

front of
Open Space, Recreation + Cultural Amenities - Chapter VII
divider

back of
Open Space, Recreation + Cultural Amenities - Chapter VII
divider

*front of
Open Space element
divider*

*back of
Open Space element
divider*

Open Space Element

The *Open Space Element* provides a comprehensive inventory of open space areas and designated access points to these areas and resources. It also provides an analysis of forecasted needs, policies for managing, protecting and acquiring open space, and policies for integrating regional connections to open space. In accordance with State law, this plan does not identify private open space that has not been identified in writing as dedicated open space. Property identified on Arizona State University's main campus as public property has been included in this element. Open space is land or water retained for use as active or passive recreation or for resource protection in an essentially undeveloped state. It includes many forms. The *Open Space Element* includes a comprehensive inventory of the land used as public open space. This element provides an analysis of forecasted needs, policies for management and protection of open space areas, resources and strategies to acquire additional open space, promote a regional system of integrated open space and consideration of existing regional open space plans. Recreational amenities are identified in the *Recreation Element*.

In the early 1970s Tempe began work on the Rio Salado Project, a large revitalization of Tempe's 5-mile stretch of the Salt River. This project includes environmental enhancements, the addition of recreational amenities, and economic development. The result is a 220-acre lake surrounded by 225 acres of landscaped park open space and 153 acres of natural habitat. Open space includes many types: natural (includes Sonoran desert, riparian, bosque and preserve), water, park (with developed landscaping), school playground/field, corridor or plaza. The projected open space and land use maps include private open spaces, designated as such with written permission of the property owner. Planned open space is identified as areas where future park or open space amenities may be developed. Right-of-way and retention areas are not shown on the maps unless they represent a substantial quantity of land). Tempe's land locked position within a greater regional area precludes annexing land for additional park or open space. Partnerships with schools, and the inclusion of open space within private developments enhance the provision of open space. Future park needs may need to be met within private developments, or through the generosity of benefactors to the community. Below is an inventory of identified open space.

Type of Open Space	Existing Acres	Projected Acres
Tempe Parks	1877	1880
Habitat**		209
ASU	32	29.6
Kyrene Schools	137	137
Tempe Elementary Schools	138	138
Tempe high Schools	137	137
Private Open Space*	393	79
Landscaped rights-of-way		
Landscaped retention areas		
Public plazas		
Total	2321*	2321.6**

* In accordance with Arizona Legislation, private property may not be designated open space for the purposes of public planning, accounting, or protection through restriction without prior written consent of the owner. The existing land use map identifies private open space provided within our community. Designation on the projected land use map reflects private open space with written permission of the property owner, and is shown for accounting purposes.

** The Habitats are included within the total Tempe Parks calculation, and therefore do not increase the number of total acres of open space. These habitats include LoPiano Bosque, Upstream and Downstream of Town Lake, Hayden Butte, and Indian Bend Wash.

The inventory of open space is not clearly defined on the land use maps. According to the *2001 Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, the City of Tempe provides 1,870 acres of open space within the parks system. The existing land use map identifies 1471 acres of open space (some parks may be designated recreational on the land use map based on significant infrastructure or primary use). Likewise the *Parks and Recreation Plan* identifies Tempe Town Lake and Kiwanis Lake as part of the total park acreage, and the land use map

identifies water as a separate land use category. For accounting purposes, the *Parks and Recreation Masterplan* acreage is used. The existing land use map identifies 393 acres of private open space, however, this is not a comprehensive inventory. Tempe's requirements for on-site stormwater retention have resulted in significant private open space areas which may be used for employee recreation or respite. It is anticipated that many of these retention areas will remain as part of the site requirements, and therefore be preserved as private open space in the future. At the time of printing, about 63 acres of private open space have permission to be shown on the projected land use map. In 2003, open space in the form of school playgrounds and practice fields included 357 acres of land shown on the land use map as educational because it is part of one parcel with a primary use of education. Some places of worship and homeowners associations also contribute to the overall open space in Tempe. Tempe has no specific plans for new park development but the city will regularly review the needs of the community and seek to acquire and or develop parks in areas that are underserved by Tempe's park system.

In 2003, Tempe had 26.76 acres of park land per square mile (640 square acres). This provided about 11.48 acres of total park land per 1,000 people, approximately 1.9 acres of neighborhood parks per 1000 resident population, which is consistent with the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommended standard of 1-2 acres per 1000 residents. Tempe has 3.3 acres per 1000 residents for community parks, which is below the NRPA recommended standard of 5-8 acres per 1000 for community parks. Tempe provides approximately 11 acres per 1000 residents in regional parks, which is the national standard for regional facilities. Tempe projects an increase of 1.2 percent in public open space with the development of vacant land or retention areas, which are planned for park development. Projected private open space has not been significantly identified, and therefore may represent a smaller portion of private open space actually available in the future. Within the 1,870 acres of public park are a variety of parks defined by size, population served, and amenities available.

Regional Open Spaces: These parks are typically 50 or more acres in size, and are major destinations within urban centers. They provide a balance of active and passive spaces and can incorporate special event activities. These parks serve a population radius of three or more miles.

- Indian Bend Wash Park (Rio Salado Golf Course)
- Papago Park
- Tempe Town Lake and Rio Salado Park

Community Parks: These parks are typically 10-50 acres in size and contain active and passive spaces, special attractions and added infrastructure. They typically serve a population residing in a 1-3 mile radius around the park:

- Tempe Beach Park
- Daley Park
- Clark Park
- Escalante Park (not buildings)
- Kiwanis Community Park (although 125 acres, its primary function is as a community facility)
- Canal Park
- Hayden Butte Preserve
- Marina Park

Ballfield Complexes: Typically 15-40 acres in size, these complexes are designed for baseball, softball, football and soccer and attract special tournament play serving a radius of approximately 10 miles. The complexes are lighted, have concessions, warm-up areas, picnic areas, playgrounds, parking, restrooms and fields.

- Benedict Sports Complex
- Tempe Sports Complex
- Tempe Diablo Stadium

Neighborhood Parks: These parks are 2-10 acres in size and include a picnic area, playground, outdoor courts for sports, multi-use paths, no restrooms, limited parking, low level lighting and practice areas for field sports. They serve a population residing within a half-mile radius of the park.

- Alegre Park
- Arredondo Park
- Campbell Park
- Celaya Park
- Cole Park
- Corbell Park
- Creamery Park
- Daumler Park
- Dwight Park
- Ehrhardt Park
- Estrada Park
- Gaiki Park
- Goodwin Park
- Indian Bend Park
- Harelson Park
- Hanger Park
- Hollis Park
- Hudson Park
- Jaycee Park
- Joyce Park
- Meyer Park
- Mitchell Park
- Mouer Park
- Optimist Park
- Palmer Park
- Petersen Park
- Redden Park
- Rotary Park
- Scudder Park
- Selleh Park
- Stroud Park
- Svob Park
- Waggoner Park

Mini Parks: These parks are typically 1-2 acres in size and provide open play space in high-density areas. These pocket parks are designed as infill areas typically including one play feature or attraction and serving a population a quarter of a mile around the park.

- Placita de Descanso Park
- Birchett Park
- Tempe Women’s Club Park
- Victory Park
- Sixth Street/City Hall Park

Other Open Space Areas (privately owned properties require written permission for inclusion)

- ASU Karsten Golf Course
- Rio Salado Golf Course (private course on public land)
- Ken McDonald Golf Course
- Rolling Hills Golf Course
- Right-of-way
- Retention areas

The goal of the Open Space Element is to preserve a variety of natural, landscaped and hardscaped open spaces that serve the diverse and changing needs of an urban community.

Objectives

- Maintain and enhance existing open space
- Identify opportunities for new open space

Strategies

- Continue public/private partnerships and agreements for shared open space
- Identify opportunities to infill open space into densely populated or highly built areas
- Identify gaps or areas of the community, which may not have access to open space

- Respect Papago Park conservation strategies. Specifically, any potential redevelopment should address the conservation, reclamation and restoration of Papago Park's remaining natural and open spaces within and contiguous to, the boundaries of the City of Tempe by: preserving and reclaiming open space, special features and panoramic views in, from and through the natural environment in Papago Park; and protecting and restoring flora and fauna indigenous to the natural environment within Papago Park
- Reclaim and restore damaged and inappropriately developed areas
- Create a system of linked open spaces by utilizing the road network, and modify the character of those streets to become pedestrian and bicycle user friendly
- Identify urban plazas to be considered open space
- Create development guidelines that promote orienting future development and redevelopment activities onto open space corridors
- Develop a park master plan for Hayden Butte Preserve that protects its cultural resources, responds to non-park development at its edges, capitalizes on its location adjacent to downtown and Rio Salado, and addresses the functional and visual aspects of the existing antennas
- Develop trails to their fullest potential and advocate the completion of trails to connect to regional open space and park systems
- Include art elements in the development of open space facilities and work with the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission to share in the funding of these projects
- Promote opportunities for community access to school and Arizona State University open spaces, when appropriate
- Consider shared maintenance and safety of facilities between schools, ASU and the city
- Encourage private development of open space
- Negotiate with ADOT to acquire land being used as retention basins for conversion to recreational use and retention
- Encourage preservation of significant historic and archeological resources.
- Encourage use of the Eisendrath property with a commitment to open space similar in character to its historic use

Sources

- City of Tempe Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2001
- Papago Park Master Plan

*front of
Recreational Amenities element
divider*

*back of
Recreational Amenities element
divider*

Recreational Amenities Element

The *Recreational Amenities Element* shows a comprehensive system of recreation facilities, including existing and proposed locations for passive and active recreational sites. Parks and natural areas are identified in the *Open Space Element* and bicycle routes are identified in the *Bicycle Element*. Demographics, weather and lifestyles in Tempe heavily support the wide variety of recreational amenities provided by both public and private facilities. Increased populations of a growing urban community will put additional pressures on public parks. Further, easy access to Tempe from other communities and a history of quality facilities, makes Tempe a desirable destination for recreational amenities.

Inventory of Recreational Amenities in 2003

Golf Courses

ASU Karsten Golf Course, Pro Shop & Restaurant (ASU-owned)
 Ken McDonald Golf Course, Pro Shop & Restaurant (city-owned)
 Pepperwood Golf Course (privately-owned)
 Rio Salado Golf Course (privately-operated on public land)
 Rolling Hills Golf Course, Pro Shop & Restaurant (city-owned)
 Shalimar Golf Course, Pro Shop & Restaurant (privately-owned)

Sports Facilities

ASU Recreation Center and campus athletic facilities	McClintock High School Pool
Benedict Sports Complex	McClintock High School Racquetball and Tennis Courts
Clark Park Pool and Recreation Center	McKemy Middle School Baseball Fields
Connolly Middle School Baseball Field	Tempe Beach Park Ballfield and Splash Playground
Corona Del Sol High School Tennis and Handball Courts	Tempe Diablo Stadium Complex
Escalante Pool Facility	Tempe High School Tennis and Racquetball Courts
Jaycee Park Water Playground and Ball Facilities	Tempe Sports Complex
Kiwanis Park Batting Cage	Tempe Town Lake Boat Facilities
Kiwanis Park Recreation Center and Wave Pool	
Marcos De Niza High School Tennis and Racquetball Courts	

Tempe uses the following as a general guideline for the development and location of facilities and the accessibility for open space, parks, recreation and cultural facilities:

Service Area Radius Guidelines

Mini and Neighborhood Parks (1-5 acres) -1/4 mile	Neighborhood Pools – 2 miles
Neighborhood Parks (5-10 acres) – 1/2 mile	Sports Complexes (40-80 acres) – 10 miles
Community Parks (10-50 acres) – 1 mile	Museums and Libraries – 3 miles
Large Urban and Regional Parks (50+ acres) – 3 miles	Adult Centers – 2 miles
Desert Parks – varies based on size, follows categories above	Community Centers – 3 miles
Golf Course / 9-hole (50-70 acres) – 10 miles	Canals Access – ½ mile interval access points
Golf Course /18-hole (110-150 acres) – 10 miles	Sports Fields – 2 miles
Aquatic Centers – 5 miles	

Table 1 on the following page provides an inventory of community recreation facilities and projected needs for additional facilities by 2030, based on recommended standards for population use of facilities.

TABLE 1 - Community Inventory and Standards for Various Recreation Facilities

Facility	City Facilities	Public Facilities	Private Facilities	Total Facilities	Recommended Standard (in population)	Facilities Required per standard	Additional facilities needed by 2004 (Population Estimate= 167,000)
Softball Fields	22	17	1	40	1 / 5,000	39	0
Baseball Fields	3	14	0	17	1 / 5,800	34	17
Soccer Fields/ Football Fields	41	19	2	62	1 / 2,000 1 / 10,000	119	57
Running Tracks	0	6	0	6	1 / 10,000	20	15
Basketball Courts	44.5	46	9	99	1 / 1,250	158	59
Tennis Courts	51	28	18	97	1 / 4,000	49	0
Playgrounds	42	27	15	84	1 / 2,500	79	0
Shelters/ Ramadas	25	0	1	26	1 / 10,000	20	0
Swimming Facilities	4	2	5	11	1 / 15,000	13	2
Community Centers	3	0	3	6	1 / 30,000	7	1

The goal of the Recreational Amenities Element is to provide social, recreational and economic benefits to the community by promoting physical fitness through passive and active recreational areas and programs serving a diverse range of abilities and interests.

Objectives

- Provide a variety of recreational opportunities that reach as many residents as possible
- Serve an expanding and changing population
- Ensure coordination with other city and regional planning efforts
- Provide sufficient facilities maintenance of parks and buildings
- Consider current community needs and interests rather than traditional services
- Set priorities for operation and capital improvement action plans
- Identify mechanisms for funding to ensure the sustainability of the plan

Strategies

Operational

- Develop a diverse and dynamic level of recreational programs focusing on enhancing opportunities for teens, seniors, people with disabilities, preschool age children and families
- Establish subsidy rates for existing programs and facilities to keep programs and facilities well-positioned in the marketplace
- Determine level of recreational facility standards for Tempe based on population type and numbers
- Establish an updated recreational facility development plan to keep facilities well-positioned in the market place
- Expand Park Ranger Program to community and neighborhood parks to improve security and increase perception of public safety
- Continue the Citizens on Park Patrol Program
- Create consistent policies to encourage equitable and efficient use of parks and recreation facilities
- Create facility user group teams to provide customer feedback and support for programs and services
- Determine if program needs in recreational facilities meet needs of the community
- Establish feasibility of getting water to park sites from reclamation plants
- Update policies to accurately reflect subsidy levels for programs and facilities and tie staff performance measures to meet the levels established
- Consider cell phone towers in parks, where appropriate, as a revenue producing opportunity for parks
- Establish a policy and appropriate fees for public/public use; public/not-for-profit use; and public/private use for the entire park system in programs and in facilities
- Establish pricing rates based on prime-time and off-time use as well as in-season and off-season use to maximize revenues without underserving groups

Infrastructure Enhancement

- Evaluate existing park security improvements for compliance with new code standards and retrofit where appropriate
- Integrate art principles into park development and redevelopment opportunities
- Revitalize two to three neighborhood parks per year
- Develop standards for dog parks: size, site furnishings, turf types and rotation in order to add off-leash activity areas in neighborhood parks
- Consider restroom facility alternatives and the creation of standards
- Review parks for safety, ADA and code compliance and develop a program for funding, replacement and/or renovation
- Create opportunities for community input in the design of recreation programs and facilities
- Work with youth and teens to plan programs targeted to their interests
- Create and/or upgrade inventories and audit for amenities and infrastructure

- Use energy saving electric fixtures
- Incorporate xeriscape principles to maximize use of natural resources
- Integrate new technologies into existing parks
- Study future solar technology opportunities that respond to park needs and are cost-effective provide sufficient capacity and are vandal resistant
- Use a variety of references (i.e. historical, cultural, social, artistic, environmental and architectural) as a guide to create park identities

Maintenance

- Review the park master plan for Papago Park and its trail system; evaluate the condition of the existing pedestrian and equestrian trails, and determine levels of improvements to maintain a high quality experience
- Consider partnering with neighborhood associations to provide recreational program maintenance and landscape upgrade support
- Establish a tree replacement schedule
- Invite garden clubs to implement and maintain plots in key visual areas
- Review water quality in lakes and determine potential remodeling strategies to improve water quality and to reduce maintenance
- Study new irrigation, chemical and turf products that reduce maintenance

Access

- Upgrade and add recreational facilities where gaps exist to enhance quality opportunities for the community
- Identify potential land acquisition and redevelopment opportunities with private and public entities to provide parkland and facilities
- Consider alternative design solutions to provide path linkages along half-mile streets
- Develop linear parkland and place more emphasis on building connections
- Maintain trail linkages by creating bridge connections over canals
- Partner with school districts to jointly use fields, courts and indoor facilities
- Provide path linkages over the dam segments at Tempe Town Lake
- Promote opportunities to share a portion of the SRP utility right-of-ways
- Design parks to reflect the desires of the most appropriate audience for the park (neighborhood, community, region)
- Encourage parks that promote alternative means for access that are less dependent on the automobile
- Develop designs, priorities and funding options for pedestrian pathway systems for canals, railway right-of-ways, freeways and streets to connect to destination points

Sources

- City of Tempe Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2001
- Papago Park Master Plan

*front of
Public Art + Cultural Amenities element
divider*

*back of
Public Art + Cultural Amenities element
divider*

Public Art and Cultural Amenities Element

The *Public Art and Cultural Amenities Element* shows a comprehensive inventory of public and non-profit facilities, including existing and proposed locations for a variety of cultural activities. Natural areas are identified in the *Open Space Element*, historic buildings are identified both here and in the *Historic Preservation Element*, and participatory recreational amenities are identified in the *Recreational Amenities Element*. Cultural amenities cross many societal interests, including places, spectator activities and events which celebrate art, athletics, dance, heritage, history, music, science and theater. As a public entity, Arizona State University (ASU) is a significant contributor to Tempe's cultural amenities. Regional cultural attractions located in the Papago Park area enhance Tempe as a cultural tourism destination. Tempe derives significant economic benefit from being a vital cultural community with strong support of public art, events and spectator activities. In cities where the arts programs are strong and diverse, so too are tourism, employment, new businesses and trade.

Between 1975 and 2002, Tempe's citizens have acquired more than 50 fixed public artworks and 60 portable artworks. Located throughout the city, the Municipal Art Collection includes outdoor and indoor artworks of various materials, comprising architectural elements, streetscape and pathway enhancements and video art. Public art can come in any form that incorporates artistic design, including such unlikely elements as bicycle racks and lockers, bus stop shelters and retaining walls. Each year one percent of the city's Capital Improvement Program budget is deposited into the Municipal Arts Fund for supporting arts programs consisting of classes, events and public art. The Tempe Municipal Arts Commission advises the city in allocating these funds for projects that have high visibility by the public. Funds are budgeted for involving artists and commissioning artworks for buildings, transit facilities, parks and other public spaces. Projects are budgeted based upon capital costs, depending upon available funding.

In 1991 the City of Tempe adopted the Art in Private Development (AIPD) ordinance which requires real estate developers of large commercial spaces to invest in artworks for their properties or contribute to a fund for public art. The purpose of Tempe's AIPD program is to beautify the community with a wide variety of high quality art projects. Local developments acquire a unique sense of place because of the art elements. As of 2001, 59 new commercial and retail properties in Tempe have incorporated artwork into their sites.

Public cultural amenities

Arizona Historical Society Museum	ASU Mars Global Survey
ASU Arizona Historical Foundation	ASU Mona Plummer Aquatic Center
ASU Arboretum	ASU Museum of Anthropology
ASU Art Museum	ASU Museum of Geology
ASU College of Law Art Collection	ASU Nelson Fine Arts Center
ASU Computing Commons Gallery	ASU Northlight Gallery
ASU Dance Studio Theatre	ASU Memorial Union
ASU Evelyn Smith Music Theater	ASU Packard Stadium
ASU Gallery of Design	ASU Planetarium
ASU Gammage Auditorium	ASU Prism Theatre
ASU Harry Wood Art Gallery	ASU School of Music Building
ASU Herberger College of Art	ASU Sun Angel Stadium
ASU Institute for Studies in the Arts	ASU Sun Devil Stadium
ASU Labriola Native American Center	ASU Wells Fargo Arena
ASU Libraries (Hayden, Noble, Law, Architecture)	
ASU Life Sciences Center	
ASU Lyceum Theatre	

Elias-Rodriguez House
Hayden Butte Mountain Preserve
Loma del Rio Archaeological Site
Petersen House Museum
Tempe Center for the Arts (planned)
Tempe Performing Arts Center
Tempe Historical Museum
Tempe Public Library

*Private non-profit cultural amenities serving
the Tempe community:*
Childsplay
Desert Botanical Garden
Hall of Flame Fire Museum
Phoenix Zoo
Pueblo Grande Museum and Cultural Park
Sister Cities Hackett House

Art map

Public Art and Cultural Amenities Element

The goal of the Public Art and Cultural Amenities Element is to enhance and promote Tempe as a diverse, stimulating cultural and arts community where cultural amenities inspire and enriches people's lives and experiences.

Objectives

- Advance Tempe as a vibrant and progressive community for cultural and artistic activity
- Maintain a strong commitment to cultural amenities and the arts
- Promote policies supporting cultural amenities and arts as integral to Tempe's vitality
- Protect and promote artistic expression within Tempe
- Provide access to all citizens regardless of economic level
- Bring people together to celebrate diverse traditions, promote cultural awareness and inspire people
- Use art to strengthen Tempe's sense of community and place
- Diversify transportation-related public art and build a collection of artworks that challenge, engage and delight the public

Strategies

- Preserve and promote Tempe as a national municipal leader supporting the arts
- Participate in the state and national arts arena on behalf of Tempe
- Create a process for Tempe's involvement and participation in regional art projects
- Retain the Municipal Arts Commission
- Support Tempe-based arts organizations and artists
- Work with organizations to leverage additional resources for arts education
- Maintain an annual public art strategic plan and a three-year project plan
- Develop and maintain the city's municipal art collection with the highest professional standards
- Oversee the continuing progress of the Tempe Center for the Arts
- Strengthen community relationships with ASU cultural and artistic programs
- Partner with city agencies and outside entities to explore and develop new funding for arts activities
- Promote and develop an artist incubator
- Investigate ways by which new projects and programs for public art could be developed in Tempe
- Enable Tempe's collection to grow and diversify with streamlined, efficient, representative, creative and fair processes for artist involvement
- Build a public art collection that ranges in scale from intimate to monumental
- Develop diverse art programs that promote new ways of seeing the world
- Promote planning, zoning and building guidelines that are conducive to the development of art
- Contribute nominations to the annual Tempe Beautification Awards program
- Partner with Tempe schools to create an ongoing arts curriculum
- Promote after school arts programs
- Collaborate with the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission's Communications Committee to promote the Public Art Program to residents and visitors to Tempe
- Involve neighborhoods, schools and other stakeholders in public art projects
- Use a variety of art media to promote cross-cultural awareness and the historic evolution of the area
- Partner with other agencies, businesses, and residents to preserve, develop and maintain cultural facilities that provide gathering places for cultural exploration, expression and inspiration
- Facilitate opportunities for international cultural and artistic exchange through the Tempe Sister Cities Program
- Explore collaborative program opportunities for arts activities in alternative learning environments
- Assist neighborhoods in enlivening public spaces through the arts and engendering a sense of place, with pride and ownership in their communities

- Select artists who carefully consider the nature of specific sites for artwork
- Provide guidance for the selection of public art materials that are suitable for the local climate and responsive to maintenance capabilities of the city
- Encourage Apache Boulevard redevelopment into a cultural and arts area
- Work with the Town Lake Foundation to fund art within the Tempe Town Lake development area
- Continue the Art in Private Development Ordinance for development investment in public art
- Improve the developer's ability to select artists for their projects
- Use the Art in Transit Program to provide art that enhances streets, paths, and public transit facilities
- Recognize that all forms of art and creative expression can play a meaningful role in transportation projects and in solving transportation issues, from the initial conceptual planning stage through to completion
- Include a procedure for involving artists and incorporating art and creative expression in Tempe transportation projects
- Continue to establish a strong visual identity and aesthetic image for Tempe, its gateway entrances, and its neighborhoods

Sources

- Public Art Strategic Plan
- Tempe Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Public Arts Master Plan - The Rio Salado Overlay District

