

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**, and to the general public, that the **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD** will hold a meeting open to the public on **Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

**OPTIONS TO ACCESS THIS MEETING**

<https://cityofphoenix.webex.com/cityofphoenix/j.php?RGID=r660756642a0d0fa38863f9daa476d503>

**Call-in to listen** to the live meeting. Dial 602-666-0783. Enter the meeting access code 2467 180 3149, then press #. Press # again when prompted for attendee ID.

**Observe** the live meeting virtually. Click on the following link and register to join the meeting online:

**Register to speak and/or submit a comment** on an agenda item.

- Contact: **Tannia Ruiz**
- At: **602-495-5215** or [tannia.ruiz@phoenix.gov](mailto:tannia.ruiz@phoenix.gov)
- By: October 26, 2022
- Indicate: agenda item number, first and last name, email address
- If registered to speak, click on the link above at the time of the meeting to join the event and speak when called upon.

**Per the most recent social distancing guidelines from the federal government, no residents will be allowed to attend the meeting in-person.**

A complete packet of meeting materials will be posted 48 hours prior to the meeting at <https://www.phoenix.gov/parks>.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1.	Call to Order –	Dorina Bustamante, Chair
2.	INFORMATION ITEM(S): Information items will be provided to the Board in writing and are not intended for formal presentation unless otherwise requested by a Board member or required for future policy consideration.	
	a. Margaret T. Hance Park Update	Alonso Avitia
	b. Code of Conduct Update	Jarod Rogers
3.	CONSENT ITEM(S): Consent items will be <b>provided to the Board in writing and are not intended for formal presentation.</b> Consent items may be voted on collectively, unless a Board member requests that any item be voted on separately. The chairperson may direct staff to formally present any consent item. These items are for possible action.	
	a. Parks and Recreation Board Summary Minutes- September 29, 2022	Tannia Ruiz
	b. New Requests to Vend at City Parks	Joe Diaz

4.	INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM(S): Information and discussion items will be presented verbally to the Parks Board and are for discussion only. No action will take place on these items at this meeting.	
a.	Phoenix Trails and Heat Safety Program Update	Jarod Rogers
5.	DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM(S): Discussion and Possible Action items are for information, discussion and possible action.	
a.	John F. & Mary P. Long Homestead Park Activation Update and Request to Adopt Park Hours	Jan Sherwood
6.	CALL TO THE PUBLIC – Citizens are provided time to make statements to the Board. <i>(Those desiring to make a statement should have informed staff in advance of the meeting by following the instructions on this notice.)</i> We welcome citizen input; however, items brought to the Board’s attention cannot be discussed unless they are listed as an agenda item. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to requesting staff to study the matter or rescheduling the matter for further consideration and/or decision at a later date.	Dorina Bustamante, Chair
7.	BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – The Chairperson will verbally present comments or requests to the Board <b>without Board discussion.</b>	Dorina Bustamante, Chair
8.	BOARD COMMENTS/REQUESTS – The Chairperson will entertain Board member comments or requests <b>without Board discussion.</b>	Dorina Bustamante, Chair
9.	DIRECTOR’S BRIEFING – Briefing items will be verbally presented to the Board by the Director or designee <b>without Board discussion.</b>	Cynthia Aguilar, Director
10.	Adjournment	Dorina Bustamante, Chair

For further information or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Tannia Ruiz, Management Assistant I, Parks and Recreation Department at 602-495-5215 or TTY: 7-1-1.

October 24, 2022



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** October 27, 2022

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** MARGARET T. HANCE PARK UPDATE

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This report provides an update to the Parks and Recreation Board on the status of Margaret T. Hance Park (Hance Park) Master Plan implementation.

## DISCUSSION

### **Update**

Staff continues to communicate with key stakeholders around Hance Park regarding the Hance Park Garden (Garden) construction on the west side of the park, joint repair activity and turf repairs.

In September 2022, 120,000 square feet of Bermuda sod was installed to remediate the turf condition as a result of the joint repairs and in preparation for the upcoming event season on the east side of the park. The turf was successfully remediated and overseeded. Overseed was also completed on the west side of the park.

Construction of the Garden continues and is scheduled to be completed in January 2023 in time for Super Bowl LVII. Trees were planted in September with more expected to be planted in mid-October. Additional shrub tagging was also completed to meet the quantity needs of the garden. At this time, the Garden is 50% complete.

Other improvements are progressing throughout the park as well. Central Avenue bridge lighting upgrades have been completed, and work was completed in the courtyard to address problematic pavers.

In addition, staff continues to work with ADOT to address ongoing issues with water getting into ADOT work areas. To help address this the irrigation schedule has been reduced to minimize the amount of water being used.

Staff continue to work with City contractors HargreavesJones and Haydon to identify elements of the Master Plan for potential phasing of projects as additional sponsorships are obtained.

## BACKGROUND

On April 28, 2016, the board approved the refined Hance Park Master Site Plan and in October 2017, HargreavesJones (HJLA) began the design for the redevelopment of

Hance Park, estimated to cost a total of \$100 million. A public open house was held in May 2018, and on April 3, 2019, the City Council approved a contract with Haydon Building Corp. (Haydon) to perform preconstruction services using a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) delivery method.

On Aug. 15, 2019, the board approved the first sponsorship agreement for Hance Park: a \$2 million donation from the Fiesta Bowl towards construction of the Fiesta Bowl PLAY at Hance Park. On July 13, 2021, the Board approved the second sponsorship agreement for Hance Park: a \$2 million donation from Republic Services Charitable Foundation, the charitable arm of Republic Services, towards construction of the Garden at Hance Park.

Since its initial board approval in 2016, the Parks and Recreation Department has been working to execute the refined Hance Park Master Plan. The Hance Park Partner Coalition, comprised of the Parks and Recreation Department, Hance Park Conservancy and Phoenix Community Alliance, hired a professional fundraiser to assist in the development of a capital campaign to raise \$30-45 million in private funding, which will complete Phase 1 of the plan.

An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) was created to repair the bridge joints beneath the park as construction of the park takes place. Coordination is ongoing with ADOT, Haydon and the City regarding maintenance and repair of tunnel bridge joints underneath the park. Haydon completed two joint repairs on the west side of the park in November 2021. To coincide with Phase 1B, the garden construction, joint repairs were completed in early June and security fencing adjusted to increase pedestrian accessibility in the park. Additionally, joint repairs on the east side of the park resumed in June 2022.

Following a \$2 million sponsorship from the Republic Services Charitable Foundation secured by the Phoenix Community Alliance, the Parks and Recreation Department is proceeding with construction of the garden, as planned in Phase 1B. The garden will be located immediately west of Central Avenue and north of the Irish Cultural Center. The garden will include trees, benches, shade canopy, flowing shrubs and succulents, natural surface walking paths and LED security lighting.

### RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

Prepared by: Kat Mase, (Delegate) Deputy Director

Approved by: Martin Whitfield, Assistant Director



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** October 27, 2022

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATE

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

### BACKGROUND

In October 2019, following a series of 13 community meetings to gather public input about problematic behaviors in parks and proposed solutions and discussions at five board meetings, the board approved staff to move forward with the implementation of a Code of Conduct for parks and park facilities.

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

In October 2020, City staff provided the board with an update regarding Code of Conduct implementation, which had been on hold. At that meeting, the board requested monthly updates regarding implementation and numbers of educational contacts and trespass notices.

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

### DISCUSSION

#### **Educational Contacts and Trespass Notices**

Staff continues to educate the community and park guests regarding the Code of Conduct. At the board's request, the number of educational contacts made by staff in the field and the number of trespass notices issued are tracked and reported to the board monthly.

Parks and Recreation Department staff are also installing Code of Conduct signage throughout the park system to assist with public education. Sign installation has been completed in 41 parks. Installations continue with a goal of installing all signs by the end of 2022.

From Sept. 4 to Sept. 25, approximately 566 educational contacts were made by staff. During the same period, (22) trespass notices were issued by Park Rangers. The (22) trespass notices issued during this period were for offenses related to the following: loitering in a park after hours (7), drugs (5), smoking (2), shopping cart (2), unlawful conduct (3), storing belongings (1), obstruction (1) and ramada use (1).

At the time of this report, (0) notices have been issued to juveniles with no citations, and no appeals have been received.

The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to provide standing monthly updates as requested by the board. The following is a summary of the number of educational contacts made in 2022.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Educational Contacts</b>	<b>Number of Trespass Notices Issued Involving Illegal Activity/PD</b>
Week of Sept. 25	116	3
Week of Sept. 18	161	7
Week of Sept. 11	163	3
Week of Sept. 4	126	9
Week of Aug. 28	97	7
Week of Aug. 21	167	9
Week of Aug. 14	167	4
Week of Aug. 7	133	15
Week of July 31	183	2
Week of July 24	119	11
Week of July 17	158	8
Week of July 10	90	7
Week of July 3	52	5
Week of June 26	191	3
Week of June 19	163	8
Week of June 12	203	0
Week of June 5	237	0
Week of May 29	52	0
Week of May 22	164	1
Week of May 15	336	6
Week of May 8	501	0
Week of May 1	362	0

Week of April 24	485	14
Week of April 17	461	0
Week of April 10	415	0
Week of April 3	401	35
Week of March 27	635	15
Week of March 20	305	1
Week of March 13	540	1
Week of March 6	560	2
Week of Feb. 27	590	1
Week of Feb. 20	601	2
Week of Feb. 13	584	0
Week of Feb. 6	483	1
Week of Jan. 30	568	0
Week of Jan. 23	409	0
Week of Jan. 16	711	5
Week of Jan. 9	301	2
Week of Jan. 2	430	2

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

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

Prepared by: Jarod Rogers, Deputy Director

Approved by: Tracee Hall, Assistant Director

**CITY OF PHOENIX  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
SUMMARY MINUTES  
September 29, 2022**

Virtual meeting hosted on WebEx.

**Board Members Present**

Dorina Bustamante, Chair  
Aubrey Barnwell  
Kelly Dalton  
Michael Lieb  
Tony Moya  
Sarah Porter  
Ed Zuercher

**Staff Present**

Cynthia Aguilar  
Tracee Hall  
Martin Whitfield  
Patricia Boland  
Becky Kirk  
Scott Coughlin  
Sara Del Valle  
Tannia Ruiz

**Community Members**

**Board Members Absent**

None

Board Member Lieb joined the voting body at 5:03 p.m.  
Board Member Porter joined the voting body at 5:06 p.m.  
Board Member Dalton joined the voting body at 5:06 p.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bustamante called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

**2. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2a. Margaret T. Hance Park Update**

Information only. No Board Member requested additional information.

**2b. Code of Conduct Update**

Information only. No Board Member requested additional information.

**3. CONSENT ITEMS**

Items 3a-3i were for consent action. No presentations were planned, but staff was available to answer questions.

Board Member Moya asked if there was a conflict of interest to vote for item 3b since he was the Chair of the Board of Directors for Chicanos Por La Causa.

Assistant Chief Council Patricia Boland indicated that Board Member Moya could still vote because he was not employed by Chicanos Por La Causa.

- 3a. Parks and Recreation Board Summary Minutes- August 25, 2022**
- 3b. Chicanos Por La Causa Sponsorship for Maryvale Community Center**
- 3c. Dream Court Donation from Nancy Lieberman Charities at Winifred Green Park**
- 3d. 2022-2023 Grant Renewal for FitLot Programming**
- 3e. New Requests to Vend in City Parks**
- 3f. Heritage Sub-Tenant Agreement for Teeter Carriage House**
- 3g. Super Bowl LVII Festival at Margaret T. Hance Park**
- 3h. Request to Award Contract for Fixed Concessions at Sports Complexes**
- 3i. Phoenix Revitalization Corporation Sponsorship for the Goelet A.C. Community Center**

Board Member Barnwell made a motion to approve consent items 3a through 3i. Board Member Zuercher seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 7-0.

#### **4. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM**

##### **4a. Aquatics Update**

Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Scott Coughlin introduced the item and Aquatics Supervisor Becky Kirk.

Ms. Kirk described the Parks and Recreation Aquatics program with a review on the 2022 swim season. Ms. Kirk discussed the 2023 swim season priorities, recruitment timeline and compensation research.

Chair Bustamante noted her appreciation for the presentation and opened the floor for board member comments.

Board Member Lieb acknowledge the department and their recruitment efforts.

Board Member Porter stated that she read an article regarding converting pools into splash pads.

Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Aguilar explained the proposed General Obligation Bond projects to develop regional pools and convert nearby smaller pools into splash pads to expand aquatic amenity availability.

Chair Bustamante stated that consolidating aging pools was great idea and asked if shallow water lifeguards would be needed.

Ms. Aguilar noted that shallow water lifeguards could be utilized in shallow areas of the swimming pools and that staff was looking into the possibility of extending the splash pad season.

Board Member Porter recognized the City's lifeguards and the Parks and Recreation Department staff who provide their training.

Board Member Zuercher agreed with Board Member Porter. He asked how many staff would need to be hired for the next swim season.

Ms. Aguilar stated that it typically took 650 employees to staff 29 facilities.

Ms. Kirk added that this year the department started 415 aquatics employees and ended the season with 384 employees.

Board Member Zuercher stated the importance of prioritizing swim lesson availability for those individuals that want swim lessons.

Board Member Moya discussed the time it would take to convert area pools to splash pads and his concerns regarding the lack of competitive wages for aquatics staff.

Ms. Aguilar acknowledged Board Member Moya's points and stated that staff would be presenting an Aquatics Program update to City Council subcommittee this week, including a discussion on wages. She mentioned that other cities had recently raised their wages and explained that the department was exploring options to remain competitive.

Board Member Zuercher stated that he would like the subcommittee to be aware that the Parks and Recreation Board was in favor of City action on wages.

Ms. Aguilar noted that staff would inform the subcommittee that the board was supportive to raise wages.

Chair Bustamante stated that excellent points were made.

**5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

**6. BOARD CHAIRPERSONS REPORT**

Chair Bustamante highlighted upcoming events at the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, Steele Indian School Park, and Washington Activity Center.

**7. BOARD COMMENTS/REQUESTS**

Board Member Zuercher acknowledged Board Member Lieb's service and commitment to Parks and Recreation Department, noting his contributions to the department's golf amenity offerings and ensuring accessibility to the sport.

Chair Bustamante agreed that golf was one of the great examples of Board Member Lieb's contributions.

Board Member Lieb expressed appreciation for the recognition and stated that he loved being part of the board.

**8. DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING**

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Tracee Hall announced the opening of the Papago Park Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessible Dock and provided an update on the Cesar Chavez Community Center and park maintenance.

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Martin Whitfield described improvements at Vernell Coleman Recreation Center, which included new paint and lighting, as well as upgrades to bathroom and teen room.

Ms. Aguilar gave the committee updates on the Parks and Recreation General Obligation Bond Subcommittee. She discussed the National Recreation Parks Association Annual Conference that staff attended the week prior. She thanked Board Member Lieb for his service and announced the reopening of Cholla Trail.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bustamante adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** October 27, 2022

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** NEW REQUESTS TO VEND IN CITY PARKS

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This report requests Parks and Recreation Board approval of requests for vending at upcoming events being held in City parks.

### BACKGROUND

Phoenix parks are reserved throughout the year for various events. Many events are produced by an event coordinator or community partners, and some are public events sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department. Some events are free to the public, while others require a registration fee. Some of the events charge booth entry fees to vendors who sell food and/or products to attendees. Producers who rent City parks and facilities are required to follow all City guidelines, including obtaining all applicable permits and licenses.

Vending, which is a typical component of events in parks, can also consist of selling admission, food and beverages, t-shirts or other concessions for fundraising purposes. Per Phoenix City Charter and Phoenix City Code 24-40, the board must approve commercial sales/vending in public parks. Each year, the Parks and Recreation Department brings the board an annual report requesting approval of all known requests for vending in parks; however, staff also receives requests for vending throughout the year, such as the two requests below, and brings them to the board for approval.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Voter Registration (Cesar Chavez Park: Oct. 8)**

Gizette Knight hosted a voter registration event from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event was intended to build support in the community for voting and featured voter registration booths and three food trucks. Retroactive approval is requested for this event, as the request was submitted with less than 30 days notice.

#### **Miccailhuitl Izkaloteka – Dia de los Muertos Traditional Celebration (Barrios Unidos Park: Nov. 5)**

Tonatierra has requested to host a community Dia de los Muertos traditional celebration from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Barrios Unidos Park. The event is intended to support the culture and heritage associated with Dia de los Muertos and will feature community food booths, vendors and music. The estimated attendance of this event is 250 people.

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends board approval of the above requests for vending at Cesar Chavez Park and Barrios Unidos Park.

Prepared by: Joe Diaz, Deputy Director

Approved by: Tracee Hall, Assistant Director



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** October 27, 2022

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Director

**Subject:** PHOENIX TRAILS AND HEAT SAFETY PROGRAM UPDATE

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This joint report by the Parks and Recreation Department and Phoenix Fire Department provides information gathered during the summer 2022 Phoenix Trails and Heat Safety Program.

### BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Board, per the City Charter Chapter XXII, is the proper authority to take action to close or restrict trail access. Due to concerns for the safety of the public and first responders related to hiking and mountain rescues during extreme temperatures, in 2021 the board initiated a pilot program and then instituted a policy calling for the closure of some hiking trails on extreme heat days.

The Phoenix Fire Department conducts a great number of mountain rescues each year. When temperatures are extreme, a mountain rescue which started due to a particular type of medical emergency (e.g., sprained ankle, leg injury, etc.) may also result in a heat-related emergency due to the amount of time necessary to complete the rescue. Most mountain rescues occur during the midday hours, and mountain rescues in extreme temperatures regularly result in heat-related emergencies for patients and firefighters.

The Phoenix trail system follows a recognized countywide rating system ranging from easiest (green circle) to extremely strenuous and difficult (double black diamond). Rescues with a higher level of trail difficulty in mountain parks and preserves, such as Camelback Mountain Preserve - Echo Canyon and Cholla Trail and the Piestewa Summit Trail and connecting trails at Phoenix Mountains Preserve - Piestewa Peak, provide for more challenging rescues for firefighters, especially on high temperature days. In a typical year, more than 50 percent of mountain rescues occur on Camelback Mountain and Piestewa Peak.

Strenuous physical activities in high temperatures during long and even short durations can cause heat stroke, heart attack and/or arrhythmias, and neurological, circulatory and respiratory issues. For first responders, the risk is further elevated as they are required to wear 40 pounds of emergency medical equipment, personal protective equipment and communication equipment.

During the Pilot Program, which ran from July 16, 2021 to Sept. 30, 2021, trail restrictions were enacted at Echo Canyon-Camelback Mountain and the Piestewa

Summit Trail and all associated trails at Phoenix Mountains Preserve. The Pilot Program closed trails from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Its duration was 77 days, and during this span, partial trail closures were enacted on eight of the 77 days.

The Echo Canyon and Cholla Trails at Camelback Mountain and the Piestewa Summit Trail and all associated trails at Phoenix Mountains Preserve were included in the Heat Safety Program because they exhibit all three of the following factors:

- The trails are generally busier than other trails
- The trails are more popular with out-of-town visitors
- The trails are more difficult to facilitate mountain rescues from

While trails were restricted at Camelback Mountain and Piestewa Peak, most City of Phoenix trails remained open during Heat Warning events. Below is a total of miles of Mountain Preserves and Parks trails that remained open during Heat Warnings:

Park / Preserve Location	Miles of Trails
Deem Hills	13+
Shadow Mountain	2+
Shaw Butte / North Mountain	8+
Papago Park	10
Phoenix Sonoran Preserve	49+
Piestewa Peak	16+
South Mountain Park / Preserve	114+
Lookout Mountain	3+
Total	Over 215 miles

## DISCUSSION

The summer of 2022 was the first full season of the Heat Safety Program. Like the pilot during the summer of 2022, the following measures were implemented:

- Trails were closed from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Camelback Mountain Preserve-Echo Canyon (Cholla Trail was previously closed but reopened on Sept. 30) and all associated trails and trailheads at Phoenix Mountains Preserve - Piestewa Peak on Excessive Warning Heat days from May 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2022.
- The National Weather Service (NWS) is the official agency for providing temperature forecasts when identifying Excessive Heat Warning days on which trail closures are implemented.
- Information on closures was communicated to the public through published press releases and posting information onsite, online and on social media. Staff also communicated this information as part of the "Take a Hike. Do it Right." campaign message to local hotels and resorts.
- Staff closed parking lot gates, where gates exist, and post signage noting trail closures between 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to close affected trails. Park Rangers were also visible at busier trailheads.

The Parks and Recreation Department continued to prioritize safety on Phoenix trails. These efforts included the “Take a Hike. Do it Right.” campaign, which incorporates improved and consistent safety messaging posted onsite at the summit trailheads, on the department’s website and shared via news media coverage and social media. Additionally, the department communicated with surrounding resorts about Heat Warning Days to support safety messaging to visiting guests who were not as familiar with the hiking environment in Phoenix. Park Rangers were also deployed to increase visibility at busier trailhead access points to perform education and outreach reminding potential hikers of the heat risk and provide safety tips and water if needed. The second season of the Trails and Heat Safety Program ran from May 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2022 for a duration of 153 days. There were 18 National Weather Service issued Heat Warning Days and, therefore, 18 resulting trail closure days. Trail restrictions were enacted at Echo Canyon-Camelback Mountain and the Piestewa Summit Trail and all associated trails from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There were 135 days that were not affected by closures during the program span.

There were eight rescues that occurred on four trail closure days. A total of three of these rescues happened well before or after the closure hours on their respective days (6:35 a.m. on June 8, 5:30 a.m. on July 16 and 7:20 p.m. on July 22). On June 9, there were three individual rescues that occurred at 10:55 a.m., 11:40 a.m. and 12:35 p.m. This illustrates that some hikers get on the trail just before the 11 a.m. trail closure and then find themselves in a dangerous situation as conditions become more extreme the further they get into their hike.

The current Heat Safety Program focuses on the months from May to September as most Heat Warnings occur in those months. However, in 2020, there were five Heat Warning Days issued by the NWS during the month of April (April 26 to 30). As the current program does not affect days outside of May to October, these days would not have resulted in a closure, despite the popularity of April as a busy tourist month.

As part of the Heat Safety Program, the Phoenix Fire Department worked to collect the following data:

**Attachment A** – Mountain Rescues for the Four Busiest Parks

**Attachment B** – Mountain Rescues for All Preserves

**Attachment C** – Rescues by Hour – Camelback and Piestewa

Beginning with the year prior to the inception of the Heat Safety program and including the two years the program was in effect, the data shows a decrease in rescues.

For the years 2020 to 2022, the number of rescues were as follows:

2020 – 99 rescues

2021 – 81 rescues (18 percent decrease from 2020)

2022 – 74 rescues (9 percent decrease from 2021)

Trail counter data also demonstrates how people access the trails just prior to the trail closure time on a heat warning day. This can lead to rescues during the trail closures which may have been avoided if the trail restrictions were put into effect earlier in the day.

Phoenix Fire staff have indicated interest in further refining the Trails and Heat Safety Program to improve the safety of both trail users and first responders. Fire staff recommends continuing trail restrictions as previously outlined but with the following two adjustments: (1) initiate a closure on any day the National Weather Service issues an Excessive Heat Warning at Echo Canyon and Cholla Trail at Camelback Mountain Preserve and at the Piestewa Peak Summit Trail and associated trails at the Phoenix Mountains Preserve and (2) begin the closures two hours earlier so closures would be in effect from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Parks and Recreation staff plan to collaborate with Phoenix Fire staff to engage with community members and trail users to gather their input and feedback about these recommended changes before returning to the Parks and Recreation Board with a final recommendation in 2023. These engagement efforts will include posting information about the potential changes on the City's website and social media and distributing a community survey to gather feedback on these proposed changes. Information about and on how to access the survey will be posted on the City's website, on social media and at trailheads.

### RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information and discussion. In October of each year, Parks and Recreation and Fire staff will jointly provide an update to the board on the Heat Safety Program.

Prepared by: Tracee Hall, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director  
Mark Gonzales, Assistant Fire Chief

Approved by: Cynthia Aguilar, Parks and Recreation Director  
Scott Walker, Executive Assistant Fire Chief

## Mountain Rescues

Hour of Reported	2020				Total
	Camelback Mountain	Papago Park	Piestewa Peak	South Mountain	
0					
1					
4					
5			1		1
6	1		2	4	7
7	1		1	6	8
8	1	1	1	6	9
9	1	2		3	6
10	3		1	2	6
11	1		4	9	14
12	3	1	2	5	11
13	3	1	2	2	8
14	3			1	4
15	1			2	3
16			2	1	3
17			1	1	2
18		3	1	2	6
19	2		2	2	6
20		1	1	1	3
21				1	1
23	1				1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>99</b>

Filtered by MTNRES nature codes.

Filtered by incidents reported at Camelback Mountain, Papago Park, Piestewa Peak and South Mountain.

Incident must have dispatched time.

01/01/2020 - 09/30/2022

May, June, July, August and September months only.

## Mountain Rescues

Hour of Reported	2021				Total
	Camelback Mountain	Papago Park	Piestewa Peak	South Mountain	
0					
1					
4			1		1
5	1	1	1	1	4
6	2		2	2	6
7	3		1		4
8		3	4	2	9
9	2		5		7
10	5			1	6
11			1	3	4
12	3	1	3	2	9
13	7			3	10
14	3		1	1	5
15	3			2	5
16	2				2
17	1		1		2
18	1	1			2
19		1	1	1	3
20					
21	1			1	2
23					
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>81</b>

Filtered by MTNRES nature codes.

Filtered by incidents reported at Camelback Mountain, Papago Park, Piestewa Peak and South Mountain.

Incident must have dispatched time.

01/01/2020 - 09/30/2022

May, June, July, August and September months only.

## Mountain Rescues

Hour of Reported	2022				Total
	Camelback Mountain	Papago Park	Piestewa Peak	South Mountain	
0				1	1
1				1	1
4					
5					
6	1		1	2	4
7			3		3
8	1		2	4	7
9	3		1	1	5
10	4		3	1	8
11	7		3	1	11
12			2	4	6
13	4			2	6
14	3		1	1	5
15	1		1	2	4
16	2				2
17		1			1
18			2	2	4
19	1			2	3
20	1			1	2
21					
23					
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>73</b>

Filtered by MTNRES nature codes.

Filtered by incidents reported at Camelback Mountain, Papago Park, Piestewa Peak and South Mountain.

Incident must have dispatched time.

01/01/2020 - 09/30/2022

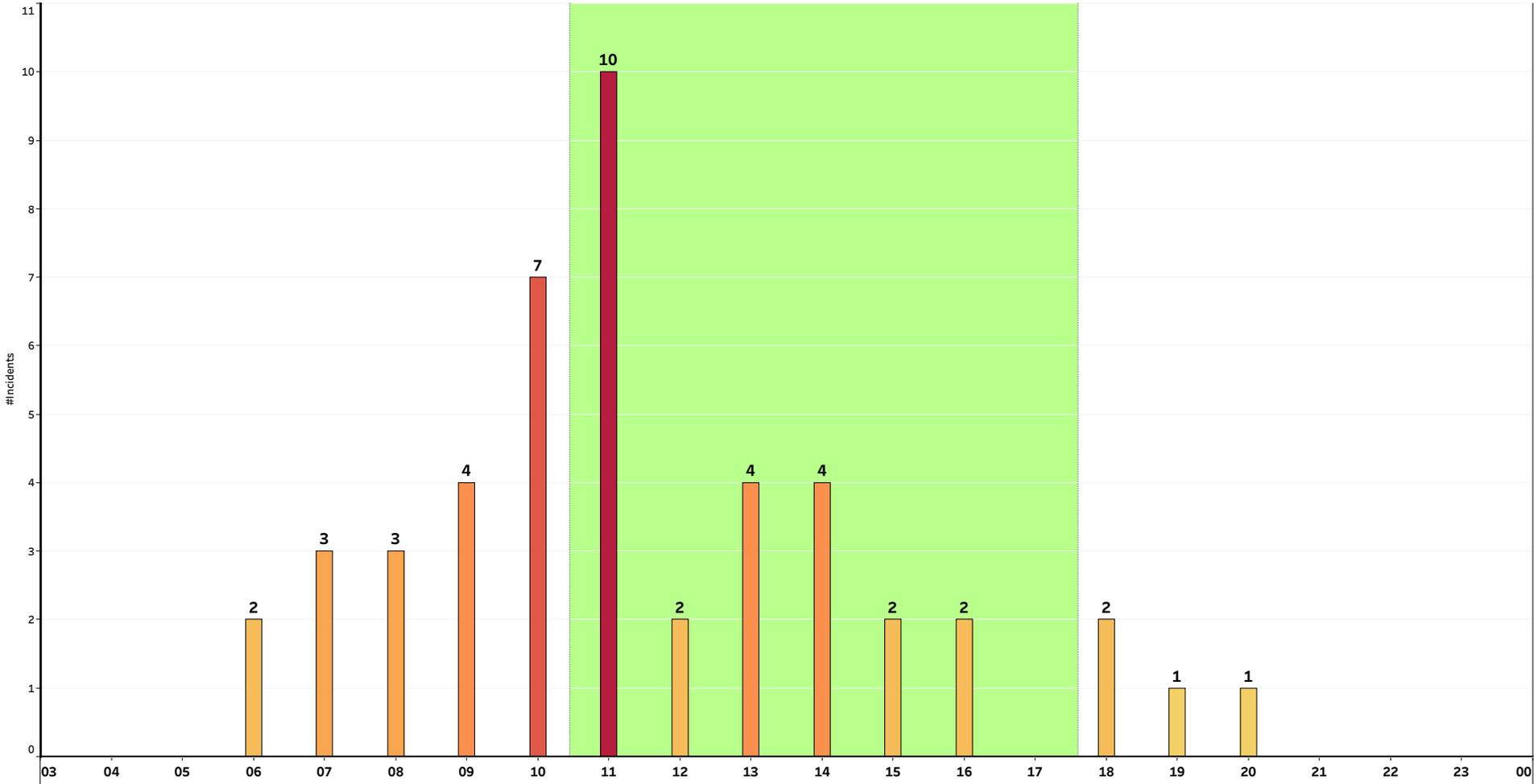
May, June, July, August and September months only.

## Mountain Rescues

	2022									Grand Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
Camelback Mountain	4		6	7	6	6	5	8	3	45
Deem Hills Recreation Area					1					1
North Mountain & Shaw Butte	1		1	1	3	1	4	2		13
Papago Park	1	3		5				1		10
Piestewa Peak & Dreamy Draw Recreation Area	2	6	5	8	1	3	5	6	4	40
Sonoran Preserve	2		2						1	5
South Mountain Park/Preserve	7	4	6	6	3	3	7	6	6	48

Filtered by MTNRES nature codes.  
 Incident must have dispatched time.  
 01/01/2022 - 09/30/2022

Mountain Rescues/Hour - Camelback Mountain and Piestewa Peak  
(05/01/2022 - 09/30/2022)



Filtered by MTNRES nature codes.  
Filtered by incidents reported at Camelback Mountain and Piestewa Peak.  
Incident must have dispatched time.  
05/01/2022 - 09/30/2022



**To:** Parks and Recreation Board

**Date:** October 27, 2022

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar, Parks Director

**Subject:** John F. & Mary P. Long Homestead Park Activation Update and Request to Adopt Park Hours

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This report provides an update on park activation efforts at John F. & Mary P. Long Homestead Park and requests Parks and Recreation Board approval to adopt permanent park hours of 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### BACKGROUND

Homestead Park is a five-acre park located at 2602 W. Glendale Ave. Park amenities include a playground, ramada, restroom, open play area, benches, grills, a WalkPHX path and a community garden.

On April 28, 2022, the board approved a six-month modification of the hours at Homestead Park from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. to the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. This was in response to requests from the adjacent neighborhood and community organizations regarding persistent criminal activity at Homestead Park. Staff have been working with the community on a series of engagement activities, including special events, community meetings, ongoing outdoor recreation, and physical improvements and modifications to the park.

In the months since the park hours were modified, staff have witnessed a decrease in negative activity occurring within Homestead Park. This observation is supported by the neighborhood and by the department's Incident Reporting and Management Activities (IRMA) database. The database indicates that the six months in which hours were modified resulted in a 20 percent reduction in graffiti and vandalism and a 93 percent reduction in Code of Conduct violations related to trespassing when compared to the six months preceding the hour modification pilot. Additionally, there were four arrests made in the park in the six months prior to the pilot, and none were reported during the pilot period.

During the six-month pilot, staff have continued responding to community-driven engagement efforts. Examples of these engagement activities include:

- Outdoor Park Programming – Monday through Friday
- Splash Bash Event – June 24, 2022
- Walktober Event – Oct. 15, 2022
- Trunk-or-Treat Halloween Event – Oct. 28, 2022

Staff from the Parks and Recreation Department, with assistance from other City departments, have made a variety of physical improvements to the park since the modified hours went into effect. Improvements include installation of a new emergency gate along the old Glendale Avenue entrance with signage directing patrons to the Myrtle Avenue entrance; raised portions of the southeast and southwest block walls to a six-foot grade to match the rest of the park; new wayfinding signs along 27th Avenue directing patrons to the new park entrance; new Code of Conduct signs; and a six-bed raised community garden.

### DISCUSSION

Upon receiving the board's approval, staff implemented modified park hours of 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Homestead Park by installing new signage with the modified hours and educating residents about the new hours through extensive community outreach. Outreach efforts included emailing information to the surrounding neighborhood and partner organizations, attending neighborhood meetings and updating the City's website to reflect the new hours. The community also amplified staff's efforts through their own email campaigns and by posting information on their private social media accounts.

After receiving positive feedback from the neighborhood, it is the Parks and Recreation Department's recommendation to permanently adopt the modified hours.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends board approval to permanently adopt park hours of 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Homestead Park.

Prepared by: Jan Sherwood, Deputy Director

Approved by: Martin Whitfield, Assistant Director