CITY OF BUCKEYE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 26, 2016

NOTICE OF POSSIBLE QUORUM OF THE BUCKEYE CITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 3.1, Arizona Revised Statutes, a majority of the City Council may attend the regular meeting of the Buckeye Planning and Zoning Commission but there will be no voting taking place by the City Council. Council members may participate in the discussion of any item on the agenda.

Accessibility for all persons with disabilities will be provided upon request. Please telephone your accommodation request to (623)349-6911, 72 hours in advance if you need a sign language interpreter or alternate materials for a visual or hearing impairment. [TDD (623)234-9507]

City of Buckeye
Council Chambers
530 East Monroe Avenue
Buckeye, AZ 85326

Regular Meeting: 6:00 pm
Workshop: Immediately following regular meeting

Consent agenda:

1. The Chair will call all the item numbers on the consent agenda.
2. The Planning Manager will summarize the consent agenda.
3. An item may be removed from the consent agenda prior to approval at the request of any member of the Commission present at the meeting or by staff. Items removed from the consent agenda shall be considered on the regular agenda.
4. The Chair may then call for a vote of the entire consent agenda.

Continuance agenda:

1. The Chair will call the item number.
2. The Planning Manager will summarize the reason for continuance and the continuance date.
3. The Chair may then call for a vote on the item.

Regular agenda:

1. The Chair will call the item number.
2. A planning staff member will summarize the case.
3. The applicant or representative may speak in support of the application.
4. Other persons in favor of the application may be heard.
5. Those opposed to the application may be heard.
6. The applicant may be heard in rebuttal.
7. All questions must be addressed to the Chair in order to present general discussion between those in favor of the application and those opposed to it.
8. The Chair may then call for a vote on the item.

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (INCLUDING CELL PHONES AND PAGERS) BEFORE THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER. THANK YOU.

At Large	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6
Thomas Marcinko	Jeffrey Nagy	Preston Hundley	Carol Kempiak *Chairperson*	Clayton Bedoya	Reverend Gregory Clemmons	Nick Hudec *Vice Chairperson*
Vacant *(Alternate)*	Jesse Knight *(Alternate)*	Vacant *(Alternate)*	Deanna Kupcik *(Alternate)*	Gail Reese *(Alternate)*	Bill Elliott *(Alternate)*	Duane Mitry *(Alternate)*
Council Liaison: Councilmember Craig Heustis						

1.	**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL**	
2.	**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 12, 2015 PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**	***Action required:*** *Motion*
3.	**CONSENT AGENDA** *No Items*	
4.	**CONTINUANCE AGENDA** *No Items*	
5.	**REGULAR AGENDA**	
5A.	**Subject:** Parks and Recreation Master Plan **Applicant:** City of Buckeye **Location:** Citywide **Request:** This plan provides the vision and framework to build parks, paths, open space, recreation programs, cultural and historical resources, and implementation and funding of the plan. **Recommendation:** Approval to the City Council **Presented by:** Robert Wisener, Conservation & Project Manager	***Action required:*** *Discussion and Motion*
6.	**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** Alternates and members of the audience may comment on non-agenda items. However, State Open Meetings Law does not permit the Commission to discuss items not specifically on the agenda.	***Action required:*** *None*
7.	**REPORT FROM STAFF**	***Action required:*** *None*
8.	**COMMENTS FROM THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**	
9.	**ADJOURNMENT**	***Action required:*** *Motion*

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (INCLUDING CELL PHONES AND PAGERS) BEFORE THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER. THANK YOU.

CITY OF BUCKEYE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2016

City of Buckeye
530 East Monroe Avenue
Buckeye, AZ 85326

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL
Chairperson Carol Kempiak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Commissioner Thomas Marcinko, Commissioner Preston Hundley, Chairperson Carol Kempiak, Commissioner Clayton Bedoya, Commissioner Gregory Clemmons, Vice Chairperson Nick Hudec, Alternate Jesse Knight seated for District 1, Alternate Gail Reese, Alternate Bill Elliott, Alternate Deanna Kupcik arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Members absent: Commissioner Jeffrey Nagy, Alternate Duane Mitry

Staff present: Planning Manager Terri Hogan, Planner II Andrea Marquez, Planner II Sean Banda, Administrative Assistant Keri Hernandez, City Attorney Gary Verburg, Deputy City Engineer Jason Mahkovtz, Public Works Director Scott Lowe, Council Liaison Craig Heustis

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 8, 2015 PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Hudec and seconded by Commissioner Hundley to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2015 Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Commissioner Clemmons nominated Nick Hudec for Vice Chairperson. Unanimous vote. Mr. Hudec accepted.
Vice Chairperson Nick Hudec nominated Carol Kempiak for Chairperson. Unanimous vote. Ms. Kempiak accepted.

4. CONSENT AGENDA
4A. VERRADO EAST DISTRICT – PARKVIEW PLAZA
Commission approved. Motion Carried.

5. CONTINUANCE AGENDA
No items

6. REGULAR AGENDA
6A. THE VILLAGE ON BROADWAY – PRELIMINARY PLAT
Planner II Andrea Marquez presented and was available to answer questions from the Commission. Mr. Hundley asked of roadway being added. Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that there would be three (3) feet that will be dedicated along Miller Road and an additional thirty-seven (37) feet will be

dedicated along Broadway Road. Mr. Marcinko asked clarification of combining the parcel. Ms. Marquez stated that the applicant needed to create legal lots that do not overlap. Mr. Clemmons asked for clarification on the exhibits presented. Mr. Hudec asked if the parcels presented would become one. Ms. Marquez stated that the parcels would be combined, resulting in one parcel. Ms. Kempiak inquired of the drainage and circulation issues on this property. Deputy City Engineer Jason Mahkovtz informed the Commission that the drainage and circulation issues would be analyzed upon a formal site plan and improvement plan submittal. Ms. Kempiak requested that applicants attend the public hearings.
A public hearing was opened at 6:15 p.m. With there being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 6:15 p.m.
A motion was made by Commissioner Bedoya and seconded by Commissioner Hundley to recommend approval with stipulations as presented. Motion carried.

6B. GEDDES CAPITAL RESOURCES, LLC – ANNEXATION
Planner II, Sean Banda presented and was available to answer questions from the Commission.
A public hearing was opened at 6:19 p.m. With there being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 6:19 p.m.
A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Hudec and seconded by Commissioner Marcinko to approve. Motion carried.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
None

8. REPORT FROM STAFF
Ms. Hogan presented the Planning and Zoning quarterly report to the Commission.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
Commissioner Clemmons requested information on the Miller and Southern property.
Chairperson Kempiak encouraged Commissioners to attend the February 2, 2016 City Council meeting regarding the EPCOR appeal.
Liaison Heustis updated the Commission on the Buckeye Senior Care.
Commissioner Marcinko requested information on traffic signal at the intersection of Jackrabbit Trail and I-10. Mr. Marcinko commended City staff on Skyline Regional Park and the grand opening.

10. ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by Alternate Knight and seconded by Commissioner Hundley to adjourn at 6:31 p.m. Motion carried.

_____
Carol Kempiak, Chairperson

ATTEST:

_____
Keri Hernandez, Administrative Assistant

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Meeting held on the 12th day of January, 2016. I further certify that a quorum was present.

_____
Keri Hernandez, Administrative Assistant

CITY OF BUCKEYE

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

BUCKEYE, AZ

www.buckeyeaz.gov/recreation

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Gregory Clemmons
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Flood Control District of Maricopa County

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1888 as a 440-acre town, the City of Buckeye is Arizona's largest city by land area. With more than 600 square miles in the planning area, projections show that Buckeye's population will grow from 57,000 in 2015 to more than 304,000 by 2040. After 126 years of being known as the Town of Buckeye, in 2014 voters approved the change of name from Town to City, making Buckeye Arizona's newest city.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Community Services Department in the City of Buckeye manages parks and recreation activities. The Department is comprised of 40 full-time employees and 7 part-time employees who oversee the operations of 8,750 acres of parks, the Dr. Saide Recreation Center, the Community Center, the Buckeye Aquatic Center, Buckeye Public Library Downtown and Coyote Branch, Buckeye Valley Museum and Skyline Regional Park. The Department provides many services to Buckeye residents, including special events, recreation programs, special interest classes, youth and adult sports, aquatics, before and after school programs, preschool program, summer recreation, and camps, senior and library programs.

There are five divisions that comprise the Community Services Department: Parks, Recreation, Library, Senior Services, and Administration. Staff works diligently to ensure that current and future residents of Buckeye have access to parks, trails, open space, programs, and other opportunities that improve quality of life. The services provided are essential elements of any vibrant and healthy community. People rely on Community Services parks and programs for many benefits, ranging from health and fitness to socialization and a sense of belonging. It is the Community Services Department's goal to provide the best environment for City residents to live, learn and play.

The services offered to residents for parks, recreation and library began in the 1950s with the opening of a new pool in Town Park and the first library opening in the former City Hall building located at 216 S. 4th Street in 1959. The City inherited the property at 310 N. 6th Street and a new library was constructed there in 1971. The Library was the heart of the community and numerous special events, programs, and gatherings originated there. The Parks, Recreation and Library Department was formally created in 2001 when staff began overseeing parks; the department was renamed Community Services Department in 2005 when social services functions were added. Operation of the Buckeye Valley Museum was added in 2007.

DEPARTMENT MISSION & OBJECTIVES

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT MISSION

The Community Services Department is dedicated to enriching quality of life, managing natural resources and creating memorable experiences for all generations. The Department does this by:

- Developing quality parks, diverse programs and sustainable practices.
- Promoting volunteerism and life-long learning.
- Cultivating community events, tourism and economic development.
- Preserving cultural, natural and historic resources.
- Offering programs that inspire personal growth, healthy lifestyles and sense of community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT VISION

Buckeye is an active, engaged and vibrant community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT CORE VALUES

The Department's core values mirror those of the City of Buckeye and include the following:

- Customer Care
- Communication
- Continuous Improvement
- Cohesive Teams
- Celebrate

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT GOALS

We work to achieve our vision and mission by following through with the implementation of several key goals:

- Offer comprehensive programs that satisfy varying age levels, physical abilities, and special interests.
- Protect and preserve Buckeye's parks, facilities and open space for long-term sustainability.
- Provide a variety of health and wellness programs that promote and support personal health.
- Optimize financial and physical resources.
- Market the worth of the Department and services we offer.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT CULTURE

An organization where employees love what they do and have fun doing it!

PLAN AUTHORITIES

In accordance with Arizona Revised State Statutes, Title 9: Cities and Towns, Article 6: Municipal Planning, Cities and Towns are required to prepare comprehensive, long-range general plans with an element on open space that includes:

- A comprehensive inventory of open space areas, recreational resources and designations of access points to open space areas and resources.
- An analysis of forecasted needs, policies for managing and protecting open space areas and resources and implementation strategies to acquire additional open space areas and further establish recreational resources.
- Policies and implementation strategies designed to promote a regional system of integrated open space and recreational resources and a consideration of any existing regional open space plans.

In addition, for cities over 50,000 in population, the General Plan must include a Recreation Element showing a comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation, including the following and, if practicable, their locations and proposed development:

- Natural reservations
- Parks
- Parkways and scenic drives
- Beaches
- Playgrounds and playfields
- Open space
- Bicycle Routes
- Other recreation areas

This plan will address the Open Space and Recreation Element required as part of the Arizona Revised State Statutes. Other elements, such as the Conservation Element, Transportation Element and Bicycling Element will be completed as part of the 2018 General Plan Update.

HISTORY OF PLANNING FOR PARKS & RECREATION IN BUCKEYE

Prior to 1990, Buckeye's population was under 5,000 with the majority of residents living in downtown Buckeye. It wasn't until after 2000 that Buckeye began experiencing exponential growth with the creation of master planned communities in outlying areas that were once open desert. The 1989 General Plan began to analyze the future growth potential of Buckeye and the additional parks and recreation facilities that would be needed to accommodate new residents.

GENERAL PLAN (1989, UPDATED IN 2001)

Buckeye's General Plan from 1989 and later updated in 2001 included an Open Space Element that provided a general overview of Buckeye's parks and open space conditions. One of the major recommendations from the 2001 General Plan Update was to prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that had two major components: 1) a regional strategy for the provision of open space and 2) A long-range municipal system that met the needs for parks and recreation. The City fulfilled this recommendation with the creation of the Parks, Trails and Open Space (PTOS) Master Plan, which was adopted on December 6, 2005 by Town Council. Another policy from the 1989 General Plan identified a need for trails and recommended that the Town coordinate and obtain support from agencies such as the Buckeye and Roosevelt Irrigation Districts, power utility companies, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, and State and Federal government. The 2005 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan summarily provided guidance and policies on trails and recommended further study, which led to the creation of Buckeye's Trails Master Plan adopted in 2008.

Both of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan (2005) and Trails Master Plan (2008) established the foundation for policies in Buckeye.

BUCKEYE PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN (2005)

The 2005 Parks, Trails and Open Space (PTOS) Master Plan served as the Open Space Element for Buckeye's General Plan adopted in January 2008.

Image 1-1: The 2005 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

The PTOS Master Plan provided a comprehensive framework for Buckeye's parks, trails and open space relative to its natural resources and the explosive growth occurring prior to the 2009 recession. The Plan provided Buckeye elected officials, staff, members of the development community and other interested parties a comprehensive inventory, policy

directives and level of service indicators for developing parks and recreation facilities. The plan also established a hierarchy of parks based on size with classifications for pocket, neighborhood, community, and large sports/regional parks. Additionally, it established a level of service of 7 acres of parks per 1,000 residents to guide the future provision of parks based on population size.

Another element of the PTOS Plan was the baseline planning of trails with conceptual trail alignments and cross sections included to guide the trail development. One recommendation from the PTOS Plan was to conduct a more detailed and comprehensive plan on the future trail system in Buckeye, which was accomplished with the development of Buckeye's Trails Master Plan in 2008.

BUCKEYE TRAILS MASTER PLAN (2008)

In 2008, Buckeye adopted its Trails Master Plan, which established a planned network of paths along natural and man-made linear features that would connect major destinations in the City, including recreational amenities, commercial hubs and residential centers. The plan referenced other regional planning efforts for trails, including the Maricopa County Regional Trail System, comprised of the Maricopa and Sun Circle Trails, the Arizona Wildlife Linkages Assessment conducted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the El Rio Watercourse Master Plan (2007), the MAG Regional Off-Street System Plan (2001), and other relevant studies completed by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County for the conveyance of flood waters.

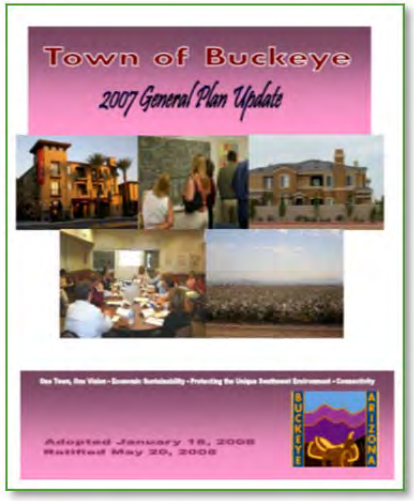
Image 1-2: The 2008 Trails Master Plan

The Trails Master Plan recommended trails along arterial roads, parkways, powerlines, major washes, flood control channel paths, canals, and river corridors. The majority of trails in the system would be constructed by new development occurring in the city.

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE 2007

The Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan adopted by Town Council in 2005 serves as the Open Space Element for the 2007 General Plan Update and was included by reference. The General Plan Update was adopted and ratified by the public in 2008.

Image 1-3: 2007 General Plan Update



GENERAL PLAN 2017/2018

In accordance with Chapter 4, Article 6 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, the City is required to update its General Plan and any element therein every 10 years. Since the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan was adopted in 2005 and served as the General Plan's open space element, the City updated its plan in 2015. Likewise, the City will need to adopt a new General Plan by 2018 since the current plan was adopted in January 2008.

OTHER RELEVANT STUDIES & PLANS AFFECTING PARKS, TRAILS, & OPEN SPACE IN BUCKEYE

MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION PLANS & STUDIES

WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE 2014-2034

In 2014, Maricopa County updated the master plan for the White Tank Mountain Regional Park. There are two recommendations from that plan with impacts to Buckeye. One is the creation of a secondary access point on the north side of the park in Surprise's municipal planning area. This secondary trailhead would provide convenient access for residents living along the Sun Valley Parkway, especially those living in Sun City Festival. The other recommendation is to connect trails in the White Tank Mountain Regional Park to trails identified in the Skyline Regional Park Master Plan.

MARICOPA TRAIL

The Maricopa Trail is a 240-mile trail that connects the ten Maricopa County Parks. In Buckeye, the trail heads south along the eastern edge of the White Tank Mountain Regional Park along Jackrabbit Trail. At Indian School Road, the trail will head west through Verrado and travel south along the Tuthill Road alignment, where it will go under Interstate 10 through a large box culvert. South of I-10, the trail will be routed through the Flood Control District of Maricopa County's Flood Retarding Structure #4, where it will then be routed east along Yuma Road through Goodyear. The trail will then follow the Bullard Wash until it connects south to the Gila River. The path along the Gila River will connect Estrella Mountain Regional Park to the Buckeye Hills Regional Park.

Image 1-4: The Maricopa Trail Adjacent to Jackrabbit Trail, North of I-10

FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT OF MARICOPA COUNTY PLANS & STUDIES

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County conducts numerous plans and studies that impact parks and recreation services in Buckeye. A brief summary of those plans are listed below.

EL RIO WATERCOURSE MASTER PLAN

The El Rio Watercourse Master Plan was completed in 2006 and provided a recommendation to reduce the risks of flooding and restore the natural and beneficial values provided by the Gila River. The plan recommended a soft structural levee that would be landscaped with adjacent trails along a 17-mile stretch from the Gila River's confluence with the Agua Fria River in Avondale, west to the State Route 85 bridge in Buckeye. The plan recommends trails along the river.

BUCKEYE AREA DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN (2009)

The Buckeye Area Drainage Master Plan provided recommendations for the conveyance of flood waters in Buckeye from Interstate 10 south to the Gila River and from the Hassayampa River in the west to Jackrabbit Trail in the east. The plan called for a system of 5 different channel systems and a series of retention basins that would capture the storm flows and convey them through the channels south to the Gila River. There are opportunities to use the drainage channels for multi-use functionality for pathways and trails as well as maintenance roads. Some of the basins identified in the report could also have a positive impact by providing additional space for parks and recreation amenities.

WATSON DRAIN DESIGN CONCEPT REPORT (2014)

The Watson Drain Design Concept Report further analyzed one of the recommended channels in the Buckeye Area Drainage Master Plan and refined into 15% plans. The alignment shifted slightly from what was identified in the Buckeye Area Drainage Master Plan by reducing the crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad at a single location – Watson Road.

WHITE TANKS FRS#4 REHABILITATION (2015)

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County is in the process of designing the rehabilitation of the White Tanks Flood Retarding Structure #4, which is located west of Jackrabbit Trail south of Interstate 10. As part of the rehabilitation, the Flood Control District intends to fill the large basin and provide multi-use opportunities with trails and passive recreation. The City of Buckeye has also discussed the possibility of using some of the land outside of the floodplain for parks and recreation.

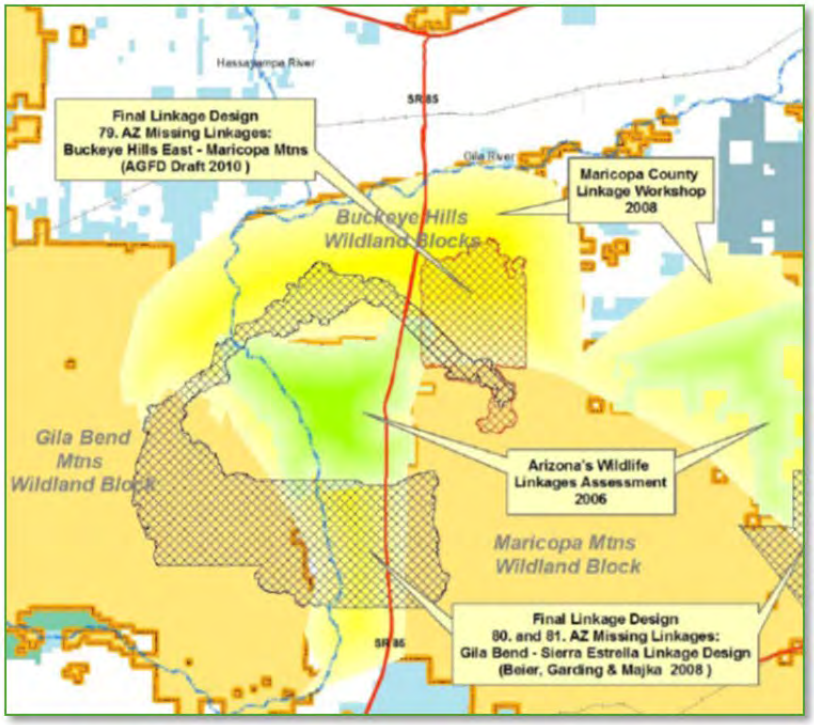
SUN VALLEY DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN

The Sun Valley Drainage Master Plan was completed in 2006 and recommended a series of basins and channels to convey storm water coming off of the White Tank Mountains west to the Hassayampa River. Basins were recommended at the apex of the wash where storm waters could be captured, retained and channelized west of the apex, where the scoured washes turn into an alluvial fan. The master plan recommended the storm water be channelized where waters were conveyed in the alluvial fan. Pathways and trails are planned along the channels.

ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

The Arizona Game and Fish Department have conducted studies that impact parks and open space in Buckeye. The first effort began in 2006 at a state-wide level with the Arizona Wildlife Linkages Assessment that was conducted by the Arizona Wildlife Linkages Workgroup.

Figure1-1: Map from the Maricopa County Wildlife Connectivity Assessment: Report on Stakeholder Input. The map highlights the need to provide connections between Buckeye Hills, the Gila Bend Mountains and the Maricopa Mountains in south Buckeye.



THE MARICOPA COUNTY WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY ASSESSMENT: REPORT ON STAKEHOLDER INPUT (2012)

The Maricopa County Wildlife Connectivity Assessment summarizes the results of stakeholder workshops held in 2008 with a broad range of organizations and interests to map locations of important wildlife linkages across Maricopa County. Biologists, land managers, planners and other professionals from federal, state, tribal, private and non-governmental organizations outlined the general location of wildlife linkages on larger maps with descriptive information about each linkage on datasheets. Participants also identified the locations of barriers such as highways and railroads that can interfere with wildlife movements. Relative to Buckeye, the report identified several important corridors, including connectivity between the White Tank Mountains and habitat blocks outside Buckeye's planning area, including the Belmont, Vulture and Hieroglyphic Mountains and linkages between Buckeye Hills, Gila Bend and Maricopa Mountains.

ARIZONA MISSING LINKAGES: GILA BEND – SIERRA ESTRELLAS LINKAGE DESIGN (2008)

The linkage report used a scientific approach to designing the corridor that will conserve and enhance wildlife movement between three large areas of BLM-administered lands in Maricopa County, including the Sierra Estrellas, the Gila Bend and Maricopa Mountains. The report considered the habitat and movement requirements of 24 species of animals, including 1 amphibian, 14 reptiles, 3 birds, 5 mammals and 1 plant. Some of the species require large tracts of land to support viable populations, while others require specialized areas of movement and some are reluctant or unable to cross barriers, such as freeways. The report used Geographical

Information System (GIS) to model the biologically best corridor for each focal species and identified the links needed between the Gila Bend Mountains, the Sonoran Desert National Monument and between the Sonoran Desert National Monument to the Sierra Estrellas.

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR STUDY – BUCKEYE FLOOD RETARDANT STRUCTURE 1 (2008)

In the 1970's the Flood Control District, working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, built three earthen dams on the north side of Interstate 10. The Flood Retardant Structure #1 (FRS#1) is 7 miles long and 26 feet in height. The study researched the possibility of integrating a viable wildlife corridor into the rehabilitation and restructuring of the Buckeye FRS#1 with recommendations on design specifications to accommodate wildlife movement. One of the more important species considered in the report was the mule deer.

Image 1-5: Mule Deer in the White Tank Mountains

The proposed wildlife corridor would extend from the southern boundary of the Maricopa County White Tank Mountain Regional Park, through Skyline Regional Park and south along the FRS#1 structure and terminating at the Hassayampa River. Palatable forage and water sources could be placed at appropriate locations along the corridor to encourage use.

ARIZONA STATE LAND DEPARTMENT

In 2015 staff from the City of Buckeye contacted the Planning and Engineering Manager with the Arizona State Land Department to determine if the State Land Department had any plans that would impact parks and recreation in Buckeye and were informed there are no relevant studies.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

The City of Buckeye is divided into two BLM-management zones with I-10 as the border between them. The Hassayampa Field Office oversees BLM lands north of I-10, while the Lower Sonoran Field Office has authority over lands south of I-10.

BRADSHAW-HARQUAHALA RECORD OF DECISION AND APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (2010)

The Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan is BLM's land use plan for the Hassayampa Field Office, which comprises the Buckeye municipal planning area from I-10 north. The plan lists parcels that are available for sale or exchange, which includes two parcels adjacent to Skyline Park, parcels near I-10/State Route 85, north of I-10 and a few parcels near the Hassayampa River north of the Tartesso community.

LOWER SONORAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Lower Sonoran Field Office Resource Management Plan is BLM's plan for resources in its Lower Sonoran Field Office, which covers the southern half of Buckeye's municipal planning area from I-10, south.

BUCKEYE BANDS – ASU STUDY

In 2014, the City of Buckeye partnered with Arizona State University on a 15-week graduate design project comprised of Landscape Architecture, Architecture, and Urban Design graduate-level students. The students in the design project provided the City an international planning perspective at both a macro-level plan (large scale) and a micro-level plan (small scale). The design project analyzed how to provide amenity infrastructure that will provide recreation opportunities within and along connective public infrastructure networks. The study developed a transect from north to south in the municipal planning area, edge planning around the White Tank Mountains and connecting the Gila River to downtown Buckeye with supporting graphics.

ADJACENT MUNICIPALITIES PARKS MASTER PLANS

CITY OF GOODYEAR PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN (2014)

In 2014, the City of Goodyear adopted its Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan. The mission of the City of Goodyear's Parks and Recreation Department is "to enhance the quality of life for all through the stewardship of public land by sustaining exceptional park facilities and quality recreational programs and services." The master plan provides strategies and operational policies that provide guidance to the Department as it pursues its mission over the next ten years and beyond.

CITY OF SURPRISE PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN (2008)

The City of Surprise's Parks and Trails Master Plan was completed in 2008. The master plan studied the existing facilities in the City, researched the facilities of similar cities and national standards, and provided an action plan with dates and responsible departments. The Master Plan is intended to guide development of all parks, trails and facilities through 2020 and is reviewed annually to keep the plan current.

TOWN LAKE FEASIBILITY STUDIES (2001, 2005)

In 2001 and 2005, Buckeye completed two feasibility studies for the Town Lake project, which analyzed the mechanics of determining whether a lake can be built in the Gila River. In particular, the 2005 Engineering Feasibility Study analyzed the construction of a 180 acre lake built in two phases. The lake would be approximately 15 feet deep and would be located south of Beloat Road between Miller and Apache Roads with both passive and active recreation amenities. According to the study, the construction of the lake would cost approximately $40 million, including land acquisition costs.

PLANNING PROCESS

City staff began working on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in the summer of 2014 with the goal of completing the plan within a year and a half. Throughout the planning process, it was important to provide ample opportunities for the public and stakeholders to give input and feedback on

policies, goals and objectives, thus giving them collective buy-in and a stake in the implementation of the plan.

PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

MASTER PLAN SURVEY

A survey on parks, facilities and programs was issued to the public in October 2014. The survey was sent via various outlets including emails, list serves, homeowner association email contacts, Mayor and Council email lists, offered at Community Services events, and sent in the mail to over 23,000 postal addresses through the City's Eye on Buckeye quarterly brochure. The survey included questions on resident's satisfaction on current parks, facilities and programs and inquired as to what they would like to see for the provision of additional amenities as the city grows. The results of the survey are included in Appendix A.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

In addition to the survey, the City hosted several public meetings:

- City of Buckeye Council Workshops
- City of Buckeye Community Services Advisory Board
- City of Buckeye Planning & Zoning Commission
- Buckeye Youth Council
- Development Partnering Group
- Revenue Study Group
- Public Meetings

CITY OF BUCKEYE COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Staff presented information relating to the master plan at two City Council workshops. The first workshop was held on March 17, 2015 and the second on May 5, 2015. During the workshops, staff presented information relating to existing service levels, needs assessment, benchmark comparison data from other cities and towns in Maricopa County, development standards for residential development and trail classification standards. Meeting minutes for each workshop may be referenced in Appendix J and Appendix K, respectively.

CITY OF BUCKEYE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

The Master Plan was presented to the Community Services Advisory Board on September 17, 2014 and May 20, 2015. These meeting minutes can be found in Appendix F and Appendix G, respectively.

Image 1-6: Public Meeting for the Skyline Regional Park Trails Plan

CITY OF BUCKEYE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Similar information presented to the City Council and the Community Services Advisory Board was discussed with the

City's Planning and Zoning Commission on April 28, 2015. Appendix H contains the minutes for this meeting.

BUCKEYE YOUTH COUNCIL

Staff met with the Buckeye Youth Council on April 6, 2015 to garner input for the master plan. The 12 high school students discussed how their use of parks has changed over time from visiting playgrounds as kids, to now visiting sports parks and hiking areas. The youth represented had a wide breadth of recreation activities they enjoy, from basketball, to hiking and exploring the outdoors in Buckeye. The students participated in an exercise that involved designing an ideal park system and locating community and neighborhood parks as well as trails. The Youth Council felt it was very important to provide connections between parks, schools and passive recreation areas, such as trails in the mountain preserves and along rivers and canals. They also felt it was important to connect residential neighborhoods to commercial corridors. The Youth Council identified amenities it believed are most desired for children, teens and adults. Staff closed the evening by presenting information on the master plan. Meeting minutes from the Youth Council meeting can be found in Appendix I.

Image 1-7: Buckeye Youth Council Presents Their Ideal Park System

Image1-8: The Design of an Ideal Park System by the Buckeye Youth Council

PUBLIC MEETING #1

The first public meeting was held on March 31, 2015, in which the draft plan was presented and the City's vision for parks and recreation over the next 10 years was outlined. The public provided valuable feedback and were supportive of some of the policies that were being established in the master plan, including the minimum size standards for parks in residential development and the increase to the City's level of service standards. Residents asked questions in regards to when the next park would be constructed. Some members of the public also had questions relating to rock crawling activities in Skyline Park. The minutes for this meeting can be found in Appendix E.

Image 1-9: Attendees of the First Public Meeting for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

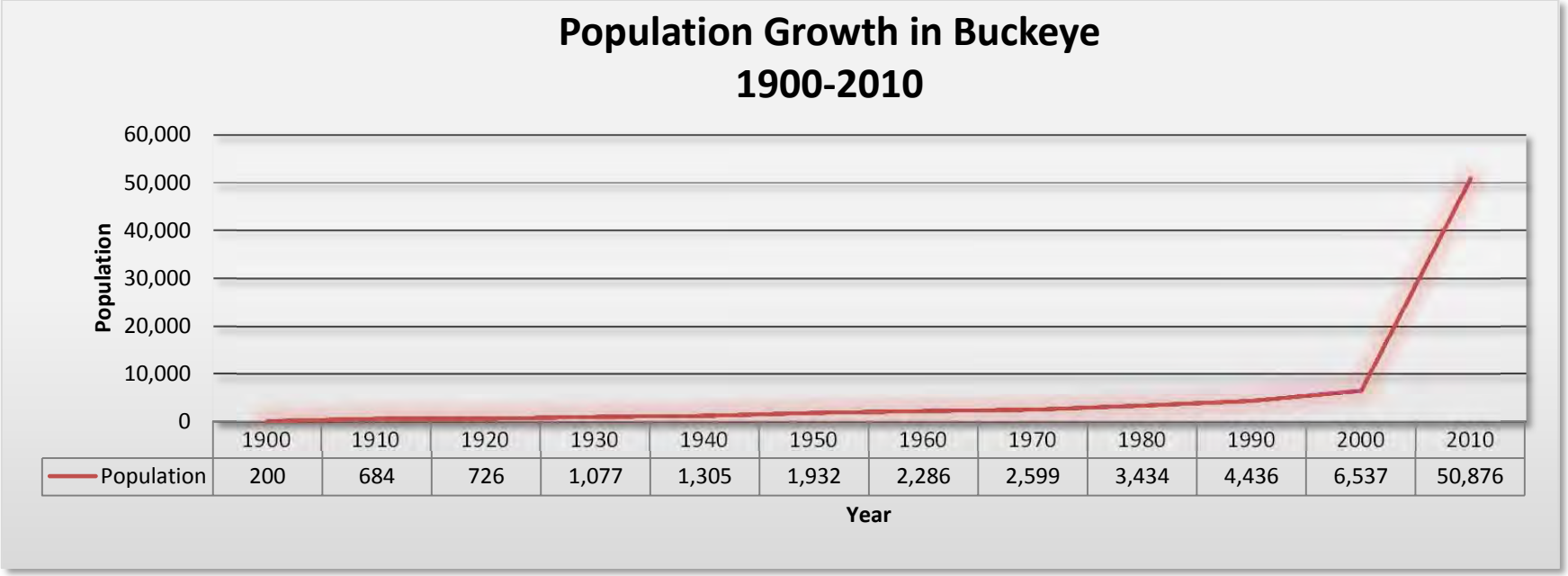
PUBLIC MEETING #2

The second public meeting was held on September 8, 2015. During the meeting, staff presented information relating to the plan, with a focus on open space, recreation, and cultural and historic resources. Attendees voiced concern over the future loss of Buckeye's dark skies as development continues. There was also support for the addition of sports fields as well as the need for additional city owned and operated parks. Appendix L has the minutes for this meeting.

STAKEHOLDER GROUP

To develop the Master Plan, the City formed a Stakeholder Group comprised of various organizations, agencies, and representative groups. The Stakeholder Group was instrumental in providing policy guidance in the creation of the master plan. Group members include representatives from Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Stardust Companies, El Dorado Holdings, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, the Buckeye Water Conservation & Drainage District, and local school district officials. The first meeting was held in January 2015 with staff presenting background information on the plan. Stakeholders also identified major goals and objectives for the plan. The second stakeholder meeting was held in February 2015, during which staff reviewed the level of service provided to Buckeye residents and compared this information to other Maricopa County communities. The stakeholder group identified the desired level of service for parks, amenities and facilities. During the third stakeholder meeting in March, the trails plan was reviewed with proposed alignments and cross sections. The stakeholder group reviewed the content provided in each of the chapters and provided comments. Appendix B, Appendix C, and Appendix D contain the meeting minutes for this group, respectively.

Figure 1-2: Population Growth in Buckeye 1900-2010. Source: Buckeye Wikipedia page



	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Population	200	684	726	1,077	1,305	1,932	2,286	2,599	3,434	4,436	6,537	50,876

BUCKEYE DEMOGRAPHICS

The City of Buckeye is the western gateway into the Phoenix Metropolitan Area and is spread across 600 square miles with nearly 400 square miles annexed. Geographically, the City is 50 miles long from its northern boundary at Cloud Road south to the Woods Road alignment and is 23 miles wide, stretching from the Hassayampa River in the west to Perryville Road alignment on the east. Buckeye's municipal planning area is the largest in Maricopa County, rivaling the City of Phoenix's 520 square mile municipal planning area. With such a large inventory of vacant land, Buckeye is poised to become one of the larger populated municipalities in Maricopa County.

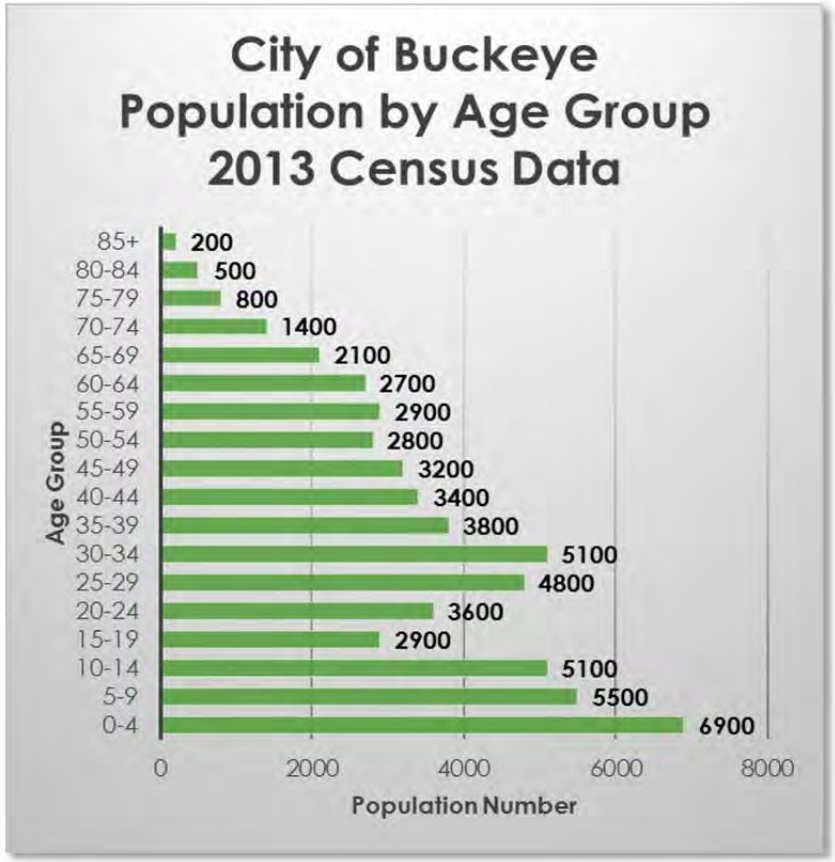
Buckeye's population is growing rapidly from a community of 6,500 residents in 2000 to 51,000 in 2010. Accordingly, the City conducted a mid-decade census in 2015, which places Buckeye's population at over 61,000. Buckeye is now the second fastest growing City in all of Maricopa County at 15.6% since 2010. Projections show that Buckeye's population will grow to 97,300 by 2020, 175,600 by 2030 and 304,400 by 2040[1]. The Master Plan will set out a vision for where recreation and parks is going and how the City will get there. Parks, trails and

[1] Socioeconomic Projects Population, Housing and Employment by Municipal Planning Area and Regional Analysis Zone. June 2013. Maricopa Association of Governments. Provided by Scott Wilken. Regional Planner III. http://datacenter.azmag.gov/Portals/3/documents/data/projections/Reports/SocioeconomicProjections_2013.pdf?timestamp=1432061944573

open space have never been more important and are vital to the economy, environment and livability of Buckeye.

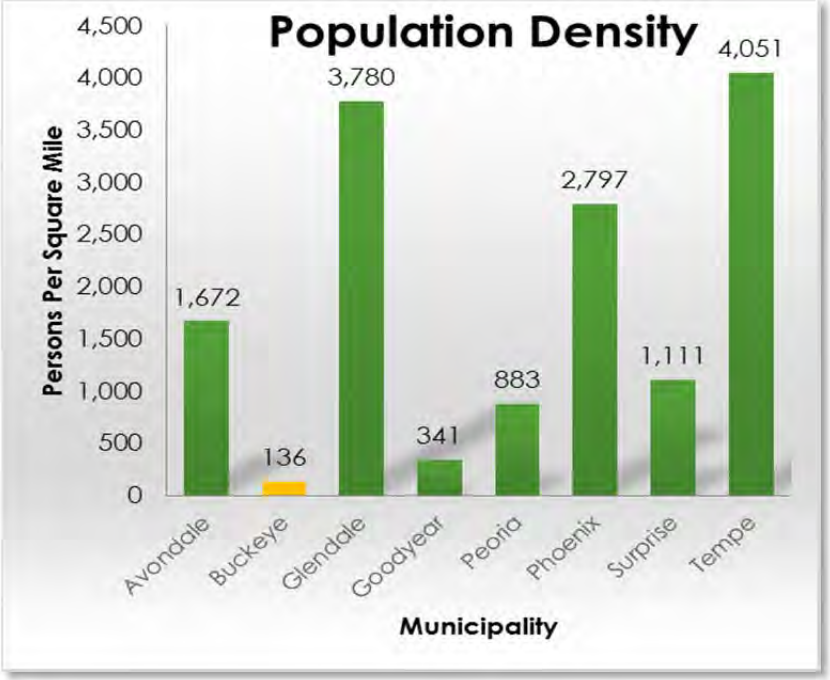
Buckeye's population is young with a larger than average household size in comparison to neighboring communities. Buckeye's median age is 31.2 years in comparison to Glendale: 32.8, Goodyear: 35.5, Peoria: 38.5, Phoenix: 32.6 and Surprise: 37. Only the City of Avondale had a lower median age of 29.7 years than Buckeye in the west valley. Household sizes are also larger in comparison to west valley communities with an average of 3.25 people per household in Buckeye. Neighboring cities had smaller household sizes with Glendale: 2.89, Goodyear: 2.86, Peoria: 2.71, Phoenix: 2.81, and Surprise 2.75. Similar to median age, the City of Avondale had a larger household size of 3.31 people per household.

Figure 1-3: City of Buckeye Population by Age Group Based on 2013 Census Data. Source: Maricopa County Association of Governments.



Buckeye's younger population and higher per household counts impact the services the City should offer. According to the Maricopa Association of Governments, Buckeye's largest

Figure 1-4: Population Density Persons Per Square Mile. Buckeye's large planning area & far distances between residential neighborhoods makes it challenging to provide services. Source: 2010 U.S. Census

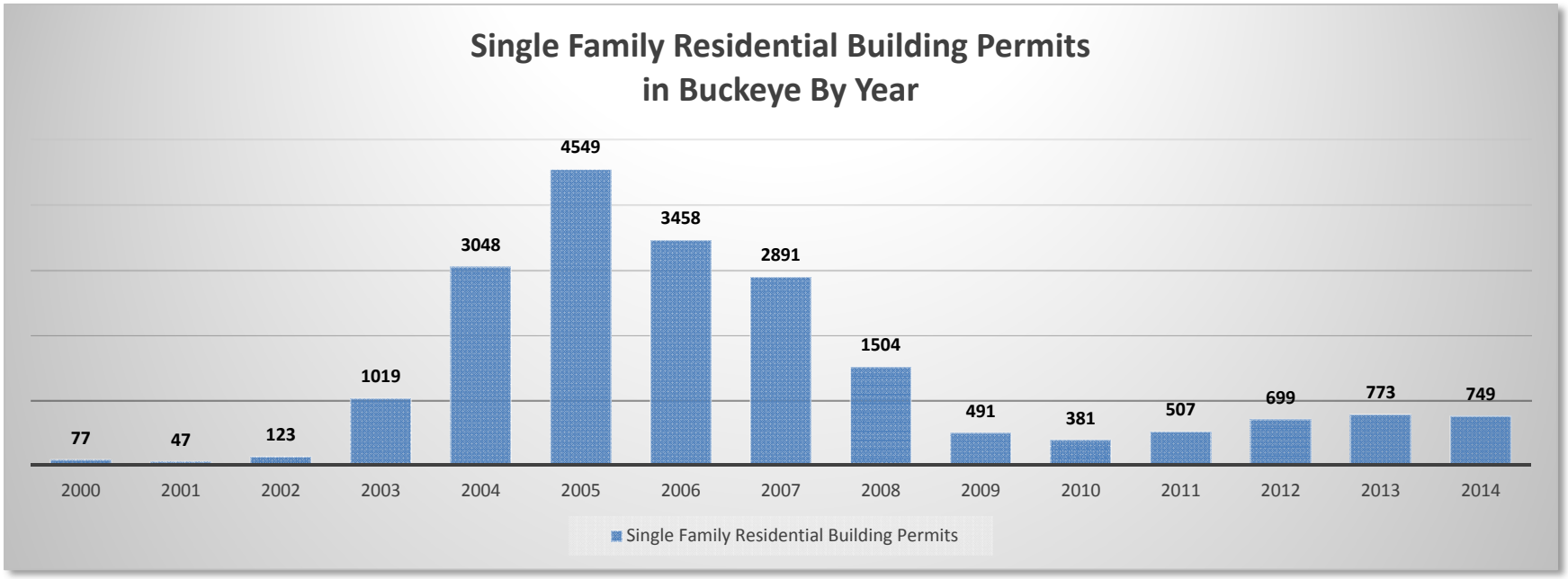


age cohort is youth ages 0-4, which comprises 12% of the city's population. Children ages 14 and under comprise 30% of the population. Adults aged 30-34 (5,100) and 25-29 (4,800) make up 17% of the population. Buckeye is a community with a large contingency of young families who moved to Buckeye for the affordable housing, which also impacts the services the City should provide for parks and recreation.

Another challenge, besides population growth, is the large geographic area that Buckeye serves for parks and recreation. Population density in Buckeye is 136 people per square mile, much less dense than other communities in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Buckeye's population is divided and spread into many master planned communities across the 600 square mile municipal planning area, including Sun City Festival, Sundance, Tartesso, Verrado, and West Park. Traditionally, most communities spread from its urban core outward in concentric rings; however Buckeye experienced leapfrog development with neighborhoods establishing far from its downtown, where the majority of services are offered. Commercial activity in Buckeye is centered along Watson Road. Recently, more businesses have been moving in along the Miller Road and Verrado Way corridors, which provides additional tax base to support City services.

The demand for parks and recreation services coincides with growth in a community. Development in Buckeye peaked in 2005 when 4,500 additional homes were constructed. During

Figure 1-5: Single Family Residential Building Permits by Year. Source: City of Buckeye Development Services Department



the economic recession, growth slowed to a low of 380 residential permits in 2010. The City of Buckeye had to cut costs as a result of decreased revenues and eliminated staffing positions and thus services. The economy is slowly rebounding and in 2014 there were 750 single family residential permits issued, an increase of 97% over a 5-year period from the low in 2010. In 2015, the number of permits increased again with a total of 1,106 single family residential permits issued; an increase of 48% over last year and almost 200% over 2010 permits issued.

LAND OWNERSHIP IN BUCKEYE

Of the 600 square miles in Buckeye's municipal planning area, about 56% is privately-owned with half of that land comprised of existing and scheduled master planned communities (105,137 of the 212,229 acres), including Verrado, Sundance, West Park, Tartesso, and Sun City Festival. The Arizona State Land Department and the Bureau of Land Management are also major landowners in Buckeye with 15% and 23% respectively. About 32% of the Bureau of Land Management's holdings is comprised of the Sonoran Desert National Monument located in the southeast reaches of Buckeye's municipal planning area. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission owns approximately 3,300 acres of land and managed nearly 8,600 acres of State Wildlife areas along the Gila River adjacent to the Buckeye Hills, including Robbins Butte Wildlife Area, Powers Butte Wildlife Area, and Arlington Wildlife Areas.

For Buckeye's planning area, 4.3% is held for parks and recreation, which include 4,440 acres for Maricopa County's Buckeye Hills Regional Park, 2,887 acres for the western portion of the White Tank Mountain Regional Park (*The remaining acres of the park are outside of Buckeye's municipal planning area in unincorporated Maricopa County.*), 8,675 acres for Skyline Park, 71 acres for City-owned parks, and another 320 acres for privately-owned homeowner association parks.

Figure 1-6: Land Ownership Map in Buckeye's Municipal Planning Area

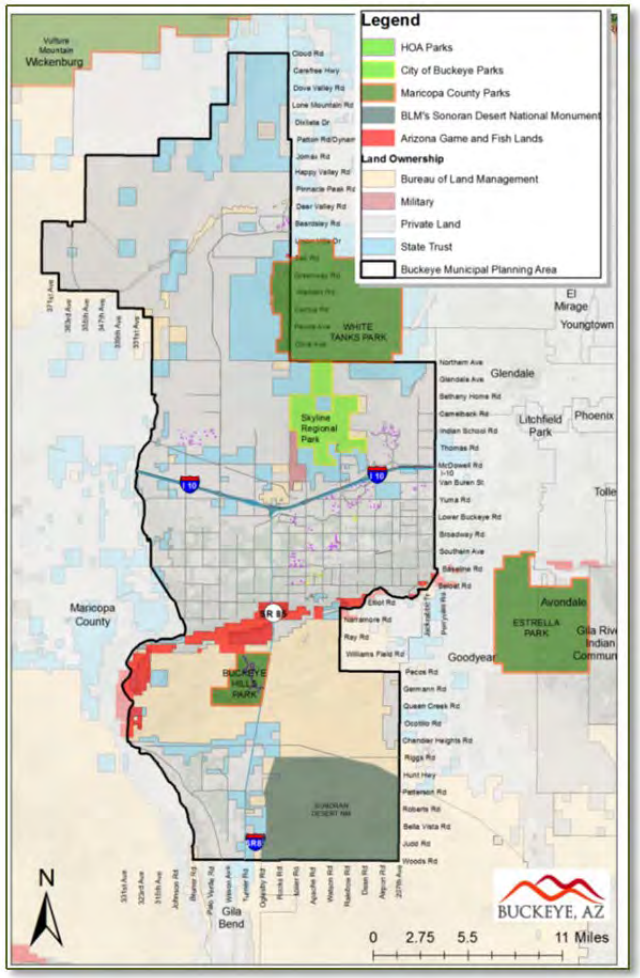
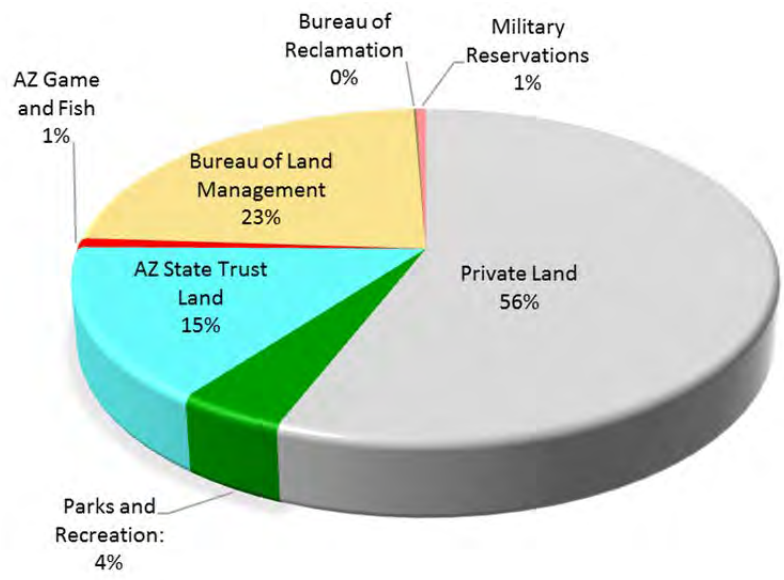


Table 1-1: Land Ownership in Buckeye's Municipal Planning Area

Land Owner	Acres	Square Miles	Percent of Total
Private Land	**211,839**	**331**	**56%**
Parks and Recreation:	**16,427**	**26**	**4.3%**
Buckeye Hills Regional Park	*4,474*		
White Tank Mtn Regional Park	*2,887*		
Skyline Regional Park	*8,675*		
City of Buckeye-Owned Parks	*71*		
HOA-Owned Parks	*320*		
AZ State Trust Land	**56,385**	**88**	**15%**
AZ Game and Fish	**3,293**	**5**	**0.9%**
Bureau of Land Management:	**88,240**	**138**	**23%**
Sonoran Desert National Monument	*28,643*		
Other BLM Acreage	*59,597*		
Bureau of Reclamation	**505**	**1**	**0.1%**
Luke Air Force Base	**653**	**1**	**0.2%**
Military Reservations	**1,324**	**2**	**0.3%**
TOTAL	**378,666**	**592**	**100%**

Figure 1-7: Land Ownership in Buckeye's Municipal Planning Area



CHAPTER 2

PARKS

CHAPTER 2: PARKS

One of the most distinctive attributes of Buckeye is its unspoiled vistas and easy access to the outdoors. The City has a tremendous opportunity to look forward, before lands are fully developed, to understand their value and to prepare means to protect and champion these resources. If it does, future residents will have them to enjoy and add value to their neighborhoods.

Planning for parks by cities is usually done on a "per acre" basis. The city should have a balance of different types of parks, so as to serve all members of a growing community. Parks vary from regional parks, which are the largest, and range to the smallest, "pocket" parks. Within each type of park are varying levels of improvements depending upon the age demographic served and the recreational programming that is desired.

The Buckeye 2005 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan established an overall level of service as seven acres of parks per 1,000 in population. The seven acres were further classified into service levels for each type of park, as shown in *Table 2-1: City of Buckeye Parks*. Based upon the desired level of service and an inventory of parks conducted by the City in the fall of 2014; to date the City has not developed its park system to further the balanced approach established in 2005. In fact, the City of Buckeye had the lowest number of park acres provided to its residents when compared with 14 other communities in Maricopa County.

A 2014 survey of Buckeye residents revealed that only 15 percent of residents feel that there are adequate parks for them to use. Over half of the respondents felt that the City does not have an adequate number of parks or amenities to serve residents. Appendix A contains the results of the survey.

This Chapter does not change the level of service envisioned in the 2005 Plan. Rather, it will set forth the City's goals for correcting the imbalance in the types of parks provided, and outline strategies to achieve these desired ends.

BENEFITS OF PARKS

STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY IMAGE

Buckeye's parks and recreation facilities provide a place for residents to gather, bringing together all different segments of the City's population. Quality parks become a central focus in the community, contributing to its vital identity.

SUPPORTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Parks enhance property values, contribute to healthy and productive workforces, and help attract and retain businesses in a community. Many studies have shown that parks have a direct correlation to increased property values. Quality parks can attract residents from other communities to visit, bringing in tourism tax dollars for gas, food, hotels, retail, and other purchases. In essence, quality parks make cities an attractive place to not only live, work, and play, but also to visit.

GETS RESIDENTS ACTIVE AND HEALTHY

Convenient access to parks and recreation facilities and programs leads to healthy lifestyles for people of all ages. The obesity epidemic impacting the United States can be combated by providing quality parks. Walking paths, hiking trails, fitness stations, and the mental benefits derived from being outdoors all contribute to making a community happy

and healthy. A study conducted on Seattle's park and recreation system revealed that the city's residents were able to save $64 million in medical costs as a result of getting physical activity in the parks.[1]

SERVES AS THE CITY'S LUNGS

Parks play a key role in preserving water and air quality by serving as the City's lungs. Trees purify the air and green space combats the heat island effect. Parks can also serve as vital habitat for wildlife. Parks provide many benefits to communities, including environmental benefits by preserving open spaces that function as the City's lungs.

Image 2-1: Skyline Regional Park.

[1] The Trust for Public Land. (2011). The Economic Benefits of Seattle's Park and Recreation System.

GOALS AND POLICIES FOR PARKS

From the needs identified by residents and project stakeholders, a series of goals and policies have been developed. Goals are statements that if collectively implemented will fulfill the City's vision and needs. Policies are established standards that will determine present and future decisions. Within each goal area, there are a series of policies that are identified to attain that goal.

GOAL 2.1 COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PARKS

Implement a comprehensive system of parks with both active and passive recreational components to satisfy the needs of the community.

2.1.1 Satisfy both the community's active and passive recreational needs by integrating natural systems, such as rivers, washes, mountains, and environmentally sensitive desert environments, to that of man-made parks, trails, and recreational facilities.

2.1.2 Tailor the provision of recreation amenities by continuing the implementation of the park-type hierarchy: pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, large municipal sports parks and regional parks.

2.1.3 Coordinate with developers, school districts, and local, state and federal agencies for locating and building parks and recreation facilities that provide mutual benefits for joint-use facilities where practical.

2.1.4 Annually prioritize public park improvement needs and include them in the Capital Improvement Plan.

2.1.5 Emphasize the promotion of larger, centralized parks within master planned communities rather than incremental pocket parks.

2.1.6 Amend the development code to incorporate newly prescribed definitions and standards for parks, open space and trails based on the goals and policies in this plan.

2.1.7 Encourage non-residential developments, such as commercial and industrial developments to provide park-like amenities, such as outdoor plazas, forecourts, and green space for customers and employees.

GOAL 2.2 PROVIDE PARKS THAT ARE CONVENIENT TO ALL NEIGHBORHOODS

Varying levels of park types should be easily accessible to all residents living in Buckeye.

2.2.1 Prioritize new park and facility acquisition and improvements in areas where there are deficiencies in level of service. Master plan, design and construct new park and recreation facilities in areas underserved to meet unmet demand.

2.2.2 Increase the level of service for City-owned and maintained parks from 1.34 acres per 1,000 population to 4 acres of parks per 1,000 by 2025. Achieve this goal by constructing an additional 224 acres of parks by 2020 to more closely align with other Valley communities.

2.2.3 Require new residential developments to meet or exceed established level of service (LOS) standards for parks and provide a diverse array of quality amenities within.

2.2.4 Encourage parks to be strategically located in a community - accessible from multiple neighborhoods, capitalize on viewsheds, collocated with schools and other municipal services and located adjacent to natural resources, such as rivers, washes or along a trail corridor.

2.2.5 Ensure the functional design of parks with pocket parks located within a ¼ mile and neighborhood parks within a ½ mile pedestrian-shed.

2.2.6 Focus resources to construct facilities, such as an aquatic center and multi-generational center near new developments built since 2000 and outside of downtown Buckeye.

2.2.7 Require parks and recreation amenities in residential developments that are appropriately scaled to the number and density of housing units and that meet the diverse demographic needs.

GOAL 2.3 QUALITY PARKS TO SATISFY DIVERSE INTERESTS

Parks should provide a variety of amenities and services for residents to enjoy.

2.3.1 Ensure residential development provides quality amenities in parks to meet the recreational needs of their residents.

2.3.2 Develop active parks and recreation facilities that provide varied recreational opportunities but also meet

the needs for specific user groups and can respond to new and emerging recreation trends.

2.3.3 Provide consistent branding and theming in city parks and facilities with architectural, landscape and signage standards. Theming can also be distinct and reflect and respond to local identities throughout the city.

2.3.4 Provide both indoor and outdoor park and recreation facilities that provide relief from weather and climatic extremes, thereby promoting year-round play and park use.

2.3.5 Integrate additional shade into parks, pathways and trails through landscaping and shade structures.

2.3.6 Encourage non-residential developments, such as commercial and industrial developments to provide park amenities, such as outdoor plazas, forecourts and green space for customers and workers.

2.3.7 Provide facilities that can support tournaments, league play and community events to enhance economic development opportunities and to generate revenues.

2.3.8 Ensure any required dedication of land for community, large municipal sports parks, and regional parks is completed at the subdivision approval stage.

2.3.9 Facilitate discussions with outside agencies and organizations on the development of special use parks and active and extreme adventure parks that could provide recreation amenities not typically found in parks, such as BMX parks, mountain biking pump tracks, motorized recreation vehicle parks, rock climbing, zip lines, water parks, etc.

2.3.10 Require private maintenance of association parks and open spaces less than 15 acres in size located in residential developments. However, develop agreements to provide arrangements for use by the City of Buckeye to offer recreation programs.

2.3.11 Continue to evaluate the City's parks, facilities and programs for conformance with established standards by the National Recreation and Parks Association's Commission for the Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) to ensure high quality services and that the City remains an accredited agency.

PARK INVENTORY

As part of the data collection for the master plan, the City of Buckeye inventoried all parks in the annexed area, including both City-owned and Homeowner Association (HOA)-owned parks to determine the current level of service provided to residents. To be inventoried, the park had to include amenities for residents to use, which could be as minor as a picnic table or seating area. Turf-lined retention basins that do not include amenities were not inventoried nor were golf courses that require a fee to enter. Turf-lined retention basins and golf courses contribute to the development's overall open space but not towards park requirements discussed further in this chapter.

The park inventory collected information on the following:

- Name of the Park
- Owner
- Acreage
- Parcel Number
- Major Cross Streets
- Public or Private

Additionally, information on amenities was collected for each park:

- Baseball/Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Volleyball Court
- Tennis Court
- Multi-Use Sports Field
- Playground (Covered or Uncovered)
- Splash Pad
- Ramada
- Dog Park
- Walking Path
- Restroom
- Community Center
- Swimming Pool
- Skate Park

In the City of Buckeye, there are five different types of parks and recreational amenities:

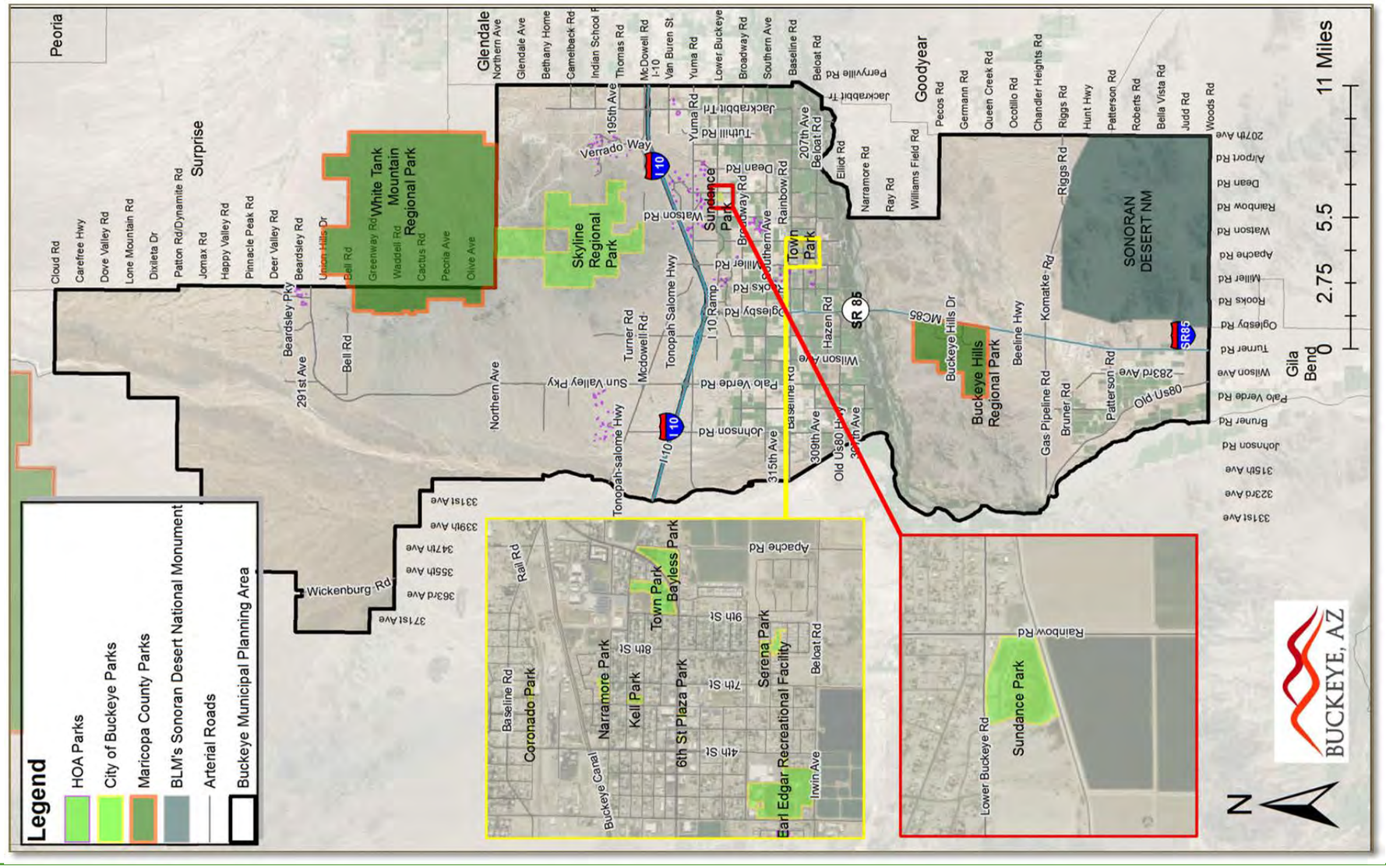
1) City-owned parks
2) Homeowner Association-owned parks
3) County-owned parks
4) State-owned wildlife areas
5) Federally-owned national monuments

CITY-OWNED PARKS

The majority of Buckeye parks are located in downtown Buckeye with the exception of Sundance Park, which opened to the public in 2012 near the Sundance community. Amenities in city-owned parks vary with most featuring playgrounds, ramadas, and sports fields, such as baseball, softball, soccer and football fields. The three largest parks in the City's inventory are Sundance Park, Earl Edgar Recreational Facility, and Town Park. Skyline Regional Park is a Conservation Park and Mountain Preserve located in the southern White Tank Mountains.

Image 2-2: Sundance Park Playground Build

Figure 2-1: Map of Parks in the City of Buckeye



SUNDANCE PARK

Sundance Park, Buckeye's second community park, opened in the fall of 2012 and is located near the Sundance community at the southwest corner of Lower Buckeye Road and Rainbow Road. In 2004, the developer of Sundance donated 65 acres to the City of Buckeye for the land to be used as a community park. In early 2012 construction began with funding from City impact fees and a grant from the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority. The park features two adult softball fields, two youth baseball fields, four ramadas, a dog park for both large and small dogs, a covered playground with varied amenities, a .65 mile walking path, four volleyball courts, an event lawn and restroom/concession facilities. The developed portion of the park is 30 acres and there is an additional 35 acres on the western portion of the park that is available for future park development.

Image 2-3: Sundance Park, a City of Buckeye Park that Opened in 2012

EARL EDGAR RECREATIONAL FACILITY

The Earl Edgar Recreational Facility, also a community park, was developed in 1972 and renovated in 2009 using City funds and a grant from the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority.

Image 2-4: Earl Edgar Recreational Facility

The park is home to the Craig Counsell youth baseball field, another youth baseball field, two adult softball fields, two multi-use soccer/football fields, a covered picnic area, a covered ADA-accessible playground, two sets of restrooms, one full and one half basketball court, and a .50 mile walking path along the perimeter of the park. Adjacent to the Park is the Buckeye Community Center, an 8,000 square foot building built in 1983 that offers active adult programming. The Parks Maintenance Building is also located at the Earl Edgar Recreation Facility and was constructed during the park renovations in 2009.

TOWN PARK

Town Park is the oldest park in Buckeye's inventory which was developed in the 1950's. The park is home to the Buckeye Aquatic Center, the Dr. Saide Recreation Center, and the Buckeye Valley Museum and is considered a neighborhood park at over 7 acres. The park features two covered ramadas, a shaded playground, and open turf areas to be used for multi-use sports games and practices and for special events. The Buckeye Aquatic Center was rebuilt with grants from Arizona State Parks and city funds in 1998. The Buckeye Aquatic Center features a zero depth entry, water splash features, 3-meter and 1-meter high diving boards, swimming lanes, water slide, restrooms, concessions and changing rooms.

Image 2-5: The Buckeye Aquatic Center is a Popular Spot During Summer Months

The Dr. Saide Recreation Center opened in 2006 and provides activities and programming for children, teens and adults. The Center is home to a large multi-purpose room, kitchen, classroom, offices for staff, and a common area featuring a computer lab and lounge area specifically designed for the teen population.

The Buckeye Valley Museum was built in 1954 and was renovated in 2014 with new displays, paint, carpet, and tile. The museum highlights the Buckeye Valley history with new displays focused on Buckeye's downtown and the historic businesses one could find on Monroe Avenue in the early 20th century, including the Roxy Theater.

OTHER BUCKEYE PARKS

In addition to Sundance Park, Earl Edgar Recreation Facility and Town Park, the City also has smaller pocket parks, such as Bayless Park, Serena Park, and Kell Park. Bayless Park, at over 6 acres is not considered a neighborhood park as there are no park amenities – only open turf fields. Some of the parks, like Narramore Park function as a retention basin with no amenities and others, such as Coronado Park, serve as a landscaped median.

SKYLINE REGIONAL PARK

Skyline Regional Park is an 8,675 acre mountain preserve located in the southern White Tank Mountains, just south of the County's White Tank Mountain Regional Park and west of Verrado. In 2010, the City of Buckeye signed a 25-year, no cost lease agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that allows the City to use the land as a regional park and mountain preserve. In 2012, a master plan was completed that took the concepts identified in a BLM-approved Environmental

Image 2-6: Skyline Regional Park

Assessment and further defined them into the master plan. The Master Plan provides recommendations for phased improvements over the course of the 25-year lease. The City of Buckeye completed the design of Phase I, which includes the extension of the access road on Watson, north of I-10, parking, trailhead, picnic areas, camping sites, environmental education programming area, and support facilities such as restrooms, a gatehouse, and signage. The park provides access to miles of hiking trails with connections to Verrado's trail systems and a future trail connection with the County's White Tank Mountain Regional Park.

Image 2-7: Skyline Regional Park

Image 2-8: Skyline Regional Park

Table 2-1: City of Buckeye Parks

Park Type	Park Name	Acres	Baseball Field (lit)	Softball Field (lit)	Basketball Courts (lit)	Multi-Use Fields (lit)	Multi-Use Fields (unlit)	Sand Volleyball	Playground (covered)	Playground (uncovered)	Ramadas / Picnic Area	Dog Park	Restrooms	Library	Recreation Center	Senior Center	Swimming Pool	Skate Park
Community	Earl Edgar Recreational Facility	21.41	2	2	1.5	2			1		1		2			1		
	Sundance Park	28.94	2	2		1		4	1		4	1	1					
Neighborhood	Town Park	7.39							1		2		1		1		1	1
Pocket	Kell Park	0.80			0.5				1		1			1				
	Bayless Park	6.32					1											
	Serena Park	2.55								1	1							
	6th St Plaza Park	0.36			3													
	Benbow Veterans Memorial Park	0.11																
	Narramore Park	1.68					1											
	Coronado Park	1.50																
Special Use	Helzapoppin Rodeo Grounds	5.00											1					
		76.06	**4**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**2**	**4**	**4**	**1**	**9**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Conservation	Skyline Regional Park	8,675.00									5		1					

PRIVATE HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION PARKS

There are many private Homeowner Association (HOA) parks in Buckeye that are funded, owned and operated by homeowner associations. While these parks are considered private and are solely for the use of residents living in the community, they contribute to the overall level of service envisioned in the 2005 Plan. Oftentimes, the homeowner associations post signs in the park stating the park is for the enjoyment of the residents living in that community only. In certain communities, access into parks and recreation facilities is restricted through the use of badges that are provided to residents living in that HOA. The parks are rarely programmed with recreation activities since the HOA communities typically do not have their own recreation staff. The City of Buckeye occasionally coordinates with the homeowner associations to provide activities and events in these private parks, such as movies in the park or youth sports practices.

Currently, there are 320 acres of parks in homeowner association communities: 44 acres of community parks, 92 acres of neighborhood parks and 183 acres of pocket parks. The average size of community parks in HOA communities is 22 acres, the average size of a neighborhood park is 9.23 acres and the average size of a pocket park is 1.55 acres. The majority of HOA parks contain small playground equipment without a shade canopy and a single ramada adjacent to a turf-lined retention basin. Some of the pocket parks included a basketball or sand volleyball court. Table 2-2: Homeowner Association Parks in Buckeye by Classification lists the HOA community and neighborhood parks and provides a summary total of the HOA pocket parks in Buckeye.

Table 2-2: Homeowner Association Parks in Buckeye by Classification

Park Type	Name	Acres
Community	Tartesso Sports Community Park	26.17
	Verrado Walton Park	18.01
	TOTAL COMMUNITY PARK ACRES	**44.18**
Neighborhood	Blue Hills Neighborhood Park	9.62
	Blue Horizons Neighborhood Park	12.33
	Festival Foothills Neighborhood Park	11.95
	Riata West Neighborhood Park	4.98
	Riata West Neighborhood Park	6.79
	Sonoran Vista Neighborhood Park	11.57
	Sun City Festival Neighborhood Park	13.54
	Sundance Neighborhood Park	7.01
	Sunset Point Neighborhood Park	5.03
	Tartesso Neighborhood Park	9.54
	TOTAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK ACRES	**92.36**
Pocket	**118 Pocket Parks**	**183.27**

COUNTY PARKS

The City of Buckeye is fortunate to have two county parks nearby that provide recreational opportunities for residents: White Tank Regional Park and the Buckeye Hills Regional Park. While these two parks are located or partially located in Buckeye's municipal planning area; the land is not annexed into the City of Buckeye, nor are City funds expended in their maintenance.

WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

The County's White Tank Mountain Regional Park is 29,572 acres of which over 9% of the park is located in Buckeye's municipal planning area. Access to the park is off of Olive Avenue. In 2014, Maricopa County updated its master plan for the White Tank Mountain Regional Park and provided recommendations for improvements slated over a twenty year period. One such improvement is to provide a secondary access point on the north side of the County Park off the Sun Valley Parkway to provide easy access for Buckeye residents, especially those living in Sun City Festival. Conceptual development at this location may include access, trailheads, trails, cabins, a modest nature center building, amphitheater, stabling facilities, and other support facilities (White Tank Mountain Regional Park Master Plan Update, Pg. 6-4).[2] Another improvement recommended in the master plan is to provide a trail connection between the County's White Tank Mountain Regional Park and the City's Skyline Regional Park contingent on an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Buckeye (White Tank Mountain Regional Park Master Plan Update, Pg. 6-5).[3]

BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL PARK

Buckeye Hills Regional Park is located in southern Buckeye off of State Route 85 south of the Gila River. At 4,474 acres, the park provides residents opportunities to enjoy the natural desert with views of the Gila River riparian area. The Joe Foss Public Shooting Range is located in the park along with picnic and restroom facilities.

STATE WILDLIFE AREAS

There are three state wildlife areas along the Gila River: Robbins Butte, Powers Butte and Arlington. Besides providing opportunity for wildlife viewing and hunting, they provide opportunity for fishing; and the management emphasis is to generally serve as a wildlife refuge, game management area and public hunting opportunity.

ROBBINS BUTTE WILDLIFE AREA

The Robbins Butte Wildlife Area is approximately 1,681 acres, north of the Buckeye Hills Regional Park and immediately south of the Gila River. This land is managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and includes Public Land Order No. 1015 lands along the river. These lands were withdrawn from the Bureau of Land Management's jurisdiction in 1954 by the U.S. Congress under Public Land Order (PLO) 1015, and "reserved

[2] White Tank Mountain Regional Park Master Plan Update. 2014-2034. Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department. 2014.

[3] White Tank Mountain Regional Park Master Plan Update. 2014-2034. Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department. 2014.

under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for wildlife refuge purposes, which entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission for use in connection with the Gila River Waterfowl Project.

Image 2-9: Robbins Butte Wildlife Area Adjacent to the Gila River

FEDERAL RECREATION AREAS

SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT

The City of Buckeye is host to a portion of the Sonoran Desert National Monument, which was established by a Presidential Proclamation on January 17, 2001. The National Monument offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, stargazing, mountain biking, camping, hunting, sightseeing, and horseback riding. Access to the park is off of State Route 85, just south of milepost 135. The North Maricopa Mountains Wilderness Area is located within the Sonoran Desert National Monument and is also located within Buckeye.

2005 DESIRED LEVEL OF SERVICE TO RESIDENTS

The 2005 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan established the level of service that should be provided as seven acres of parks per 1,000 in population. The seven acres were further classified into different types of parks, including pocket parks (.2 acres per 1,000 residents), neighborhood parks (2 acres per 1,000 residents), community parks (1.5 acres per 1,000 residents) and large municipal sports complexes/regional parks (3.3 acres per 1,000 residents). Table 2-3: Park Classifications Developed from Buckeye's 2005 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan lists the types of parks and the acres to be provided for Buckeye residents.

Table 2-3: Park Classifications Developed from Buckeye's 2005 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

Park Type	Acres Per 1,000 Population	Typical Park Size	Radius Served
Pocket	0.2	7,000 sq ft-1 acre	0.25 mile
Neighborhood	2.0	5-15 acres	0.50 mile
Community	1.5	25-50 acres	2.50 miles
Municipal Sports Complex	3.3	75-200 acres	5.00 miles
TOTAL	**7 acres / 1,000 pop**		

POCKET PARK

From the 2005 Master Plan (pg. 3-8)

> *"The pocket park (usually with a tot lot) is a specialized facility that serves a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. This park serves a small area within a ¼ mile radius, and is 1 acre or less in size and a minimum of .20 acres per 1,000 population. The desirable site characteristics for the pocket park are within neighborhoods and in proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development or housing for the elderly."*

Examples of pocket parks in Buckeye include Kell Park, Serena Park and many of the parks located in homeowner association communities.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

From the 2005 Master Plan (pg. 3-9)

> *"The neighborhood park is an active area designed for recreation sports, fields and courts for field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus, arena skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc. This park serves a ¼ to ½ mile radius and a population up to 5,000 (a typical neighborhood) and is 5-15 acres in size with an optimal level of service of 2.0 acres per 1,000 population. The desirable site characteristics for the neighborhood park/playground are to suit intense development for easy access to neighborhood populations, and to be geographically centered within safe walking and bike access. This park may be developed as a school-park facility."*

An example of a neighborhood park is Blue Horizons Neighborhood Park, located in the Blue Horizons community, west of Jackrabbit Trail.

Image 2-10: Blue Horizons Neighborhood Park

COMMUNITY PARK

From the 2005 Master Plan (pg. 3-9)

> *"The community park is an area of diverse environmental quality. The park may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, and large swimming pools. The community park may be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, and*

picnicking. This park serves an area up to 2.5 miles (several neighborhoods) and is usually 25 to 50 acres in size with a desired level of service of 1.5 acres per 1,000 population. The desirable site characteristics for the community park may include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. The park should be easily accessible to the neighborhoods it serves."

Sundance Park is an example of a community park in Buckeye.

LARGE MUNICIPAL SPORTS COMPLEX

From the 2005 Master Plan (pg. 3-10)

> *"The large municipal park/sports complex is a natural area or developed area for a variety of outdoor recreation such as ball fields, playgrounds, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, and trail systems. Under NRPA standards, a large urban park/sports complex can be as large as 200 plus acres in size, serving several communities within one hour driving distance, and up to 3.3 acres of park space per 1,000 population. The desirable site characteristics for an urban park is an area adjacent to or encompassing natural resources."*

Reach 11 in Phoenix is an example of a large municipal sports complex in Maricopa County.

REGIONAL PARKS

From the 2005 Master Plan (pg. 3-10)

> *"Regional spaces often are special use lands or lands set aside for conservation that are enjoyed by citizens throughout larger metropolitan areas. These areas are often ill-defined and can take many shapes and sizes, such as greenways and park preserves. While these regional spaces do not contribute towards Buckeye's Level of Service standards, these spaces provide value and recreational opportunities for Buckeye residents and are recognized accordingly."*

Examples of regional spaces include the White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Buckeye Hills Regional Park and Skyline Regional Park.

COMPARISONS BETWEEN 2005 STANDARDS TO EXISTING SERVICE LEVELS

In the fall of 2014, an inventory was conducted of all developed parks in Buckeye. The total acres of parks available were compared to the adopted standards of 7 acres of parks per 1,000 residents, which was established from the 2005 master plan. The acres for regional parks, including the City of Buckeye's Skyline Regional Park, the Maricopa County Parks, and the Sonoran Desert National Monument were not included in the assessment since these parks are conservation parks and mountain preserves and consist mainly of undeveloped open space.

In total, there are 390.87 acres of parks in Buckeye between City of Buckeye public parks (71 acres) and HOA-owned

private parks (320 acres). The Helzapoppin Rodeo Grounds, a special use park is not included in the City of Buckeye numbers below since this park is only open to the public when special events are held, hence the difference between 76 acres vs. 71 acres. Table 2-4: City and Homeowner Association Parks in Buckeye by Classification provides a summary of the total number of parks per type for both City-owned and privately-owned HOA parks.

Table 2-4: City and Homeowner Association Parks in Buckeye by Classification

Park Type	City Public Park Acres	HOA Private Park Acres	TOTAL PARK ACRES
Pocket	13.32	183.27	196.59
Neighborhood	7.39	92.36	99.75
Community	50.35	44.18	94.53
Municipal Sports	-	-	-
Total Acres	**71.06**	**319.81**	**390.87**

Figure 2-2: Where We Should Be for the Provision of Parks and Where We Are by Park Classification

The inventory also analyzed the total number of parks and the average size per classification in Buckeye. The average size of a pocket park owned and maintained by the City of Buckeye was 1.9 acres (13.32 acres for 7 pocket parks), whereas the average size of a pocket park owned by a homeowners association was 1.6 acres in size (183 acres and 118 pocket parks). There are 10 homeowner association neighborhood parks in Buckeye totaling 92.36 acres, averaging 9 acres in size. Town Park, at 7.39 acres is the City's neighborhood park.

The average community park for the city of Buckeye is 25 acres; for homeowner associations 22 acres.

Image 2-11: Sundance Community Park in Buckeye

In 2015, the City of Buckeye owns and operates 10 parks (7 pocket parks, 1 neighborhood park and 2 community parks). Homeowner association communities contributed a total of 130 parks: 118 pocket parks, 10 neighborhood parks, and 2 community parks. The average sizes of both the public and private parks are in line with the adopted standards included in the 2005 Master Plan with the exception of HOA community parks, which are smaller than the standards. A community park is intended to be 25-50 acres, but the average size of a Homeowner Association community parks is 17.7 acres.

PARK ACRES NEEDED BASED ON 2005 STANDARDS

Using the standards adopted in the 2005 Master Plan and based on the 2015 population of 57,000 residents, the City of Buckeye should have 399 acres of parks provided to its residents. Accordingly, Buckeye should have 11.4 acres of pocket parks (total of 23 pocket parks), 114 acres of neighborhood parks (total of 14 neighborhood parks), 37 acres of community parks (total of 2 community parks), and 188 acres of municipal sports complexes (total of 2 municipal sports parks) for a total of 399 acres of parks. These requirements were then used to evaluate the City's shortfall for existing parks.

TOO MANY POCKET PARKS

The City should have 11.4 acres of pocket parks for a total of 23 half-acre pocket parks. The City far exceeds this standard with a total of 196.59 acres of pocket parks and a total of 125 parks. The private HOA-pocket parks are typically equally spaced throughout the development. The City of Buckeye public pocket parks are located in downtown and include 6th Street Plaza, Kell Park, Coronado Park, Narramore Park, Bayless Park, Serena Park and Benbow Veterans Memorial Park.

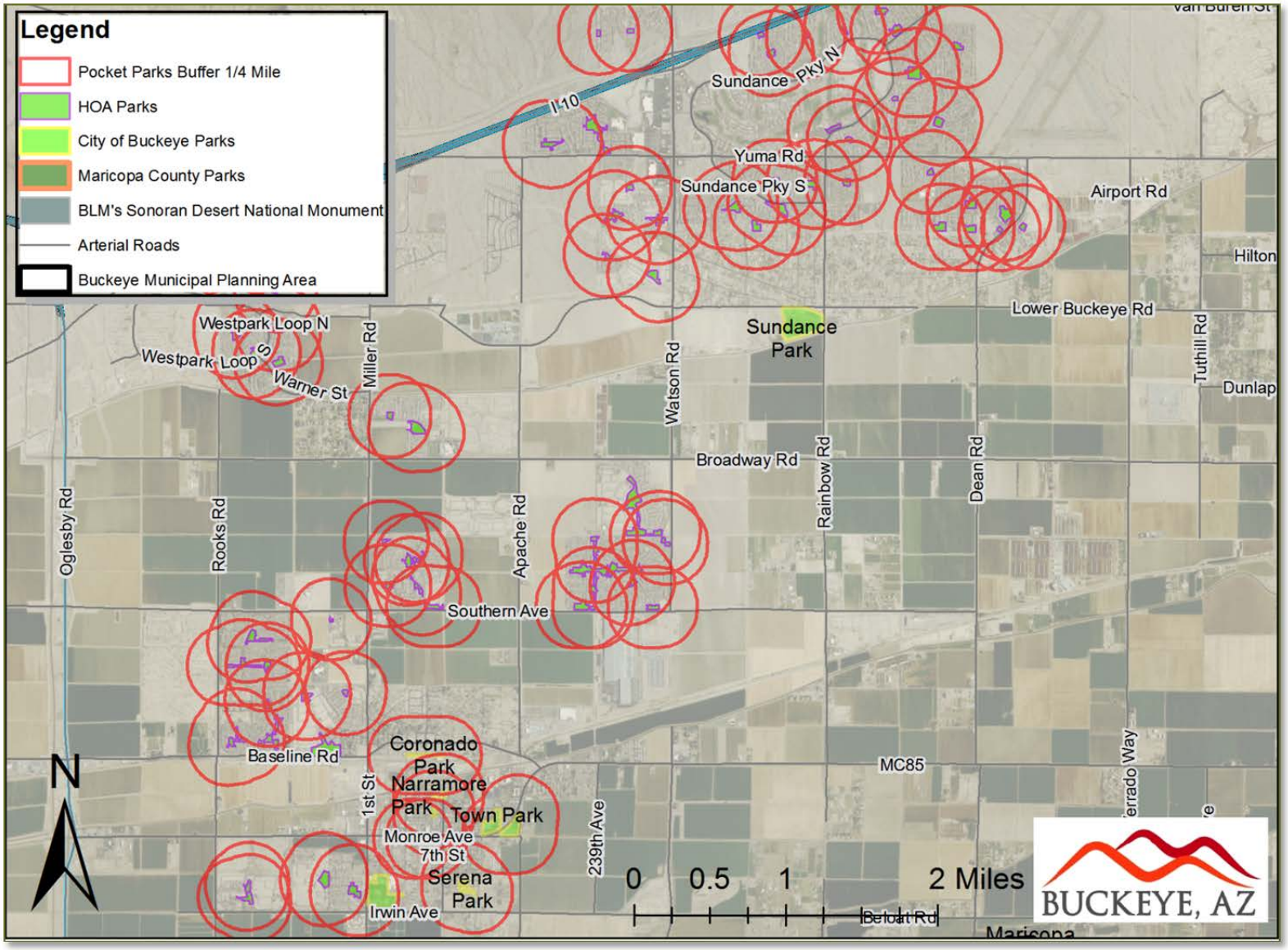
Pocket parks should serve residents living within a quarter mile. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping software, a ¼ mile radius buffer was placed around each pocket park to determine if the City is adequately served. The results showed an overlap of service delivery areas, which further reiterates the over-saturation of these types of parks. Some of the pocket parks are located as close as 700 feet from each other, which can discourage walking in a community. There are some advantages to the large number of pocket parks such as convenient access to a park. `However, the abundance of pocket parks comes at the expense of larger-sized neighborhood parks that have a variety of amenities for families to use. The tot lots found in pocket parks may satisfy the needs of younger children, but there are few recreational amenities suited to older children, teens and adults.

The following amenities are found in the 125 pocket parks in Buckeye:

- 23 basketball courts (1/2 courts counted as 1 as well)
- 5 covered playgrounds
- 96 uncovered playgrounds
- 109 ramadas

Image 2-12: Pocket Park in Verrado

Figure 2-3: Pocket Parks in Buckeye with a ¼ Mile Buffer. In many locations, there is an overlap in service delivery areas.



NOT ENOUGH NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

The City of Buckeye is falling short in providing neighborhood parks to residents. The 2005 Master Plan recommends 2 acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 in residents, therefore the City should have a total of 114 acres of neighborhood parks for its 57,000 residents. In reality, there are only 10 neighborhood parks totaling 99.75 acres falling short of the 2005 plan standards.

With the exception of Town Park, the neighborhood parks in Buckeye are HOA-owned, and located in master planned communities. The neighborhood parks average slightly over 9 acres, which is smaller than the 10 acres recommended by the 2005 Plan. The 10 HOA-owned private and 1 City-owned neighborhood parks have the following amenities:

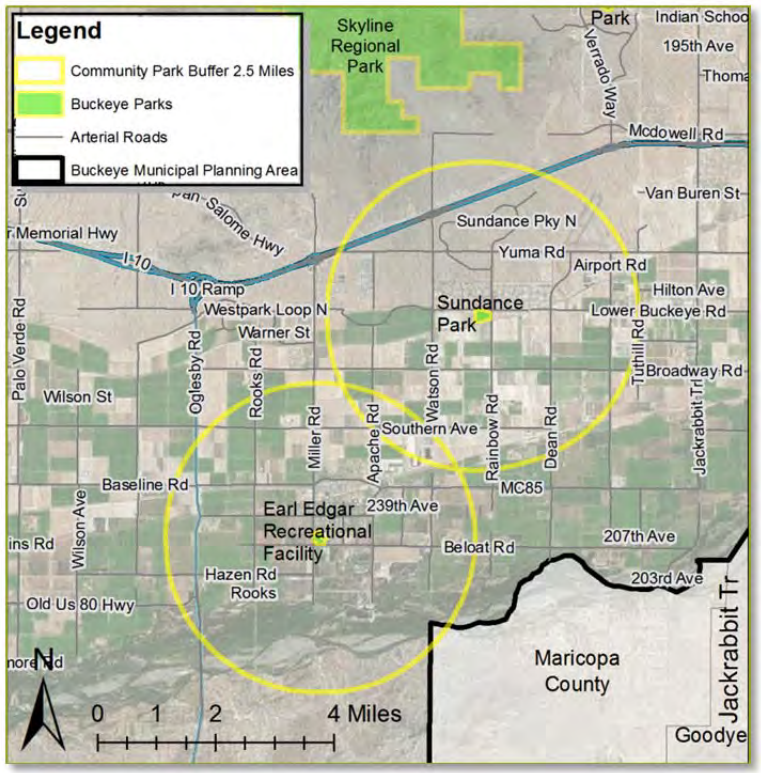
- 3 baseball fields
- 8 basketball courts (1/2 courts counted as 1 as well)
- 10 uncovered playgrounds
- 2 covered playgrounds
- 25 ramadas

COMMUNITY PARKS RIGHT-SIZED?

The City of Buckeye is providing 94.53 acres of community parks for its 57,000 population between City and HOA-owned parks, whereas there should be 85.5 acres based on the recommended standards of 1.5 acre per 1,000 population. At first glance, it seems like Buckeye is exceeding its standards for providing community parks, however, many of the master planned communities built their larger-sized community parks at the outset. For example, Verrado and Tartesso constructed their community parks in the early stages of development. The parks are intended to serve future residents moving into currently undeveloped lots.

Community Parks provide varied amenities that are not found in pocket or neighborhood parks, including baseball fields, multi-use sports fields, sand volleyball, tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, splash pads, ramadas, and restrooms.

Figure 2-4: A 2.5 mile buffer placed around Earl Edgar Rec Facility and Sundance Park. Some communities such as West Park and those located along Jackrabbit Trail are outside the service delivery area.



Some of the community parks have a swimming pool, community center and fitness center. The HOA-owned community parks include Walton Park in Verrado and Tartesso Sports Park. City community parks include Earl Edgar Recreational Facility located in downtown Buckeye and Sundance Park located near the Sundance community.

Image 2-13: Kids Enjoying a Game of Baseball at Earl Edgar Recreational Facility

From the 2005 Master Plan, community parks are intended to draw residents living in a 2.5 mile service radius. Based on these standards, some neighborhoods in Buckeye are not adequately served. For example, the communities of West Park, Blue Horizons and Vista De Montana are not served by a community park since they are located further than 2.5 miles away from the nearest community park – Sundance Park and Earl Edgar Recreational Facility.

The average size of a community park in Buckeye is 23.6 acres, which is smaller than the established standards of between 25 to 50 acres. In Buckeye, community parks (both City-owned and HOA-owned) have the following amenities:

- 8 baseball fields
- 5 softball fields
- 6 multi-use fields
- 2 basketball courts
- 10 sand volleyball courts
- 4 tennis courts
- 3 covered playgrounds
- 1 uncovered playgrounds
- 11 ramadas
- 1 dog park

LACK OF LARGE SPORTS COMPLEXES AND PARKS

According to standards included in the 2005 Master Plan, Buckeye should have 188 acres of a large sports park; however there are no developed parks exceeding 30 acres. The large number of pocket parks have come at the expense of larger municipal sports complexes.

BENCHMARK ANALYSIS

In the fall of 2014, the City of Buckeye sent a request to a representative sample of municipalities located in Maricopa County seeking information on the levels of service provided for the provision of developed parks and conservation parks/mountain preserves. The City received responses from 13 communities, including larger municipalites such as Phoenix,

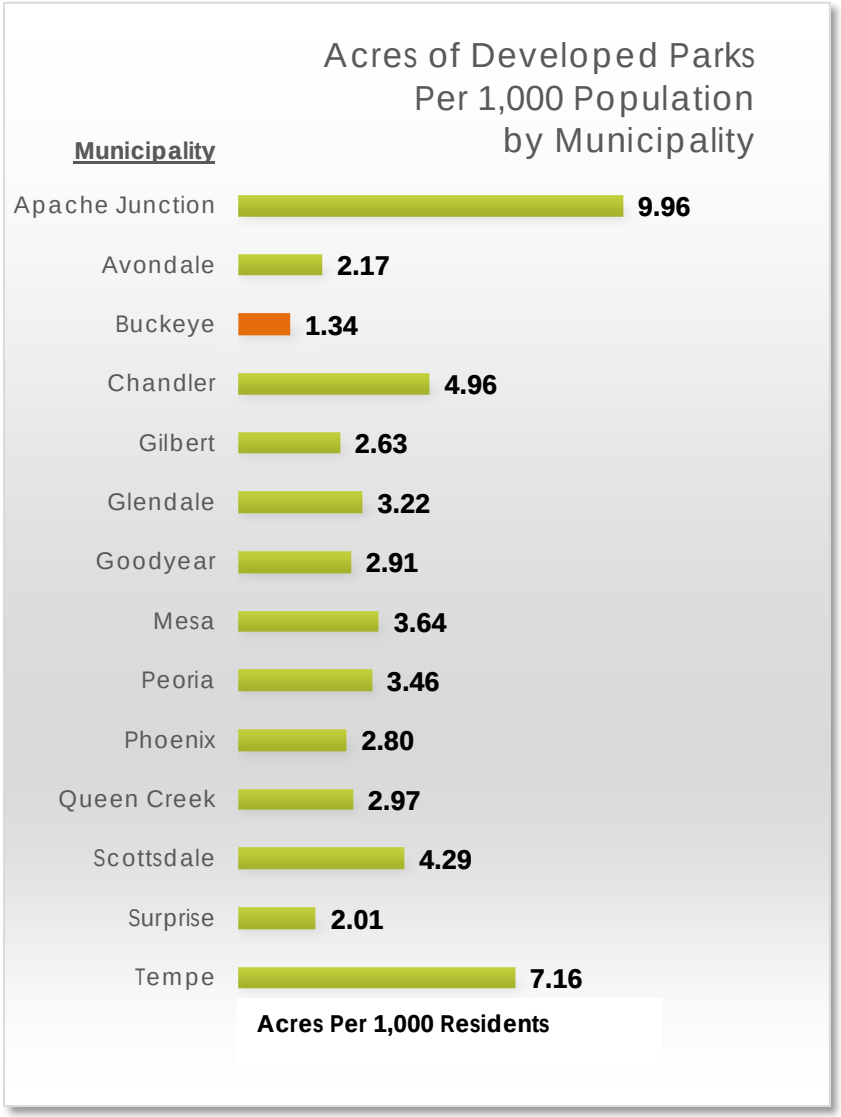
Mesa, Scottsdale, and Glendale as well as smaller populated municipalites, including the neighboring jurisdictions of Goodyear, Avondale, and Surprise. The City received information on the number of park acres and number of parks classified by park size (pocket, neighborhood, community and large sports/regional) and the amenities included within. The municipalities also sent information on the acres provided for conservation parks (desert open space parks and mountain preserves) and requirements for residential developments on the provision of parks and open space.

Buckeye's data was benchmarked against the other municipalities to determine whether the City adequately provides municipal parks for residents to use. It is important to note that the data collected from the other jurisdictions does not include parks provided by private homeowner's associations and only includes those parks owned and maintained by the Cities and Towns.

LOWEST NUMBER OF ACRES PER 1000 IN THE VALLEY

The average acres of parks provided per 1,000 residents for the 14 communities surveyed in Maricopa County, including Buckeye, was 3.81 acres. *Figure 2-5: Developed Park Acres Per 1,000 Population by Municipality in Maricopa County* shows the acreage of parks provided per 1,000 residents by municipality. The City of Buckeye had the lowest number of park acres provided to its residents at 1.34 acres of parks per 1,000 people. The City of Apache Junction, on the other end of the spectrum, provided 9.96 acres of parks per 1,000 residents. The City of Buckeye would need to provide an additional 145 acres of parks to meet the average of 3.81 acres per 1,000. If the City of Buckeye wanted to provide 7 acres per 1,000 to

Figure 2-5: Developed Park Acres Per 1,000 Population by Municipality in Maricopa County



rival Cities such as Apache Junction (9.96), Chandler (4.96) and Tempe (7.16) who provided an above-average number of acres, the City would need to provide an additional 327 acres of parks.

Average Park Acres Provided Per 1,000 Residents

14 Communities in Maricopa County Average:	**3.81**
Buckeye Today:	**1.34**
Buckeye in 2000:	**6.39**

It is interesting to note that in 2000, the Town of Buckeye had a service level of 6.39 acres per 1,000 by providing 42 acres for its 6,500 residents.

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), through the PRORAGIS program allows cities and towns to enter data and to benchmark and compare levels of service. According to NRPA's 2015 Field Report, the national average of park acres per 1,000 population is 9.9 acres, which has steadily decreased since 2010.[4]

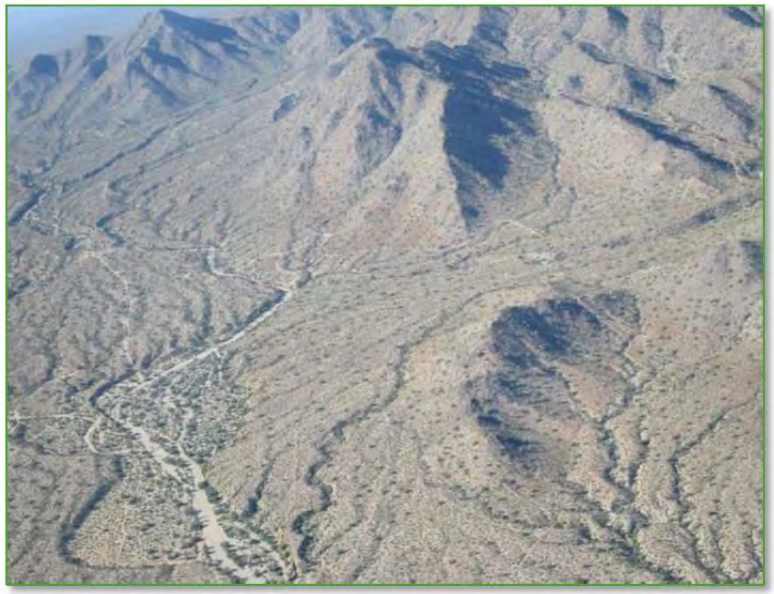
CONSERVATION PARK ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

The City of Buckeye also compared its level of service for conservation parks and mountain preserves. With the opening of Skyline Regional Park, the City of Buckeye will be providing 8,675 acres for its 57,000 residents or 153 acres of conservation parks per 1,000 residents. The City of Scottsdale comes close to Buckeye by providing 133 acres of conservation parks or 30,315 acres in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve for their 227,000 residents. The City of Phoenix has 41,075 acres in its mountain preserves, which include Camelback Mountain, South Mountain Park, North Mountain, Piestewa Peak/Dreamy Draw and the Sonoran Preserve in north Phoenix for its 1,513,000 residents. Many of the communities surveyed did not provide conservation park or mountain preserves for their residents and only had developed parks.

Conservation Parks/Mountain Preserves

Buckeye:	**8,675 acres**	**57,000 population**
Scottsdale:	**30,315 acres**	**227,000 population**
Phoenix:	**41,075 acres**	**1,513,000 population**

Image 2-14: Aerial Image of Where Improvements will be Constructed in Skyline Regional Park



[4] NRPA's 2015 Field Report. A Parks and Recreation National Database Analysis. National Recreation and Park Association. 2015.

Figure 2-6: Conservation Park Acres Per 1,000 Population by Municipality in Maricopa County

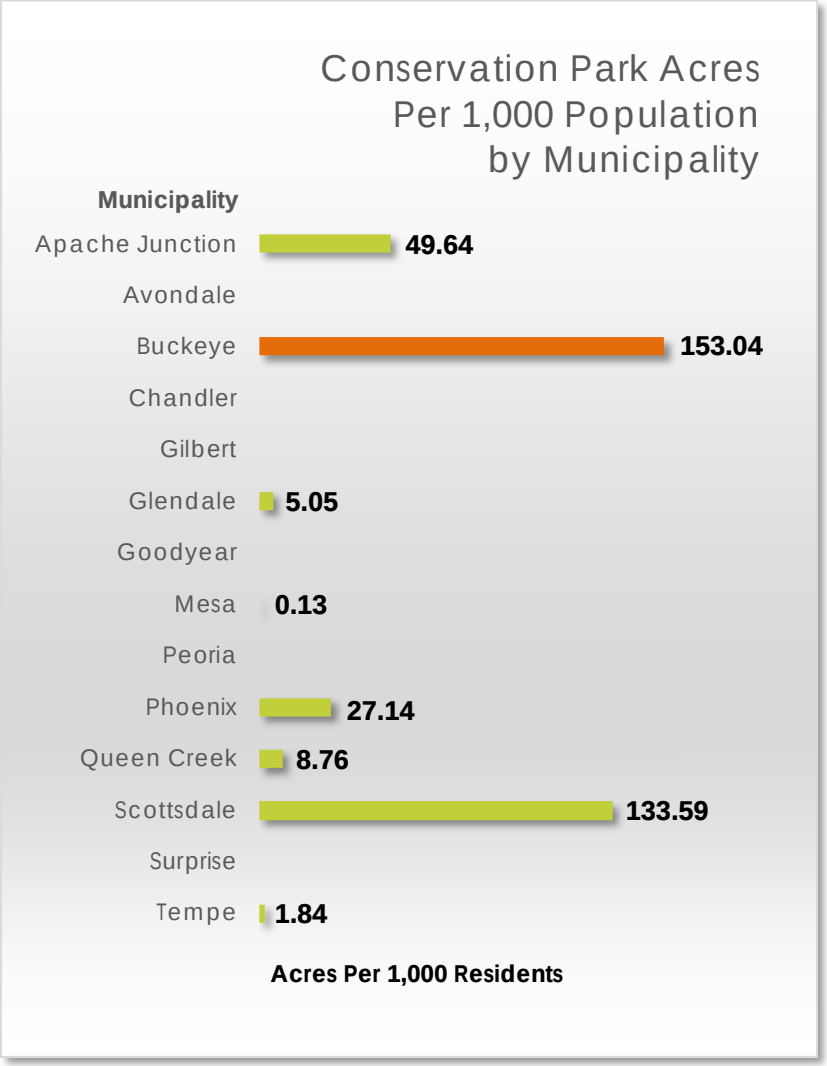


Image 2-15: Skyline Regional Park

Table 2-5: Developed & Conservation Park Acres by

	Apache Junction		Avondale		Buckeye		Chandler		Gilbert		Glendale		Goodyear		Mesa		Peoria		Phoenix		Queen Creek		Scottsdale		Surprise		Tempe	
Population 2013 U.S. Census	37,130		78,822		56,683		249,146		229,972		234,632		72,864		457,587		162,592		1,513,367		29,673		226,918		123,546		168,228	
City/Town Developed Park Acreage by Type	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**	**Acres**	**# of Parks**
Pocket (0-2 ac.)	6	3	2	2	4	5	7	9	8	7	6	7	4	3	127	102			18	27	1	1	2	3	3	4	5	5
Neighborhood (3-15 ac.)	14	3	34	6	16	3	306	36	60	18	305	51	89	12	449	70	291	32	581	77	13	1	155	20	26	4	235	36
Community (16-50 ac.)	74	3			50	2	278	11	147	4	154	4	113	4	522	27	140	2	1,605	56	74	2	340	12	46	2	148	6
Large Sports/Regional (51+ac.)	276	1	135	2			305	3	208	3	150	2			435	4	125	1	1,585	14			286	4	165	3	597	4
Special Use					5	1	339	6	182	2	140	4	6		133	8	8	2	450	14			192	3	8	1	220	2
DEVELOPED PARK ACREAGE TOTAL	**370**	**10**	**171**	**10**	**76**	**11**	**1,235**	**65**	**605**	**34**	**755**	**68**	**212**	**19**	**1,666**	**211**	**563**	**37**	**4,238**	**188**	**88**	**4**	**975**	**42**	**248**	**14**	**1,205**	**53**
City/Town Conservation, Preserve Acreage	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves	**Acres**	# of Preserves
Desert Park/Preserve Acres	1,843	2			8,675	1					1,185	1			59	2			41,075	18	260	2	30,315	2			310	2
DEVELOPED CONSERVATION PRESERVE ACREAGE TOTAL	**2,213**		**171**		**8,751**		**1,235**		**605**		**1,940**		**212**		**1,725**		**563**		**45,313**		**348**		**31,290**		**248**		**1,515**	

	Apache Junction	Avondale	Buckeye	Chandler	Gilbert	Glendale	Goodyear	Mesa	Peoria	Phoenix	Queen Creek	Scottsdale	Surprise	Tempe
Developed Park Acres / 1,000 Population	9.96	2.17	1.34	4.96	2.63	3.22	2.91	3.64	3.46	2.80	2.97	4.29	2.01	7.16
	Apache Junction	**Avondale**	**Buckeye**	**Chandler**	**Gilbert**	**Glendale**	**Goodyear**	**Mesa**	**Peoria**	**Phoenix**	**Queen Creek**	**Scottsdale**	**Surprise**	**Tempe**
Conservation Park Acres / 1,000 Population	49.64		153.04			5.05		0.13		27.14	8.76	133.59		1.84

PROVISION OF PARKS BY PARK CLASSIFICATION

Valley municipalities are providing parks to their residents through the different park classifications to meet the recreational needs of their residents. For the most part, cities and towns in the Phoenix metropolitan area are predominately providing their residents larger-sized community and regional parks with varied amenities in-lieu of smaller-sized pocket parks. Table 2-5 on the previous page lists the percentage of total acres by park classification. In comparison, the City of Buckeye provides an above-average percentage (10%) for smaller-sized pocket parks (0-2 acres) in comparison to other valley communities (2%), while it is on similar standing for the provision of neighborhood parks. The City of Buckeye provides an above-average percent of acres devoted to community parks but is severely lacking in the provision of large sports and regional parks. About 34% of park acres owned and maintained for the 13 cities surveyed in Maricopa County were for large sports complexes that were over 51 acres in size. At this time, the City of Buckeye does not provide any larger developed parks for its residents to use. In the future, when the City does develop additional parks, priority should be given to larger sports parks greater than 50 acres in size.

Table 2-6: Percent of Total Park Acres Provided by Surveyed Municipalities in Comparison to the City of Buckeye

Developed Park Acreage by Type for Municipalities Surveyed	% of Total for Surveyed Municipal Park Acres	% of Total City of Buckeye Park Acres
Pocket (0-2 ac.)	2%	10%
Neighborhood (3-15 ac.)	21%	19%
Community (16-50 ac.)	30%	71%
Large Sports Complexes	34%	
Special Use	14%	

SURVEY RESULTS

In the fall of 2014, the City of Buckeye issued a survey to residents asking if they feel the City of Buckeye has enough parks with varied amenities for them to use. Only 15% of residents felt there are adequate parks for them to use, which mirrored the responses with 12% stating there are not enough amenities in the parks. Over half of the respondents felt Buckeye did not have an adequate number of parks or amenities to serve residents.

Table 2-7: Responses to a Resident Survey for Parks and Recreation Services in Buckeye.

Question 5: Do You Feel Buckeye is a City with Enough Parks with Varied Amenities for You to Use?

	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Parks		
Enough Parks	192	15%
Not Enough Parks	662	52%
Neutral/Unsure	419	33%
Total Responses	*1,273*	*100%*
Amenities		
Enough Amenities in Parks	145	12%
Not Enough Amenities in Parks	697	56%
Neutral/Unsure	408	33%
Total Responses	*1,250*	*100%*

SUMMARY – CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE

The City of Buckeye is close to meeting the level of service standards adopted from the 2005 master plan of providing 7 acres of parks per 1,000 residents. However, the acreage provided is not consistent to the levels recommended by the different park classificatons for pocket, neighborhood, community and large municipal sports complexes.

There are a large number of pocket parks in Buckeye. While pocket parks are beneficial to families with young children, they come at the expense of larger parks with varied amenities that serve multiple age groups. With new housing development, the City requires the developer to construct the 7 acres of parks per 1,000 residents. In many instances, these developments are smaller subdivisions and not the larger master planned communities, and therefore do not necessitate the construction of a larger community park. Usually, the entire 7 acres of parks are built as pocket parks and not larger neighborhood or community parks. This plan should place emphasis to develop different types of parks in communities, including community, neighborhood and pocket parks.

Some areas of the City are underserved for the provision of community parks since they are located outside the 2.5 mile service delivery radius and therefore are underserved. In comparison to other communities in Maricopa County, the City of Buckeye provides residents less parks with 1.34 acres of parks in comparison to the valley average of 3.8 acres of parks per 1,000 population.

This is further echoed by the survey that was issued in 2014 with more than half of respondents believing the City needs additional parks with varied amenities. Only 15% of those surveyed felt Buckeye was adequately served with parks and only 12% believed the parks had enough amenities for their families to use.

2015-2025 DESIRED LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR PARKS

Where does Buckeye want to be for the provision of parks and recreation services to meet growing demand over the next 10 years? This section will provide a needs assessment based on level of service requirements for both City and private development for parks, recreation facilities, trails and open space. A desired level of service standard will be established for the City and will be extrapolated out to meet demand based on anticipated population growth.

Buckeye's population is expected to grow from 57,000 residents today to 97,300 by 2020 and to 175,600 by 2030 according to the Maricopa Association of Government.[5] For purposes of the master plan, a more conservative estimate of 75,000 people living in Buckeye by 2020 will be used. The City will need to ensure the adequate and equitable distribution of parks and recreation facilities to existing residents and ensure new residents have convenient access to quality parks.

[5] MAG Population Projections to 2030. Maricopa Association of Governments. Scott Wilken, Regional Planner III. Data based on 2013 Socioeconomic Projections. Received information on 1/16/2015.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Currently, the City of Buckeye provides 1.34 acres of parks per 1,000 residents or 76 acres per 57,000 residents. In comparison, other valley communities provide a higher level of service to their residents with the average in Maricopa County at 3.8 acres of parks per 1,000 residents.

To determine Buckeye's desired level of service standards, the City used information gleaned from the survey issued to the jurisdictions in Maricopa County on the number of park acres, facilities and amenities they oversee and developed an average from the 12 different communities. In addition, the City gathered information from the National Recreation & Parks Association.

Over the next ten years, Buckeye should increase its level of service standards from 1.34 acres per 1,000 to 4 acres per 1,000 residents to more closely align itself with other valley communities that have better established park systems. This will be accomplished through constructing larger community parks and facilities in areas that are underserved.

Based on Buckeye's existing population of 57,000 residents, there is a current need for an additional 152 acres of developed parks to be constructed to meet this service goal. Once the service goal of 4 acres of parks per 1,000 people is met, the City of Buckeye will be similar to communities like Gilbert, Glendale, Goodyear, Peoria, Phoenix and Queen Creek that have a diverse system of larger parks for their residents to use.

Table 2-8: Projected Population and Acreage to Meet Standards

Year Population		2015 57,000	2020 75,000	2030 175,600
Need for New Acres		**152 new acres**	**72 new acres**	**402 new acres**
Construction Cost	$200,000/acre	$ 30,400,000	$ 14,400,000	$ 80,400,000
Land Acquisition Cost	$80,000/acre	$ 12,160,000	$ 5,760,000	$ 32,160,000
TOTAL		**$ 42,560,000**	**$ 20,160,000**	**$ 112,560,000**
Ongoing O&M Costs		**12 new staff**	**6 new staff**	**31 new staff**
Staffing Needs	1 staff per 13 acres ($53,000 per staff)	$ 619,692	$ 293,538	$ 1,638,923
Annual O&M	$1,000 per acre	$ 152,000	$ 72,000	$ 402,000
TOTAL		**$ 771,692**	**$ 365,538**	**$ 2,040,923**

By 2020, an additional 72 new acres of parks will be needed, assuming the 152 acres to meet the needs of current residents were built. The 72 additional acres of community parks are anticipated to adequately serve the additional 18,000 expected to move into Buckeye by 2020 bringing Buckeye's population to 75,000 people.

Capital dollars are needed to construct additional parks in Buckeye. The City of Buckeye will need an additional $42 million dollars to build an additional 152 acres of parks using $200,000 construction cost per acre and $80,000 per acre for land acquisition costs.

With new parks come the need for general fund dollars to pay for additional staff to adequately maintain the facilities and ongoing operations and maintenance costs. The City of Buckeye Parks Division currently has one employee to maintain thirteen acres of parks. An additional 12 new full-time employees will be needed to maintain the 152 acres that will be added to the City's inventory to achieve the desired 4 acres of parks per 1,000 residents. The annual operations and maintenance costs are expected to be about $1,000 an acre, which is similar to costs for existing parks. Therefore, an additional $152,000 will need to be budgeted annually to cover costs for restroom and cleaning supplies, weed control, fertilizers for turf, gas for parks vehicles, etc.

The construction and land acquisition costs are assumed to be over $20 million with anticipated operations and maintenance costs, including staffing at $365,538 a year. The ongoing operations and maintenance costs do not include recreation staff, which will also be needed to provide necessary programming.

By 2030, the Maricopa Association of Government's anticipates Buckeye's population to reach 175,600. Based on 4 acres of City parks per 1,000, the City of Buckeye will need to provide an additional 402 acres of parks with 31 new maintenance staff.

PROJECTS TO MEET THE NEED

There are many projects that will help the City reach its desired service goals of an additional 224 acres of parks needed by 2020. These projects are detailed below.

SUNDANCE PARK PHASE II

Sundance Park Phase II, located at Lower Buckeye and Rainbow Road will develop an additional 35 acres west of Phase I that opened in October 2012. Amenities to be constructed in Phase II will be determined by public input and could include a splash pad, playground, basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball fields, multi-use sports fields, ramadas, walking path, restroom, and parking. Estimated costs for design and construction per acre are $183,000 per acre.

CENTRAL EAST PARK

The City will acquire lands and construct a new 30 acre park in the central east zone that will have similar facilities to those constructed in Phase I of Sundance Park, including a large playground, ballfields, multi-use sports fields, dog park, restroom, walking path and may include other amenities such as a splash pad, basketball courts, tennis courts, and volleyball courts. Estimated costs for acquisition, design and construction for the 30-acre park is $257,000 per acre.

40-ACRE PARCEL – MILLER RD. AT THE GILA RIVER

The City of Buckeye owns 40 acres located south of downtown, west of Miller and south of the Buckeye Equestrian Center, adjacent to the Gila River. This parcel provides ample opportunities for passive recreation amenities, including trailhead and trails along the river.

In 2015, the City of Buckeye prepared a conceptual design for a pilot project which will further implement the vision in the El Rio Watercourse Master Plan. The plan calls for parking, equestrian facilities, a 5-acre wetland pond, interpretive areas, restroom, picnic areas and walking paths. The property is located within the Gila River floodway, therefore additional parameters for design, construction and permitting will be required.

Additionally, the City Lake project is another high priority project that has been detailed in two feasibility studies. The project is envisioned to be located east of Buckeye's 40-acre parcel, south of the City's waste water treatment plant.

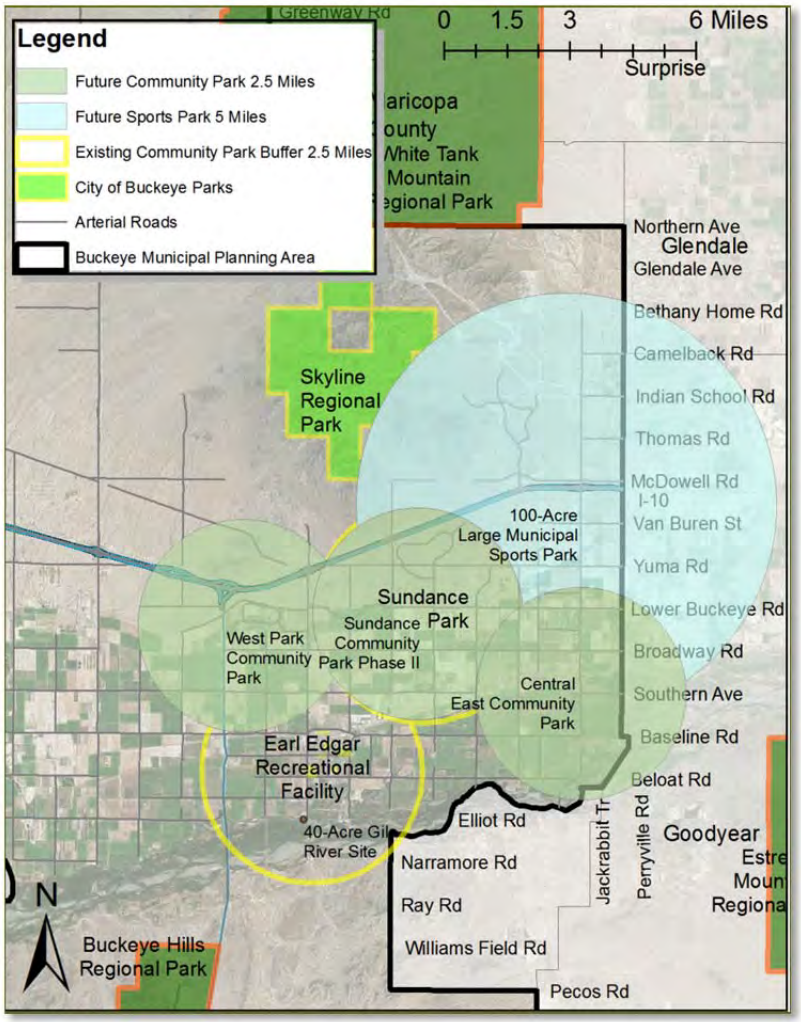
WEST PARK COMMUNITY PARK

The City of Buckeye, through development agreements, will be developing a 25-acre park in the West Park community, west of Miller Road.

Table 2-9: Proposed Community and Municipal Sports Parks

Parks & Facilities	Acres
Sundance Community Park Phase II	35
Central East Community Park	30
40-Acre Gila River Site	40
West Park Community Park	25
100-Acre Large Municipal Sports Park	100
Parks TOTAL	***230***

Figure 2-7: Service Areas for Future Parks. Community Parks generally serve a radius of 2.5 miles while large municipal sports parks serve a 5 mile radius.



100-ACRE LARGE SPORTS PARK

Other valley communities are providing larger parks for their residents to use. The City, to reflect this model, should consider constructing a 100-acre large sports park.

FACILITY DEFICIENCIES

Over the next ten years, the City of Buckeye will need to provide additional amenities in its parks to satisfy demand. The section below highlights the key areas where Buckeye is lagging in comparison to other communities.

BASKETBALL COURTS

Other valley communities provide an average of one basketball court per 10,000 residents. The City of Buckeye, however, falls short by only providing one basketball court per 11,500. The City has a total of two basketball courts with one and a half courts at Earl Edgar Recreational Facility and a half court at Kell Park adjacent to the downtown library.

Image 2-16: Basketball Court at the Earl Edgar Recreational Facility.

There are an additional three courts at the 6th Street Plaza, which are available for use during off-school hours. The City has an intergovernmental agreement with the Buckeye Elementary School District to use the basketball courts during off-school hours. When developing additional parks, the city should place emphasis on providing additional basketball courts.

SOCCER / FOOTBALL FIELDS

The City should look to construct additional soccer and football multi-use fields. Other communities provide about one field per 13,000 residents, whereas the City provides one field per 19,000 residents. There are two rectangular multi-use sports fields at Earl Edgar Recreational Facility and one field at Sundance Park.

Image 2-17: Multi-Use Sports Fields at the Earl Edgar Recreational Facility

SPORTS COURTS

Another deficiency is the provision of sports courts for racquetball, sand volleyball, pickleball, and tennis courts. Communities surveyed in Maricopa County provided an average of one sports court per 8,000 residents. Buckeye provides about one court per 14,000 residents. Sundance Park has four volleyball courts that contribute to this level of service; however the City does not have any racquetball or tennis courts in its inventory. When building new parks, the City will consider their construction if preferred by community residents.

SWIMMING POOLS

The aquatic center at Town Park experiences a high volume of visitors over the summer months. It is the only public swimming pool available to residents living in Buckeye. The average pool per 1,000 residents in Maricopa County is one per 46,000 residents. The City of Buckeye has one pool for its 57,000 residents. Emphasis should be placed on constructing another swimming pool over the next five years to adequately address resident's needs.

MULTI-GENERATIONAL CENTER

Both the Dr. Saide Recreation Center and Buckeye Community Center are located in downtown Buckeye with the majority of patrons using those facilities living nearby. There is a need for a multi-generational center to be located closer to the new neighborhoods that have been constructed over the past fifteen years to better provide those residents with recreation programs.

The multi-generational center may feature a gymnasium, commercial grade kitchen, meeting rooms, fitness room, multi-purpose room, a computer/technology lab, and classrooms to conduct special interest classes such as dance and art instruction. Location to be determined.

Image 2-18: Buckeye Aquatic Center

Table 2-10: Desired Level of Service for Park Acres and Amenities

Amenity	City of Buckeye Existing Level of Service	Valley-Wide Average Level of Service	National Recreation and Parks Association PRORAGIS Database	City of Buckeye Desired Level of Service	Current Number Provided	Existing Need in 2015 for 57,000 Population	Need in 2020 with 75,000 Population	Need in 2030 with 175,600 Population	Total Number of Facilities in 2030
Baseball / Softball Fields	1 per 7,000 residents	1 per 8,000 residents	1 per 4,000 residents	1 per 5,000 residents	8	3	4	27	**42**
Soccer / Football	1 per 19,000 residents	1 per 13,000 residents	1 per 4,200 residents	1 per 7,000 residents	3	5	3	14	**25**
Basketball Courts	1 per 11,400 residents	1 per 10,000 residents	1 per 6,600 residents	1 per 10,000 residents	5	1	2	10	**18**
Sports Courts (Volleyball, Raquetball, Tennis)	1 per 14,000 residents	1 per 8,300 residents	Tennis: 1 per 4,300 residents Indoor: 1 per 23,000	1 per 10,000 residents	4	2	2	10	**18**
Playgrounds	1 per 11,300 residents	1 per 8,000 residents	1 per 4,000 residents	1 per 8,000 residents	5	2	2	13	**22**
Ramadas	1 per 6,300 residents	1 per 4,000 residents		1 per 4,000 residents	9	5	5	25	**44**
Swimming Pools	1 per 57,000 residents	1 per 46,000 residents	1 per 30,400 residents Indoor: 1 per 61,300	1 per 46,000 residents	1	1	0	2	**4**
Rec / Community / Multi-Gen Centers	1 per 28,300 residents	1 per 50,500 residents	1 per 25,000 residents	1 per 30,000 residents	2	1	0	3	**6**
Dog Park	1 per 57,000 residents	1 per 91,000 residents	1 per 51,000 residents	1 per 25,000 residents	1	1	1	4	**7**
Park Acres	1.34 acres per 1,000 pop	3.8 acres per 1,000 pop	9 acres per 1,000 pop	4 acres per 1,000 residents	**76**	**152**	**72**	**402**	**702**

NEW TRENDS IN PARKS & FACILITIES

The City is seeing new trends in the provision of park facilities and amenities, which is summarized below.

ONE-STOP SHOP FACILITY

These multi-generational facilities can meet the resident's needs for a variety of activities. The one-stop shop facility features programming spaces, classrooms, gymnasiums, sports courts, multi-purpose rooms, fitness centers, swimming pools, libraries, etc. These centers are multi-generational with space available for all age groups. The Centers are usually located adjacent to a park so activities can spill outdoors.

DOG PARKS

Nearly 40% of American households now own at least one dog and there are more households with dogs (43 million) than children (38 million)[6]. Between 2005 to 2010, America's 100 largest cities saw a 34% increase in the number of dog parks according to a 2011 article in USA Today.[7] People are spending more and more money on their pets with the market expanding at a steady rate of 4-6% a year since the American Pet Products Association started keeping records in 1996. Dog parks were widely requested by the Sundance community during the public meetings held as part of the design of Sundance Park. The Verrado community recently opened a dog park near the Verrado Coffee Company after numerous requests from residents. The demand for dog parks will continue to grow for families whose pets have become an integral part of their families.

Image 2-19: The Sundance Park Dog Park Opened in 2012

SPLASH PADS

Splash pads were the #1 desired amenity to be constructed in a new park by Buckeye residents as revealed in the 2014 survey. Splash pads were favored over playgrounds, swimming pools and sports fields. The City will emphasize the construction of splash pads when building new parks.

[6] Census Reveals Plummeting U.S. Birthrates. Haya El Nasser and Paul Overberg. USA Today. Published June 24, 2011. http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/census/2011-06-03-fewer-children-census-suburbs_n.htm

[7] Fastest-Growing Urban Parks are For the Dogs. Haya El Nasser. USA Today. Published December 8, 2011. http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2011-12-07/dog-parks/51715340/1

OPEN COMMUNITY LABS AND WORKSPACES

These community workspaces are places where people with common interests can come together to socialize and collaborate on projects. Also known as Hackerspaces, Makerspaces, or Community Sheds, these places are similar to workshops, machine shops or studios that allow people to learn from their peers and share resources and knowledge to build and make things. Some examples of Community Labs include spaces for wood working, machining, technology, digital art, or other crafts, such as sewing. Well-equipped labs may have machine tools, equipment and raw materials for people to use.

EXTREME, ADVENTURE PARKS & PROGRAMS

Extreme, adventure parks and programs are gaining traction for those seeking a thrill. These include BMX courses, skate parks, paintball arenas, obstacle courses, artificial climbing walls, ziplines, and trampoline play centers. Oftentimes these facilities are provided by the private sector; however cities and towns have the opportunity to offer the facilities themselves or contract with a concessionaire as a potential revenue stream. Recently, the City of Buckeye has been approached by organizations on the development of these types of facilities on parcels owned or leased by the City. For example, a BMX group was interested in using the Helzapoppin Rodeo Grounds for racing events and a private business was interested in partnering with the City to develop an extreme adventure park on vacant land owned by the City south of downtown adjacent to the Waste Water Treatment facility off of 4th Street. The City will conduct feasibility studies when these partnerships present themselves to determine if it is in the City's best interest.

In addition, rock crawling and other off-highway vehicle activities are popular in Buckeye; however there are limited locations where they can operate, especially because of dust control laws and the PM-10 Non-Attainment area incorporating much of the Buckeye municipal planning area. Over the next few years, the City should work cooperatively with the off-highway vehicle community to find suitable locations for these types of recreation opportunities.

URBAN FISHING LAKES & PROGRAMS

Urban fishing programs are becoming more popular in Arizona. The Arizona Game and Fish Department partners with local municipalities to stock fish in urban lakes. The program has grown over the past 30 years and is now established in 35 different fishing locations in 15 communities across the State.

Image 2-20: 5-Acre Urban Fishing Lake in Pioneer Community Park in Peoria, AZ

The City of Avondale recently approved an agreement with Arizona Game and Fish Department to begin the urban fishing program in their 1-acre lake at Friendship Park. The City of Buckeye has opportunities to partner with Arizona Game and Fish on an urban fishing program as it develops the City Lake project.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARKS IN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Buckeye has seen rapid growth in the past fifteen years with the construction of large master planned communities located near I-10 with Verrado, Sundance and West Park and off the Sun Valley Parkway with Tartesso and Sun City Festival. Smaller subdivisions have been constructed off of major arterials. As new development occurs, the City of Buckeye requires land to be set aside as open space and parks to benefit the new residents. The City of Buckeye also recognizes that new development should pay for itself so existing residents are not required to support services demanded by new residents.

EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

An inventory of parks in Buckeye revealed the following trends:

1) Developers are placing the majority of their parks into smaller pocket parks located in and adjacent to retention basins.

2) Oftentimes parks were located in undesirable locations with playground equipment located next to a retention basin that fronted onto an arterial street. Parks should be located towards the interior of the development and away from busy streets, especially for pocket parks.

3) Many of the developments have limited amenities that appeal to all age groups. In the majority of parks, there was only a small tot lot with an adjacent ramada. Older children, teens and adults have limited recreation opportunities in these communities.

4) In some of the communities, pocket parks are located very close together and you may find two pocket parks located as close as a few blocks away with identical amenities. Emphasis should be placed to provide a variety of amenities in parks. Also, if warranted by the size of the community, the developer should build different types of parks, including larger-sized neighborhood parks that may have other amenities typically not found in a pocket park.

5) There is a need to provide a pedestrian circulation system in communities that connect the parks and retention basins. Often times, the retention basins are disjointed without connections in between.

6) Not only is there a lack of connections between parks and retention basins inside a development, there are often limited connections between neighboring developments.

7) Some communities waited to build larger size parks until they reached a certain threshold for the number of homes constructed. The downturn in the economy halted construction in many of these communities. Residents who were expecting a park to be built within 5 years have waited 10+ years since they were not built at the outset.

These trends were found in many of Buckeye's residential developments, but are not indicative of every community. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will provide guidelines to address these issues so the trends do not continue to occur in the future.

It is important for open space and natural areas to be considered and protected during the development of new residential areas in the City. As a component of open space, functional park space should also be provided to meet the recreational needs of a community's residents.

OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Open space has many benefits to a community. It preserves natural resources and scenic views, provides greater resident access to open space and passive recreation opportunities, enhances public health, sets aside important space for wildlife, assists in regulating temperatures from the heat island effect, protects land from flooding, increases property values and enhances the quality of new development. Because of its many values, the City requires a certain percent of land to be set aside as open space in a development.

The areas in a development that shall be preserved and counted as open space include both natural and non-natural features:

Natural Features

- Washes and natural drainage ways
- Floodways and Floodplains
- Water features, including rivers, wetlands, lakes, and ponds
- Designated wildlife habitat areas and corridors
- Areas with mature, healthy native vegetation
- Hillside and mountainous areas
- Rock outcrops

Non-Natural Features

- Utility corridors
- Canals
- Stormwater management devices such as flood control channels, flood retarding structures and retention and detention basins
- Landscape areas used for decorative purposes adjacent to the right of way
- Parks also contribute to a development's open space requirements

PARK SPACE REQUIREMENTS

As a component of open space in the community, it is important to provide functional parks to benefit residents with both active and passive recreation opportunities.

The areas in a development that shall be counted as park space include the following:

- Active recreation areas: land occupied by active park amenities, such as playgrounds, basketball courts, picnic ramadas, multi-use fields, etc.;
- Passive recreation areas: land occupied for passive recreational uses, such as walking, biking, picnicking and fishing;
- Turf-lined areas only when adjacent to active park amenities, otherwise it shall count towards the open space requirements;

- Tracts that are improved with trails, lighting and seating nodes that connect a community's parks and open space tracts and;
- School playgrounds and multi-use fields if open to the public during non-school hours.

Table 2-11 Percent of Gross Site Acreage to be Set Aside for Open Space and Park Space lists the City of Buckeye's zoning districts with the percent of gross site acreage that shall be set aside as open space and park space. For developments containing multiple lot sizes, the City shall require the developer to set aside the percent of open space associated with the zoning predominately used in the subdivision or master planned community.

Smaller lot sizes for residential development will be required to provide a higher percentage of land set aside as open space and parks than in developments with larger lots. Typical lot sizes in master planned communities and subdivisions in Buckeye range from 5,200 to 8,000 square feet. Developments where the average lot size is between 3,000-6,000 square feet will be required to set aside 25% of the gross site acreage as open space (which includes parks) and 8% of gross site acreage as parks. Developments with the majority of lots sized larger than 6,000 square feet but under 10,000 square feet shall set aside 20% of the gross site acreage for open space and 5% for park space.

Properties zoned for mixed use, office and commercial and industrial will set aside land for open space; however there are no minimum standards for parkland set asides. The City of Buckeye encourages these types of developments to provide amenities for patrons, customers and employees, which may include plazas, and forecourts. These areas provide opportunities for small groups to interact socially and may contain shaded seating areas with a mixture of seating types, seat walls, landscaping, trash cans, bicycle parking, drinking fountains, kiosks, signage and artwork.

Image 2-21: Shaded Pedestrian Area at an Intersection in Avondale, AZ

Table 2-11: Percent of Gross Site Acreage to be Set Aside for Open Space and Park Space

Zoning Districts	Lot Size by Square Feet	Open Space Gross Acreage	Park Space Gross Acreage
Multifamily - 1		30%	15%
Multifamily - 2		10%	5%
Single Family - 1	1,000 - 2,999	30%	15%
Single Family - 3	3,000 - 5,999	25%	8%
Single Family - 6	6,000 - 9,999	20%	5%
Single Family - 10	10,000 - 17,999	15%	5%
Single Family - 18	18,000 -42,999	10%	5%
Single Family - 43	43,000 & larger	5%	No minimum
Mixed Use		10%	No minimum
Office & Commercial		10%	No minimum
Industrial		5%	No minimum

MINIMUM SIZE OF LARGEST PARK

It is important to provide parks commensurate with the number of residents living in a community to ensure recreation needs are adequately met. Larger-sized developments that only have small pocket parks without a mixture of amenities will not meet their resident's needs. To ensure future developments provide a mixture of park types with a myriad of amenities that appeal to all age groups, the following standards have been developed to establish the minimum size of the largest park. These requirements will apply to single-family zoning developments where the zoning is predominately Single Family 1-6. There shall be no requirements for the minimum size of the largest park for Single Family-10, 18 or 43. Developments with more than 500 units but less than 1,000 units will be required to provide a minimum 4-acre neighborhood park. Housing communities between 1,000-1,499 units shall provide an 8-acre neighborhood park. Communities with over 2,000 but under 2,999 housing units must provide a 15-acre neighborhood park. The largest park in the community should be centrally located to provide convenient access to all residents.

Below are five examples of developments in Buckeye and how the new standards for the minimum size of the largest park would apply. The total number of housing units approved, what the community currently provides and what they would be required to provide under the new standards is listed.

Blue Horizons: 1,965 units approved

- Currently providing 14-acre park
- Would be required to provide a minimum 12-acre park

Sundance (all parcels): 5,475 units approved

- Currently providing 24 pocket parks, totaling 41 acres. Average size of pocket parks: 1.7 acres
- Would be required to provide a minimum 35-acre park

Tartesso Phase I: **3,375 units approved**

- Currently providing 26-acre park
- Would be required to provide a minimum 20-acre park

West Park Phase I: **1,086 units approved**

- Currently providing 6 pocket parks totaling 9.5 acres
- Average size of pocket parks: 1.6 acres
- Would be required to provide a minimum 8-acre park

Windmill Village: **513 units**

- Currently providing 1 pocket park totaling 2 acres
- Would be required to provide a minimum 4-acre park

Table 2-12: Minimum Size of the Largest Park to be Developed Based on Number of Housing Units

Number of Housing Units	Minimum Size of Largest Park in Acres
500-999	4
1,000-1,499	8
1,500-1,999	12
2,000-2,999	15-20
3,000-4,999	20-35
5,000-6,999	35-50
7,000-8,999	50-65
9,000-10,999	65-80

Remaining acres of parks not included in the largest park to be developed can be used for pocket and neighborhood parks. For example, if a development was 150 acres in size with 3.5 dwelling units per acre and 525 housing units, the developer would be required to construct 7 acres of parks. Of the 7 acres of parks, 4 must be built for a neighborhood park (based on the minimum size requirements) with the remaining 3 acres developed as pocket parks.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF AMENITIES IN PARKS

One of the findings of the park inventory was a lack of amenities to satisfy the needs of all age groups and a minimal amount of amenities constructed in parks. Other cities and towns in Maricopa County have experienced similar trends and established standards with requirements on the amenities to be built in parks. For example, the City of Surprise requires developers to construct one tot lot per 500 homes with the tot lot consisting of a covered playground, 1 swing set, 3 benches, 1 drinking fountain and 2 ramadas. A multi-use sports field is required for 700 homes and a sports court (basketball court, tennis court, or volleyball court) is required for every 300 homes. The City of Apache Junction also has requirements for park amenities to be built in a housing development and requires .20 play stations per housing unit. For example, if a development included 500 units, the developer would be required to construct 100 play stations. Each park amenity has an associated value, such as a tennis court=20, full-basketball court=16, sand volleyball court=7, ramada=1, park bench=1, etc.

CITY OF BUCKEYE AMENITY REQUIREMENTS

For each 250 units in a residential development, the developer shall provide a minimum of two amenities from the menu of options listed below. These amenities may be located in community, neighborhood and pocket parks. Larger-size

community parks must include more amenities than found in neighborhood parks and neighborhood parks must have more amenities than pocket parks. Developers shall provide amenities that appeal to various age groups living in the community. All amenities shall be lit and contain drinking fountains. The parks and open space tracts shall be connected via lit paths and trails.

MENU OF OPTIONS FOR PARK AMENITIES

Minimum of 2 amenities per 250 Housing Units

- Covered Playground with swing sets with components for various ages (2 to 5 and 5 to 12 years old)
  - Playgrounds for 2-5 year olds shall have 8-10 play units with a slide and swings as defined by the playground manufacturer.
  - Playgrounds for 5-12 year olds shall have a minimum of 12-15 play units and shall include swings as defined by the playground manufacturer.
  - 1 slide = 1 play unit, 1 swing=1 play unit, etc.
- Splash Pad
- Picnic Facilities – 2 separate ramadas (minimum of 12' by 12' roof cover) with 1 picnic table and 1 barbeque grill per ramada
- Group Picnic Pavilion (1 large pavilion minimum of 900 square feet with a minimum of 5 picnic tables under canopy and 2 barbeque grills provided)
- Full Basketball Court
- Pickleball Court
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Tennis Court
- Dog Park with pet drinking fountain with areas for both large and small dogs. The combined large and small dog areas shall be a minimum of ¾ of an acre.
- Structural Seating Node such as a gazebo or shaded pergola with benches
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment or exercise stations (Minimum of 4 Units)
- Pond or water feature that employs water conservation measures
- Baseball/Softball Field with fencing & backstop
- Multi-Use Rectangular Field with built-in combination of football and soccer goal posts
- Skate or Bike Park
- Amphitheatre with contoured seating slopes
- Swimming Pool
- Recreation / Community Center
- Other amenities not listed above may be selected and reviewed by City staff on a case by case basis.

Larger developments shall provide a mixture of amenities that appeal to all age groups.

CONSTRUCTION OF PARKS IN A DEVELOPMENT

The inventory of parks revealed that some of the larger parks residents were expecting when they moved into their home have not been built. In certain agreements with the City of Buckeye, the developer was required to build larger sized parks once a certain threshold was met for the number of homes constructed. For example, one community promised to build a 25-acre park upon the construction of the 2,600th home. This didn't appear to be an issue during the boom when 4,500 single-family permits were issued in a single year by

the City, but then the recession hit in 2009. Residents who purchased their house in 2005 expecting to have a park built within 3-5 years have now waited 10+ years for the park to be built and likely will continue waiting until the housing market picks up speed. Developers should invest in residents moving into their community by building significant parks and amenities at the outset.

For developments larger than 1,000 housing units, the developer must construct a minimum of an 8 acre park with the construction of the first five homes. The 8-acre park does not necessarily have to be the largest park to be built in the community. For example, for a 3,000 housing unit development, the developer may elect to build the 8-acre neighborhood park near the entry to the community to serve as a marketing tool to draw residents in since they will see the park as a desirable amenity. As the community grows and additional homes are added, the developer will eventually build the required larger 20-acre community park near the center of the community.

CONVEYANCE OF PARKS TO THE CITY

The City of Buckeye will work with developers on individual projects if the City believes the park is of such a size with amenities that it would be beneficial to both parties for the City of Buckeye to take on the ownership, maintenance and operation of the park.

Any developer offering a preliminary plat that would require a park of 15-acres in size or larger shall be reviewed by the City, and at both the City's and developer's discretion may be dedicated to the City. The amount of land dedicated by the developer to the City shall be credited against the open space and park space requirements. If applicable, the developer may be eligible for a credit for the dedication against all or a portion of the development impact fee. Buckeye staff will work closely with the developer on the amenities to be constructed in the park as well as the design if the park will be conveyed to the City.

SUMMARY LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC CITY PARKS & PRIVATE HOA PARKS

The City of Buckeye's desired level of service for parks will be 4 acres of parks per 1,000 residents. The majority of the City's parks shall be provided through larger community parks and municipal sports parks.

Private HOA Parks will be provided through required set asides for residential developments. Typical medium density residential development will be required to provide 5% of gross acreage for parks, which roughly equates to 4 acres of parks per 1,000. The majority of HOA parks will be pocket and neighborhood parks; however larger developments in excess of 2,000 housing units will be required to provide larger community parks.

Combining City of Buckeye level of service standards and requirements for residential developments, the City of Buckeye will provide approximately 8 acres of parks per 1,000 residents. The 8 acres of parks per 1,000 residents is closely in-line with the average number of acres of parkland per 1,000 population as reported through the National Recreation and Parks Association's PRORAGIS program, which is 8.3 acres of parks per 1,000 residents.

Table 2-13: 2015 Level of Service Standards for Parks in Buckeye

Park Type	Size	Service Area Radius	Provider	Level of Service	
				City	Residential Development
Pocket	0-3 acres	1/4 mile	Residential Development		5% of gross acreage in a development
Neighborhood	4-15 acres	½ mile	Residential Development (in excess of 500 units)		
Community	16-75 acres	2.5 miles	Residential Development (in excess of 2,000 units) May be conveyed to the City City of Buckeye	1.5 acres per 1,000	
Large Municipal Sports	76+ acres	3+ miles	Residential Development (in excess of 10,999 units) May be conveyed to the City City of Buckeye	2.5 acres per 1,000	
Regional / Conservation Parks / Mountain Preserves		1/2 hr. drive	City of Buckeye Maricopa County		
			TOTAL	**Minimum of 8 acres of parks per 1,000 between City & Residential Development**	

PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

PARK SITING

1. When building parks, it is important to select sites that have minimal constraints. Parcels undesirable for development often are not suitable for a park.

2. Pocket and neighborhood parks should not be located adjacent to arterial streets but may be located along collector streets or streets with lower traffic volumes.

3. Parks should be fully visible from the surrounding neighborhoods and not tucked into corner lots or on sites where the park is bordered by rear lots.

4. Parks shall be located to create focal points in the community and highlight scenic views.

5. The front of residential lots should face onto parks through single-loaded streets. Developers shall refrain from placing lots where rear yards abut the parks.

6. Parks shall be designed so approximately half of the perimeter is abutting street right of way in conformance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).

7. Parks should be sited adjacent to open space tracts, such as washes, rivers, and mountains.

8. Where possible, parks should be located adjacent to schools and other city facilities, such as police and fire stations.

9. View fencing shall be used on lots adjacent to parks and open space to improve security.

10. Perimeter landscape areas used for decorative purposes adjacent to arterial streets may not be counted towards the park space requirement. Parks should be sited centrally within a development to enhance their multi-use potential.

11. All homes within a development should be within ¼ mile radius of a pocket park and a ½ mile from a neighborhood park.

Image 2-22: Homes Should Front Onto Parks Through Single-Loaded Streets

LANDSCAPE MATERIALS

1. The use of low-water shade trees are encouraged in parks, especially around walking paths and gathering nodes to provide a cooling effect. Care should be taken to select the right tree for the right place based on the species' growth rate, shape and form, maturity size, maintenance needs, litter produced, etc.

2. Consideration should be given to select trees that can provide shelter, nesting, and food to benefit local wildlife. Trees should be located away from light poles to ensure the tree canopy does not block lighting.

3. Landscape materials should not block sight lines into and out of the park from adjacent roads and properties. Landscape materials should be selected so that bushes and shrubs do not grow higher than 2 feet and trees should have a vertical clearance of 7 feet to maintain clear visibility into parks.

4. If a tree or plant is removed or dies in the park, it should be replaced by a similar species.

5. All trees, regardless of species, should be planted with root barriers adjacent to any walkway or hardscape to ensure that no upheaval (tripping hazard) occurs during the life of the tree.

PARK MATERIALS

1. Park amenities shall be designed to last a minimum of 25 years. Care should be taken to ensure park materials are durable, easy to maintain and vandal and graffiti resistant.

2. Material standards and theming should be replicated throughout each park with consistent color schemes, materials, finishes, and design elements for masonry walls, buildings, ramadas, roofing, lighting, trash enclosures, etc.

3. The City should encourage the use of local, recycled and eco-friendly materials in the construction of parks.

4. Where feasible, the use of recycled water should be used for turf and plant irrigation.

PARK LIGHTING

1. Park amenities, such as basketball courts, playgrounds, splash pads, etc. and paths must be lighted.

2. Security lighting shall be provided throughout the park, especially on and near buildings.

3. Consideration should be taken to ensure lighting, especially sports field lighting is directed away from adjacent neighborhoods and are shielded from the night sky. Bollard lighting should be directed down as well to ensure lighting does not spill onto adjacent properties. All lighting shall be dark sky compliant.

PARK AMENITIES

1. Park name signage shall be provided in neighborhood parks and larger and shall be visible from the street and/or the park entryway.

2. Restrooms shall be built in community parks and larger. The building shall be visible and close to the street for surveillance.

3. Restrooms must provide safe use with entry doors that are not lockable from the inside.

4. Parks should have a chilled drinking fountain located near athletic fields and courts and near restrooms. Fountains should be vandal-resistant.

5. Shaded seating areas shall be provided in parks.

6. Significant shade shall be provided in parks through trees.

RAMADAS

1. Barbecue grills shall be located a minimum of 5 feet away from the roof of a ramada. Grills should be placed over decomposed granite or similar surface instead of concrete for maintenance ease and be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant.

Image 2-23: Park Ramada

2. Appropriate receptacles for the disposal of spent barbeque briquettes should also be provided.

3. Ramadas shall be no smaller than 12' by 12'.

4. For each ramada, provide one picnic table and a side by side trash can and recycling container.

PARKING & ROADS

1. Parking shall be sufficient so it does not spill into adjacent neighborhoods and should be provided in neighborhood parks and larger. All parking shall be located off-street.

2. The following cumulative parking standards should be used:

Multi-Use Sports Fields:	Minimum of 30 spaces per field, however 60 spaces per field is recommended.
Basketball, Volleyball Courts:	9 spaces per full-court, 6 spaces per half-court
Tennis, Racquetball courts:	3 spaces per court
Swimming Pools:	1 space per 60 square feet of deck area. -or-1 space per 3 persons permitted capacity
Recreation, Multi-Use Center:	1 space per 150 square feet
Active-Use Park Acres:	5-7 spaces per acre of active use

3. Where appropriate, parking lots shall have trees to provide shade.

4. Interior park roads should be designed to minimize speed through curvilinear roads, speed humps, speed tables, bump outs, etc. Pedestrian and bicycle routes should be demarcated and, where feasible, separated from roads.

SPORTS FIELDS

1. Sports fields should be designed to accommodate multiple types of activities and not designed for singular use. Triangular ball fields should also accommodate sufficient rectangular areas for soccer, football, and other sports.

2. The sun should be considered when developing parks. Sports fields should not be oriented with player's sight impaired by the sun's glare. The preferred field orientation for ballfields has the back of the home plate facing due north to northeast, and the first baseline running west. Some sites may require variations based on site constraints and other design considerations. Rectangular multi-use fields shall be oriented north to south.

3. Sports turf is recommended.

PLAYGROUNDS

1. Playgrounds must be contained within a concrete header with a minimum width of 6" and depth of 12".

2. Playgrounds shall be covered to provide shade.

3. Playgrounds must meet current ADA standards.

4. Shaded seating shall be provided near playgrounds for parents and guardians.

5. Avoid metal for play equipment and benches.

6. Care should be taken to locate playgrounds away from high-volume streets and parking lots to avoid conflicts with moving vehicles, but should also be visible from the street for surveillance.

7. Separate play areas should be provided for 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds.

Image 2-24: Playground in Sienna Hills

PATHWAYS, TRAILS

1. Pathways and trails should be lighted with landscaping provided.
2. Trash cans with pet waste stations shall be provided intermittently along pathways.
3. Parks, open space and green belts should be linked through a system of pathways within the community with connections to adjacent communities, pathways and sidewalks located along streets, canals, powerline corridors, washes, etc.
4. Provide access nodes every quarter mile and at a minimum every half mile along boundaries of paths and trails; however 500' distance between access nodes is recommended to maximize the functionality of the system.
5. Resting stations with seating nodes should be advantageously located along pathways.
6. Paths and landscaping located between lots must be a minimum of 30 feet wide to avoid narrow passageways through a development.
7. Pedestrian paths that cross a street should be done at intersections and not at mid-block. Bollards should be used at such crossings to prevent motorized vehicles from accessing the path.
8. Provide adequate access for the maintenance of pathways and trails.

GOLF COURSES

In active adult communities, only 50% of a golf course will count towards a development's requirement for usable park space if the golf course is open to the public at no cost or fee for entrance or if the entrance charge is paid as part of the overall homeowner association fee by residents in the community. For all other types of single-family and multi-family development, 0% of the land area devoted to the golf course will be counted towards the development's requirement for park space to allow for the provision of other recreational amenities. A golf cart path plan should be provided.

USING RETENTION AREAS AS PARKS

Developers should follow the guidelines below when using retention areas as part of their provision of park space.

1. Side slopes shall be no greater than 4 to 1; however a variation of other side slopes - 6 to 1, 8 to 1, 10 to 1, and 12 to 1 are encouraged and should be used. Side slopes should be curvilinear with natural undulation. Retention designed large enough to accommodate sporting activities may avoid undulating side slopes if the slopes will serve as spectator seating.
2. Retention basins must be turf-lined to count towards the development's park space.
3. Retention dry wells located in turf areas must be placed outside the recreation areas, especially when used as a multi-use sports field to the maximum extent possible.
4. Amenities that are high and dry must be provided adjacent to the retention area. Amenities such as basketball and volleyball courts, ramadas, playgrounds, and splash pads should be high and dry, outside of the bottom of the basin and above the 10-year floodplain.
5. Amenities suitable to be located inside the basin include dog parks and sports fields. Lighting for these amenities can be located at top of basin and directed towards the bottom of the basin.

6. No dimension should be less than 30 feet in retention basins used as park space.
7. The design of the basin should mimic natural forms in slope and shape. The overall configuration should be irregular, rounded and free form with a variety of curves. Basin design should avoid straight lines and simple geometric shapes (square or rectangular basins).

PARK ACQUISITION POLICIES

The City of Buckeye shall use the following hierarchy of criteria to determine whether a parcel is suitable for park acquisition:

SUPPORTS THE DEPARTMENT MISSION AND NEEDS

Parkland purchased by the City should support the Community Services Department overall vision and mission as well as needs identified as part of this Master Plan.

MINIMUM SIZE OF PARK TO BE ACQUIRED

The City of Buckeye shall not acquire land smaller than 15 acres in size if the predominate use of the property is for a park. Parcels smaller than 15 acres may be acquired for recreation facilities such as: pools, recreation centers, multi-generational facilities. These smaller parcels may also be designed for special-use parks. e.g. BMX parks, skate parks, or equestrian uses, etc.

NEAR SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Priority will be placed to acquire parkland that is on or near an identified historic, cultural, natural or recreation resource, especially if that resource is threatened by development.

MINIMAL SITE CONSTRAINTS

Park sites shall have minimal constraints. Parks to be developed with active recreation components shall have established infrastructure located in close proximity to the park for roadways and utilities, such as water, sewer and electricity. Land for active park sites negatively impacted by railroads, floodways and floodplains, difficult topography that require extensive grading, overhead powerlines, etc. could significantly drive up construction costs and limit the areas that can be used.

MEETING UNMET DEMAND

Acquired parkland shall be near underserved population centers in the City as documented in the level of service analysis. The parkland should be easily accessible through roads from multiple communities.

Park sites and the recreation amenities to be constructed therein should provide high recreation value to support unmet demand in the City. Emphasis shall be placed to construct recreation amenities not found elsewhere in the City and where there is a large demand and request for the amenities by residents.

Preference shall be given to locate parks in areas where there is a primary or secondary trail as identified through this plan for multi-modal access.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Where feasible, parks should be co-located with schools and other municipal services, such as libraries, police substations and fire stations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM POTENTIAL

Parkland acquired by the City should provide economic impact and tourism opportunities, drawing outside residents into the city, providing additional revenues through purchases for gas, food, lodging, etc.

PROCESS FOR PURCHASING PROPERTY

When purchasing a property for parks or recreation, the City should adhere to the following steps identified by the Engineering Department.

1) Identify property that best fits the City's needs.
2) Commission a title report for the property. This identifies all easements and encumbrances.
3) Prepare an ALTA survey, which is especially required for more complex projects.
4) Create a legal description of the property.
5) Obtain the property appraisal.
6) The City and the seller will enter into a purchase agreement.
7) Create an escrow account with the title company.
8) Pay purchase cost and Escrow fees into escrow account.
9) Obtain necessary signatures.
10) Exchange property through escrow.

DISPOSAL OF PARKLAND POLICIES

From time to time, the City of Buckeye may decide to sell real property owned or decide to discontinue leases for parks and recreation facilities. In certain instances, the City of Buckeye may opt to discontinue or not renew intergovernmental agreements that allow for the shared use of facilities with local school districts and other organizations. The City of Buckeye shall follow all laws and statutes relating to the disposition of land owned by cities and towns.

The following criteria may apply when the City of Buckeye considers divesting owned parkland.

1. Parkland that provides limited or no recreation value to the public. These may be sites that have limited to no amenities and where it is impractical or imprudent to add components to increase the recreation value because of site constraints or because recreation services are already provided in nearby parks and facilities.
2. Sites in which the historic, cultural, or natural resource value has become diminished. For example, the historic, cultural, or natural resource value of a property may become damaged or destroyed by unforeseen events.
3. Park sites or recreation facilities with features that more closely align with the function of a different City department or entity and that can be more efficiently and effectively managed by them.

4. There may be portions of a park (and not the entire parcel) that the City may consider divesting or leasing as well because of limited value. For example, the City may consider leasing undeveloped portions of a park for agricultural uses, etc. until the time the City will develop the park for recreation uses.

DISPOSAL OF CITY-OWNED PARKS

For parkland owned by the City that it is considering to dispose, the Community Services Department shall prepare a report that details the following information:

1. Determine when and how the property was originally acquired and for what purpose.

2. Background information for the disposal of the parkland. Detail the reasons why the Community Services Department is requesting to no longer own the property.

3. History of the property and its historic use.

4. Determine the benefit provided by the park land. Does the park or recreation facility provide recreation, historic, cultural or natural resources to the public? Detail how the park or recreation facility is used and the impact the sale of the land will have to parks and recreation services in the city.

5. Inventory the amenities and resources provided on the land. Inventory the acres to be sold and what percentage of the land is turf lined, landscaped, disturbed or graded land, or native desert and provide information on any structures or equipment on the property. Will the City be removing structures or equipment off the site?

6. Determine the dollars that will no longer be spent if the property is not owned or maintained by the City, including staff hours for maintenance, maintenance supplies and equipment, etc.

7. Detail the revenues that may be lost by selling the property. Does the property bring in revenues to the city for rentals, concessions, etc.?

8. Provide a final recommendation on whether the maintenance responsibilities shall be transferred to a different department in the City of Buckeye, leased to an outside agency or organization, or sold.

The Community Services Department Director shall review the report and if concurs with the report findings and final recommendations shall provide the report to the City Manager and Assistant City Manager. The report shall also be given to all City department directors for review. The City Manager and Assistant City Manager shall sign off on the report indicating their concurrence with the final recommendation. The City Manager shall have final say whether to recommend the sale of the property to Buckeye City Council. The City shall follow all local, state and federal laws relating to the sale of land by cities and towns.

CITY LEASES AND AGREEMENTS

The City of Buckeye leases property from outside agencies or has intergovernmental agreements for the shared use of facilities. Examples of these include:

- Recreation & Public Purpose Lease with the Bureau of Land Management for Skyline Regional Park (Lease terminates in December 2035.);
- lease for Bayless Park (Lease is month to month.);
- lease for Helzapoppin Rodeo Grounds (Lease automatically extends annually.);
- intergovernmental agreement with local school districts for shared use facility agreements and;
- lease with the Girl Scouts of America Cotton Blossom for a building in Town Park, which was signed in 1995.

Image 2-25: The City Leases Bayless Park

The City may decide it is no longer in its best interest to continue the lease or intergovernmental agreements. The City's Public Works Department, who is responsible for the real estate leases shall investigate the terms of the agreement and prepare a report containing similar information and follow the procedures required for the disposal of city land. The Buckeye City Council shall approve the termination of all leases.

PARK ENCROACHMENT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Park encroachment is the unlawful, unauthorized, or unpermitted use of park property by adjacent landowners. Park property includes real property owned or managed by the City of Buckeye as well as easements for trails or other park and recreation purposes.

Encroachment may come in the following forms:

(a) structures (fences, sheds, garages, retaining walls, playhouses, swing sets or other play equipment);

(b) landscaping (flower or vegetable gardens, tree planting, grade alterations);

(c) storage (firewood stacks, recreational equipment, gardening equipment or compost bins);

(d) disposal (dumping of landscaping waste or other debris or litter);

(e) removing vegetation and other resources off city parks or;

(f) illegally constructing trails without City authorization.

There are several reasons why encroachment into city parks is not permitted, including the following:

- Encroachments can inhibit access for property or facility maintenance.
- Use of City property by private parties may restrict the intended use of the property on behalf of the general public.
- Use of City property provides specific benefits to individuals that are generally not available to other citizens.
- Unauthorized use of city property creates an unwarranted liability burden upon the City.

The following policies address encroachment of city park land by adjacent property owners:

(a) Where feasible, the Community Services Department shall identify parklands or boundaries by signage, survey monuments, berming, fencing or other means to prevent encroachment. The Community Services Department shall maintain property records with legal descriptions to help identify property boundaries. It is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to know the location of their boundaries as well.

(b) The City of Buckeye shall from time to time inspect the boundaries of all parks to determine whether encroachment is occurring. If an encroachment is found, or if the City is notified of a possible encroachment, city staff shall investigate the claim.

(c) If an encroachment is found, the City of Buckeye will notify the responsible party, if known, in writing. The notice shall include a description of the encroachment, the location, and may include a photograph or drawing.

(d) The letter to the responsible party shall also include the course of action that must be taken to mitigate the encroachment, which may include the removal of encroachments and/or the park land restored to its original condition to the maximum extent possible and the timeframe in which the mitigation should occur at the determination of the Community Services Department director or designee.

(e) The City of Buckeye may mitigate the encroachment if the responsible party does not satisfactorily perform the determined course of action within the timeframe stipulated in the letter at the discretion of the Community Services Director or designee.

(f) The responsible party, where known, shall be required to pay any fees relating to the mitigation, which could include surveying, engineering, and legal fees as well as the removal and disposal of encroaching structures and materials and site restoration activities.

CHAPTER 3

PATHS AND TRAILS

CHAPTER 3: PATHS & TRAILS

A comprehensive trail system that safely connects local and regional recreation systems, neighborhoods and employment centers can be a distinguishing characteristic for the City of Buckeye. Paths and trails add significant value to a community because of their recreation and health benefits, multi-modal transportation opportunities, environmental benefits, and economic benefits.

Goals and policies are established in this chapter for the development of a trail system that will connect residents to destinations that shape their daily routine – schools, parks, civic and commercial centers, and places of employment.

Buckeye's pathways and trails system is in its early stages. A few segments of paths and trails identified in the 2008 Trails Master Plan have been constructed. Unfortunately, those segments are unconnected and isolated. With slow and stagnant growth since 2008, little traction has been made towards the construction of paths and trails. With anticipated growth in the housing market comes the opportunity to develop paths and trails to enhance connectivity. Most of the 2008 policies, goals and policies continue to be relevant and are reemphasized in this chapter. Some are updated to address current trends and issues.

This chapter focuses on off-street pathways and trails whereas the City's Transportation Master Plan addresses the transportation network within established rights-of-way.

BENEFITS OF TRAILS

RECREATION & HEALTH

The recreational value of trails is often their foremost benefit. In addition to their benefit as a leisure activity, they also provide a health benefit by providing the necessary infrastructure for physical fitness, including walking, running, biking, roller blading, and horseback riding. Pathways and trails can also take you to destinations not accessible by vehicle, such as a path adjacent to a river or wash or a summit trail to the top of a mountain peak.

ECONOMIC

A well-designed trail system can attract tourists, providing a direct economic benefit to local restaurants, hotels and other support services. Communities with trails often benefit in terms of improvements in corporate relocation and retention rates, since quality of life is an important factor in choosing sites for business and industry. Numerous studies have also shown that proximity to trails is a selling point for homebuyers and contributes to increased property values.

MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT

Serving as supplemental transportation corridors, trails encourage pedestrian and bicycle commuting as an alternative to automobiles, thus reducing traffic, overcrowding on roads, and lowering fuel consumption. Safety is another community benefit where designated pedestrian and bicycle paths are physically separated from automobiles.

ENVIRONMENTAL

A bi-product of providing alternative modes of transportation is the reduction of vehicle emissions, which improves air quality. With high pollution advisories occurring regularly in the Phoenix metropolitan area this is naturally an issue of paramount concern. Additionally, trails can provide a suitable buffer where development occurs adjacent to open space, allowing native flora and fauna a better chance to flourish.

GOALS AND POLICIES FOR PATHWAYS & TRAILS

GOAL 3.1 PATH & TRAIL PLANNING AND CONNECTIONS

Plan a regionally connected and locally integrated trail system that links parks and recreation facilities to neighborhoods and activity centers.

3.1.1 Promote walkable built environments with safe, comfortable and convenient pedestrian-oriented facilities that meet the needs for the different users.

3.1.2 Discourage designs that promote sedentary lifestyles or automobile-only options. Provide multiple route connections for pedestrians to avoid barriers to walkability.

3.1.3 Establish major and minor trailheads at key community parks, large municipal sports parks and regional parks and preserves.

3.1.4 Develop a comprehensive network of pathways and trails along natural and man-made linear features to connect all the passive and active recreational sites into a distinct feature for the City.

3.1.5 Ensure residential developments are providing an internal pedestrian circulation system that connects pocket and neighborhood parks, schools, retention basins and open space to the City-wide path and trail systems.

3.1.6 Ensure the design and layout of pathway and trail connections provide visual and functional links to parks, schools, neighborhoods, commercial retail centers, and other activity centers and adjacent communities and that adequate corridor width is provided to buffer uses.

3.1.7 Ensure connections to the Maricopa Trail and larger regional parks, such as White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Skyline Regional Park, Buckeye Hills Regional Park, and the Sonoran Desert National Monument. Partner with Maricopa County to develop the Maricopa Trail through Buckeye's jurisdiction.

3.1.8 Coordinate with the Cities of Goodyear, Surprise and Maricopa County to establish connections with trails identified in their Master Plans.

3.1.9 Develop IGA's and MOU's with utility companies, irrigation districts, and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County to establish paths and trails along their corridors. Oftentimes, the paths and trails can serve a dual-purpose as operation and maintenance roads for the utility provider.

3.1.10 Coordinate the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with the City's Transportation Master Plan to establish linkages to paths and bike lanes located along parkways, arterials and collector streets to off-street trails.

3.1.11 Establish guidelines for path and trail crossings at arterials, parkways and freeways through use of grade-separated crossings, such as culverts, under passes, over passes and pedestrian signals.

3.1.12 Develop at-grade path and trail crossings guidelines for lower volume roads and transects from other trails.

3.1.13 Establish hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails where appropriate and ensure their compatibility with surrounding development.

3.1.14 Locate trails along the fringes of wildlife linkages to serve as a buffer to adjacent developments. Limit trail crossings over such corridors to the most direct route.

3.1.15 Encourage developers to route primary and secondary vehicle entryways to their communities near path and trail crossings to ensure such crossings can occur at improved intersections.

GOAL 3.2 PATH & TRAIL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Design and construct a functional path and trail system tailored to the needs of those using them.

3.2.1 Utilize designs with various levels from natural surface trails with no lighting and limited amenities to hard structural paved paths with lighting, landscaping and amenities.

3.2.2 Ensure all pathways and trails are context-sensitive and environmentally sustainable.

3.2.3 Establish primary paths with side by side treads for different user groups, such as a concrete path (for use by bicyclists, people with strollers, wheel chairs, roller bladers, and skateboarders) adjacent to decomposed granite trails (for use by joggers, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians).

3.2.4 Paths and trails should enhance and highlight scenic vistas in the community.

3.2.5 Encourage developers to locate park facilities adjacent to trails to serve as access nodes.

3.2.6 Encourage development to front onto pathway and trail corridors instead of backing to it. Where development does back onto trail corridors, require view fencing to enhance visibility.

3.2.7 Provide access nodes a minimum of every ¼ mile along paths and trails. Where possible, such linkages should be every 500 feet, which is the recommended distance for such nodes.

3.2.8 The design of pathways and trails should address ADA-accessibility. Some locations that have site constraints, such as topography and slope may prohibit flatter grades or in locations, such as regional parks and mountain preserves where there is a desire for higher difficulty trails.

3.2.9 Sufficient easement widths should be provided to accommodate the respective function, including lighting and landscaping, recognizing that not all segments in the system will maintain a uniform easement width due to physical constraints such as topography.

3.2.10 Ensure appropriate clearances are met along paths and trails with a 2 feet clear zone on either side.

3.2.11 Provide lighted paths where appropriate to enhance security and nighttime accessibility.

3.2.12 Utilize low lighting along trails adjacent to important wildlife linkages and habitats.

3.2.13 Create learning experiences along trails with interpretive information on the natural, cultural and historical resources found along segments.

3.2.14 Promote the use of public art along paths and trails to add visual interest along the route.

3.2.15 Utilize the Maricopa Association of Governments' Valley Path Branding and Wayfinding Signage Guidelines (2015) for pathways and trails in Buckeye.

3.2.16 Consistently apply the El Rio Pathway and Trail guidelines (2015) adjacent to the Gila River.

3.2.17 Ensure private developments are dedicating right-of-way for pathways and trails and granting public access easements that mutually benefit all residents living in the City.

3.2.18 Focus attention to research and apply for grants at the federal, state and local levels to fund the construction of paths and trails.

GOAL 3.3 PATH & TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Provide sufficient resources to maintain new trails.

3.3.1 Establish maintenance guidelines and standards for City-wide paths and trails indicated as part of the City's proposed Rivers to Ridges System. Guidelines should include vegetation clearance, tread maintenance, erosion, berm removal, signage upkeep, staff hours needed, and a regular maintenance schedule.

3.3.2 Dedicate staffing and operation and maintenance dollars to parks and recreation budgets as Rivers to Ridges paths are added to the system to ensure they are maintained to the appropriate standards.

3.3.3 For paths and trails located in homeowner associations that are not operated or maintained by the City of Buckeye, but identified in this plan, provide path and trail maintenance guidelines and training to ensure consistency across segments.

3.3.4 Require developers to dedicate land and the operation and maintenance responsibilities for those paths and trails identified as part of the Rivers to Ridges Path system.

3.3.5 Encourage and support volunteer groups, such as biking clubs, equestrian groups, school and church

organizations to maintain paths and trails after proper instruction. Establish an adopt-a-trail program.

PATHWAY & TRAIL INVENTORY

PUBLIC CITY OF BUCKEYE TRAILS

The City of Buckeye does not own or maintain any trails with the exception of those located in Skyline Regional Park. Both Sundance Park and Earl Edgar Recreational Facility have perimeter walking paths. Moving forward, it is the City's intent to develop and construct paths to connect regional resources, such as the mountain ranges to the rivers.

HOME OWNER ASSOCIATION PATHS & TRAILS

Many private homeowner association communities have trails that connect parks and greenbelts. These trails should be integrated and connected to the City-wide pathway and trail system. The City should stipulate that development build paths and trails identified in this plan and that necessary easements are provided. Maintenance of such paths and trails will be the responsibility of the homeowner's association. Public access easements will be required so the association or development cannot prohibit access from those who do not live in the community.

MARICOPA TRAIL

Adopted by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors on August 16, 2004, the County's plan establishes a 310-mile shared use non-motorized trail system to connect Maricopa County regional parks together. The project capitalizes on existing rights-of-way such as canals, parks, utility corridors and flood control projects as much as possible to promote regional linkages. These trails are organized into identifiable segments and priorities to guide the County with the implementation of the plan. The County has identified the Maricopa and Sun Circle Trails as the highest priorities. The Maricopa Trail connects all County Parks in Maricopa County. In the City of Buckeye, the Maricopa Trail runs along a conveyance channel on Jackrabbit Trail and then is proposed to jog west on Indian School Road. At the Tuthill Road alignment, the path heads

Image 3-1: The Maricopa Trail along Jackrabbit Trail in Buckeye

south through Verrado and crosses under I-10 through a large box culvert. The path will traverse through the Flood Control District's Flood Retarding Structure #4 and head east on Yuma Road until it meets with Goodyear's Bullard Wash, where it will travel south to the Gila River to connect with the County's Estrella Mountain Regional Park. The El Rio trail along the Gila

River will connect Estrella Mountain Regional Park to Buckeye Hills Regional Park.

PATHWAYS & TRAILS CLASSIFICATIONS & GUIDELINES

This plan includes two defining types of tread – pathways have a hard surface, such as concrete, and in some instances asphalt, whereas a trail has a soft-surface tread, comprised of compacted and stabilized decomposed granite or native soils. The two surface types appeal to different groups. For example, bicyclists, walkers and in-line skaters may prefer a hard surface treatment, whereas joggers, equestrians and mountain bikers may prefer a softer surface. Paths and trails to be built in Buckeye will appeal to many different non-motorized user groups. The seven classifications of pathways and trails consist of the following:

- Primary Path
- Secondary Path
- Accessible Trail
- Primary Trail
- Frontcountry Trail
- Backcountry Trail
- Summit Trail

Image 3-2: The Crosscut Canal Path in Tempe, AZ

Table 3-1: Pathways & Trails Classifications & Guidelines

	Path / Trail Name	Path Width	Surface	Parallel Trail Width	Parallel Surface	Recommended Easement Width
Paths/Trails in Urban/Suburban Areas	**Primary Path**	12'	Concrete	4'	Stable & Compacted Decomposed Granite	35‘ – 50’
	Secondary Path	10'	Concrete or Asphalt		None required	25‘ – 40’
	Accessible Trail	8'	Stable & Compacted Decomposed Granite		None required	20'
Trails in Areas with Topographic Constraints or Regional Parks & Preserves	**Primary Trail**	5'	Natural Surface		None required	Archaeological Surveys Should Be Conducted 25' off both sides of flagged trail centerlines in areas not previously surveyed.
	Frontcountry Trail	4'	Natural Surface		None required	
	Backcountry Trail	32"	Natural Surface		None required	
	Summit Trail	28"	Natural Surface		None required	

2' clear zone shoulder on either size for all path and trail types.

PRIMARY PATH

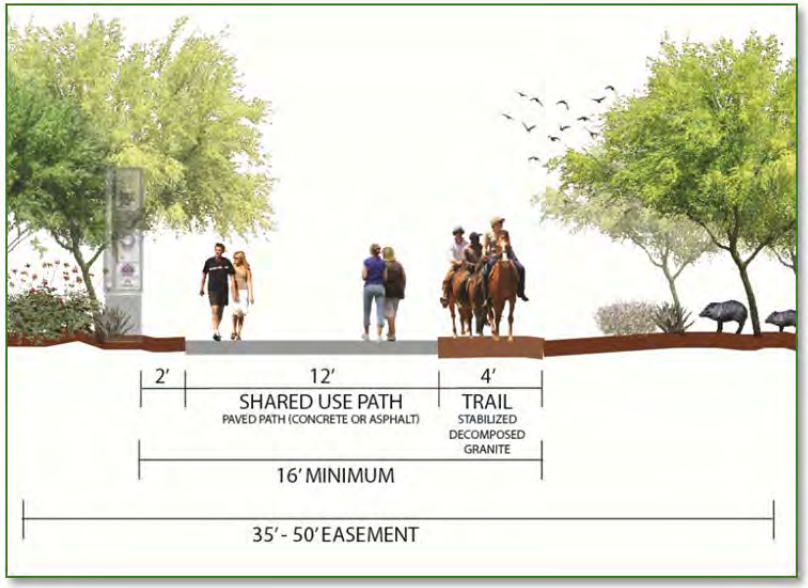
Primary paths provide the highest level of functionality for a myriad of users through both hard and soft surfaces. The primary path's function will be to connect regional parks and natural resources to communities, neighborhoods and other major destinations. Primary paths should be ADA-accessible with less than 5% grade. The primary paths are 12-foot wide concrete paths with a 4-foot parallel compacted and stabilized decomposed granite trail. A 2-foot safety shoulder is required next to the concrete path on the opposite side of the soft surface parallel trail.

RIVERS TO RIDGES

Within the City of Buckeye's municipal planning area lies a multitude of existing natural and cultural assets, such as the Sonoran Desert National Monument, White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Skyline Regional Park, Buckeye Hills Regional Park, Robbins and Powers Butte Wildlife Areas and the Gila (El Rio) and Hassayampa Rivers. Yet, these features exist as isolated assets that should be integrated and connected by pathways and trails.

Primary paths should be constructed to connect the White Tank Mountains to both the Gila and Hassayampa Rivers. Similarly, the Buckeye Hills and the Sonoran Desert National Monument are recommended to be connected via primary paths where topography does not constrain the path width or surface material. Major and minor trailheads are utilized for accessing the Rivers to Ridges Paths.

Figure 3-1: Primary Path



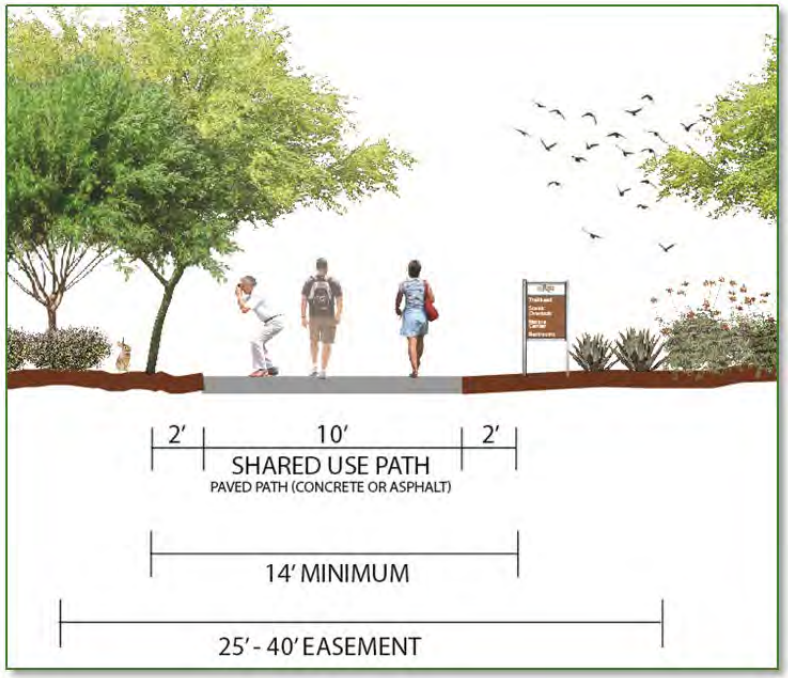
The Maricopa Trail and El Rio Trail are prime examples of the City's proposed Rivers to Ridges trail along the Gila River. The Maricopa Trail already has regional significance and connections to communities throughout the valley. The El Rio Trail will provide a vital connection between Avondale, Goodyear and Buckeye and the notable natural resources that are accessible through the El Rio Trail.

Due to their significance, Rivers to Ridges Trails will receive priority in including trail amenities such as lighting, comfort stations, water, and shade structures. Due to their importance in providing connectivity to regional destinations, public and private funding mechanisms will be required. Rivers to Ridges Paths and Trails should be dedicated to the City with the City taking on operations and maintenance responsibilities.

SECONDARY PATHS

Secondary paths generally serve a community-wide function by connecting neighborhoods to community parks, schools, commercial nodes and employment centers that are not necessarily on the regional system. These paths serve both the transportation and recreation needs of the public. Secondary paths differ from primary paths by not being as wide (10 feet vs. primary path's 12 feet) and do not require a 4-foot wide parallel trail. A 2-foot safety clear zone is required on either side of the path. Stopping may be required more frequently at intersections with at-grade crossings. Secondary paths should be ADA-accessible with grades less than 5%.

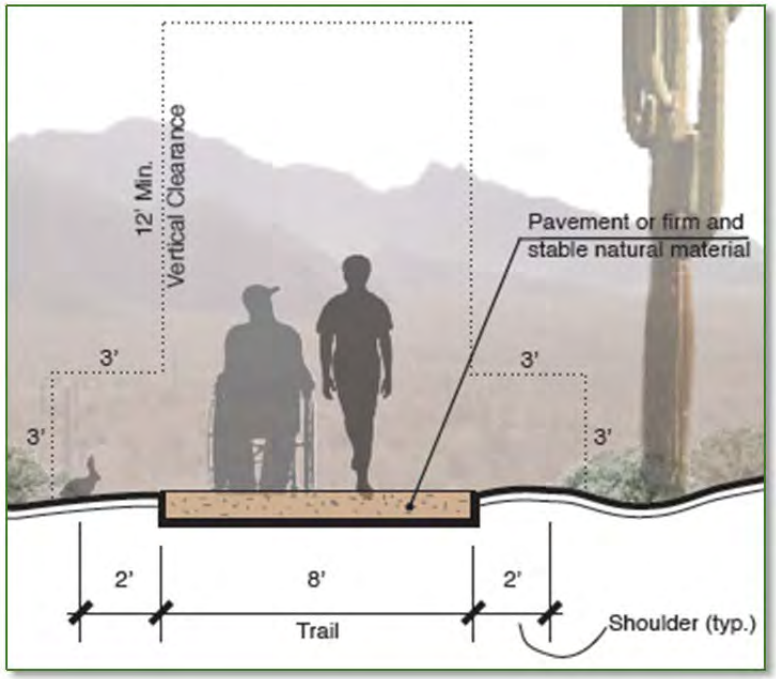
Figure 3-2: Secondary Path



ACCESSIBLE TRAILS

Accessible trails have a surface of compacted and stabilized decomposed granite. These trails will allow for a more natural experience to users in developed areas of the city. These trails will predominately be constructed along powerline corridors. Utility companies often have limitations on the types of improvements that can be located below the powerlines, such as restrictions for landscaping and lighting due to maintenance concerns. Where feasible, the accessible trails should be located adjacent to the utility easement to allow for enhanced amenities, such as trees and lighting. Accessible trails should be ADA-compliant with grades less than 5%.

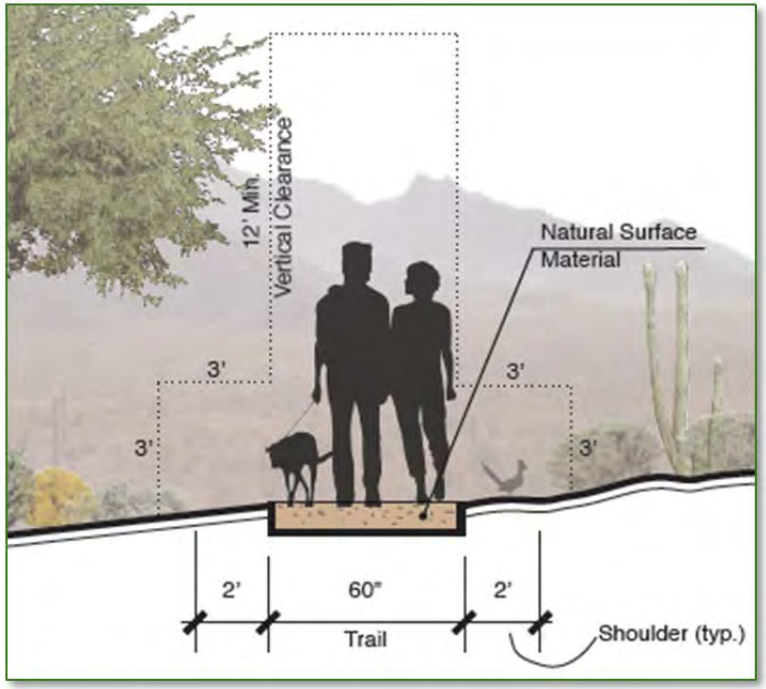
Figure 3-3: Accessible Trail



PRIMARY TRAIL

Primary trails have surfaces comprised of native soil tread or stabilized decomposed granite. Primary trails will be used in natural areas or preserves, such as river bottoms, known wildlife corridors, and in mountainous or hillside areas where slopes may prohibit the use of the primary and secondary paths and accessible trails. These trails provide a passive recreational experience for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Anticipated usage would be less than those on a primary path, secondary path, or accessible trail, therefore the trail width is 5 feet wide.

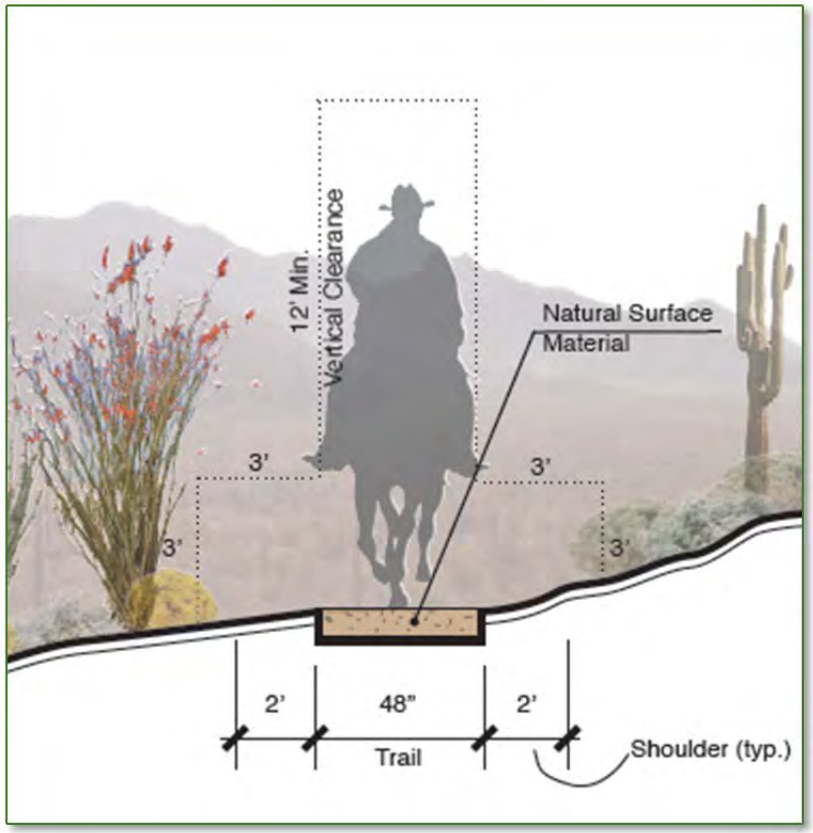
Figure 3-4: Primary Trail



FRONTCOUNTRY TRAIL

Frontcountry trails are intended to be located closer to trailhead facilities in regional parks and mountain preserves where the number of trail users may be high. Frontcountry trails have a width of 4 feet with a 2-foot clear zone on either side and a 12-foot vertical clearance to accommodate equestrians.

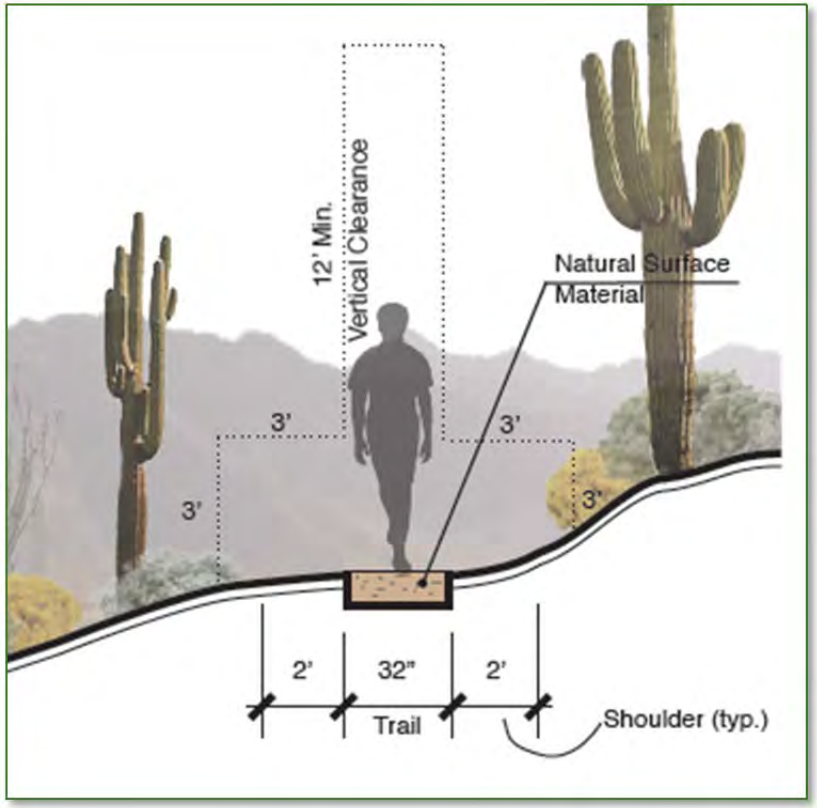
Figure 3-5: Frontcountry Trail



BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL

Backcountry trails are located further away from trailheads and from development, therefore usage is anticipated to be less than on accessible or frontcountry trails. Backcountry trails have a narrower tread of 32" with a 12-foot minimum clearance to accommodate equestrians.

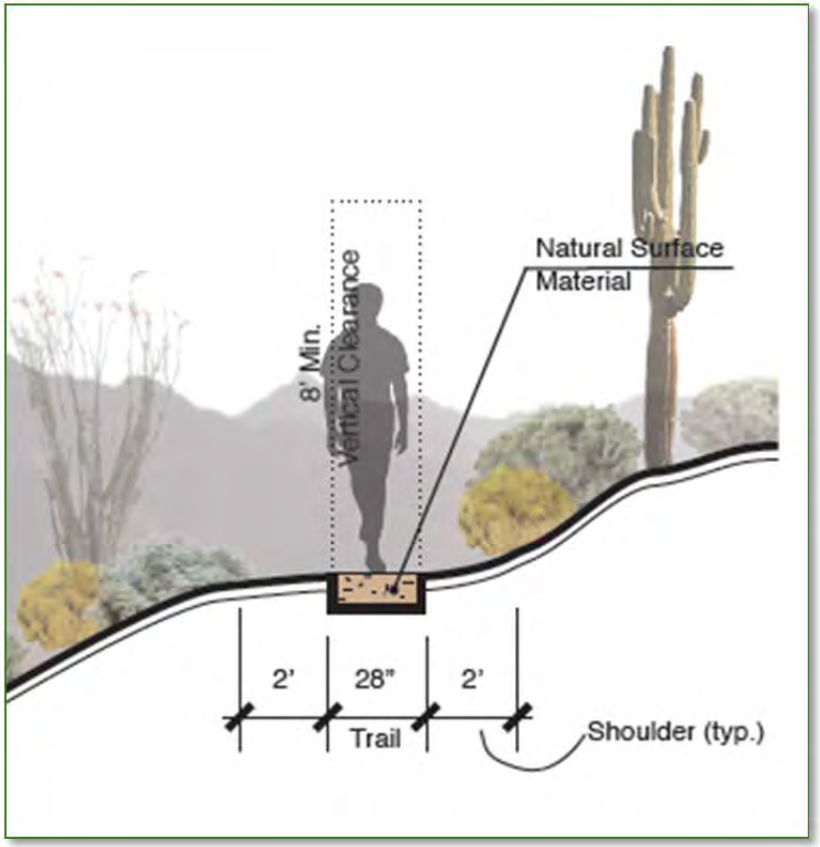
Figure 3-6: Backcountry Trail



SUMMIT TRAIL

Summit trails will have a higher difficulty rating. These trails are intended to be 28" wide with a 2-foot clear zone on either side.

Figure 3-7: Summit Trail



LOCATIONS OF PATHWAYS & TRAILS

Pathways and trails should be established adjacent to the following natural and manmade linear corridors whenever possible with partnerships:

- Rivers & Washes
  - Gila River (El Rio)
  - Hassayampa River
  - Significant Washes, such as Waterman Wash, Rainbow Wash
- Utility Corridors including power lines and gas lines
- Canals
  - Buckeye Irrigation District Canal (BWCDD)
  - Roosevelt Irrigation District Canal (RID)
  - BWCDD South Extension Canal
  - Arlington Canal
  - Beardsley Canal
  - Central Arizona Project Canal (CAP)
- Flood Control Structures
  - Sun Valley Area Drainage Master Plan Channels
  - Buckeye Area Drainage Master Plan Channels
  - 15% Plans for Watson Drain Conveyance Channel, which designs one of the channels identified in the Buckeye Area Drainage Master Plan.
  - Flood Retarding Structures #1-4
  - Maricopa County's Maricopa Trail

The City should work with utility and irrigation companies on mutually beneficial pathways and trails along such corridors.

Image 3-3: The RID Canal in Buckeye.

PROVIDING PATHS & TRAILS ALONG BOTH SIDES

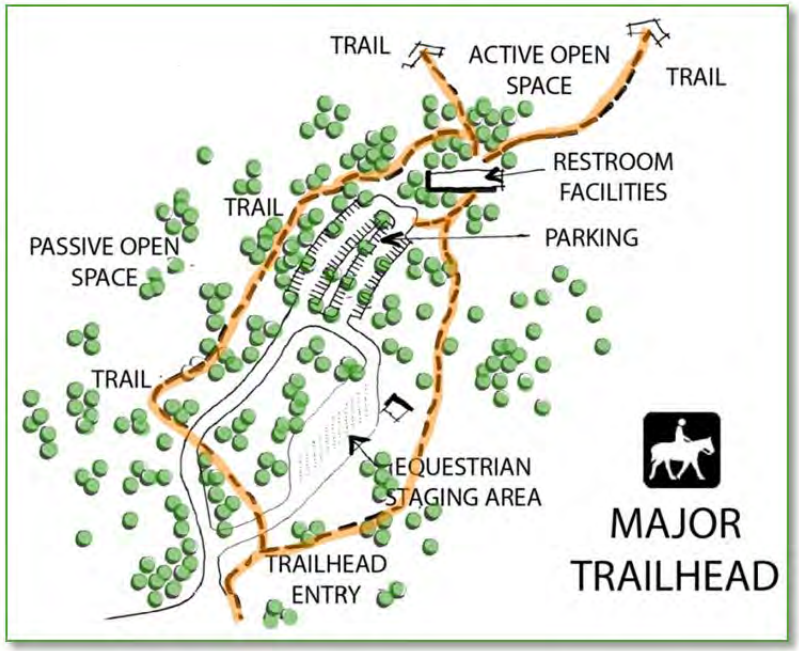
For certain linear features, such as rivers, washes and power line corridors, pathways and trails may be required along both sides of the feature if wider than 150 feet from top of bank to top of bank, or from edges of easements. Pathways and trails located on both sides of the linear feature can benefit by providing different surface materials. For example, one side of a wash could install a primary path, while the other side could install an accessible trail.

TRAILHEAD GUIDELINES

The trailhead is the point at which a path begins. Trailheads often contain vehicle parking and pedestrian access, restrooms, signage, shade ramadas, drinking water, bike racks, and other features.

Trailheads are located along key trails and at the entrance to important destinations within Buckeye, such as Skyline Regional Park, the Gila and Hassayampa Rivers, and in larger size parks when an identified path or trail is routed through or adjacent to the property. The trailheads are designed to provide specified levels of service to those using the path or trail system.

Figure 3-8: Major Trailhead Illustrative Example



EQUESTRIAN TRAILHEAD GUIDELINES

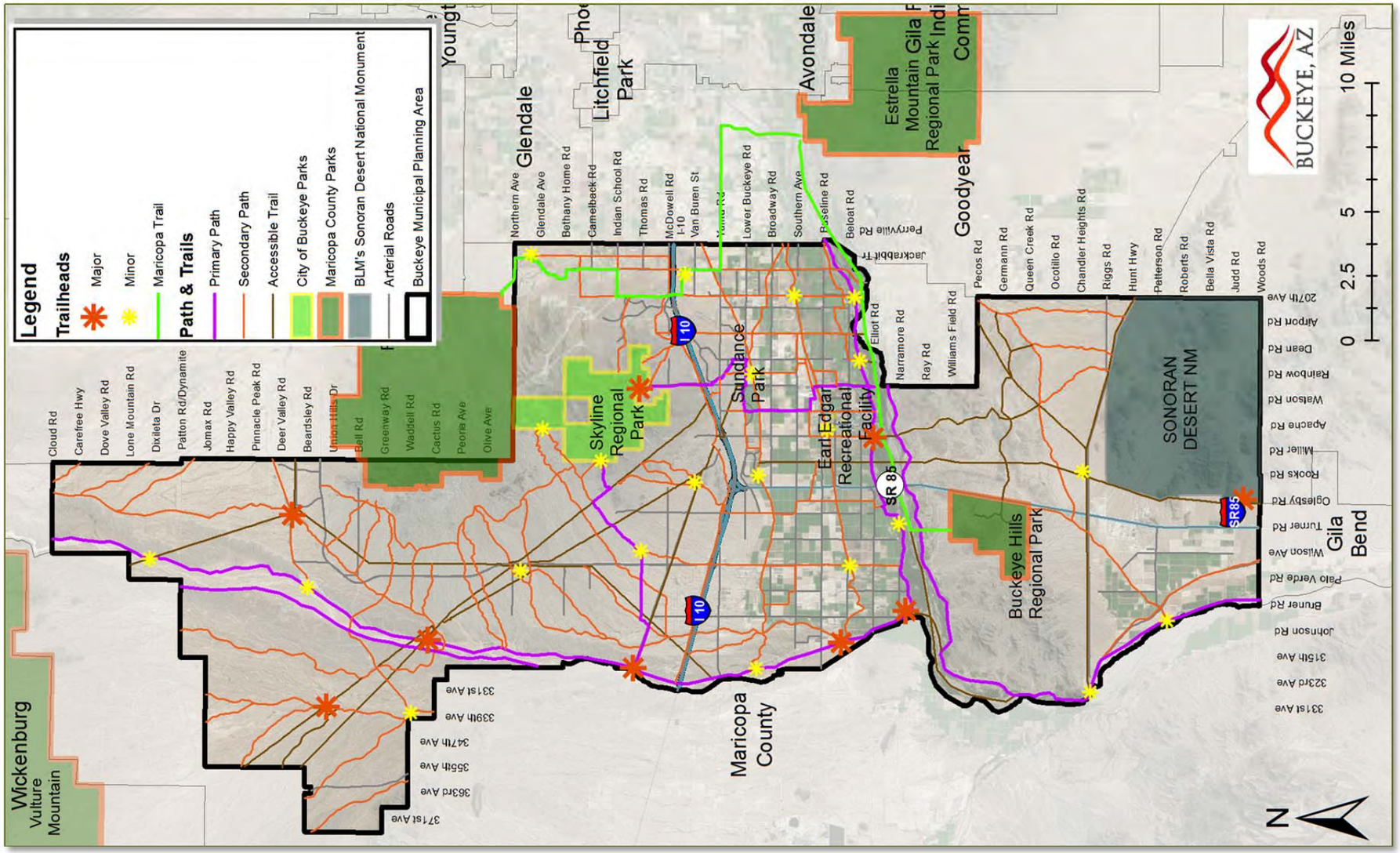
Trailheads with equestrian facilities are intended to provide amenities for both equestrian users as well as other user groups. The parking requirements are typically larger to accommodate trailers used to transport horses and their equipment. Typical amenities that can be found at well-designed equestrian trailheads include decomposed granite for parking and unloading areas that are separate from non-equestrian parking. Such parking should allow equestrian users to enter and leave the facility without having to back-up and reverse their trailers. Other amenities may include water troughs, wash racks, horse pens, hitching posts, mounting blocks and ramps, and areas to dispose of manure.

Figure 3-9: Minor Trailhead Illustrative Example

Table 3-2: Trailhead Guidelines

Trailhead Amenities	Major Trailhead Phased Expansion Based On Demand			Minor Trailhead Phased Expansion Based On Demand		
	High Demand	Medium Demand	Low Demand	High Demand	Medium Demand	Low Demand
Acres	15+	10	6	6	3	1
Parking	300	150	60	60	30	10
Restrooms	yes			yes	yes	no
Lighting	yes			yes		
Ramadas	3-5 (includes large group ramada)	3-5	3-5	1-2	1-2	no
Equestrian Use 7+ parking spaces on natural surface, mounting ramp, manure disposal area, round pen, wash rack, hitching rails	yes			no		
Amenities Lighting, shade structure, signage, maps, drinking water, garbage containers, seating, bike racks	yes			yes		

Figure 3-10: Buckeye's Pathways and Trails Plan



TRAIL CROSSINGS

An important feature of any non-vehicular trails plan that connects with the street, drainage, utility or storm water structure is the treatment of crossings. These crossing zones create the greatest possible hazard to path and trail users, and therefore necessitate particular consideration.

There are several significant barriers in the City of Buckeye that provide difficulty for path and trail crossings. Such barriers include the following:

- Interstate 10 – Under or Over Crossings
- State Route 85 – Under or Over Crossings
- Future State Routes – Under or Over Crossings
- Sun Valley Parkway – Under, Over or At-Grade Crossings. Route paths and trails to coincide with road intersections or utilize large box culverts where washes intersect with the parkway
- Future Parkways – Under, Over or At-Grade Crossings
- Major Arterials – At-Grade or Mid-Block Crossings. Where possible, route paths and trails to coincide with intersections.
- Gila River & Hassayampa River - Low Water crossings
- Canals – Overcrossings.

There are two types of trail crossings – grade-separated and at-grade crossings.

GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSINGS

Grade-separated crossings are identified to illustrate the expectation for cross-type, whether over or under at a particular juncture of a given segment. Grade-separated crossings occur when paths and trails intersect with high-volume roads, canals, or washes. Whenever possible, paths and trails should be directed to established intersections, bridges or culverts so as not to incur the added expense of additional crossings.

UNDER CROSSINGS

Under crossings below bridges or through over-sized culverts should be utilized when pathways and trails cross Interstate 10, Sun Valley Parkway, State Route 85 and future state routes and parkways. The minimum vertical clearance shall be 12 feet. The horizontal width of the undercrossing should provide adequate clearance on either side of the pathway and trail. Lighting should be provided to enhance the safety of users.

Figure 3-11: Illustrative Example of an Undercrossing

OVER CROSSINGS

Over crossings via bridges will be used when a path or trail intersects Interstate 10, State Routes, parkways, and canals. Over crossings should be used in areas where there are no nearby large box culverts or where no nearby at-grade road crossings exist to route the path or trail through. The path or trail overcrossings should provide a minimum vertical clearance of 12 feet. The bridge should have a wide enough horizontal clearance to accommodate the associated path or trail width with lighting provided.

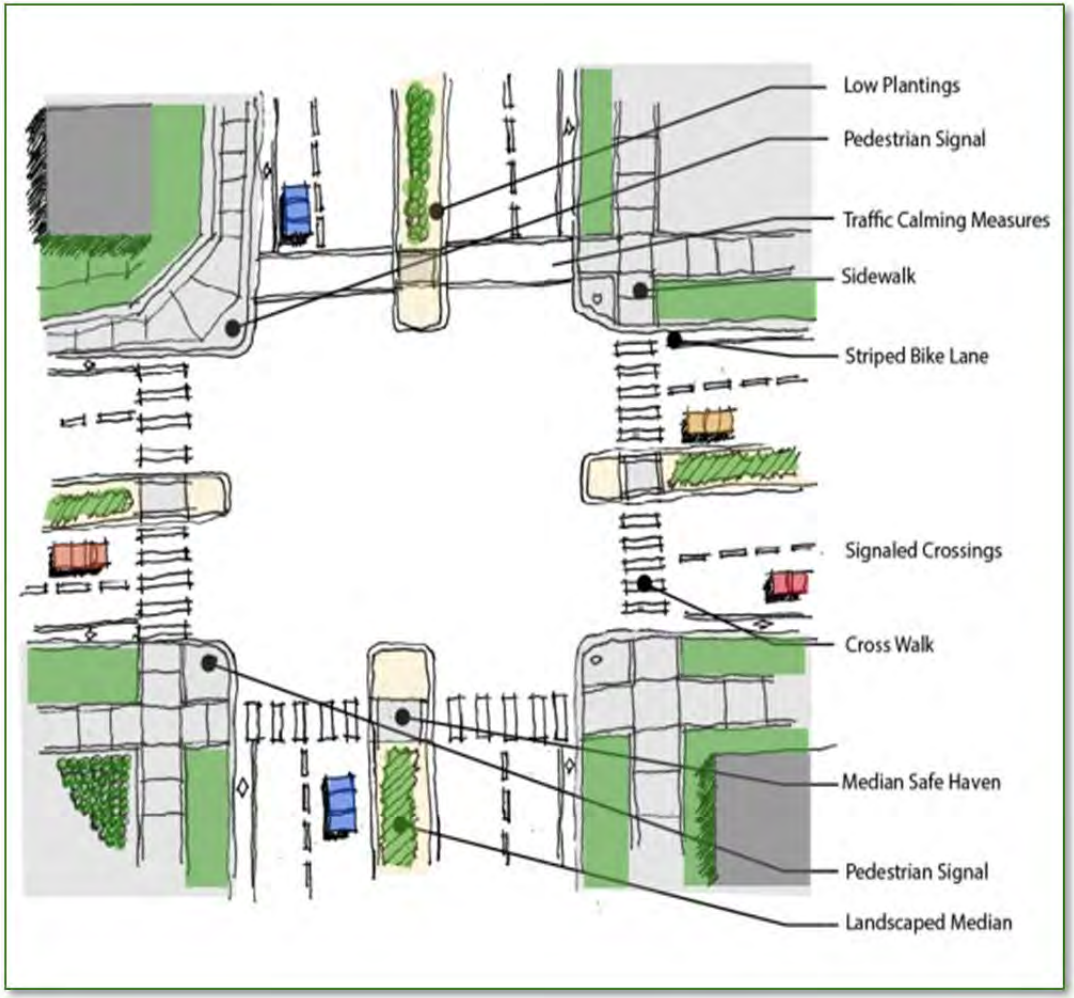
AT-GRADE CROSSINGS

At-grade crossings can occur when a path or trail intersects a street.

STREET CROSSINGS

The preferred location for a path or trail crossing is at a signalized or stop-controlled intersection. An improved crosswalk should be provided and demarcated with striping. For wider and busier streets, such as parkways and major arterials, safety refuge islands should be provided in medians to provide a safe place for users to stop at the mid-point of the road before crossing the remaining distance.

Figure 3-12: Path and Trail Crossings at Intersections



In general, street crossings should adhere to the following guidelines:

- Crossings should be at right angles to traffic.
- Adequate sightline distances should be provided that considers the appropriate time, visibility, potential hazards, and lighting.

- Sightlines at roadway crossings should not be obstructed by signage, parked vehicles, light posts, landscaping or any other object that could obstruct views.
- Where possible, provide a safe haven or median on multi-lane roads.
- Sufficient lighting should be provided.
- Provide curb cuts that conform to ADA standards and to the same path or trail widths.

MID-BLOCK CROSSING

The safety of pathway and trail users is of paramount importance. Therefore, the use of mid-block crossings, where pedestrian accidents can be the highest, should not be used. Paths and trails should be routed to street intersections for safe crossings.

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS FOR PATHS & TRAILS

The majority of paths and trails identified in this plan will be built by residential, commercial and industrial development and will be required as part of the City's approval process. The below guidelines should be followed when designing and constructing paths and trails.

ACCESS & ACCESSIBILITY

1. Pathways and trails in urban and suburban development without topographic constraints shall be designed and constructed to meet all Federal, State and local development code conditions and shall comply with AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) and MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices-FHWA) standards.
2. Provide maximum visibility to pathways and trails by orientating development towards such corridors, instead of backing development to them.
3. Right-of-way and public access easements should be dedicated to ensure all residents mutually benefit from the pathways and trails system.
4. Paths and trails should be located on both sides of a linear feature, such as a river, wash or drainage conveyance channel when the corridor is wider than 150 feet.
5. Ensure accessibility to paths and trails from adjacent neighborhoods. Access should be provided at a minimum of every ¼ mile; however is recommended at every 500 feet.
6. Install bollards at certain crossings to prohibit vehicles from entering into the path and trail system with the exception of operation and maintenance and public safety vehicles.

LIGHTING

1. Lighting should be provided along paths and trails in urban and suburban environments and should be dark-sky compliant. Low lighting should be used along trails located along wildlife linkages.
2. Lighting should be located a suitable distance from the anticipated mature tree canopy to ensure lighting is not blocked.

3. Illumination calculations should be provided for pathways to ensure sufficient lighting but also to ensure lighting does not spill out onto adjacent residential development.

LANDSCAPING

1. Shade, through significant tree canopy should be provided along the paths and trails to improve human comfort with 50% tree canopy coverage at maturity. Trees should be low-water use.

2. Utilize water harvesting techniques into the system to supplement automatic irrigation systems, thus reducing water usage.

3. Avoid the use of thorny or spiny plants within 10 feet on either side of pathways; however such plants are acceptable along trails, especially when located in mountain parks and preserves.

OTHER AMENITIES

1. Promote the use of public art along pathways and trails to add visual interest along the route.

2. Provide pet waste stations along path routes with signage alerting users to applicable laws that require owners to pick up after their pets.

3. Shaded seating nodes should be provided to enhance user comfort. Include seating, trash cans, potable water, and bike racks.

SIGNAGE

Signage is an important component of any path or trail system by providing necessary information to the user. Signage could be used along a path to promote or address the public's needs for navigation, orientation, education, or interpretive or regulatory information.

Figure 3-13: MAG's Valley Path Brand & Wayfinding Signage Guidelines for Directional and Primary Identifi

In 2015, the Maricopa Association of Government's (MAG) prepared the *Valley Path Brand and Wayfinding Signage Guidelines*, which takes a regional approach to provide consistent signage across jurisdiction lines. Similar to universal motorized traffic signs, Valley Path signage provides uniformity and consistency for off-street paths throughout Maricopa

County. Signage installed along Buckeye paths and trails shall be consistent to MAG guidelines.

Incorporate interpretive information on the natural, cultural, and historical resources along path and trail routes.

PARTNERSHIPS

Many of the pathways and trails identified in this plan are located along existing or planned utility and infrastructure corridors including irrigation canals, powerline corridors, gas lines, and flood control channel paths. These utilities require maintenance roads for convenient access for utility maintenance. The City should develop agreements with these companies to enhance the multi-use potential of such maintenance roads for pathways and trails. The use of these trails by the public for both transportation and recreation needs can enhance the safety by providing added eyes to deter people from vandalizing, damaging or tampering with facilities. The development of IGAs and MOUs can maximize the use of these lands and can potentially contribute to the best use of public funds by working together on a cost share for the operation and maintenance roads and the dual-purpose pathways and trails.

MOTORIZED VEHICLE TRAILS

The focus of this chapter is to provide a cohesive framework of non-motorized trail connectivity throughout Buckeye. To that end, the use of motorized vehicles will be prohibited for usage on all paths and trails identified in this plan. There is demand to establish appropriate locations for motorized vehicle recreation as the urbanization of Maricopa County limits opportunities for motorized recreation. Both Maricopa County and the City of Buckeye have adopted ordinances that preclude the use of motorized vehicles on non-paved surfaces. The City of Buckeye should collaborate with Maricopa County Parks and Recreation and BLM to locate, design and construct a motorized trail in a suitable location outside of the PM-10 boundary. The PM-10 boundary is an area designated by EPA that exceeds the acceptable national standard for particulate matter pollution and thus has additional regulations to mitigate fugitive dust. In Buckeye, the western boundary is generally along the Rooks Road alignment and the southern boundary at the Hunt Highway alignment.

Buckeye has many master planned and age restricted communities that provide golf courses for their residents' use. Golf cart paths should be provided throughout the course and from neighborhood access points to keep the golf carts off of the street network. Golf cart plans should be provided that detail routes from adjacent neighborhoods to the club house and throughout the course to ensure users can access all of the areas in a safe manner.

CHAPTER 4

OPEN SPACE

CHAPTER 4: OPEN SPACE

Buckeye is a city with ample open space and natural resources. The City is home to the White Tank Mountains, the Buckeye Hills, Robbins Butte Wildlife Area, Powers Butte Wildlife Area, the Maricopa Mountains, the Gila and Hassayampa Rivers, and numerous washes. All of these areas serve as wildlife corridors. In addition, the views of the mountains and their invitation to explore the out-of-doors signify that the City of Buckeye offers a connection to nature to its residents. These areas are important to protect and preserve as Buckeye continues its development into a large metropolitan city with a population that will rival that of the City of Phoenix.

IMPORTANCE OF OPEN SPACE

There are many community benefits of open space including:

- Provides outdoor recreation opportunities
- Preserves environmental resources
- Promotes economic development & tourism
- Enhances public safety

OPEN SPACE PROVIDES OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Open space provides valuable opportunities for passive and active recreation, including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, camping and picnicking. These activities are better suited to open space preserves than in developed parks. These activities promote physical and mental health through exercise as well as breaks away from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, improving the well-being of our citizens. An article in The Journal of Attention Disorders stated that a 20-minute walk in a park or other natural area can help children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder focus better.[1]

Image 4-1: White Tank Mountains in Buckeye

PRESERVES ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Open space tracts are home to a myriad of resources, including soils, flora and fauna. Open space serves as the lungs of the community, creating tracts of land for breathable space away from congestion and development. Preserving open space can positively impact water quality and air

[1] Taylor AF, Kuo FE. (2009). Children with attention deficits concentrate better after walk in the park. Journal of Attention Disorders: 12(5): 402-409.

quality, and reduce the heat island effect. Open space's natural topography and vegetation can combat the absorbed heat that is given off our streets and buildings, providing a cooling effect to surrounding areas.

PROMOTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Open space is important for economic development and tourism. Many studies have been completed that analyze the impact outdoor recreation has to the overall economy and the dollars generated from both direct and indirect sales. Corporations positively view open space as a major contributor to locating in a city.

Studies have also shown that property values are higher adjacent to open space and parks. Landscape architect John Gilcrest analyzed property values adjacent to three different preserves in the City of Phoenix, including the Phoenix Mountain Preserve, South Mountain Park and Lookout Mountain. *The study revealed that second to the size of the home, proximity to the preserve determined the value of the property, with higher values located closer to desert mountain preserves.*[2]

ENHANCES PUBLIC SAFETY

The preservation of open space allows natural functions to occur unimpeded. For example, washes and natural drainage patterns, left in a natural state are able to convey rainwaters efficiently and are often less costly than developed solutions. Open space can also serve as fire breaks.

[2] The Effect of Open Space Preserves on Residential Property Values. John R. Gilcrest. 2001. Master's Thesis for Arizona State University.

GOALS AND POLICIES FOR OPEN SPACE

This plan sets out to protect Buckeye's natural resources by setting aside undeveloped open space through a variety of goals and policies, including open space land preservation, and open space design.

GOAL 4.1 OPEN SPACE LAND PRESERVATION

Preserve the desert ecosystem, which is the interconnected network of protected land and water resources that supports native plant and animal species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources and contributes to the community's health, welfare, and quality of life.

4.1.1 Protect Buckeye's natural resources by setting aside undeveloped open space as conservation parks and preserves.

4.1.2 Coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management and Arizona State Land Department on the preservation of open space.

4.1.3 Examine the feasibility of purchasing additional State Land surrounding the White Tank Mountains and other natural resources for the long-term preservation of open space.

4.1.4 Focus resources on the enhancement of the rivers to ridges concept with greenways that connect the White Tank Mountains, Buckeye Hills, Maricopa Mountains, and the Gila and Hassayampa Rivers.

4.1.5 Make Buckeye the recreational gateway to the Sonoran Desert National Monument, White Tank Mountains (including Maricopa County's White Tank

Mountain Regional Park and Skyline Regional Park), Buckeye Hills Regional Park, wildlife areas, and the Gila and Hassayampa Rivers. Develop a coordinated strategy with applicable agencies for tourist traffic, portals and trailheads to these important desert and riparian environments.

4.1.6 Participate in the Bureau of Land Management and Arizona State Land Department's planning activities to ensure mutually compatible plans for their lands in Buckeye.

4.1.7 Partner with advocacy groups, such as the White Tank Mountains Conservancy and land owners on the identification and preservation of wildlife linkages.

4.1.8 Protect mountain ridge lines from development as the views of these features are fundamental to the visual identify of Buckeye. Protect the mountain slopes from development through a combination of land use regulations, zoning ordinances, transfers of development rights, acquisitions, or dedications.

4.1.9 Develop a preservation plan for Buckeye's municipal planning area that identifies areas with significant natural and cultural resources that should be protected through various mechanisms.

GOAL 4.2 OPEN SPACE DESIGN

Satisfy both the community's active and passive recreational needs by integrating natural systems, such as rivers, washes, mountains, and environmentally sensitive desert environments, to that of man-made parks, trails, and recreational facilities.

4.2.1 Ensure developers are conserving significant resources in their development, such as hillsides, wash corridors, mature stands of vegetation, etc.

4.2.2 Maximize land use compatibility around open space tracts to enhance community recreational opportunities.

4.2.3 Manage the interface between the built and natural environments with compatible land uses and innovative site planning.

4.2.4 Utilize buffers to protect natural resources from adjacent development.

Image 4-2 Proliferation of Tamarisks in the Gila River near Rainbow Road and MC 85 in Buckeye. The tamarisk is an invasive, non-native tree species that out competes native riparian plants.

4.2.5 Develop design and planning standards to ensure the compatibility of uses occurring adjacent to natural resources and that access to such resources are not cut off by adjacent development.

4.2.6 Stress the connectivity of open space as opposed to fragmented open space by working with developers and land agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Land Department, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

4.2.7 Provide trail systems that connect blocks of open space in a community.

4.2.8 Use regional drainage corridors as land use buffers, wildlife corridors, and multi-use trails. The Flood Control District of Maricopa County established these corridors in the El Rio Water Course Master Plan, Sun Valley Area Drainage Master Plan, and the Buckeye Area Drainage Master Plan.

4.2.9 Explore the creation of view corridors, assess and study their value to Buckeye residents, and evaluate mechanisms to enforce them.

4.2.10 Partner with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and other agencies to proactively remove tamarisks from impacted waterways. The tamarisks can negatively impact river functions by impeding flood waters.

4.2.11 Monitor illegal dumping of trash and debris within the City's municipal planning area and work with the Police Department and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office to increase patrols in impacted areas. Work with volunteer groups to host clean up days.

4.2.12 Protect Buckeye's dark skies by implementing state-of-the art technology for reducing light dissipation and glare.

4.2.13 Encourage the use of native, drought-tolerant landscaping that can benefit the wildlife.

4.2.14 Protect major wash and river corridors and natural drainage ways within Buckeye by ensuring adequate buffers and compatible development.

4.2.15 Protect environmentally sensitive areas from disturbance due to construction. For developments near sensitive areas or wildlife corridors, minimize building envelopes, to regulate areas approved for disturbance as well as those that must be kept undisturbed, in their natural state.

4.2.16 Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive, non-native plant and animal species.

4.2.17 Require sand and gravel operations within the Buckeye Planning Area to mitigate impacts of their mining operations.

OPEN SPACE AREAS TO BE PRESERVED

The City of Buckeye recognizes the intrinsic value of open space with the ecological benefits provided and has identified the following resources as being important for preservation and conservation. This list is not all-inclusive - there are many other natural resources that should be preserved throughout the City not specifically mentioned in the following sections.

MOUNTAINS, HILLS, ROCK OUTCROPPINGS & BUTTES

The City of Buckeye boasts several mountain ranges within its municipal planning area, including the White Tank Mountains, Buckeye Hills, and the North Maricopa Mountains. These areas provide valuable habitat to many species, including reptiles, birds and mammals.

Image 4-3: White Tank Mountains in Buckeye

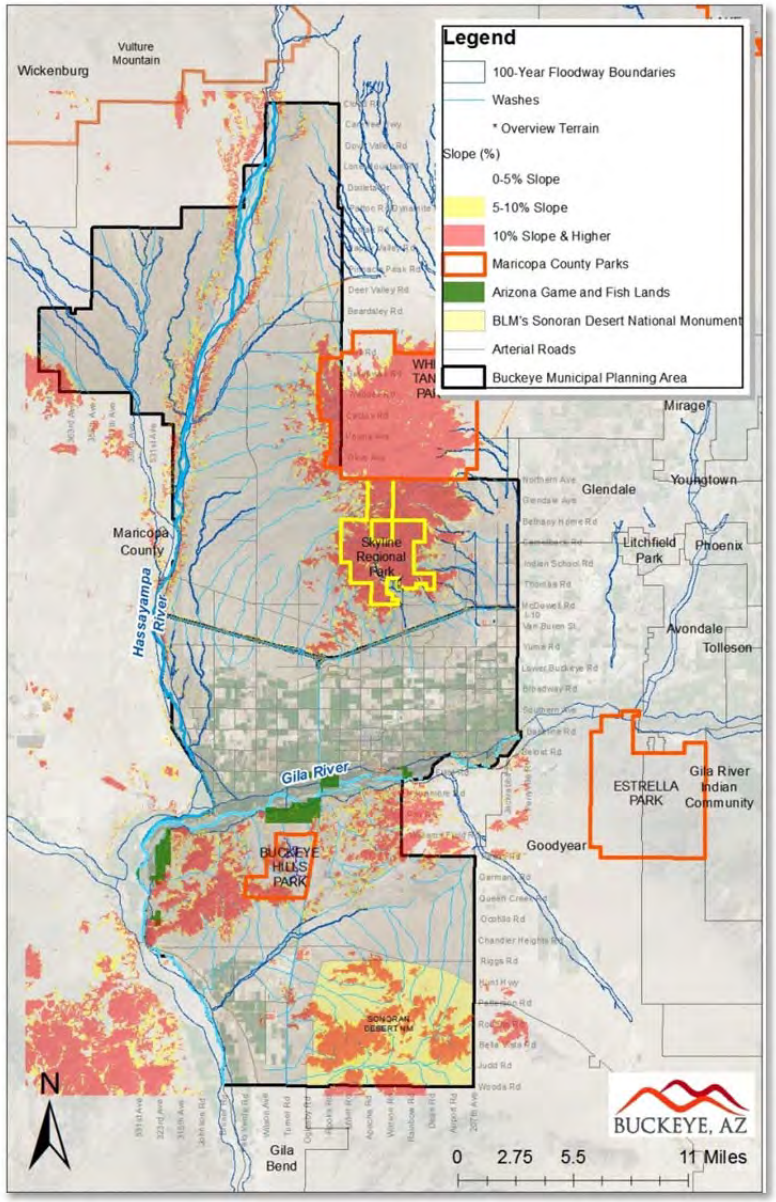
RIVERS & WASHES

There are a variety of water courses through Buckeye's planning area, including the Hassayampa and Gila Rivers as well as major washes, such as Wagner Wash, Star Wash, Daggs Wash, Powerline Wash, Jackrabbit Wash, Skyline Wash and Rainbow Wash. The river and wash corridors contain abundant riparian and ecological resources. The increased density of vegetation from the perennial, intermittent or ephemeral water supply provides food and protective cover for wildlife.

WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS & CORRIDORS

Buckeye is home to an abundant amount of wildlife, such as coyote, mountain lions, bobcats, kit fox, mule deer, javelina, desert tortoise, gila monster, rattlesnakes, red-tailed hawks, burrowing owl, and many more. It is important to conserve open space and migratory linkages between blocks as it serves as valuable habitat for wildlife. Open space blocks that become surrounded by development restrict or eliminate wildlife travel to surrounding open space blocks. Wildlife populations become isolated and more susceptible to local extirpation and genetic diversity can diminish without interchange between other wildlife populations. Access restrictions to life-supporting food, cover and water sources and fatalities by vehicle impacts and humans can reduce population numbers. Larger species are impacted first by habitat isolation and can eventually become extirpated from the wildlife area. For example, the last desert bighorn sheep was spotted in the White Tank Mountains in 1978 as documented by Arizona Game and Fish Department's Wildlife Manager, Don Rickel. Population declines of larger species have also been seen in the Phoenix Mountain Preserve and at one time, mule deer, javelina, bobcat, mountain lion and other species inhabited these areas but wildlife populations eventually moved out or died without the preservation of wildlife corridors to other open space blocks.

Figure 4-1: Slopes Greater than 5% and Rivers, Washes in Buckeye



OTHER RESOURCES TO BE PROTECTED & PRESERVED

Other resources, such as mature, healthy stands of vegetation, unique natural features, such as canyons, slopes, springs, and scenic view areas should be protected in the City of Buckeye. Dark night skies are also a valuable natural resource to many communities. Several cities in Arizona, including Flagstaff, Sedona and Tucson have adopted ordinances to protect their night skies from prolific and unnecessary light pollution. The new County "Vision 2030" and Maricopa County's White Tank Mountain Regional Park Master Plan update calls for dark skies. Buckeye should consider incorporating requirements into its General Plan and Development Code to protect the City's dark skies.

Near the Gila River, the water table is extremely high. Because of the high water table, during the excavation for sand and gravel materials, 'lakes' are formed. These mining lakes become valuable natural areas for the plant and wildlife resources that take advantage of the availability of open water. As such, the City should partner with the sand and gravel companies to ensure the formed lakes can become high quality natural and recreation resources at the end of mining operations. The City should also explore the possibility of acquiring these sand and gravel lakes for recreational lakes.

STRATEGIES TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE IN BUCKEYE

Many cities and towns throughout Arizona and across the country are finding creative solutions to ensure the long-term preservation of open space and the natural resources contained within.

PRESERVATION STRATEGIES FOR OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

FINANCING LAND PRESERVATION

Some cities in Arizona have adopted policies to preserve mountains and hillsides from encroaching development or to ensure development respects and complements the natural environment. Many cities have adopted land preservation strategies with voter-approved referendums to provide the necessary dollars to purchase sensitive lands, such as hillsides and slopes. For example, the City of Phoenix's Parks and Preserves Initiative was passed by 80% of the Phoenix voters in 1999 and raised over $220 million to build new parks, improve community parks and purchase Sonoran desert preserve land. Since 1999, the City of Phoenix has purchased thousands of acres of Arizona State Trust Land to expand the preserve. In 2008, 83% of voters approved the renewal of the Initiative for an additional 30 more years. The initiative allocates one cent of sales tax for every $10 purchase towards parks and preserves with 60% allocated towards parks and 40% towards preserves and their land acquisitions.

Similarly, the City of Scottsdale has voter approval to continue land acquisitions to preserve open space in the McDowell Mountains. In 1995, Scottsdale voters approved a 0.2% sales tax increase and an additional 0.15% sales tax in 2004 to acquire land in the McDowell Mountains. Voters also approved several bond initiatives to provide funding for open space land acquisition.

Image 4-4: Lake Formed as a Result of Sand & Gravel Mining Near the Gila River and Miller Road in Buckeye

Over the next ten years, the City of Buckeye should evaluate the feasibility of a voter-approved sales tax set-aside specifically for land acquisitions, access to and improvements in and around the White Tank Mountains. The Arizona State Land Department owns land south of Buckeye's Skyline Regional Park and a 1 square mile island (640 acres) within the park. There are also significant State Land Department holdings on the western side of Buckeye's Skyline Regional Park and Maricopa County's White Tank Mountain Regional Park. The City, working with Maricopa County and the White Tank Mountains Conservancy, a recently formed 501c3, should develop a land conservation and preservation strategy of these lands.

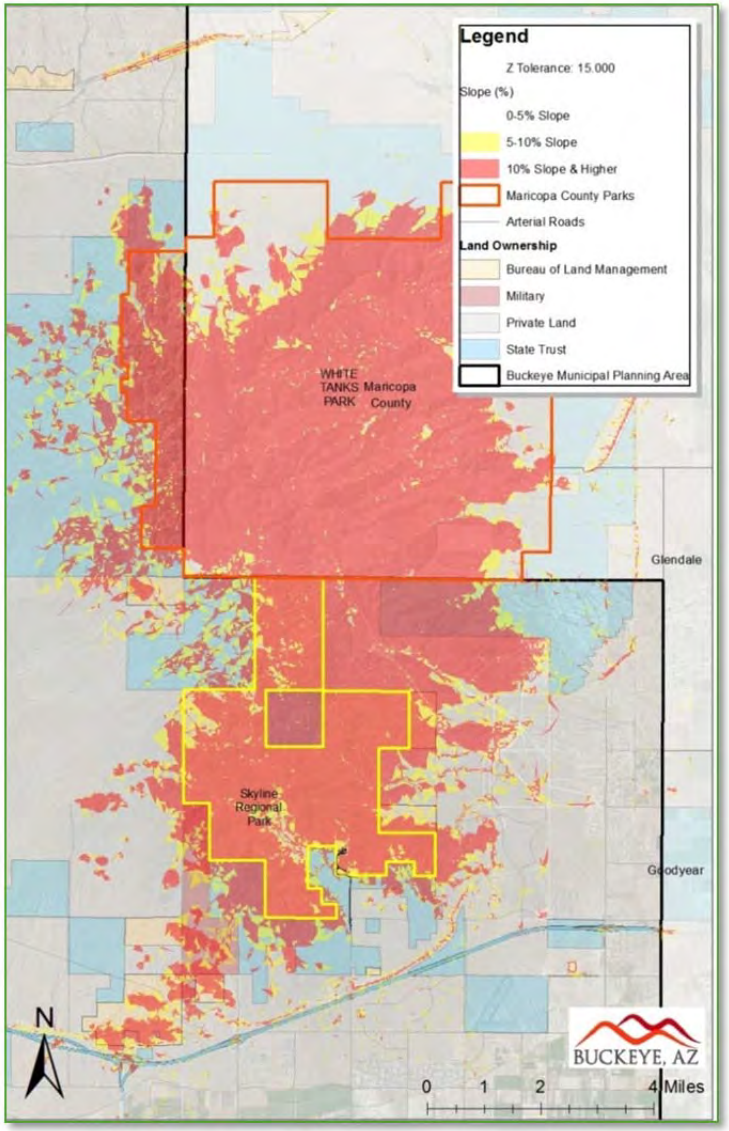
Other mountain areas, including the Buckeye Hills, Powers Butte, Robbins Butte and the Maricopa Mountains are already preserved lands and either owned by the Bureau of Land Management or Arizona Game and Fish Department. The Sonoran Desert National Monument also has protections in place for long-term preservation. Preserving open space and connectivity between these areas would further protect the conservation values and investments of these areas.

DEVELOPMENT OF EDGE TREATMENTS AND DESIGN STANDARDS FOR DEVELOPMENT ON OR ADJACENT TO OPEN SPACE

In addition to the Phoenix Parks and Preserves Initiative, which acquires land for the preserve, the City of Phoenix adopted a hillside ordinance, which restricts development in sloped areas, such as mountains and hillsides. Phoenix's hillside ordinance ensures compatible development with surrounding open space. Only 35% of a hillside lot or 20,000 square feet, whichever is less is able to be graded and developed. Landscaping is required to complement and blend with the surrounding indigenous Sonoran desert vegetation and perimeter walls are not allowed outside the graded area to expand open space areas.

In addition to Phoenix's Hillside Ordinance, the City also has a prescribed edge treatment surrounding its mountain preserves to ensure access to open space and to prevent singularly continuous walled lots from surrounding the mountains. The City of Phoenix requires a minimum of 60% open edge treatment surrounding their preserves with flexibility as to what will count towards the open edge, such as cul-de-sacs, single loaded streets, t-intersections, private common open space,

Figure 4-2: Slopes Greater than 5% in the White Tank Mountains. Much of the sloped land outside of the White Tank Mountain Regional Park and Skyline Regional Park falls within Arizona State Trust Land.



paseos and open space access. The City of Buckeye, working with Avondale, Goodyear, Maricopa County Planning and Development and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County worked together to develop similar planning standards for development occurring adjacent to the Gila River.[3]

Image 4-5: Hedgehog Cactus in Skyline Regional Park

The City of Scottsdale also has an Environmentally Sensitive Land Ordinance (ESLO), which provides guidance on the intensity of allowable development in prime open space areas. For hillside areas, where slopes are less than 25%, development is restricted to 1 home per 5 acres. In areas with slope between 25-35%, density is less at one home per 20 acres. For slopes 35% or above, 1 home is allowed per 40 acres. The ESLO also requires natural area open space that varies based on slope and location, whether considered lower desert, upper desert or hillside. Open space in hillside ranges from a low of 50% (0-15%) to upwards of 80% (slopes in excess of 25%).

The City of Buckeye should develop similar ordinances and plans for hillside development and edge treatments adjacent to open space over the next 10 years.

OTHER PRESERVATION STRATEGIES

Arizona cities and towns have also developed plans and guiding ordinances on the preservation of rivers, washes and their floodways and floodplains. Many cities encourage developers to retain washes in place and in their natural conditions where practical. Both the Cities of Tucson and Scottsdale have requirements that encourage floodways and floodplains be left in their natural state to ensure hydrologic processes can occur unimpeded and that riparian resources are preserved, providing both economic and ecological benefits. If disturbance does occur, mitigation must occur with the same density and diversity of vegetation that would naturally occur in the watercourse.

The City of Buckeye, through its Gila River Restoration Program is developing sand and gravel design guidelines to provide guidance on reclamation strategies to ensure the end use blends with the surrounding natural landscape. These guidelines will provide insight into the desired use of mining pits. In locations where the water table is high, lakes form, providing a unique opportunity in the desert for water-based recreation activities, including fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing.

[3] El Rio Planning Standards and Design Guidelines: A Guide to Implementation & Management. J2 Matrix Design Group. A Joint Project by Maricopa County, Flood Control District of Maricopa County and the Cities of Avondale, Goodyear and Buckeye. 2015.

Formalized partnerships should be developed with land owners in the Gila and Hassayampa Rivers, including the Bureau of Land Management, the Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Game and Fish, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, and sand and gravel mining operators for preservation, restoration, enhancement, or maintenance of riparian resources in the rivers. Such cooperative agreements can also detail the support for river access plans for pathways and trails along the floodway and within the river itself that crosses property lines.

The City of Buckeye, working with partnering agencies should monitor and evaluate for invasive, non-indigenous plants, insects and animals that could shift the delicate balance of ecological processes.

The City of Buckeye should encourage the use of native vegetation in all development projects, but especially on those projects abutting open space. Not only does the use of native vegetation on projects abutting open space reaffirm Buckeye's desert environment, provides for transition of landscapes, but also benefits local wildlife that depend on indigenous vegetation for food and cover.

Over the next ten years, the City of Buckeye should develop a prioritization strategy, based on science, for the preservation of open space lands in Buckeye. Those lands deemed critical for their open space value should be prioritized first for acquisition with whatever available funds there are for fee purchase. Such attributes that should be considered for preservation, include slope, waterways, near-term development potential or at-risk for loss, significant vegetation stands, visual quality, archaeological sites, habitat, etc.

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

The Arizona Game and Fish Department working with a broad coalition of stakeholders has identified wildlife corridors (or linkages) between habitat blocks that should be protected and preserved. These wildlife corridors, if preserved, will allow for the continued movement of wildlife and promote local wildlife population sustainability. Wildlife corridors identified in Buckeye include:

- Gila River Corridor / Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt
- Hassayampa River Corridor
- White Tank Mountains to the Hassayampa River Corridor
- White Tank Mountains to the Vulture Mountains
- White Tank Mountains to the Belmont and Big Horn Mountains
- Areas North of the FRS Structures along I-10
- Maricopa Mountains to Buckeye Hills to Gila Bend Mountains Corridor
- Washes including Wagner Wash, Star Wash and Jackrabbit Wash

The City of Buckeye recognizes the value such wildlife corridors have to Buckeye. Without the preservation of corridors, the biodiversity in Buckeye will diminish with irreplaceable consequences. These corridors benefit plants by providing the critical lands needed for seed dispersal, genetic exchange between native desert plants, and pollination corridors.

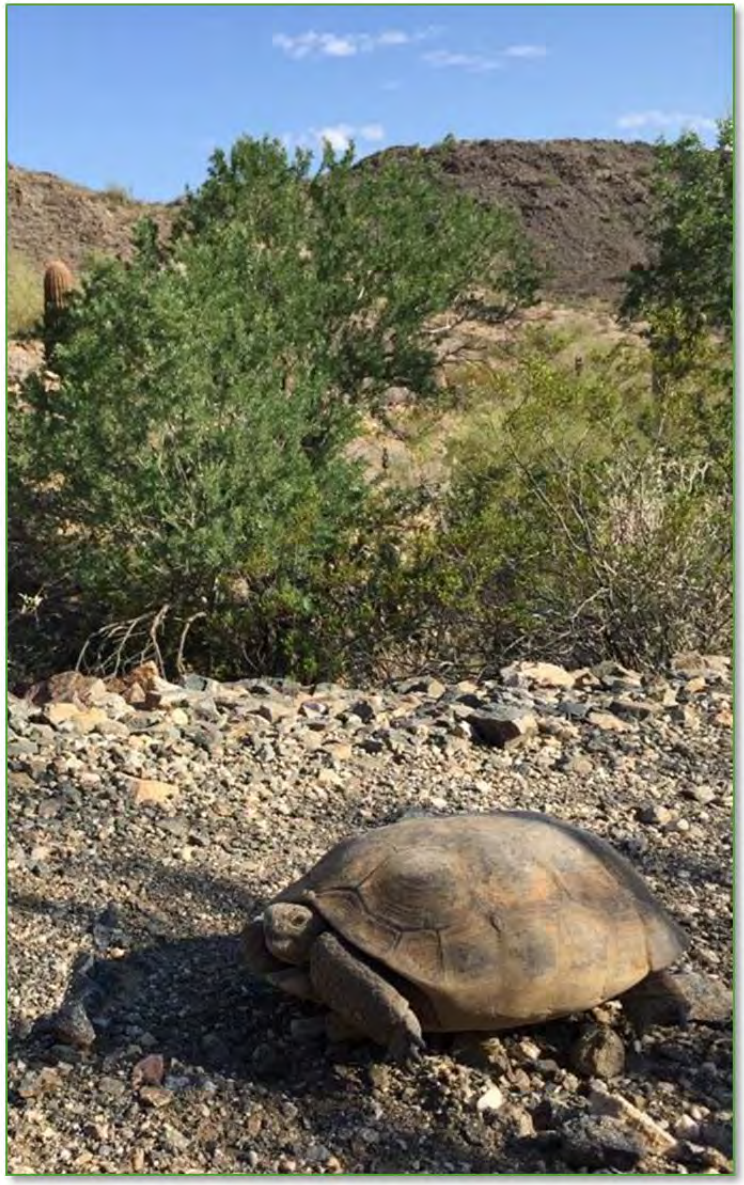
The City of Buckeye should continue its collaborative efforts with Arizona Game and Fish Department, developers, property owners, and environmental groups, including the White Tank Mountains Conservancy to determine methods and

approaches to preserve these corridors at both the benefit of wildlife and the developer's interests.

Other strategies that should be encouraged to benefit wildlife in Buckeye include the following:

- Stock tanks and wildlife waters should be strategically placed to benefit wildlife in known movement corridors. Natural washes should be conserved as ephemeral and intermittent sources for water, as well as valuable habitat areas.
- Ensure connectivity between wildlife habitat blocks, corridors and small habitat patches. Smaller patches of open space can serve as stepping stones between habitat blocks for birds and insects.
- Properties abutting open space should use wildlife-friendly design, including the use of low lighting, native vegetation, low density development and restraint in the use of walls that block flow and access into and out of habitat or create hard edges to adjacent development. The use of walls may be appropriate to buffer and separate higher impact uses, such as denser types of development from open space or corridors.
- Properties abutting open space should promote wildlife (or ecologically) friendly stewardship.
- Sensitively design streets and other types of man-made corridors, including utilities and trails that may affect the travel movements of wildlife. Minimize locating man-made corridors, such as streets and utilities that are located within or cross wildlife corridors. Where crossings do occur, design to allow crossings to safely occur for

Image 4-6: Sonoran Desert Tortoise in the southern White Tank Mountains



targeted species whether above, below or at-grade (with accompanying safety signage). Streets should be lower-volume and lower speeds that intersect at-grade with wildlife corridors.

- Locate parks and trails on the fringes of known corridors as a buffer between adjacent development and wildlife habitat.
- Incorporate buffers adjacent to corridors, habitat blocks or patches to minimize edge effects from urbanization that diminish wildlife habitat value. At a minimum, buffers should capture wash channels and the terrestrial landscaped affected by floods and elevated water table. Develop buffer widths appropriate for indigenous species assemblages and based on wildlife research.
- Develop wildlife research and monitoring strategies to provide data on animal movement patterns, population status, inform land conservation priorities and inform placement and design of wildlife friendly infrastructure, and to evaluate wildlife corridor use.

Image 4-7: Red-tailed hawk perched atop a Saguaro in Skyline Regional Park

CHAPTER 5

RECREATION

CHAPTER 5: RECREATION

The City of Buckeye has long recognized the value of recreation to its residents' social, physical, economic and mental health and offers a diverse set of program offerings. These programs focus on inspiring personal growth, promoting healthy lifestyles and creating a sense of community.

Image 5-1: Runners Participate in a run in Buckeye

The City began offering recreational opportunities as a service of the local library, parks and the aquatic center more than eighty years ago. This long history of providing recreational offerings goes back to the 1930's when the first pool was built near Southern and Apache Road, providing families the opportunity to escape the desert heat. Town Park, the first park in Buckeye opened around 1950 and housed the second pool, which opened in 1953 and was replaced in 1997. In 1955, the Buckeye Valley Museum was created in Town Park, providing a place for residents to learn about Buckeye's past. A second park, Kell Park was conveyed to the City in 1958 while the land for Earl Edgar Recreational Facility was acquired in 1972. The Buckeye Community Center opened in 1984 and has been providing services to the senior population for the past thirty years. And in 2006, the Dr. Saide Recreation Center opened its doors to provide recreational offerings to youth and teens. The City's facilities continued to expand with Sundance Park opening in 2012.

The survey of residents in the fall of 2014 showed that residents strongly support the City in providing youth sports, fitness and wellness, and swim programs to residents.

BENEFITS OF RECREATION

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Community health and wellness is the foremost benefit of a robust recreation system. Now more than ever it seems that the call is being made at a national level for local government to draft policy and create programs that support the creation of long-term healthy habits and exercise regimens.

In 2015, the Surgeon General's Office issued a Call to Action to increase physical activity nationwide.

According to the Surgeon General's office, one out of every two U.S. adults is living with a chronic disease, such as heart disease, cancer, or diabetes. These diseases contribute to disability, premature death, and health care costs. Increasing

people's physical activity levels will significantly reduce their risk of chronic diseases and related risk factors.

The Surgeon General's Executive Summary also states that:

> *To obtain substantial health benefits, the 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans recommends that adults get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity, or an equivalent combination, each week and that children and adolescents be active for at least 60 minutes every day.*[1]

While physical health is currently a focal point for the nation, health and wellness benefits of participation in recreation programs and events go beyond addressing physical health. Additional benefits include:

- Personal and spiritual growth and increased life satisfaction
- Increased life expectancy and quality of life
- Reduced depression and stress relief

BUILD COMMUNITY & PROMOTES CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Recreation programs and events provide a platform for residents to build community, make connections and create long lasting relationships. This paves the way for community pride to be developed.

Volunteerism is promoted through many avenues and events help to celebrate the community's cultural diversity.

Many recreation programs and events provide a place for residents of all ages and abilities to connect through shared interests. The City's Community Center provides outlets to the City's senior population to keep them active, engaged and challenged.

LIFELONG LEARNING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Recreation programs offer a place for residents to develop at a very young age. From socialization at the park, developing life skills such as swimming, developing interview skills through workshops or learning a new hobby later in life, the opportunities are endless and are a vital part to every community.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is often times a silent benefit of recreation programming and events by providing an outlet that prevents crime by keeping the youth of the community active and engaged. Many studies have shown a direct correlation between involvement in afterschool programs with reduction in crime rates, drug and alcohol use and sexual activity.

Recreation programs also increase stewardship by involving the community in projects, events and programs and creating a sense of ownership of them.

[1] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Step It Up! The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities 2015. Available at: http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/calls/walking-and-walkable-communities/exec-summary.html. Accessed September 14, 2015.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

There are many researched and proven economic benefits including the creation of jobs along with job training for the youth in the community through seasonal and job readiness workshops. Many programs generate revenues through program fees.

The most important economic impact is the increased tourism that the City benefits from as a result of programs and events. From those traveling to Buckeye to watch their child in a swim meet to those who travel to Buckeye to run a marathon, the City benefits from their dollars spent within the city.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR RECREATION

Offer comprehensive programs that satisfy varying age levels, physical abilities and special interests.

5.1 RECREATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

5.1.1 Determine the overall types of services and programs the department should provide based on the identification of core, secondary and support programs.

5.1.2 Develop diversified programs that reflect the level and types of play, activities and needs the community desires.

5.1.3 Periodically survey residents to determine the types of programs and events they would like to see offered in the City to ensure we are meeting the changing interests, needs and level of satisfaction desired.

5.1.4 Develop and implement adaptive recreation programs.

5.1.5 Provide programs, and services and events that have a regional appeal for purposes of economic development.

5.1.6 Offer programs and opportunities that interpret the significance of the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the City.

5.1.7 Evaluate potential opportunities to provide increased program offerings for those living in master planned communities located outside of downtown Buckeye.

5.1.8 Provide special events and activities that bring the Buckeye community together.

5.1.9 Stay abreast of programming trends to ensure the City is providing recreational offerings that are current to the times and the needs of our residents.

5.1.10 Review City recreation offerings annually and determine if programs with declining participation numbers should be eliminated or revamped. Eliminated programs provide an opportunity to free resources that can be used to develop new, innovative programs that respond to current needs.

5.1.11 Consult with the Buckeye Youth Council and the Senior Site Council on a regular basis to learn about the types

of programs, services and facilities these demographics desire in Buckeye.

5.1.12 Strive to ensure that all recreation programs are universally accessible.

5.2 PARTNERSHIPS TO AUGMENT & SUPPORT PROGRAM OFFERINGS

5.2.1 Pursue and develop viable partnerships with other service organizations and schools for recreational opportunities.

Image 5-2: Yoga in Buckeye's Sundance Park

5.2.2 Build upon existing partnerships with the school districts to augment the City recreational offerings.

5.2.3 Partner with local cultural and arts organizations to expand upon performing, visual and literary arts programs.

5.2.4 Seek out local and national groups who offer health and fitness events that will appeal to a large audience and will attract participants throughout the state.

5.2.5 Develop a program philosophy on the types of recreation programs that should be offered through the City and the types of programs that can or should be provided by outside for-profit and not-for profit organizations.

5.3 FEE SETTING & COST RECOVERY

5.3.1 Annually evaluate fees and charges to ensure our prices are comparable to other valley agencies, while adhering to cost recovery philosophies.

5.3.2 Evaluate fees for programs, activities and services against the cost recovery philosophy to determine if changes are warranted.

5.3.3 Develop a system of fees and charges that allow all residents the ability to participate, regardless of income level.

5.3.4 Continue to explore methods to augment the available dollars in the Youth Scholarship fund to allow youth,

regardless of income, the ability to participate in programs.

5.3.5 Determine the feasibility of expanding the use of the scholarship fund to apply to all residents, including adults, seniors and families that would allow them to participate in recreation programs at a reduced cost or free if they income-qualify.

5.3.6 Create a cost philosophy for fees assessed to residents and non-residents.

Image 5-3: Buckeye has been designated as a Playful City USA since 2012

5.4 HEALTHY RESIDENTS = HAPPY RESIDENTS

5.4.1 Provide affordable options for residents to participate in group fitness programs that get them active, engaged and healthy.

5.4.2 Promote healthy lifestyles by providing low-cost, locally grown healthy foods to all residents through Farmer's Markets.

5.4.3 Ensure the provision of healthy foods and drinks in City facilities and parks.

5.4.4 Where practical, encourage residents to walk or bike to recreation programs and events to promote healthy lifestyles, while reducing traffic congestion, pollution, and parking issues.

5.4.5 Explore the feasibility of passing a City ordinance that would deter or prohibit smoking in City parks.

5.5 MARKET THE WORTH OF THE SERVICES WE OFFER

5.5.1 Develop a comprehensive marketing strategy that promotes the City's recreational offerings and special events at the community, state and national levels.

5.5.2 Focus resources on advantageously using emerging marketing trends, including the use of social media for recreation programs.

5.5.3 Enhance the functionality and user-friendliness of the City's online presence and encourage program registration and reservations via the internet.

5.5.4 Augment Buckeye's financial resources by seeking sponsorships from companies that see the marketing value of associating their name and brand to City events and programs.

5.6 PROVIDE QUALITY FACILITIES FOR RECREATON PROGRAMS

5.6.1 Ensure the City of Buckeye provides residents with high-quality, functional and well-maintained facilities for recreation programs.

5.6.2 As the City's population grows, so should its parks and recreation facilities. Over the next ten years, the City should construct a new aquatic center and multi-generational center to meet the recreational needs of new residents moving into the City and to underserved residents, who do not have convenient and close access to recreation services.

5.6.3 Equitably provide access to parks and recreation services to all residents in Buckeye.

Image 5-4: Buckeye Aquatic Center

5.6.4 Develop active parks and recreation facilities that provide varied recreational opportunities but also meet the needs for specific user groups and can respond to new and emerging recreation trends.

5.6.5 Provide parks and recreation facilities that can provide year-round use and are not subject to a decrease in attendance because of Buckeye's extreme summer heat.

5.6.6 City of Buckeye recreation facilities should strive to be universally accessible.

PROGRAMS CURRENTLY OFFERED BY THE CITY

The City of Buckeye offers many types of programs for our residents that recognize the following basic premises in relation to recreation programming.

- Recreation programs and facilities should be accessible to all.
- Recreation programs and facilities should be offered to people of all ages and abilities.
- Recreation programs and facilities should be affordable in cost.
- Some recreation programs and facilities should require cost recovery.
- Recreation programs and services should align with City and Community Services Department goals to achieve the overall vision and mission.

SPECIAL INTEREST CLASSES

The City of Buckeye offers a variety of lifelong learning opportunities through special interest classes that include the following: martial arts, dance, gymnastics, music lessons, cooking and painting classes.

YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Buckeye provides many youth enrichment programs that provide quality educational and recreational activities for participants. These programs include the Kid's Before and After School Enrichment (Kid's BASE) Program, Preschool Programs, Summer Recreation and Camp, and afterschool intermural activities.

YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS

Youth and adult sports get both kids and adults active, healthy and engaged, developing their skills and teamwork. Buckeye offers programs for soccer, softball, baseball, basketball, and flag football for differing abilities and age groups.

Image 5-5: Youth Sports Participants

AQUATICS

The Buckeye Aquatic Center in Town Park provides many programs for families, including open swim, swim lessons, dive classes, swim team, adaptive swim, lap swim, and water aerobics.

Image 5-6: Aquatic Center Swim Meet

FITNESS PROGRAMS

Over the past few years, the City of Buckeye has ramped up its fitness program offerings by developing fitness in the park, walking clubs and running groups. The City will continue to explore ways to get our residents active and healthy.

TEEN PROGRAMS

The Dr. Saide Recreation Center provides teens socialization opportunities through the drop zone program, clubs, trips, and educational activities and workshops.

SENIOR & ACTIVE ADULT PROGRAMS

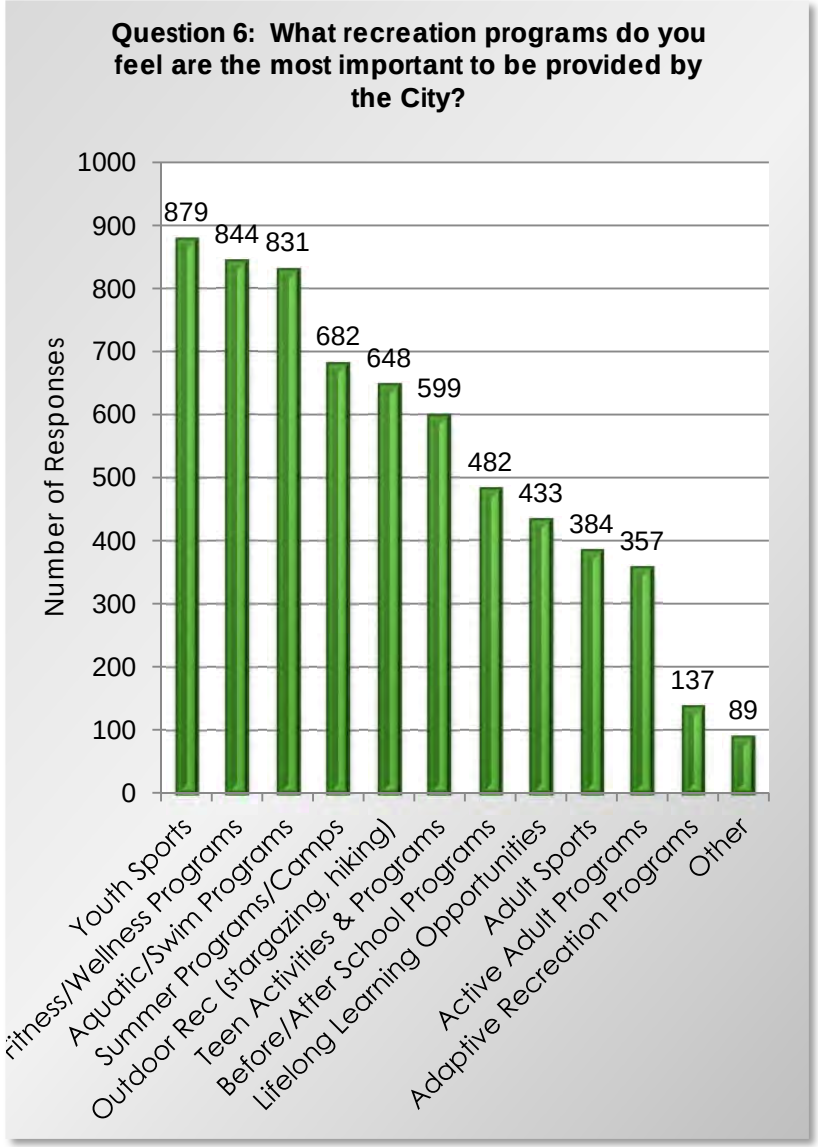
The Buckeye Community Center offers those 60 years and better positive socialization and wellness programs, including Silver Sneakers and other fitness activities geared towards their demographic, events and parties, field trips to local businesses, museums and points of interest, arts and crafts, and other socialization activities.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events provide residents the opportunity to get out and meet their neighbors, while enjoying all Buckeye has to offer. Events include the 4th of July Celebration, Halloween Carnival, Hometown Holiday Boutique, Buckeye Marathon, Spring Celebration, Demolition Derbies, Farmer's Markets, Movies and Concerts in the Park, Dog Days of Buckeye, Quarter Auctions and Community Yard Sales.

Image 5-7: 4th of July Celebration

Table 5-1: Survey Results for Types of Recreation Programs Most Important



PROGRAMS RESIDENTS FEEL ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO BE PROVIDED

Table 5-1: Survey Results for Types of Recreation Programs Most Important on the previous page shows what residents feel is most important for recreation programming. Residents identified, above all, that youth sports were the most important recreation program that should be provided by the City, followed by fitness/wellness and aquatic/swim programs. Residents placed a strong emphasis on these types of programs because of their innumerable benefits.

Other programs such as summer camp and recreation, outdoor recreation, and teen activities and programs were ranked in the second tier. Youth enrichment programs, such as Kids BASE and Lil' Squirts, Special Interest Classes, Adult Sports and Active Adult Programs followed in the third tier. Residents responded that specialized programs for adaptive recreation and niche programs were considered the least important to be offered by the City when compared to the other higher ranked options.

RECREATION PROGRAM OFFERING DETERMINANTS

The City of Buckeye develops and improves programs and services based on several criteria including interest from residents, resource availability and partnership opportunities.

INTEREST FROM RESIDENTS

The City of Buckeye captures and assesses our residents' interests in programs and activities through a variety of methods including customer input, paper and electronic surveys, personal interaction, program registration trends, local and national trends, public meetings, advisory boards, meeting reports, website traffic, social media and comments and through feedback. Staff then assesses the needs to ensure that they align with the Department's mission, vision and goals.

Recreation programs with low attendance and little demand should be evaluated through customer feedback to determine if improvements are needed or if the program should be eliminated because the interest or demand no longer exists.

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

When developing new programs, the City of Buckeye must determine if it has the available resources to successfully facilitate the program or activity. These resources include facility space, staffing, administrative support, and the funding available to cover direct and indirect costs if user fees do not fully pay for the program.

Chapter 2 of the document details the need for additional facilities, which would allow for expanded recreation programming, including the need for a new pool, multi-generational recreation center, and sports courts and fields.

PROVIDING PROGRAMS THROUGH OTHER MEANS

When developing the program, the City may find it does not have the adequate resources to offer the program; however there may be a way, through alternative means to provide the

service. The City of Buckeye should determine if there are other agencies in the community that could assist in offering the program and pool resources. For example, the City of Buckeye offers many of its programs at the local schools because they often have the classroom, gym, court or field space needed. When possible, the City should develop and strengthen partnerships with such agencies to mutually benefit the residents living in Buckeye.

Other potential partnering opportunities include sports leagues, such as Little League and AYSO, community organizations such as Boy and Girl Scouts, Youth 4 Youth, local churches, and homeowner's associations.

Additionally, there may be opportunities to contract the service to private providers and instructors who have the means to implement the program.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING ANALYSIS

Some programs offered in other jurisdictions have not been offered in Buckeye because of resource availability or the lack of suitable organizations to partner with to implement the program cost-effectively. Over the next ten years, Buckeye's population will continue to grow and new facilities will be added. The City should explore ways of providing the types of recreation programs listed below.

ADAPTIVE RECREATION

The City of Buckeye should examine the feasibility of providing adaptive recreation programs for those with physical, mental, emotional or social disabilities. Programs could be offered for aquatics, youth and adult sports, social events and field trips.

HEALTH & FITNESS PROGRAMS

Over the past few years, Buckeye has expanded its offerings for health and fitness programs, including Fitness in the Park, the Farmer's Market, and the Buckeye Marathon. Buckeye should continue to expand upon these offerings in an effort to improve residents' health and wellness.

OUTDOOR & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

With the opening of Skyline Regional Park comes an opportunity to provide outdoor and environmental education to Buckeye's residents, including its youth. Skyline Regional Park and other natural areas in Buckeye have abundant resources that some of Buckeye's residents are unfamiliar. For example, Buckeye staff took the teens from the Dr. Saide Recreation Center for a

Image 5-8: Teens Hiking in Skyline Regional Park

hike into Skyline Regional Park in 2014. For many of the teenagers, it was the first time they had ever hiked or experienced the open spaces found in their own community. The environmental literacy of many of our residents can be improved, giving them a greater appreciation for the local wildlife and plants that also call Buckeye home.

YEAR-ROUND AQUATICS PROGRAMS

One of the benefits of living in the Sonoran Desert is its warm temperatures throughout the year. Buckeye's average high in February is 73° and climbs up to 79° in March, followed by 87° in April. After summer's heat, Buckeye's average high temperature falls to 101° in September, 90° in October and 77° in November. Such seasonal temperatures provide opportunities for extended or year-round aquatic programs.

PERFORMING, VISUAL & LITERARY ARTS

The City of Buckeye should evaluate opportunities to expand its current offerings for performing, visual, and literary arts programs. Such programs could include music, dance, theatre, musical theatre, magic, puppetry, public speaking, drawing, painting, photography, poetry and creative writing.

COMPETITIVE SPORTS LEAGUES

Traditionally, the City of Buckeye only offered recreation-league youth sports, where each child was given equal playing time and no scores were kept. However, residents have expressed an interest in the City offering competitive-style sports leagues, which recently have begun to be offered to wide success. The City should evaluate augmenting these types of programs or partnering with other providers to benefit residents.

PROGRAMMING FOR ALL AGES & FAMILIES

The City of Buckeye offers many types of programs to its residents. The majority of programs offered are focused towards youth, teen and senior populations. Where feasible, programs should be expanded to include opportunities for every age demographic and for participation by families.

RECREATION AND LEISURE TRENDS ANALYSIS

One of the goals for Community Services Department is to "Offer comprehensive programs that satisfy varying age levels, physical abilities and special interests." The public's special interests shift over time and it is important to ensure the City's parks and recreation services are responsive to these changes.

TECHNOLOGY

The City of Buckeye is seeing a shift in how residents access information. This shift is generational with older residents desiring to receive information in paper and younger residents preferring to receive digital communications. It is important to know the preferences for each generation when marketing recreation programs and planning facilities for them to use. Prior to 2010, the City of Buckeye did not have a social media presence. Residents largely depended on print media and websites to find information on program offerings. Today, the City has multiple accounts for social media, including

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with most divisions hosting their own accounts. There is also a big push to ensure information is user-friendly when accessed through mobile devices.

Technology also has an effect on how people recreate. New games such as Wii Fit, Neos, and Dance Dance Revolution combine technology with physical activity and many recreation centers are capitalizing on their popularity. The City will continue to explore emerging trends in technology and evaluate its effectiveness to market and engage residents in programs.

MAKING TIME COUNT

There are many competing priorities which make it difficult for people to allocate hours for leisure activities. In the survey issued to Buckeye residents in the fall 2014, about 13% of respondents stated they do not have enough free time to participate in parks and recreation services (169 of the 1,300 surveyed). The Outdoor Foundation's 2012 Participation Report found that 33% of people say they do not have time for outdoor recreation and 17% say they are too busy with family responsibilities.[2] How does the City of Buckeye reach residents who have difficulty finding time to visit a park or participate in a program, even though they have an interest? Some agencies are developing new programs to better meet these families' needs, offering opportunities for unstructured play, drop-in programs, or individual classes.

[2] Outdoor Recreation Participation Report 2012. Outdoor Foundation. Page 28. http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/ResearchParticipation2012.pdf

TEAM SPORTS SHIFTING IN POPULARITY

Nationally, some sports are seeing increases to their numbers, while others are not. There is a move away from recreation league play (teams do not keep score and each child is guaranteed field time) to more competitive play (teams keep score and not every child is guaranteed field time). In 2014, the Wall Street Journal published an article about the decline of youth sports participation between 2008 to 2012 for youth aged 6 through 18. Here are some of the highlights of the study:[3]

Youth Soccer:	Fell by 7.1% from 7.11 to 6.61 million
Youth Tackle Football:	Fell by 5.4% from 3.26 to 3.08 million
Youth Basketball:	Fell by 8.3% from 7.59 to 6.95 million
Youth Baseball:	Fell by 7.2% from 6.04 to 5.61 million
Ice Hockey:	Rose by 64% from 330,000 to 550,000
Lacrosse:	Rose by 158% from 300,000 to 770,000

Not all is bleak – participation in other sports is increasing across the country, particularly lacrosse (up by 158%) and hockey (64%) however their overall numbers are much smaller than the core sports[4]. The City of Buckeye has not experienced similar declines in its youth sports programs, but it

[3] Sports and Fitness Industry Association/Physical Activity Council Survey of Nearly 70,000 Households and Individuals.
[4] Youth Participation Weakens in Basketball, Football, Baseball, Soccer: Fewer Children Play Team Sports. Ryan Wallerson. Wall Street Journal. January 31, 2014.

is important to be aware of these national trends and the growth of other sports programs. In the future, the City should design sports fields for multi-use potential.

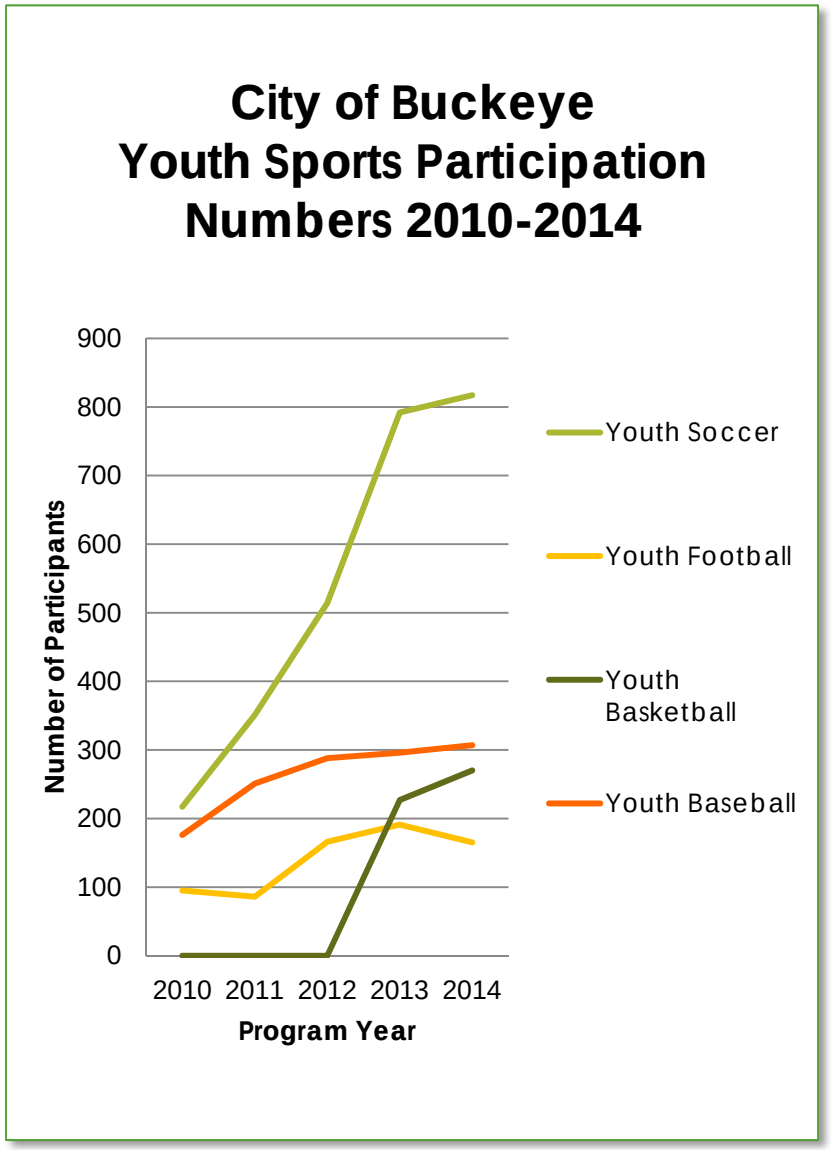
Image 5-9: Soccer Players at Sundance Park

OUTDOOR RECREATION

There is an increasing trend in the popularity of outdoor recreation. According to the Outdoor Recreation Trends and Futures report conducted by the U.S. Forest Service in 2012, there has been a 7.5% gain in the total number of people who participated in outdoor recreation activities[5]. The City of Buckeye's Skyline Park will provide many opportunities for outdoor recreation to its residents with hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

[5] Outdoor Recreation Trends and Futures. A Technical Document Supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment. H. Ken Cordell. U.S. Forest Service Bureau. March 2012.

Table 5-2: Buckeye Youth Sports Participation Numbers 2010 - 2014



PHYSICAL FITNESS, HEALTHY EATING

Another programming trend is centered on physical fitness and healthy eating to combat the growing obesity epidemic. More and more cities are offering residents expanded opportunities to get healthy through exercise special interest classes, fitness in the parks series or replacing high-calorie, unhealthy foods in park's concessions to nutritious, low-calorie snacks. Many parks are now providing physical fitness equipment along walking paths so people are able to get a total body conditioning workout without the hefty gym membership fees to go along with it. This trend is expected to continue as more and more cities are looking at ways to improve the well-being of their residents with some cities restricting the sale of large-sized sugary, calorie-laden beverages, banning trans fats in restaurant foods, and eliminating cigarette smoking in parks and public spaces.

DROP-IN PROGRAMMING

More and more families are struggling to find time in their hectic schedules to recreate and many parks and recreation agencies are adapting their programs to meet resident's needs. Drop-in programming allows families to stop in whenever they are available to participate in recreation programs whether open swim, open gym, drop-in sports, crafts, mommy and me time, etc. Drop-in activities are normally organized and conducted by the participant with minimal instruction.

Image 5-10: Fitness in the Park Zumba Class at Sundance Park

COMBINED GENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Some recreation agencies are offering combined generational programming that provides opportunities for different age groups to participate in the same programs. For example, programs may offer opportunities for seniors to provide instruction on arts and crafts, mentoring the younger generations. Vice-versa, teenagers may provide instruction to seniors on using computer programs or the internet.

POP CULTURE RECREATION PROGRAMS

Recreation programming needs to respond quickly to pop culture phenomenon and ever-changing fads, especially when it comes to meeting the recreation needs of teenagers. For example, the popularity of the Hunger Games' Katniss Everdeen and Brave's Merida has sparked a new interest in archery. Overall membership in USA Archery, the National Governing Body for the Olympic sport of archery, more than doubled between November 2011 and November 2013[6]. The Desert Sky Archers, a non-profit organization focused on teaching, training and promoting archery and operating out

[6] Archery Catching Fire Faster Than Ever Thanks to Pop Culture Boost. USA Archery. November 19, 2013. http://www.teamusa.org/News/2013/November/19/Archery-Catching-Fire-Faster-Than-Ever-Thanks-To-Pop-Culture-Boost

of the Ben Avery Shooting Facility has grown by 300% over the past few years[7]. Likewise, the popularity of Harry Potter fueled a Quidditch sporting craze. And television shows like Glee renewed teenagers interests in singing and dancing with some cities and towns providing Glee Club-related special interest classes.

ADVENTURE SPORTS

Activities such as rock climbing, BMX, mountain biking, skateboarding, themed marathons and races are all gaining traction and popularity.

Image 5-11: Participants in Buckeye's Archery Program

[7] Interest in Archery Soars in the Valley. Arizona Republic Mid-Week SW Valley Section Community News. April 22, 2015. Page 3.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

All recreation programs and services should be evaluated utilizing a variety of methods including customer input, paper and electronic surveys, personal interaction, registration numbers, local and national trends, public meetings, advisory boards, meeting reports, website traffic, social media comments and through feedback and direction of the Community Services Advisory Board before, during and after programs and activities are hosted. The evaluations should be compiled into a program report at the conclusion of each program, service or activity. Information that should be included in the program report is the following:

- Title of program/event/service
- Age/demographic of served population
- Date(s) and location(s) of program/event/service
- Participation statistics with 2 previous years' comparison
- Supplies used
- Volunteers used
- Staffing budget
- Program budget vs. actual budget
- Participant survey evaluation
- Pros/Cons of program/event/service
- Goals for next year
- Attach any and all marketing information or other pertinent information.

RECREATION PROGRAM FEE STRUCTURE

The City of Buckeye developed the below structure for fee setting and cost recovery for recreation programs.

The structure is developed utilizing GreenPlay's Pyramid Methodology for Cost Recovery and Subsidy Allocation. Direct costs are defined as materials, supplies and part time staffing costs as well as any facility rental fees. Full-time staff and city-owned realty costs are not included in direct costs.

The pyramid below demonstrates that as programs, facilities and services move away from the benefit of the entire community and towards individual and specialized interests, expected cost recovery increases. Although the City of Buckeye's model has 4 levels of cost recovery rather than the 5 depicted in the pyramid, we follow the same basic principle for determining cost recovery requirements.

Figure 5-1: Recreation Program Cost Recovery Model for the City of Buckeye

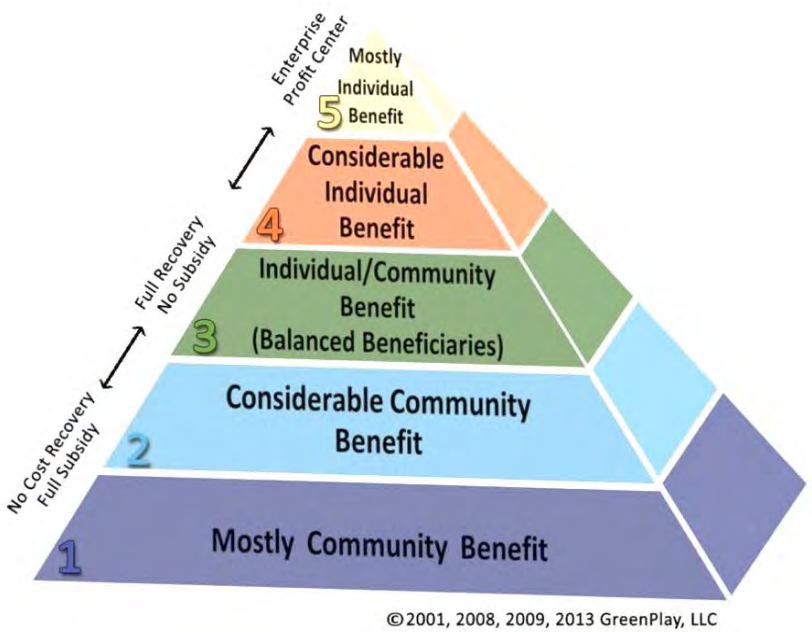


Table 5-3 Cost Recovery Fee Structure for Buckeye Recreation Programs on the following page details the City's cost recovery model. Programs that have a high level of community benefit and impact should be offered free or at little cost to residents. These types of programs include special events, at-risk teen programming, and health and wellness. The City's general fund can support these types of programs through taxes generated from residents. Programs that offer individual and community benefit such as open swim, introductory swim lessons and youth sports are partially subsidized by the general fund. Some programs, such as adult sports and special interest classes have a larger individual benefit and are less subsidized by the general fund and supported primarily through user fees. Finally, those programs tailored specifically to the user are supported entirely through user fees in excess of 125% of direct costs.

Table 5-3: Cost Recovery Fee Structure for Buckeye Recreation Programs

Level 1: Mostly Considerable Community Benefit	These programs, services and facilities are mostly free to the public or charge a nominal fee because the community benefits from these programs as a whole. Residents pay for these programs, services and facilities through the general fund.	**0 - 49% Cost Recovery**	- Parks - Playgrounds - Open Space and Trails - Support Services - Fitness in the Park - At-Risk Youth and Teen Programming - Special Events	**Fully Subsidized**
Level 2: Individual / Community Benefit	The programs and services in this category provide an ancillary benefit to the community at large but also have a positive impact to participants. These are beginner or introductory level programs. These programs are paid for partially by the general fund and partially by user fees.	**50 - 99%**	- Youth Sports - Swim Lessons - Open Swim Progrms - Summer Recreation Programs	**Somewhat Subsidized**
Level 3: Considerable Individual Benefit	These programs and services are beginner and intermediate level programs. They are more specialized toward the interest of participants and the direct costs associated with these programs are paid for through user fees.	**100 - 124%**	- Adult Sports - Special Interest Classes - Lifelong Learning Classes - Field Trips	**Recover Costs**
Level 4: Highly Individual Benefit	These programs and services are highly tailored for individual interests. Because of the nature of these programs and services they must recover 125% or more of their direct costs.	**125% and up**	- Concession Programs - Facility Rentals - Private Lessons - Licensed Day Care Programs	**Generate Revenue**

RESIDENT VS. NON-RESIDENT RATES

For a majority of recreation programs, fees are assessed a resident and non-resident rate. Resident rates ensure taxpayers to the City of Buckeye receive a partial subsidy or discount since their property and sales taxes support and augment city services, including indirect costs, such as full-time employees' salaries and benefits, operating and facility costs, utilities, and insurance. Nonresident rates ensure those not paying property and sales tax to the City of Buckeye are assessed a slightly higher fee to cover a portion of these indirect costs.

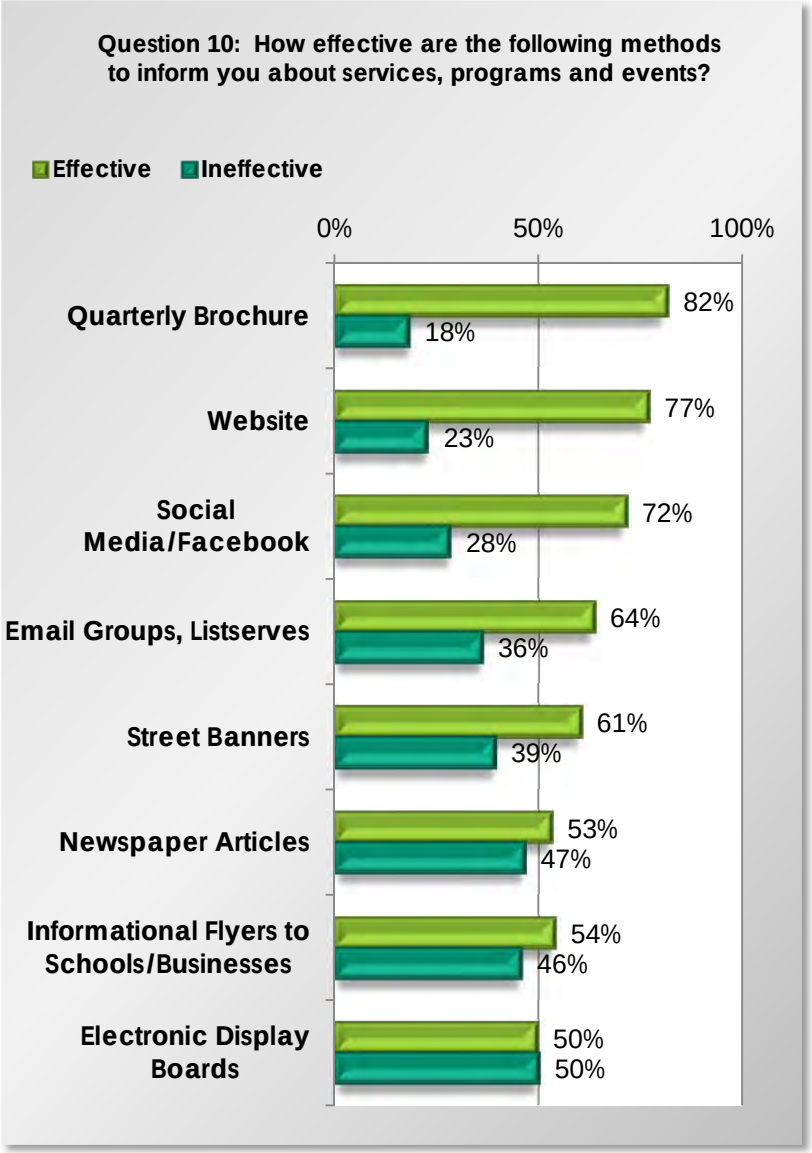
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The City of Buckeye has a youth scholarship fund that allows children, whose family's income qualify to participate in recreation programs at reduced rates or free. The fund ensures that all children, regardless of their families' income, are able to participate in recreation programs. Buckeye should continue to support and add to the fund balance. Furthermore, the City should evaluate the feasibility of extending the scholarship program to other types of programs and age demographics. For example, can the City of Buckeye provide scholarships to seniors desiring to attend field trips but are unable to afford the cost?

OUTREACH

The City of Buckeye communicates its offerings for recreation programs through a variety of methods, including its quarterly Eye on Buckeye that is mailed to every resident in the City of Buckeye. The City is also increasing its web and social media presence with online registrations, streamlined websites, and a variety of social media accounts. Traditional outreach methods previously used prior to the internet age, such as flyers to businesses and schools and newspaper articles are not as effective to inform residents about programs and services.

Table 5-4: Effective Outreach Methods to Communicate Recreation Programs



CHAPTER 6

CULTURAL & HISTORICAL RESOURCE PLAN

CHAPTER 6: CULTURAL & HISTORICAL RESOURCES PLAN

Why do old places matter? As stated by Tom Mayes of the Preservation Leadership Forum, "....old places are important for people to define who they are through memory, continuity, and identity....". And, as stated by the Organization of American Historians: "History lays the groundwork for strong, resilient communities. No place really becomes a community until it is wrapped in human memory: family stories, tribal traditions, civic commemorations... it is a catalyst for economic growth. People are drawn to communities that have preserved a strong sense of historical identity and character." In a nutshell, "old places" anchor us.

The City of Buckeye has a rich past that can still be found today. But efforts to preserve historic buildings and resources must be strengthened. To date, the Buckeye Main Street Coalition has been a leader in identifying the need for preservation of downtown buildings, and the City has accepted the Buckeye Valley Museum building and taken some other steps to identify historic resources.

This plan outlines the City's goals for preserving its history, and identifies some strategies for achieving these goals.

GOALS & POLICIES FOR PRESERVATION

GOAL 6.1 PRESERVE HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Preserve and protect historical buildings in Buckeye.

6.1.1 Utilize design cues from such buildings in the development and design of existing and new facilities.

6.1.2 Investigate the feasibility of creating two historic districts, one residential and one commercial, near downtown Buckeye.

6.1.3 Explore incentives that can be offered to promote preservation.

6.1.4 Update the Historical Resource Inventory last done in 1995 and expand it to Buckeye's municipal planning area to provide an accurate assessment of Buckeye's historical buildings and to determine the significance of resources lost over the past twenty years.

GOAL 6.2 DEVELOP COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Educate Buckeye's residents on our rich history and the value preservation has to future generations.

6.2.1 Increase the public's knowledge of the importance and value of historical and cultural resource sites.

6.2.2 Provide programming through the Buckeye Valley Museum that educates and informs residents about Buckeye's history.

6.2.3 Collaborate with the Buckeye Main Street Coalition in elevating Buckeye's history to residents through such events as Buckeye Days and renovations made in downtown Buckeye.

GOAL 6.3 PRESERVE ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Ensure the archeological resources are protected and preserved.

6.3.1 Create an inventory of archaeological resources in consultation with the State of Arizona.

6.3.2 Be proactive in protecting archaeological resources and create policies to do so.

6.3.3 Ensure current and future public and private development protects and preserves archeological resources.

HISTORY OF BUCKEYE

The City of Buckeye lies along the Gila River west of its confluence with the Agua Fria and Salt Rivers and east of its confluence with the Hassayampa River. This location has provided its current and past residents with an abundance of the desert's most valuable resource: water.

HOHOKAM PERIOD

Because of its desirable location in an area of rich soil with access to water, Buckeye Valley attracted groups of prehistoric peoples. These early settlers, called the Hohokam, diverted the waters of the Gila River into canals and then onto their crops. Evidence of their culture has been found in the Buckeye area and includes irrigation canals, houses, red-on-buff pottery, grinding stones and other artifacts.

The rivers and floodplains provided the Hohokam with ample water and rich soils for agriculture. The area also contained firewood, construction materials, and animals for food.

In the 1200s, the period of good weather that had spurred the expansion of the Hohokam civilization came to an end. Late in the century a great drought began that caused the Hohokam to move away when they no longer had sufficient water to support their population.

Not much is known about the Buckeye Valley for the next 500 years. The Pima and Yavapai lived in the general vicinity. Contacts between these groups and Spanish explorers were recorded in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

1700-1800'S

During the eighteenth century, Arizona was part of the Spanish empire. As a result of the Mexican War of Independence (1810-1821), Arizona passed into the political control of the newly formed Mexican government. In the 1840s, the United States and Mexico were joined in war. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hildago (1848), which ended the war, brought Arizona north of the Gila River into the United States.

This effectively split Buckeye Valley, with the area north of the Gila River belonging to the United States and that to the south being under the control of the Mexican government. In 1854, the United States purchased the remainder of what is now known as Arizona from Mexico in the Gadsden Purchase.

Arizona was separated from New Mexico as its own territory in 1863. Farming in the Salt River Valley began in 1867 and was greatly encouraged by the passage of the 1877 Desert Land Act, which provided that a settler could gain title to 640 acres if he irrigated the lands.

PIONEERS SETTLE IN THE BUCKEYE VALLEY

In 1877, the founder of the settlement that was to eventually become Buckeye left Creston, Iowa bound for Arizona. Thomas Newt Clanton led a party of six men, three women, and ten children west to gain his health. It was a good move for him. He lived in Arizona for 49 years and died at the age of 82.

After spending three years as a rancher in Yavapai County, he moved to Phoenix in 1880 where he ran a butcher shop, kept a corral, and managed a ranch in Buckeye Valley.

Development in Buckeye Valley received its first great boost with the construction of the Buckeye Canal. On May 28, 1885, Malin Jackson, Joshua Spain, and Henry Mitchell posted a notice at a point two miles below the confluence of the Gila and Agua Fria Rivers for the purpose of developing an irrigation canal intake. The new canal was named the Buckeye Canal in honor of Jackson's home state of Ohio. Construction on the canal began that year with the contract for the first five miles being awarded to Thomas Clanton.

The future townsite for Buckeye was first turned to private hands when David P. Wright acquired the land as part of the Desert Lands Act homestead in 1888. In August of that year, he sold three quarters of his land, including the future townsite to Oscar Mahoney. Mahoney, along with Thomas Clanton, subdivided and filed a townsite plat on September 3, 1888. The townsite was carved out of the northwest third of Mahoney's land. As part of this real estate transaction, Mahoney sold Clanton half the platted townsite. Clanton named the new town Sidney after his hometown in Iowa. By the end of 1889, Mahoney had sold most of his interest in the town to Clanton and moved to Phoenix.

Image 6-1: Painting by Loretta Musgrave Depicting the Posting to Develop an Irrigation Canal Intake. The Painting Hangs in Buckeye City Hall.

The first post office was established in March of 1888. This postal station, operated by Clanton's daughter Cora, was called Buckeye. Also in 1888, the Buckeye Canal Company entered into a contract with William O'Neill to sell and transfer to him all their right and title to their appropriated water. On October 13, 1888, O'Neill formed the Buckeye Irrigation Company to which he transferred his lately acquired title to the Buckeye Canal Company.

Over the next twenty years, the communities of Buckeye Valley (Sidney, Arlington, Liberty and Palo Verde) grew. Most built their own post offices, schools, churches and stores. It was clear, however, that Sidney was becoming the central community in the valley.

In 1889, the first school was built in Sidney. The following year saw the construction of a saloon that was later converted into a store and post office. The first newspaper, the Buckeye Blade was started by Thomas Schultz in 1890. During that same year, a two-story hotel, the Long Hotel was built. It offered 12 pleasant rooms, a bath, and home-cooked meals.

In 1910, the Arizona Eastern Railroad came to Sidney. This event was so significant that the town was replatted to provide a better business district closer to the railroad. It was during this replat that Sidney officially became known as Buckeye. For years, the town's location along the Buckeye Canal and the post office designating its local office as "Buckeye" had caused most people to refer to the town by that name. The coming of the railroad with its station named Buckeye was the final blow to the Town of Sidney. As the headline of a story in the November 23, 1910 Arizona Republican announced, "Hereafter Buckeye will be Buckeye – Sidney is only a memory."

Other advances in transportation occurred about the same time. In 1907 the first car appeared in the town. In 1915 a State Highway was constructed.

In 1911, a major fire swept through a portion of town destroying many of the early commercial buildings. This combination of events, the fire and the arrival of the railroad, changed the face of Buckeye. As a result of the fire, the orientation of the commercial zone could be turned toward the railroad. As a result of modern inter-city transportation, Buckeye's agriculture-based economy could flourish. By 1912, many major buildings were constructed, including the Ware Building and a new courthouse.

Buckeye was incorporated in 1929 and included 440 acres. The first mayor was Hugh Watson, who started the Buckeye Valley Bank. His son, Hugh Watson Jr. also served as mayor from 1956-1958.

HISTORIC CIVIC & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN BUCKEYE

Many historic buildings are still standing in Buckeye and reflect important elements and personages of the town's past. Several notable buildings and their relationship to Buckeye's story are included here.

The Ware Building located at 105 S. 4th Street was built in 1910 as part of the new business district at the north end of town. It originally had a decorative brick cornice and high transom windows above the store front window. The corner of the building was laid out on an angle to allow prominent double doors to open out onto the corner. This corner was occupied by the Buckeye Valley Bank in 1911. Other tenants of the building included a market, barber shop, the Buckeye Valley News, an ice cream parlor and DP Clanton, Real Estate Loans and investments.

Image 6-2: The Ware Building Located at 105 W. 4th Street Built in 1910

Image 6-3: The Ware and Joslin Building (in the background) Circa 1925 – Corner of Monroe Avenue and 4th Street

The Joslin Building located at 401 E. Monroe Avenue was built by Wallace Joslin in 1912 across the street from the Ware building. The tenants included the Buckeye Commercial Company (a general store), Major's Pharmacy, and a recreation hall.

The Buckeye Courthouse and Jail located at 216 S. 4th Street was built in 1912 and held its first trial on August 8 of that year. It replaced an earlier jail, apparently on Centre Street, which burned in the 1911 fire. The south and rear windows still have the bars remaining as evidence of the jail, even though, over the years it has been used as a hospital, a school, library and food bank. The building is currently vacant.

Although small, the building possesses the architectural attributes which typify any city hall of the early twentieth century. Its design, materials, and workmanship demonstrate the respect the town felt for its government and the desire for longevity of the building and the authority it housed. The façade is very formal in its symmetry implying balance and impartiality in justice and government.

Image 6-4: The Buckeye Courthouse & Jail circa 1925 – 216 S. 4th Street

Image 6-5: Buckeye Courthouse and Jail Located at 216 S. 4th Street was built in 1912 & Served as a Hospital, School, Library & Food Bank.

Buckeye Union High School was originally built in 1928 at 902 E. Eason Avenue and expanded and modified in 1937 as part of the Works Projects Administration. The building was leased to Estrella Mountain Community College in 2012, although the City of Buckeye still retains control over the Auditorium.

Image 6-6: Buckeye Union High School Circa 1950

Image 6-7: The A-Wing Building located at 902 East Eason Avenue is Now the Buckeye Educational Center for Estrella Mountain Community College

The Monroe Avenue corridor has many historic buildings, including the Buckeye Woman's Club, built in 1935 (830 E. Monroe Ave.), the Millstone Café, built in 1944 (801 E. Monroe Ave.), the May Building (Urwiller Building) built in 1931 (824 E. Monroe Ave.) and many others.

HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN BUCKEYE

Many historic homes are found in Buckeye with a limited variety of architectural styles. The greatest number of examples is in the National Folk style. These modest homes of simple massing and form lack ornamentation and stylistic features. Such houses are very utilitarian in concept and often are constructed by the homeowner. This plain, straightforward approach to architectural expression reflects the tight economic situation of most of Buckeye's citizens and a disdain for popular stylistic trends of the nation.

Residential architecture in Buckeye is best represented by those styles which are considered "American-grown", that is National Folk, Bungalow, and Ranch. Buckeye's citizens seem to have rejected styles based on foreign precedents or inspired by revivalism. Thus during the local boom of the late 1920s, when the rest of the nation was reveling architecturally in Period Revival styles, Buckeye was still building the National Folk houses and the American Bungalows popular in the previous two decades. Revivalism is hardly represented by the surviving architectural inventory. Not until the simple Ranch style house appeared in the late 1930's, were National Folk and Bungalow styles practically abandoned in Buckeye. The no-nonsense style of the Ranch house reflected the same social values as found in the earlier folk house and bungalow.

The Benson/Raney house was built around 1895 and is an example of a large Buckeye Valley farmhouse. This two-story, wood-framed house looks like what one would expect of a Midwestern farmhouse. The simple, high-pitched, intersecting gabled roof shelters the rectangular plan. A one-story porch with a nearly flat roof shades the front façade. The massing and detailing of the building presents a very simple interpretation of Gothic Revival Style. The house has moved several times from its original location at the southeast corner of Miller Road and Irwin Ave. In the mid-2000's, the Benson/Raney House temporarily moved to where Buckeye City Hall currently sits at the northwest corner of 6th Street and Monroe. In 2008, the house was transported to where it currently stands at 4th Street and Hazen Road.

Image 6-8: The Benson / Raney House Sits Near 4th Street & Hazen Road

Other historic styles of homes in Buckeye include bungalow, which was popular in Buckeye from 1920 to about the early 1940's in Buckeye, Spanish Colonial Revival, Pueblo Revival, Southwest Style, Transitional Ranch Style, Art Deco, and Spanish Colonial Ranch.[1]

[1] A Historic Resources Survey of the Town of Buckeye, Arizona. Ryden Architects, Inc. 1996.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN BUCKEYE

BUCKEYE VALLEY MUSEUM

The Buckeye Valley Museum was established in 1952 by I.H. Parkman and was run by the museum board along with countless volunteers. In 2008, the City of Buckeye was approached by the museum board to take over the building and its collection, which was accepted as a donation by the City of Buckeye. The museum board has become the Buckeye Historical Society, a 501(c)3 organization.

Image 6-9: The Roxy Theatre Replica with Original Seats

The museum has an impressive collection of Hohokam and Anasazi North American artifacts as well as objects and documents on the Buckeye Valley from the 19th and 20th Century. In 2014, the Museum was renovated with new exhibits that highlight Buckeye's historical downtown with displays on businesses found in Buckeye in the early to mid-1900's. The museum continues to be a valuable repository for historical artifacts and objects related to the Buckeye Valley.

BUCKEYE MAIN STREET COALITION

The Buckeye Main Street Coalition began in 1986 and serves as an important part of a larger effort to enhance and preserve downtown Buckeye. The Community Services Director serves as the liaison to the Main Street Coalition. Some of the services provided through the Main Street Coalition to revitalize the downtown area include:

- Historical Preservation
- Grant Funding
- Professional Architectural Designs
- Renovation Assistance
- Design Assistance
- Events

The National Trust for Historic Preservation launched the Main Street Program in 1977 in response to the rapid deterioration of many of America's downtowns following WWII. The increasing popularity of suburb development threatened the commercial architecture in downtown as businesses followed the residents to outlying areas of town. The Main Street Program emerged as a comprehensive revitalization strategy to encourage economic development through historic preservation. The downtown business district would once again be the heart and soul of its city, the center of social, cultural and commercial activity.

Main Street calls for a four point approach to downtown revitalization. It is a community-driven effort to preserve and revitalize the downtown with volunteers coordinating activities in each of the following areas.

- Organization
- Promotion
- Design
- Economic Restructuring

ORGANIZATION

The Buckeye Main Street Coalition is led by a volunteer Board of Directors and staffed by the City of Buckeye. Volunteers participate on each of the standing committees to accomplish goals of the organization. Membership is open to anyone interested in the downtown revitalization efforts.

PROMOTION

Recreating downtown Buckeye as a vibrant place to live, work and play is a vital part of the program. Promoting downtown as a destination for visitors and residents will boost retail sales and encourage continued growth. Special events create more foot traffic in downtown making it a more attractive location for prospective new business.

DESIGN

The historic building fabric of downtown Buckeye is in desperate need of preservation. With so few original buildings remaining, Main Street Coalition seeks to encourage rehabilitation of these historic structures which are an important part of preserving the heritage of the community and contribute to its unique charm. The Coalition will assist business and property owners with design ideas for exterior facade renovations and solutions for common maintenance problems associated with older buildings. Creating an overall plan and design for the new construction and redevelopment of downtown will also provide continuity and functionality, as growth is imminent in the region.

ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

Business retention and business recruitment are essential components of a solid economic development program for downtown Buckeye. Main Street can be a flourishing marketplace with a healthy mix of retail, service and governmental entities in place. Providing small business owners with resources and information on grants and tax incentives and other beneficial programs is another way Main Street assists and strengthens local businesses.

STRATEGIES TO PRESERVE BUCKEYE'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Update the Buckeye Historic Resource Survey that was conducted in 1995 and survey areas outside of downtown Buckeye, including Liberty and other parts of the municipal planning area.

INVESTIGATE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A HISTORIC DISTRICT IN BUCKEYE

The 1995 Historic Resource Survey stated that two historic districts can be formed in Buckeye – one residential and one commercial. The residential district is located north of Monroe Avenue with properties as far west as Second and Eason; as far east as Sixth and Eason; as far north as Narramore; and as far south as Roosevelt. The proposed commercial district is located along Monroe Avenue. The update to the 1995 survey may reveal that other areas in downtown Buckeye may meet criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places for a historic district.

Image 6-9: Signage along Monroe Avenue in downtown Buckeye

PLANS

Educate business owners on the downtown overlay district design guidelines, which aim to strengthen the historic character of the area. The overlay district development standards include signage, lighting, building materials, colors, landscaping and shade, screening, setbacks, parking and criteria for the conversion of single-family homes to commercial businesses.

EXPLORE PRESERVATION INCENTIVES

Preservation incentives, including grant funds and tax abatement can help rehabilitation projects move forward. Investigate the feasibility of developing incentives that encourage and facilitate the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings. The City of Buckeye, working with the Main Street Coalition should develop a database of potential grant programs that can be used for preservation activities in the downtown core.

DEVELOP COMMUNITY AWARENESS

In 2013, the Buckeye Main Street Coalition installed wayfinding signs to direct visitors to services and amenities found in Buckeye's urban core. These signs read "Historic Buckeye", promoting and reaffirming the significance of the area to Buckeye's past. The City should work with the Main Street Coalition to further educate the public on the historical significance of the area through signage and informational materials. For example, some communities have installed signage on buildings that have the date of construction. Such signage reaffirms the history of the building to an otherwise unaware public.

In addition to historical signage, the City, working with the Buckeye Main Street Coalition could create a Walking Tour pamphlet with information on the history of the buildings, key events and roles the building played to the community, and the prominence of owners.

Image 6-10: Historic Homes in the Center Square District in Albany, NY. The affixed signs include the date of construction and information on the original owner.

PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Buckeye should continue the effective partnership with the Buckeye Main Street Coalition. Coalition members and City staff should continue to be afforded opportunities to attend trainings, such as the National Main Street Conference to learn more about preservation, its benefits, and opportunities. The City and the Main Street Coalition should also reach out to the State Historic Preservation Office to learn about programs and services that could benefit Buckeye.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN BUCKEYE

The Hohokam culture has left many tangible reminders of their existence including tools, rock art, and petroglyphs. These resources are critical to protect as they are considered non-renewable resources. All archaeological sites on public Federal land in Arizona are protected by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and various state laws that prohibit digging, removing artifacts, and damaging or defacing

archaeological resources. These laws provide for felony and misdemeanor charges with jail time, confiscation of property and large fines.

STRATEGIES TO PRESERVE BUCKEYE'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

CREATE AN INVENTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

There are other sites in Buckeye's municipal planning area, especially in the mountain ranges and along rivers and major washes that should be inventoried and recorded. Arizona's State Historic Preservation Office has a non-public online portal that allows land managers and city officials to view previously recorded surveys that can assist City staff in locating areas where there are known cultural sites.

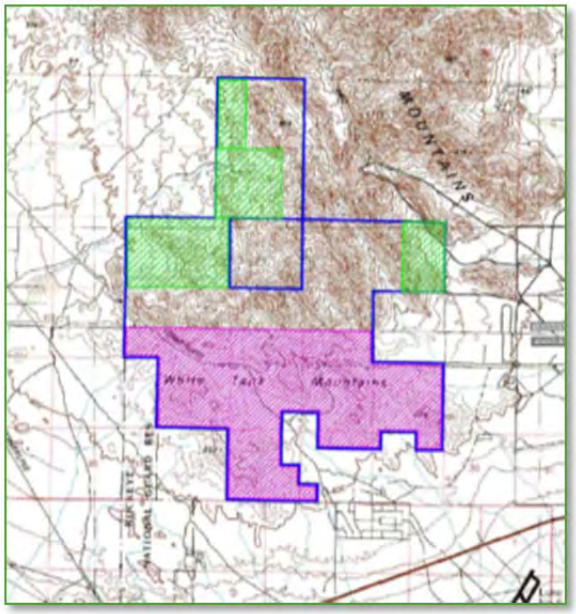
Image 6-11: Volunteers with the Arizona Site Steward Program Monitoring Cultural Resource Sites in Skyline Regional Park

BE PROACTIVE IN PROTECTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The City of Buckeye can encourage other land managers, such as Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, etc. to work with the Arizona Site Stewards program to monitor sites if found on their property. The Arizona Site Steward Program has served as a model for other state programs. Sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office, the program was created in the early 1990s and uses volunteers to keep an eye on sites that are in danger of vandalism or natural deterioration. For example, Arizona Site Stewards have been monitoring the petroglyph site on Verrado's property and have alerted the maintenance company of issues, including the tampering of fences. The City should encourage Verrado to enter into an agreement with the Arizona Site Stewards so the cultural sites can be added to the volunteer group's monitoring inventory.

Conduct additional surveys in the northern portion of Skyline Regional Park utilizing state-wide resources, including the Arizona Archaeological Council, the Arizona Archaeological Society, and the Arizona Site Stewards. An archaeological and cultural survey was conducted in Skyline Regional Park in 2006. The park was surveyed at two levels of intensity. The southern portion of the park, consisting of 4,300 acres saw a Class III level of effort (100% survey) because the south unit will be the focus of development and recreational use. The northern portion of the park, also consisting of approximately 4,300 acres was the subject of a Class II sample (50%) survey, resulting in the archaeological inventory of 2,000 acres. The northern area of the park will remain largely undeveloped open space; it is rugged and therefore less likely to contain

Figure 6-1: Areas Surveyed for Archaeological Resources in Skyline Park. The southern area (shown in pink) was 100% sampled, whereas the northern area of the park was sampled at 50% (areas shown in green).



archaeological sites. Thus, 6,300 acres, or 73% of the 8,675-acre park was surveyed for the presence of archaeological resources. The remaining 2,375 acres should be surveyed for the presence of cultural resources.

In 2012, the City of Buckeye signed an agreement with Arizona State Parks to begin working with the Arizona Site Stewards, a group of state-trained volunteers who monitor known cultural resource sites. Since that time, volunteers have logged 440 hours visiting and monitoring the known sites in Skyline Regional Park and reporting any issues. Volunteers have been proactive, finding new sites and adding them to the inventory.

INCREASE THE PUBLIC'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF CULTURAL RESOURCE SITES

Oftentimes, the public is not aware of the cultural and historical significance of sites and should be informed and educated about the importance of these resources. For example, the City should provide educational materials to visitors of Skyline Regional Park on the cultural resources found in the park and the Hohokam people who created them.

FORMALIZE POLICIES RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The City of Buckeye should create and formalize policies relating to the protection and preservation of archaeological resources. Such policies will address how to minimize the threat of vandalism, graffiti, looting, and theft of cultural resource sites. Should artifacts be removed if they could easily be carried off the site by a visitor? If so, should they be placed in the care of the Buckeye Valley Museum to develop a special exhibit devoted to the cultural resources found locally? Should petroglyphs be fenced in to protect them from vandalism, and if so, at what point should this be considered?

Image 6-12: Obsidian Arrowhead found in Skyline Regional Park. The City of Buckeye should formalize policies on whether such artifacts should be removed from the site so they are not looted.

CHAPTER 7

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES & FUNDING

CHAPTER 7: FUNDING & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The key in a successful Parks and Recreation Master Plan is providing sound funding and implementation strategies.

Potential capital funding sources for necessary parks and recreation facilities are outlined in this chapter including municipal bonds, sales tax assessments, impact fees, community facility districts, grants, one-time funding, development and other sources. Ongoing operation and maintenance costs will be funded through the City's general fund and from revenues received.

This chapter also outlines the critical steps needed to obtain the vision of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and prioritizes those actions by short-term, medium-term and long-term implementation.

Short-term items are those that should be completed over the first three years after the adoption of the plan and are higher priority items. Medium-term strategies are those that should be completed within 4-7 years of the plan's approval, while long-term implementation indicates items to be completed in the 8-10 year time-frame. Many of the implementation strategies are ongoing throughout the ten-year period and will require staff's continual attention.

Finally, this chapter discusses the General Plan and how the Parks and Recreation Master Plan serves as both the recreation and open space element.

FUNDING

Many of the implementation strategies outlined in this Chapter require funding. New parks, facilities, paths and trails, preservation of open space and cultural and historical resources can all benefit from capital dollars.

Other communities across the Valley, State, and Country have successfully paid for parks through several financing methods including bonds, set asides for sales tax, impact fees, community facility districts, grants and one-time funding. Dollars are also needed for the operation and maintenance of new parks and recreation facilities that are constructed. Prior to commencing any new project, the City should determine how it will finance the ongoing, long-term operations and maintenance costs, including the necessary staffing.

SURVEY RESULTS FOR FUNDING

As illustrated in Figure 7.1, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey issued to City residents in the fall of 2014 with 1,300 responses, shows only 17% responded that they were unwilling to support the construction of new parks and facilities. Of the 83% of residents that indicated they would favorably support new parks and recreation facilities, the use of bonds were most favored (36%), followed by special sales tax assessments (32%). Only 16% of residents responded they would support an additional property tax assessment. Respondents to the survey also equally distributed funding to different types of projects as shown in Figure 7.2 with only a 17% difference for allocating funding, as a percent, across different types of development. An average of 27% was allocated to the development of more recreation facilities, such as a new recreation center, sports

complex or aquatic center, whereas 21% allocated funding towards more active recreation opportunities, including sports fields, playgrounds and dog parks. An average of 20% was allocated towards improving existing City facilities and 17% for passive recreation opportunities, such as hiking and picnicking areas. The average percent set aside for the development of more trails was 15%.

Figure 7-1: Survey Question #9

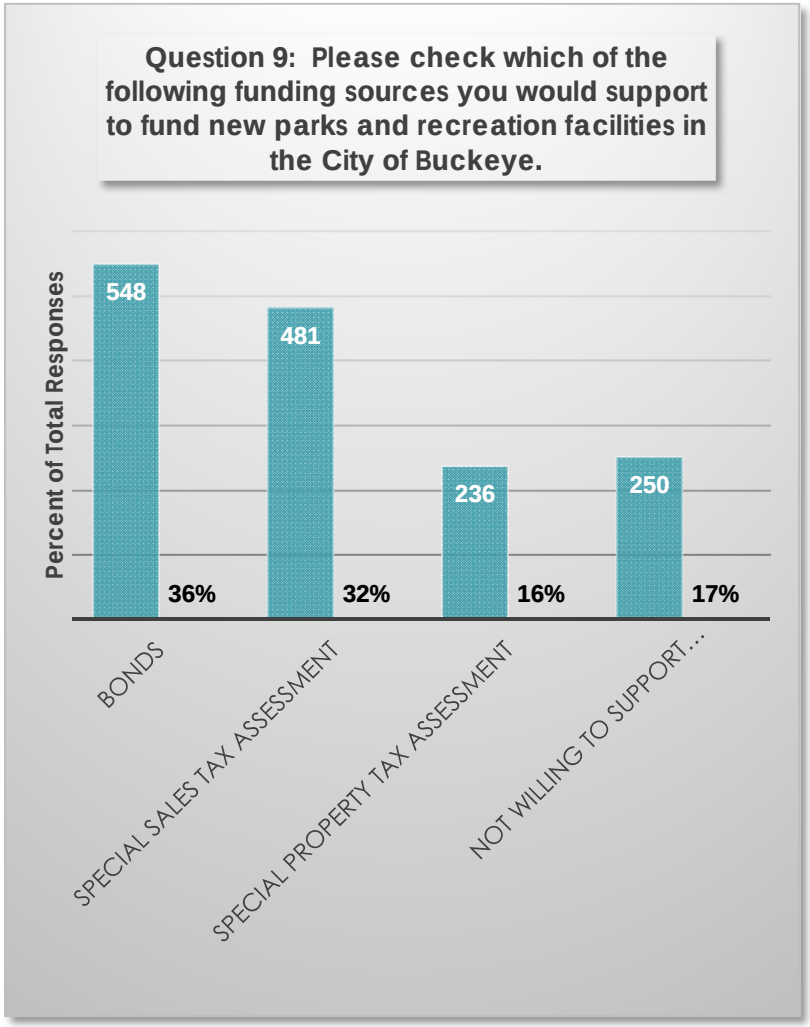
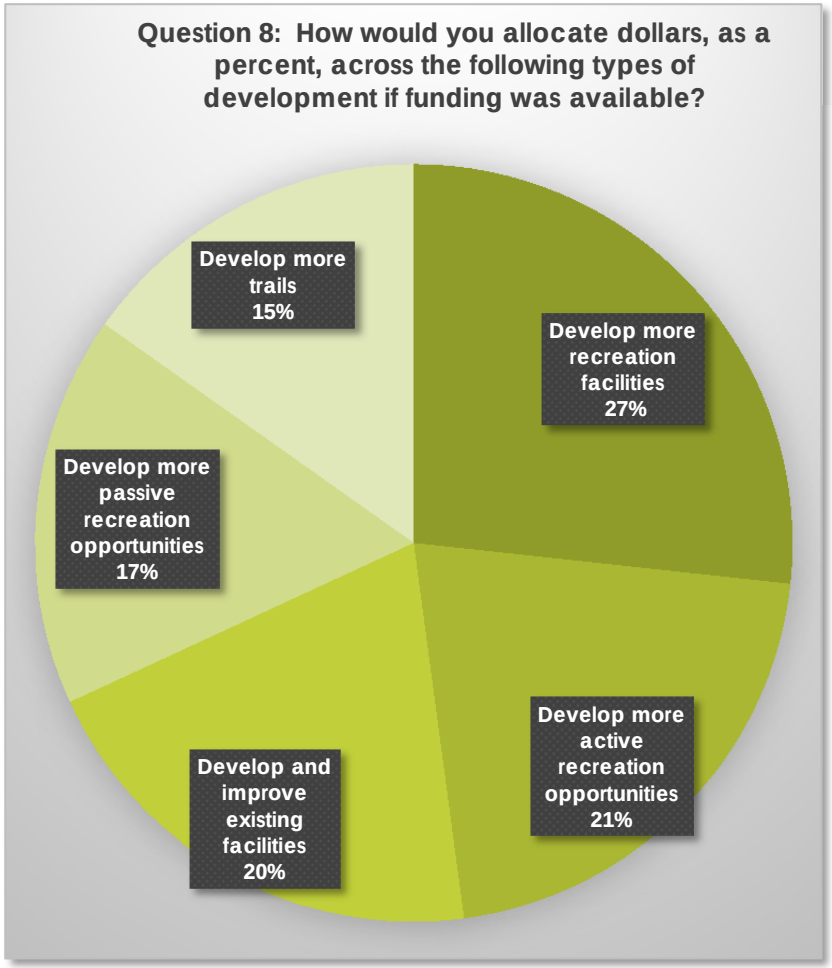


Figure 7-2: Survey Question #8



BONDS

Many other valley communities have successfully received voter approval for parks and recreation municipal bonds. Bonds are a method used by cities to finance major capital projects and function similarly to a bank loan in which a large purchase is financed over time. Bonds must be voter-approved and are repaid through property taxes. Many cities seek bond approval on a regular basis. For example, Mesa's voters approved bonds in 2010, 2012 and 2014. Such bonds could provide the dollars needed to build the capital improvements outlined in this plan.

Arizona's constitution states that for general municipal purposes, the City cannot incur a debt exceeding 6% of the assessed valuation of taxable property, which means that Buckeye could not issue bonds in excess of $19.2 million. At this time, the City does not have any outstanding bond balances so Buckeye could bond for the full $19.2 million.

Additional bonds amounting to 20% of the assessed valuation of taxable property can be issued for supplying services such as water, artificial light, sewers, and for the acquisition and development of land for open space preserves, parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities. In November 2006, Buckeye voters elected to allow projects concerning public safety, law enforcement, fire, emergency service facilities, streets, and transportation facilities to be included in this 20% category. Therefore, the City of Buckeye can bond for a total of 26% of the assessed value for these types of projects. Twenty percent of the taxable assessed value amounts to $64 million ($320.2 million x .20 = $64.0 million). Therefore the City's total available bonding capacity is $83.2 million ($19.2 million + $64 million).

If the City received voter approval for a $20 million general obligation bond, repaid over the course of 20 years, homes assessed at $100,000 would pay about $50 a year. Table 7.1 outlines the estimated cost by year for a home assessed at $100,000. It is important to note that as additional homes are built in Buckeye and as home values increase, the City's taxable assessed value will also increase, which could result in a decrease in taxes for individual homeowners. For example, if the taxable assessed value in the City of Buckeye increased to $400 million, taxes to repay the bond would decrease.

If the City of Buckeye chose to move forward with a bond, the City will need to determine the bond election strategy and meet with City Council to provide information on the bonding capacity, the establishment of a citizen bond committee and possible capital projects to include. The newly formed citizen bond committee, using information gathered through public input, including public meetings and surveys, could further develop the projects to include in the bond that would receive widespread support from all communities located in Buckeye. The Buckeye City Council would call the bond election, which would be scheduled in November. Any bond proposal on the ballot should be coordinated with the local school districts to ensure similar bond proposals from the schools do not compete with the City on the same ballot as voters may be less likely to approve multiple bond proposals.

SALES TAX

The City of Buckeye's sales tax rate is 3% with the exception for major purchases taxed at 1%. Table 7-1: Sales Taxes for Municipalities in Maricopa County_details the sales tax rates for other communities in Maricopa County with the average tax rate for thirteen different municipalities in Maricopa County at 2.11%. Effective October 1, 2010, Buckeye increased its transaction privilege tax from 2% to 3% to accommodate the shortfall in revenue during the economic downturn. The additional revenue helped the City to avoid further cuts to city services with the funding earmarked for public safety. In June 2012, Buckeye City Council approved the permanent extension of the 3% sales tax.

Table 7-1: Sales Taxes for Municipalities in Maricopa County

Municipality	Arizona State	Maricopa County	Local	Sales Tax Rate (%)
Apache Junction	5.60%	1.10%	2.20%	8.90%
Avondale	5.60%	0.70%	2.50%	8.80%
Buckeye	5.60%	0.70%	**3.00%**	**9.30%**
Chandler	5.60%	0.70%	1.50%	7.80%
Gilbert	5.60%	0.70%	1.50%	7.80%
Glendale	5.60%	0.70%	2.90%	9.20%
Goodyear	5.60%	0.70%	2.50%	8.80%
Mesa	5.60%	0.70%	1.75%	8.05%
Peoria	5.60%	0.70%	1.80%	8.10%
Phoenix	5.60%	0.70%	2.00%	8.30%
Queen Creek	5.60%	0.70%	2.25%	8.55%
Scottsdale	5.60%	0.70%	1.65%	7.95%
Surprise	5.60%	0.70%	2.20%	8.50%
Tempe	5.60%	0.70%	1.80%	8.10%

Because Buckeye's 3% sales tax rate is 1% higher than many of the communities in Maricopa County (average of 2.11%), it may be contentious for Buckeye City Council to approve an increase given the already high rate. Unlike bonds, sales tax increases do not require voter approval and need only to be approved by 4 of the 7 members of Buckeye's City Council.

Other communities, such as the City of Phoenix and City of Scottsdale did receive voter-approval for sales tax increases. For example, in 2009, 83% of voters approved a 30-year extension of the City of Phoenix's Parks and Preserves Initiative, which provides one cent of sales tax for every $10 of purchases. Sixty-percent of the revenues are dedicated to existing and future city parks with the remaining 40% used towards the City's mountain preserves and trails. In 1995, the City of Scottsdale voters approved a .2% sales tax increase and in 2004, an additional .15% tax increase to fund the land acquisition and improvements needed for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

In FY 14/15, the City realized $14.7 million in revenues from transaction privilege taxes (sales taxes), less construction taxes. In better economic times, the City could approve an increase to its sales tax to provide additional parks and recreation services to its residents since it currently provides the fewest developed park acres per population in comparison to other municipalities in Maricopa County.

At today's base reported taxable transaction privilege tax, an increase of .05% of sales tax would generate $245,000 annually, whereas .15% of sales tax would provide $736,800. An additional .50% would provide $2.45 million annually. The City's tax base will increase over time as the City grows. In FY

09/10, the City's Transaction Privilege Tax revenues less the contracting activities garnered $6.5 million in revenue, which increased to $9.3 million in FY 10/11 and jumped to $11.6 million with the increase from 2 to 3%. Over the past three fiscal years since the increase in sales tax has been in full effect, the City of Buckeye has seen an average increase around 8.3% (FY 12/13 an increase of 8.92%, FY 13/14 an increase of 3.93% and FY 14/15 an increase of 12.13%). If such an increase in sales tax were approved by Buckeye City Council, the anticipated revenues set aside for parks and recreation would grow, too.

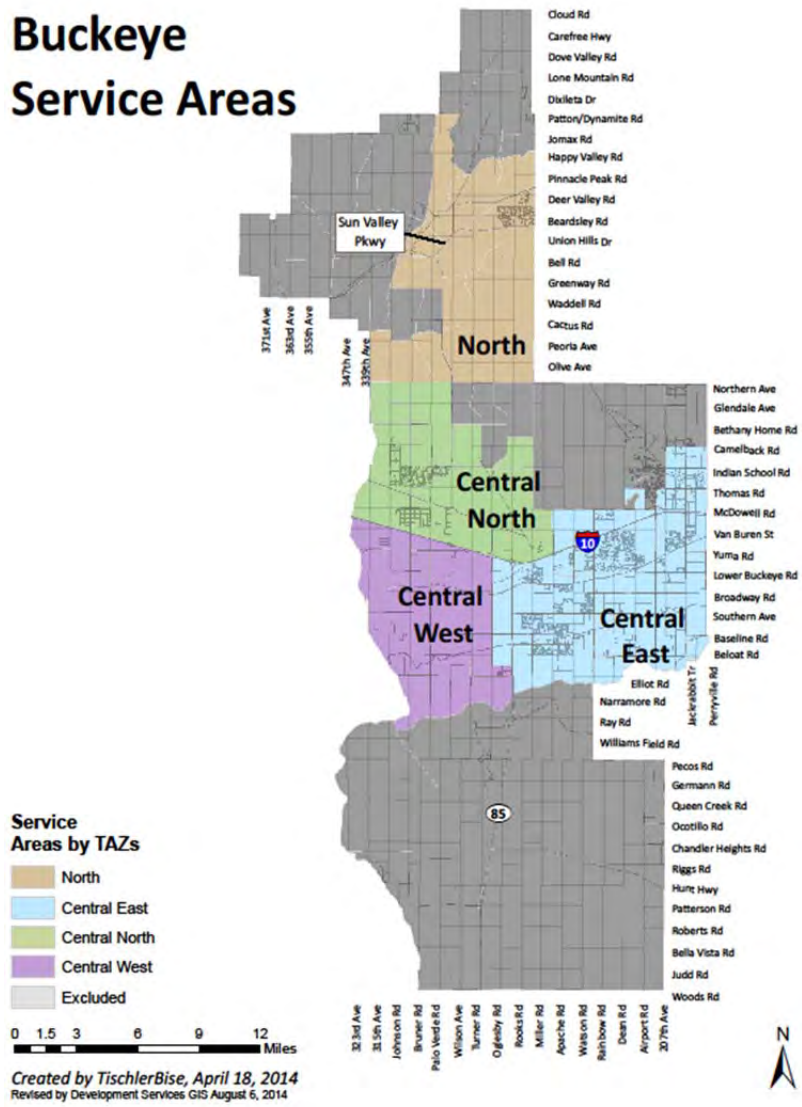
Table 7-2: Estimated Revenues for Sales Tax Set-Asides for Parks & Recreation

Reported Taxable Transaction Privilege Tax Sales in FY 14/15	City Tax Rate	Estimated Sales Tax Revenue
$491,201,033	3.00%	$ 14,736,031
	Potential Sales Tax Set-Asides	
Potential Revenues Generated from Sales Tax Set-Asides Above 3% for Parks & Recreation	0.05%	$ 245,601
	0.10%	$ 491,201
	0.15%	$ 736,802
	0.20%	$ 982,402
	0.50%	$ 2,456,005

IMPACT FEES

In 2014, the City of Buckeye updated its Infrastructure Improvement Plan and Development Fees for the next 10-years. Impact fees are assessed to new development to pay for the services required by new residents moving into the City. Impact fees are assessed for parks, libraries, public safety, streets, water and waste water.

Figure 7-3: Impact Fee Zones in Buckeye from Buckeye's Infrastructure Improvement Plan in 2014.



Between 2014 and 2023, the City estimates it will receive $12.9 million for parks, community centers and pools by collecting $1,374 per single-family home and lesser amounts for other types of development, including multi-family, commercial, and industrial construction built in the central east zone of Buckeye shown in light blue in Figure 7.2. Prior to 2013, the City collected parks and recreation impact fees in all areas of the city, not just the central east zone, for new single-family housing units alone as fees were not collected for commercial, industrial or multi-family development.

Table 7-3 Impact Fees Collected Since 2005

Year Adopted	Single Family	Other Residential	Commercial, Industrial (per 1,000 square feet)
2005	$1,446	$1,092	
2009	$1,909	$1,441	
2011	$1,109	$832	
2014 *	$1,374	$1,074	$109, $49

* Impact Fees Collected In Central East Zone Only

Senate Bill 1525, which was signed into law by Governor Jan Brewer in April 2011 limited the ability cities and towns have to use impact fees to construct necessary public services. After January 1, 2012, impact fees could no longer fund facilities that did not fit the law's definition of necessary public services, including neighborhood parks and recreational facilities over 30 acres. Furthermore, the law states that impact fees cannot be used to construct aquatic centers, auditoriums, arts and cultural facilities, community centers (over 3,000 square feet), education centers, equestrian facilities, lakes, and museums; however they may be used for swimming pools. The law does state that impact fees can be spent on parks over 30 acres if there is a direct benefit to the development.

> *"Neighborhood park and recreational facilities on real property up to thirty acres in area, or parks and recreational facilities larger than thirty acres if the facilities provide a direct benefit to the development. Park and recreational facilities do not include vehicles, equipment or that portion of any facility that is used for amusement parks, aquariums, aquatic centers, auditoriums, arenas, arts and cultural facilities, bandstand and orchestra facilities, bathhouses, boathouses, clubhouses, community centers greater than 3,000 square feet in floor area, environmental education centers, equestrian facilities, golf course facilities, greenhouses, lakes, museums, theme parks, water reclamation or riparian areas, wetlands, zoo facilities, or similar recreational facilities, but may include swimming pools."*

The City of Buckeye has until January 2020 to spend impact fees it collected prior to the passing of the law. If there are any remaining funds after January 1, 2020, the impact fees must be distributed equally among other categories of necessary public services in the City.

Developers may request a refund of impact fees paid after August 2014 if the project identified in the City's Infrastructure Improvement Plan has not been built within ten years after the fee has been collected.

Over the next ten years, and during subsequent updates of the City's Infrastructure Improvement Plan, the City should investigate the feasibility of assessing impact fees in all zones of the City. The 2014 Infrastructure Improvement Plan only assessed fees in the central east zone given the requirement to allocate a portion of infrastructure cost to nonresidential development and over the next ten years, development of

commercial and industrial uses was not anticipated outside of the central east zone.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICTS

Another potential source of funding is community facilities districts (CFD's), which are special districts formed for the purpose of financing the acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance of public infrastructure benefiting a particular community. Specifically, CFD's can finance the acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance of various types of public infrastructure including:

- Roadways and Parking
- Water Systems
- Sewer Systems
- Parks and Open Space
- Pedestrian Walkways
- Hiking, Biking and Pedestrian Trails
- Landscaping
- Drainage Systems
- Public Lighting
- Public Buildings
- Fire Protection
- Public Safety Facilities
- Traffic Safety
- Equipment, Furnishing and Vehicles

CFD's utilize two types of bonds to finance public infrastructure: district assessment lien bonds and general obligation bonds. District assessment lien bonds are repaid through biannual assessment payments made by the property owners within the district. General obligation bonds are repaid by property taxes on the taxable property within the CFD.

GRANTS

Many of the grant programs the City relied upon for potential funding before the economic recession – including the Local, Regional and State Parks Heritage Fund (LRSP), State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF), and Historic Preservation Heritage Fund were swept in 2009 into the State budget to cover revenue shortfalls. In 2009, Arizona State Parks was forced to rescind over $6 million in awarded grants, including a city-awarded project for the Buckeye Town Lake. In March 2010, the State Legislature eliminated the State Parks heritage fund from statute.

Despite the reduction in parks-related State grant programs, there are still many other programs available at the national, state and local levels. The City should research applicable grant programs, and if determined to meet the criteria for individual projects, submit application.

ONE-TIME FUNDING

During the boom from 2000 to 2008, the City experienced tremendous growth and saw an increase in revenues that helped the City complete Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to some of its facilities, including the Earl Edgar Recreational Facility. In the future, there may be opportunities to use one-time funding for park improvements.

Besides additional revenues from parks and recreation fees and charges that can be used to fund additional improvements, there may be opportunities for other sources of

special-use capital funding. For example, the City of Buckeye received $3 million from a landfill agreement with the City of Phoenix, which was used towards the Skyline Regional Park Phase I improvements. The City also received $2.5 million from APS and SRP in 2001 through a settlement agreement with a portion of the funds earmarked for parks, recreation or open space projects.

DEVELOPMENT

Residential development in master planned communities can provide the capital dollars needed for park development. Oftentimes City parks are planned in a master planned community as part of their parks and open space requirements. Land for community parks and larger is donated to the City and the developer, working in conjunction with the City, designs and builds the park improvements. The City takes on programming, operation and maintenance responsibilities.

ONGOING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

Prior to constructing any new park or facility, the City should determine the annual staffing, operations and maintenance costs and identify the funding sources, whether General Fund, revenues, etc. that will be used to sustain the annual reoccurring costs.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Table 7.5 outlines the implementation strategies that are necessary to ensure the vision and recommendations are carried through. The table outlines the implementation items, the responsible parties, including the applicable City departments or outside organizations, and the time-frame in which the item should be completed. Implementation strategies have been identified by each chapter in the plan, including Chapter 2: Parks; Chapter 3: Paths and Trails; Chapter 4: Open Space; Chapter 5: Recreation; Chapter 6: Cultural & Historical Resources; and Chapter 7: Implementation & Funding, with strategies on how to fund both the capital construction costs and annual operating expenses for projects identified in the plan.

Image 7-1: Park Maintenance Staff Working at Earl Edgar Park

Table 7-4: Implementation Strategies

Strategy Number	Category	Task	Responsible Parties / Department					Time Period		
			City of Buckeye				Other Departments / Agencies			
			Community Services	Development Services	Engineering	Construction & Procurement		Short-Term (1-3 years)	Medium-Term (4-7 years)	Long-Term (8-10 years)
Chapter 2: Parks										
7.2.1	City Projects	Increase level of service for Buckeye Parks from 1.34 to 4 acres of parks per 1,000 by adding 224 acres of parks to the City's inventory by 2020 in underserved areas of the City	X			X	Development Community	X	X	X
7.2.2	City Projects	Ensure the differing projects to attain an additional 224 acres of parks are included in the City's Capital Improvement Projects listing and is updated annually.	X			X		X	X	X
7.2.3	City Projects	Design and construct Phase II of Sundance Park	X			X		X		
7.2.4	City Projects	Design and Construct 40-Acre Parcel off of Miller Road from conceptual designs prepared as part of the El Rio Design Guidelines & Planning Standards	X			X		X		
7.2.5	City Projects	Acquire Land, Design & Construct an Aquatic Center south of I-10 between Miller & Perryville Road	X			X		X		
7.2.6	City Projects	Acquire Land, Design & Construct a Multi-Generational Center south of I-10 between Miller & Perryville Road				X			X	
7.2.7	City Projects	Acquire Land, Design & Construct other parks and facilities to achieve desired service level.	X			X	Development Community		X	
7.2.8	City Projects	Design and construct future phases of Skyline Regional Park in accordance with BLM-approved development plans.	X			X		X	X	X
7.2.9	City Projects	Continue conversations with the developers of the WestPark community for the design and construction of the 25-acre park.	X	X		X	Development Community			X
7.2.10	City Projects	Continue conversations with sand and gravel mining operations on the City Lake project. The mining companies can dig the lakes to city specs and then turn the land over to the City for use as a recreation lake as part of reclamation.	X	X	X		Sand & Gravel Companies	X	X	X
7.2.11	City Projects	Collaborate with other City departments, including police, fire and water for collocating municipal service centers, including parks, recreation facilities, fire stations, police substations and water campuses.	X	X			Fire Dept, Police Dept, Water Resources Dept, Public Works Dept	X	X	X

Strategy Number	Category	Task	Responsible Parties / Department					Time Period		
			City of Buckeye				Other Departments / Agencies			
			Community Services	Development Services	Engineering	Construction & Procurement		Short-Term (1-3 years)	Medium-Term (4-7 years)	Long-Term (8-10 years)
7.2.12	City Projects	Develop a parks capital replacement schedule that is tied to the City's annual budget to replace aging infrastructure in City parks.	X			X		X	X	X
7.2.13	City Park Improvements	Continue to evaluate Buckeye's existing parks and facilities for improvements. Add such projects to the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).	X			X		X	X	X
7.2.14	City Park Improvements	Create a park asset maintenance and replacement plan for park amenities, including playground equipment, maintenance tools, and other equipment. Allocate dollars needed for maintenance and replacement and update annually.	X					X	X	X
7.2.15	City Park Improvements	Evaluate lighting in all City parks and determine if sufficient and energy efficient lighting is provided.	X				Public Works Dept	X	X	X
7.2.16	City Park Improvements	Consider adding picnic ramadas at Earl Edgar Recreational Facility and larger-sized corporate ramadas at Sundance Park and Skyline Regional Park.	X					X	X	
7.2.17	City Park Improvements	Add on-street and entry signage at all City parks. Create standards for signage that is consistent for theming, materials, and colors.	X				Public Works Dept	X		
7.2.18	City Park Improvements	Evaluate all parks and facilities for compliance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) policies to determine if there are ways to make the parks and recreation facilities safer by enhancing natural surveillance and access control.	X				Police Dept	X		
7.2.19	City Park Improvements	Implement recommendations from the City's Self Evaluation and ADA-Transition Plan for Buckeye's parks and facilities.	X				Public Works Dept, City Clerks Office	X	X	X
7.2.20	City Park Improvements	Evaluate Coronado Park for its continued maintenance by the Community Services Department. Coronado Park functions more as street right-of-way than as a park.	X				Public works Dept	X		
7.2.21	City Park Improvements	Install surveillance cameras in City parks and recreation facilities that experience vandalism or graffiti. Consider adding motion sensor lighting near all entry points to buildings.	X				Information Technology (IT) Dept, Police Dept	X		

Strategy Number	Category	Task	Responsible Parties / Department					Time Period		
			City of Buckeye				Other Departments / Agencies			
			Community Services	Development Services	Engineering	Construction & Procurement		Short-Term (1-3 years)	Medium-Term (4-7 years)	Long-Term (8-10 years)
7.2.22	City Park Improvements	Evaluate areas in City parks that can benefit from additional shade to improve comfort through natural and structural means, such as trees and shade canopies. Adding trees to parks would strengthen Buckeye as a Tree City USA.	X					X		
7.2.23	City Park Improvements - Landscaping	Establish a tree inventory program that is tied to GIS for all City-parks, which directly correlates to a maintenance plan, with information on tree species, caliper, maintenance considerations, and schedules for maintenance.	X				Information Technology (IT) Dept	X		
7.2.24	City Park Improvements - Landscaping	Evaluate turf areas in City parks to determine if there are unused areas where grass is not necessary. Transition these areas to decomposed granite to reduce water consumption and maintenance costs.	X					X	X	X
7.2.25	City Park Improvements - Landscaping	Develop a turf management plan for City parks and facilities and determine those locations where over seeding should occur, such as in high-use and high-visibility areas.	X					X		
7.2.26	City Park Improvements - Landscaping	Establish a tree, shrub, and groundcover replacement policy in City parks. Plants that have died or removed should be replaced.	X					X		
7.2.27	City Park Improvements - Sustainability	Add side by side trash and recycling containers in all City parks and facilities. Educate park visitors on items that can be recycled and total annual tonnages of recycled materials that otherwise would end up in a landfill. Install interpretive information on the benefits of recycling both in the park and at home.	X				Public Works Dept	X	X	X
7.2.28	City Park Improvements - Sustainability	Discuss opportunities to enhance a green recycling program for tree, shrub and groundcover materials from parks maintenance activities.	X				Public Works Dept		X	
7.2.29	City Park Improvements - Sustainability	Working with Water Resources, determine the feasibility of using reclaimed water at other City parks for turf irrigation.	X				Water Resources Dept	X	X	X
7.2.30	City Park Improvements - Sustainability	When repairs are made to irrigation systems, look to newer technologies that can reduce the amount of water used, while still maintaining attractive and green turf areas.	X				Water Resources Dept	X	X	X

Strategy Number	Category	Task	Responsible Parties / Department					Time Period		
			City of Buckeye				Other Departments / Agencies			
			Community Services	Development Services	Engineering	Construction & Procurement		Short-Term (1-3 years)	Medium-Term (4-7 years)	Long-Term (8-10 years)
7.2.31	City Park Improvements - Sustainability	Consider low-energy alternatives to lighting, including LED and solar and examine ways light fixtures can be retrofitted when upgrades are warranted.	X				Public Works Dept	X	X	X
7.2.32	City Parks - Security & Safety	Evaluate the use of park rangers, hired through the Police Department, to monitor all parks and recreation facilities in addition to Skyline Regional Park.	X				Police Dept	X	X	X
7.2.33	City Parks - Security & Safety	Add fencing and barriers at illegal entry points into Skyline Regional Park. Work with the Police Department to determine methods to deter access, including barriers, fencing, patrols, etc.	X				Police Dept & Public Works Dept	X	X	X
Chapter 3: Paths & Trails										
7.3.1	Path & Trail Planning	Work with developers during the master planning stage and platting processes to secure pathway and trail corridors. Ensure developers are building paths and trails on or adjacent to the development and providing necessary public access easements in accordance with the plan.	X	X	X		Developers	X	X	X
7.3.2	Path & Trail Planning	Focus resources to establish Rivers to Ridges Trails to connect Buckeye's natural resources to development throughout the City's municipal planning area. Acquire easements and design and construct segments.	X				Developers, Local, State and Federal Agencies	X	X	X
7.3.3	Path & Trail Planning	Coordinate with Development Services & Engineering on the Transportation Master Plan to ensure trails identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan link to sidewalks along roadways.	X	X	X			X		
7.3.4	Path & Trail Planning	Coordinate with adjacent municipalities on trail planning to ensure alignments connect across jurisdiction lines	X				Other municipalities	X	X	X
7.3.5	Path & Trail Planning	Continue partnering with Maricopa County Parks and Recreation and other land owners adjacent to Skyline Regional Park for the connectivity of trails and continue constructing additional miles.	X				Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, Verrado DMB, Sienna Hills, Tartesso	X	X	X
7.3.6	Path & Trail Planning	Continue the strong partnership with Maricopa County Parks and Recreation on the 310-mile Maricopa Trail and El Rio Trail that will connect the White Tanks south to Estrella Mountain Regional Park and Buckeye Hills Regional Park.	X	X	X		Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, Flood Control District of Maricopa County	X	X	X

Strategy Number	Category	Task	Responsible Parties / Department					Time Period		
			City of Buckeye				Other Departments / Agencies			
			Community Services	Development Services	Engineering	Construction & Procurement		Short-Term (1-3 years)	Medium-Term (4-7 years)	Long-Term (8-10 years)
7.3.7	Path & Trail Planning	Collaborate with and establish IGA's and MOU's with Flood Control District of Maricopa County, utility companies and irrigation districts to establish paths and trails along their corridors.	X				Flood Control District of Maricopa County, utility companies, irrigation districts	X	X	X
7.3.8	Path & Trail Planning	Continue to seek a mutually beneficial collaboration with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County (FCDMC) on flood control and wildlife corridors through such projects as the Buckeye ADMP, the Watson Drain 15% plans, and the Sun Valley ADMP. The paths along such drainage corridors will provide beneficial east to west and north to south connectivity in Buckeye's municipal planning area.	X	X	X		Flood Control District of Maricopa County	X	X	X
7.3.9	Path & Trail Planning	With the agreement in place with the Buckeye Water Conservation & Drainage District (BWCDD), complete the design of the one-mile segment and allocate the necessary capital dollars for completion. Seek grant funds for construction.	X			X	BWCDD		X	
7.3.10	Path & Trail Planning	Partner with off-highway vehicle groups and other entities to find suitable locations for motorized recreation trails outside of the PM-10 areas.	X				OHV groups, BLM, Maricopa County Parks & Recreation	X	X	X
7.3.11	Path & Trail Planning	Initiate a gap analysis to determine where vital linkages are needed as the path and trail system is developed.	X	X	X				X	X
7.3.12	Path & Trail Design	Collaborate with Engineering and Public Works to develop refined standards for grade-separated crossings and those occurring at intersections that can also serve a dual purpose for wildlife crossings.	X	X	X		Public Works Department	X		
7.3.13	Path & Trail Design	Develop minimum requirements for such trails along flood control channels, utility companies and irrigation districts that can serve a dual-purpose as maintenance roads.	X		X		Flood Control District of Maricopa County, utility companies, irrigation districts	X		
7.3.14	Path & Trail Design	Create design criteria for paths and trails located along the fringes of wildlife corridors. The design criteria should consider buffering distance, surface type, lighting, landscaping, and fencing.	X	X			Arizona Game & Fish Department, Local & State Partnering Agencies		X	
7.3.15	Path & Trail Design	Prepare vegetation standards along paths and trails to include minimum plant sizes, shade coverage, spacing, species and densities.	X	X	X				X	

Strategy Number	Category	Task	Responsible Parties / Department					Time Period		
			City of Buckeye				Other Departments / Agencies			
			Community Services	Development Services	Engineering	Construction & Procurement		Short-Term (1-3 years)	Medium-Term (4-7 years)	Long-Term (8-10 years)
7.3.16	Path & Trail Design	Install signage along Buckeye's paths and trails that are consistent to MAG's Valley Path Brand and Wayfinding Signage Guidelines	X				Maricopa Association of Governments	X	X	X
7.3.17	Path & Trail Design	Identify lighting standards along Buckeye's pathways and trails that is dark sky compliant to ensure uniformity between developments.	X	X	X		Public Works Department	X	X	X
7.3.18	Path & Trail Design	Working with Avondale, Goodyear, Maricopa County and Flood Control District of Maricopa County, design and build the El Rio Trail and El Rio River Trail to provide valuable connections to the riparian resources found in the Gila River.	X				Avondale, Goodyear, Buckeye, Maricopa County, FCDMC		X	X
7.3.19	Path & Trail Design	Develop access nodes to the Gila River in conformance to the El Rio Design Guidelines and Planning Standards.	X				Avondale, Goodyear, Buckeye, Maricopa County, FCDMC		X	X
Chapter 4: Open Space										
7.4.1	Open Space Planning	Create a land preservation plan that indicates prioritized properties for acquisition that are critical to be preserved because of their open space value.	X	X			AZ Game and Fish Department, White Tank Mountains Conservancy, Public Works Dept.		X	
7.4.2	Open Space Planning	Ensure significant language on the preservation of open space and wildlife corridors is included in the 2018 General Plan Update	X	X				X		
7.4.3	Open Space Planning	Working with the White Tank Mountains Conservancy and others, develop a land prioritization and acquisition plan for high-resource value lands in and adjacent to the White Tank Mountains, especially the Arizona State Trust Lands.	X	X			White Tank Mountains Conservancy, Public Works Dept.		X	X
7.4.4	Open Space Planning	Coordinate with the Arizona State Land Department on the identification of lands suitable for inclusion in the Arizona Preserve Initiative, especially those lands surrounding the White Tank Mountains and the 1 square mile island of land surrounded by Skyline Regional Park. Also include lands known as wildlife corridors into the Preserve Initiative.	X				Arizona State Land Dept, Maricopa County Parks & Recreation, White Tank Mountains Conservancy		X	X
7.4.5	Open Space Planning	Continue the established partnerships with sand and gravel mining operations occurring in the Gila River, which can become recreation assets from formed lakes.	X	X			Sand & Gravel Mining Companies	X	X	X

Strategy Number	Category	Task	Responsible Parties / Department					Time Period		
			City of Buckeye				Other Departments / Agencies			
			Community Services	Development Services	Engineering	Construction & Procurement		Short-Term (1-3 years)	Medium-Term (4-7 years)	Long-Term (8-10 years)
7.4.6	Open Space Design	Create edge treatment and buffer guidelines around the White Tank Mountains and other significant natural resources, including designated wildlife corridors in the City.	X	X	X		Developers	X	X	
7.4.7	Open Space Design	Create a hillside ordinance for responsible development on sloped terrain.	X	X	X		Developers	X	X	
7.4.8	Open Space Design	Develop requirements that encourage the floodways and floodplains to be left in their natural state to ensure hydrologic processes can occur unimpeded.	X	X	X				X	
7.4.9	Open Space Design	Establish guidelines for the use of native vegetation and transitional landscaping for development projects abutting large swaths of open space.	X	X					X	
7.4.10	Open Space Preservation	Coordinate with the White Tank Mountains Conservancy to provide essential resources and volunteerism to protect and preserve the White Tank Mountains.	X					X		
7.4.11	Open Space Preservation	Continue the formed partnerships with agencies on the identification of known wildlife corridors and the implementation strategies to preserve them in perpetuity.	X	X			Arizona Game & Fish Department, White Tank Mountains Conservancy, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, Developers	X	X	X
7.4.12	Open Space Preservation	Partner with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and other parties for removal of invasive tamarisks and their replacement with native plants.	X	X			Flood Control District of Maricopa County, El Rio Committee, AZ Game & Fish Department, etc.	X	X	X
7.4.13	Open Space Preservation	Submit a Recreation & Public Purpose lease application to BLM for the two outlying parcels between Skyline Regional Park and Verrado.	X				Bureau of Land Management	X		
7.4.14	Open Space Preservation	Evaluate BLM lands in the City of Buckeye that were classified as suitable for disposal or exchange and determine if the City could benefit from their use for parks and recreation.	X				Bureau of Land Management		X	
7.4.15	Open Space Preservation	Continue working with the Cities of Avondale and Goodyear, FCDMC and Maricopa County on the advancement of the El Rio along the Gila River, including the preservation of open space.	X	X			Avondale, Goodyear, FCDMC, Maricopa County	X	X	X

Strategy Number	Category	Task	Responsible Parties / Department					Time Period		
			City of Buckeye				Other Departments / Agencies			
			Community Services	Development Services	Engineering	Construction & Procurement		Short-Term (1-3 years)	Medium-Term (4-7 years)	Long-Term (8-10 years)
Chapter 5: Recreation										
7.5.1	Recreation Programming	Ensure the department continually meets established standards by the Commission for the Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies and completes required updates.	X					X	X	X
7.5.2	Recreation Programming	Inventory the types of programs available in other jurisdictions and conduct a gap analysis to determine recreation areas that should be strengthened.	X				Other municipalities	X		
7.5.3	Recreation Programming	Survey residents annually to determine the types of programs and events they desire to ensure the City is meeting their changing interests.	X					X	X	X
7.5.4	Recreation Programming	Evaluate opportunities to provide increased program offerings for those living in master planned communities located outside of downtown Buckeye.	X				Homeowner Associations	X	X	X
7.5.5	Recreation Programming	Develop a programming philosophy on the types of programs that should be offered through the City and those that should be offered by for-profit or not-for-profit organizations.	X					X		
7.5.6	Recreation Programming	Annually evaluate fees and charges to ensure our prices are comparable to other valley agencies, while adhering to cost recovery philosophies.	X					X	X	X
7.5.7	Recreation Programming	Explore fundraising opportunities to augment the Youth Scholarship Fund and determine if the program should be expanded to include all age groups and families.	X						X	
7.5.8	Recreation Programming	Create a cost policy for fees assessed to residents and non-residents.	X					X		
7.5.9	Recreation Programming	Determine cost-effective strategies to expand adaptive recreation offerings.	X					X		
7.5.10	Recreation Programming	Develop an outdoor & environmental programming plan for Skyline Regional Park.	X					X		
7.5.11	Recreation Programming	Investigate the feasibility of providing year-round aquatic programs.	X						X	

Strategy Number	Category	Task	Responsible Parties / Department					Time Period		
			City of Buckeye				Other Departments / Agencies			
			Community Services	Development Services	Engineering	Construction & Procurement		Short-Term (1-3 years)	Medium-Term (4-7 years)	Long-Term (8-10 years)
7.5.12	Recreation Programming	Evaluate opportunities and potential partnerships to expand performing, visual and literary arts programming to Buckeye residents.	X					X	X	X
7.5.13	Recreation Programming	Continue augmenting competitive sports programming in the City.	X					X	X	X
7.5.14	Recreation Programming	Explore partnership opportunities that could provide the necessary facility space, transportation, materials and equipment for new and existing recreation programs.	X					X	X	X
7.5.15	Recreation Programming	Enhance the marketing of parks and recreation in the City of Buckeye through the use of web and trending social media.	X					X	X	X
7.5.16	Recreation Programming	Continue to support and build upon the various non-profit organizations, including the Friends of the Buckeye Recreation and Senior Site Council to enhance program and service offerings.	X					X	X	X
Chapter 6: Cultural & Historical Resources										
7.6.1	Historical Resource Planning	Update the Historical Resource Inventory that was conducted in 1996 and expand to include Buckeye's municipal planning area and not just properties located in downtown Buckeye.	X	X			Buckeye Main Street Coalition		X	
7.6.2	Historical Resource Planning	Investigate the feasibility of creating two historic districts, one residential and one commercial, near downtown Buckeye.	X	X			Buckeye Main Street Coalition		X	
7.6.3	Historical Resource Preservation	Ensure both the A-Wing and the Buckeye Jail are continuously monitored and maintained to ensure further deterioration does not occur to the structures. Focus resources to fund their renovation.	X	X		X	Buckeye Main Street Coalition, Public Works Department	X		
7.6.4	Historical Resource Preservation	Research incentives that can be offered to promote preservation.	X	X			Buckeye Main Street Coalition		X	
7.6.5	Cultural Resource Planning	In consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, create an Archaeological Resource Plan for the City of Buckeye that identifies those resources and methods to preserve them.	X	X			Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, Public Works Department		X	

Strategy Number	Category	Task	Responsible Parties / Department					Time Period		
			City of Buckeye				Other Departments / Agencies			
			Community Services	Development Services	Engineering	Construction & Procurement		Short-Term (1-3 years)	Medium-Term (4-7 years)	Long-Term (8-10 years)
7.6.6	Cultural Resource Planning	Ensure current and future development protects and preserves archaeological resources by establishing policies.	X				Arizona State Parks	X		
7.6.7	Cultural & Historical Programs	Develop community awareness through signage, interpretive information and programs to inform residents of Buckeye's rich history, including its historic and archaeological resources.	X	X			Buckeye Main Street Coalition	X	X	X
Chapter 7: Implementation Strategies & Funding										
7.7.1	City projects	Investigate the feasibility of bonding for new city parks and facility projects. If found to be feasible, take the bond forward for voter approval.	X				City Council, Finance Dept, City Clerk, Bond Committee	X		
7.7.2	City projects	Consider bonding authority for select Rivers to Ridges paths as a secondary component to primary parks and recreation needs.						X		
7.7.3	City projects	During the next impact fee study, evaluate the fees assessed to residential, commercial and industrial developments and determine if modifications should be made to increase the effectiveness of the program.	X	X		X		X	X	X
7.7.4	City Projects	Research and apply for grant funds to augment City dollars to design and construct capital projects.	X					X	X	X
7.7.5	City Projects	Reach out to the development community and other municipalities regarding the provision of parks in master planned communities to understand best practices in the valley. Review and evaluate existing CMP's for the adequate provision of parks and potential conveyance to the City.	X	X			Development community, Other municipalities	X	X	X
7.7.5	City Projects	Ensure adequate staffing and operation/maintenance dollars are budgeted as new parks, recreation facilities, paths and trails are developed.	X				Finance Dept, City Management, Buckeye City Council	X	X	X
7.7.6	City Projects	Collaborate with other agencies, non-profits and businesses on creative solutions to fund parks and recreation facilities and their ongoing operations and maintenance.	X				Parks and Recreation related agencies and businesses	X	X	X

Strategy Number	Category	Task	Responsible Parties / Department					Time Period		
			City of Buckeye				Other Departments / Agencies			
			Community Services	Development Services	Engineering	Construction & Procurement		Short-Term (1-3 years)	Medium-Term (4-7 years)	Long-Term (8-10 years)
7.7.7	City Projects	Continue to evaluate the cost to build and maintain new parks and recreation facilities on a per acre or square footage basis that can be used when budgeting for future facilities.						X	X	X
7.7.8	City Projects	Evaluate staffing and operation and maintenance levels for City of Buckeye parks and services in comparison to national guidelines as prepared annually by the National Recreation and Parks Association.	X					X	X	X
7.7.9	City Projects	Annually enter City of Buckeye data into the National Recreation and Parks Association's PRORAGIS to ensure the City of Buckeye is meeting benchmarks established by other communities across Arizona and the United States.	X					X	X	X
7.7.10	Developer Requirements	Incorporate guidelines and standards included in the master plan into City's development code.	X	X				X		
7.7.11	Developer Requirements	Review annexations, rezones, pre-plats, final plats, and site plans for conformance with adopted plans and policies included in the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan						X	X	X
7.7.12	Developer Requirements	Ensure developments are adequately providing parks, open space, pathways and trails in conformance with the plan, including appropriately sized parks that have a diverse array of amenities.	X	X				X	X	X
7.7.13	Developer Requirements	Create generalized language to include in future development agreements that detail the parks, open space and trail requirements	X	X			Legal	X		
7.7.14	Developer Requirements	Prepare development checklists for developers and City staff that detail requirements for parks, paths and trails, open space and recreation.	X	X				X		
7.7.15	Developer Requirements	Prepare design guidelines for parks, trails and open space that can be provided to developers coming in through pre-application conferences.	X	X				X		
7.7.16	Developer Requirements	Develop language to include in the development code relating to the provision of park-type amenities in commercial and industrial developments, including forecourts, plazas, and green space to benefit the public and employees.	X	X				X		

REVIEW PROCESSES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

Development materials submitted through the City come through the Development Services Department and are then routed for review to the appropriate departments.

The City of Buckeye Community Services Department has an assigned staff to attend, review and comment on development proposals during Pre-Application Conferences. Staff reviews annexations, rezones, community master plan applications and amendments, preliminary plats, site and landscape plans, as well as final plats for conformance with this plan.

Staff in the Development Services Department as well as other City departments may provide additional comments not addressed by Community Services staff to ensure projects are adhering to the guidelines set forth in this plan.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE, REVIEW & AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a single snapshot or vision and specific direction for Buckeye's parks, trails, open space, recreation, and cultural and historical resources over the next ten years. Changes will inevitably occur and it may be necessary to review and revise due to influences such as a changing development climate, market conditions, available budget, and public needs and priorities. Information contained in this plan may be modified based upon unforeseen site-specific constraints. Review and evaluation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan should be a part of the regular implementation program.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan serves as the open space and recreation elements of the City's General Plan. Modifications to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan should be evaluated to determine if major or minor amendments to the General Plan are needed. Major and minor amendments will be processed in accordance with the procedures outlined in Buckeye's General Plan.

APPENDIX

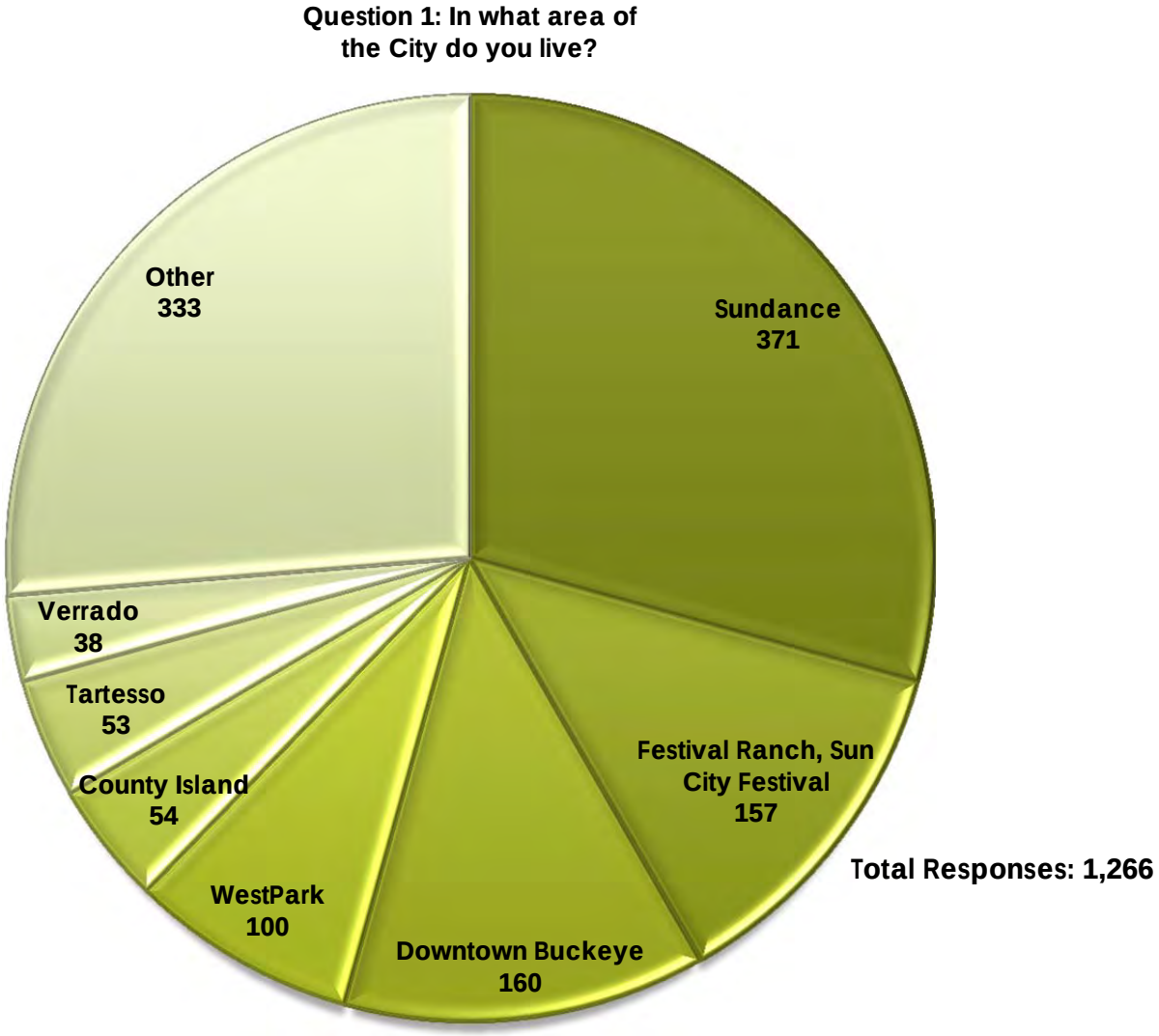
APPENDIX A: SURVEY RESULTS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

MEMO
Date: December 10, 2014
To: Cheryl Sedig, Director
From: Robert Wisener, Conservation & Project Manager
Re: Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan Survey Results

The City of Buckeye is beginning to update its Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan, which is expected to be complete in a year, and was last adopted by the City in 2005. The master plan will provide City officials and the public a vision and framework for an interconnected network of parks, trails and open space influenced by Buckeye's vast natural resources. The plan will include an assessment of existing parks and amenities provided to residents and compare the levels to other communities. The plan will also forecast future needs for parks to meet the growth demands over the ten-year period.

To assist in gathering input, the Community Services Department issued a survey to residents in mid-October with questions that assessed their level of satisfaction regarding existing parks, facilities and programs and what they believe is needed in the future as the City grows. Information collected from the survey will be incorporated into the Master Plan. Surveys were to be returned by November 24th and an impressive 1,273 responses were received. Three prizes were offered as an incentive for residents to provide input including an Apple Ipad (won by Svetlana Battles), a $150 family pool pass to the Buckeye Aquatic Center for the 2015 swim season (won by Sergio Avalle), and a $150 voucher to be used towards recreation programs offered by the City (won by Regina Esparza). The survey was promoted through various outlets, including the Eye on Buckeye (a quarterly brochure mailed to all postal addresses in the City of Buckeye), through email list serves , City facebook accounts, Buckeye facebook groups, an article in the West Valley View, and weekly reports published through the City Manager's Office.

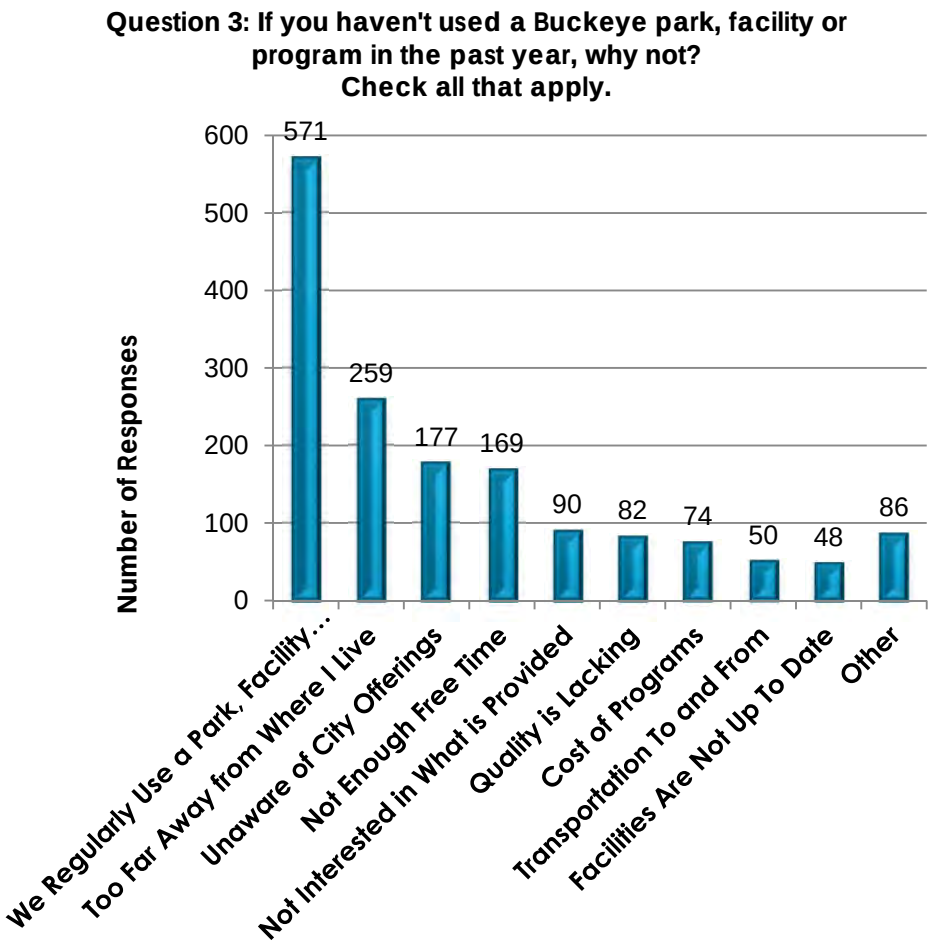
The following pages contain a summary of survey responses.



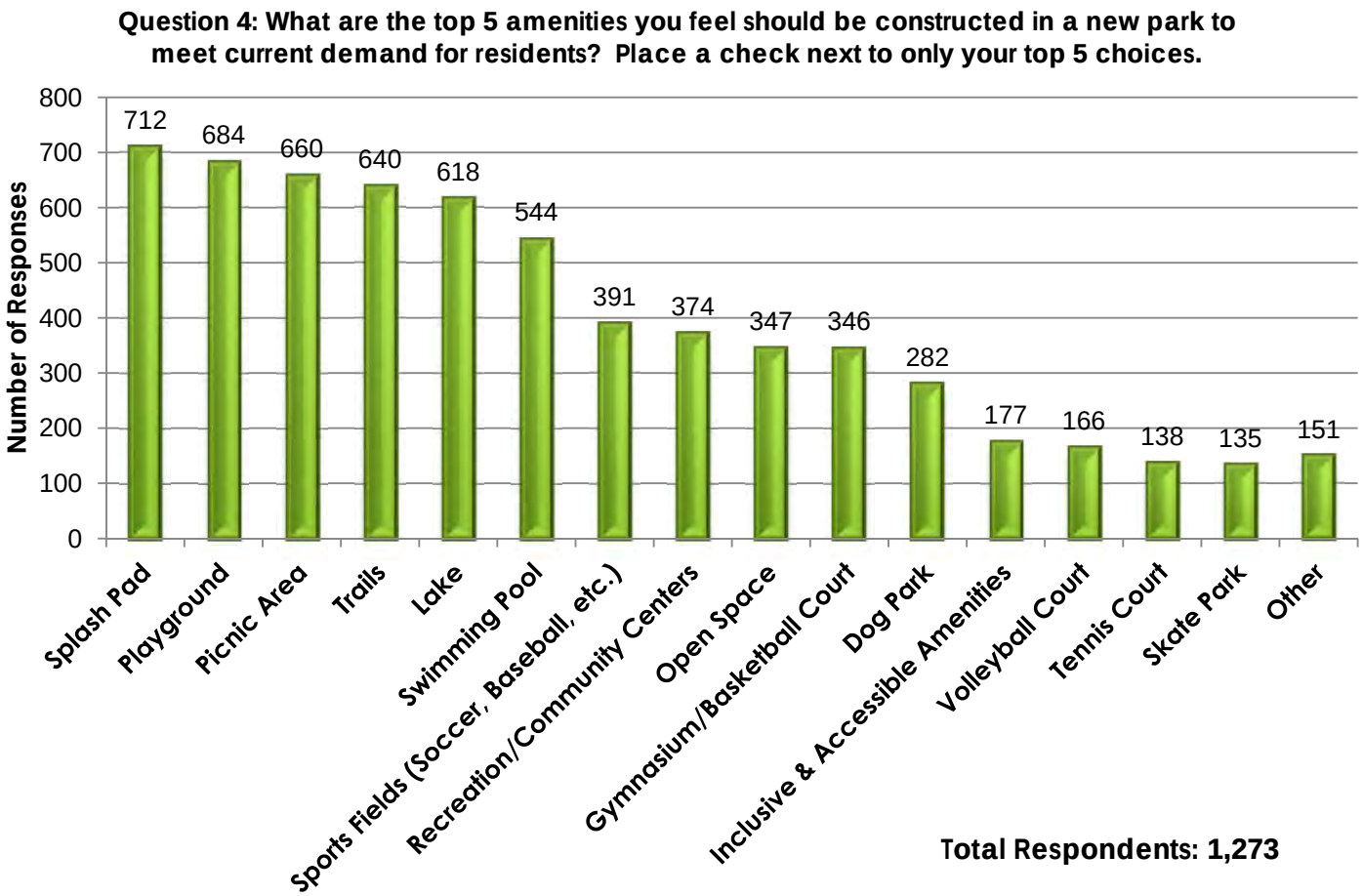
The majority of responses came from the communities of Sundance, Festival Ranch/Sun City Festival, downtown Buckeye and WestPark.

Question 2: In the past year, how often have you used a:	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Few Times a Year	Haven't Used	TOTAL
City of Buckeye Park	**74**	**413**	**196**	**281**	**291**	**1255**
Sundance Park, Town Park	*6%*	*33%*	*16%*	*22%*	*23%*	
City of Buckeye Facility	**95**	**182**	**134**	**386**	**445**	**1242**
Community Center, Rec Center	*8%*	*15%*	*11%*	*31%*	*36%*	
City of Buckeye Program	**106**	**213**	**106**	**263**	**544**	**1232**
Youth Sports, Special Interest Classes	*9%*	*17%*	*9%*	*21%*	*44%*	

At least 55% of respondents used a Buckeye park at least monthly with the other 45% using them a few times a year or not at all. Fewer respondents used a city of Buckeye facility (only 34% visited a facility at least monthly), whereas 31% used a facility a few times a year and another 36% have not visited a facility at all. The same held true for participating in a program with only 34% of respondents using a City of Buckeye recreation program at least monthly and 21% using a program a few times a year and another 44% not using a program at all.



Most respondents stated that they regularly use a park, facility or program (45% of the 1,273 people surveyed). The second highest response was that the parks, facilities and programs are too far away from where they live, which is not a surprise given the high number of responses from Sun City Festival and Tartesso residents. It was surprising to see that 177 of respondents stated they were unaware of City offerings considering the Eye on Buckeye magazine is mailed to every postal address in Buckeye.



The top 5 amenities to be constructed in a new park were the following:

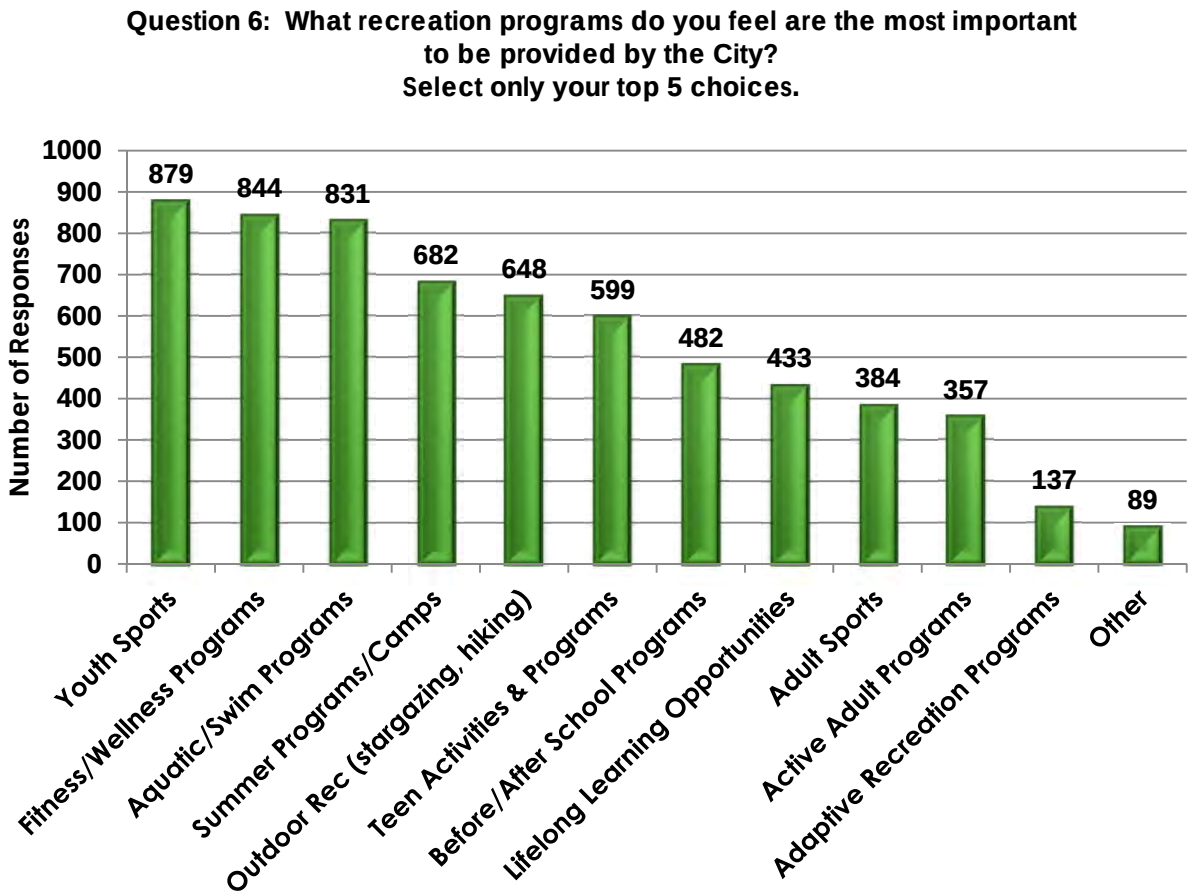
- Splash Pad, 2) Playground, 3) Picnic Areas, 4) Trails, 5) Lake

Residents want amenities for their families to use and it is no surprise that splash pads were the most frequently requested component to be constructed, given Arizona's heat. It is somewhat surprising that playgrounds ranked second given there are so many pocket parks in Buckeye's HOA communities. Passive recreation components, such as picnic areas, trails and lakes were also widely requested. Amenities such as skate parks and volleyball and tennis courts with niche users were not as favorably selected. The City will use information from this question when deciding upon what amenities to include in a new park in the future.

Question 5: Do you feel Buckeye is a city with enough parks with varied amenities for you to use?

	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Parks		
Enough Parks	192	15%
Not Enough Parks	662	52%
Neutral/Unsure	419	33%
Total Responses	*1,273*	*100%*
Amenities		
Enough Amenities in Parks	145	12%
Not Enough Amenities in Parks	697	56%
Neutral/Unsure	408	33%
Total Responses	*1,250*	*100%*

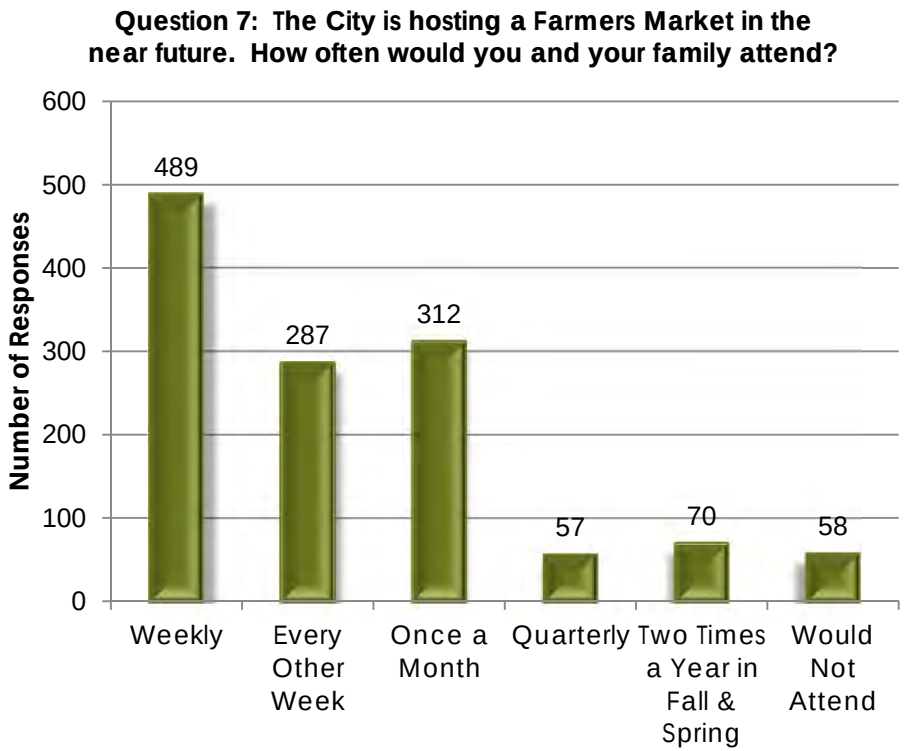
More than half of the respondents felt that Buckeye did not have enough parks to serve its residents, whereas only 15% felt that Buckeye was adequately served. 33% of respondents were neutral or unsure. These responses were similar to whether respondents believed there were enough amenities in the parks. Responses reveal that more than half of the residents feel there is not an adequate amount of parks or amenities for them and their families to use.



Top 5 Recreation Programs that are the most important for the City to provide:

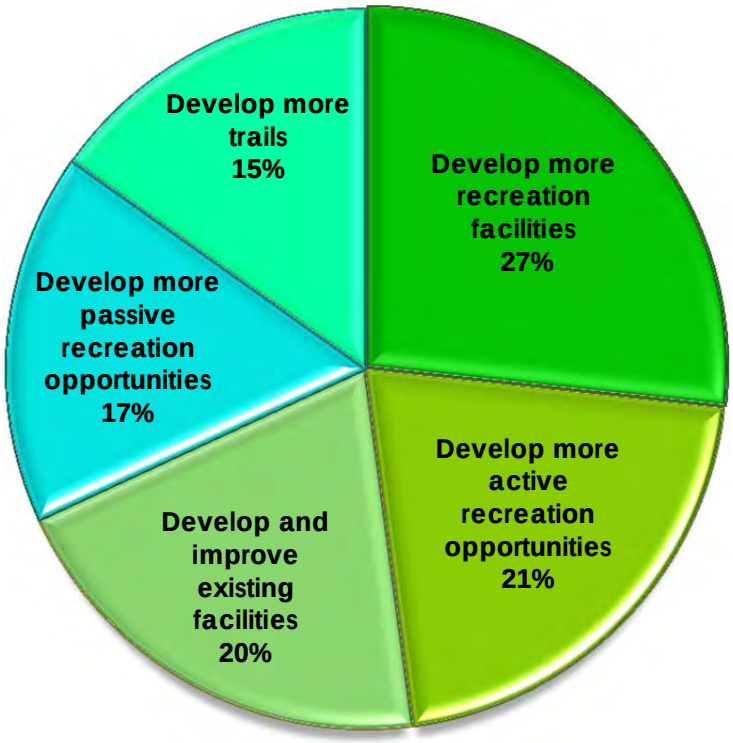
- Youth Sports, 2) Fitness/Wellness, 3) Aquatics/Swim, 4) Summer Programs, 5) Outdoor Rec

Residents strongly support the City in providing youth sports, fitness and wellness, and swim programs to residents. Summer and outdoor recreation programs were highly ranked as well. Some of the least selected programs that residents didn't feel were as important to provide over other options were for active adult and adult sports programs. Residents feel it is more important to provide recreation services to youth rather than adults. Residents also did not feel it was as important for the City to provide special types of adaptive recreation programs for those who may have disabilities or impairments.



From survey responses, the public is very supportive of the City hosting a farmers market with a staggering 85% of survey respondents saying they would attend a Farmers Market at least monthly. Only 4.5% of those surveyed stated they would not attend the Farmers Market. Community Services will use this information to determine how frequently we will hold the Farmers Market, which is coming in January 2015.

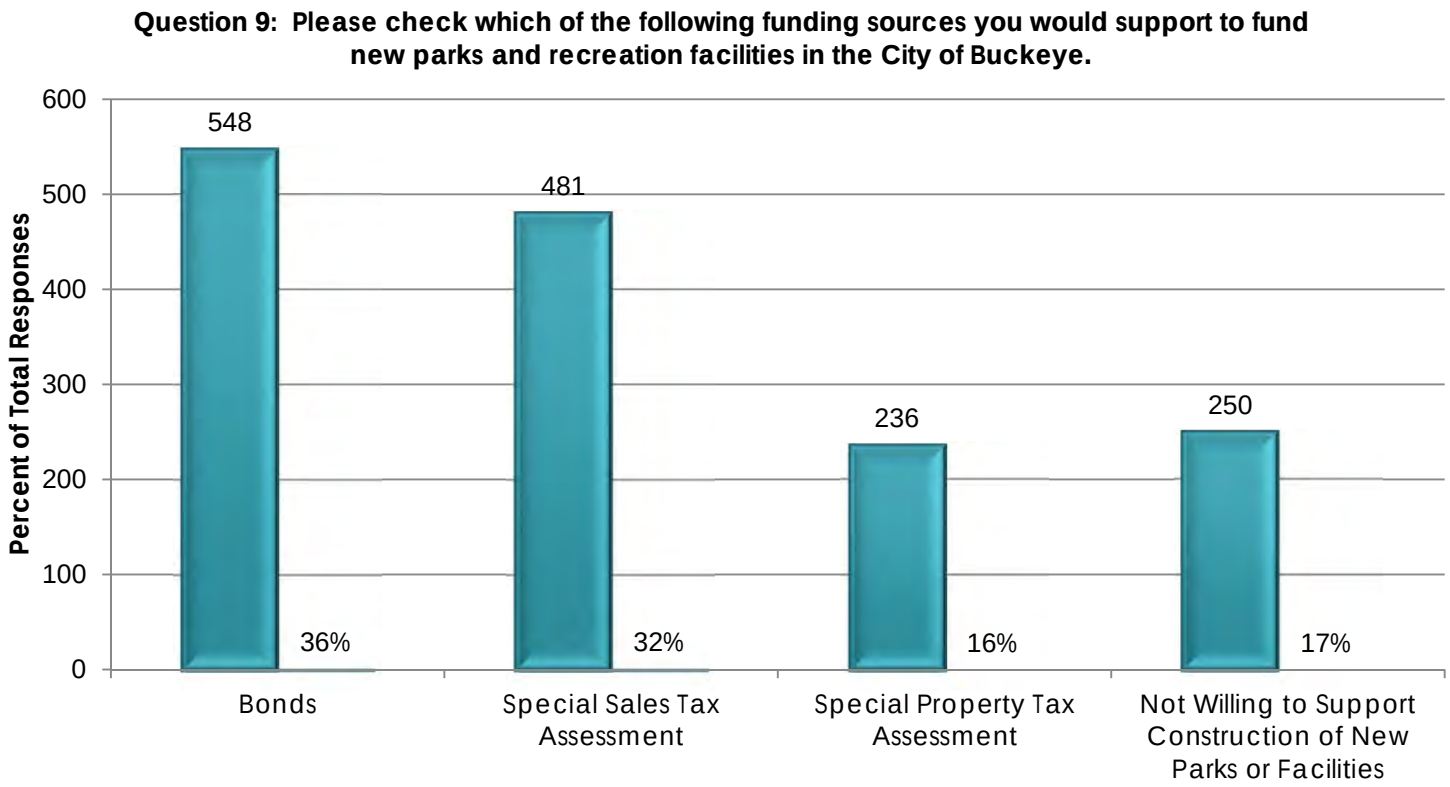
Question 8: How would you allocate dollars, as a percent, across the following types of development if funding was available?



Allocating Percent of Funding Across Different Development Types:

- Rec Facilities 27% 2) Active Rec Opportunities 21%, 3) Improve Existing Facilities 20%, 4) Passive Rec Opportunities 17%, 5) Trails 15%

While residents strongly support the construction of new trails, it was the least selected in terms of allocating dollars, as a percent towards its construction. Residents wanted dollars spent on new rec facilities (rec center, sports complex, swimming pool) and active rec opportunities (sports fields, playgrounds, dog parks). It should be noted that the spread between responses was not significant with only an 11% difference from the highest allocated rec facilities to the lowest allocated trails. Most respondents allocated funding to each type of development.



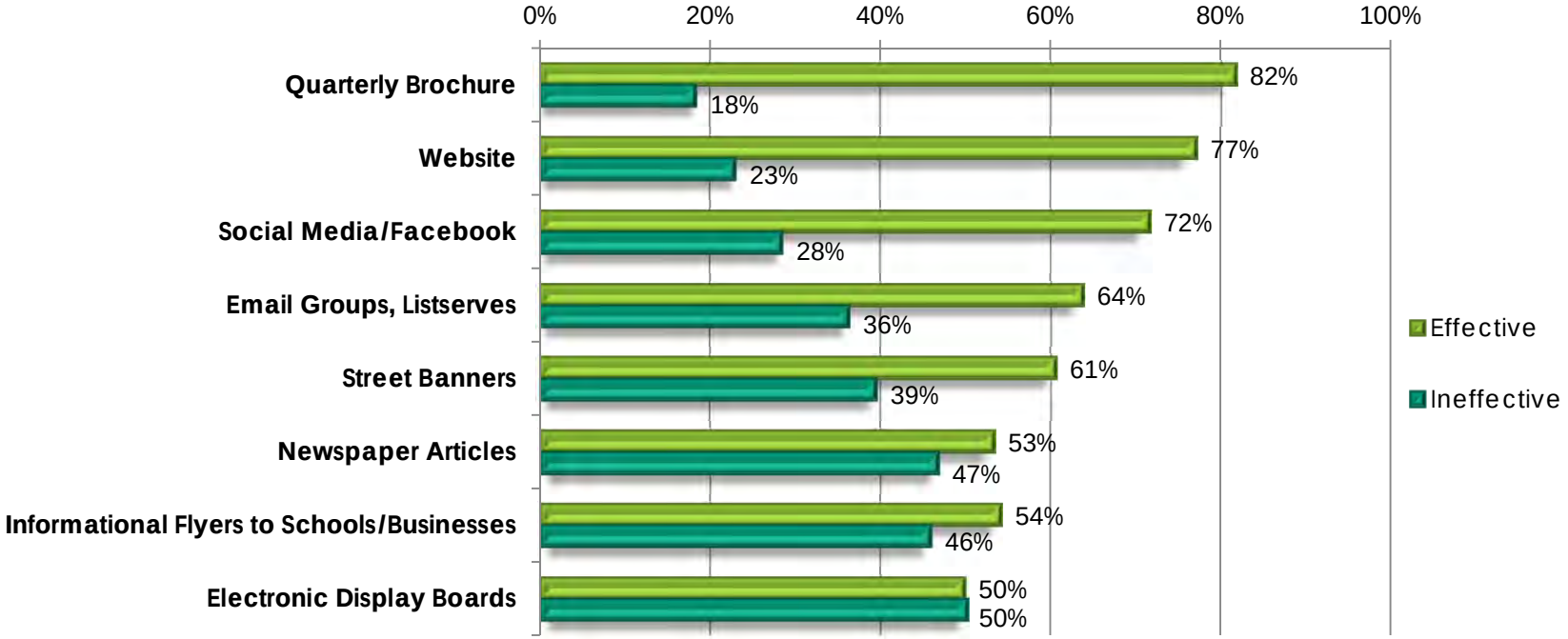
Funding Sources You Would Support for New Parks & Rec Facilities:

- Bonds 36%, 2) Sales Tax Assessment 32%, 3) Property Tax Assessment: 16%,

4) Not Willing to Support 17%.

It is reassuring to see that the majority of survey respondents (84%) are willing to support the funding of new parks and recreation facilities through bonds, sales tax assessment and property taxes. And even 16% were willing to pay additional property taxes to support parks and recreation. This is especially important since impact fees, which has been one of the traditional funding sources for capital projects is limited due to recent legislative changes. Future parks and recreation projects will need to rely on other funding sources, besides impact fees and from the survey, it appears the support is there. Only 17% of respondents were not willing to support the construction of new parks and recreation facilities.

Question 10: How effective are the following methods to inform you about services, programs and events offered by the City of Buckeye?



The majority of survey respondents believed the Eye on Buckeye, the City's quarterly brochure that is mailed to every postal address in Buckeye is an effective way to inform residents about the services, programs and events offered by the City. Respondents also believed the website, social media/Facebook and email groups and list serves were an effective method to inform residents. Respondents felt that newspaper articles, informational flyers to schools and businesses and electronic display boards were less effective in communicating the services offered to residents. City staff will keep this in mind when marketing and promoting programs and events in the future.

Other questions in the survey asked respondents to include the total number of people in their household by age group. The average household size of survey respondents was 3.82 people per household, which is slightly more than the US Census Bureau's estimate of an average of 3.25 persons per household in Buckeye. Nearly 600 of the survey respondents also signed up for one of our email listserves to learn about upcoming events and programs as well as volunteer and vendor opportunities.

Additional Comments

At the end of the survey, respondents were able to provide additional comments if they wished. Three-hundred comments were received with over 50 of them related to the need for a splash pad or an additional pool. Nearly 30 comments were in regards to residents living outside of downtown Buckeye who felt most of the parks and recreation services offered were too far away from where they live with the majority of those from Sun City Festival. Many comments related to the need and benefit for a park with a lake and even more comments related to the need for trails. Twelve comments were from residents not willing to support higher taxes as they feel the City should be able to work within the money already provided through existing revenues. Other comments related to park maintenance – whether mosquito infestations, sunflower seeds, ants, shade, etc. About 10 respondents commented on the need for a movie theater, indoor water park, bowling alley and miniature golf for families to use. Other comments included support for Skyline Park, thanks to the City for offering the survey, need for tennis and basketball courts, support for the library, transportation needs, improvements needed in downtown Buckeye, and a desire for no new growth in Buckeye.

APPENDIX B: STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING #1 MINUTES

Minutes

City of Buckeye

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Stakeholder Group

January 26, 2015, 10:00am

City Hall

1) Introductions

The meeting began 10:05 a.m. Those in attendance included the following:

Robert Wisener	Conservation & Project Manager	City of Buckeye
Miranda Gomez	Recreation Manager	City of Buckeye
Ed Boik	Senior Planner	City of Buckeye
Chris Lemka	Civil Engineer-Transportation	City of Buckeye
Janna Brunson	Administrative Assistant	City of Buckeye
Dana Warnecke	Game & Fish Habitat Specialist	AZ Game & Fish Dept.
Ryan Neiffer	Traffic Designer	CivTech Inc.
Doug Williams	Planning Manager	FCDMC
Bailey DuBois	Intern	FCDMC
Leigh Johnson	Park Planner	Maricopa Parks & Rec
John Rose	Maricopa Trail Manager	Maricopa Parks & Rec
Ed Gerak	District Manager	BWC&DD
Teresa Bible	Chair	Community Services Advisory B
Bob Speirs		Stardust Company

2) Background Data as it relates to Master Plan

Robert Wisener presented a powerpoint with data collected from an inventory of parks and open space in the City of Buckeye as well as information from the community survey that was issued in the fall of 2014 with 1,300 responses received. Presentation attached.

3) Identification of Resources to Consider in Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Stakeholders identified natural resources on a map of Buckeye and surrounding areas, which have the potential for future preservation. These resources include:

- Flood Control Structures
- Basins for Flood Control
- Flood Plains
- Arizona Game & Fish Department Lands (Public Lands Order 1015)
  - Arlington PLO 1015 Lands
  - Robbins Butte Wildlife Area
  - Powers Butte
- Gillespie Dam & Old US 80 Bridge
- Sonoran Desert National Monument
  - Maricopa Mountains Wilderness Area
- Buckeye Hills
- White Tank Mountains
- Sand and Gravel Mining Lakes
- Irrigation Lakes adjacent to canals
- CAP Discharge on the Hassayampa River – New Preserve Area
- Hassayampa River Corridor
- Gila River Corridor
- Skyline Regional Park
- Caterpillar Proving Grounds
- Arizona State Trust Lands
- Bureau of Land Management Lands

4) Identification of Potential Corridors to Connect Resources

Stakeholders identified potential corridors to connect resources on a map of Buckeye and surrounding areas.

- Irrigation Canals
  - CAP Canal
  - Beardsley Canal
  - Roosevelt Irrigation Canal
  - Buckeye Irrigation Canal
- South Extension Canal
- Arlington Canal
- Major Washes
  - Wagner Wash
  - Rainbow Wash
  - Daggs Wash
  - Others
- Rivers
  - Hassayampa River Trail
  - Gila River Trail – El Rio
- Flood Control Channels & Flood Retarding Structures
  - Buckeye Area Drainage Master Plan
  - Sun Valley Area Drainage Master Plan
  - Watson Drain Design Concept Report
  - El Rio Watercourse Master Plan
  - White Tanks Flood Retarding Structure #4
- Utility Corridors/Powerlines
  - WAPA, SRP, APS
  - Palo Verde Pipeline
- Maricopa Trail
- Pathways in Homeowner Association Communities
- Sidewalks and Bike Lanes along Streets
- Wildlife Linkages
  - White Tank Mountains to the Belmont Mountains
  - Buckeye Hills to Maricopa Mountains to Gila Bend Mountains
- Connections to Trail systems in Goodyear and Surprise

5) Identification of Policies to Go With 4 Goals of the Plan

City Parks and Facilities

Goal 1: Provide quality community and regional parks and recreation facilities that are convenient to all neighborhoods and that meet the needs of local residents.

Residential Requirements for Developers

- Require new residential developments to meet or exceed established Level of Service (LOS) standards.
- Ensure level of service standards for usable park space and open space are tied to defined amenity requirements.
- Working with developers, conduct a demographic analysis of anticipated residents in a neighborhood to determine amenities to be constructed in parks.
- Define park amenity requirements on a sliding scale based upon the size of the residential development.

Right Parks in the Right Place

- Partner with neighboring cities on large scale municipal sports complexes for economies of scale.
- Partner with local schools to create co-use facilities for parks and facilities, such as sports fields, library, recreation center, etc.
- Create municipal complexes in master planned communities and collocate police and fire stations with parks, recreation facilities and libraries.
- Mandate neighborhood parks to be located within a ¼ mile pedestrian-shed (or a 10 minute walk).
- Design communities to provide a pedestrian circulation system throughout that connects parks and open space with activity centers and to adjacent communities.
- Establish standards for non-residential developments, such as commercial and industrial developments to provide open space amenities and trail connections.

Park Design Considerations

- Provide consistent branding and theming for park signage so residents can clearly know when they are in a City of Buckeye park or facility.
- Provide information kiosks in parks to notify residents of upcoming programs and events.
- Locate parks so about half of the perimeter is bordered by a street to enhance visibility into the park, thus increasing surveillance from the road.
- Require view fencing for homes abutting common areas to enhance visibility into the park.
- Enhance areas with regional drainage facilities and flood control structures by creating recreational areas, community parks and connecting trails.
- Minimize impacts to adjacent residents by providing sufficient parking in parks. Parking for events and activities occurring in parks should not spill out into the adjacent neighborhoods.
- Lighting, especially for sports fields should be directed away from adjacent neighborhoods and open space tracts. Lighting should be shielded, when practical from reflecting into the night sky and from spilling onto adjacent properties.
- Encourage the use of native vegetation in parks to enhance their use as food, forage and shelter for native species.
- Utilize natural or soft structural flood control designs that maintain and enhance wash corridors for wildlife and other natural resources
- Strategically overseed turf areas in parks and sports fields that experience high use during winter months for programs and events.

Funding

- Investigate the feasibility of funding parks through taxes, bonds and developer requirements.
- Market Buckeye's parks and natural resources as an economic development tool to potential businesses considering Buckeye for their operations.
- Review impact fee structure for parks when next updated to maximize its potential to construct parks and recreation facilities in Buckeye.
- Grants can provide additional funding for parks and their use should always be investigated to determine if the grant program can augment City funds.

Trails

Goal 2: Plan and develop regionally connected and locally integrated trail systems that link parks and recreation facilities to neighborhoods and activity centers.

Stakeholders provided specialized individual input to identify policies that support Goal 2.

Trail Planning & Connections

- Require internal trails located in residential development to connect to adjacent arterials and City-wide trail systems.
- Link destinations and amenities through trails and multi-use paths.
- Ensure connections to the Maricopa Trail, existing regional parks, such as White Tank Mountain, Skyline Park and Buckeye Hills.
- Coordinate with the City of Surprise and the City of Goodyear to ensure planned trails in those jurisdictions continue into Buckeye's municipal planning area.
- Develop IGA's and MOU's with utility companies and irrigation districts to establish trails along their corridors.
- Create a master trail map, in conjunction with a bike lane map for connectivity.
- Create standards for trails and multi-use paths crossing at arterials, parkways and freeways through use of grade-separated crossings, such as culverts, under passes, over passes and pedestrian signals.
- Create at-grade trail crossings standards for lower volume roads and transects from other types of trails.
- Create a comprehensive trail signage program in conformance with MAG valley-wide bike and pedestrian standards for signage.

Trail Design

- Utilize trail designs with various levels from natural surface trails with no lighting and limited amenities to hard structural paved paths with lighting, landscaping and amenities.
- Locate trails to minimize overlap with wildlife linkages, such as placing the trails within buffers and limiting their crossings to most direct routes.
- Encourage the use of low light adjacent to important wildlife linkages and habitats.
- Create trails with side by side treads for different user groups, such as a concrete path (for use by in-line skating, strollers, runners, bicyclists) adjacent to decomposed granite trails (horseback riding, low impact running).
- Trails should enhance scenic vistas within the community.
- Create learning experiences along trails with interpretive information.

Trail Construction

- Grant public access easements along multi-use paths and trails.
- Require developers to include trails as part of their right of way dedication requirements.
- Focus attention to the Safe Routes to School Program as a potential grant source to construct trails.

Maintenance

- For natural trails, coordinate with local organizations and groups of residents to maintain trails.
- Establish maintenance standards for City-wide trails.

Open Space

Goal 3: Protect Buckeye's natural resources by setting aside undeveloped open space as conservation parks and preserves.

Stakeholders provided specialized individual input to identify policies that support Goal 3.

Open Space Land Preservation

- Coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management and Arizona State Land Department to preserve open space.
- Examine the feasibility of purchasing additional State Land surrounding Skyline Park for additional open space.
- Develop land acquisition policies for parks and open space through easements, donations, purchases, and other mechanisms as appropriate.

Residential Requirements

- Partner with land owners west of the White Tank Mountains to focus efforts on the preservation of wildlife corridors.
- Ensure developers are conserving significant resources in their development, such as wash corridors, etc.

Open Space Design

- Utilize buffers to protect natural resources from adjacent development.
- Develop design standards for open space in residential areas, such as minimizing open space located adjacent to major arterials and on the perimeter of the development and encourage the open space tracts towards the interior of the development to enhance their multi-use potential for parks and recreation.
- Stress the connectivity of open space as opposed to fragmented open space by working with developers and land agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Land Department, etc.

Recreation Programs

Goal 4: Evaluate community needs and offer recreation programs that satisfy our diverse population.

Stakeholders provided input to identify policy objectives that support Goal 4.

- Continue to provide resident rates to enhance participation in city programs and events.
- Develop a cost recovery strategy for city-wide programs and events based on program type.
- Periodically survey residents to determine the types of programs and events they would like to see offered in the City.
- Offer opportunities that promote wildlife-related recreation and education.
- Maintain hunting opportunities association with the White Tank Mountains and Buckeye Hills as well as other public lands.

6) Next Steps

Bob Wisener reviewed the upcoming meeting agendas with the stakeholder group over the next 6 months. Bob Speirs discussed 404 requirements for washes and stated that trails are not allowed to occur in 404 washes, but outside of these designated areas. Mr. Speirs also discussed the increasing water irrigation rates, which will make it difficult for homeowner associations to pay to water turf areas.

7) Reoccurring Meeting Notice

Meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of the month at 10am. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23rd at 10:00am at City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.

APPENDIX C: STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING #2 MINUTES

Minutes

City of Buckeye

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Stakeholder Group

February 23, 2015, 10:00am

City Hall

1) Introductions

The meeting began 10:05 a.m. Those in attendance included the following:

Robert Wisener	Conservation & Project Manager	City of Buckeye
Miranda Gomez	Recreation Manager	City of Buckeye
Fred Sanchez	Parks Manager	City of Buckeye
Ed Boik	Senior Planner	City of Buckeye
Chris Lemka	Civil Engineer-Transportation	City of Buckeye
Dana Warnecke	Game & Fish Habitat Specialist	AZ Game & Fish Dept.
Ryan Neiffer	Traffic Designer	CivTech Inc.
Doug Williams	Planning Manager	FCDMC
Leigh Johnson	Park Planner	Maricopa Parks & Rec
John Rose	Maricopa Trail Manager	Maricopa Parks & Rec
Teresa Bible	Chair	Community Services Advisory B
Bob Speirs		Stardust Company

2) Background Data as it relates to Master Plan

Robert Wisener presented a powerpoint with data collected from an inventory of parks and open space in the City of Buckeye as well as information from the community survey that was issued in the fall of 2014 with 1,300 responses received. Presentation attached.

3) Level of Service for City Parks and Facilities

Robert Wisener presented information on the current level of service provided by the City of Buckeye, which is 1.34 acres of parks per 1,000 residents. This information was compared to 13 other communities in Maricopa County to benchmark our levels. The average level of service provided by cities and towns in Maricopa County are 3.8 acres per 1,000. As part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City of Buckeye will increase its level of service standards from 1.34 to 4 acres per 1,000 residents.

4) Needs Analysis for Current and Future Growth

Based on the increase of service levels from 1.34 acres to 4 acres of parks per 1,000, the City would need to provide an additional 150 acres of parks to meet current service demand, which could include the 35 undeveloped acres west of the Sundance Park on property owned by Buckeye, 25 acre park in the West Park community and the construction of a large municipal sports park located to be accessed from several different communities. The level of service was also extrapolated out to accommodate anticipated population growth in 2020 and beyond to 2030. Buckeye is expected to reach a population of 75,000 residents in 2020 and 175,000 residents in 2030. Based on the level of service standards, Buckeye would need to provide an additional 224 acres of parks over the 76 acres currently provided and an additional 600 acres of parks by 2030 to adequately provide parks and recreation facilities to our residents. In addition to acres of park, the City also compared Buckeye level of service for several amenities, including ballfields, rectangular sports fields, playgrounds, ramadas, sports courts, swimming pools, rec centers, and dog parks. The levels were compared against other valley communities and national averages provided by the National Recreation and Parks Association's Proragis database. The stakeholder group discussed the new level of service standards that will be adopted as part of the Parks and Recreation Systems Master Plan. Dana Warnecke discussed if the City would establish a level of service for open space. Mr. Wisener responded that as part of the master plan, the city will identify lands as suitable for conservation and open space with linkages between.

5) Requirements for Residential Developments

Mr. Wisener presented requirements that will be included in the Master Plan for residential developments. In the 2005 master plan, the City set a level of service standard of 7 acres of parks per 1,000 residents, which roughly equates to 7% of gross acreage for medium density development based on 3.5 dwelling units per acre. The requirements for open space and parks will be based on a sliding scale depending on the overall lot sizes. Developments that have larger lots will require a smaller percent of gross acreage to be allocated to open space and park space. Smaller lot-size developments will have increased acreages for open space and parks. For medium lot sizes of 8,000 square feet, the developer will need to provide 20% of open space, of which 7% of the development's gross acreage will need to be park space. Park space is defined as areas where there are active recreational amenities and the adjacent turf areas as well as trails identified in the plan. The development's interior pedestrian circulation system would count towards the development's open space calculation as well as the natural resources on-site, such as rivers, floodways and floodplains, stormwater devices, wildlife habitat, significant natural vegetation areas, hillsides, utility corridors, and perimeter landscape tracts along rights-of-way. The master plan will also set minimum standards for the size of parks within a residential development based on the total number of housing units. For example, a development with over 500 housing units would be required to provide a total of 10 acres of park space of

which a neighborhood park must be a minimum of 5 acres. The remaining park acres could be provided through pocket parks. Requiring larger neighborhood parks will reduce the large number of pocket parks in communities that only contain small tot lots to benefit younger children, leaving limited amenities for other age groups. About half of the 7% of gross acreage would be set aside for the minimum size of the largest park. A development with 3,000 units would be required to set aside 60 acres of park space, of which a contiguous 30-acres must be provided for a community park. The master plan will also set minimum standards for the number of amenities to be provided in parks. A minimum of 2 amenities per 250 units will be required. These amenities will be further defined in the master plan.

There was discussion on water rates increasing in the city and the impact it will have for homeowners association fees to adequately cover irrigation expenses. Bob Speirs discussed Tartesso's situation where water rates are increasing annually by 10% over the next few years. Tartesso is already spending half a million dollars in irrigation rates. The group discussed the use of effluent for irrigation and whether double distribution systems with effluent purple pipe should be required. The capital costs to run purple pipe to every pocket park were not cost effective, but could be beneficial to irrigate larger parks and golf courses. The stakeholder group discussed only irrigating turf-lined parks and not all turf-lined basins that were not for recreation use. Basins lined with decomposed granite can pose maintenance problems since soil and debris can accumulate. Another possible solution is turning the non-recreation basins into natural areas with native plants and trees.

There was discussion on splash pads and associated costs. Splash pads can be high water users with expensive water costs. And with water recirculation systems comes higher requirements from Maricopa County Environmental Services. Soft poured-in-place surfacing at splash pads can be maintenance-heavy with algae and bacteria growing in the surface. Some communities are switching to cool decking to prevent these types of issues.

The group discussed requiring two adjacent developments to cost-share and provide larger-sized community parks instead of smaller neighborhood parks, however this could be difficult because of timing issues. Oftentimes, developers will work with adjacent land owners on the development of water campuses. Parks can be added into this conversation.

There was further discussion on the nature of parks and playgrounds and how far families were willing to travel to recreate. The standard reasonable walking distance to access a small pocket park is ¼ mile or a 10-minute walk, which is the established radius distance served for pocket parks. The group discussed nature-based play as an up and coming trend in playground equipment and naturalscape parks. There was also discussion on the need to preserve patch distances between wildlife blocks and the preservation of washes.

Mr. Wisener provided case studies of how the new requirements would have impacted existing developments in the City including West Park, Riata West and Windmill Village. Mr. Speirs would review the new requirements to determine how it would impact Tartesso's second phase of development.

6) Park Design Guidelines

Mr. Wisener reviewed the park design guidelines from the master plan that will provide direction on park siting, landscape materials, park materials, park lighting, park amenity standards, and guidelines for using retention basins as parks. There was discussion on the importance of green connectivity between developments, the need to preserve sight distances for trails and paths, the discouragement of using bollard lighting since they can be easy prey to vandalism, that lighting should be dark sky compliant, establishing parking standards for parks and recreation facilities, and crossings for trails. The stakeholder group also discussed the use of golf courses and it was determined that these amenities would not count towards their park space requirements but would count towards their open space requirement.

7) Parkland Acquisition Policies

Bob Wisener reviewed the policies as they relate to parkland acquisition by the City. The City would not accept parks smaller than 15 acres in size and the parks would ideally be located near a natural resource or an identified trail. The site should have limited site constraints that would not negatively impact project budgets by trying to solve limitations with the site. The park should be near underserved population centers and easily accessible from multiple communities. Finally, parks should be collocated near schools and municipal centers. These municipal centers can house police and fire stations, libraries, schools and parks.

8) Reoccurring Meeting Notice

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 23rd at 10am. At the meeting, the group will discuss trails, standards, crossing standards, implementation strategies and maintenance considerations. Mr. Wisener reminded everyone to provide relevant information and GIS data as it relates to parks and trails. The meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

APPENDIX D: STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING #3 MINUTES

Minutes

City of Buckeye

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Stakeholder Group

March 23, 2015, 10:00am

City Hall

1) Introductions

The meeting began 10:05 a.m. Those in attendance included the following:

Robert Wisener	Conservation & Project Manager	City of Buckeye
Miranda Gomez	Recreation Manager	City of Buckeye
Fred Sanchez	Parks Manager	City of Buckeye
Ed Boik	Senior Planner	City of Buckeye
Leigh Johnson	Park Planner	Maricopa Parks & Rec
Dana Warnecke	Game & Fish Habitat Specialist	AZ Game & Fish Dept.
Ryan Neiffer	Traffic Designer	CivTech Inc.
Doug Williams	Planning Manager	FCDMC
Harry Cooper	Landscape Architect	FCDMC
Bailey DuBois	Intern	FCDMC

2) Background Information as it relates to 2008 Master Plan

Robert Wisener presented a powerpoint with information regarding the 2008 master plan. The master plan included 18 different standards for trails located along washes, flood control channels, canals, rivers, powerlines, equestrian, arterial, and landmark paths, which was further broken down for heavy and light use as well as by geographic character area, such as urban, suburban, rural and wilderness. Mr. Wisener stated that the 18 different standards make it difficult for staff to implement. Leigh stated that heavy and light use can be subjective and may not be known at the time of development. Robert Wisener stated that most of the trails will be suburban, built at the time of development.

3) Trail Corridors

Robert Wisener presented information on the standards identified for equestrian, wash, flood control channel, and canal trails from the 2008 master plan.

4) Municipal Examples of Paths and Trails

Mr. Wisener reviewed examples of standards from other cities and towns in Maricopa County, including the adjacent jurisdictions of Goodyear and Surprise, as well as Peoria and and Gilbert. Each of these cities has different standards for trails with four to five different categories of trails. For example, the City of Goodyear differentiates their system through paths, which are paved and trails, which are non-paved.

City of Goodyear

Path: 10-12' wide concrete or asphalt surface
Path with Wide Shoulder: 10-12' wide concrete or asphalt surface with 2' unpaved on one side and 4' unpaved on other side
Unpaved Trail: 8' wide ¼" minus compacted decomposed granite or stabilized dg with 2' soft shoulder on either side
Backcountry Trail: 3-4' wide compacted native soil with 2' soft shoulder on either side
Combination: Some areas along the river, canals and the Bullard Wash recommended a combination treatment of both path and trail

City of Surprise

The City of Surpise has three different trail types, including Regional, Community and Neighborhood trails.

Regional: 12' wide concrete path with 3' shoulder on either side. A parallel path of 5' wide comprised of compacted stabilized granite will be provided with 3' clear zone on either side.
Community: 8' wide concrete path with 2' shoulder on both sides. A parallel trail of 4' shall be provided of stabilized decomposed granite.
Local Trail: 6' wide concrete path

Town of Gilbert

The Town of Gilbert has three different standards for trails through their community.

Shared Use Trail: 10-12' wide concrete or asphalt surface in a minimum 25' wide easement
Equestrian Path: A 10-12' wide stabilized DG surface in a minimum 25' wide easement.
Natural Path: 6-8' wide natural or decomposed granite surface in a minimum 20' wide tract or easement

City of Peoria

The City of Peoria has four different standards for its paths and trails.

Primary Multi-Use Path: A 12' wide paved path with 4 feet soft-surfaced shoulder and 2 feet safety shoulder. A minimum distance of 6 feet between parallel paths. The right of way shall be a preferred width of 50 feet with a minimum of 35 feet
Secondary Multi-Use Path: 10-12' wide paved path with 4' soft-surface shoulder and 2' safety shoulder. No parallel path
Neighborhood Path: 6' wide concrete path with a 2' safety shoulder on either side
Soft-Surface Trails: 3-4' wide soft surface path. A minimum of 10 feet if maintenance vehicle access is required

5) City of Buckeye Trail Standards

Using the information from the 2008 master plan as well as other municipal examples, the City of Buckeye will be simplifying their standards for paths and trails to the following.

	Min. Easement Width	Path/ Trail Width	Surface	Parallel Trail Width	Parallel Surface	Minimum Distance Between Parallel Paths
Primary Path	35'	10-12'	Concrete or Asphalt	6'	Compacted DG	3'
Secondary Path	25'	10'	Concrete or Asphalt	2' and 4'	Native or Compacted DG	NA
Backcountry Trail		3-4'	Native Tread	None	NA	NA

Harry Cooper stated that 35' would be the minimum easement width that would be needed. It may be difficult to provide trees adjacent to the path with the 21' already in place (12' path, 3' buffer, and 6' compacted dg) with safety shoulders. Harry stated that you would want to maintain clear zones away from the path and also would not want tree branches to overhang onto adjacent properties, therefore we should state a recommended easement width of 50' wide with a minimum easement width of 35'. The same would also apply for secondary paths to provide wider landscaping strips adjacent to the corridor.

Leigh Johnson stated it would be good to provide information on easement widths associated with the backcountry trails. Maricopa County Parks and Recreation conduct archaeological surveys on proposed backcountry trail corridors with the

survey conducted off the flagged centerlines 25 feet on either side. There was also discussion on providing barrier free ADA-accessible trails for those with mobility impairments. Feliz Paseos Park is in the Pima County Parks and Recreation system and was designed to have portions of the trails designated using the UTAP (Universal Trail Assessment Process), not just strictly ADA compliant. It is a small 'natural trails' park, but features asphalt and natural treat materials and varying levels of difficulty.

Dana Warnecke discussed the use of backcountry trails being located adjacent to open space tracts. She also asked if the entire easement width would count towards a development's required park space. Mr. Wisener stated the City would likely count about half of the easement width for paths and trails identified in the plan to count towards the required park space. We will need to evaluate to ensure there is still adequate parks and amenities for residents to use if half the easement width for trails is counted.

Mr. Wisener discussed the background information that was included in the trail plan, including Flood Control District Plans. Mr. Wisener stated the City used GIS data layers from the Sun Valley Area Drainage Master Plan, Buckeye Area Drainage Master Plan, Flood Retarding Structures, floodways, and the Watson Drain Design Concept Report 15% Plans. Mr. Wisener asked if there was a channel identified to the east of the Watson Drainage plans of which Doug Williams stated there was. Mr. Wisener also asked if the revised drainage channels would be the most accurate to use. Doug Williams was going to speak with Valerie to determine which GIS layer was the best to use. The combination of the ADMP channels and the canals and washes provide excellent north to south and east to west connectivity in Buckeye.

There was discussion on providing a circular trail on the west side of the White Tank Mountains that would connect all the basins proposed as part of the Sun Valley ADMP. Leigh Johnson agreed that the trails should not enter into the western portion of the White Tank Mountain Regional Park since there are many cultural resources found in this area. She stated that we would not want to provide trails along the channel that connects into the White Tank Mountain Regional Park at the northwest corner since there would be no access at this point. She stated the second access point identified in the recent master plan is located in the western north point off the Sun Valley Parkway, which would provide convenient access for residents living in Sun City Festival. The basins identified in the Sun Valley ADMP may provide suitable patch habitat for avian species and other smaller species.

Harry Cooper stated that trails should be located at the edge of the pool along the Flood Retarding Structures and not at the structure itself. The pool areas can provide valuable wildlife habitat areas.

Mr. Wisener discussed paths and trails along rivers, washes, and canals. The group discussed providing paths along both sides of rivers at the floodway lines. There was also discussion on providing trails along washes. It was discussed that trails should be provided along both sides of the washes if they were wider than 150' from top of bank to top of bank. There was discussion on

providing washes in their natural state beyond 404 requirements. Harry Cooper discussed wash ordinances through the City of Tucson that should provide direction as well as Scottsdale's Environment Sensitive Land Ordinance. Dana Warnecke discussed the need to identify a few washes that have the highest habitat value using mule deer telemetry data and work on preserving those washes.

Mr. Wisener talked about the wildlife studies and how trails can be located on the fringes of the wildlife corridors. This will be discussed further in the next meeting. And finally, the group discussed the powerline corridors as being useful for trail connectivity.

Mr. Wisener stated that he is proposing that rivers and powerlines be identified as primary trails, whereas canals, washes, channels, and the flood retarding structures would be shown as secondary trails. Some of the trails suitable for open space and wildlife connectivity may be shown as back country trails, such as those within the Gila River. This will be discussed further during the next stakeholder meeting. Any powerline, river, canal, wash, or channel shall have a path located on both sides if wider than 150'. It was discussed that this could be in the form of a concrete path on one side with a soft surface path on the other.

Mr. Wisener presented the ridges to rivers concept. The City of Buckeye may determine that it will want to maintain paths identified as part of the Ridges to Rivers path system. These trails would be located along the Gila and Hassayampa River with connections to the White Tank Mountains, Buckeye Hills and the Sonoran Desert National Monument. Mr. Wisener stated that he would vet this with Community Services staff for operations and maintenance commitments.

6) Trailheads

Mr. Wisener also discussed trailhead guidelines. These will not change from the recommendations in the 2008 study for both major and minor trailheads. Trailheads would be located where 3 trails meet and at parks and at recreation facilities, such as Sundance Park, West Park, the 40 acres off of Miller adjacent to the Gila River, at the FRS#4 structure and in Skyline Park. Trailheads have also been identified at the confluence of the Gila and Hassayampa River and at the Sonoran Desert National Monument and Buckeye Hills. The basins identified through the Buckeye Area Drainage Master Plan also provide suitable locations to construct trailheads. In total, 24 trailheads have been identified and these will be shown as either major or minor trailheads. Doug Williams stated that the Beaver property south of Beloat and Rainbow Road would be a suitable location for a trailhead because of the high quality riparian habitat.

7) Trail Crossing Standards

There was discussion on trail crossings standards and these will not change from those recommended in the 2008 master plan. Dana Warnecke stressed the use of providing criteria for the use of under crossings and wildlife and also inquired about

crossings at future parkways, such as Turner Parkway. These future parkways would follow similar standards to the Sun Valley Parkway.

The 2008 Trails Master Plan recommended undercrossings at wash culverts along the Sun Valley Parkway and the State Route 85 corridor. Overcrossings would be used at the canals and at State Route 85.

8) How Do We Build Trails

For the most part, trails will be constructed by development occurring in the city. In the future, the City will conduct a gap analysis and may build trails in key areas to provide vital connections in the system. As part of the rivers to ridges concept, the City may require developers to provide a public access easement and convey the land to the city for operations and maintenance.

9) Design of Retention Basins

Additional discussion centered around the design of retention basins and how to make them attractive amenities without being turf-lined with high water demands. Harry Cooper stated that it was important to use different sized rocks with the use of larger type rocks near the inlets. Harry also discussed that it was important to provide less steep side slopes and to recommend 6:1 side slopes with a minimum of 4:1 side slopes that undulate with the contours of the land. Harry will send design guidelines for channels and basins that can be incorporated into the plan. Sonoqui Wash in Queen Creek was discussed as a good example.

APPENDIX E: MINUTES FROM PUBLIC MEETING #1

CITY OF BUCKEYE

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Public Meeting #1

March 31, 2015

MINUTES

City Hall Executive Conference Room
530 E. Monroe Avenue
Buckeye, AZ 85326
6:00 pm

The public meeting began at 6pm. Mr. Wisener presented a PowerPoint presentation, which is included below. At the end of the presentation, the public was given the opportunity to ask questions and to provide input. Below is a brief summary of the questions asked.

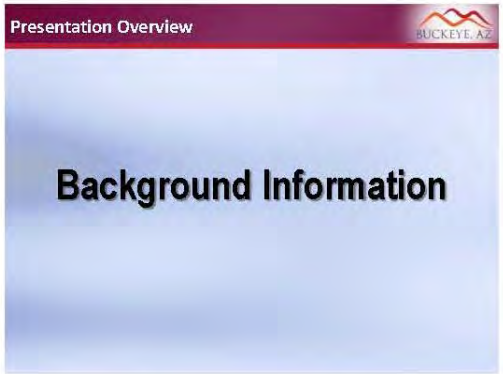
Parks and Recreation Master Plan

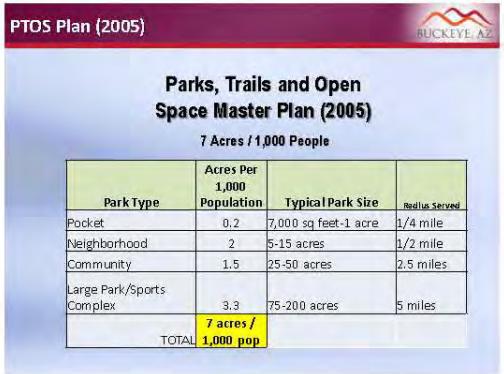
Questions/Concerns of Attendees

1. Will all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use still be allowed on pathways?
    a. The focus of trails for this meeting is on non-motorized trails.
2. Interest in knowing if there will be connecting trails between Verrado's temporary trails and Skyline Park. Many people in Verrado are interested in hiking trails and would like to see the trails connected.
    a. Will be working to connect not only Skyline Park trails to Verrado trails, but also White Tanks Park trails
3. In the master plan, it was mentioned 100 acres would be acquired. Where does that stand? Are people really pushing for it?
    a. Decision of location will be strategically based.
    b. Possibilities north of I-10 or in underserved areas of Buckeye such as Jackrabbit Rd or west of Miller Road.
4. Is the timeframe 30 years from now?
    a. No, the master plan is a 10 year plan.
5. Within the 10 year plan, where does the "Restore the River" fit?

   a. Provide trailhead, picnic, replace salt cedar trees with another type of tree like cottonwoods at Buckeye's 40-acres site.
   b. Partner with land owners/stakeholders
6. What about tourism opportunities?
   a. Restore the River and Skyline Regional Park will provide the City tourism opportunities by bringing outside residents into Buckeye.
7. We already have a 9.3% sales tax. I don't think we want a higher sales tax, so we might not have money

Mr. Wisener thanked attendees for coming and encouraged them to complete a comment card if they had further questions or wanted to provide additional feedback or input.

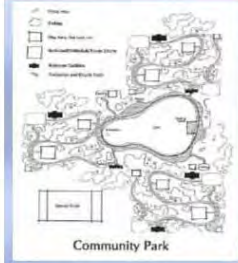




Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks
- Active Area
- 5-15 ac in size
- ½ mile radius served
- Geographically Centered
- Blue Horizons Park

Community Parks



Community Parks
- Active / Passive
- 25-50 ac in size
- 2.5 mile radius served
- Ex: Sundance Park

Large Municipal Sports Parks

Municipal Sports Parks
- Active / Passive
- Up to 200 ac in size
- Adjacent to natural resource
- Rio Vista (Peoria)
  Pioneer Park (Peoria)
  Reach 11 (Phoenix)

Regional Parks

Regional Parks
- Passive
- Mountain / Nature Preserves
- Ex. Skyline Park, White Tank Regional Park

Where We Are Now

Where We Are Now

Current Level of Service

HOA Parks

City Parks

Where We Are Now

Home Owner Association Parks

Park Type	Name	Acres
Community	Sun City Festival Community Park	13.54
	Tartesso Community Park	9.54
	Tartesso Sports Community Park	26.17
	Festival Foothills Community Park	11.95
	Center on Main	1.26
	Walton Park	18.01
		80.48
Neighborhood	Blue Hills Neighborhood Park	9.62
	Blue Horizons Neighborhood Park	12.33
	Riata West Neighborhood Park	4.98
	Riata West Neighborhood Park	6.79
	Sonoran Vista Neighborhood Park	11.57
	Sundance Neighborhood Park	7.01
	Sunset Point Neighborhood Park	5.03
		57.32
Pocket	117 Pocket Parks	182.00

320 Acres HOA Parks

Where We Are Now

City of Buckeye Parks

Developed Parks

Park Type	Name	Acres
Community	Sundance Park	28.94
Community	Earl Edgar Recreational Facility	21.41
Community	Town Park	7.39
Pocket	Bayless Park	6.32
Pocket	Serena Park	2.55
Pocket	Narramore Park	1.68
Pocket	Coronado Park	1.50
Pocket	Kell Park	0.80
Pocket	8th St Plaza Park	0.36
Pocket	Benbow Veterans Memorial Park	0.11
Special Use	Helzapoppin Rodeo Arena	5.00
		76.06

Conservation Parks/Mountain Preserves

Regional	Skyline Regional Park	8,675

76 Acres City Parks

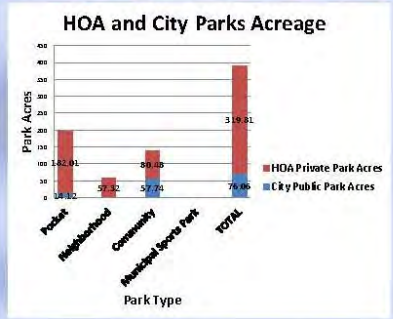
8,675 Acres Conserv Parks

Where We Are Now

Current Level of Service for HOA & City

- Large Number of Pocket Parks
- Low Number of Neighborhood Parks
- No Large Municipal Sports Parks
- 6.87 acres of parks per 1,000 residents

Where We Are Now



Where We Are Now

Pocket Parks

¼ Mile Buffer

11 vs. 196 acres

Where We Are Now

Pocket Parks

¼ Mile Buffer

11 vs. 196 acres

Where We Are Now

City Community Parks

2.5 Mile Buffer

Where We Are Now

Large Municipal Sports Parks

5 Mile Buffer

Where We Are Now

Park Acres - Compare Buckeye to Other Valley Municipalities

2015

Buckeye: 1.34

76 acres for 57,000

Average: 3.8

2000

Buckeye: 6.39

42 acres for 6,537 residents

Where We Are Now

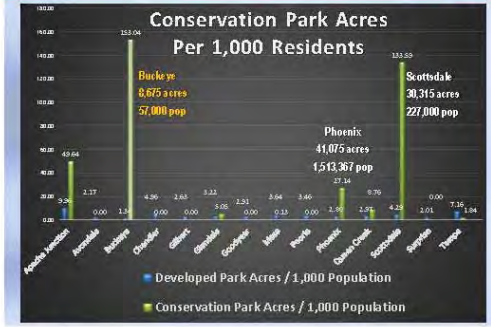
Survey

Do you feel Buckeye is a City with Enough Parks & Amenities?

Enough Parks?
15% Enough
52% Not Enough

Enough Amenities?
12% Enough
56% Not Enough

Where Are We Now



Where Do We Want to Be?

Where Do We Want to Be?

Desired Level of Service Standards For City Parks and Facilities

Where Do We Want to Be?

City-Owned Parks

Issues:

- Not enough large sports parks
- Some neighborhoods underserved
- Lack of facilities outside downtown
- Need additional pool & recreation facilities
- Funding

Where Do We Want to Be?

City-Owned Parks

Today – 57,000

Increase from 1.34 to 4 acres per 1,000

Need Additional 152 acres

Construction Cost	$200,000/acre	$30,400,000
Land Acquisition Cost	$80,000/acre	$12,160,000
TOTAL		$42,560,000
Staffing Needs	1 staff/13 acres 12 @ $53,000	$619,692
Annual O&M	$1,000/acre	$152,000
TOTAL		$771,692

Where Do We Want to Be?

City-Owned Parks

2020 – 75,000

Increase from 1.34 to 4 acres per 1,000

If we built 152 acres, we would need 72 acres in 2020

Construction Cost	$200,000/acre	$14,400,000
Land Acquisition Cost	$80,000/acre	$ 5,760,000
TOTAL		$20,160,000
Staffing Needs	1 staff/13 acres 6 @ $53,000	$318,000
Annual O&M	$1,000/acre	$ 72,000
TOTAL		$390,000

Where Do We Want to Be?

Need Additional 152 Acres for Today

- 35 Acres west of Sundance Community Park
- 25 Acres West Park Community Park
- 100 Acres Large Municipal Sports Park

Need Additional 72 Acres for Tomorrow

Where Do We Want to Be?

Need for Additional Amenities in Buckeye Parks

	City of Buckeye Desired Level of Service	Current Number Provided	Additional Need Over Current Provision for 57,000 Population	Need in 2020 with 75,000 Population
Baseball / Softball Fields	1 per 5,000 residents	8	3	7
Soccer / Football	1 per 7,000 residents	3	5	8
Basketball Courts	1 per 10,000 residents	2	4	6
Sports Courts (Volleyball, Raquetball, Tennis)	1 per 10,000 residents	4	2	4
Playgrounds	1 per 8,000 residents	5	2	4
Ramadas	1 per 4,000 residents	9	5	10
Swimming Pools	1 per 46,000 residents	1	1	0
Rec / Community / Multi-Gen Centers	1 per 30,000 residents	2	1	0
Dog Park	1 per 25,000 residents	1	1	2
Park Acres	4 acres per 1,000	76	152 acres	224 acres

Residential Development: 7 acres
City of Buckeye: 4 acres

National Average: 10 acres

New Park Standards

Park Type	Size	Level of Service	Service Radius	Provider
Pocket	1-4 acres	7% of gross acreage in a development	1/4 mile	Residential Development
Neighborhood	5-14 acres		1/2 mile	
Community	15-74 acres	1.5 ac/1,000	2.5 mile	City of Buckeye
Large Sports Park	75-200 acres	2.5 ac/1,000	5 mile	City of Buckeye
Regional - Mountain Preserves & Conservation Parks				City of Buckeye / Maricopa County

How Do We Get There?

Where Do We Want to Be?

How Do We Build New City Parks?

Funding

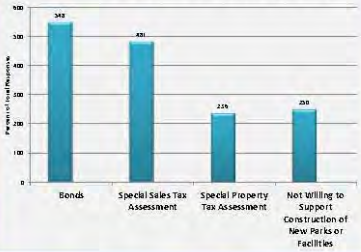
- Cost Share – Schools, Donations
- Impact Fees
- Bonds
- Special Sales Tax
- Property Tax
- Other Sources

Where Do We Want to Be?

Funding Parks

83% willing to support construction of new parks or facilities

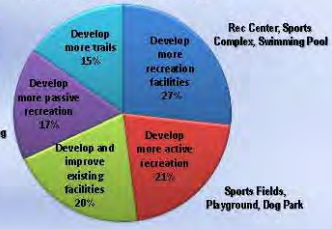
Question 9: Please check which of the following funding sources you would support to fund new parks and recreation facilities in the City of Buckeye.



Where Do We Want to Be?

Question 8: How would you allocate dollars, as a percent, across the following types of development if funding was available?

How Would You Spend Funds

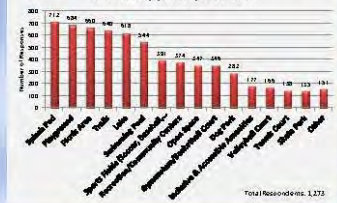


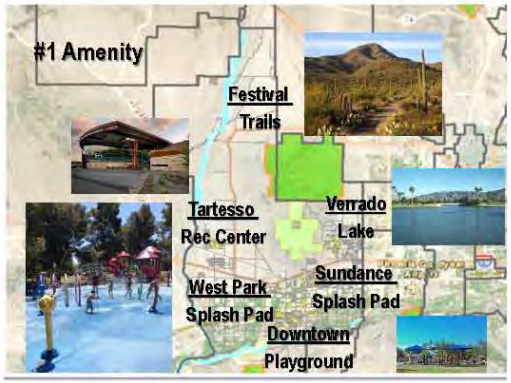
Where Do We Want to Be?

Giving Residents What They Want

1) Splash Pad
2) Playground
3) Picnic Area
4) Trails
5) Lake
6) Swimming Pool
7) Sports Fields
8) Rec Centers
9) Open Space
10) Gym/Basketball Courts

Question 4: What are the top 5 amenities you feel should be constructed in a new park to meet current demand for residents? Place a check next to only your top 5 choices.





Where Do We Want to Be?

Park Acquisition Policies

- No park smaller than 15 acres
- Near natural resource or identified trail
- Near underserved population centers
- Easily accessible from multiple communities
- Co-located near schools and municipal centers
- Limited site constraints
- Recreation value to support unmet demand
- Economic impact / tourism opportunity

Residential Development Level of Service Standards

Where Do We Want to Be?

HOA Parks

Issues:

- Large number of pocket parks
- Low number of neighborhood parks
- Limited amenities for all age groups
- Disjointed retention without connections between
- No connections to adjacent communities

Residential Development Level of Service

Buckeye Residential Development Level of Service

Zoning Districts	Lot Sizes	% of Gross Acreage for Open Space	% of Gross Acreage for Park Space
Single Family - 3	3,000 - 5,999 sq ft	25%	10%
Single Family - 6	6,000 - 9,999 sq ft	20%	7%
Single Family - 10	10,000 - 17,999 sq ft	15%	7%

Residential Development Level of Service

Defining Open Space vs. Park Space

Open Space 20%

- Rivers, Washes & Drainage
- Floodways & Floodplains
- Stormwater Management
- Wildlife Habitat Areas
- Resource Areas
- Hillsides
- Utility Corridors
- Landscape Tracts
- Tracts with Pedestrian Circulation System

Park Space 7%

- Active Recreation Areas
- Turf-Lined Areas
- Trails identified in plan

Residential Development Level of Service

Minimum Size of Largest Park

Number of Housing Units	Largest Park Developed	Minimum Number of Amenities Needed for All Parks 2 amenities
500	5 acres	4
1,000	10 acres	8
1,500	15 acres	12
2,000	20 acres	16
2,500	25 acres	20
3,000	30 acres	24

Where Do We Want to Be?

Amenity-Based Approach

Minimum of 2 amenities per 250 units

Menu of Options

- Splash Pad
- Covered Playground
- Picnic Facilities
- Group Picnic Pavilion
- Trails
- Baseball/Softball Field
- Multi-Use Rectangular Field
- Full Basketball Court

...Continued

Where Do We Want to Be?

Amenity-Based Approach

Minimum of 2 amenities per 250 units

Menu of Options Continued

- Pickleball Court
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Tennis Court
- Dog Park
- Structural Seating Node
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Skate or Bike Park
- Amphitheatre
- Other amenities not listed above may be selected and reviewed by City staff on a case by case basis.

West Park

¼ mile buffer

West Park

	Gross Acreage	Number of Housing Units	Population	Open Space 20% of gross acreage	Park Space 7% of gross acreage	Minimum Size of Largest Park	Number of Amenities
New Standards	284	1,072	3,162	57	20	10 acres	9

1 mile by ½ mile

New Standards:

Open Space: 57 acres

Park Space: 20 acres

Minimum of 1-10 Acre Neighborhood Park

9 Amenities Needed

Existing:

Park Space: 9.5 acres in 6 pocket parks

6 uncovered playgrounds, 4 ramadas

Where Do We Want to Be?

When Are Parks Built?

- Largest park built with first 5 houses
- City to negotiate with developers on parks larger than 15 acres for construction / conveyance

Where Do We Want to Be?

Requirements for Commercial and Industrial Development

- Construct paths on or adjacent to property to provide connections between residential areas to activity centers
- Provide amenities for customers, employees

Paths and Trails

- 2008 Trails Master Plan
- Identified Trail Corridors
- Trail Standards
- Trailheads

Trails Master Plan

Trails Master Plan (2008)

Established standards for different trails:

- Parkway
- Landmark
- Powerline
- Equestrian
- Wash
- Flood Control Channel
- Canal

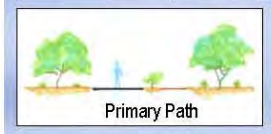
Trails Master Plan

Buckeye Trail Standards Matrix

Trail Classification	Trail Character	Min. Trail Width (ft.)	Surface (Tread Material)	Vertical Clearance (ft.)	Turning Radius (ft.)
Arterial Path	N/A	8	Concrete	12	12
Landmark	N/A	8-10	Concrete or Decorative	12	12
Powerline	Urban	2	Native	12	3-8
	Suburban	3	Native	12	3-8
	Rural	4	Native	10-8	3-8
	Wilderness	8	Native	10-8	3-8
Equestrian	Light Use	3-4	Native	12	8-10
	Heavy Use	3-6	Native	12	8-10
Wash	Urban	12	Concrete	12	12
	Suburban	3	Concrete/Asphalt	12	12
	Rural	3	Native	10-8	3-8
	Wilderness	10-8	Native	10-8	10-8
Flood Control Channel	Urban	12	Concrete/Asphalt	12	12
	Suburban	8	Concrete/Asphalt	12	12
	Rural	3	Native/Compacted	10-8	3-8
	Wilderness	10-8	Native	10-8	10-8
Canal	N/A			12	12
Reserve	N/A	10-12	Native	10-8	10-8

18 Different Standards

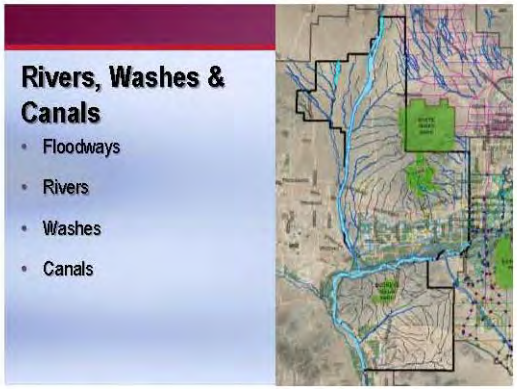
	Recom. Easement Width	Min Path/ Trail Width	Surface	Parallel Trail Width	Parallel Surface	Minimum Distance Between Parallel Paths
Primary	35′ – 50′	10-12′	Concrete or Asphalt	6′	Compacted DG	3′
Secondary	25′ – 40′	10′	Concrete or Asphalt	2′ and 4′	Native or Compacted DG	NA
Backcountry Trail		3-4′	Native Tread	None	NA	NA

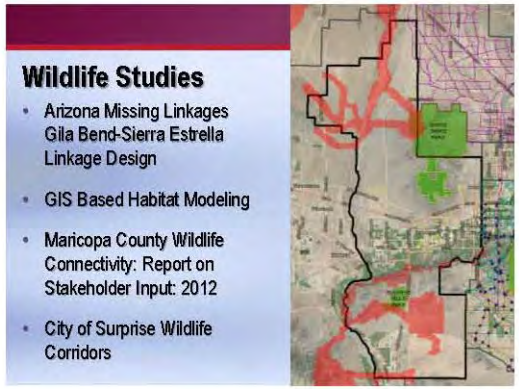

Primary Path

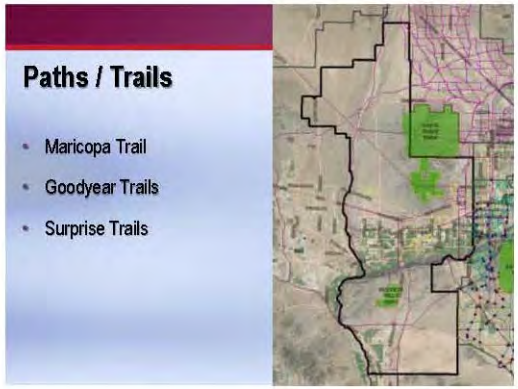
Secondary Path

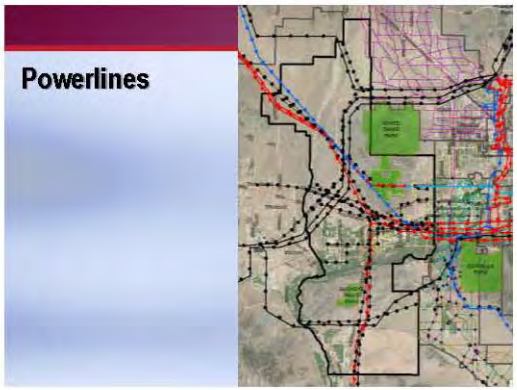
Flood Control

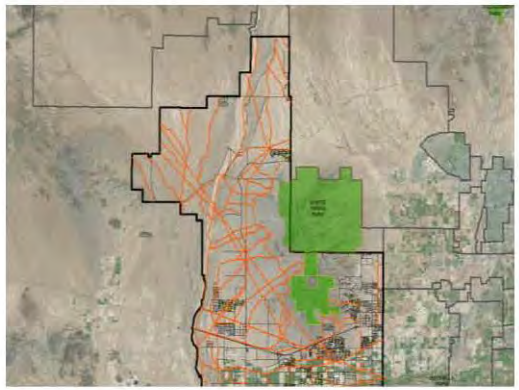
- Sun Valley Area Drainage Master Plan
- Buckeye Area Drainage Master Plan
- Flood Retarding Structures
- Watson Drain Design Concept Report (15% Plans)

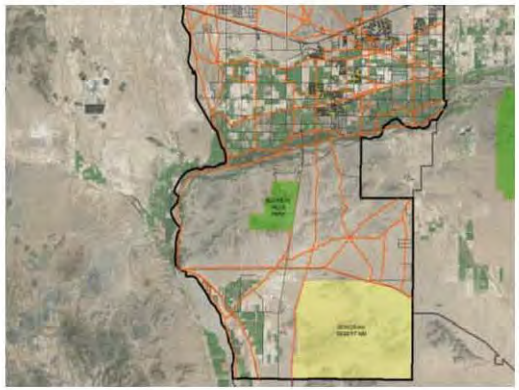

Rivers, Washes & Canals
Floodways
Rivers
Washes
Canals

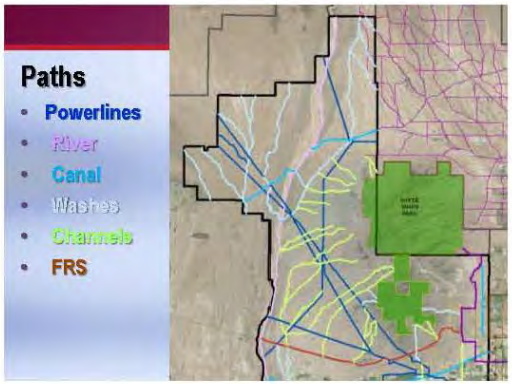

Wildlife Studies
Arizona Missing Linkages Gila Bend-Sierra Estrella Linkage Design
GIS Based Habitat Modeling
Maricopa County Wildlife Connectivity: Report on Stakeholder Input: 2012
City of Surprise Wildlife Corridors

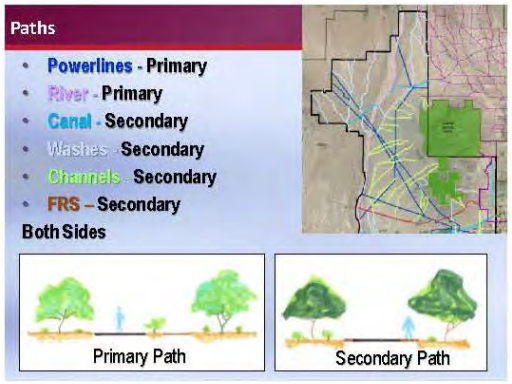

Paths / Trails
Maricopa Trail
Goodyear Trails
Surprise Trails

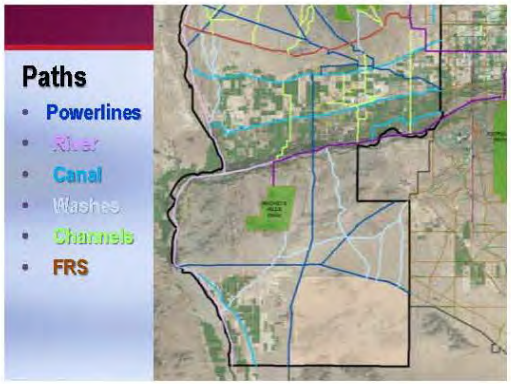

Powerlines

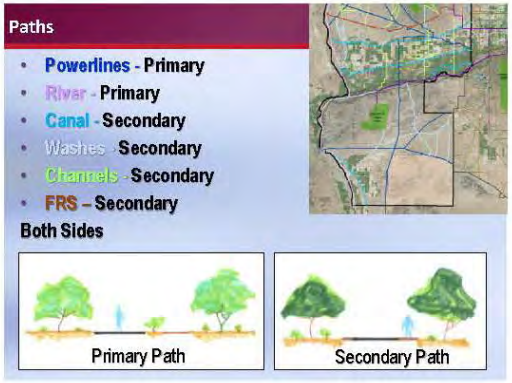


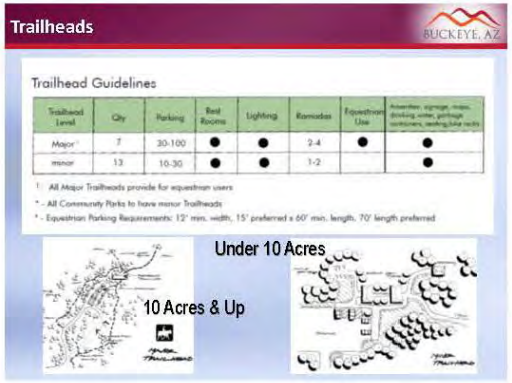


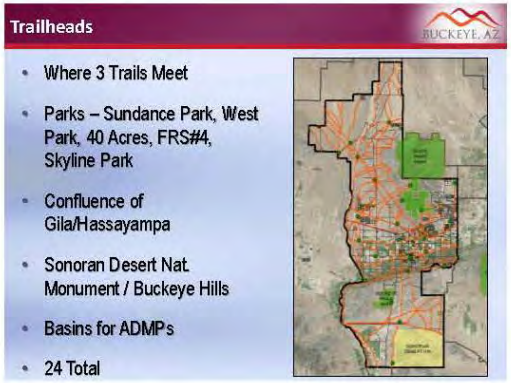

Paths
Powerlines
River
Canal
Washes
Channels
FRS

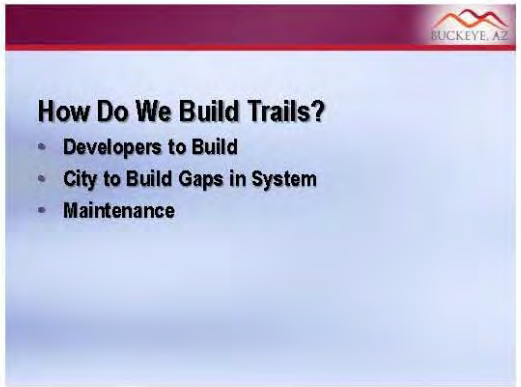

Paths
Powerlines - Primary
River - Primary
Canal - Secondary
Washes - Secondary
Channels - Secondary
FRS – Secondary
Both Sides
Primary Path
Secondary Path

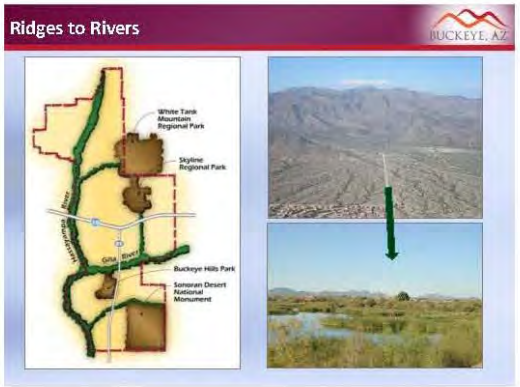

Paths
Powerlines
River
Canal
Washes
Channels
FRS


Paths
Powerlines - Primary
River - Primary
Canal - Secondary
Washes - Secondary
Channels - Secondary
FRS – Secondary
Both Sides
Primary Path
Secondary Path

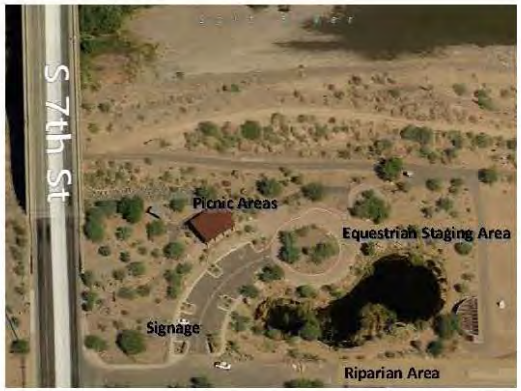

Trailheads
BUCKEYE, AZ
Trailhead Guidelines
Under 10 Acres
10 Acres & Up


Trailheads
BUCKEYE, AZ
Where 3 Trails Meet
Parks – Sundance Park, West Park, 40 Acres, FRS#4, Skyline Park
Confluence of Gila/Hassayampa
Sonoran Desert Nat. Monument / Buckeye Hills
Basins for ADMPs
24 Total


How Do We Build Trails?
Developers to Build
City to Build Gaps in System
Maintenance


Ridges to Rivers
White Tank Mountain Regional Park
Skyline Regional Park
Buckeye Hills Park
Sonoran Desert National Monument

Gila River Pilot Project
Existing Paved Access
Immediate Partnership Opportunities
Existing Expanded Rights of Way
CITY OF BUCKEYE OWNS LAND
Close Proximity to Future Lake Linkages
Adjacent to Public Lands
Close Proximity to Future Regional Trails

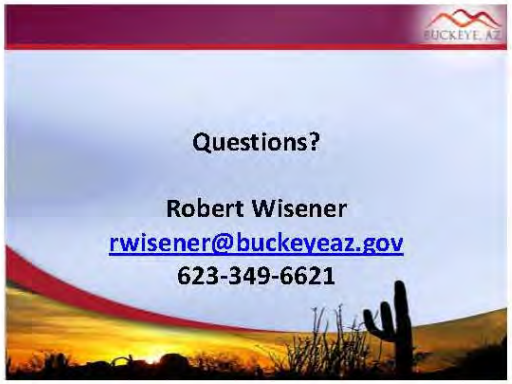

S 7th St
Picnic Areas
Equestrian Staging Area
Signage
Riparian Area

Gila River Pilot Project
Pilot Project

Next Steps
Next Steps
Open Space / Wildlife Corridors
Funding
Implementation Strategies

How The Plan Will Be Used
How Will the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Be Used?
Policy Document to Guide Decisions
Future Chapter of the General Plan Update 2018
Some policies to be codified into Development Code
Projects included in the CIP
Impact Fee Update

Master Plan Public Input
Public Input
2 Public Meetings – March 31 & Summer 2015
Survey
Stakeholder Group
Presentations to Boards and Commissions
Community Services Advisory Board
Planning & Zoning Commission
Buckeye Youth Council
Development Partnering Group
Buckeye Business Connection
Council Workshops / Meetings


Questions?
Robert Wisener
rwisener@buckeyeaz.gov
623-349-6621

APPENDIX F: COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

CITY OF BUCKEYE

COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

September 17, 2014

MINUTES

City Hall
530 E. Monroe Avenue
Buckeye, AZ 85326
6:30 pm

4b. – Presentation of Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan data collection – Presented by Robert Wisener, Conservation and Project Manager

Mr. Wisener began his presentation by going over the history of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan and the last update completed back in 2005. He went over the different types of parks to include the acreage for pocket (1/2 acre), neighborhood (5-15 acres), community (25-50 acres), large municipal sports complex (up to 200 acres) and regional parks (i.e. Skyline Park). This information was based on the national standard from the National Parks and Recreation Association.

Robert then went over the benchmarking of other communities as it related to the total number of acres per each of these park types. In comparison to the other communities, Mr. Wisener shared where the City of Buckeye fell when compared to these other communities and the national standards. When compiling this data, he took into account all parks within Buckeye, this includes city owned and operated parks and private HOA parks within developments throughout the city. This inventory was done using GIS mapping software. Based on the data collected it is clear we are well over the standard for pocket parks and neighborhood parks. Community Parks is an area for growth as the city is near to the standard based on the current population of 57,000 residents. The city does not have any sports parks but regionally we are well on our way with the addition of Skyline Park. The comparison of the park acres between city owned and HOA parks shows the city being well under the national standard; 72 city acres in comparison to 328 private/HOA acreage in parks city wide. This results in 1.26 acres per 1,000 population (based on 57,000) of residents in Buckeye (2 acres Per 1,000 population-National Standard).

Board member Rugh asked if this shortfall is a result of the City not owning the land and county owning the land. Mr. Wisener said this is part of it but more so not having the funding to acquire more parks. However, if the city acquires one additional park of at least 30 acres; our acres per population will be at or above the national standard, so we are close.

Mr. Wisener discussed the process of creating the plan to include public meetings, surveying and getting advisory members involved as part of this process. Stakeholders will be part of this process to include the business community, outside agencies and consultants. The idea is to develop this plan which will then be incorporated in the city general plan which coincides with the develop code. Through this process it will give more leverage to uphold our standards for future developments coming in to Buckeye.

Board member Kimes asked if we are working with communities such as Tartesso and requiring them and other developments to follow this standard. This was affirmed by Mr. Wisener.

Mr. Wisener invited all board members to be part of the hike taking place on Saturday, October 4. During this hike participants will be able to see the Petroglyphs along the trail. Chairperson Bible mentioned with the recent storm and flooding many trails have been washed out in that area. She encouraged staff to be careful since a lot of loose rocks exist and hikers could sprain an ankle.

Chairperson Bible requested to be part of the stakeholder process and provide public input as it pertains to this plan. She also told the board for that the new coffee shop in Verrado has trail maps for visitors to pick up.

Board member Rugh is asking if we have groups, boy scouts or similar organizations maintaining city trails. Ms. Sedig mentioned currently the city does not own or operate any trails, however, once the Skyline Park project is complete and we have the right of way to complete the entrance to the park we will be looking for these groups for assistance in trail blazing and maintaining.

4c. - Approval of the department's community wide survey. Presented by Robert Wisener, Conservation and Project Manager.

Mr. Wisener went over the survey and discussed the ways to disseminate this information. This survey is part of the public input as it relates to the update of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan.

Board member Rugh requested a change in question #11 (Where do you live?) to include the downtown area as another response and put this question at the beginning of the survey from question 11 to question 2. On question #12 he asked to include a box which reads, 'Already Signed Up'. He also pointed out at the bottom of the survey it reads, "Completed surveys can be completed…" he'd prefer it read, "Completed surveys can be submitted...".

Board member Villa asked if there is an update on the City Lake and if this is to be included. Mr. Wisener mentioned the city did a recent study to look at several properties surrounding the area for a proposed lake. At this time due to the cost to acquire these properties, the city council has decided to put this on hold but is working to plan and zone the area until the city can find funding for the entire project. Ms. Sedig suggests staff to include the City Lake in the survey to see if the public do indeed want this type of facility.

A motion was made by Board Member Rugh and seconded by Board Member Gross to approve the community wide survey with the requested changes as discussed in open session. Motion carried unanimously.

APPENDIX G: COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES MAY 20, 2015

CITY OF BUCKEYE

COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

May 20, 2015

MINUTES

City Hall
530 E. Monroe Avenue
Buckeye, AZ 85326
6:30 pm

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Teresa Bible, Chairperson (via Skype) called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Members Present –Board Members Linda Gross, Garnett Sailor, Sue Mros, Stephen Rugh, Dr. Peace, James Kimes and Chester Hetrick. Councilmember Michelle Hess

Staff Present –Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig; Management Assistant Douglas Strong; Recreation Supervisor, Jessica Thompson; Parks Manager, Fred Sanchez; Library Manager, Jana White, Library Assistant II, Janene Vanleeuwen; Conservation & Project Manager, Robert Wisener and Community Center Manager, Phil Yabes.

2. Comments from the Public – None

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2015

A motion was made by Vice Chair Stephen Rugh and seconded by Board Member Sue Mros to approve the minutes for the January 20, 2015 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business

4a. – Overview of the Entrepreneur Outreach Network Program

Library Manager, Jana White along with Library Assistant, Janene VanLeeuwen presented the Entrepreneur Outreach Network Program that is in partnership with the Arizona State University. This program will provide residents and young adults the opportunity to learn the processes of becoming your own business owner. Items of discussion during this program include creating a business plan, understanding revenue, business registration and licensing, funding, marketing, contracts and business vitality. This item was for discussion only.

4b. – Coaches Incentive Program

Recreation Supervisor Jessica Thompson shared the purpose for the coach's incentive program as the means to assist staff with retaining great volunteer coaches while holding them accountable in fulfilling their commitment as a volunteer coach. With completion of specific coaching obligations the coach would be able to receive an incentive up to $50 for their assistance, dedication and completion of specific role and responsibilities as a youth sports coach. Initially this program was introduced to the board with a different range. At this time it is staff's recommendation to increase the incentive up to $50 to meet most recreation programs and provide the coaches more opportunities to use this credit towards numerous programs and activities.

A motion by board member Andy Kimes to approve the program was made. A second was made by board member Garnett Sailor. The motion passed unanimously.

4c. - Community Services Schedule of Fees Update

Management Assistant, Douglas Strong presented the schedule of fees to include new, changed and removed fees. The primary change of fees was within the aquatic center rental fees which increased the hourly rate based on the amount of space the renter is wishing to rent. An example was if a resident was desirous to rent the zero depth section only (up to 150 people) it would require four lifeguards with a two hour minimum. This cost would range from $50-$75 per hour. Also, each variation of the pool rental would require the pool supervisor at a cost of $15-$30 per hour. Along with pool rental fees being added other fees included an increase in competitive sports league fees and a decrease in percentage of fees collected from vendors for special events. Each of the fees listed consisted of ranges which provided staff the flexibility to increase or decrease the fees based on the demand of the services along with the cost to operate the programs. Further it was also presented this way so staff did not have to go to the board or city council every time a fee was to be changed, thus allowing flexibility over a longer period of time.

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Steve Rugh to approve the schedule of fees as presented. A second was made by board member Sue Mros. The motion passed unanimously.

4d – Board Direction and Goals for 2015 calendar year

Cheryl Sedig, Community Services Director opened the discussion with asking the board members what aspirations and direction they would like to pursue as an advisory board. A need of the department was identified by Ms. Sedig which included the creation of a 501c3 Arts Group which would

work towards establishing a body to advocate for the arts to include the A-Wing Auditorium rehabilitation. Board members expressed interested however, many felt they did not have the experience, time, background or know how to establish this group. However, a motion was made to seek a community member who had the drive, passion and background in the arts that would be able to fill the existing board vacancy to begin this process of establishing an arts 501c3 group.

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Steve Rugh that the board set the 2015 goal to recruit and fill the current board vacancy with a Buckeye resident who has the art background, passion and desire to assist in establishing a 501c3 to assist the Community Services Department staff. A second was made by board member Sue Mros. The motion passed unanimously.

4e – Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Mr. Wisener began his presentation by going over the history of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan and the last update completed back in 2005. He went over the different types of parks to include the acreage for pocket (1/2 acre), neighborhood (5-15 acres), community (25-50 acres), large municipal sports complex (up to 200 acres) and regional parks (i.e. Skyline Park). This information was based on the national standard from the National Parks and Recreation Association.

Robert then went over the benchmarking of other communities as it related to the total number of acres per each of these park types. In comparison to the other communities, Mr. Wisener shared where the City of Buckeye fell when compared to these other communities and the national standards. When compiling this data, he took into account all parks within Buckeye, this includes city owned and operated parks and private HOA parks within developments throughout the city. This inventory was done using GIS mapping software. Based on the data collected it is clear we are well over the standard for pocket parks and neighborhood parks. Community Parks is an area for growth as the city is near to the standard based on the current population of 57,000 residents. The city does not have any sports parks but regionally we are well on our way with the addition of Skyline Park. The comparison of the park acres between city owned and HOA parks shows the city being well under the national standard; 72 city acres in comparison to 328 private/HOA acreage in parks city wide. This results in 1.26 acres per 1,000 population (based on 57,000) of residents in Buckeye (2 acres Per 1,000 population-National Standard). This item was for discussion only.

4f – Parks Standard of Care Maintenance Plan

Parks Manager, Fred Sanchez provided the board with an overview of the plan to include the routine and preventative maintenance steps staff is working to achieve here in Buckeye. Board members were very complimentary over this document and felt it was a great plan when compared to what is occurring in the park maintenance field currently.

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Steve Rugh to approve the Parks Standard of Care Maintenance Plan as presented. A second was made by board member Linda Gross. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Staff Report- None to report

6. Comments from the Chair and Board Members

Board members expressed their appreciation to staff and for the efforts that are made daily to better Buckeye and its quality of life.

7. Next Meeting– July 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. by Vice Chair Rugh and seconded by Board Member Hetrick. Motion carried unanimously.

_____

Teresa Bible, Chair

ATTEST:

_____

Douglas C. Strong, Management Assistant

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Community Services Advisory Board meeting held by the Advisory Board on May 20, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

_____

Douglas C. Strong, Management Assistant

APPENDIX H: PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MINUTES APRIL 28, 2015

CITY OF BUCKEYE

Planning & Zoning Commission

April 28, 2015

MINUTES

City of Buckeye

530 East Monroe Avenue

Buckeye, AZ 85326

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL
Chairperson Carol Kempiak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Commissioner Jim Zwerg, Commissioner Jeffrey Nagy, Commissioner Preston Hundley, Chairperson Carol Kempiak, Commissioner Clayton Bedoya, Commissioner Gregory Clemmons, Alternate Thomas Marcinko, Alternate Jesse Knight, Alternate Deanna Kupcik, Alternate Bill Elliott, Alternate Duane Mitry seated for District 6

Members absent: Vice Chairperson Nick Hudec, Alternate Richard Burrell,

Staff present: Planning Manager Terri Hogan, Senior Planner Ed Boik, Planner II Andrea Marquez, Conservation & Project Manager Robert Wisener, City Attorney Gary Verberger, Council Liaison Craig Heustis, Administration Assistant Keri Hernandez

5D. PARKS AND RECREATION TRAILS MASTER PLAN (P&RMP)
Conservation & Project Manager Robert Wisener presented and was available to answer questions from the Commission. Commissioners spoke of their concerns future parks in existing Community Master Plans, potential Equestrian Trails, future sports parks and walking path widths.

APPENDIX I: BUCKEYE YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES APRIL 16, 2015

CITY OF BUCKEYE
YOUTH COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
APRIL 16, 2015
MINUTES

Buckeye City Hall
Executive Conference Room
530 E Monroe Ave
Buckeye, AZ 85326
6:00PM

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call
Chairman Valdez-Paloma called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
Board Members present: Chairman Valdez-Paloma, Board Member Ramirez, Board Member Melendrez, Board Member Borbon, Board Member Schneider (Kenzlee), Board Member Schneider (Caelani), Secretary Green, Vice Chair Aziz, Board Member Francisco
Board Members absent: Board Member Holman, Board Member Smith
Staff present: Board Liaison Brian McAchran, Councilmember Craig Heustis, Council Staff Christine Grundy.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2015
A motion was made by Board Member Melendrez and seconded by Board Member Schneider (Kenzlee) to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2015 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

3. New Member Appointment
A motion was made by Board Member Schneider (Kenzlee) and seconded by Board Member Melendrez to appoint Nicholas Rossetti to the Buckeye Youth Council with a term expiration date of January 2017. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Bob Wisener & Jessica Thompson, City of Buckeye, Community Services-SkyLine Park presentation & interactive session.
Discussion Only; No Board Action

5. Questions/Discussion/Wrap Up
Discussion Only; No Board Action

6. Adjournment

A motion was made by Board Member Melendrez and seconded by Board Member Kenzlee Schneider to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPENDIX J: BUCKEYE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES MARCH 17, 2015

CITY OF BUCKEYE
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MARCH 17, 2015
MINUTES

City Council Chambers
530 E. Monroe Ave.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
4:15p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Vice Mayor Orsborn called the meeting to order at 4: 17 p.m.

Members Present: Councilmember Strauss (arrived at 4:20p.m.), Councilmember Hess (arrived at 4:20p.m.), Councilmember McAchran, Councilmember Heustis, Vice Mayor Orsborn, and Mayor Meck (via telephone).

Members Absent: Councilmember Garza.

Departments Present: City Manager Stephen Cleveland, Assistant City Manager Roger Klingler, City Attorney Scott Ruby, City Clerk Lucinda Aja, Deputy City Clerk Summer Stewart, Assistant to Council Carol Conley, Finance Director Larry Price, Economic Development Director Len Becker, Information Technology Director Greg Platacz, Development Services Director George Flores, Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig, Planning Manager Terri Hogan, Government Relations Manager George Diaz, and Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Rogers.

2. Presentation of Parks and Recreation Master Plan Staff
Liaison: Robert Wisener, Conservation and Project Manager
District No. All

Mr. Wisener opened the discussion and provided background information of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan adopted in 2005 and the Trails Master Plan adopted in 2008. Descriptions of pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, large municipal sports parks, and regional parks were presented. Current level of service of both City and Homeowner's Association parks was discussed; there are 76.06 acres of existing parks. Water conservation efforts within communities related to parks was addressed. A comparison chart demonstrating developed parks within the City and other municipalities was presented. Resident surveys have been conducted and results of those surveys were displayed. Issues are listed and include lack of facilities outside of downtown, need for additional pool and facilities, lack of community and large sports parks, and funding. The City would like a level of service standard equal to four acres per 1,000 residents, resulting in a need of 152 acres of park and 12 additional staff to maintain and

manage the parks. Funding for new parks may be obtained through cost sharing, impact fees, bonds, special sales tax and property tax. Of the residents that participated in the survey, 83% are willing to support construction of new parks or facilities. Potential park locations were listed. Proposed park acquisition policies include parks larger than 15 acres that are near natural resource or identified trail, near underserved population centers, easily accessible from multiple communities, have limited site constraints and a recreation value to support unmet demand. Next steps were discussed; it is anticipated the Master Plan will be adopted in the Fall of2015. Public input meetings have been scheduled. Presentations will be provided to Boards and Commissions and updates will be provided to Council through further workshops. Project priorities, plan utilization, and anticipated costs were discussed.

3. Discussion and Update on Gila River Restoration Program and El Rio Implementation and Management Plan Staff Liaison:
Adam Copeland, Senior Planner
Robert Wisener, Conservation and Project Manager
District No. All

Mr. Copeland opened the presentation with a series of pictures of the Gila River in its present state. An overview of the Gila River Restoration Program and El Rio Design Guidelines update were presented. Gila River Restoration Program tasks are listed and include sand and gravel policy, in lieu fee program, river restoration program, and specific area plan. A snapshot representing stakeholders of Gila River and surrounding areas was provided. Each policy and elements of programs were listed and discussed. Opportunities along potential lakes were addressed and include river walks, boating, water features, sports, mixed use, and housing. Mr. Wisener provided a summary ofEl Rio design guidelines and pilot project. Details of the intergovernmental agreement were discussed; standards include building orientation, landscape signage and access. Mr. Copeland detailed the pilot project. Mr. Wisener presented illustrations of the river and surrounding area with potential amenities. Overall objectives were outlined and include creating public awareness, regional and national exposure, multi-agency unified design guidelines, creating critical private and public partnerships and revenue potential. Next steps include ongoing Council engagement, site tours, public and stakeholder meetings, and interactive works sessions with Commission and Council. Projects are on schedule and it is anticipated that El Rio Design Guidelines will be complete by June of 2015 and the Gila River Restoration Program will be complete by December of 2015. A series of images representing potential land use at the Gila River site were displayed. General discussion was held regarding the projects, potential improvements to community, costs and timelines.

4. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Heustis and seconded by Councilmember Hess to adjourn the meeting at 5:33p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Jackie A. Meck, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Council Workshop held on the 17th day of March, 2015. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk

APPENDIX K: BUCKEYE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES MAY 5, 2015

CITY OF BUCKEYE
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MAY 5, 2015
MINUTES

City Council Chambers
530 E. Monroe Ave.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
3:00p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Meck called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m.

Members Present: Councilmember Strauss, Councilmember Hess (arrived at 3:05p.m.), Councilmember McAchran (excused at 4:29p.m.; returned at 4:31p.m.), Councilmember Heustis, Vice Mayor Orsborn (excused at 4:02p.m.; returned at 4:05p.m.), and Mayor Meck.
Members Absent: Councilmember Garza.

Departments Present: City Manager Stephen Cleveland, Assistant City Manager Roger Klingler, City Attorney Scott Ruby, City Clerk Lucinda Aja, Deputy City Clerk Summer Stewart, Assistant to Council Christine Grundy, Police Chief Larry Hall, Finance Director Larry Price, Human Resources Director Nancy Love, Public Works Director Scott Lowe, Water Resources Director Dave Nigh, Information Technology Director Greg Platacz, Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig, Economic Development Director Len Becker, Government Relations Manager George Diaz, and Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Rogers.

4. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update and Discussion
Staff Liaison: Robert Wisener, Conservation & Project Manager
District No. All

Mr. Wisener presented an overview of the parks and recreation master plan. The City currently has 76.06 acres of developed parks and 8,675 acres of conservation parks. There are 1.34 acres of developed parks and 153.04 acres of conservation parks per 1,000 residents. Buckeye would like to increase the level of service to 4 acres of City-owned parks per 1,000 residents and will need an additional 150 acres based on current population. Funding for new parks may come from cost sharing, impact fees, bonds, special sales or property taxes, and grants. Based on a survey submitted in the community, 83% of respondents are willing to support construction of new parks or facilities. Residential development level of service standards were presented and

discussed. There are currently 182 acres of Home Owner Association (HOA) parks. Issues with HOA parks include too many pocket parks, few neighborhood parks, limited amenities and disjointed retention. Buckeye will require a percentage of gross acreage for open space and park space based on lot sizes. Open space and park space were defined and compared; open space includes rivers, washes and drainage, resource areas, hillsides, parks, and tracts with pedestrian circulation system; park space includes active recreation areas, turf-lined areas, and identified trails. Park size requirements and minimum amenities for each park were listed and will be based on number of housing units. Amenities include splash pad, covered playground, picnic facilities, group picnic pavilion, trails, dog park, and amphitheater. Requirements for commercial and industrial development include construction of paths on or adjacent to property to provide connections between residential areas to activity centers and providing amenities for customers and employees. The 2008 Trails Master Plan was presented and updates summarized. Trailhead guidelines will not be amended in the updated master plan. Next steps in the process include funding and implementation strategies. The updated plan will be used to guide decisions, update impact fees, and will be codified into the Development Code. Costs and funding were addressed. An overview of Skyline Park was presented; construction is scheduled to begin in May of 2015 with an expected opening by the end of 2015. General discussion was held regarding updated requirements in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the impact of water rates related to HOA parks.

5. Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Orsborn and seconded by Councilmember Hess to adjourn the meeting at 5:38p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

_____
Jackie A. Meck, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Council Workshop held on the 5th day of May, 2015. I further certify that a quorum was present.

_____
Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk

APPENDIX L: MINUTES FROM PUBLIC MEETING #2

CITY OF BUCKEYE

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Public Meeting #2

September 8, 2015

MINUTES

City Hall Executive Conference Room
530 E. Monroe Avenue
Buckeye, AZ 85326
6:00 pm

The public meeting began at 6pm. Mr. Wisener presented a PowerPoint presentation, which is included below. At the end of the presentation, the public was given the opportunity to ask questions and to provide input. Below is a brief summary of the questions asked.

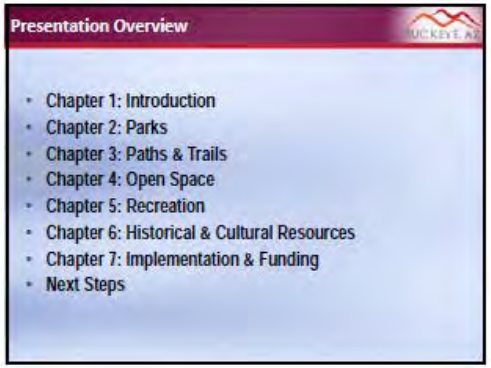
Parks and Recreation Master Plan

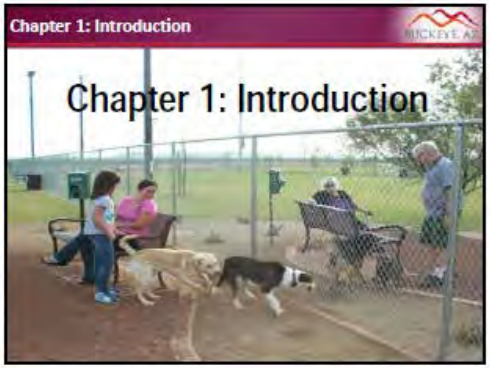
Questions/Concerns of Attendees

1. Who makes up the stakeholders group and how many are there?
    a. There are approximately 12-13 stakeholders. They are developers, agencies, or Community Services Advisory Board Members.
    b. The group met in January, February, and March of this year. They are currently being sent chapter drafts to review.
2. Is there being any consideration regarding conservation and 'dark skies' concept; especially in regards to Skyline Regional Park?
    a. Skyline Regional Park will be 'dark sky' compliant and the City will continue to seek ways to maintain compliancy throughout the City.
    b. There will also be discussion regarding the concept when updating the City's General Plan.
3. Are there any plans for an observatory or a location for viewing the night skies?
    a. Skyline Regional Park will have a designated location designed to accommodate 20-30 people for stargazing.
    b. Community Services is interested in seeking partnerships with astronomy clubs.
    c. A stargazing theme is incorporated into Skyline Regional Park's logo.
4. Because HOAs will not allow not residents to use their parks, are there any plans to accommodate the need for City parks for little league play?
    a. The City is working toward development agreements geared to developers building community parks and then turning them over to the City.

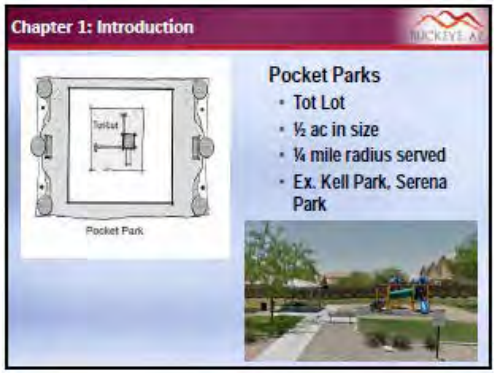
5. Why isn't Skyline Regional Park acreage included in the acreage per resident statistics?
    a. The slide illustrating the difference was shown and explained.
6. How do we compare to other municipalities in regards to the ratio of HOA parks to City parks?
    a. Most municipalities do not address HOA parks.
7. Is there a short-term plan, possibility of a bond, etc.?
    a. After meeting with the City's Finance Director, it was agreed that the economy is not there yet, but possibly in the next year or two.
8. Recreation Division leagues can't grow if we don't have parks. There isn't enough room to facilitate organized sports. We don't have a balance of parks types; HOA to City.

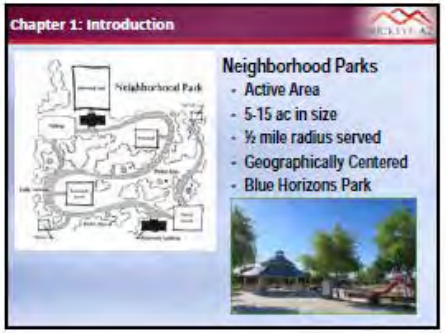
Mr. Wisener thanked attendees for coming and encouraged them to complete a comment card if they had further questions or wanted to provide additional feedback or input.

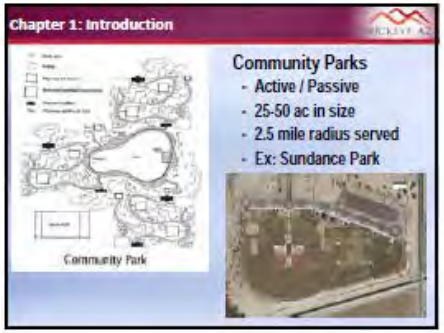


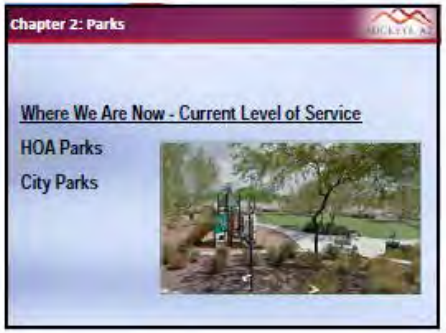


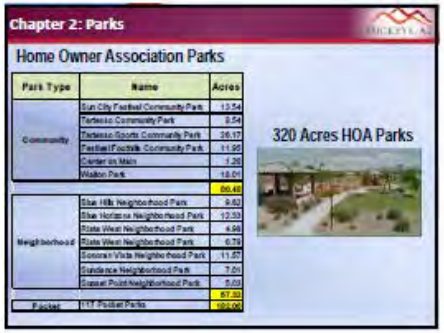
Park Type	Acres Per 1,000 Population	Typical Park Size	Radius Served
Pocket	0.2	7,000 sq feet-1 acre	1/4 mile
Neighborhood	2	5-15 acres	1/2 mile
Community	1.5	25-50 acres	2.5 miles
Large Park/Sports Complex	3.3	75-200 acres	5 miles
TOTAL	7 acres / 1,000 pop		









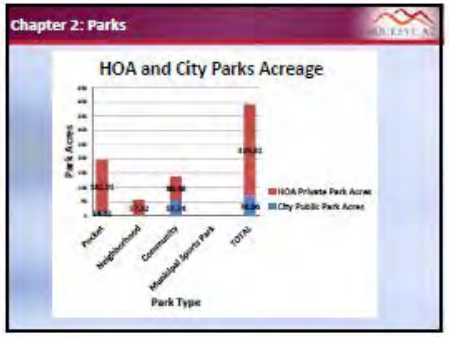


Park Type	Name	Acres
Community	Sun City Festival Community Park	13.54
	Tartesso Community Park	9.54
	Tartesso Sports Community Park	26.17
	Festival Foothills Community Park	11.95
	Center on Main	1.26
	Walton Park	18.04
		80.49
Neighborhood	Blue Hills Neighborhood Park	9.62
	Blue Horizons Neighborhood Park	12.33
	Rosta West Neighborhood Park	4.98
	Rosta Neighborhood Park	6.79
	Sonoran Vista Neighborhood Park	11.57
	Sundance Neighborhood Park	7.01
	Sossel Point Neighborhood Park	5.03
		57.33
Pocket	117 Pocket Parks	102.00

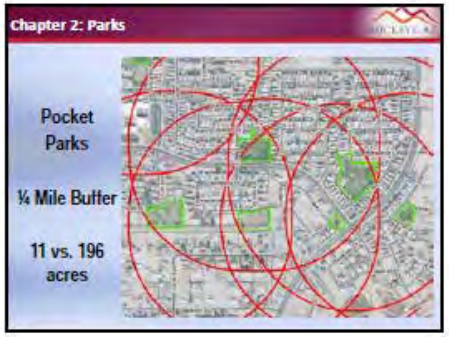
Park Type	Name	Acres
Community	Sundance Park	20.94
Community	Earl Edgar Recreational Facility	21.41
Community	Town Park	7.30
Pocket	Skylake Park	6.32
Pocket	Serena Park	2.55
Pocket	Remsmore Park	1.60
Pocket	Coronado Park	1.50
Pocket	Kali Park	0.80
Pocket	6th St Plaza Park	0.30
Pocket	Sanbow Veterans Memorial Park	0.11
Special Use	Hidalgo County Rodeo Arena	5.00
		76.00

Regional	Skyline Regional Park	8,675

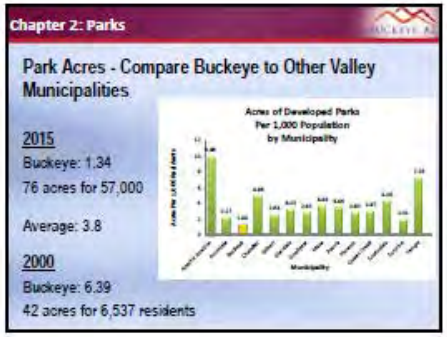
Chapter 2: Parks
Current Level of Service for HOA & City Parks
Large Number of Pocket Parks
Low Number of Neighborhood Parks
No Large Municipal Sports Parks
6.87 acres of parks per 1,000 residents
Where We Should Be and Existing for the Provision of Parks
POCKET
NEIGHBORHOOD
COMMUNITY
LARGE MUNICIPAL SPORTS PARK
TOTAL
Where We Should Be
Existing

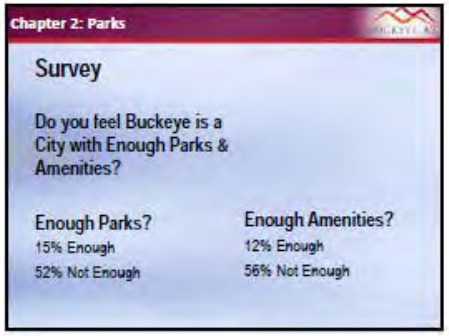

Chapter 2: Parks
HOA and City Parks Acreage
Park Acres
HOA Private Park Acres
City Public Park Acres
Pocket
Neighborhood
Community
Municipal Sports Park
TOTAL
Park Type

Chapter 2: Parks
Pocket Parks
¼ Mile Buffer
11 vs. 196 acres


Chapter 2: Parks
Pocket Parks
¼ Mile Buffer
11 vs. 196 acres

Chapter 2: Parks
City Community Parks
2.5 Mile Buffer
Sundance Park
Town Park
Earl Edgar Park


Chapter 2: Parks
Park Acres - Compare Buckeye to Other Valley Municipalities
2015
Buckeye: 1.34
76 acres for 57,000
Average: 3.8
2000
Buckeye: 6.39
42 acres for 6,537 residents
Acres of Developed Parks Per 1,000 Population by Municipality


Chapter 2: Parks
Survey
Do you feel Buckeye is a City with Enough Parks & Amenities?
Enough Parks?
15% Enough
52% Not Enough
Enough Amenities?
12% Enough
56% Not Enough

Chapter 2: Parks
Where Do We Want to Be?

Chapter 2: Parks
Desired Level of Service Standards For City Parks and Facilities

Chapter 2: Parks

City-Owned Parks

Issues:

- Not enough large sports parks
- Some neighborhoods underserved
- Lack of facilities outside downtown
- Need additional pool & recreation facilities
- Funding

Chapter 2: Parks

City-Owned Parks

Today – 57,000

Increase from 1.14 to 4 acres per 1,000

Need Additional 112 acres

Construction Cost	$200,000/acre	$30,400,000
Land Acquisition Cost	$80,000/acre	$12,160,000
TOTAL		$42,560,000

Staffing Needs	1 staff/13 acres	12 @ $63,000	$619,692
Annual O&M	$1,000/acre		$152,000
TOTAL			$771,692

Chapter 2: Parks

City-Owned Parks

2020 – 75,000

Increase from 1.14 to 4 acres per 1,000

If we built 152 acres, we would need 112 acres in 2020

Construction Cost	$200,000/acre	$14,400,000
Land Acquisition Cost	$80,000/acre	$ 5,760,000
TOTAL		$20,160,000

Staffing Needs	1 staff/13 acres	6 @ $63,000	$318,000
Annual O&M	$1,000/acre		$ 72,000
TOTAL			$390,000

Chapter 2: Parks

Need Additional 152 Acres for Today

- 35 Acres west of Sundance Community Park
- 40 Acres off of Miller Road
- 100 Acres Large Municipal Sports Park

Need Additional 72 Acres for Tomorrow

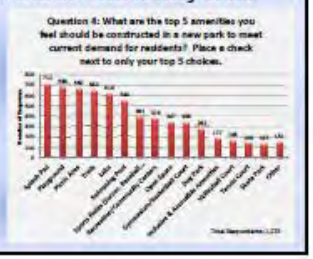
Need for Additional Amenities in Buckeye Parks

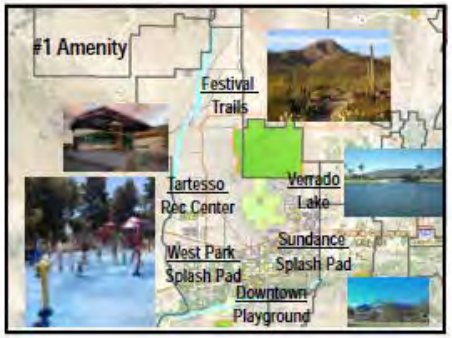
Amenity	City of Buckeye Desired Level of Service	Current Number Provided	Existing Need in 2015 for 57,000 Population	Need in 2020 with 75,000 Population	Need in 2030 with 175,000 Population	Total Number of Facilities in 2030
Baseball / Softball Fields	1 per 1,000 residents	8	2	4	17	42
Soccer / Football	1 per 7,000 residents	3	1	3	14	21
Basketball Courts	1 per 10,000 residents	3	1	2	10	13
Sports Courts (Volleyball, Racquetball, Tennis)	1 per 10,000 residents	4	2	2	10	18
Playgrounds	1 per 5,000 residents	3	2	2	18	22
Ramadas	1 per 5,000 residents	9	3	3	35	46
Swimming Pools	1 per 40,000 residents	1	1	0	2	4
Rec / Community / Multi-Sect Centers	1 per 50,000 residents	2	1	0	3	5
Dog Park	1 per 25,000 residents	1	1	1	4	7
Park Acres	4 acres per 1,000 residents	70	112	72	402	702

Chapter 2: Parks

Giving Residents What They Want

1) Splash Pad
2) Playground
3) Picnic Area
4) Trails
5) Lake
6) Swimming Pool
7) Sports Fields
8) Rec Centers
9) Open Space
10) Gym/Basketball Courts





Where Do We Want to Be?

Sundance	Tartesso	Verrado
1) Splash Pad (236)	1) Rec Center (27)	1) Lake (25)
2) Playground (197)	2) Picnic Area (27)	2) Trails (24)
3) Lake (194)	3) Swimming Pool (26)	3) Picnic Areas (23)
4) Trails (192)	4) Gym/Basketball (26)	4) Playground (19)
5) Swimming Pool (187)	5) Splash Pad (23)	5) Splash Pad (16)

Festival	West Park	Downtown
1) Trails (88)	1) Splash Pad (73)	1) Playground (95)
2) Open Space (69)	2) Playground (56)	2) Splash Pad (94)
3) Picnic Areas (66)	3) Lake (52)	3) Picnic Area (90)
4) Dog Park (48)	4) Trails (49)	4) Lake (81)
5) Playground (43)	5) Picnic Areas (47)	5) Swimming Pool (80)

Chapter 2: Parks

Park Acquisition Policies

- No park smaller than 15 acres
- Near natural resource or identified trail
- Near underserved population centers
- Easily accessible from multiple communities
- Co-located near schools and municipal centers
- Limited site constraints
- Recreation value to support unmet demand
- Economic impact / tourism opportunity

Chapter 2: Parks

Residential Development Level of Service Standards

Chapter 2: Parks

HOA Parks

Issues:

- Large number of pocket parks
- Low number of neighborhood parks
- Limited amenities for all age groups
- Disjointed retention without connections between
- No connections to adjacent communities

Where Do We Want to Be?

Amenity-Based Approach

Apache Junction

.20 play stations per housing unit.
250 units x .20 = 50 play stations
Tennis Court = 20 Full Basketball Court = 16
Ramada = 1 Sand Volleyball Court = 7

Chapter 2: Parks

Buckeye Residential Development Level of Service

Zoning Districts	Lot Sizes	Open Space Gross Acreage	Park Space Gross Acreage
Single Family - 1	1,000 - 2,999 sq ft	30%	15%
Single Family - 3	3,000 - 5,999 sq ft	25%	8%
Single Family - 6	6,000 - 9,999 sq ft	20%	5%
Single Family - 10	10,000 - 17,999 sq ft	15%	5%
Single Family - 18	18,000 -42,999 sq ft	10%	5%

Chapter 2: Parks

Defining Open Space vs. Park Space

Open Space 20%

- Rivers, Washes & Drainage
- Floodways & Floodplains
- Stormwater Management
- Wildlife Habitat Areas
- Resource Areas
- Hillsides
- Utility Corridors
- Landscape Tracts
- Tracts with Pedestrian Circulation System
- Parks

Park Space 5%

- Active Recreation Areas
  - Playgrounds
  - Sports Courts & Fields
- Passive Recreation Areas
  - Picnicking
  - Trails identified in plan
- School Playgrounds & sports fields if open during non-school hours

Chapter 2: Parks

Minimum Size of Largest Park

Number of Housing Units	Minimum Size of Largest Park in Acres
500-999	4
1,000-1,499	8
1,500-1,999	12
2,000-2,999	15
3,000-3,999	15-25
4,000-4,999	25-40
5,000-6,999	40-55
7,000-8,999	55-65
9,000-10,999	65-80

Minimum Size of Largest Park Case Studies

Blue Horizons: 1,965 units approved
Currently providing 14-acre park
New Requirements: 12-acre park

Sundance (all parcels): 5,475 units approved
Currently providing 24 pocket parks, totaling 41 acres.
New Requirements: 40-acre park

Tartesso Phase I: 3,375 units approved
Currently providing 26-acre park
New Requirements: 25-acre park

Windmill Village: 513 units
Currently providing 1 pocket park totaling 2 acres
New Requirements: 4-acre park

Chapter 2: Parks

Amenity-Based Approach

Minimum of 2 amenities per 250 units

Menu of Options

- Splash Pad
- Covered Playground
- Picnic Facilities
- Group Picnic Pavilion
- Trails
- Baseball/Softball Field
- Multi-Use Rectangular Field
- Full Basketball Court

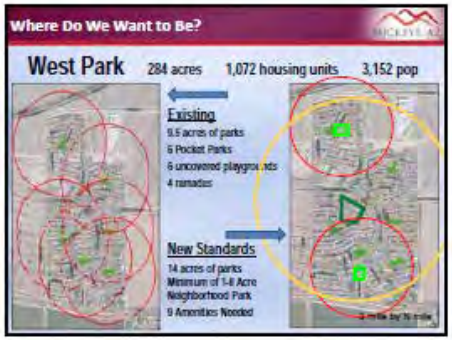
Chapter 2: Parks

Amenity-Based Approach

Minimum of 2 amenities per 250 units

Menu of Options Continued

- Pickleball Court
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Tennis Court
- Dog Park
- Structural Seating Node
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Skate or Bike Park
- Amphitheatre
- Other amenities not listed above may be selected and reviewed by City staff on a case by case basis.


Where Do We Want to Be?
West Park
284 acres
1,072 housing units
3,152 pop
Existing
9.5 acres of parks
6 Pocket Parks
6 uncovered playgrounds
4 ramadas
New Standards
14 acres of parks
Minimum of 1-8 Acre Neighborhood Park
9 Amenities Needed

Chapter 2: Parks
When Are Parks Built?
Developments over 1,000 units must build a minimum 8 acre park with first 5 homes
City to negotiate with developers on parks larger than 15 acres for construction / conveyance

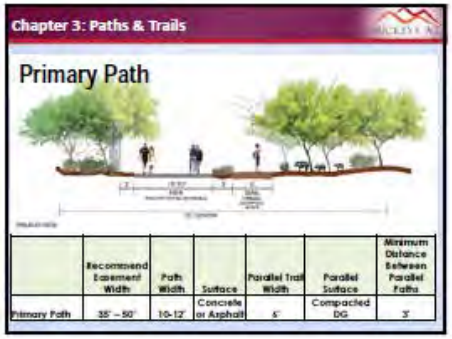
Chapter 2: Parks
Park Type
Size
Service Radius
Provider
Level of Service
City
Residential Developmt
Pocket
Neighborhood
Community
Large Sports Parks
Regional / Conservation Parks / Mountain Preserves
City of Buckeye
Maricopa County
TOTAL

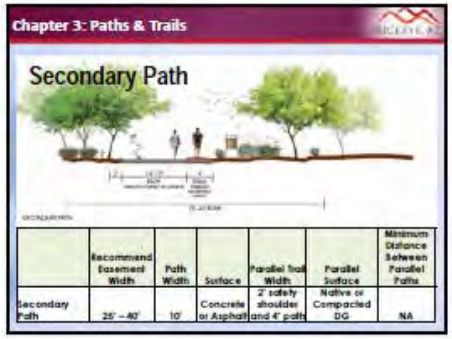
Chapter 2: Parks
Park Facility Trends
One Stop Shops (Multi-Generational)
Splash Pads
Dog Parks
Open Community Labs
Extreme, Adventure Parks
Urban Fishing Lakes

Chapter 3: Paths & Trails
Chapter 3:
Pathways & Trails

Chapter 3: Paths & Trails
Trails Master Plan (2008)
Established standards for different trails:
Parkway
Landmark
Powerline
Equestrian
Wash
Flood Control Channel
Canal

Chapter 3: Paths & Trails
Buckeye Trail Standards Matrix
2008 Trails Plan
18 Different Standards


Chapter 3: Paths & Trails
Primary Path
Recommend Easement Width
Path Width
Surface
Parallel Trail Width
Parallel Surface
Minimum Distance Between Parallel Paths
Primary Path
35' – 50'
10-12'
Concrete or Asphalt
6'
Compacted DG
3'


Chapter 3: Paths & Trails
Secondary Path
Recommend Easement Width
Path Width
Surface
Parallel Trail Width
Parallel Surface
Minimum Distance Between Parallel Paths
Secondary Path
25' – 40'
10'
Concrete or Asphalt
2' safety shoulder and 4' path
Native or Compacted DG
NA

Chapter 3: Paths & Trails

Primary Trail

	Recommend Easement Width	Path Width	Surface	Parallel Trail Width	Parallel Surface	Minimum Distance Between Parallel Paths
Primary Trail	20'	8'	Compacted DG	2' clear zone on either side of path	NA	NA

Chapter 3: Paths & Trails

Backcountry Trail

	Recommend Easement Width	Path Width	Surface	Parallel Trail Width	Parallel Surface	Minimum Distance Between Parallel Paths
Backcountry Trail		3-5'	Native Tread	None	NA	NA

Chapter 3: Paths & Trails

Flood Control

- Sun Valley Area Drainage Master Plan
- Buckeye Area Drainage Master Plan
- Flood Retarding Structures
- Watson Drain Design Concept Report (15% Plans)

Chapter 3: Paths & Trails

Rivers, Washes & Canals

- Floodways
- Rivers
- Washes
- Canals

Wildlife Studies

- Arizona Missing Linkages Gila Bend-Sierra Estrella Linkage Design
- GIS Based Habitat Modeling
- Maricopa County Wildlife Connectivity: Report on Stakeholder Input: 2012
- City of Surprise Wildlife Corridors

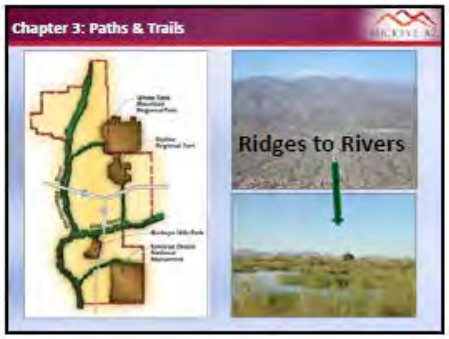
Chapter 3: Paths & Trails

Paths / Trails

- Maricopa Trail
- Goodyear Trails
- Surprise Trails

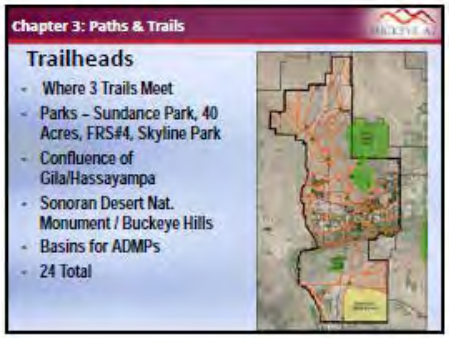
Chapter 3: Paths & Trails

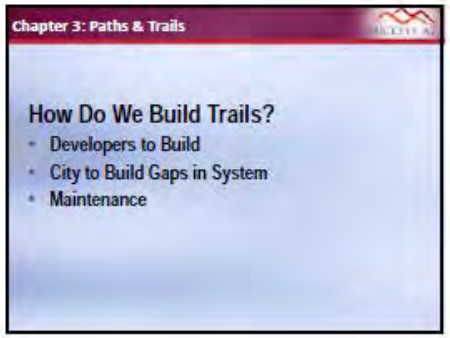
Powerlines


Chapter 3: Paths & Trails
Ridges to Rivers

Chapter 3: Paths & Trails
Primary / Secondary
Secondary
Secondary
Secondary
FRS – Secondary
Powerlines – Trail
Grades 5%> - Backcountry
Paths & Trails on both sides for corridors wider than 150'

Chapter 3: Paths & Trails
Trailheads
Trailhead Guidelines
Under 10 Acres
10 Acres & Up


Chapter 3: Paths & Trails
Trailheads
Where 3 Trails Meet
Parks – Sundance Park, 40 Acres, FRS#4, Skyline Park
Confluence of Gila/Hassayampa
Sonoran Desert Nat. Monument / Buckeye Hills
Basins for ADMPs
24 Total

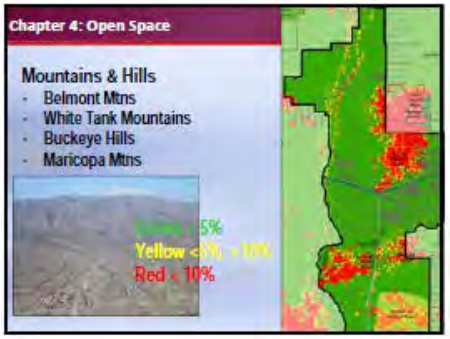

Chapter 3: Paths & Trails
How Do We Build Trails?
Developers to Build
City to Build Gaps in System
Maintenance

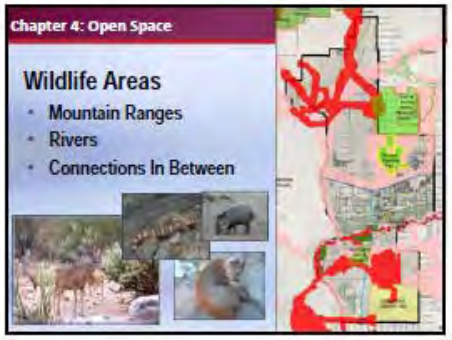
Chapter 4: Open Space
Chapter 4: Open Space

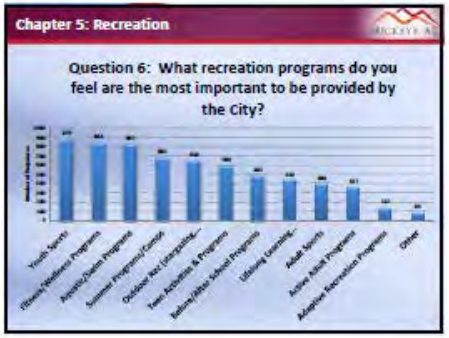
Chapter 4: Open Space
Benefits
Provides passive outdoor recreation opportunities
Preserves environmental resources
Promotes economic development and tourism
Enhances public safety by allowing natural functions to occur unimpeded
(drainage in washes, washes as firebreaks)

Chapter 4: Open Space
Areas to Protect and Conserve
Mountains & Hills
Rivers, Washes & Drainage
Wildlife Habitat Areas
Resource Areas
Mature Vegetation
Cultural Resources
Historical Resources

Chapter 4: Open Space
Goals and Objectives for Open Space
Integrate natural systems (rivers, mountains, environmentally sensitive desert) with parks, trails, recreation facilities
Preserve desert ecosystem
Ensure conservation by private developers (hillsides, wash corridors, mature stands of vegetation, etc)
Develop design/planning standards to ensure compatibility of uses adjacent to natural resources
Explore creation of view corridors, study their worth to Buckeye residents, evaluate mechanisms to enforce them.

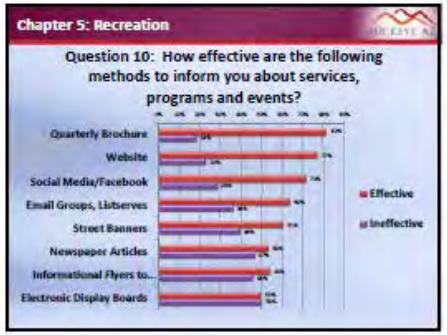




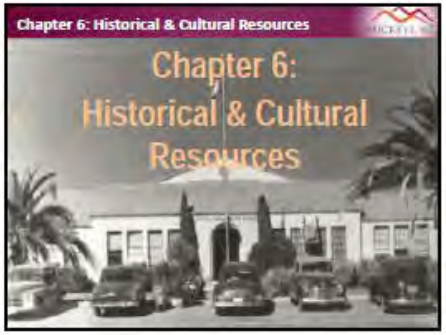


Benefit	Mostly Community Benefit	Community / Individual Benefit	Considerable Individual Benefit	Mostly Individual Benefit
Cost Recovery	Minimal (0-49%)	Partial (50-99%)	Full (100-124%)	Profit Center (125% & up)
Special Events	X			
Fitness / Wellness	X			
Active Adult / Senior	X			
At-Risk Youth / Teen	X			
Health & Fitness	X			
Youth Recreation Sports		X		
Aquatic		X		
Summer Recreation / Camp		X		
Adult Recreation Sports			X	
Youth & Adult League Sports			X	
Outdoor / Environmental			X	
Special Interest Classes			X	
Licensed Day Cares				X
Private Lessons				X

Chapter 5: Recreation
Recreation Programming Trends
Not Enough Time
Team Sports Shifting
Active / Extreme Sports
Outdoor Recreation
Physical Fitness / Healthy Eating
Drop-In Programming
Combined Generation
Pop Culture
Use of Technology


Chapter 5: Recreation
Question 10: How effective are the following methods to inform you about services, programs and events?
Quarterly Brochure
Website
Social Media/Facebook
Email Groups, Listserves
Street Banners
Newspaper Articles
Informational Flyers to...
Electronic Display Boards
Effective
Ineffective

Chapter 5: Recreation
Over the Next 10 Years
Adaptive Recreation
Health & Fitness
Outdoor / Environmental
Year-Round Aquatics
Performing & Visual Arts
Competitive Sports Leagues


Chapter 6: Historical & Cultural Resources
Chapter 6:
Historical & Cultural
Resources

Chapter 6: Historical & Cultural Resources
Historic Buildings in Buckeye
Commercial
Ware Building (1910)
Joslin Building (1912)
Courthouse & Jail (1912)
BUHS A-Wing (1928)
Residential
Downtown
Raney / Benson House

Chapter 6: Historical & Cultural Resources
Preservation Strategies
Update Historic Resource Survey from 1995
Investigate feasibility of creating historic districts
Community awareness
Benefits of district
Walking programs
Signage
Downtown overlay
1859

Chapter 6: Historical & Cultural Resources
Preservation Strategies
Explore preservation funding & incentives
Promote partnerships
Buckeye Main Street
Buckeye Valley Museum
State Historic Preservation Office
National Trust for Historic Preservation

Chapter 6: Historical & Cultural Resources
Preserve Archaeologic Resources
Increase public knowledge of importance and value
Create inventory of archaeological resources in consultation with SHPO
Create policies to protect
Minimize threats
Remove at-risk resources?
Fencing, reroute trails
Partnerships

Chapter 7: Implementation Stategies & Funding
Chapter 7:
Implementation Strategies &
Funding

Chapter 7: Funding & Implementation Strategies

How Do We Implement the Plan?

Funding

- Cost Share – Schools, Donations
- Impact Fees - $1,374 per new home
- Bonds
- Special Sales Tax
- Property Tax
- Other Sources

Chapter 7: Funding & Implementation Strategies

Funding Parks & Rec Facilities

83% willing to support construction of new parks or facilities

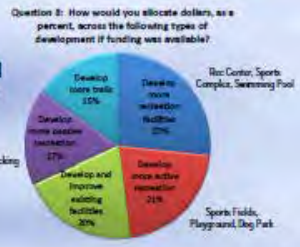
Chapter 7: Funding & Implementation Strategies

Sales Tax Funding

Other Cities		In Buckeye
Phoenix PPI		
- 1999 by 80% of voters		
- Renewed in 2008 with		
- 83% for 30 more years		
- 1 cent for $10 purchase	.1%	$500,000
City of Scottsdale		
- .2% sales tax in 1995	.2%	$737,000
- .15% Increase in 2004		

Chapter 7: Implementation Strategies & Funding

How Would You Spend Funds



Chapter 7: Implementation Strategies & Funding

Prioritized List of Projects & Tasks

- Short-Term (1-3 years)
- Medium-Term (4-7 years)
- Long-Term (8-10 years)
- Future (Beyond 10 years)
- Responsible Parties / Agencies / Departments

How The Plan Will Be Used

How Will the Plan Be Used?

- Policy Document to Guide Decisions
- Future Chapter of the General Plan Update 2018
- Some policies to be codified into Development Code
- Projects included in the CIP
- Impact Fee Update

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Finalize Document

Master Plan Public Input

Public Input

- 2 Public Meetings – March 31 & September 8
- Survey
- Stakeholder Group
- Presentations to Boards and Commissions
  - Community Services Advy Board 9/17/14 & 5/20/15
  - Planning & Zoning Commission 4/28/15
  - Buckeye Youth Council 4/16/15
  - Development Partnering Group 6/18/15
- Council Workshops / Meetings 3/17/15 & 5/5/15
- Public Hearings with P&Z Commission & Council in Fall

Questions?

Robert Wisener
rwisener@buckeyeaz.gov
623-349-6621

CITY OF BUCKEYE

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

REVISED WORKSHOP AGENDA

JANUARY 26, 2016

NOTICE OF POSSIBLE QUORUM OF THE BUCKEYE CITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 3.1, Arizona Revised Statutes, a majority of the City Council may attend the regular meeting of the Buckeye Planning and Zoning Commission but there will be no voting taking place by the City Council. Council members may participate in the discussion of any item on the agenda.

Accessibility for all persons with disabilities will be provided upon request. Please telephone your accommodation request to (623)349-6911, 72 hours in advance if you need a sign language interpreter or alternate materials for a visual or hearing impairment. [TDD (623)234-9507]

City of Buckeye
Council Chambers
530 East Monroe Avenue
Buckeye, AZ 85326

Regular Meeting: 6:00 pm
Workshop: Immediately following regular meeting

At Large	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6
Thomas Marcinko	Jeffrey Nagy	Preston Hundley	Carol Kempiak *Chairperson*	Clayton Bedoya	Reverend Gregory Clemmons	Nick Hudec *Vice Chairperson*
Vacant *(Alternate)*	Jesse Knight *(Alternate)*	Vacant *(Alternate)*	Deanna Kupcik *(Alternate)*	Gail Reese *(Alternate)*	Bill Elliott *(Alternate)*	Duane Mitry *(Alternate)*
Council Liaison: Councilmember Craig Heustis						

1.	**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL**	
2.	**WORKSHOP AGENDA**	
2A.	**SUBJECT:** Buckeye Transit Plan **SUMMARY:** Utilizing the Maricopa Association of Government's Southwest Valley Local Transit System Study as a framework, the transit plan will help us identify future transit needs and set up Buckeye for potential federal and regional funding for future transit service projects. **PRESENTED BY:** Sean Banda, Planner II	*Action required:* *Discussion only*
3.	**ADJOURNMENT**	*Action required:* *Motion*

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (INCLUDING CELL PHONES AND PAGERS) BEFORE THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER. THANK YOU.