

**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, May 28, 2026, 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 **234 759 45425** then enter the Webinar password **PksMtg!** when prompted (7576841 from phones).

Observe: [Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Link- May 28, 2026](#)

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:

[May 28, 2026 Request to Speak](#)

- Virtual speakers must register by: **May 27, 2026**

If you have any issues with the form or if you wish to submit a comment to the board, contact **Dalia Adams** at: dalia.adams@phoenix.gov

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	Tony Moya, Chair
2.	INFORMATION ONLY: 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. Phoenix Medical Treatment and Food Distribution in Parks Ordinance Update	Tannia Ruiz
	b. Fireworks Ordinance	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 Minutes – April 23, 2026	Dalia Adams
	b. Request to Vend	Tony Salinas
	c. Request Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Central Park Recreation Center	Theresa Faull
4.	INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS(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. Parks and Recreation Youth Sports Programs	Greg Leicht
	b. Parks Volunteer Program Update	Jana Krcek
5.	DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and Possible Action items are for information, discussion, and possible action.	
	a. South Mountain Land Donation and Acceptance into the South Mountain Park/Preserve	Jarod Rogers
6.	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.	
7.	BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – The Chairperson will verbally present comments or requests to the Board without Board discussion.	Tony Moya, Chair
8.	BOARD COMMENTS/REQUESTS – The Chairperson will entertain Board member comments or requests without Board discussion.	Tony Moya, Chair
9.	DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING – Briefing items will be verbally presented to the Board by the Director or designee without Board discussion.	Martin Whitfield, Interim Director
10.	ADJOURNMENT	Tony Moya, Chair

For further information or to request reasonable accommodation, please contact:
Dalia Adams at: dalia.adams@phoenix.gov or 602-495-0151 or TTY: 7-1-1. May 28, 2026.



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: May 28, 2026

From: Martin Whitfield, Interim Director

Subject: Phoenix Medical Treatment and Food Distribution in Parks Ordinance Update

This report provides information to the Parks and Recreation Board on the Phoenix Medical Treatment and Food Distribution in Parks Ordinance approved by the Phoenix City Council on May 6, 2026.

BACKGROUND

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to build healthy communities through parks, programs, and partnerships, making Phoenix a better place to live, visit, and play. Phoenix maintains one of the nation's largest park systems, offering more than 41,000 acres of desert parks and mountain preserves, over 200 miles of trails, 189 parks, and extensive recreational amenities. Parks provide essential open space and recreation opportunities, and the Department remains committed to ensuring that all parks are clean, safe, and accessible to the public.

On May 6, 2026, the Phoenix City Council approved the Medical Treatment and Food Distribution in City Parks Ordinance G-7414 on a 6–3 vote. The Ordinance will go into effect on June 7, 2026.

DISCUSSION

Ordinance

The Phoenix City Council approved the Medical Treatment and Food Distribution in City Parks Ordinance G-7414 on May 6, 2026, by a 6–3 vote. The ordinance establishes regulations for medical treatment and food distribution activities in eligible city parks, requiring all such services to obtain a Parks Services Permit and limiting each park to no more than two service-related permits per month. The ordinance prohibits the sale or exchange of syringes or needles, needle-exchange programs, and the distribution of needle/intramuscular naloxone. Permitted medical services must be conducted in enclosed tents or mobile medical units located in designated hardscape or parking areas, with all medical waste removed from the site. Services must be supervised by a licensed medical professional, and permittees must provide insurance and indemnification. The ordinance does not apply to first responders, family members assisting one another, or individuals providing emergency aid, including the administration of intranasal or injectable naloxone, and it does not restrict the non-emergency distribution of intranasal naloxone. Food distribution events conducted for charitable purposes also require a permit, while private gatherings such as picnics and family events are exempt from these requirements.

Previous Council Action

On December 17, 2025, the Phoenix City Council approved the Safe Medical Treatment in City Parks Ordinance (G-7467, Sec. 24-45), which prohibited events designed to provide medical treatment or care to the public unless sponsored or otherwise authorized by approval through an established City process, and banned the sale or exchange of syringes and needles and the sale or distribution of harm reduction kits in City parks and mountain preserves, as defined by Chapter 24 of Phoenix City Code. The ordinance was approved with a delayed effective date of March 30, 2026, with direction to staff to conduct stakeholder engagement.

On March 4, 2026, the Phoenix City Council approved a delayed effective date of the Safe Medical Treatment in City Parks Ordinance (G-7467, Sec. 24-45) to June 1, 2026, to provide time for additional stakeholder engagement.

The stakeholder engagement process took place between January 21 and April 27, 2026. During this time City staff coordinated and/or participated in a total of 19 meetings attended by more than 350 individuals. Parks and Recreation Department staff also provided information at each of the City's 12 community budget hearings held during the month of April. Stakeholders included park users, neighborhood associations, community leaders, health-care providers, harm reduction organizations, food distribution groups, and service recipients. Stakeholder feedback and direction from the City Council was utilized to draft the revised Ordinance.

Next Steps

As defined in the ordinance, individuals and organizations are required to obtain a Parks Services Permit to conduct a medical treatment or food distribution events in a Phoenix park.

The Parks Services Permit application process will operate on a spring, summer and fall allocation schedule. The inaugural summer 2026 allocation period opened on May 7 and closed on May 22, 2026. Parks Services Permits events will officially begin on June 7 2026. The next application period will open on June 1, 2026 for Fall 2026 allocations.

The Parks and Recreation Department will provide an update to the appropriate Phoenix City Council Subcommittee in six months.

For information regarding the ordinance please visit www.phoenix.gov/parksordinance
For information regarding the Parks Services Permit, please visit www.phoenix.gov/parks/servicespermits

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

Prepared by: Tannia M. Ruiz, Management Assistant II
Approved by: Martin Whitfield, Interim Director



To: Parks and Recreation Board **Date:** May 28, 2026

From: Martin Whitfield, Interim
Director

Subject: FIREWORKS ORDINANCE

BACKGROUND

On May 20, 2026, the Phoenix City Council approved updates to Phoenix City Code Chapter 23, Division 5, Consumer Fireworks and Phoenix City Code Chapter 15, Fire Prevention to align with the state fireworks statute and increase the City’s enforcement options. A key revision establishes a one-mile buffer around Mountain Preserves where consumer fireworks are no longer permitted.

DISCUSSION

These changes to the fireworks-related provisions in the City Code as shown in **Attachments A and B** were made in response to direction from the City Manager’s Office and growing public concern about the public safety risks associated with fireworks use. The City Code was rewritten to be consistent with state law, increase enforcement options, and improve the City’s ability to mitigate fire risk, especially in and around high wildfire risk mountain preserves.

The updates are driven largely by 2015 changes to Arizona Revised Statutes Title 36, which limit how cities may regulate permissible consumer fireworks. Although the Phoenix City Code, adopted in 2010, restricts most fireworks use, state law prevents cities from prohibiting certain sales and uses, creating conflicts and enforcement issues. The May 20 Council action aligns City Code with state definitions and restricts fireworks to the extent allowed by state law. The amendments also expand enforcement tools, including civil citations, seizure and disposal of illegal fireworks, and cost recovery for emergency response.

The Phoenix Fire Prevention Code’s section related to fireworks was also updated to improve consistency with state law terminology and streamline references to allowable

exceptions. These changes constitute a comprehensive overhaul of existing regulations and are expected to affect both Fire and Police operations.

Fireworks were already prohibited on all City of Phoenix park properties before the May 20 City Council action. The new changes bring City Code into alignment with state law by banning all permissible consumer fireworks within one mile of any Mountain Preserve, as shown in **Attachment C**.

City Code was also updated to match state statute by restricting fireworks within one mile of Regional and Desert Parks whenever a Stage 1 Fire Restriction is in effect. Attachment C identifies the areas around these parks where permissible consumer fireworks are not allowed during a Stage 1 Fire Restriction.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

Prepared by: Jarod Rogers, Deputy Director

Approved by: Brandie I. Barrett, Assistant Director

Attachment A

ORDINANCE G-

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING PHOENIX CITY CODE CHAPTER 23, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 5, ENTITLED "CONSUMER FIREWORKS" IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING IT WITH A NEW CHAPTER 23, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 5, ENTITLED "FIREWORKS AND PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS."

WHEREAS, Arizona Revised Statute ("A.R.S.") Title 36, Chapter 13, Article 1, governs the sale and use of fireworks in Arizona and sets forth certain preemption limitations on a municipal or county government's regulation of fireworks, including that a municipality may only prohibit the sale and use of permissible consumer fireworks within its jurisdiction on specified days and times of the year.

WHEREAS, Chapter 23, Article II, Division 5, of the Phoenix City Code entitled "Consumer Fireworks," in conjunction with the City of Phoenix Fire Code, governs, the possession, use, and sale of fireworks and permissible consumer fireworks in the City of Phoenix, Arizona (the "City").

WHEREAS, due to the dry conditions, air quality concerns and terrain of Phoenix, the use of fireworks and permissible consumer fireworks includes risk of significant harm to the community and its residents.

WHEREAS, the City wishes to prevent fire hazards and injuries caused by fireworks which threaten the health and safety of individuals and are hazardous to real property and improvements including residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

WHEREAS, reasonable penalties are required to ensure compliance with the City's regulation of fireworks, display fireworks, and permissible consumer fireworks.

WHEREAS, the City deems it necessary to adopt additional regulations addressing fireworks, display fireworks, and permissible consumer fireworks to protect, enhance and promote the health, safety and welfare of City residents as set forth herein.

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

SECTION 1. REPEALED AND REPLACED LANGUAGE. That the City of Phoenix City Code Chapter 23, Article II, Division 5, entitled "Consumer Fireworks" is repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following language:

CHAPTER 23

FIREWORKS AND PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS

SECTION:

- 23-44.1: DEFINITIONS
- 23-44.2: FIREWORKS AND PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS PROHIBITED, EXCEPTIONS
- 23-44.3: SALE OF PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS
- 23-44.4: POSTING OF SIGNS BY PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE SALE OF PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS

23-44.5: AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE VIOLATIONS; PENALTY

23-44.6 LIABILITY FOR EXPENSES OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL RELATED TO POSSESSION AND USE OF FIREWORKS

23-44.1: DEFINITIONS

(A) The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this Division, have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

(1) DISPLAY FIREWORK: as defined by A.R.S. § 36-1601.

(2) EXPENSES OF AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE: means reasonable costs incurred by public agencies including but not limited to the City, Fire, and Police Departments or other first responders in making an appropriate emergency response to an incident.

(3) FIREWORKS: as defined by A.R.S. § 36-1601.

(4) PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS: as defined by A.R.S. § 36-1601.

(5) SUPERVISED DISPLAY: means a monitored performance of display fireworks, fireworks or permissible consumer fireworks authorized by permit by the City of Phoenix Fire Marshal or their designee.

(6) All references to Arizona Revised Statutes in this Division refer to the Arizona Revised Statutes on the date this ordinance becomes effective and thereafter as the Statutes may be amended or replaced.

23-44.2: FIREWORKS AND PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS PROHIBITED; EXCEPTIONS

(A) The sale, use or possession of fireworks within the City of Phoenix corporate limits is unlawful, except for the lawful manufacture, possession or use by a qualified pyrotechnic expert.

(B) The City of Phoenix prohibits the use of permissible consumer fireworks within the City of Phoenix to the full extent allowed by A.R.S. § 36-1606.

(C) The use of permissible consumer fireworks is prohibited during a stage one or higher fire restriction within a one-mile radius of the border of any municipal or county mountain preserve, desert park, regional park, designated conservation area, national forest, or wilderness area.

(D) The use of permissible consumer fireworks is prohibited within a one-mile radius

of the border of preservation lands owned by the City of Phoenix.

- (E) The use of permissible consumer fireworks is prohibited on property owned or controlled by the City of Phoenix, excluding public right of way.
- (F) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prohibit the use of federally deregulated novelty items, known as snappers, snap caps, party poppers, glow worms, snakes, toy smoke devices, or sparklers, and certain types of toy devices as provided in A.R.S. § 36-1601.
- (G) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prohibit the use of display fireworks, fireworks, or permissible consumer fireworks in supervised displays.

23-44.3: SALE OF PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS

The City of Phoenix prohibits the sale of permissible consumer fireworks within the City of Phoenix to the full extent allowed by A.R.S. § 36-1606.

23-44.4: POSTING OF SIGNS BY PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE SALE OF PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS

Prior to the sale of permissible consumer fireworks, every person engaged in such sales shall comply with the signage requirements of A.R.S. § 36-1606 and provide the additional signage language in the words and manner provided therein.

23-44.5: AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE VIOLATIONS; PENALTY

- (A) The City of Phoenix Fire Marshal, Phoenix Police Chief, and their designees, have the authority to issue civil citations to enforce civil violations of this Division. The Phoenix Police Chief and their designees have the authority to issue criminal citations to enforce criminal violations of this Division. The City Prosecutor and their designees have the authority to issue civil or criminal complaints to enforce violations of this Division.
- (B) A violation of this Division is a class 1 misdemeanor that is subject to a sentence of incarceration not to exceed six (6) months in jail, a fine not to exceed twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500), probation not to exceed three years, or any combination of such fine, imprisonment, or probation in the discretion of the City magistrate for each count upon which a conviction is obtained.
- (C) A violation of this Division is a civil offense punishable by a fine of up to twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for each violation.
- (D) It is unlawful for owners, managers, operators, or other persons in control of a

business or property where fireworks or permissible consumer fireworks are sold or offered for sale to knowingly allow the sale or offer for sale of fireworks or permissible consumer fireworks in violation of this Division.

- (E) The City of Phoenix Fire Marshal, Phoenix Police Chief, and their designees, have the authority to seize and dispose of fireworks offered or exposed for sale, stored, possessed or used in violation of this Division.
- (F) The penalties provided for in this Section are in addition to any other enforcement remedies the City of Phoenix may have under City ordinances and state law.

23-44.6: LIABILITY FOR EXPENSES OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE, STORAGE
 AND DISPOSAL RELATED TO POSSESSION AND USE OF FIREWORKS

- (A) A person who uses, discharges or ignites fireworks is liable for the expense of any emergency response that is required by such use, discharge or ignition. The fact that a person is convicted or found responsible for a violation of this Division shall create a rebuttable presumption of liability under this section.
- (B) A person who possesses fireworks in violation of this Division is liable for the reasonable expense of storage and destruction after seizure. The fact that a person is convicted or found responsible for a violation of this Division shall create a rebuttable presumption of liability under this section.
- (C) The Fire Department shall promulgate a schedule of charges for emergency response and fireworks storage and destruction under this section. The charge constitutes a debt of that person and may be distributed proportionately to the responding Departments that incurred the expenses.
- (D) The liability imposed under this subsection is in addition to and not in limitation of any other liability that may be imposed.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. The effective date of this Ordinance shall be thirty days following adoption by the Phoenix City Council.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance, or any part of the material adopted herein by reference, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining

portions thereof.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Phoenix this XXth day of XXXXX,
2026.

M A Y O R

ATTEST:

Denise Archibald, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Julie M. Kriegh, City Attorney

BY: _____

REVIEWED BY:

Ed Zuercher, City Manager

Attachment B

ORDINANCE G-

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO PHOENIX CITY CODE CHAPTER 15, SECTIONS 202 AND 5601.1.3, RELATING TO FIREWORKS AND PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS.

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

SECTION 1. Phoenix City Code Chapter 15, Section 202, General

Definitions, is amended to add the following definition:

PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS. AS DEFINED IN A.R.S. § 36-1601 AND AS IT MAY BE THEREAFTER AMENDED OR REPLACED.

SECTION 2. Phoenix City Fire Code Chapter 15, Section 5601.1.3

Fireworks, is amended as follows:

5601.1.3 Fireworks.

The possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling and use of fireworks AND PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS are prohibited.

Exceptions:

1. Storage and handling of fireworks as allowed in Section 5604.
2. Manufacture, assembly and testing of fireworks as allowed in Section 5605.
3. The use of fireworks for fireworks displays as allowed in Section 5608.
4. The possession, storage, sale, handling and use of ~~specific types of Division 1.4G fireworks~~ PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS where allowed by applicable STATE laws, STATE regulations, CITY CODE, and CITY ordinances. ~~provided that~~

~~such fireworks and facilities comply with NFPA 1124, CPSC 16 CFR Parts 1500 and 1507, and DOTn 49 CFR Parts 100-185, as applicable for consumer fireworks.~~

~~5. The use and sales of consumer fireworks is prohibited except in accordance with the dates allowed in the Arizona Revised Statutes.~~

SECTION 3. The effective date of the amendments and modifications to the Phoenix City Code, Chapter 15, if adopted by Council, will be 30 days following City Council Formal approval.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Phoenix this ____ day of _____, 2026.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

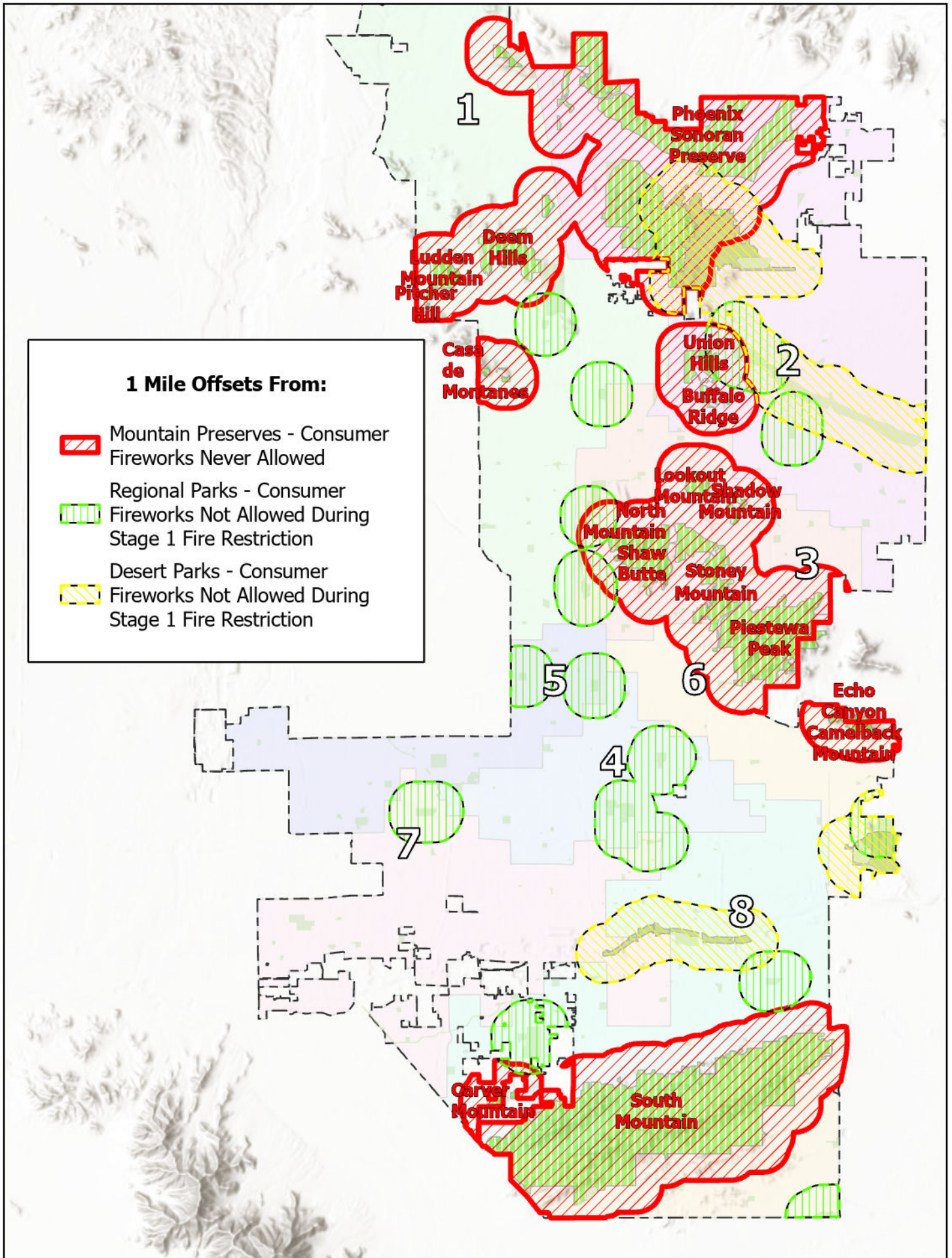
Denise Archibald, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Julie M. Kriegh, City Attorney

BY: _____

REVIEWED BY:

Ed Zuecher, City Manager



**CITY OF PHOENIX
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
SUMMARY MINUTES
April 23, 2026**

Virtual meeting hosted on Webex.

<p><u>Board Members Present</u> Tony Moya, Chair (virtual) Rick Naimark Emma Viera Jessica Fotinos Sarah Porter (virtual) Aubrey Barnwell</p> <p><u>Board Members Absent</u> Leon Thomas</p>	<p><u>Staff Present</u> Dustin Cammack Martin Whitfield Brandie I. Barrett Todd Shackelford Bob Adams Becky Kirk Jarod Rogers Felicita Mendoza Tannia Ruiz Cynthia Peiz Jana Krcek Luzivette Broderick Dalia Adams Ray Ficaglia</p>	<p><u>Community Members</u> Jerry Van Gasse Michael Norton (virtual)</p>
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Moya called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. with Board members Naimark, Viera, Fotinos, Porter, and Barnwell in attendance.

2. INFORMATION ONLY

No formal presentation on these items. Information only.
 No comments or questions from the board.

2a. Renaming Plan for Cesar Chavez Park and Community Center

3. CONSENT ITEMS

No formal presentation on these items. Consent and request for approval only.

3a. Parks and Recreation Board Summary Minutes – March 26, 2026

3b. Request to Vend at City Parks

3c. Sponsorship for Wheelchair Softball Field Renovation from Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation, Inc. and Ability 360, Inc. at Telephone Pioneers

of America Park

Board member Naimark moved to accept items 3a through 3c, with Board member Viera seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

4. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Information and discussion items will be presented to the Parks Board and are for discussion only. No action will take place on these items at this meeting.

4a. Quarterly Code of Conduct Update

Deputy Director Jarod Rogers began the presentation, which outlined the updated Code of Conduct report format based on feedback from the January Board meeting. He highlighted the daily efforts of Park Rangers in keeping parks safe and accessible and shared 2025 educational contact statistics. He explained that the new monthly graphs make it easier to show trends in the data. He discussed the educational contacts made by Park Rangers from January 2025 to March 2026 in the first graph, focusing on public education about park rules. He displayed the detailed number of trespass notices and citations issued, clarifying that citations were given for city code violations observed by Rangers.

Deputy Director Rogers outlined the top reasons for trespassing violations, such as after-hours loitering, drug-related issues, prohibited wheeled devices, unlawful conduct, and alcohol offenses, as well as the top reasons for citations, including being in the park after hours, alcohol issues, off-leash dogs, and entering closed areas. He closed his presentation by thanking the Board and recognizing his team's work on improving the reporting format.

Chairman Moya opened the floor for questions.

Board member Naimark raised a question regarding the significant increase in Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaints (ATTC) citations in comparison to previous years. Instead of focusing on the month-to-month fluctuations, Board member Naimark emphasized the overall increase in the number of tickets issued. He also asked if there have been any changes in staffing that might explain this trend.

Deputy Director Rogers discussed recent observations regarding staff performance and citation writing. He noted that aligning the data from the graph would show a clearer trend in numbers from last year, specifically an increase from 51 in September to over 100 by the end of the year. He confirmed that the Department hired a significant number of new Rangers and Supervisors during the time period.

Board Member Naimark raised a question regarding the common citations issued

for staying past park hours.

Deputy Director Rogers explained that Park Rangers prioritize education when interacting with visitors. Signs at park entrances inform visitors about the rules and hours, contributing to the educational process. While some individuals might be unaware of their violations, most people in the parks after hours are typically aware they are breaking the rules, which can lead to citations for trespassing.

Board Member Viera noted that June through August consistently show the highest activity in all categories of the report and asked what preparations are underway for the upcoming summer, anticipating increased park activity during that period.

Deputy Director Rogers explained that more people seek refuge in parks during hot summer days and that this is acceptable as long as rules are followed, but illegal activities such as drug use still require enforcement. He emphasized ongoing collaboration with the Office of Homeless Solutions to provide outreach, reduce negative impacts, and maintain safe, welcoming parks, highlighting the need to balance community support with orderly park use.

Board Member Fotinos asked whether the parks department tracks calls about potential code of conduct violations, including what typically happens after those calls, such as whether citations are issued or if individuals leave before staff arrive. She also questioned how effective the 24/7 reporting hotline is in addressing these concerns.

Deputy Director Rogers responded that the current 24/7 hotline system does not allow the Parks Department to track certain data, but they are looking into ways to enhance functionality and improve data collection. He explained that the existing phone line began as a pilot program and has proven useful, but there are areas for improvement, including the points raised in the discussion for future updates.

Board Member Barnwell asked how an action plan would be developed, expressing uncertainty about whether enough data currently exists to begin creating one or if additional information is still needed. He also asked how this action plans would ultimately be presented.

Deputy Director Rogers said they are making progress in viewing issues from a new perspective but are not yet ready to present a formal action plan. He noted that feedback has been helpful and that staff are still analyzing internal data to pinpoint areas of concern which will shape future direction.

Board Member Naimark sought clarification about police actions during the discussion, specifically asking if the actions being referred to were all carried out by Park Rangers.

Deputy Director Rogers stated that these are all Park Ranger actions.

Board Member Naimark asked about the protocols Park Rangers follow when they call the Police Department for assistance, particularly when someone ignores a trespass order. He also wanted to know how these incidents are documented, including the handling of trespass-related records, and whether the data tracks how often police are called to specific parks such as Hance Park.

Deputy Director Rogers responded that they currently do not track this information but expressed a willingness to collaborate with the Police Department to coordinate and understand the relationship between the two matters.

Board Member Naimark said it would be helpful to gather information on police activity in parks, noting that the overlap between law enforcement and park regulations can be complex. He explained that understanding police interactions in park spaces, including arrests or citations beyond park rules, would give the Board, Mayor, and Council clearer insight into overall safety conditions and enforcement patterns.

Board Member Porter reflected on her time on the Parks Board, emphasizing that the Code of Conduct is essential for keeping parks safe while ensuring fair treatment for everyone. She highlighted the importance of using data to continually improve the process and agreed with Board Member Naimark on the need for clearer insight into current park issues. Board member Porter also asked about how effective the Code of Conduct has been in leading to citations and what outcomes individuals experience afterward, expressing interest in any available follow up information on these cases.

Deputy Director Rogers explained that while the Department does not currently receive outcome information from the courts when individuals are cited for violating city code, and expressed interest in collaborating with the Police Department on parks-related data..

Chairman Moya echoed Board Member Viera's concern about the expected rise in summer citations. Chairman Moya requested follow up information on the citation process to better understand what to expect.

Board Member Barnwell requested clarification regarding a statement about the five parks that have the most observed violations.

Deputy Director Rogers reviewed the five parks with the highest monthly violations, and clarified the Board had requested this information to help identify locations experiencing the most issues in 2023.

Chairman Moya asked whether we have quarterly reports on this matter.

Deputy Director Rogers confirmed that quarterly reports are provided to the Board.

Board Member Viera said that increasing vigilance and adding services at Cortez and Hance parks could meaningfully reduce incidents and make the parks safer. She recommended prioritizing efforts in these two locations based on their violation data.

Director Whitfield said the Department continues to work closely with the Office of Homeless Solutions, noting that outreach teams visit Cortez Park several times a week to help people access shelters. He acknowledged the ongoing challenges but emphasized the city's commitment to consistent, supportive outreach.

Chairman Moya concluded the discussion by thanking staff for the presentation.

4b. 2026 Parks and Recreation Aquatics Season

Aquatics Supervisor Becky Kirk reported that preparation for the 2026 season is well underway, with early training, expanded certification efforts, and the accelerated Assistant Pool Manager program helping to build a strong talent pipeline. Recruitment has been active across schools, colleges, sports programs and community events. These efforts will support a season that will feature 24 four pools, which includes operation of Telephone Pioneer Pool through a partnership with Ability 360. She emphasized the importance of community support, noting major donations that provide free swimming for children and discounted lessons that will help more than 13,000 people learn to swim. She also outlined the season schedule, including daily open swim hours, Saturday swim in August, twelve splashpads across the city, and registration dates in April and June, with space available throughout the summer.

Chair Moya shared his positive anticipation for the report, reflecting on his past as part of the water safety team with the City of Phoenix. He recounted a memorable experience from 15 to 20 years ago when he participated in a water safety video with the Phoenix Fire Department. He concluded by acknowledging that his legacy in water safety continues, and thanked Ms. Kirk Becky for presentation. .

4c. NCAA Legacy Award Winners

Deputy Parks and Recreation Director Bob Adams presented the 2026 Women's NCAA Final Four Legacy Project at the Washington Activity Center. He highlighted the facility's long-standing role in serving residents of all ages and the significant upgrades completed through the project. Improvements included a refurbished gym, new computer and teen rooms, interior updates, and outdoor

enhancements such as a resurfaced basketball court, along with a community mural created by local artist Martin Moreno. Adams noted strong support from community partners and elected officials, including Governor Katie Hobbs and Mayor Kate Gallego, who attended the April 1 dedication ceremony alongside NCAA and ASU representatives. The mural unveiling, hosted by the Washington Park Neighborhood Association and Councilwoman Guardado, also drew community leaders and residents, underscoring the center's importance and the project's positive impact.

No questions or comments from the Board.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Jerry Van Gasse asked the board to consider renaming Cesar Chavez Park in honor of Jesse Owens. He emphasized the importance of preserving Owens's legacy. Drawing on his eighteen years attending track meets and observing that many who knew Owens are now aging, he stressed the value of keeping Owens's memory alive for future generations.

Michael Norton mentioned that he raised concerns about the funding for Rogers Ranch Park that was discussed earlier in the year and questioned why the commitment outlined in the five-year Capital Improvement Plan no longer appears to be in place. He also noted that staff and board members spoke about the need for patience due to ongoing delays, which added to his frustration about the project's uncertain timeline.

6. BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Moya announced a community ribbon cutting for the new splash pad at Nuestro Park on May 2 from 10 to 11 A.M., and invited residents to enjoy snacks, giveaways, and a first look at park upgrades, including a new shade cover. He also shared information about the upcoming Ride with the Ranger mountain bike activity. Chair Moya reported that the Apache Wash Trailhead is now open, reminding participants to bring a bike, water, and a helmet, with adults required to accompany riders under 18 and no e-bikes allowed.

7. BOARD COMMENTS/REQUEST

No comments.

8. DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Assistant Director Todd Shackelford presented on two items, noting that the Department hosted the Arizona Soccer Association Presidents Cup and State Cup Tournament at the Reach 11 Sports Complex. This event brought in professional and college scouts and featured roughly 530 local teams competing

over four weekends. He reported that the Department led volunteer efforts for Earth Day, Arbor Day, and National Volunteer Week, during which 326 volunteers completed park cleanups, removed invasive weeds and planted 118 new trees to expand shade across city parks.

Assistant Director Brandie I. Barrett presented on the 5th Annual Pecos Park Kids Triathlon that was held on March 29, 2026, where families gathered to support young athletes competing on age-appropriate swim, bike, and run courses. She also highlighted the grand reopening of Sun Ray Park following major renovations including upgraded restrooms, new lighting, improved courts, enhanced ballpark seating and a new playground.

Director Martin Whitfield presented a tree planting at University Park that took place on April 21, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m. Volunteers from First Citizens' Bank planted 20 trees. also noted that the South Mountain Activity Complex reopened on April 2, 2026, featuring a 37,000-square-foot pavilion, more than 250 new trees, 50 salvaged mature trees, and 700 shrubs across three acres of the preserve. There is also the addition of new interpretive signage highlighting the cultural significance of nearby peaks. Mayor Kate Gallego and Vice Mayor Keisha Hodge-Washington attended the reopening. ceremony.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Moya adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: May 28, 2026

From: Martin Whitfield, Interim Director

Subject: REQUEST TO VEND

This report requests Parks and Recreation Board (Board) approval to allow event production, marketing, community outreach, and vending for the event mentioned in this report. It also seeks authorization for the Parks and Recreation Director to negotiate and execute the associated event agreement and related documents.

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 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 and 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 request below, and brings them to the Board for approval.

DISCUSSION

2026 Phoenix Fibrosis Walk- November 15, 2026

Steele Indian School Park, 300 East Indian School Rd.

Sponsored by the National Fibrosis Association, the 2026 Phoenix Fibrosis Walk is scheduled, pending approval from the Parks and Recreation Board, for Sunday, November 15, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Steele Indian School Park. This community-focused event is dedicated to raising awareness of fibrosis and generating essential funding to advance fibrosis research, with donations accepted online both before the event and throughout the morning. Led by Banner University Hospital in collaboration with Mayo Clinic and St. Joseph's Hospital, the walk brings together healthcare professionals, patients, families, and community members in a unified effort to promote education, compassion, and progress.

The event will highlight the importance of early detection, research innovation, and the collective commitment needed to support individuals affected by fibrosis. Attendance is expected to range from 100 to 150 participants, creating an inclusive and supportive environment for individuals and families who wish to connect, learn, and make a meaningful impact.

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

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests Board approval to allow event production, marketing, community outreach, and vending related to the event mentioned in this report. It also seeks authorization for the Parks and Recreation Director to negotiate and execute the associated event agreement and related documents.

Prepared by: Tony Salinas, Deputy Director

Approved by: Todd Shackelford, Assistant Director



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: May 28, 2026

From: Martin Whitfield, Interim Director

Subject: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR CENTRAL PARK RECREATION CENTER

This report requests Parks and Recreation Board (Board) authorization for staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operation and maintenance of the Central Park Recreation Center located at 140 E. Tonto Street (**Attachment A**).

BACKGROUND

The contract with the current operator, Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., commenced on July 1, 2021, for an initial five-year term and one, five-year extension option. The Parks and Recreation Department received formal notification of the operator's intent not to renew the contract, which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026.

DISCUSSION

The Parks and Recreation Department now seeks to issue a competitive RFP to identify a qualified nonprofit organization to manage the day-to-day operations and provide recreational/educational programming at this location. If approved, the RFP is planned to be released in mid to late summer 2026.

The solicitation and selection process is expected to take approximately four months. Upon completion, the successful proposer will enter into a contract for an initial three-year term, with 1 two-year option, and 1 additional five-year option, for a total of 10 years. The contractor will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the recreation center.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board authorize staff to issue a RFP for the operation and maintenance of the Central Park Recreation Center.

Prepared by Theresa Faull, Deputy Director

Approved by Brandie I. Barrett, Assistant Director

ATTACHMENT A

Central Park Recreation Center
140 E. Tonto Street





To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: May 28, 2026

From: Martin Whitfield, Interim Director

Subject: Parks and Recreation Youth Sports Programs

This report provides the Parks and Recreation Board with an update on the Youth Sports programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department (Department).

BACKGROUND

The City of Phoenix has supported youth sports initiatives for many decades, dating back to the mid-20th century as Phoenix expanded and urban recreation programs grew. Formalized youth sports leagues and recreation programs were established to serve a growing population, with collaborations between the City and community organizations. The Department currently provides youth sports programs for ages three-17 across the city.

DISCUSSION

Youth Sports Offerings

Youth sports programs are available throughout the year and include a wide range of activities. These programs are offered at recreation centers and sports complexes across Phoenix, allowing families to choose options that best fit their needs. The Department operates major sport complexes such as Rose Mofford, Desert West, Papago and Reach 11. These complexes host leagues and tournaments throughout the year and support both recreational and competitive play.

Youth sports programs span a variety of activities including basketball, soccer, flag football, baseball, ball hockey, volleyball, tennis, esports, cricket, disc golf and karate. These programs help young athletes develop skills, build confidence and participate in team environments that encourage growth and sportsmanship.

Additionally, the Department's aquatics programs offer swim instruction and swim teams for all ages. These activities promote water safety and enjoyable recreation for families.

2025 Participation Overview

Youth Sport	Age range	# of participants
Basketball (Jr. Suns)	5-15	4,323
Soccer	3-15	1,996
Flag Football	5-15	233
Baseball	4-12	645
Ball Hockey	7-13	67
Volleyball	10-13	486
Tennis	6-16	138
Esports	6-17	229
Cricket (new 2025)	7-17	15
Disc Golf (new 2025)	7-12	19
Karate (New 2025)	7-17	85
Total		8,189

2025 League Structure

Leagues are offered up to four times a year and may run for as long as eight weeks. Games and practices are scheduled on weekdays and weekends in both the mornings and evenings, giving families flexibility in choosing times that work best for them. Older age groups, including team leagues, participate in playoff tournaments that keep players engaged and introduce a competitive format while maintaining a recreational focus.

2025 Total Leagues	199	Total participation	8,189
2025 Total Teen Leagues	26	Total Teens	1,109

Fees

Program fees range from free to 90 dollars depending on uniforms, officials, banquets and the number of program weeks.

Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury Jr. Suns Leagues

The basketball program is offered in partnership with the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury and is known as **Jr. Suns**. The Department joined this program in 2018, giving families across Phoenix access to a consistent and high-quality basketball experience. The Suns Charities Scholarship Fund provides an average of \$7,000 each year to support Jr. Suns participants, helping cover a portion of league fees for families in lower income areas.

Participants and coaches also receive a variety of items through this partnership, including a replica Suns reversible jersey, a player swag item, a player ticket voucher, a coach T shirt, a coach clipboard and a coach ticket voucher. Occasional appearances by Suns or Mercury players add to the experience. One of the most memorable opportunities is the chance for participants to play on the arena court during the end of season skills competitions.

Community Engagement

Staff is finalizing a youth sports survey scheduled for distribution in the fall of 2026. Until then, leagues continue to improve through regular feedback from parents, players and coaches. This ongoing engagement has strengthened program quality and enhanced the overall experience for participants.

The Department's youth sports programs continue to play an important role in supporting active lifestyles, building community connections and providing meaningful opportunities for young people across Phoenix. With a wide range of activities, strong partnerships and ongoing engagement with families, the Department remains committed to offering high quality recreational experiences that promote skill development, confidence and long term participation in healthy activities. The Department will continue to evaluate and enhance these programs to ensure they meet the needs of the community and reflect the values of accessible and inclusive recreation for all residents.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information and discussion only.

Prepared by: Greg Leicht, Deputy Director

Approved by: Todd Shackelford, Assistant Director



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: May 28, 2026

From: Martin Whitfield, Interim Director

Subject: Parks Volunteer Program Update

This report provides an update to the Parks and Recreation Board regarding the Parks and Recreation Department's volunteer program.

BACKGROUND

The City of Phoenix operates a comprehensive volunteer program, VolunteerPHX, which strengthens community service by increasing volunteer participation, expanding opportunities, and building strong partnerships. The program also improves coordination across City departments, enhances volunteer tracking and reporting and provides seamless online access to information and applications.

In 2024, at the direction of the Phoenix City Council, the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) established a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator position to strengthen and expand the Department's volunteer program. This role focuses on identifying and supporting volunteer growth opportunities citywide. By offering consistent and accessible volunteer projects, the program provides the community with more flexible options to engage and contribute their time within the City's park system.

DISCUSSION

The Department's volunteer program, known as the My Phoenix My Park (MPMP) program, supports volunteer recruitment, retention, and consistent branding while partnering with civic-minded groups in both the public and private sectors. Volunteers contribute to a wide range of projects including tree planting, beautification, cleanup efforts, trailhead heat relief, native seed collection, Monarch butterfly habitat expansion, youth sports support and seasonal camp programs through PHXTeens. The MPMP program also includes specialized components such as the Adopt-A-Park program and a dedicated group of Park Stewards.

The Adopt-A-Park program empowers Phoenix residents, businesses, and individuals to support their community by adopting a park or specific features such as sports fields, trails, flower beds, benches, playgrounds, or waterways. Volunteers commit to visiting

their adopted area at least once a month for a year and take on meaningful tasks including litter pickup, graffiti removal, weeding, pruning, planting and reporting hazards. Recently revitalized, the program gained strong momentum through bilingual English and Spanish promotional flyers placed in community and recreation centers across the city. The Volunteer Coordinator further expanded outreach by attending community meetings, highlighting the full volunteer program, and inspiring residents to adopt parks in their neighborhoods. These efforts resulted in the successful adoption of El Oso Park and the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area in 2025, followed by the adoption of Cave Creek at Cholla and Encanto Parks in 2026.

The Park Stewards Program engages dedicated volunteers who work alongside park rangers to help care for more than 35,000 acres of Phoenix's preserve lands. Stewards support essential tasks such as trail maintenance, invasive weed removal, revegetation, trailhead education, heat and water stations, litter cleanup, patrols, special event support, landscaping and visitor center assistance. Their contributions play a vital role in keeping natural areas safe, clean, and welcoming, especially with limited ranger staffing. In recognition of their outstanding service, Park Stewards received a Volunteer Impact Award in 2025 for their commitment to protecting and enhancing Phoenix's preserve spaces.

These types of volunteer opportunities continue to play an important role in how the Department can maintain expected levels of service while operating within set budgets and staffing levels. According to the Independent Sector, each volunteer hour has a value of \$34.79. In 2025, PRD logged over 60,000 hours by 8,800 registered volunteers, thus representing \$2.1 million dollars in estimated value. Additional details about the Department's volunteer programs and their continued impact can be found in **Attachment A**, of the Annual Volunteer Report.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information and discussion only.

Prepared by: Jana Krcek, Administrative Assistant II

Approved by: Tannia Ruiz, Management Assistant II

2025

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER REPORT



Meet the Team

Department Volunteer Coordinator

Jana Krcek

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II

Division Liaisons

Downtown

Danny Ayala

RECREATION COORDINATOR II

Natural Resources

Mike Faustich

PARK MANAGER

Natural Resources

Josh Parnell

PARKS SUPERVISOR

Northeast

Sarah Van Duyne

RECREATION COORDINATOR II

Northwest

Darvis Hodge

RECREATION COORDINATOR III

PHX Teens

Annette Soto

RECREATION COORDINATOR II

South

Angie Perches

FOREMAN I

South

Denise Romero

RECREATION COORDINATOR II

2025 Volunteer Impact Report



8,761 Volunteers



60,263 Hours



**\$2,096,561 Estimated
Financial Impact**



City of Phoenix
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



my phx my park
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteer Activities



- Coach youth sports
- Graffiti removal
- Heat awareness at trailheads
- Holiday and special event programming
- Host sports and fishing clinics
- Monitoring tree canopy growth
- Native seed collection and disbursement
- Park and trail patrols
- Park cleanups
- Playground raking and improvements
- Removal of invasive species and cattails
- Repainting curbs and speed bumps
- Rockwork along lakes and pathways
- Special event support
 - Fab Phoenix 4th
 - National Trail Trek
 - Pecos Triathlon
 - Phoenix Summit Challenge
- Sports field rejuvenation
- Spring, Summer, and Winter Break camp programming
- Trail maintenance
- Tree, shrub, and cactus planting
- Visitor center engagement





Earth Month 2025

This year Volunteer Phoenix, the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department, and Keep Phoenix Beautiful hosted a total of 17 of volunteer events in observance of Earth Month. This amounted to 3,743 volunteer hours, 31 volunteer groups, and 438 trees planted.

1 STEELE INDIAN SCHOOL PARK

450 Volunteers
1800 Hours Served

Participants: Home Depot Foundation and HandsOn Greater Phoenix

5 RECYCLE PHX KPBB EVENT

38 Volunteers
190 Hours Served

Volunteers: American Express

8 CESAR CHAVEZ PARK

300 Volunteers
900 Hours Served

Volunteers: Starbucks

10 PIERSON GARDEN KPBB EVENT

14 Volunteers
28 Hours Served

Volunteers: Extended Stay America Hotel

16 SOUTH MOUNTAIN KPBB EVENT

34 Volunteers
68 Hours Served

Volunteers: American Express



17 ROSE MOFFORD SPORTS COMPLEX

16 Volunteers
32 Hours Served

Volunteers: Ayers Saint Gross, CESO, Inc, Hilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas

18 DEEM HILLS EAST

12 Volunteers
24 Hours Served

Volunteers: California Closets

19 RIO SALADO 16TH ST TRAILHEAD KPBB EVENT

15 Volunteers
30 Hours Served

Volunteers: Uber

19 PIERSON GARDEN KPBB EVENT

9 Volunteers
18 Hours Served

Volunteers: Southwest Airlines

21 CESAR CHAVEZ PARK

11 Volunteers
22 Hours Served

Volunteers: Amazon

22 RIO SALADO 7TH ST TRAILHEAD KPBB EVENT

77 Volunteers
231 Hours Served

Volunteers: Cox Communications, Univar Solutions, Dover Food Retail, Agital Marketing, Sagior Life Insurance Company

22 TURTLE ROCK BASIN PARK

10 Volunteers
20 Hours Served

Volunteers: Stryker

22 DREAMY DRAW RECREATION AREA

42 Volunteers
126 Hours Served

Volunteers: CIM Group, Citizens Bank, Silicon Valley Bank, First Citizens Bank, WorldatWork

24 RIO SALADO 7TH AVE TRAILHEAD KPBB EVENT

50 Volunteers
150 Hours Served

Volunteers: Cox Automotive and Cox Communications

25 SOUTH MOUNTAIN KPBB EVENT

15 Volunteers
30 Hours Served

Volunteers: Northrup Grumman



25 PIERSON GARDEN KPBB EVENT

11 Volunteers
33 Hours Served

Volunteers: Valley Lutheran High School

25 STEELE INDIAN SCHOOL PARK

11 Volunteers
22 Hours Served

Volunteers: Valley Lutheran High School

30 PIERSON GARDEN KPBB EVENT

3 Volunteers
9 Hours Served

Volunteers: U.S. Army

30 UNIVERSITY PARK

5 Volunteers
10 Hours Served

Volunteers: Live Nation



APRIL 2025



Starbucks Volunteers

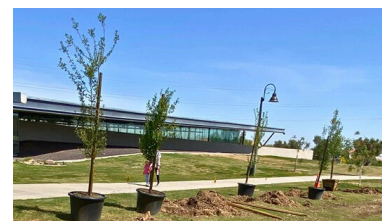


CESAR CHAVEZ PARK

On April 8, 2025, 200 volunteers from Starbucks donated their time to give back to their local community at Cesar Chavez Park.

THE IMPACT

- 275 gallons of litter removed
- 25 trees planted
- 10 skate park elements and parking lot curbs repainted



EARTH DAY AT DREAMY DRAW RECREATION AREA



APRIL 22, 2025

Corporate volunteer groups joined together to plant cacti and stake young palo verde trees to support this land in the Phoenix Mountains Preserve.



Other Earth Month Highlights

**April
17**

Rose Mofford Sports Complex

Volunteers from CESO, Ayers Saint Groser, and Hilton planted 48 trees.

**April
19**



Hole in the Rock - Papago Park

18 volunteers planted cacti, removed trash and improved the hiking trail alongside park rangers

**April
21**

Steele Indian School and Encanto Parks

Volunteers picked up litter in the parks after Easter, typically the busiest day in our park system.

**April
22**

South Mountain Park and Preserve

In partnership with Keep Phoenix Beautiful, 30 volunteers from AMEX cleaned the Big and Little Ramadas.



Paradise Valley Park

40 student volunteers from VITA School of Innovation removed invasive weeds and litter from the park and community center courtyard.

Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area - Audubon Center

Volunteer park stewards planted pollinator plants.

Turtle Rock Basin

30 volunteers from Stryker planted 40 trees in the park.

**April
25**



Deem Hills Recreation Area

Volunteers from California Closets joined park rangers to remove invasive species, plant native cacti, remove litter, and close an unauthorized trail at the East trailhead.

Telephone Pioneer Park

Volunteers from the Integrity Foundation partnered with Ability360 and the Parks Department to upgrade the park with barrier-free, inclusive play structures



The Impact

- 150 Volunteers
- 6 hours
- Inclusive playground equipment installed
- Litter cleanup
- Donation collection to renovate softball field



2025 Volunteer Impact Awards

Congratulations
to the Natural
Resource
Division's Park
Stewards!



PARK STEWARDS' IMPACT

- 3,797 hours of trailwork
- 474.5 hours of clean-ups
- 1,795 hours of bike patrols covering 9,995 miles of trails
- 1719 hours of hike patrols covering 2,899 miles of trails
- 256 hours of trailhead education & heat awareness



Adopt – A – Park

Phoenix has over 200 parks, preserves and facilities that are available for a group or individual to adopt. You may adopt an entire park or a specific part of a park to give back to your community!

Frequency

We request a commitment to volunteer at your adopted site at least once a quarter, but you may volunteer as frequently as your schedule allows.

Materials Provided

We will provide gloves, gardening tools, brooms, rakes, safety equipment, and trash grabbers for your volunteer projects.

Potential Volunteer Activities

- Litter pickup
- Report/remove graffiti
- Sweep/rake courts and pathways
- Invasive weed removal
- Cleaning lakes and waterways
- Report park hazards
- Prune and care for flowers and shrubs
- Native plant care

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?
CONTACT US:**



602-495-5937



myphxmypark@phoenix.gov



my phx my park
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

El Oso Park Adoption

MR. JONATHAN'S CLASS AT VICTORY AUTISM ACADEMY



my phoenix my park
VOLUNTEER AT A GOOD PLACE

CERTIFICATE

— OF ADOPTION —
This certificate recognizes

Mr. Jonathan's Victory Autism Academy Class

In appreciation of their commitment to twice monthly volunteer efforts, including litter cleanup, curb painting, weed removal, and equipment sanitization to enhance our community spaces.

El Oso Park

 Cynthia
Parks and Recreation Director

 2025

 Alena
Program Coordinator

 my phoenix my park



KEEP PHOENIX BEAUTIFUL

KPB is a local, sustainably focused non-profit formed in 1982. The organization strives to create a vibrant Phoenix where each neighborhood is a healthy, beautiful place to live.



MISSION

KPB provides tools to empower our diverse communities to improve overall quality of life by inspiring others through leadership, active partnerships, and meaningful volunteer experiences.



2025 STATISTICS

- 2,185 Volunteers
- 7,647.5 Volunteer Hours
- 55 Events Hosted



EVENT LOCATIONS

- Mountain View Park
- Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area
- Dreamy Draw Recreation Area
- South Mountain Park and Preserve





City of Phoenix
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Help keep our parks clean and safe for all to enjoy!

- Adopt-A-Park in your neighborhood
- Become a Park Steward
- Assist at Special Events
- Corporate and Group Opportunities



CONTACT US:



602-495-5937



myphxmypark@phoenix.gov



To: Parks and Recreation Board **Date:** May 28, 2026

From: Martin Whitfield, Interim Director

Subject: SOUTH MOUNTAIN LAND DONATION AND ACCEPTANCE
INTO THE SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK/PRESERVE

This report requests Parks and Recreation Board (Board) approval to accept a private land donation in the Ahwatukee Foothills into the City of Phoenix South Mountain Park/Preserve and recommend to Phoenix City Council to designate the property as “Mountain Preserve”.

BACKGROUND

A private landowner in the Ahwatukee Foothills has expressed interest in donating approximately 10 acres of undisturbed desert land to the City of Phoenix for incorporation into South Mountain Park/Preserve. The parcel lies directly below the Preserve’s southern boundary and remains in a natural condition consistent with the surrounding Mountain Preserve environment (**Attachments A and B**). The site consists of intact habitat, native vegetation, and wildlife movement corridors which make it a strong candidate for long-term conservation.

Staff’s preliminary review and site visit confirms that the land holds meaningful conservation value and would strengthen the ecological continuity of the Preserve. Several nearby parcels share similar characteristics, suggesting additional long-term preservation potential, though no formal discussions have begun with those owners.

DISCUSSION

The offer to donate this 10-acre parcel represents a significant opportunity to expand and protect South Mountain Park/Preserve. Because the land has not been altered by development, its addition would help maintain intact habitat, support wildlife movement corridors, and prevent future fragmentation along the southern foothills. The parcel’s condition aligns well with the City’s goals for open-space protection and long-term stewardship of environmentally sensitive lands.

The City’s internal review process is underway, and staff is working with the donor to ensure required environmental assessments are performed to ensure the parcel is

suitable for inclusion in the Preserve and that all requirements for accepting land under Chapter 26 of the City Charter can be met.

While the immediate focus remains on the current donation offer, staff recognize that the surrounding area includes other undeveloped tracts that may also contribute to a more unified conservation landscape. These broader opportunities will be evaluated over time, but the present offer provides a strong foundation for potential future preservation efforts in the Ahwatukee Foothills.

RECOMMENDATION

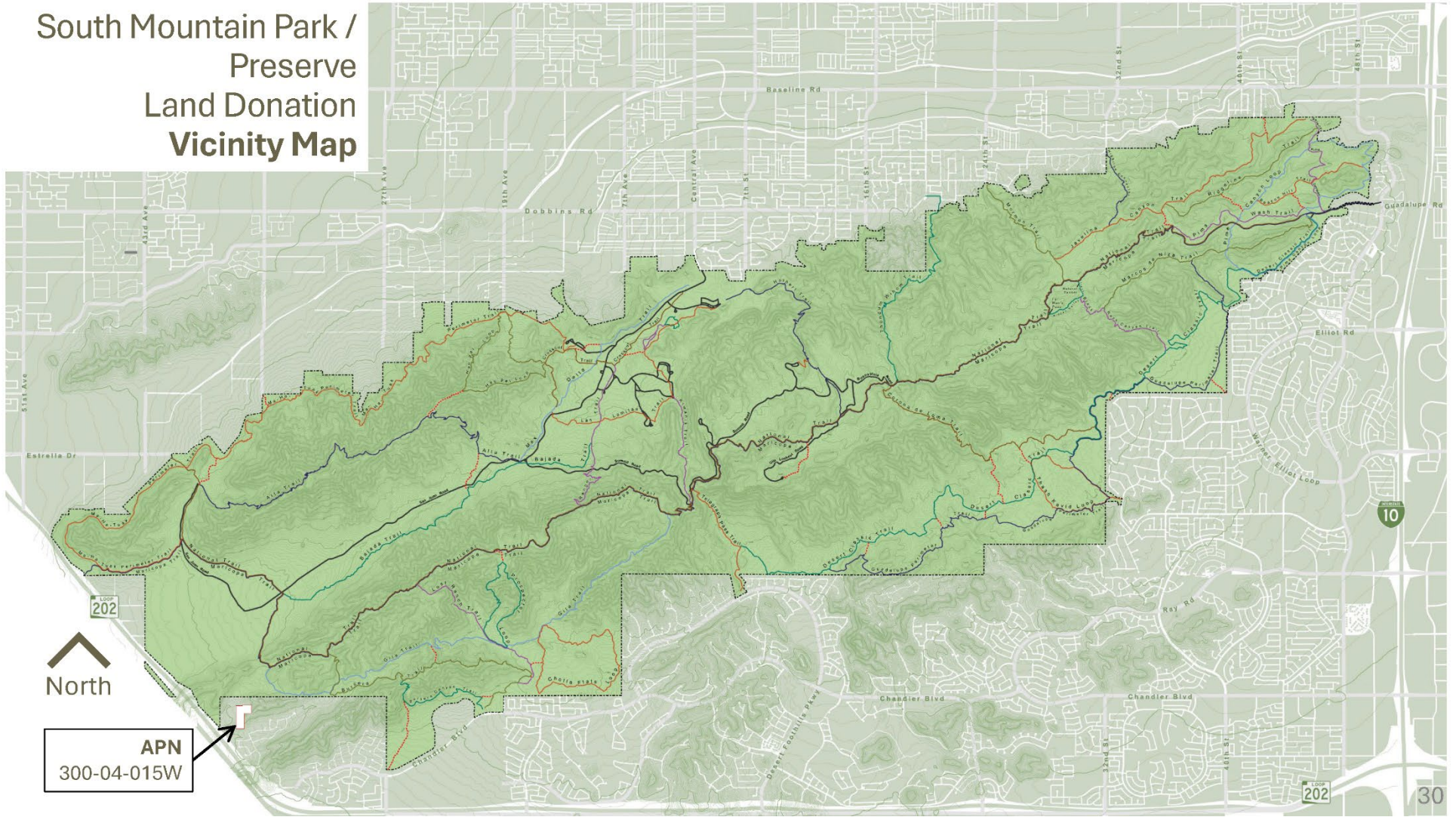
Staff requests Board approval to accept a private property donation in the Ahwatukee Foothills into the City of Phoenix's South Mountain Park/Preserve and recommend to Phoenix City Council to designate the property as "Mountain Preserve," pending an acceptable environmental assessment.

Prepared by: Jarod Rogers, Deputy Director

Approved by: Brandie I. Barrett, Assistant Director

Attachment A – Vicinity Map

South Mountain Park / Preserve Land Donation Vicinity Map



Attachment B – Vicinity Map

