the time of day, and the condition of the patient. The exact maximum temperature that stops use of the helicopter is variable, but it is around 115 degrees.

Chairperson Dalton asked Dr. Staab to elaborate on the finding that individuals do not acclimate to heat overtime.

Dr. Staab explained that most heat-related deaths occur among long-term residents rather than newcomers. He emphasized that heat risk varies based on individual health, and even healthy individuals can face danger if an injury prevents them from leaving the trail without assistance.

Chairperson Dalton inquired about the cooling-related technology the Phoenix Fire Department currently uses.

Deputy Chief Jones explained the use of cooling caps with wide brims, ice buckets/chests, and availability of water and fluids.

Chairperson Dalton inquired about the training the Tactical Rescue Team undergoes to maintain and update their skills.

Asst. Chief Kreis explained that the Tactical Rescue Team undergoes an initial five-week technical and physical rescue training program covering various types of mountain rescues. Additionally, team members participate in ongoing education and training throughout the year to maintain their skills.

Chairperson Dalton asked about the presence of Park Rangers at trailheads during the summer months and how they manage their own safety while working in extreme heat.

Director Aguilar explained that City of Phoenix employees follow heat safety and acclimatization standards, ensuring they have access to cooler environments. As a result, Park Rangers cannot remain on the trails or in extreme conditions for their entire shift.

Board Member Porter requested clarification on the difference between an excessive heat warning and an excessive heat watch.

Mr. Frieders explained that an excessive heat watch serves as an early alert, while a warning is issued when a heat wave is imminent, with a 50 to 80 percent likelihood of extreme heat conditions.

Board Member Porter asked whether the data used for the extreme heat warning system aligns with the hospitalization and heat-related death data presented by Dr. Staab.

Mr. Frieders explained that the data differs, as the National Weather Service uses a modeled dataset from the Centers for Disease Control, while mortality statistics are collected from various locations nationwide.

Board Member Porter asked about the time the Fire Department dedicates to mountain rescues compared to other emergency calls.

Asst. Chief Kreis stated that the Fire Department handles a range of emergencies, including mountain rescues, which can take an hour or more depending on the situation.

Board member Porter questioned how much time and personnel are committed on a typical rescue.

Deputy Chief Jones stated that up to five crews, totaling 25 personnel, respond to mountain rescues. Reaching the patient can take one to two hours alone, depending on the location, complexity of the rescue and availability of resources.

Board Member Porter questioned whether survey question seven or eight was clear to respondents.

Deputy Director Rogers stated he could go back and look at the data to see if it provided any additional insight.

Board Member Viera requested that Dr. Staab address the impact of heat on the body.

Dr. Staab explained that heat-related outcomes depend on both intrinsic factors, such as individual heat tolerance, and extrinsic factors like temperature and exposure duration. In some cases, heat-related illnesses can rapidly escalate to heat stroke.

Board Member Viera asked about the prevalence of chronic conditions like hypertension in the population, specifically requesting the percentage that have this risk factor for heat illness.

Dr. Staab stated that he did not have that specific data point at hand.

Board Member Viera questioned if the Parks Department has considered digital trail safety measures, like QR codes and Life360.

Deputy Director Rogers responded that the Department has begun to investigate digital trail safety technology and partnerships.

Director Aguilar added that another City department recently created their own app that has real time data. The Parks Department is beginning to explore this possibility, working with the Office of Innovation to find ways to communicate real-time information relating to trail restrictions and other safety priorities.

Board Member Viera referred to the map of SMP trailheads and asked if the recommendation was to close or open these six areas.

Director Aguilar stated that if the Board were to direct staff to return with a recommendation to modify the program and trail restrictions at South Mountain Park/Preserve, the Department would present the information in March. This timeline allows for a thorough review of data to determine which trails the Parks and Fire Departments would recommend remain open and which trails would maintain restrictions on Excessive Heat Warning days.

Board Member Viera stated for clarification that these are not closures, but rather restrictions in place during summer months due to extreme heat.

Director Aguilar confirmed that is correct.

Board Member Zuercher inquired about the content included in extreme heat warnings.

Mr. Frieders explained that extreme heat warnings include details on heat risk, temperatures, and recommended actions to prevent heat-related illnesses. They also provide information on cooling stations and the 2-1-1 Arizona hotline.

Board Member Zuercher asked what the calls to action advise regarding physical exertion in extreme heat.

Mr. Frieders stated that the advisories recommend staying hydrated, seeking shade and cooling, and exercising general caution in extreme heat.

Board Member Zuercher inquired about the source of information used for the calls to action.

Mr. Frieders replied that it comes from collaborations with healthcare partners and social scientists.

Board Member Zuercher asked Dr. Staab for his recommendations on physical exertion in extreme heat.

Dr. Staab stated that his advice to the general public would align with the National Weather Service guidelines, though recommendations may vary for specific individuals or groups.

Board Member Bustamante emphasized that a strong marketing campaign will be essential in promoting safe hiking practices in extreme heat.

Board Member Barnwell thanked the presenters for their informative presentation and thorough responses to questions from the previous meeting. He suggested creating an infomercial on the City's website to educate the public on the Board's final decision once it is reached.

Chairperson Dalton opened the floor for public comment.

Maggie Kelehan disagreed with trail restrictions and suggested a summer permitting system that requires an annual course on heat safety for summer hikers.

Dr. Deidre Pfeiffer spoke to trail users over the last month to solicit their solutions to the current issue. She reported that users requested more Park Ranger and volunteer engagement and education, enhanced trail markers, water at the midpoint of the trail, laws requiring individuals to pay for their own rescue, improved signage, and gear checks at the trailheads.

John Bawden stated that the information in the packet is misleading. He stated that during closures, the only open trails will be in North Phoenix. He inquired if any rescue workers have been hospitalized for rescues at SMP and suggested the City use the Grand Canyon and Scottsdale parks as examples for avoiding closures. He also called for a bigger budget for the Fire Department.

Robert Pittaway requested that the Board exhaust all other options before turning to trail closures.

Marcel Van Der Stroom asked that the Board move efficiently and regain the trust of the people.

Alicia Judy suggested that the Board follow models at Picacho Peak, Flat Iron, the City of Scottsdale, and the Grand Canyon, which do not close for the heat.



Hilary Van Der Stroom described night runs that she leads at SMP and stated that she hopes to find better alternatives to trail closures.

Board member Zuercher asked staff for clarification on whether the current trail restrictions would impact the evening night runs. Director Aguilar clarified that the current restrictions are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and therefore the night runs being mentioned would not be affected.

Geri Koeppel requested more facts and good science. She is not opposed to closing the parks at a reasonable time but does not think 8 a.m. is practical.

Tim Gammage II stated he is a Phoenix Firefighter who hikes South Mountain Park regularly and has to respond to individuals who find themselves in trouble on the mountains. He asked the Board to consider individuals that are negatively affected by heat and the positive impact that has already been made by the trail restrictions.

Bob Cogill expressed his support for the program and requested the Board consider the impact of the extended time on the mountain for fire rescue personnel coupled with inability to use the helicopter during extreme heat. He also noted the tremendous impact in the reduction of mountain rescues at Camelback Mountain due to the trail restrictions there.

Ed Nusbaum expressed doubt about the soundness of questions on the heat restriction survey and asked the Board to look for alternatives to closures, similar to the Grand Canyon.

Josh Fowler requested that the trails at SMP not be closed during extreme heat.

Julia Taggart promoted educational programs at visitor centers and suggested that Park Rangers host heat awareness programs and educational classes on heat and trail safety.

Meeka Vigue stated that the data used was misrepresented because the Fire Department must show up to calls to assess the situation, but the entire team does not always get involved in rescue situations.

Michael Duffy expressed support for the program and explained that the rescue helicopter cannot leave at temperatures above 116.6 degrees, but if required to fly over 2,000 feet, this threshold drops to 114 degrees. This is important because rescues at Camelback and Piestewa Peak exceed this elevation.

Christopher Bagby asked the Board to be caring and considerate of Park Rangers, park users, and first responders.

John Coleman commented that closures are part of a slippery slope of restrictions.

Kelli Cholieu asked the Board Members to commit to proper trail education and hike the trails they are protecting. She requested more pay for Park Rangers noting Firefighters are paid very well.

Marion Cholieu called for transparency and honesty in politics and asked the Board to make decisions based on real data.

**5. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Dalton adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

DRAFT



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** March 27, 2025

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** REQUEST TO VEND AT CITY PARKS

---

This report requests Parks and Recreation Board (Board) retroactive approval for vending at the Nowruz Festival, held at Civic Space Park on March 8, 2025, and approval to allow the event production, marketing, conduct community outreach and vending at Diplo's Run Club's post-celebration, planned for January 26, 2026, at Margaret T. Hance Park. The request also seeks Board approval to authorize the director to execute an associated agreement and sign all related documents to the agreement.

### BACKGROUND

Phoenix parks are reserved throughout the year for various events. Event coordinators or community partners produce many events, with the Parks and Recreation Department sponsoring a few public events. Some events are free to the public, while others require a registration fee. Entry fees are occasionally imposed on vendors who sell food and/or products. Producers who rent city parks and facilities are required to follow all city guidelines, including obtaining all applicable permits and licenses.

Vending, a typical component of events in parks, can also consist of selling admission, food and beverages, t-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 receive requests for vending throughout the year, such as the requests below and brings them to the board for approval.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Retroactive Approval: Nowruz Festival – Civic Space Park (March 8, 2025)**

The Nowruz Festival, held at Civic Space Park on March 8, 2025, celebrated the Persian New Year, featuring a multicultural night market and resource fair organized by Congresswoman Yassamin Ansari, the International Rescue Committee, Arizona State University, and the Arizona Persian Cultural Center (AZPCC), along with 30+ community partners. The event, which drew thousands of attendees, united diverse cultures through traditional cuisine, handmade crafts, interactive arts, and live

performances, fostering community pride and inclusivity. Since vending was a component, this request is submitted retroactively for Board approval. The request was originally submitted, but inadvertently not included in last month's Request to Vend report; therefore, it is now being brought forward for retroactive approval.

**Diplo's Run Club- Margaret T. Hance Park (January 26, 2026)**

Diplo's Run Club, set for January 26, 2026, at Margaret T. Hance Park, is a 5K race and post-race celebration featuring live entertainment and a performance by Grammy-nominated artist Diplo. Expected to draw 12,000-15,000 attendees, the event promotes fitness, inclusivity, and community engagement. Participants will experience live activations and entertainment stations along the route, creating an immersive, motivating atmosphere while fostering a shared experience that celebrates personal achievement and community unity.

Diplo's Run Club exceeds the 3,000-attendee threshold, neighborhood notifications will be required. Organizers must notify residents, businesses, places of worship, and schools within at least a 1-mile radius, or as determined by the Parks and Recreation Department, regarding parking and noise impacts. Staff will return to the Board prior to the Diplo's Run Club event to provide updated information on event activities.

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 recommends the Board's retroactive approval for vending at the Nowruz Festival, held at Civic Space Park on March 8, 2025, and approval to allow the event production, marketing, conduct community outreach and vending at Diplo's Run Club's post-celebration, planned for January 26, 2026, at Margaret T. Hance Park. The request also seeks Board approval to authorize the director to execute an associated agreement and sign all related documents to the agreement.

Prepared by: Alonso Avitia, Deputy Director  
Approved by: Martin Whitfield, Assistant Director



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** March 10, 2025

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** REQUEST TO EXTEND CLOSURE OF HILARIA RODRIGUEZ PARK

---

This report requests Parks and Recreation Board (Board) approval to extend the closure of Hilaria Rodriguez Park from March 31, 2025, through August 31, 2025, to address ongoing safety concerns and criminal activity in the surrounding area.

### BACKGROUND

Hilaria Rodriguez Park is located at 2801 E. Adams, is classified as a pocket park within the Parks and Recreation system. The park was master planned in 2011 with community input and constructed in 2012. It spans 0.83 acres and features a playground, ramada, shade trees, site furniture, an open turf area for recreational play and a chain-link fence separating it from the adjacent alley.

In recent years, the park and surrounding neighborhood have experienced an increase in illegal activity. The Parks Department, in collaboration with the Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) the Phoenix Police (PD) and Neighborhood Services Departments (NSD), have made significant efforts to address these challenges and improve the area. Despite these coordinated actions, crime and negative activities persist, necessitating further measures to improve safety in the area.

In November 2024, the Board approved the temporary closure of Hilaria Rodriguez Park from December 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, in response to resident concerns. Reported issues in the park and surrounding area included crime, vandalism, encampments, negative after-hours activity, and persistent drug-related incidents.

### DISCUSSION

The temporary closure was intended to provide an opportunity for City departments to work on long-term solutions to address the issues and provide relief to the neighborhood. Since the temporary closure, OHS has continued outreach efforts, PD and NSD have worked with residents and businesses to mitigate safety concerns, and the Parks Department has been developing a park activation plan to encourage positive programming and events upon reopening.

However, a residential property adjacent to the park remains a focal point for criminal activity. Law enforcement records indicate multiple shootings, felony arrests, narcotics-related offenses, and overdose incidents have occurred at this residence in recent months. In January 2025, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) acquired the property and put it up for auction, but no bids were placed due to its condition. HUD is now proceeding with eviction proceedings and site rehabilitation, but the timeline remains uncertain.

Additionally, Park Rangers documented 451 contacts related to code of conduct violations in the year leading up to the temporary closure, reinforcing the need for continued enforcement. Given the persistent risks, the Parks and Recreation Department remains hopeful to reopen the park by early summer but acknowledges the uncertainty of HUD's eviction and rehabilitation process, the closure may need to be extended through August 2025 if safety concerns persist.

Extending the closure will allow HUD the necessary time to clear the property of illegal activity and complete essential improvements, aligning with community concerns and ongoing inter-agency efforts. The Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the community, law enforcement, Neighborhood Services, and HUD, remains committed to reopening Hilaria Rodriguez Park as a safe, clean, and accessible space for all residents.

The Sky Harbor Neighborhood Association expressed support for the park's closure in November 2024 and is supportive of the request to extend the closure while department's and HUD continue efforts to improve the area. (Attachment A)

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests Board approval to extend the closure of Hilaria Rodriguez Park from March 31, 2025, through August 31, 2025, to ensure continued progress in addressing safety concerns and criminal activity in the surrounding area.

Prepared by: Joe Diaz, Deputy Director

Approved by: Martin Whitfield, Assistant Director



March 19, 2025

Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board  
200 W Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Re: Hilaria Rodriguez Park

Dear Parks Board Members,

The Sky Harbor Neighborhood Association supports the need to continue the temporary closure of Hilaria Rodriguez Park. The closure has been a positive change for the community, but circumstances in the neighborhood have not changed enough. It would be a shame to lose the momentum we have gained in this time.

We appreciate the city's efforts to address this issue and help improve our neighborhood. We understand the significance of closing this park and the desire to get the park as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding in helping to ensure the park is safe for our community and this change is a lasting one.

Sincerely,



Janet Aviles,  
President



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** March 27, 2025

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND ORDINANCE S-35137 RESOLUTION APPROVING FEE MODEL FOR CITY GOLF COURSE GREEN FEES AND TO MODIFY THE JR. GOLF CARD PROGRAM

---

This report requests the Parks and Recreation Board (Board) to recommend City Council approval to modify the Jr. Golf Card (JGC) program, and amend Ordinance S-35137, which governs the current fee structure for Phoenix golf courses. (**Attachment A**)

#### BACKGROUND

The City of Phoenix owns eight municipal golf courses, six of which are operated by the City, and two of which are operated contractually. Over the past 10 years, golf rounds at the courses have increased an average of 11,000 rounds per year, with the courses offering more than 427,000 rounds of golf last year. This consistent growth has assisted with creating an environment in which all City-owned golf courses remain self-sustaining. Public peak season rates at Phoenix 18-hole golf courses are significantly below market-based pricing for golf in the Phoenix area, providing the public with affordable options to recreate and engage in a quality golf experience.

The golf courses offer extensive amenities, including eight putting greens, five chipping areas, and six driving ranges, providing ample space for practice and skill development. The chipping and putting areas are free for public use, while the driving ranges offer golfers the opportunity to practice at an affordable cost of \$5.00 for 35 balls.

All eight courses host youth and adult golf lessons, making them accessible for players of all skill levels. The facilities are heavily utilized by local high school teams, with 33 teams using the courses for both practice and competitive tournaments, including the AIA State Golf Championships. Additionally, the courses serve as a hub for youth golf development, with Arizona Junior Golf organizing tournaments on-site and the PGA First Tee Program. The courses also play an important role in inclusive sports, as Encanto Golf Course hosts the Arizona Special Olympics State Regional Tournament, fostering opportunities for athletes of all abilities to compete and enjoy the game.

#### DISCUSSION

##### **Junior Golf Card Program**

The Parks Department is committed to expanding access to the sport for young players through its Junior Golf Card (JGC) program. The JGC program is designed for golfers



ages 17 and under, to make golf more affordable while fostering long-term engagement with City of Phoenix courses. The current JGC, is \$30 for unlimited play over 30 days. To expand access and increase youth participation, the Department is proposing a modification to the JGC program, to extend the card's validity from 30 days to 12 months. The revised program maintains the one-time \$30 JGC cost, but introduces a \$5 daily green fee, which includes 35 practice balls. It remains a walk-on/standby program with seasonal play restrictions, and same-day replay rounds will be free. By making golf more affordable and accessible year-round, this initiative encourages greater participation and fosters long-term engagement with City of Phoenix golf courses among junior golfers and their families.

### **Fee Model for City Golf Course Green Fees**

The current system-wide fee model for Phoenix golf courses, developed by the National Golf Foundation (NGF), was established in 2008 following a recommendation from the Board and approval by the City Council to support the long-term financial sustainability of Phoenix golf courses.

The NGF fee model established the in-season, maximum benchmark fee of \$35 for Phoenix card holders and \$55 for public noncard holder fees. These benchmark maximum fees allow the Parks Department the ability to adjust fees below these maximums based on course demographics, market competition, and current market conditions. The NGF fee model established an optional maximum annual rate increase for the maximum benchmark fee tied to Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), not to exceed 5 percent annually. Any annual increase above 5 percent, or any change to the formulas used in the fee model, must be brought back to the Board for recommendation, and City Council for approval.

The original intent of the NGF fee model was to establish a price cap or benchmark for golf fees that can be adjusted annually while ensuring that the courses remain competitively priced and accommodate seasonal rate adjustments. As written, Ordinance S-35137 addresses golf fee rate adjustments, rather than maximum benchmark fee adjustments. The Department is requesting an amendment to clarify Ordinance S-35137 to better align with the NGF fee model, which allows for an optional annual increase to the maximum benchmark fee, tied to the cost of living, not to exceed 5 percent. In addition, the proposed changes specify that the annual increases to the maximum benchmark fees will be tied to the annual COLA published by the United States Social Security Administration.

To implement this clarification, the Department is requesting that the Board recommend City Council approval to amend Ordinance S-37173 as follows:

SECTION 1: Ordinance S-35137 is hereby amended by striking Section 2 in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

The City Manager or his designee shall set a benchmark maximum fee equal to the maximum fee designated in Section 1 plus an annual increase equal to the lesser of the Social Security Administration Cost of Living Adjustment or 5%. The City Manager or his designee may adjust golf course fees seasonally and on a per-course basis to rates that do not exceed the benchmark maximum fee.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests the Board to recommend City Council approval to modify the Jr. Golf Card (JGC) program, and amend Ordinance S-35137, which governs the current fee structure for Phoenix golf courses.

Prepared by: Scott Coughlin, Deputy Director

Approved by: Brandie I. Barrett, Assistant Director

**Attachment A**

ORDINANCE NO. S-35137

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER  
OR THE CITY MANAGER'S DESIGNEE TO ESTABLISH  
GOLF COURSE GREEN FEES.

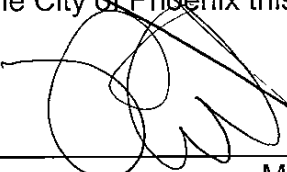
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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHOENIX as  
follows:

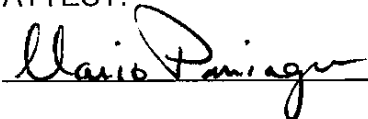
SECTION 1. That the City Manager or the City Manager's designee is  
authorized to establish golf course green fees of up to \$35 plus applicable taxes for  
Phoenix card holders and up to \$55 plus applicable taxes for non-card holders effective  
November 1, 2008.

SECTION 2. That the City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized  
to increase golf course green fees at an annual rate not to exceed five percent.


PASSED by the Council of the City of Phoenix this 4th day of June, 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



CITY CLERK DEPT.  
2008 JUN -2 AM 9:24  


APPROVED AS TO FORM:

William Boh ACTING  
City Attorney

REVIEWED BY: [Signature] SKH  
City Manager

SKH:car, CM47, Item 58, 6/4/08, 747914\_1

Ordinance S-35137



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** March 27, 2025

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject: PHOENIX TRAILS AND HEAT SAFETY PROGRAM**

---

This report provides information on potential options for Parks and Recreation Board (Board) consideration, as it relates to the Phoenix Trails and Heat Safety Program.

**THIS ITEM IS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION.**

**BACKGROUND**

On October 24, 2024, the Parks and Recreation Board received its annual update on the Phoenix Trails and Heat Safety Program. Based on the data presented, the Board unanimously approved expanding the program to include South Mountain Park/Preserve and adjusting trail closure hours to 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Extreme Heat Warning days. The Board also directed staff to conduct a public survey to gather input on two key issues: (1) whether trail closures should be activated in conjunction with the National Weather Service (NWS) Extreme Heat Warnings or a specific temperature threshold, and (2) whether closure hours should begin at 7 a.m. instead of 8 a.m.

To further discuss the Trails and Heat Safety Program, the Board held Work Study Sessions in January and February 2025, providing an opportunity for in-depth discussion with staff and the public.

As presented at the February Work Study session, effective March 4, 2025, The National Weather Service has renamed "excessive heat" to "extreme heat" in its heat alerts.

**DISCUSSION**

South Mountain Park/Preserve has 128.3 miles of trails, some of which are technically challenging and difficult to access for mountain rescues. Based on the data reviewed, staff developed options for the Board's consideration that would keep the majority of trails open while restricting access to a select few.

**Option A would restrict access to select trails at South Mountain Park/Preserve year-round from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days when the National Weather Service issues an Extreme Heat Warning. The affected trails include:**

- Holbert Trail (2.56 miles)
- Mormon Trail (1.35 miles)
- Hau'pal Loop Trail (2.8 miles)
- Access to the National Trail from the Pima Canyon Trailhead would be restricted. However, the National Trail would remain open from all other access points throughout the Park/Preserve. Other trails accessed from the Pima Canyon Trailhead would remain unrestricted.

**Holbert Trail** is accessed from two non-gated locations: the northeast corner of the South Mountain Activity Center parking lot, and neighborhood access near 7th St. and Mineral, which does not have any dedicated parking spaces. Holbert Trail is rated blue diamond - moderate / difficult. In 2024, the trailhead, which only services this trail, saw 18,373 visitors. For rescues on Holbert Trail, the Fire Department Technical Rescue Team commonly deploys from 7th Street and Mineral or 7th Street near the water tanks. Holbert Trail is a 2.56-mile, moderate/difficult-rated trail with 1,020 feet of elevation gain. From a mountain rescue perspective, patient extraction from the Holbert Trail by a big wheel can be labor intensive and take an extended amount of time. This is the operation that is used when air operations aren't available due to weather or service/maintenance of the ship.

**Mormon Trail** has a dedicated external access point at the Mormon Trailhead at 24<sup>th</sup> St. with a 28-space gated parking lot. Mormon Trail is rated black diamond - difficult. In 2024, the trailhead, which only services this trail, saw 105,642 visitors. The Fire Department Technical Rescue Team frequently deploys from the Mormon Trailhead, with approximately a dozen rescues occurring in the area of Mormon Trail and the National Trail loop to Hidden Valley since 2021. Mormon Trail is a 1.35-mile, difficult-rated trail with 766 feet of elevation gain, featuring a mix of smooth inclines and rocky uphill climbs. Ingress and egress on this trail are highly technical, resulting in a difficult big-wheel rescue operation.

**Hau 'Pal Loop Trail** is 2.8 miles and has a dedicated external access point at the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trailhead with a parking lot featuring eight standard spaces and nine horse trailer parking spaces that can accommodate two standard vehicles each if not taken up by a horse trailer. Multiple trails are accessed from this trail head that saw 92,120 visitors in 2024. Hau 'Pal Loop Trail is the only trail rated double black diamond - extremely difficult at South Mountain Park/Preserve. Though the available cell phone ping data from 2021 through January 2025 do not indicate rescues near this trail, a rescue from this trail would be complex and highly difficult. Other trails accessed via the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trailhead would remain unrestricted.

**Pima Canyon Trailhead**, with 401,246 visitors in 2024, is a primary access point for multiple trails, including National Trail. The trail head features a 96-space parking lot and includes significant space for additional parallel parking. The Fire Department Technical Rescue Team frequently deploys from the Pima Canyon Trailhead, which provides access to the blue diamond - moderate / difficult rated National Trail on the east side of South Mountain. A 1.25-mile service road from the trailhead can be used for Firefighter transport if a Park Ranger or brush truck is available. The hiking section where most rescues occur resembles the Mormon Trail, with steep inclines and rocky terrain. The primary "rescue" section extends approximately three-quarters of a mile beyond the service road, with 400 feet of elevation gain. In addition, mountain rescues on the National Trail from Pima Canyon Trailhead can occur deep into the preserve. These rescues can be complex due to the depth into the preserve, getting multiple crews to the patients' location as quickly as possible, and establishment of a landing zone when air operations are used. On NWS Extreme Heat Warning days, access to the National Trail from the Pima Canyon Trailhead would be restricted, however access to the National Trail from multiple other locations within the park would remain unrestricted.

Option A would restrict access for 6.71 miles of available trails at South Mountain. Trails totaling 121.59 miles at South Mountain would remain accessible during the nine-hour restriction window out of 18 hours open on Extreme Heat Warning days. There would be no modifications to the current restrictions in place at Camelback Mountain and Piestewa Peak.

For reference, South Mountain Park/Preserve trailhead locations are included in **Attachment A** and an interactive map of all trails can also be found online at [South Mountain Park Preserve Map](#).

**Option B would keep the existing Phoenix Trails and Heat Safety Program unchanged, with no modifications to the current restrictions in place at Camelback Mountain, Piestewa Peak, and South Mountain Park/Preserve.**

Additionally, at this time, there has been no further discussion or direction from the Board as it relates to changing the indicator to determine trail restrictions from days when the National Weather Service issues an Extreme Heat Warning to a set temperature.

There has also been no further direction to expand the hours for trail restrictions. As a result, staff has not prepared options related to these potential modifications to the program.

The Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Phoenix Fire Department, will initiate an update to the Take a Hike. Do it Right. marketing campaign to enhance outreach and education efforts. This may include updated maps; new graphics design and outreach materials; increased outreach efforts; and installation of new signs systemwide.

Parks and Recreation will continue to engage more than 300 active Park Stewards to promote and enhance education and outreach on hiking safety and continue to partner with the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation to deploy volunteers to distribute water at select trailheads on weekends during the hottest months of the year as a part of the City's Heat Response Plan.

Finally, staff will continue exploring new technology options to provide real time trail closure data and other enhancements to the trail user experience.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board to consider the options provided to determine appropriate action needed as it relates to the Trails and Heat Safety Program.

Prepared by: Jarod Rogers, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director  
Mark Gonzales, Assistant Fire Chief

Approved by: Brandie I. Barrett, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director  
Tim Kreis, Executive Assistant Fire Chief

# Revised Attachment A

## South Mountain Park / Preserve

### Option A – Base Map

