

PARKS AND RECREATION

Facility Standards

The following is a description of the department's preferred development standards for parks, community centers, pools, and trails.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are designed to serve an area within a radius of one-half mile or a population from 4,000 to 7,000 people; examples include Moon Valley, Verde, and Desert Star. These parks are within walking or bicycling distance of residences and are typically 15 acres in size. Local or collector streets typically border them. Most neighborhood parks include children's playground and picnic areas, open play turf areas, parking, lighted volleyball and basketball courts, and restroom facilities.

Planned community developments may also provide neighborhood recreational facilities and open space. However, these areas tend to be small, private, and limited in recreational opportunities. They are not sufficient to meet a wide range of recreational and public open space needs.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks such as Roadrunner, Circle K, and Falcon serve an area of one and one-half miles and a population of 20,000 to 50,000 people. These parks are typically 40 acres or larger, with active recreation improvements, and are located on collector or arterial streets. Organized team sports, leagues, and large-activity facilities are located in these parks. Most existing community parks include lighted basketball, volleyball, soccer and softball facilities; playgrounds; picnic areas; and restroom facilities. Pools, lighted tennis courts, and ramadas also may be included. Community parks have turf areas that are unprogrammed open spaces, which can be used for a variety of activities and events.

DISTRICT PARKS

District parks draw from several communities and are 200 acres or larger, serving 100,000 to 200,000 people. They provide for active and passive recreation and serve a five-mile service radius. They may include specialized activities such as

a golf course, festival area, or an amphitheater. In general, district parks are located on arterial streets, or in areas where the size and function will have minimum impact, i.e., commercial or industrial areas. They also serve the immediate local communities as neighborhood parks or community parks and contain these features: playgrounds and picnic areas, lighted basketball and volleyball courts, lighted racquetball courts, lighted softball and soccer facilities, restroom facilities, lighted tennis courts, and picnic ramadas. District parks include Encanto, Paradise Valley Park, Desert West, and Cave Creek Recreation Area.

TRAILS

A functional network of urban trails is planned throughout the city that is multi-purpose, easily accessible and convenient, and connects parks, major open spaces, and village cores.

Multi-purpose recreational trails are intended to serve equestrians, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The city, in cooperation with private developers, is working to create or construct multi-use trails. These natural-surface recreational trails are intended to accommodate a variety of non-motorized uses; however, the surface of the trail, topography, along with trail location, will dictate the primary use.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS

Working in conjunction with the Parks, Planning and Development, Street Transportation, Water Services, and other city departments, the city has identified major trail corridors and destinations, and is working with the public to finalize specific alignments for trails and pathways. Additionally, the city of Phoenix trails coordinator is working with other concerned agencies in the development of a regional trails system, to coordinate funding opportunities and ensure continuity among the trails throughout the entire area.

As plans are finalized, several major goals are considered:

- Trails should be easily accessible and convenient to all Phoenix residents. This

includes incorporating the goal of the nationwide trails community of locating a trail within a 10-minute walk, or about one-half mile, of each residence in the community.

- Local trails should connect with other trails and pathways at municipal boundaries.
- The trail and pathway system should include loops of various lengths that connect various landscapes and allow a variety of user experiences.
- Trails and pathways should accommodate varying degrees of physical ability.

Trail system map included on page 79 of the General Plan represents conceptual alignments for trails. The trail alignments and crossing locations must be flexible to accommodate the future development of these areas. The completion of any proposed trails will depend upon the availability of funds. The use of existing trails and crossings, and the need for additional ones, will be carefully evaluated to determine where new trails and crossings would be most effective. Specific trails, trail crossing locations and designs will be determined at the time of the plan development review process.

Until they are properly accepted by the city of Phoenix or use agreements are conveyed, proposed trails are designated only as "trail corridors." Mere designation of trail corridors will not be construed to authorize use of public or private property by the public without the permission of the property owners.

NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION CENTERS

Neighborhood recreation centers are small indoor facilities under 5,000 square feet, which provide local residents with a safe place to meet and an accessible place to play after school and on weekends. Programs and activities offered at neighborhood centers include arts and crafts, martial arts, exercise and fitness, dance, after school programs, education planning, teen councils, senior citizen programs, community meetings, and special and cultural events.

These centers are often located in neighborhood parks. The desired building size is 2,800 square feet and includes a meeting room for 50 to 100 people, a table game area, restrooms, and office/equipment storage room.

COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTERS

Community recreation centers have a two-mile service area radius and a desired building size of 18,000 square feet. They provide a wide range of programs, including those listed for neighborhood centers, plus a greater variety of classes, lunch programs, and community or social service referral agencies. They may specialize in services for adults, seniors, or youths. Community center amenities typically include a gymnasium, classrooms, lounge, game room, kitchen and staff offices, restrooms, and storage.

FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY CENTERS

Full-service community centers are typically 37,000 square feet with planned expansions to 60,000 square feet. Current community centers are Desert West, Paradise Valley, Sunnyslope, South Mountain, and Deer Valley. They have a five-mile service area radius. The centers offer a variety of recreation and city and human services for all ages, including those services provided by neighborhood and community recreation centers. Additional services include cooking and baking, language courses, large-scale special and cultural events for over 3,000 people, and meals-on-wheels preparation.

YOUTH / TEEN CENTERS

Youth/teen centers have been developed in response to the social, environmental, and economic issues that face young people between the ages of 12 and 19. They have a two-mile service area radius and a desired building size of 15,000 square feet. The focus of a youth/teen center is to provide a range of recreation and social services in a safe and comfortable atmosphere.

The centers offer special-interest classes such as dance, health and nutrition, education-related social services and employment training programs, support groups, sports, recreation tournaments, and employment programs. Examples include PAL, South Phoenix Youth Centers, and Thunderbird Teen Center.

GOLF

Golf is an enterprise function, which means its revenues pay for all operating costs and debt service. Municipal golf courses are included in district parks or as freestanding facilities as the financing allows. The city provides public golf to give affordable access to Phoenix residents.

SWIMMING POOLS

Swimming pools are normally located in community and district parks. There are 28 pools throughout the city, including a special populations-accessible pool with more than 7,500 square feet of water surface area. Typical pool size is 25 meters, and the pool season is 12 weeks. Programs offered at these parks include swim lessons, swim/dive teams, special events, and water safety classes. Public pools are designed to meet a wide variety of user needs, from lap swimming to recreational uses, and are not intended to satisfy all special interests.

SPECIAL FACILITIES

Special facilities fill an important role with the city's park system as amenities that are unique in their purpose, design, and the needs they fulfill. Such sites/amenities range from historical sites to those providing very specialized services. Some of the facilities in this category include Pueblo Grande Museum, Patriots Park, Maryvale Stadium, Phoenix Municipal Stadium, Oakland Athletics' Training Complex, Heritage and Science Park, Shemer Art Center, Cancer Survivors' Park, Rio Salado and Tres Rios, Tovrea Castle with Carraro Cactus Gardens, the Irish Cultural Center, and the Japanese Teahouse Garden.

URBAN PARKS

Urban parks are special parks that are small, pedestrian-oriented and feature green open spaces in the midst of the more densely-developed urban areas. They serve the distinct purpose of providing, for daytime use and pedestrian respite, small areas that beautify the streetscapes of buildings and concrete with trees, plants, seating and art. Existing urban park areas are Cancer Survivors, Caesar Chavez Plaza, Heritage Square, and Patriots Square.