

HANCE PARK

Hance Park Newsletter | October 2020



FIFTH ANNUAL NOCHE EN BLANCO WILL FEATURE VIRTUAL FORMAT

On October 24 at 5 p.m., the Hance Park Conservancy will present the fifth annual Noche en Blanco fundraiser to benefit the Conservancy and help to activate Hance Park. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event will be shared in an engaging virtual format and feature live, video-streamed performances. It will also highlight the arts and culture community that surrounds the park. Donations to the Conservancy are encouraged, but not required, and it is free to view the virtual production.

Inspired by a similar "dinner in white" which began in Paris several decades ago, this is a unity dinner party celebration of the cultural diversity within the city. Participants dress in all white, share in a sunset toast, and enjoy festive multi-cultural entertainment.

Those interested in participating can visit [NocheEnBlancoAZ.com](https://www.NocheEnBlancoAZ.com) to start donating and view the live stream.



PHASE ONE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Phase one of the **Margaret T. Hance Park Revitalization Project** is in its eighth month and the transformation of the west side of the park is taking form. During this stage of the project, the 20,000-square-foot "Fiesta Bowl Play at Hance Park" play area, surrounding infrastructure and escarpment is being built. In recent weeks, crews have focused their work on constructing the climbing wall and mist water play feature. Work to plant trees and other landscaping is also underway. Construction is being managed by contractor Haydon Building Corp in coordination with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

ADDRESSING TREE ISSUES THROUGHOUT THE PARK

The City of Phoenix has partnered with HargreavesJones, an award-winning international architecture firm, to lead the redevelopment of Hance Park. As part of the project, the firm engaged a team of local and national subconsultants to evaluate the existing park, including the trees. That team includes Norris Design, a local landscape architecture firm, and Olsson Associates, a soils specialist.

The team evaluated the existing trees, the soil's organic capacity to support tree growth, soil depths relative to the freeway tunnel deck the park sits on top of and the existing irrigation system. The evaluation showed that planting soil is in generally good condition, but is shallow and not in sufficient quantity to provide substantial support to trees.

As a result, as Hance Park is redeveloped, it will be planted with trees that are placed in adequate soil depth and in soil that is organically appropriate to support new trees. Additionally, trees will have dedicated irrigation that will help roots to grow within the soil profile available above the deck. Unfortunately, these are advantages that the existing trees at Hance Park do not currently have.

Until such time as the Hance Park Revitalization Project can be fully realized, certified arborists that are part of the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department staff will continue to closely monitor the existing trees. Department staff is also developing a tree removal and planting plan for the park.



SPECIAL THANKS TO PORTLAND ON THE PARK

The Hance Park Partner Coalition would like to acknowledge the Portland on the Park Condominium Association for its assistance with installing the rooftop camera that is being used to capture the project's progress. The bird's-eye view photo of the construction site used in each month's newsletter is provided by that camera.



HANCE PARK CONSERVANCY

The Hance Park Conservancy (HPC) was established in 2010. It is a community-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is the catalyst for a new chapter of public space renewal in Phoenix.

For information about the Hance Park Conservancy, [visit our website](#).



PHOENIX COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Every great city has a great urban park, and Phoenix Community Alliance (PCA) is leading the fundraising efforts to support Hance Park as a showcase to the world of what Phoenix continues to become: a thriving, must-see, world-class city. Margaret T. Hance Park's revitalization is integral to the visible progress of our Downtown. Once completed, the Park will be a vibrant central gathering place for the Downtown community and a destination location for the entire region.

Hance Park is a 32.5 acre oasis in our Downtown, and a revitalized Park will be even more critical to the urban live, work, play, learn lifestyle as Downtown becomes denser. Here are a few statistics outlining the residential growth in the Downtown area surrounding Hance Park:

- The number of residents living Downtown is expected to grow from an estimated 12,000 in 2010 to more than 22,000 in 2022.
- More than 6,000 housing units are either under construction or in the pre-development stage, to house all those new neighbors.
- Crane counting is a new past-time Downtown, with 15 of them soaring over 10 projects.

Anticipated economic impact of the revitalization project to the city, county and state: The [2017 Hance Park Economic Impact Analysis](#) recognized the Hance Park Revitalization Project would provide more than \$6.6 billion in direct new spending over a 30-year period. Separately, a [2018 Economic Study of the Downtown Redevelopment Area \(RDA\)](#) pegged Downtown's total economic impact at \$19.1 billion annually. A few years later, these numbers are likely an understatement.

The Hance Park Partner Coalition thanks the Fiesta Bowl for the first major donation toward the Hance Park Revitalization Project. The \$2 million Fiesta Bowl legacy gift will be used specifically for the newly developed "Fiesta Bowl Play at Hance Park," which will be constructed on the west side of the park and opened in conjunction with the Fiesta Bowl's 50th Anniversary season. As part of the Fiesta Bowl's 50th Anniversary celebration, its community efforts will live on through this multi-generational playground for millions of Arizona residents and guests to enjoy.

Thanks also to other organizations supporting PCA's fundraising efforts: True North Studio, Arizona Community Foundation, DeFalco Family Foundation, Okland Construction, Dig Studio, CCBG Architects, Valley Metro, Clearway Energy and Alliance Bank of Arizona.

For more information about PCA, visit our [website](#) or contact us by e-mail via info@phoenixcommunityalliance.com.

FITPHX ANNOUNCES FALL SCHEDULE FOR FREE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

FitPHX, the city's healthy community initiative, will continue to provide free activities through a virtual platform this fall. Thanks to the sponsorship of AARP Arizona and other supporting partners, the popular Fall Into Fitness and Fitness Boot Camp series started their fall schedules in October and are being streamed using the Zoom app.

Previously offered as in-person activities in Hance Park, these programs were moved to an online format during the summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hundreds of community members took advantage of the virtual option.

The 10-week Fall Into Fitness program, presented in partnership with Energized by Exercise, started October 6 and a four-week session of Fitness Boot Camp, presented in partnership with Valley of the Sun YMCA, gets underway October 19. The fall schedule also features the new monthly Morning Yoga series, presented in partnership with Sutra Studios, that began in July and runs through December.

While the programs are free, registration is required. Registered participants will receive a unique code to virtually join the live stream via Zoom. Participants will also need to download the free Zoom app through the iTunes or Android store, or search for and download it through their internet service provider.

The Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is offering a variety of additional free virtual programs this fall. Learn more and register at Phoenix.gov/Parks.



FALL OVERSEEDING AND DOG PARK CLOSURE

The annual turf overseeding process is underway in Hance Park. Overseeding the grass with winter rye creates a pleasant, green turf year-round in the park.

Due to the overseeding, the dog park in Hance Park closed October 5 and will reopen November 20. Additionally, Thelda Williams Paw-Pup Park in downtown, 200 W. Jefferson St., will reopen October 25 following turf overseeding and maintenance.

During the closures, dog park users are encouraged to visit the dog park in Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Rd.

[Find a dog park near you.](#)



ABOUT THE HANCE PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT

The Margaret T. Hance Park Revitalization Project is a public-private partnership led by the Hance Park Partner Coalition, consisting of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department, Phoenix Community Alliance and Hance Park Conservancy. Funding for the project, estimated at \$100 million, will come from public and private sources. City of Phoenix has dedicated \$15 million of voter-approved Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative (PPPI) funds toward the project. A fundraising campaign is being led by the Phoenix Community Alliance and Hance Park Conservancy to generate private funding. That campaign is focused on raising \$45 million to continue phase one.

This newsletter, first published in December 2019, is produced by the Hance Park Partner Coalition. The Coalition encourages everyone to share it with family, friends and the organizations in which they are involved to help spread information and awareness about the project. Those who wish to receive it by e-mail can subscribe by visiting the **Hance Park Revitalization Project** website, which is also the best place to follow the latest updates about the project and park. The newsletter can also be viewed and download via that website. Questions and comments about the project can be directed to Hance.Park@Phoenix.gov.



COVID-19

Physical Distancing in Public Parks and Trails
Distanciamiento físico en parques y senderos públicos

Do not use parks and trails if you are exhibiting symptoms.
No visite los parques o senderos si tiene síntomas.

Wear a mask or face covering.
Use un cubrebocas o una cubierta facial.

Bring your own wipes and hand sanitizer.
Tráiga sus propios toallitas y desinfectante para manos.

Keep a safe distance. (6 feet or more)
Mantenga una distancia segura. (6 pies o más)

phoenix.gov/parks

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 602.262.3800

MANAGING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Being outdoors is important for health and wellness, and the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department encourages residents to get outside, get exercise and practice responsible physical distancing while exploring all that the city's parks and trails have to offer.

City of Phoenix parks, trails and golf courses have remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but use of select park amenities and sports complexes was being restricted. Following a vote by the City Council during its October 7 meeting, all amenities in city parks and sports complexes reopened effective October 8.

Guidelines about physical distancing when enjoying outdoor recreation can be found at Phoenix.gov/Parks.

Additionally, contractors/subcontractors working on the Hance Park Revitalization Project, and any construction project on city park property, are following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and working in coordination with the Office of the City Engineer to maintain a worksite-specific safety plan related to COVID-19.





ASK THE COALITION

The Hance Park Partner Coalition is committed to maintaining consistent communication with the community about the park renovation. Questions and comments should be directed to Hance.Park@Phoenix.gov. Select inquiries submitted through that e-mail address and other frequently asked questions will be answered in this new "Ask the Coalition" section of the newsletter.



**PHOENIX
COMMUNITY
ALLIANCE™**



**HANCE PARK
CONSERVANCY**



City of Phoenix
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARDON OUR DUST

The Hance Park Partner Coalition thanks park visitors and neighbors for their continued understanding and patience as the construction project progresses.

Dating to March 2020, the walking paths on the north and south edge of the west side of the park are temporarily closed. This closure is expected to last until December 2020. Due to that restriction, those wishing to connect through the park from west to east will need to use the sidewalk along Culver St. on the park's north edge, and then access the stairs or ramp near the Central Ave. bridge. Additionally, area lighting within the footprint of the project is affected, but lighting outside the construction zone is active.

The community is reminded that this is a complex project and construction timelines and park user access is subject to change, but the Hance Park Partner Coalition is committed to maintaining consistent communication. The easiest way to follow project updates is by visiting the [Hance Park Revitalization Project](#) website.



EXTENDED WORK HOURS PERMIT APPROVED

An Extended Work Hours Permit has been approved by the City of Phoenix to allow construction crews to operate on weekdays between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. Due to seasonal daytime heat, these extended hours are necessary so that crews can follow proper temperature specifications and pour concrete during the overnight hours.

This Extended Work Hours Permit gives variance to Phoenix City Code that permits construction activity from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. from October 1 to April 30. [Read additional information about Phoenix City Code as it relates to after-hours construction noise.](#)