

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

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, August 29, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.**

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 086 9431 then enter in the Webinar password PksMtg! when prompted (7576841 from phones).

Observe

[August 29, 2024 - Webex Link](#)

REQUEST TO SPEAK

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 should arrive early, 1 hour prior to the start of the meeting to submit an in-person request to speak before the item is called. After the item is called, requests to speak for that item will not be accepted.

Virtual Requests to speak at a meeting:

To register to speak virtually via Webex, please use this link:

[August 29, 2024 - Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Requests to Speak](#)

- Virtual speakers must register by: **August 28, 2024**

If you have any issues with the form or if you wish to submit a comment to the board, contact: **Robin Kelley** At: robin.kelley@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. Code of Conduct Update	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 and Recreation Board Summary Minutes - June 27, 2024	Robin Kelley
	b. Request for Vista Canyon Park Drone and R/C Aircraft Pilot Program to Become a Permanent Park Amenity	Joe Diaz
	c. Proposed Renaming of the South Mountain Environmental Education Center	Jarod Rogers
4.	INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM(S): Information and discussion items will be presented verbally to the Parks Board and are for discussion only. No action will take place on these items at this meeting.	
	a. South Mountain Speedway	Jarod Rogers
	b. Parks Master Plan Update	Felicita Mendoza
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.	Kelly Dalton, Chair
6.	BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – The Chairperson will verbally present comments or requests to the Board without Board discussion.	Kelly Dalton, Chair
7.	BOARD COMMENTS/REQUESTS – The Chairperson will entertain Board member comments or requests without Board discussion.	Kelly Dalton, Chair
8.	DIRECTOR’S BRIEFING – Briefing items will be verbally presented to the Board by the Director or designee without Board discussion.	Cynthia Aguilar, Director
9.	Adjournment	Kelly Dalton, Chair

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

Robin Kelley At: robin.kelley@phoenix.gov or 602-495-5215 or TTY: 7-1-1.

August 23, 2024



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: August 29, 2024

From: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Subject: MONTHLY CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATE

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

DISCUSSION

Educational Contacts and Trespass Notices

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

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

From the weeks of June 3 through the week of June 24, urban park rangers made approximately 1,893 educational contacts. During this period, park rangers issued 444 trespass and order to leave the park notices and 16 citations. The trespass notices during this period were for violations related to: 253 amplified noise without a permit, 122 using or possessing drugs/paraphernalia, 30 after hours park use, 13 unlawful conduct, 10 tobacco/fire restrictions, three alcohol without a permit, two shopping carts, two dog at large, two vending without a permit, two unauthorized off-trail activity, one failure to comply with an order to leave, one urinating in public, one harassment of staff/patrons, one obstructing park use, and one public sexual activity. The citations were for violations related to eight after hours park use, three shopping carts, two drug paraphernalia, one dog at large, one alcohol without a permit, and one failure to comply with an order to leave. (Attachment A, Table 1)

From the weeks of July 1 to the week of July 29, urban park rangers made approximately 2,134 educational contacts. During this period, park rangers issued 366 trespass and order to leave the park notices and 30 citations. The trespass notices during this period were for violations related to: 203 using or possessing drugs/paraphernalia, 110 after hours park use, 14 alcohol without a permit, 10 unlawful conduct, eight shopping carts, four harassment of park staff/patrons, four loitering, three disturbing the peace, 3 using amenities outside of intended use, two dogs at large, two unauthorized trail activity, one vandalism, one vending without a permit, and one littering. The citations were for violations related to 25 after hours park use, three dogs at large, and two vending without a permit. **(Attachment A, Table 1)**

At the time of this report, two trespass notices have been issued to juveniles with no citations. No appeals have been received.

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

Prepared by: Jarod Rogers, Deputy Director
Approved by: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Attachment A

Table 1:

Date	Number of Educational Contacts	Number of Trespass Notices and Orders to Leave Issued	Number of Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaint (ATTC) Citations Issued
Week of 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.

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

*The Cave Creek Parks include 6 connected parks.

**CITY OF PHOENIX
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
SUMMARY MINUTES
June 27, 2024**

Virtual meeting hosted on Webex.

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Staff Present</u>	<u>Community Members</u>
Tony Moya- Acting Chair Sarah Porter (Virtual) Emma Viera (Virtual) Ed Zuercher Dorina Bustamante Aubrey Barnwell (Virtual)	Jon Chan Cynthia Aguilar Martin Whitfield Christine MacKay Claire Miller	Corina Sims Dan Penton Michael Norton
<u>Board Members Absent</u> Kelly Dalton		

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairperson Moya called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. with Board Members Porter, Viera, Bustamante, Zuercher, and Barnwell in attendance.

2. CONSENT ITEMS

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

2a. Parks and Recreation Board Summary Minutes - May 28, 2024

2b. Ho-E Park Mural

2c. Request to Vend (Heritage Square)

Board Member Bustamante made a motion to approve consent items 2a. and 2c. Board Member Zuercher, seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 6-0.

Board Member Bustamante made a motion to approve consent items 2b. Board Member Zuercher seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 5-0. Board Member Porter abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

3. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

3a. Camp Colley Update

Director Cynthia Aguilar introduced Claire Miller, Park Supervisor, who presented an overview of Camp Colley.

During the presentation, Ms. Miller displayed a map illustrating the camp's layout and highlighted the mission of Camp Colley—to provide underserved youth with access to an outdoor overnight camping experience. Established in 2001, the camp faced significant challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a subsequent forest fire, which ultimately led to its closure.

To ensure the camp's reopening, the Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to find a new operator. The H.E.A.R.T. Center was selected and is now responsible for managing the camp.

The H.E.A.R.T. Center offers an affordable camp experience, charging campers \$100 for a multi-day overnight stay, compared to similar camps that can cost over \$1,000. Additionally, The H.E.A.R.T. Center is committed to offering participants from diverse backgrounds a high-quality and intimate learning experience at Camp Colley. The camp focuses on helping attendees understand and appreciate the natural habitat, fostering personal growth, and developing long-term social skills in a supportive environment.

The H.E.A.R.T. Center also manages all aspects of camp administration, programming, and transportation, ensuring that operations align with the American Camp Association (ACA) standards for health, safety, and risk management, thereby prioritizing the well-being of both campers and staff.

Board Member Zuercher inquired about the H.E.A.R.T. Center's efforts to reduce the cost of the camp.

Chelsea Harden, who is the Founder and the Executive Director to the H.E.A.R.T. Center responded by highlighting their scholarship program, which is supported by external funding sources helps with cost of camps. They are also exploring other avenues for funding.

Board Member Bustamante thanked the H.E.A.R.T. Center for their dedication to Camp Colley. She requested to review the schedule and asked about the camp's duration.

Ms. Harden explained the schedule was based on the campers' school calendars to identify when students are on breaks.

Board Member Bustamante inquired if the camp is open throughout the remainder of the year.

Ms. Harden explained it will be open for other activities.

Board Member Bustamante asked about the cost of attending the camp during the off season.

Ms. Harden responded that the cost would vary depending on the financial needs of the participants.

Chairperson Moya inquired about what kind of marketing strategies are used to promote Camp Colley.

Ms. Miller explained that they use flyers, social media, and direct promotion to parks and recreation program participants. She also mentioned that they are open to new ideas for marketing.

Ms. Harden explained that the H.E.A.R.T. Center also promotes the camp through its social media channels.

Board Member Porter expressed her gratitude for the H.E.A.R.T. Center due to the prior challenges Camp Colley has faced over the years.

3b. Proposed Trailhead at South Mountain Park

Christine Mackay, Director of the Community and Economic Development Department presented about the proposed design and development of a new trailhead and parking lot at South Mountain Park, near Estrella Parkway and 51st Avenue. The City of Phoenix is collaborating with Lines Family Entities, the developer of a 290-acre mixed-use project in the area, which includes commercial, residential, and recreational components.

Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Aguilar presented by highlighting the benefits the project will bring to the department. She mentioned that as part of the development, the developer will fund the design and construction of the trailhead and parking lot, as well as provide maintenance funding for 10 years. The project is expected to generate significant economic benefits, including the creation of thousands of jobs and substantial tax revenue. Additionally, the developer will donate funds to support park development and maintenance in Laveen Village.

Dan Penton provided virtual comments, emphasizing the benefits of establishing a trailhead in the area. He noted that it would create a "sense of place" for the community and provide opportunities for students. He also mentioned that the trailhead would lay the groundwork for future development.

Board Member Barnwell shared his excitement about the development in Laveen.

Board Member Zuercher thanked Director Christine Mackay for her work on the project.

Board Member Bustamante expressed her thanks and asked the distance between the trailhead and the main community center.

Director Aguilar stated it was approximately than two miles away from the trailhead.

Chairperson Moya stated he was also excited for this project.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Michael Norton commented virtually to discuss development in the South Mountain Area. He mentioned issues with development and funding of other projects in the past. He would like the City of Phoenix to consider how other projects are being developed in other communities.

Corina Sims commented in person as a member of USA Dodge Ball. She requested resources for the summer due to the heat and the need for the dodge ball team to gain access to a facility. Ms. Sims shared the organization is looking for a low-cost facility to hold their competitions.

5. BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Moya shared a special check presentation from the Kierland Community Alliance (KCA). Mr. Moya provided a brief background of KCA, an organization near Thunderbird Road to Paradise Lane and 64th Street to Scottsdale Road comprised of local Kierland residents who volunteer to preserve the character of the Kierland neighborhood. Mr. Moya expressed gratefulness for the \$74,000 donation the KCA made for future improvements at Sandpiper Park located at 65th Street and Hearn, just north of Cactus Road.

KCA Chairperson Amy Satterfield presented the check, thanked the Parks Board for their efforts, and shared her excitement about collaborating with the Parks Department to determine how the funds will be used, noting the community's recent growth with several new developments.

6. BOARD COMMENTS/REQUESTS

Board Member Bustamante asked about facility use for dodge ball.

Director Aguilar responded that additional discussion is needed to evaluate the request.

8. DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Assistant Director Martin Whitfield provided updates on recent events, including the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Encanto Park Playground, featuring ADA-accessible equipment. He also highlighted the Ice Cream Social hosted by Phoenix City Councilman Carlos Glaindo-Elvira at Desert West Community Center on June 13, 2024 and the After Dark in the Park event at Deer Valley Park on June 22, 2024 offering free, family-friendly activities.

Director Cynthia Aguilar previewed two upcoming Independence Day celebrations, Light Up the Sky on July 3, 2024 at American Family Fields and the Fabulous Phoenix Fourth on July 4, 2024, at Steele Indian School Park which are both free events with fireworks.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Moya adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: August 29, 2024

From: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Subject: REQUEST FOR VISTA CANYON PARK DRONE AND R/C AIRCRAFT PILOT PROGRAM TO BECOME A PERMANENT PARK AMENITY

This report requests Parks and Recreation Board (Board) approval to designate Vista Canyon Park (16020 S. 30th Street) as a radio/remote-control aircraft, model rocket and drone-use location.

BACKGROUND

The Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department has designated eight city parks across the City for the use of drones, R/C aircraft, and model rockets. Pilots must follow **Phoenix City Code, section 24-49**, in addition to state and federal regulations when flying in public parks. Last year, there was a request to include Vista Canyon Park to be added to the list of approved parks to fly R/C aircrafts.

In order for Vista Canyon Park to qualify to become an approved site under the City of Phoenix requirements, the site must be evaluated for compliance. All approved sites shall at all times remain unobstructed and a safe distance away from other park users. An unobstructed area means an open park area that is level and free of trees, structures, or fences ten feet or higher, and that is fully accessible for the retrieval of launched aircraft. In addition, dimensions of operation sites require no less than 400 feet on all sides. Vista Canyon Park was evaluated and meets the before mentioned requirements to be a drone, R/C aircraft, and model rockets site.

The Department previously conducted a community survey to gather input on a pilot program for drones, R/C aircraft, and model rockets at Vista Canyon Park. Staff placed several signs around the park with a QR code to facilitate community feedback. The survey was open from August 1 to August 31, 2023, and received 133 responses. The community showed support for the six-month pilot program, with a 68% approval rate. Of the 133 responses, 43 included comments expressing concerns, primarily regarding privacy, noise, and safety (see Attachment A). These concerns were monitored and noted throughout the pilot program.

In October 2023, the Parks and Recreation Board approved a six-month pilot program permitting R/C aircraft flights at Vista Canyon Park under the established regulations. During the pilot period, Parks staff conducted an additional community survey to gather feedback, allowing residents to voice their support or concerns.

DISCUSSION

The six-month pilot program for flying drones, R/C aircraft, and model rockets at Vista Canyon Park ran from November 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024. To maximize community feedback, staff placed and regularly updated signs with a QR code in high-traffic areas of the park. Additionally, a phone number and email were included on all signs to ensure multiple channels for gathering input from the community.

During the six-month pilot program, the South Division received 12 survey responses, 8 phone calls, and 4 emails regarding the program. Only one concern about privacy from surrounding neighbors was raised in the first few weeks of the program. All other feedback from the community was positive, with many expressing a desire to see the pilot program become a permanent feature of the park.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Board approval to designate Vista Canyon Park as a radio remote-control aircraft, model rocket and drone-use location.

Prepared by: Joe Diaz, Deputy Director

Approved by: Cynthia Aguilar, Director



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: August 29, 2024

From: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Subject: PROPOSED RENAMING OF THE SOUTH MOUNTAIN
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

This report requests Parks and Recreation Board (Board) approval to change the name of South Mountain Environmental Education Center located at South Mountain Park, to the South Mountain Visitor Center, a name which more directly states the purpose of the facility in serving the community.

BACKGROUND

In 1996, voters approved bond funds to build an interpretive center in South Mountain Park/Preserve. Construction of the approximately 12,000 sq ft facility took place in 1997-98, and it officially opened as the South Mountain Environmental Education Center on May 13, 1998. Initially designed as the South Mountain Park Interpretive Center, the facility has since served as an educational hub for the park.

The City and several nonprofits have operated the facility since its opening, adding an educational experience for the more than 2.5 million annual park visitors South Mountain receives each year. In 2022, the center was reopened with City staffing and operational hours from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday through Sunday. The Center serves as a welcome point for visitors to the Preserve to learn more about the many activities and sites throughout South Mountain's over 16,000 acres of Sonoran Desert landscape.

DISCUSSION

The Center is currently undergoing a major renovation of its visitor interactive space. Over the years staff have noted that visitors are often confused about what the facility's purpose is and whether it is open to the public. To promote a clearer understanding of what the Center is, changing the name to South Mountain Visitor Center will help visitors know what to expect when they see the visitor center labeled on maps or on signs within the park.

National Parks, State Parks and other natural setting facilities utilize the term 'visitor center' to describe their facilities. The very words explain who is welcome there and the commonality of the phrase helps people know the function of the facility.

The mission of the Center remains the same. Visitors will be welcomed, and providing information and environmental education will remain a priority. This name change also aligns with the name of our other preserve visitor center in the Phoenix Mountains Preserve, the North Mountain Visitor Center.

Upon approval new signage would be installed on the Center itself as well as along the entry road to raise awareness of the facility. The name change will be implemented in stages through 2024/25.

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Department requests Board approval of the proposed name change from South Mountain Environmental Education Center to South Mountain Visitor Center.

Prepared by: Jarod Rogers, Deputy Director

Approved by: Cynthia Aguilar, Director



To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: August 29, 2024

From: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Subject: SOUTH MOUNTAIN SPEEDWAY

This report provides the Parks and Recreation Board (Board) with information on the South Mountain Speedway.

BACKGROUND

The South Mountain Speedway is located in the San Juan Valley, approximately 1.5 miles into the Preserve on S. Stephen Mather Dr. and is a small race track used for children's quarter midget motorized automobile racing. This City of Phoenix site, spanning approximately 2.15 acres, features a concrete oval racetrack and a concession stand, both constructed around 1961. Additional structures, including the press box and restroom buildings, were added around 1973. While the interior of the racetrack was resealed in 2002, no major renovations have been performed on the buildings since their original construction.

DISCUSSION

The City has maintained ownership of the site since its inception. Recent operators have included the Phoenix Quarter and Half-Midget Racing Organization (1974-1994) and the Valley of the Sun Quarter Midget Association (VSQMA), which operated the track from 1994 until their lease expired in April 2023. A month-to-month agreement with VSQMA was approved from November 2023 through April 2024, but it was never executed due to safety concerns.

The most recent lease agreement with VSQMA specified that all maintenance for the property was the responsibility of VSQMA. The City's responsibility was to provide the property in an 'as is' state with no warranties to the availability of utilities. VSQMA accepted the premises 'as is' without recourse to the City as to condition or usability of the premises. VSQMA was also responsible for facility maintenance and repairs that met City Code and City Standards at VSQMA's expense prior to the start of each race season. The City was also not required to construct or install any improvements. Before considering a new lease agreement, the City conducted a Facility Condition Assessment and an Electrical Site Assessment as part of its due diligence process. These assessments, based on the City of Phoenix's adopted building codes, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70E standards, and accepted engineering practices, revealed several critical issues.

Key findings from the Electrical Site Assessment include:

- The electrical system, largely original to the buildings, is in poor condition with numerous safety concerns under the City's adopted Building Code.
- The system has been expanded and the work does not comply with the National Electric Code (NEC).
- The equipment, conductors, boxes, raceways and conductors are showing significant signs of deterioration.
- Plumbing systems are original to the buildings. The whole septic tank/plumbing system has been abandoned. As a result, the restrooms are nonfunctional.
- No fire alarm systems are present.

Due to these conditions, the electrical service was disconnected on January 29, 2024.

The findings of the FCA and ESA have caused the Department to reconsider the appropriateness of the racetrack at South Mountain Park. At the time the speedway was constructed, South Mountain was designated as a park and common activities of the period were allowed. As conservation awareness grew and the developed city grew ever closer to the perimeters of South Mountain, the City changed the land designation from park to preserve status, bringing much needed protections for the area.

The 1989 South Mountain Park/Preserve Master Plan (Plan) was created through input and collaboration provided by the specially formed Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), informal discussions with the community and work sessions with City staff.

The Plan placed an emphasis on restoration of the natural environment and rehabilitation within the park. The Plan specifically addressed the Quarter Midget Racetrack stating it was an inappropriate preserve use and recommended removal of the facility from the San Juan Valley with the site restored to natural desert.

These current issues at the track were presented to the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve and Mountain Parks/Preserves Committee on May 20, 2024, for information and discussion. The Committee unanimously recommended the removal of the South Mountain Speedway and restoration of the site in South Mountain Park/Preserve. A letter of support for this was provided and is included as Attachment A.

Additionally, this item was discussed with the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC) Tribal Historic Preservation Offices during the S'edav Va'aki Museum's July 8, 2024, consultation meeting. Those present from both Tribes expressed support for the removal of the track. Letters of support are included as Attachment B.

The most recent operator, VSQMA, has expressed interest in a new lease to operate the track. A copy of the FCA was provided to VSQMA and in response, a letter was received from their Executive Board which is included as Attachment C. The letter outlines a timeline of repairs that VSQMA would be willing to make ‘through what funds our organization currently has & our community licensed contractors.’ While Parks appreciates this offer, the current state of the track is largely a product of that same improvement method. The VSQMA letter also lists the electrical system as a ‘long term goal’ which directly contradicts the findings of the FCA that the electrical system needs to be a priority repair.

Additionally, the City’s Law Department has advised that the terms of any new contract would require the operator to provide public access to demonstrate a true benefit to the community. As it stands today, you must pay \$100 dues to be a member of VSQMA and also pay for membership at ‘POWRi Quarter Midget Racing League’ which costs an additional \$150 and have your own equipment to use the speedway.

Possible options to consider:

- (1) Issue a Request For Information (RFI) to determine if there are organizations who would have interest in, and the ability to operate a course while meeting updated requirements as it relates to public access. Any agreement with an operator would need to satisfy Arizona gift clause requirements by providing a public benefit or direct benefits to the City. VSQMA, the most recent operator would also have the opportunity to respond to the RFI.

a. Operators would be required to:

- i. Demonstrate ability to fund all needed design of the grounds including bringing the existing buildings up to a standard more in line with other improvement projects within the Park, as approved by Parks
- ii. Demonstrate ability to fund construction of the needed renovation and repairs to the track and facilities with a specific focus on the existing electrical system conditions that are deemed imminently unsafe and a safety hazard. Potential operators would be provided with the estimated costs for both short-term and long-term repairs as included in the FCA, and informed repairs would likely be greater than estimated in the report:

Estimated costs over the next 20 years:	
Immediate	\$281,000
Short Term (1-2 yr)	\$234,900
Near Term (3-5 yr)	\$270,600
Med Term (6-10 yr)	\$ 43,000
<u>Long Term (11-20 yr)</u>	<u>\$111,900</u>
Total	\$941,400

- iii. Demonstrate ability to make the track accessible to the public ensuring that it is beneficial to the wider Phoenix community.
- iv. Demonstrate ability to operate the track and fund ongoing maintenance and upkeep.
- v. Demonstrate ability to compensate the City for the use of the land and impact to the Preserve

- (2) Move forward with Masterplan's recommendation of removing the track and associated buildings and restoring the native landscape at the track site.
- a. Prior to any demolition activities, the department would commission a Class I archaeological inventory which would include:
 - i. Previously recorded sites and surveys in the vicinity
 - ii. a walk-through of any undeveloped ground,
 - iii. contextual research on similar local racetracks.
 - iv. These studies would be used to document the modern history of the track, identify archaeological features to be protected or avoided during any potential demolition activities
 - b. Following direction from the study, the Department would strategically remove the buildings, pavements, power lines, and other associated development.
 - c. Restore the area with native trees and other vegetation to include hydroseeding with native seed appropriate for South Mountain.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information and discussion.

Prepared by: Jarod Rogers, Deputy Director
Approved by: Cynthia Aguilar, Director



City of Phoenix

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

PHOENIX SONORAN PRESERVE AND MOUNTAIN PARKS/PRESERVES COMMITTEE

August 6, 2024

Ms Kelly Dalton, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board

RE: South Mountain Speedway

Dear Chair Dalton,

The Phoenix Sonoran Preserve and Mountain Parks/Preserves Committee (PSPMMPC), whose members are appointed by the Parks and Recreation Board (PRB), is tasked with advising the Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks and Recreation Board on matters related to the City of Phoenix's mountain parks and preserves. As South Mountain Park and Preserve celebrates its 100th anniversary, we have been actively monitoring the significant renovation projects and other efforts to enhance the visitor experience to this wonderful natural resource.

Our last meeting on May 20th, 2024, included a presentation on the South Mountain Speedway situated within Phoenix's South Mountain Park and Preserve. Key points from that presentation include:

- Facility Condition Assessment performed in late 2023 identifying a dozen elements in failed or poor condition,
- Electrical Site Assessment completed in late 2023 concluding with the opinion that the electrical infrastructure *"is a life safety hazard and should be taken out of service immediately"* and *"the cost to abate all deficiencies would exceed the cost to remove and replace these systems."*,
- Natural Resource Division (NRD) staff outlined the two primary options available to the PRB, either repair and restore the facility to its intended purpose or remove all paving and structures prior to restoring land to its natural condition.

The presentation included a reference to the South Mountain Park Master Plan (SMMP) approved by Phoenix City Council in 1989 addressed the South Mountain Speedway as follows:

"An inappropriate preserve use, this facility should be removed from the San Juan Valley to a location outside the preserve system. The facility should be converted to a compatible use and/or restored to natural desert. This should take place as soon as practicable ..."

NRD staff closed the presentation with support for the 1989 SMMP recommendation to remove the raceway facility and restore the areas to a native desert condition consistent with the stated purpose of a desert mountain preserve.

The members of the PSPMPPC, after a brief discussion, indicated unanimous support for the NRD recommendation and agreed to communicate that support to the Parks and Recreation Board.

While there is little record of the decision process leading to its opening, it is hard to imagine any circumstances that would result in the approved construction of a raceway in one of our preserves today.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our perspective on this very important topic.

Sincerely,

John V. Furniss

John V. Furniss

Chair- Phoenix Sonoran Preserve and Mountain Parks/Preserves Committee



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

POST OFFICE BOX 2193, SACATON, AZ 85147

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

(520) 562-7162

August 14, 2024

To: Ms. Kelly Dalton, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board

RE: South Mountain Speedway

Dear Chair Dalton,

As South Mountain Park/Preserve celebrates its 100th anniversary of City of Phoenix Stewardship, the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Historic Preservation Office (GRIC-THPO) has been actively monitoring the significant renovation projects and other efforts to enhance the visitor experience to this wonderful natural resource.

At the July 8, 2024, consultation at *S'edav Va'aki* Museum, City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department staff shared information with us about the South Mountain Speedway situated within the South Mountain Park/Preserve. Key points from that discussion included:

- Facility Condition Assessment performed in late 2023 identifying a dozen elements in failed or poor condition.
- Electrical Site Assessment completed in late 2023 concluding with the opinion that the electrical infrastructure “is a life safety hazard and should be taken out of service immediately” and “the cost to abate all deficiencies would exceed the cost to remove and replace these systems.”
- Outlined the two primary options for consideration by the Parks and Recreation Board, either repair and restore the facility to operational, or remove all paving and structures prior to restoring the land to its natural condition.


The discussion included a reference to the South Mountain Park Master Plan (SMPMP) approved by Phoenix City Council in 1989 which addressed the South Mountain Speedway as follows:

“An inappropriate preserve use, this facility should be removed from the San Juan Valley to a location outside the preserve system. The facility should be converted to a compatible use and/or restored to natural desert. This should take place as soon as practicable ... “

We support the 1989 SMPMP recommendation to remove the raceway facility and restore the areas to a native desert condition consistent with the stated purpose of a desert mountain preserve.

The Gila River Indian Community through GRIC Resolution GR-41-07 recognizes South Mountain (*Muḥaḍag Do 'ag*) as a Traditional Cultural Property as defined in Bulletin 38 (National Register Bulletin 38, Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties; 1990 Revised 1992; 1998).

Respectfully,



Reylinne Williams
Interim Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Gila River Indian Community



Salt River
PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY
10,005 EAST OSBORN ROAD/SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85256/ PHONE (480) 362-6325

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

TO: Ms. Kelly Dalton, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board

DATE: 8/13/2024

FROM: Shane Anton, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

RE: South Mountain Speedway

Dear Chair Dalton,

As South Mountain Park/Preserve celebrates its 100th anniversary of City Stewardship, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Tribal Historic Preservation Office (SRPMIC THPO) has been actively monitoring the significant renovation projects and other efforts to enhance the visitor experience to this natural resource.

At the July 8 consultation at S'edav Va'aki Museum, Parks and Recreation Department staff shared information with us about the South Mountain Speedway situated within the South Mountain Park/Preserve. Key points from that discussion included:

- Facility Condition Assessment performed in late 2023 identifying a dozen elements in failed or poor condition.
- Electrical Site Assessment completed in late 2023 concluding with the opinion that the electrical infrastructure “is a life safety hazard and should be taken out of service immediately” and “the cost to abate all deficiencies would exceed the cost to remove and replace these systems.”
- Outlined the two primary options were outlined for consideration by the Parks and Recreation Board, either repair and restore the facility to operational, or remove all paving and structures prior to restoring the land to its natural condition.

The discussion included a reference to the South Mountain Park Master Plan (SMPMP) approved by Phoenix City Council in 1989 which addressed the South Mountain Speedway as follows:

“An inappropriate preserve use, this facility should be removed from the San Juan Valley to a location outside the preserve system. The facility should be converted to a compatible use and/or restored to natural desert. This should take place as soon as practicable ... “

We support the 1989 SMPMP recommendation to remove the raceway facility and restore the areas to a native desert condition consistent with the stated purpose of a desert mountain preserve.

As you must know, the O'Odham and Piipaash believe all mountain are significant, but none is more sacred than *Muhaḍag* (Greasy [South] Mountain), the home of Elder Brother. Our Huhugam ancestors dwell in - and are embodied by - this mountain. These ancestors, their surroundings, and our modern O'Odham and Piipaash communities are forever linked, and have been so since time immemorial. The removal of the raceway facility and the restoration of the area would strengthen our bonds to this place and promote our O'Odham *himḍag* - our traditional way of life.

Should you have questions and/or concerns about this project, please contact me directly at (480) 362-6331.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Anton', written in a cursive style.

Shane Anton, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cultural Resources Department, SRPMIC
10,005 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale, Arizona 85256
Email: Shane.Anton@SRPMIC-nsn.gov
Office Tele: (480) 362-6331

ATTACHMENT C

To whom it may concern,

We at VSQMA a current 501-3c Nonprofit organization acknowledge that the repairs that are needed to deem the track safe are our responsibility. It is noted that the cost of the repairs will be zero dollars consumed by the city of Phoenix. We are willing to make the repairs that would resolve the issues, however we will need to work with the city/park to come up with a contingency plan for us to be given access to make these repairs and all other renovations to continue our contract and use of the facility.

Below is a list of repairs that VSQMA feels they can take care of immediately with granted access to the facility.

Short Term Immediate Repairs 30 Days

- Roofing railing -7127611 Removal of roof railing, Access is no longer required
- Stairway to tower building.-7216513 -7127618 Removal from the premises Access is no longer Required
- AC unit Tower -7127619 Replaced with New
- Complete Painting of entire facility -7127592-7127603
- Replace/Repair track walls, siding and rails. Additional review for item listed as it may be constructed for the structure of the track. -7127582
- AC unit in snack bar
- Door replaced in snack bar.-7127603-7127592
- Windows replaced in snack bar.
- Remove old grandstands south east of Track .-7127578
- Flag Stand Roof Repaired -7127593
- Removal of the Exterior exposed electrical wiring Currently SRP Has Disconnected all Power to Facility.-7127622
- Replacement of the lighting in the center of the track.-7127577

Long Term over an efficient amount of time.

- Long Term Goal is Upgrade electrical system. (Currently SRP Has Disconnected all Power to Facility)

Our club is a non-profit organization with little funding and due to the current

Shutdown of the track we have no new incoming funds. Some of the work that needs to

Be completed would be done through what funds our organization currently has & our community licensed contractors. If there are repairs that the city feels should take priority over these or be

Included in this list, we would appreciate an in-person meeting with the city and park at The track location to discuss and confirm. We need access to the track to make these Repairs and understand that to gain access a contract would need to be in place.

Some of the concerns in the report provided by the city's third-party contractor Are not as costly as reported or are unfounded. It would be helpful to our club to further Investigate the need for these repairs and to do this a walk-through meeting between The club and the city are crucial.

A contract between the club and the city will be needed beforehand. This Contract would include the stipulation that the club completes the needed safety repairs To operate and in return the club would be able to operate and conduct events at the Location for a negotiated amount of time.

We at VSQMA want to take the necessary steps to improve the South Mountain Speedway and get the track back up and running. This is a historical site, and it should Be preserved and maintained. The racetrack has always been a valuable part of the Community. Spectators have come to see and enjoy the racing that goes on there Through the years. It has molded many successful racers that have made moves into Higher level racing such as NASCAR.



It is important to our club that the city understands that quarter midget racing is what our kids do and is a way of life. This takes the place of pop Warner or little league. The kids in our club develop life and social skills. They pick up fundamental ethics and concepts that they take with them all throughout life. These kids use the track to compete but also to bond.

Racers over several decades have used this site to do what our kids are doing now. This track is the oldest racetrack in the state and the longest running quarter midget track in the nation. South Mountain Speedway is a part of Phoenix history and a part of racing history. We as a club have done our best to maintain it with the small number of resources, we do have but need the support and encouragement from the city to keep this the treasure that it is.

Proposed action items:

- ☐ Our executive board would first like to organize an in-person meeting to review and discuss repair and safety issues.
- ☐ a contract that would include required repairs and terms of VSQMA's operation at the track would need to be developed.
- ☐ Both the city and VSQMA would need to agree on all terms.
- ☐ Once the contract is in effect, repairs can take place through VSQMA.
- ☐ The city should review and confirm that all repairs were completed correctly.
- ☐ VSQMA would then be able to begin operations.



Currently South Mountain speedway is the only place our drivers can race at in the Valley. It has been a sport and after school activity to so many kids throughout the Decades. VSQMA would like to extend the offer to do all that we can to keep the track Operational. We are hoping that the city understands and supports our cause. The best Way that this can be done is to expedite this issue and make our kids a priority. The Sooner these issues are resolved the sooner we can get racers back into cars.



We at VSQMA thank you for making our drivers, club members, and spectators'.

Safety a concern and appreciate the time and energy that the park officials and city

Leaders have spent on this issue. Our executive board is looking forward to future

Projects and dealings with the park and the city. We hope to hear from you very soon.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

The Executive Board of VSQMA.

Valleyofthesunqma@gmail.com

Phone number 360 820 0131





To: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: August 29, 2024

From: Cynthia Aguilar, Director

Subject: PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

This report provides the Parks and Recreation Board (Board) with an update on the Parks Master Plan project.

BACKGROUND

The last comprehensive master plan for the Parks and Recreation Department was completed in 1988. In August 2020, staff initiated a new master planning effort, but the project was temporarily delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, updates were presented to the Community and Cultural Investment Subcommittee on January 5 and April 6, outlining the intent to discuss a timeline for launching the Master Plan process with the board. In 2023, the Parks and Recreation Department resumed work with consultants to develop the new Parks Master Plan. Presentations were given to the Parks Board on June 22 and October 26, 2023, to update members on the plan's focus areas and timeline. In January 2024, the City Council approved PROS Consulting Inc. to develop a long-term comprehensive Parks Master Plan, with the contract taking effect in May 2023.

The goal of the Parks Master Plan is to create a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan to use as a guiding tool for future development efforts in developed and undeveloped parks, improve recreational facilities, and evaluate amenities and programming opportunities. The Master Plan will also address water conservation strategies, crime prevention practices, and promote equity and inclusivity throughout our parks citywide.

The Master Plan process will feature a comprehensive community engagement effort to gather input on the needs and priorities of various stakeholders, including park visitors, block watches, community groups, nonprofits, arts and cultural organizations, schools, recreation providers, and partners. Public engagement will include both virtual and in-person neighborhood meetings at parks citywide, public workshops, community focus groups, neighborhood events, surveys, and outreach to youth through schools and after-school programs. Additional outreach efforts will involve canvassing neighborhoods, utilizing City department newsletters, and hosting special events. All community outreach will be conducted in both English and Spanish.

The community and stakeholder engagement and assessment process will be used to develop goals and objectives to help the department meet the needs of the community and provide meaningful recreation amenities and services throughout the City. Additionally, the assessment process will serve as a guide by prioritizing department needs in our park facilities to ensure that parks remain functional and enjoyable. It is estimated that the Parks Master Plan process will take approximately 18 months from start to completion.

DISCUSSION

Since the last Master Plan update to the Board in October 2023, the department has continued efforts related to the Phase I implementation of the Master Plan. Phase I included a soft launch of the website and preliminary community outreach efforts to generate awareness about the Master Plan. Since October, outreach has been conducted at 51 events including neighborhood resource fairs, block watch meetings, park activation events, community and neighborhood meetings and events, community budget hearings, holiday events, Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N) celebrations, and Coffee with a Cop gatherings. Additionally, a Parks Master Plan contest was conducted engaging 960 students from 28 Phoenix Afterschool Program (PAC) sites. Children ages 6-13, created models reflecting their dream parks. These models were displayed in the City Hall atrium, where employees judged and selected three winners. Park models demonstrated children's creativity and desire to include open green space, water features, playgrounds, athletic courts, shade and more.

Phase II of the Master Plan will formally launch on September 3, 2024, with an official press release. A link to the enhanced Master Plan website www.parksmasterplanphx.com will be promoted on the Parks Department's website and will introduce Social Pinpoint, an online engagement tool designed to gather meaningful feedback from the community and stakeholders. Social Pinpoint will allow users to pinpoint specific park locations where they would like to see changes or improvements. The data collected through this tool will enable the Parks Department to prioritize projects, allocate funding, address concerns, and make informed decisions for identified park locations. Stakeholder and focus group meetings will also begin in September and continue throughout the fall and winter, further engaging the community in the development of the Parks Master Plan.

Preparation for the water efficiency and turf evaluation components of the Master Plan is also underway. The Department has been actively monitoring select parks using digital water pressure recorders. These devices track fluctuations in dynamic water pressure during system operations, providing real-time data on irrigation system performance. This information is critical for analyzing water usage patterns and informing decisions about system upgrades, repairs, and irrigation schedule adjustments, all of which support our ongoing conservation strategies. Furthermore, a turf evaluation plan has been approved to assess the recreational and social benefits provided by park turf areas. This evaluation distinguishes between functional turf, used for programmed recreational spaces like sports fields and event areas, and non-functional turf, which does not offer significant value. The insights gained from this evaluation will guide decisions on how best to maintain and enhance the sustainability

and usability of our parks, ensuring they meet the community's needs while promoting environmental stewardship.

The Department will return to the Board with an update on the Master Plan in November 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information and discussion.

Prepared by: Felicita Mendoza, Special Projects Administrator

Approved by: Martin Whitfield Assistant Director