



# Tempe Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

*Adopted - 7/1/21*







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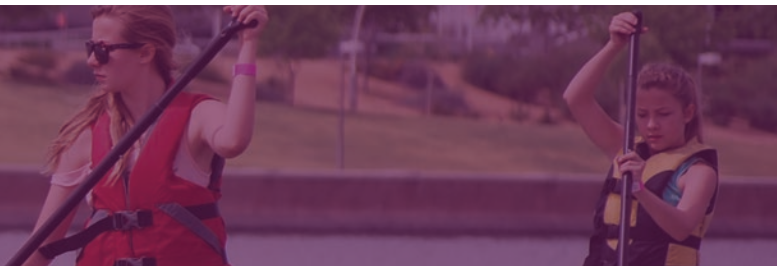
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# Executive Summary

## Background

### City of Tempe Strategic Priorities Alignment

The City of Tempe Parks and Recreation Master Plan aligns most clearly with the Tempe City Council Quality of Life Strategic Priority, and two of its Performance Measures: 3.16 and 3.17.

#### Strategic Priority #3: Quality of Life

Enhancing the quality of life for all Tempe residents and workers through investment in neighborhoods, parks, the arts, human services, and city amenities, with an emphasis on equity and diversity.

### City of Tempe Strategic Priorities & Guiding Principles



**Performance Measure 3.16:** Achieve ratings of “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with the “Quality of City parks, recreation, arts, and cultural centers” greater than or equal to the top 10% of the national benchmark cities as measured in the Community Survey.

**Performance Measure 3.17:** Achieve ratings of “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with the “Quality of Community Services programs” greater than or equal to the top 10% of the national benchmark cities as measured in the Community Survey.



## What Is A Parks and Recreation Master Plan?

A Parks and Recreation Plan is a comprehensive, long-term assessment of the Parks and Recreation System that evaluates current parks and recreation facilities, services and programs and makes recommendations to meet current and future recreation needs.

The City of Tempe Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a ten-year plan. Informed by extensive community engagement, the plan includes principles that guide short, mid- and long-term strategies and actions for the management and provision of parks and recreation facilities and programs over the next decade.



## Community Engagement

The process used to develop this plan incorporated extensive community engagement including:

- One day of [focused discussions](#) with 12 stakeholder groups representing different areas of interest.
- An English/Spanish [community-wide opt-in survey](#) with over 1,800 responses that was conducted from May 20, 2020 to July 1, 2020.
- A combination of three on-line and in-person community meetings, and presentations to multiple City of Tempe Boards and Commissions and three City Council work study sessions about the plan.
- [Project Web Page](#) with updated information and project planning documents and other information.



## Planning Process

The process used to develop the plan included:

- Demographic analysis
- [Inventory of City of Tempe park and recreation facilities](#)
- [Park classification analysis](#)
- Examining the recreation facilities and park types and amounts per capita provided by comparable jurisdictions (benchmarking)
- Identification of “best practices”
- Recreation programs needs analysis



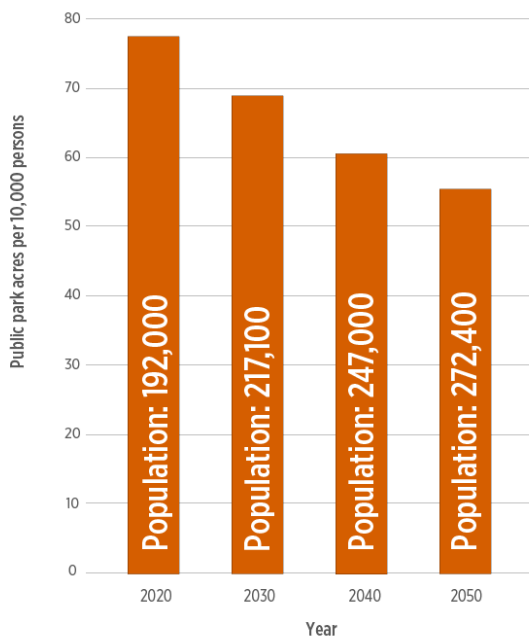
# Strategies

## Park and Recreation Facilities Level of Service (LOS)

Facility Name	Total Current Facilities	Current LOS Per 10,000	PLAN Recommended LOS Per 10,000	Total Facilities Recommended per Plan in 2020	2020 Current Need	2030 New Facilities Needed	2030-2040 Total New Facilities Needed	2040-2050 Total New Facilities Needed	2020-2050 Total New Facilities Needed	
<b>Census Est. Population 2020</b>				<b>192,000</b>		<b>217,100</b>	<b>247,000</b>	<b>272,400</b>	<b># Needed to Meet Plan LOS</b>	
Baseball / Softball / Diamond Fields	27	1.39	1.70	33	6	4	5	4	19	Provide capacity through increasing the number of lit fields and/or new construction and partnerships.
Basketball Courts	50	2.57	1.31	25	-	-	-	-	-	Consider adding new multi-use courts in urbanizing areas through public and publicly accessible private development.
Disc Golf	1	0.05	0.05	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Dog Park	6	0.31	0.45	9	3	1	1	1	6	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
Volleyball Courts	33	1.70	1.70	33	-	4	5	4	13	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
Pickleball Courts	12	0.62	1.15	22	10	3	3	3	19	Maintain capacity through shared use and/or new construction.
Racquetball Courts	24	1.24	0.80	16	-	-	-	-	-	
Skate Park	4	0.21	0.21	4	-	-	1	1	2	Provide additional capacity through increasing the number of skate parks or renovation.
Soccer / Rectangle / Multi-use Fields	37	1.91	1.91	37	-	4	6	5	15	Provide capacity through increasing the number of lit fields and/or new construction and partnerships.
Tennis Courts	51	2.63	1.45	28	-	-	-	-	-	
Tot Lots / Playgrounds	43	2.21	2.21	43	-	5	7	6	18	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
Picnic Area / Shade Element/ Ramada	81	4.17	4.17	81	-	10	12	11	33	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
Splash / Spray Pad	4	0.21	0.30	6	2	1	1	-	4	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
Swimming Pools	3	0.15	0.19	4	1	-	1	-	2	Meet capacity through expansion through renovation and/or new construction.
Community / Multi Gen Center	5	0.26	0.26	5	-	1	1	-	2	Meet capacity through expansion through renovation and/or new construction.
Fitness / Par Course	3	0.15	0.23	4	1	1	1	1	4	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.

Date Revised: 6/10/21

### Acres of Public Park per 10k Persons



## Level of Service

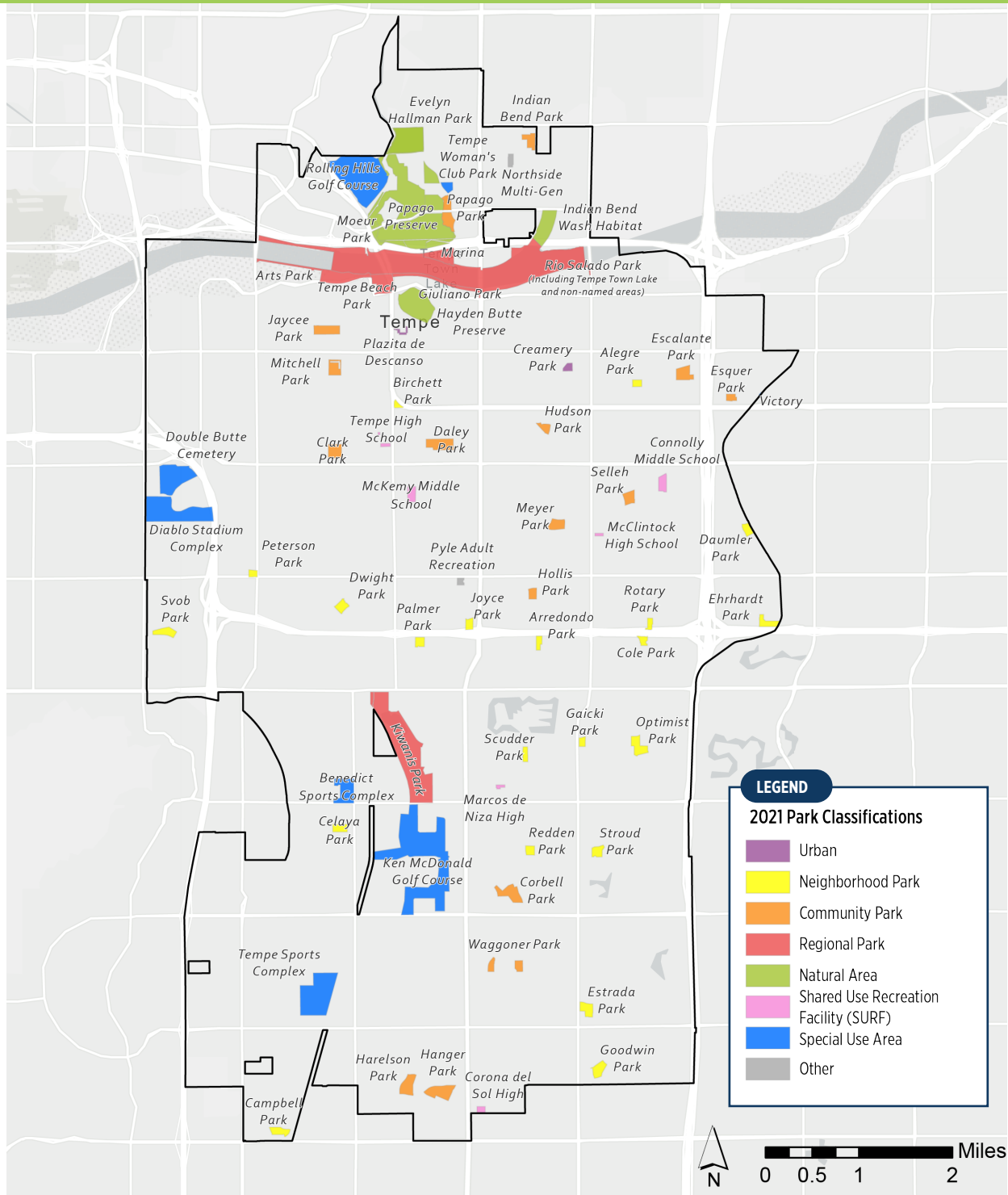
### Parks

As the city’s population increases, the acres of parks per capita will decline. City parks are already heavily utilized, and limited areas within the city are available to add additional park space.

### Facilities & Amenities

Upon review of the city’s current LOS with the Aquatic Needs Assessment Study, the Recreation Needs Assessment and consideration of the LOS provided by comparable cities, this plan recommends increasing the LOS in seven of sixteen facilities/amenities.





**Park Classifications**

A park classification system helps define how a park serves a community, and the scale of activities that are appropriate for a park. A park classification study to update the city’s park classification system was conducted as part of the planning process. This map shows the updated classifications for city parks. Updated definitions for each park class are also included in the plan.

# Principles

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is framed around four Guiding Principles:

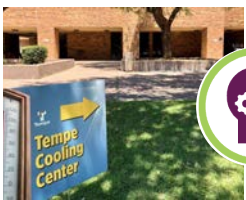


## Inclusion

Providing community access and opportunity regardless of color, gender orientation, age, income, or ability.

### Parks & Recreation Facilities & Programs that:

- Are connected to & integrated into the community.
- Meet the recreation needs of our diverse community.
- Are welcoming & designed for all.
- Are equitably distributed.
- Are accessible, ADA-compliant and affordable.
- Connect the community to multiple modes & networks of transportation.



## Resilience

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that help communities thrive despite disruptive environmental, societal, and health events.

### Parks & Recreation Facilities & Programs that:

- Foster community connections.
- Integrate into the community.
- Provide respite from extreme heat and drought.
- Are well-maintained so they are safe and clean.
- Are able to withstand increased use, mitigate flooding, & respond to unforeseen events.



## Strategic

A flexible system that focuses on continuous improvement.

### Parks & Recreation Facilities & Programs that:

- Are supported by the community.
- Expand recreation opportunities as a result of partnerships.
- Provide a critical link in the city's 20-min City Network.
- Make data driven decisions.
- Incorporate responsible and timely technological improvements.
- Recruits, develops and retains a competent focused workforce.



## Sustainability

Parks and recreation systems and services that enrich and sustain the community, nurture the environment and contribute to the economy.

### Parks & Recreation Facilities & Programs that:

- Contribute to the health of the community.
- Benefit the city's economy.
- Are well operated, designed, and maintained.
- Contribute to the city's green infrastructure.
- Provide environmental benefits.
- Minimize administration & maintenance costs without sacrificing a quality recreation experience.

# Implementation

## Park and Recreation Facility Costs Excluding Land Purchase: In Current (Inflated) Dollars

Facility	Total Current Facilities	Current LOS Per 10,000	PLAN Recommended LOS Per 10,000	Total Facilities Required per Plan in 2020	2020 Current Need	2020-2030 New Facilities Needed	2030-2040 Total New Facilities Needed	2040-2050 Total New Facilities Needed	2020-2050 Total New Facilities Needed
<b>Population Forecast</b>				<b>192,000</b>		<b>217,100</b>	<b>247,000</b>	<b>272,400</b>	
Baseball/Softball/Diamond Fields (Lighted)	27	1.39	1.70	33	\$5,187,075	\$3,892,509	\$5,891,847	\$5,802,299	\$20,773,730
Basketball Courts (Lighted)	50	2.57	1.31	25	-	-	-	-	-
Disc Golf	1	0.05	0.05	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dog Park	6	0.31	0.45	9	\$855,938	\$362,273	\$419,974	\$486,865	\$2,125,049
Volleyball Courts (Lighted)	33	1.70	1.70	33	-	\$347,782	\$503,969	\$467,390	\$1,319,141
Pickleball Courts (Lighted)	12	0.62	1.15	22	\$1,033,300	\$305,295	\$353,920	\$410,291	\$2,102,806
Racquetball Courts	24	1.24	0.80	16	-	-	-	-	-
Skate Park	4	0.21	0.21	4	-	-	\$1,343,916	\$1,557,967	\$2,901,884
Soccer/Rectangle/Multi-use Fields	37	1.91	1.91	37	-	\$3,767,641	\$6,551,592	\$6,329,243	\$16,648,476
Tennis Courts (Lighted)	51	2.63	1.45	28	-	-	-	-	-
Tot Lots / Playgrounds	43	2.21	2.21	43	-	\$3,622,731	\$5,879,634	\$5,842,378	\$15,344,743
Picnic Area / Shade Element / Ramada	81	4.17	4.17	81	-	\$652,092	\$907,144	\$963,992	\$2,523,228
Splash / Spray Pad	4	0.21	0.30	6	\$3,000,000	\$1,738,911	\$2,015,875	-	\$6,754,786
Swimming Pool	3	0.15	0.19	4	\$10,850,000	-	\$14,581,493	-	\$25,431,493
Community/Multi Gen Center (30,000 SF)	5	0.26	0.26	5	-	\$18,867,186	\$21,872,239	-	\$40,739,425
Fitness / Par Course	3	0.15	0.23	4	\$183,325	\$144,909	\$167,990	\$113,771	\$609,994
<b>Totals</b>					<b>\$21,109,638</b>	<b>\$33,701,329</b>	<b>\$60,489,592</b>	<b>\$21,974,196</b>	<b>\$137,274,754</b>

## Implementation

The total estimated cost of park and recreation facilities by decade is shown on the table. These costs represent typical unit costs and may not include other factors, such as costs associated with historic preservation, sustainability, etc. The current 2020 demand for baseball and softball fields and fitness/par course equipment is included in the 2020-2030 cost estimates. For the 2020-2030 decade, approximately 17% of forecasted construction costs of \$55 million are related to the development of baseball/softball/diamond lit fields to address the current deficit of six fields, plus an additional four fields related to population growth through 2030. From 2030 through 2040, the primary facility costs are related to the construction of two community centers. Over this time period, approximately 43% of all park and recreation facility costs are for the development of the community and multi gen centers.

All cost estimates assume that any new facilities will be built in existing parks; costs exclude any purchase of additional park land. In addition, the costs outlined in the Park and Recreation Facility Costs (Excluding Land Purchase) table represent expected capital costs of development and do not include the cost of operation or maintenance of the facilities.



Kiwanis Tennis Center

## Funding Sources

Revenue for the construction of Tempe park and recreation facilities come from three sources:

- General obligation bonds
- Development impact fees
- Grants

Additional Funding Sources include:

- Public-private partnerships
- User fees
- Dedicated sales tax
- Lodging, restaurant & bar dedicated sales tax



# Introduction

## About This Plan

Parks and recreation facilities and programs contribute to Tempe's quality of life, economy, environment, and the health of its community and visitors. This plan offers guiding principles and strategies which support the city's strategic priorities and guide the provision of city parks and recreation facilities and programs that equitably accommodate the needs and desires of the community and provide ample capacity for future population growth.

## Planning Context

During this planning process, the world was struck by the coronavirus global pandemic and issues of social equity and systemic racism have become increasingly evident. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the country's most devastating pandemic in modern history, was officially declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020 by the World Health Organization and continues to be a major global pandemic during the finalization of this report. As stated by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), and confirmed locally, parks are essential, especially during a health crisis. A recent survey found that 83% of adults find exercising at local parks and open spaces is essential to maintaining their mental and physical health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the inexcusable death of George Floyd elevated issues of systemic racism and discrimination to the national and local forefront. This, along with other social equity issues, economic justice, as well as cultural, social, and political forces at play, will undoubtedly affect change in parks, open spaces, and recreation systems in ways beyond those possibly anticipated, or than we could project, during this planning effort. City parks, recreation facilities and programs will continue to play an essential role in providing access to inclusive, equitable and safe options for Tempe's diverse community, staff and visitors.



## Benefits of Parks & Recreation

Parks and recreation programs and facilities provide social equity, economic, environmental, & health benefits to the Tempe community, its businesses, and visitors. Additionally, city parks and recreation facilities meet various community needs, and provide a safe and accessible green space for outdoor recreation activities and nature exploration which is fundamental for a sustainable urban lifestyle.

### Social Benefits

People use parks and recreation programs and facilities to connect with one another - through play, organized events, shared experiences, and informal interactions. A survey conducted as part of this master plan process found that almost 2/3 of the respondents said they made new friends as a result of their activities at parks and participation in recreation activities.

### Equity Benefits

Parks provide an opportunity for everyone to experience the physical and mental health, environmental, and social interaction benefits they provide.

The [NRPA](#) promotes equity as “Ensuring all people have fair and just access to the benefits of high-quality parks and green spaces, recreation facilities, youth sports and programs that create healthy, resilient and economically vibrant communities.”

### Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation contribute to our economy. [Tempe’s Tourism Office](#) found that in 2018, 16% of the city’s tourism supported jobs were in recreation, and visitors spent \$103 million on recreation.

## Environmental Benefits

Parks and recreation are a part of a community's green infrastructure. A [2017 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) report](#) states that green infrastructure partnerships between park and other agencies can improve access to park lands, better manage storm water, increase community resiliency to shifting weather patterns, and provide new funding sources for parks. Green infrastructure can also help to achieve equity when carefully considered and controls are in place to prevent gentrification. The National Parks & Recreation Association (NRPA) [Green Infrastructure in Parks Guide](#) states, "Parks provide ideal opportunities for green infrastructure as they are often already highly visible, multifunctional public spaces that typically include green elements... Incorporating green infrastructure into parks can bring wide-reaching improvements to neighborhoods. Focusing green infrastructure-based park development and redevelopment efforts in underserved areas where the need is often the greatest will ensure the impact has social equity benefits as well as environmental and economic value."

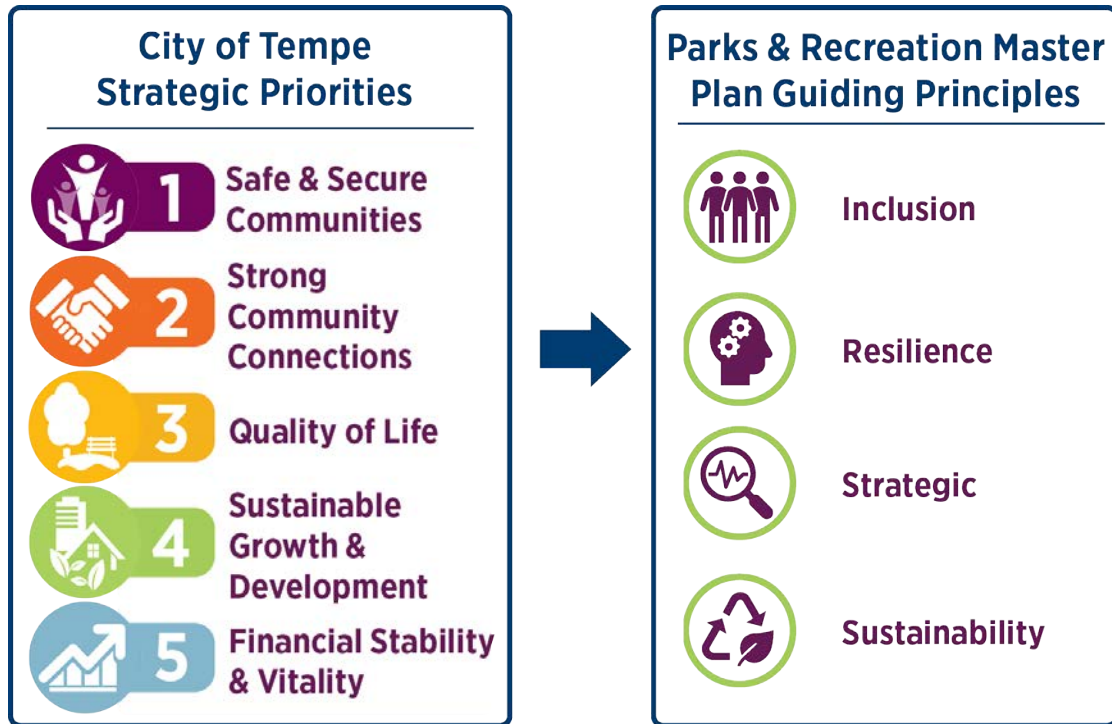
## Health Benefits

Physical activity can help reduce obesity and incidence of chronic disease by providing easily accessible opportunities for physical activity, and help to reduce social isolation and provide a connection to nature which studies demonstrate relieves stress levels, tightens interpersonal relationships, and improves mental health. The [City Parks Alliance](#) reports that parks also reduce the costs of healthcare: maintaining a healthy weight saves \$1,500 per person in healthcare costs per year.



*Tempe Woman's Club Park*

# City Priorities and Plan Principles



## City Council Strategic Priorities Alignment

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan guiding principles & strategies are aligned with the city's five [Strategic Priorities](#).

### 1. Safe and Secure Communities:

Ensuring a safe and secure community through a commitment to public safety and justice.

### 2. Strong Community Connections:

Developing and maintaining a strong community connection by emphasizing the importance of open government, customer service, and communication with community members.

### 3. Quality of Life:

Enhancing the quality of life for all Tempe residents and workers through investment in neighborhoods, parks, the arts, human services, and city amenities, with an emphasis on equity and diversity.

### 4. Sustainable Growth & Development:

Implementing sustainable growth and development strategies to improve Tempe's environment, quality of life, and economic outcomes. Tempe strives to make long-term generational investments in technology, infrastructure, and public transit that create a safe, clean, equitable, and healthy city.

### 5. Financial Stability & Vitality:

Maintaining long-term financial stability and vitality by focusing on economic development, business retention, and generating employment to create a robust and diverse economic base.





## Master Plan Guiding Principles

Four guiding principles organize this master plan and support the City of Tempe Strategic Priorities.

### **Guiding Principle: Inclusion**

Providing community access and opportunity regardless of color, gender, orientation, age, income, or ability.

### **Guiding Principle: Resilience**

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that help the community thrive despite disruptive environmental, societal, and health events.

### **Guiding Principle: Strategic**

A flexible system that focuses on continuous improvement.

### **Guiding Principle: Sustainability**

Parks and recreation systems and services that enrich and sustain the community, nurture the environment and contribute to the economy.

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# Parks & Recreation Master Plan Process

*The Master Plan was developed through engagement with the community throughout the planning process.*

## Introduction

This chapter includes information on the steps in the master planning process and community engagement efforts.

## Parks & Recreation Master Plan Process

The Master Planning process was conducted over an approximately two-year period, due to a slight delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the pandemic, community engagement during 2020 and 2021 was conducted on-line.

**Figure 2.1: Planning Process**



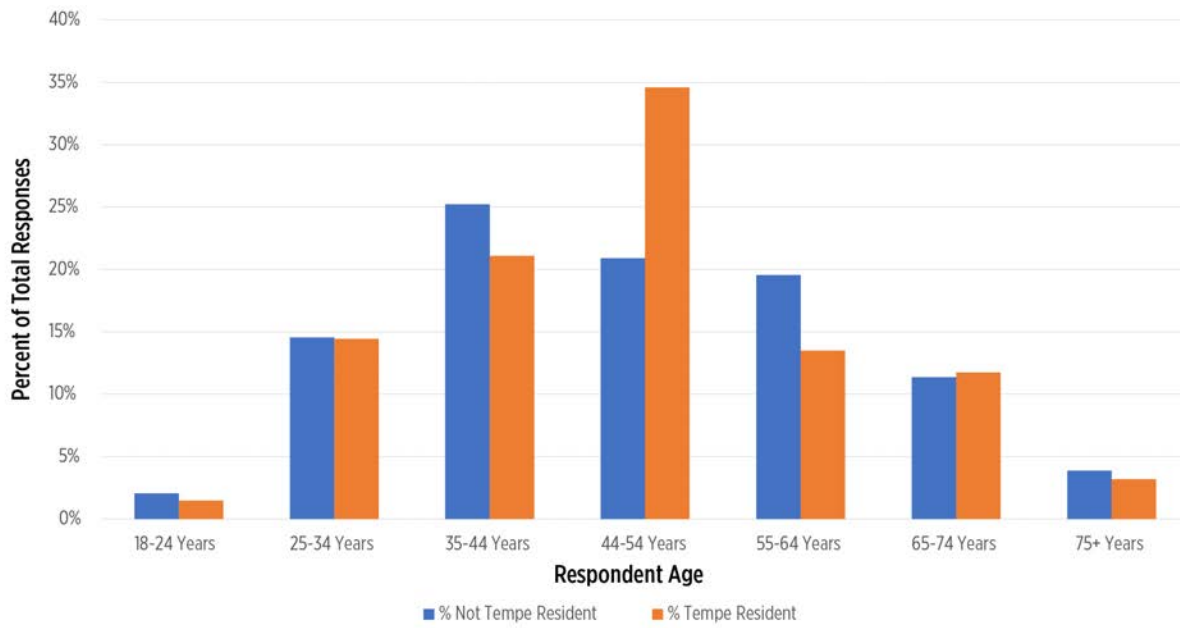


## Community Engagement

### Citywide Opt-in Survey (Needs Assessment)

- Made available online to anyone interested in participating in the survey. An opt-in survey is not statistically significant.
- Conducted from May 20, 2020 to July 1, 2020.
- 1,857 respondents - exceeding the approximately 400 responses that would be required for a statistical survey.
- Available in English & Spanish.
- Targeted outreach to ensure city-wide participation.

**Figure 2.2: Respondent Age (Resident/Non Resident)**



**Master Plan Survey Report**  
 View the Master Plan Survey Report [here](#).

Figure 2.3: Focus Group Topics

**Focus Groups** are identified regular users of City parks, recreation facilities & programs. Focus groups are organized to have open, non-attributed discussions about user-based operational opportunities or challenges.

 <p><b>ADAPTIVE RECREATION</b> Representatives of groups providing support to people with disabilities.</p>	 <p><b>EVENTS</b> Entities representing event promoters and event organizers.</p>	 <p><b>PARKS MAINTENANCE</b> City parks maintenance staff.</p>
 <p><b>BOATING, FISHING, &amp; CONCESSIONS</b> Boating club &amp; boathouse representatives, &amp; local launch users.</p>	 <p><b>EVENTS &amp; RESERVATIONS</b> City event booking &amp; management staff.</p>	 <p><b>SENIOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS &amp; CENTERS</b> Managers of city senior community centers &amp; programs.</p>
 <p><b>CIP &amp; ASSET MANAGEMENT</b> City Parks Maintenance and Management staff.</p>	 <p><b>NEIGHBORHOODS</b> Neighborhood &amp; community group representatives.</p>	 <p><b>SPORTS &amp; AQUATICS</b> Sports and aquatics entities using city facilities.</p>
 <p><b>CLASS PROVIDERS</b> Contracted recreation program &amp; class providers.</p>	 <p><b>NOT-FOR-PROFIT PROVIDERS</b> Not for profit entities that provide recreation programs at city facilities.</p>	 <p><b>SPORTS FIELDS</b> Leagues &amp; teams practicing &amp; playing on city fields and city field reservation staff.</p>

### Focused Discussion Groups

Park facility and recreation program stakeholders were convened to discuss challenges and opportunities related to their use of facilities and participation in programs.

Twelve (12) focused discussion groups were conducted during the development of this plan:

- Adaptive Recreation
- Boating, Fishing, and Concessions
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) / Asset Management
- Class Providers
- Events
- Events and Reservations
- Neighborhoods
- Not-for-Profit Providers
- Parks Maintenance
- Senior Programs and Community Centers
- Sports and Aquatics
- Sports Fields



#### **Parks & Recreation Master Plan Focused Groups Feedback Report**

View the June 2020 Focus Group Feedback Report [here](#).

## Community Meetings

Multiple sets of community meetings were held during the planning process. In addition presentations were provided to Boards & Commissions & at three (3) Tempe City Council Work Study Sessions.

## Technical Advisory Committee

A Technical Advisory Committee, consisting of staff from various city departments and two members of the Parks, Recreation, Golf, and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board met throughout the planning process to help guide the development of the plan.



### Tempe Parks & Recreation Master Plan Homepage

Visit the Tempe Parks & Recreation homepage for plan background materials.

[www.tempe.gov/government/community-services/parks/parks-recreation-master-plan](http://www.tempe.gov/government/community-services/parks/parks-recreation-master-plan)



*Community members attend the public kick-off meeting to hear information presented about the plan process and update.*

# About Our City

*City of Tempe Social, Economic, Mobility, & Future Development Data.*

## Introduction

Home to over 192,364 people in 2020, City of Tempe population is projected to increase to over 217,100 (20%) over the next decade. This section describes the Tempe community and highlights how the city's social & economic composition is an important consideration in planning for future recreation facilities.

## Tempe in 2020

### AGE

People use different recreation facilities at different ages. Field sports, team sports, and physical challenge sports are most popular with people under age 65.

Tempe's population is younger than most jurisdictions in the Phoenix metropolitan area. In part, this is due to the large number of students at Arizona State University (ASU). ASU provides recreation facilities for its students, and ASU students use city parks and recreation facilities. ASU facilities are not considered in this master plan.

**Figure 3.1: City of Tempe Age & Demographic Breakdown**

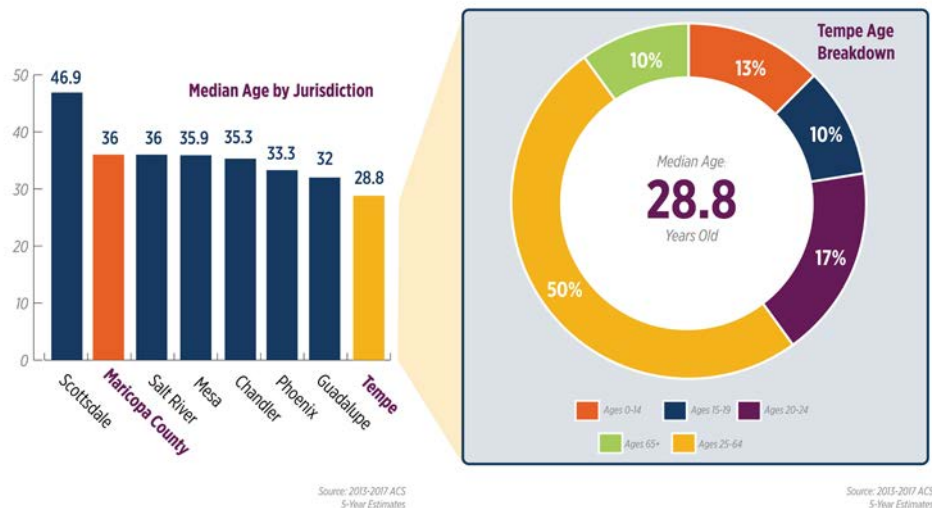
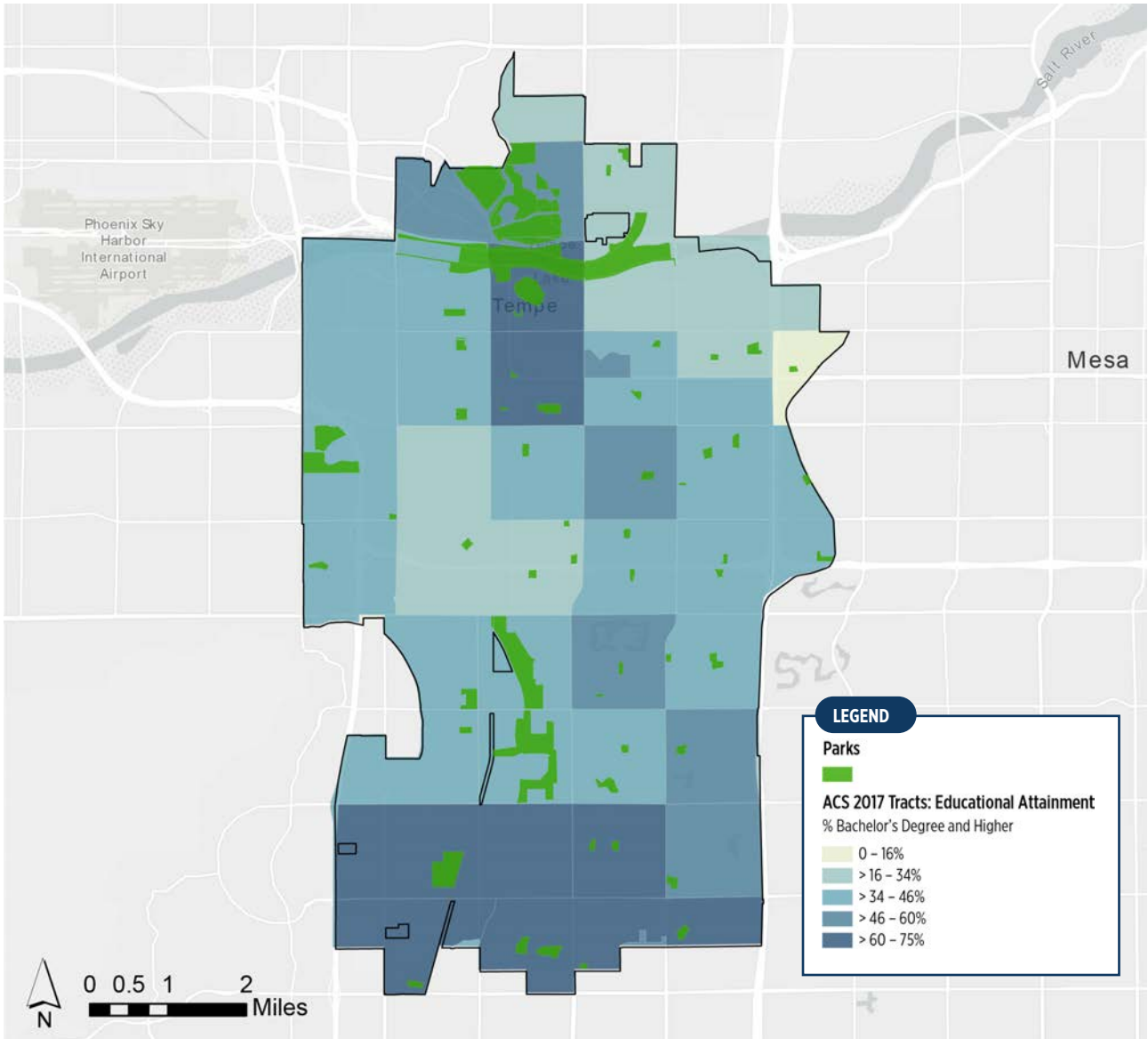


Figure 3.2: Comparison Educational Attainment Map

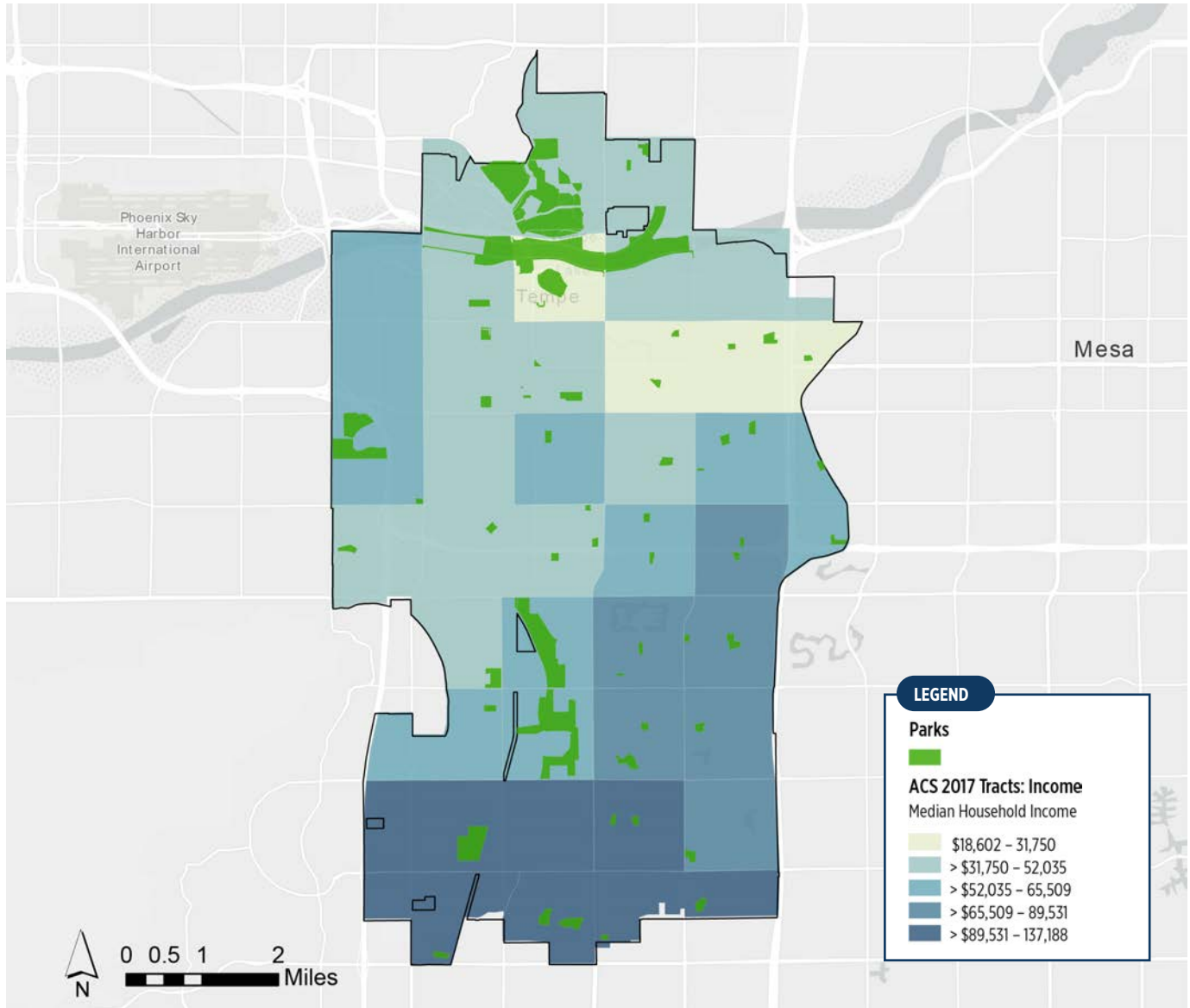


## EDUCATION

Studies have shown that education is correlated with a higher rate of leisure time activity. Tempe's population is more educated than Maricopa County as a whole.



Figure 3.3: Median Household Income Map



## MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The median household income in Tempe ranges from \$18,602 to \$137,188 per year. However, these values fail to represent the full spectrum of incomes within the Tempe community.

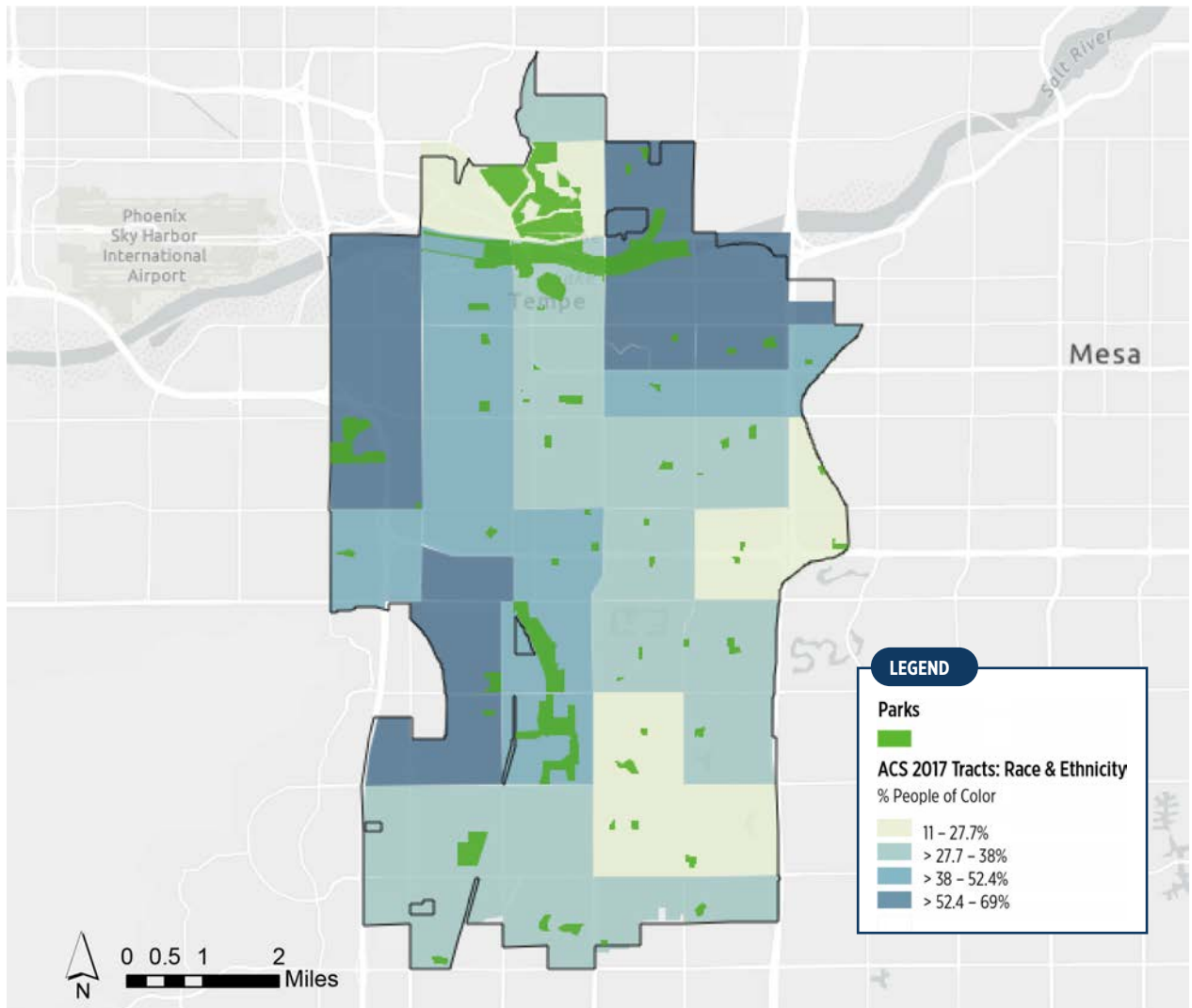
Studies have shown that income is related to recreation access and the level of individual physical activity. Over 3,000 households in the City of Tempe are below the Federal Poverty Level (annual incomes between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per year).



### Tempe Equity Data Mapping

View percent above or below the City of Tempe 2018 median income by census tract [here](#).

**Figure 3.4: Race & Ethnicity Map**

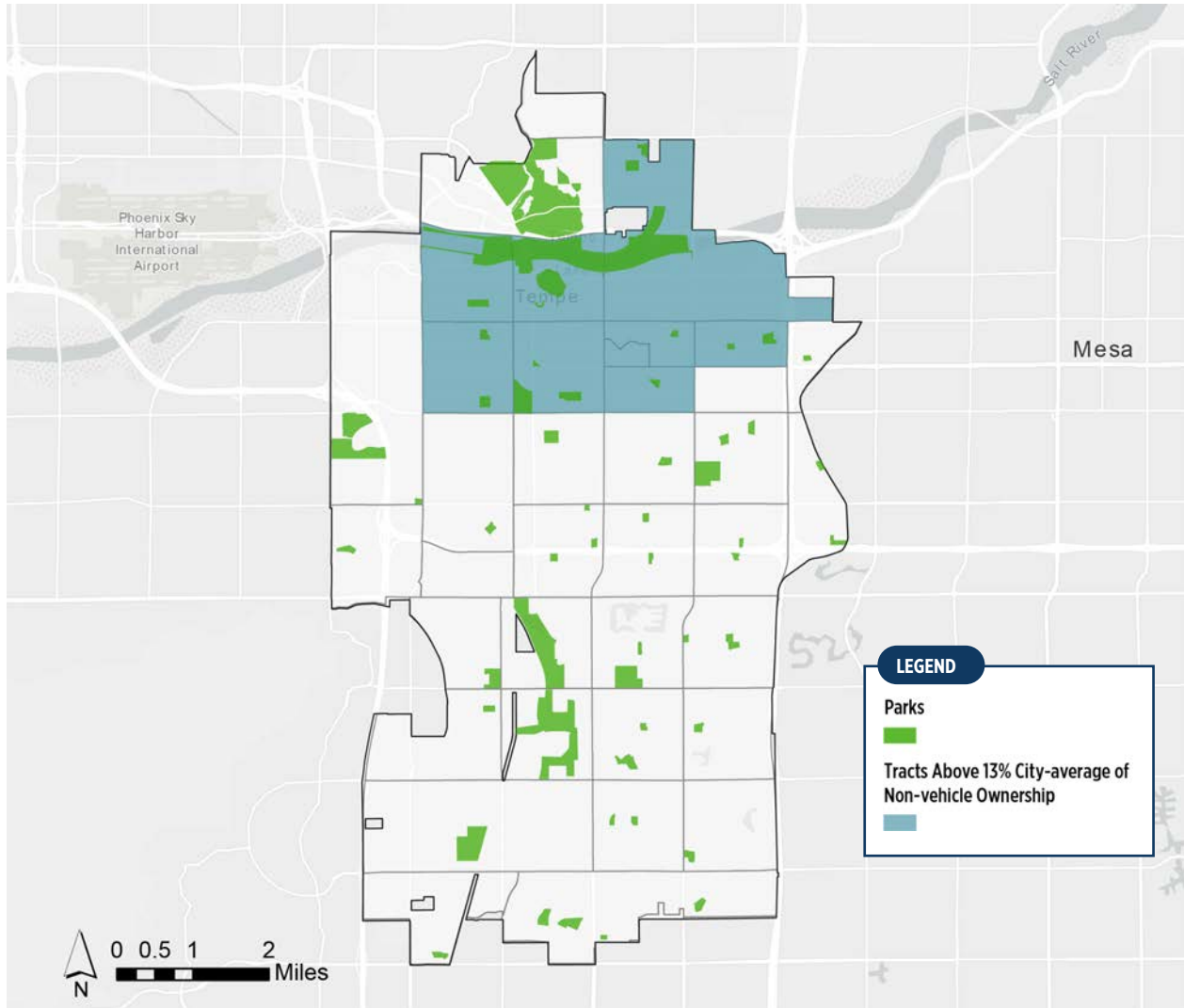


## RACE & ETHNICITY

Tempe is a diverse community, and its parks and recreation facilities should provide opportunities for people to use parks in a way that supports the city's diverse communities and cultures. A 2015 study of Los Angeles park users found Latino park users more likely to use a park than white park users. Black park users were found to use parks 25% less than white park users.\*

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\*Derose, Kathryn Pitkin et al. "Racial-Ethnic Variation in Park Use and Physical Activity in the City of Los Angeles." *Journal of Urban Health : Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine* vol. 92,6 (2015): 1011-23. doi:10.1007/s11524-015-9994-8)

**Figure 3.5: Personal Vehicle Access Map**

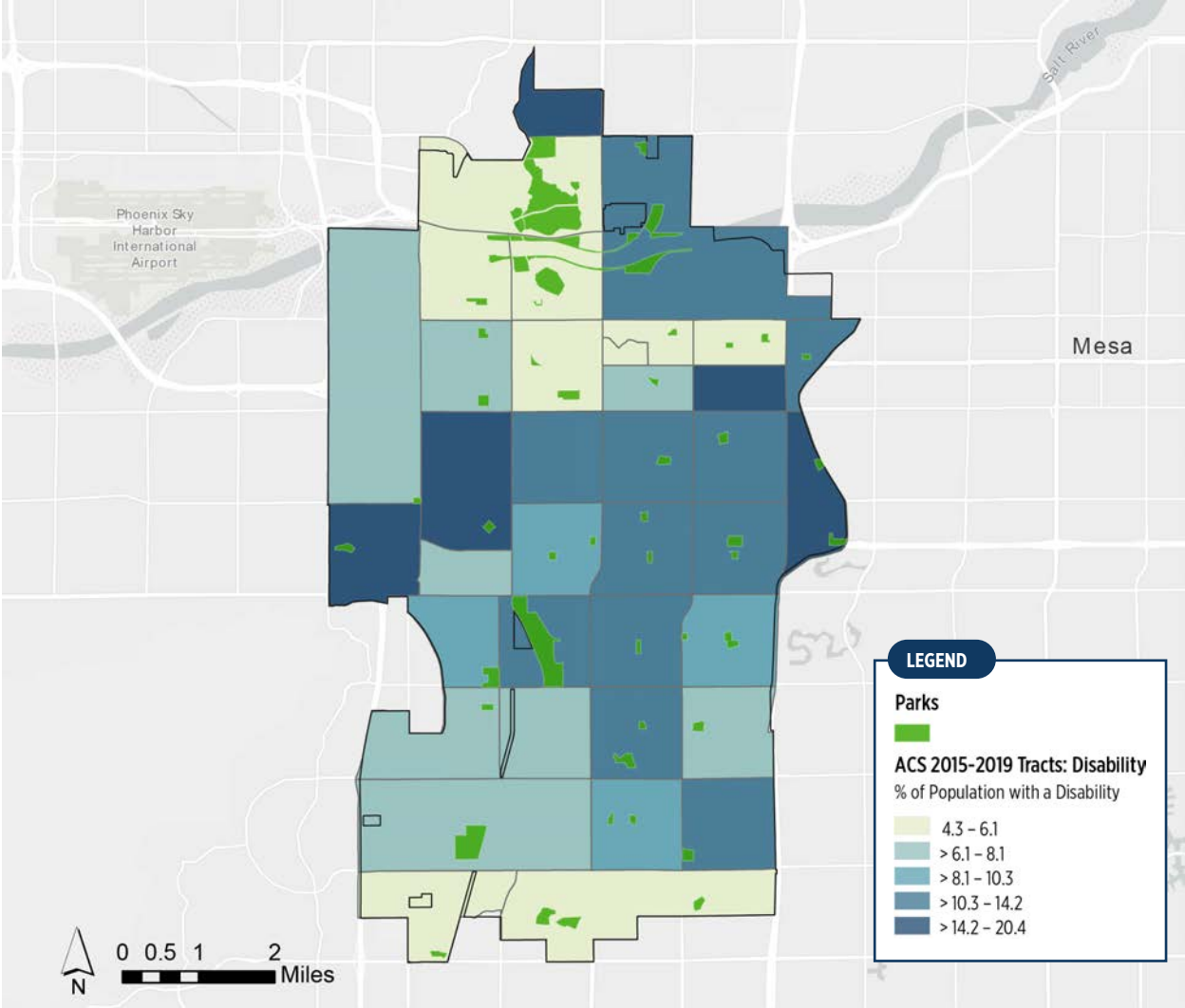


## PERSONAL VEHICLE ACCESS

Tempe has robust transit, bicycle and pedestrian networks that make city parks accessible to everyone in the community. Many people in Tempe also access some parks with unique recreation features using a personal vehicle. Households without a vehicle may have less access to some parks, such as the Tempe Sports Complex or Kiwanis Park or parks with unique recreation features such as a community center or a swimming pool.

On average, 13% of the households in each census tract own no vehicles. This map represents data by character area, where more than 13% of the households have no vehicles.

**Figure 3.6: Disability Map**



### INDIVIDUALS WITH A DISABILITY

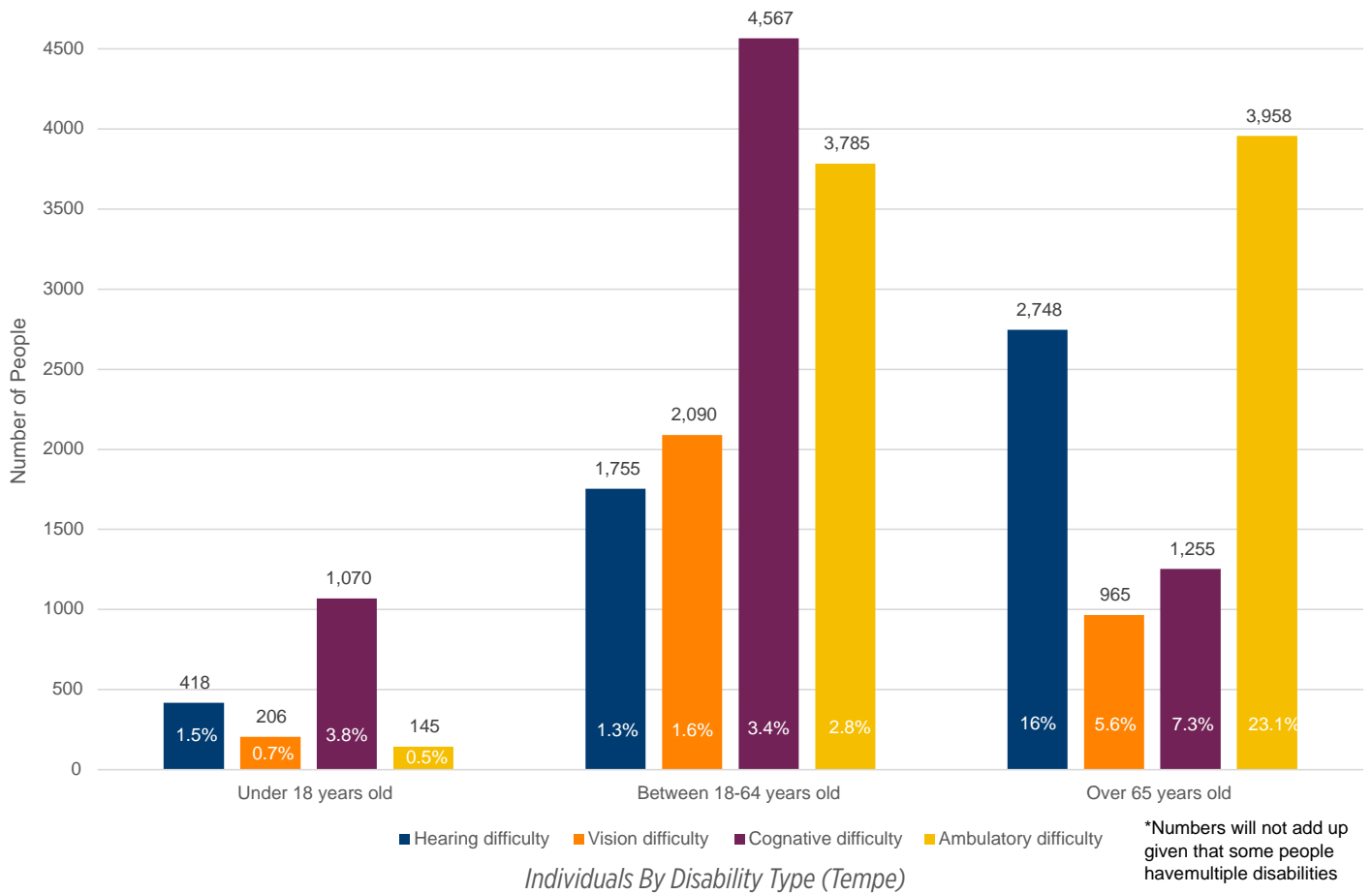
Not all people have the same ability to participate in recreation activities. Many City of Tempe parks are accessible to people with varying abilities to make sure that the Tempe community has access to recreation opportunities, the city is dedicated to serving its population living with disabilities. The Parks & Recreation Division also uses standards for playgrounds so that they are inclusive. The city is implementing its ADA Transition Plan to ensure improvements in parking and a variety of park amenities and facilities are achieved. The city Parks and Recreation Division offers a variety of adaptive classes and activities for people with disabilities.

Approximately 7.4 % of the city’s residents have a disability, as compared to 6.8% of Maricopa County residents and 11.7% of Arizona residents.



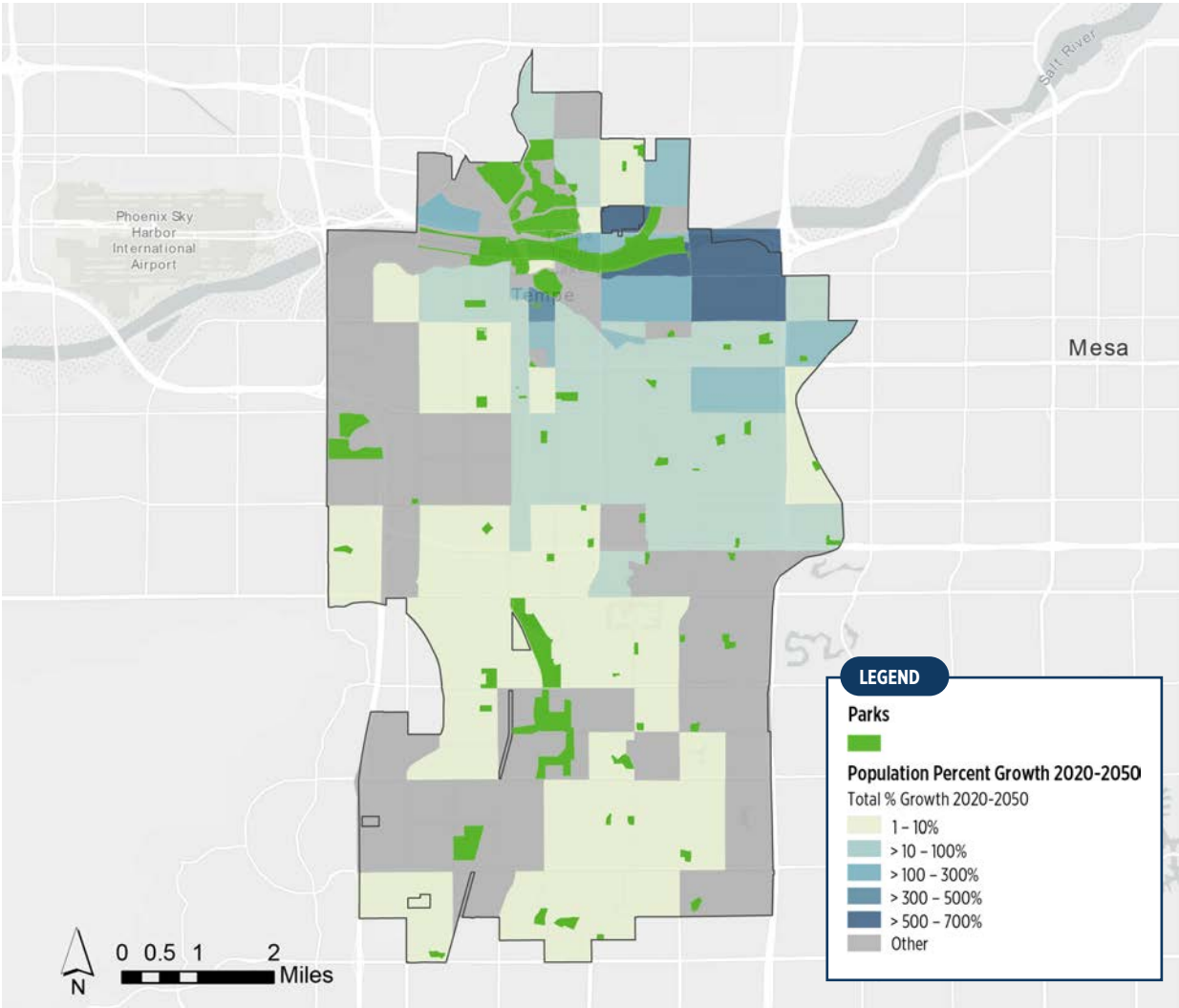
Tempe Sports Complex - Adaptive Use Pickleball

Figure 3.7: Individuals with Disability in Tempe by Age



# Tempe in the Future

Figure 3.8: Population Growth Map

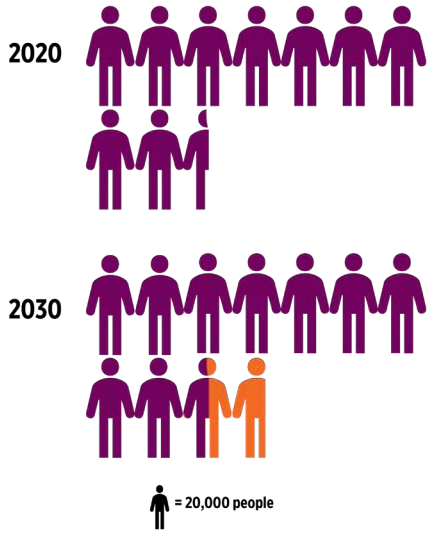


## Population Growth

Understanding where people are projected to live will help the city plan to maintain or improve the current level of service for recreation facilities that is offered to the community.

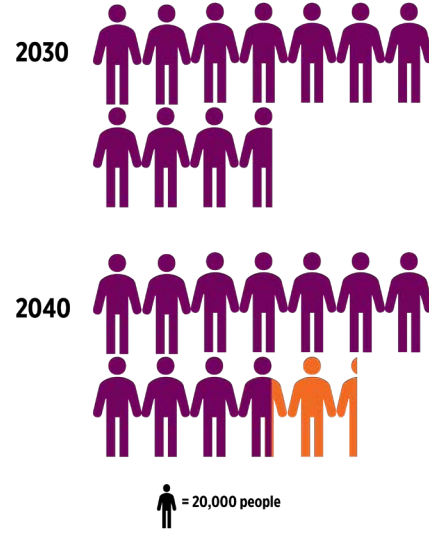
From 2020 to 2050 the City of Tempe population is projected to increase 42% from 192,000 to over 272,000 people. The largest population increases occur in northeast Tempe, east of Rural Road & north of University Drive. In 2020, less than 2,000 people live in these census tracts, by 2050, these tracts are projected to have over 17,000 residents.

Projected City of Tempe 2020 - 2030 Population Growth



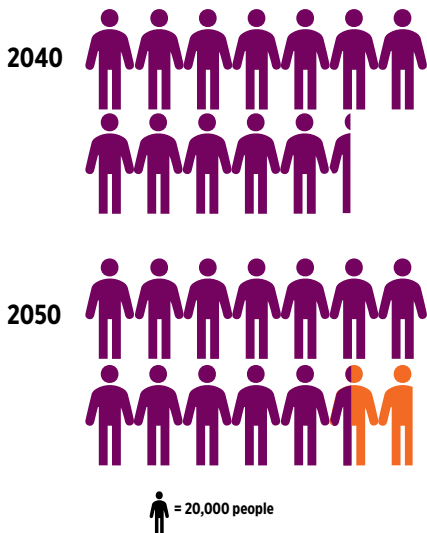
Between 2020 and 2030 Tempe’s population is projected to increase 14% from 192,000 to 217,100 people.

Projected City of Tempe 2030 - 2040 Population Growth



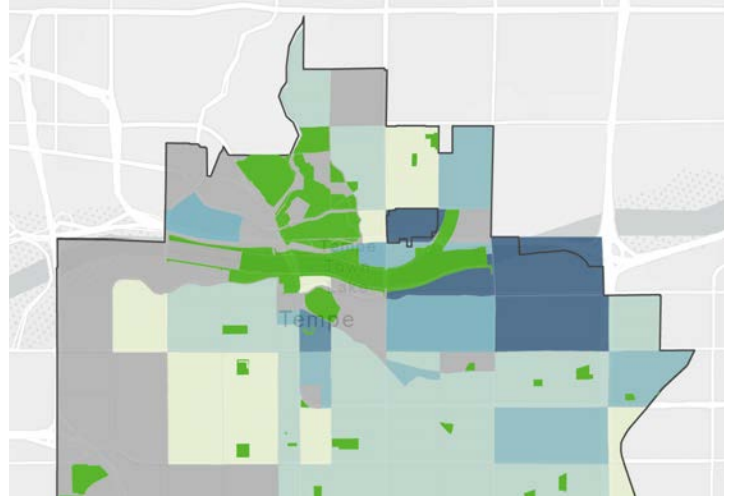
Between 2030 and 2040 the City of Tempe will grow another 14% from 217,000 to 247,000 people. Most of this growth is projected to occur north of Broadway Road.

Projected City of Tempe 2040 - 2050 Population Growth



Between 2040 and 2050, the City of Tempe population should increase 10% from 247,000 to 272,400 people. Most of this growth is also projected in the area north of Broadway Road.

Figure 3.9: Population Growth North Broadway Area



Population Growth North of Broadway Road

Almost all of the city’s projected growth is anticipated in the area north of Broadway Road, in keeping with the city’s previous planning efforts around the urban core.



City of Tempe’s General Plan 2040

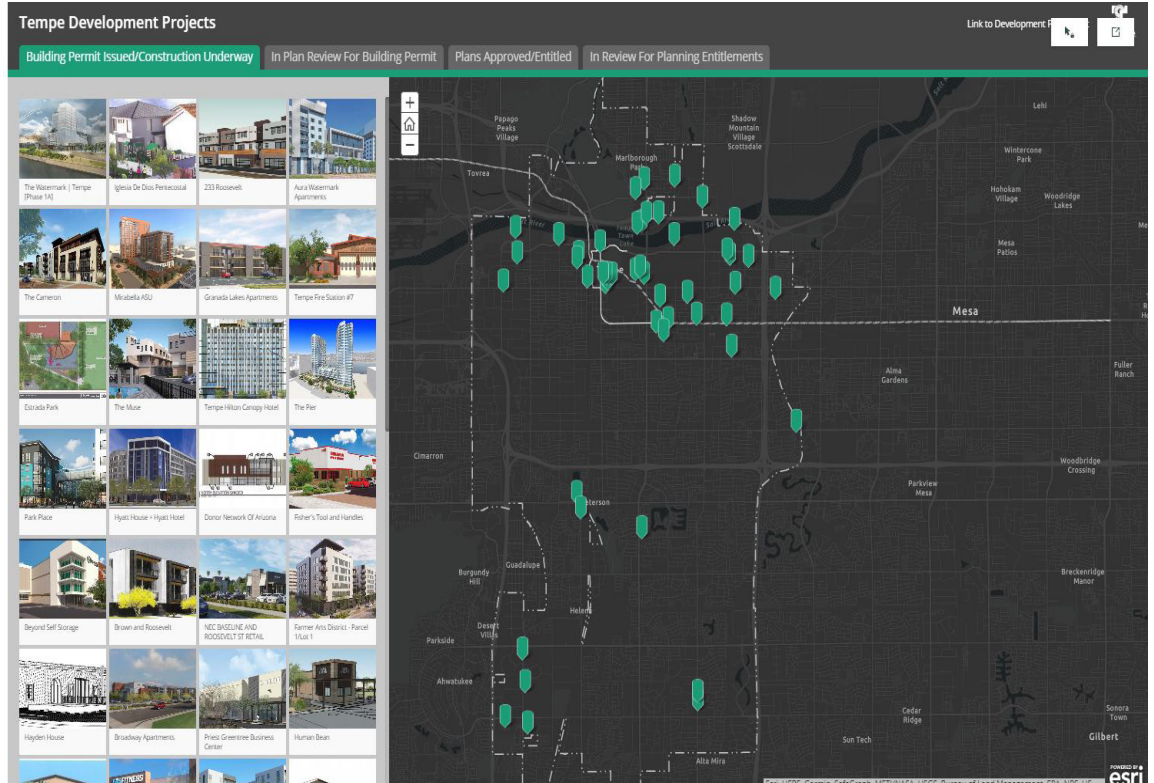
View the City’s General Plan 2040 [here](#).

**Figure 3.10: Planned Development Site Map**

## Planned Development

Over the next 30 years Tempe will become denser and more populated. Almost new residential development will occur around the U.S. 50 and in North Tempe. As a result, the demand for recreation facilities and services will increase in these areas.

*(Each dot on the map to the right represents a proposed commercial or residential development project. This map describes current proposed & planned development projects in Tempe and is updated regularly.)*



*Each dot on the map above represents a proposed commercial or residential development project, current as of February 23, 2021.*

## Planned Development

Over the next 30 years Tempe will become denser and more populated. A majority of new development will occur north of Broadway. As a result, the demand for recreation facilities and services will increase in these areas.



### Tempe Development Projects Map

View the City's Development Projects [here](#).





# Our Parks & Recreation System Today

*About the City of Tempe's Parks & Recreation System (2020)*

## Introduction

This section describes the city's 2020 park and recreation system and an assessment of city park and recreation facilities, programs, and parks.

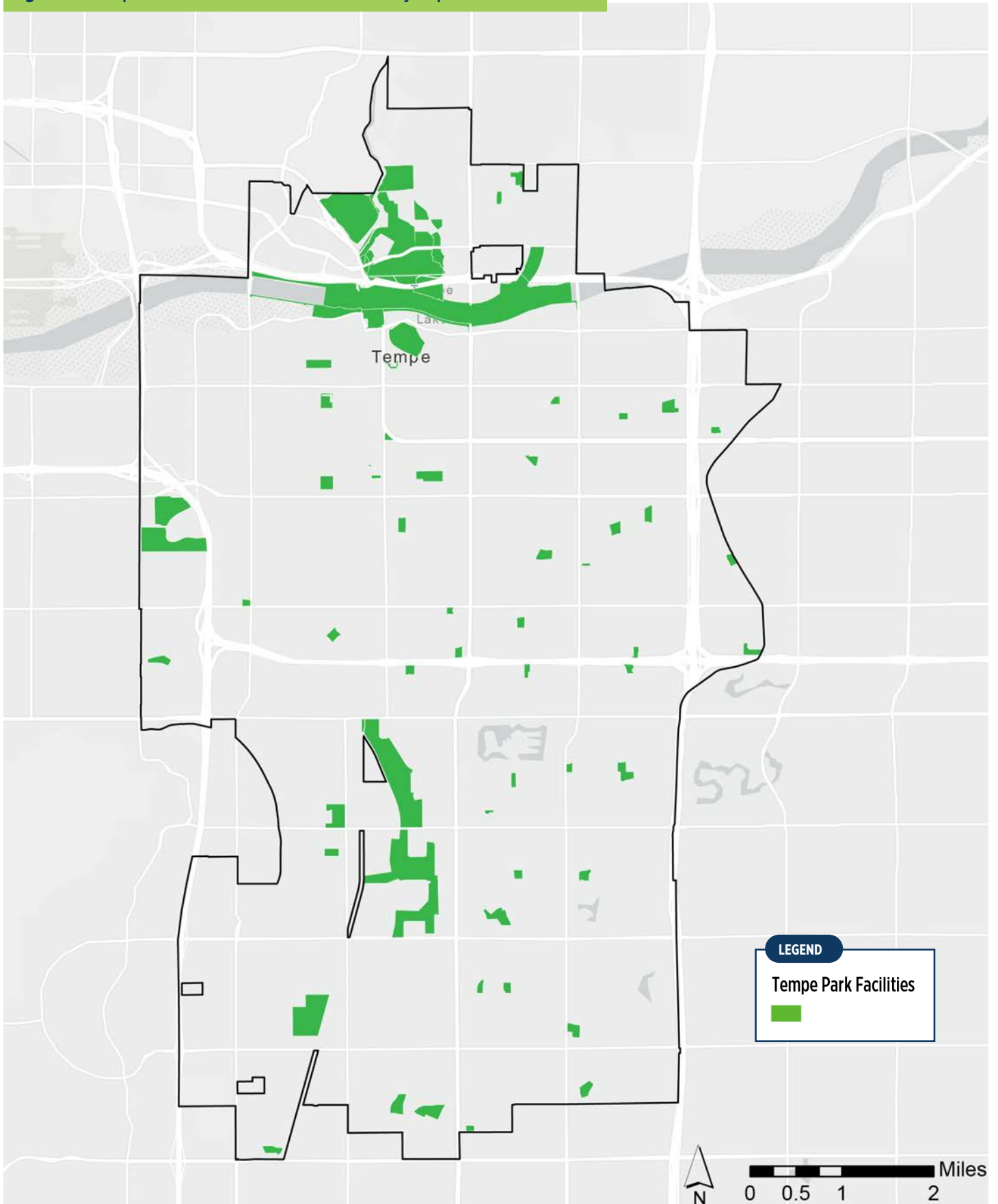
## Current Park & Recreation Facilities

### City of Tempe Recreation Sites

The City of Tempe owns and manages 75 park and recreation sites totaling over 1,500 acres. These 75 sites, as identified in the 2001 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, include 59 parks (including 5 park and recreation sites around Tempe Town Lake), two golf courses, five community/recreation centers, three sports complexes, four specialty parks, and a historic cemetery. The city also partners with schools to provide six additional recreation sites.

The City of Tempe implemented the Urban Forest Master Plan, where there are over 17,000 trees, represented by over 100 different species and varieties, growing in our parks and preserve areas. These trees comprise a large portion of the city's urban forest, providing \$1.2M of environmental benefits annually for the Tempe community and park users.

Figure 4.1: Tempe Parks and Recreation Facilities Today Map



## City of Tempe Park & Recreation Facilities

City recreation facilities include:

- 27 diamond fields (baseball & softball)
- 37 multi-use rectangular fields (soccer, football, rugby)
- 170 sports courts (basketball, volleyball, tennis, racquetball and pickleball), some of which are shared, such as and not limited to tennis courts striped for pickleball.
- Five (5) community/recreation centers
- One (1) disc golf course
- Six (6) dog parks
- Two (2) golf courses
- Six (6) lakes / ponds
- Three (3) fitness stations
- 43 playgrounds
- Three (3) swimming pools (indoor & outdoor)
- Four (4) skate parks
- Four (4) splash play areas



### Park & Recreation Facilities

View the Park & Recreation Facilities Inventory [here](#).

## Park Acres Per Capita

In 2020, the City of Tempe provided 79 acres per 10,000 people (as described in City of Tempe Recreation Facilities, above).

Figure 4.2: Tempe Acres of Parks per 10k People by Census Tract

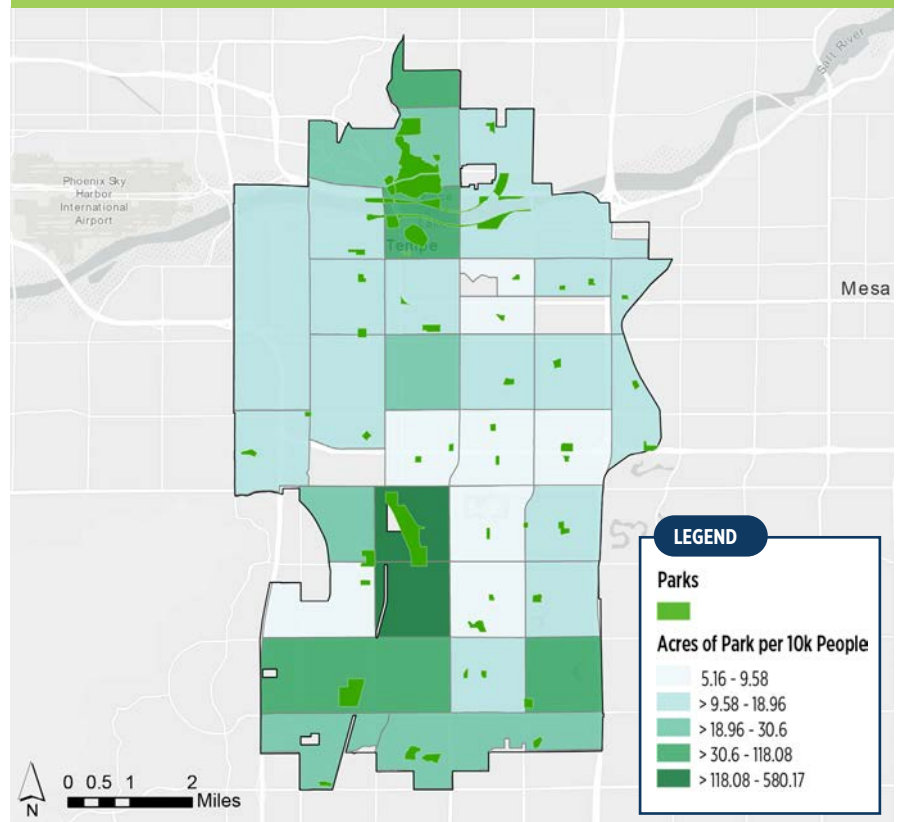
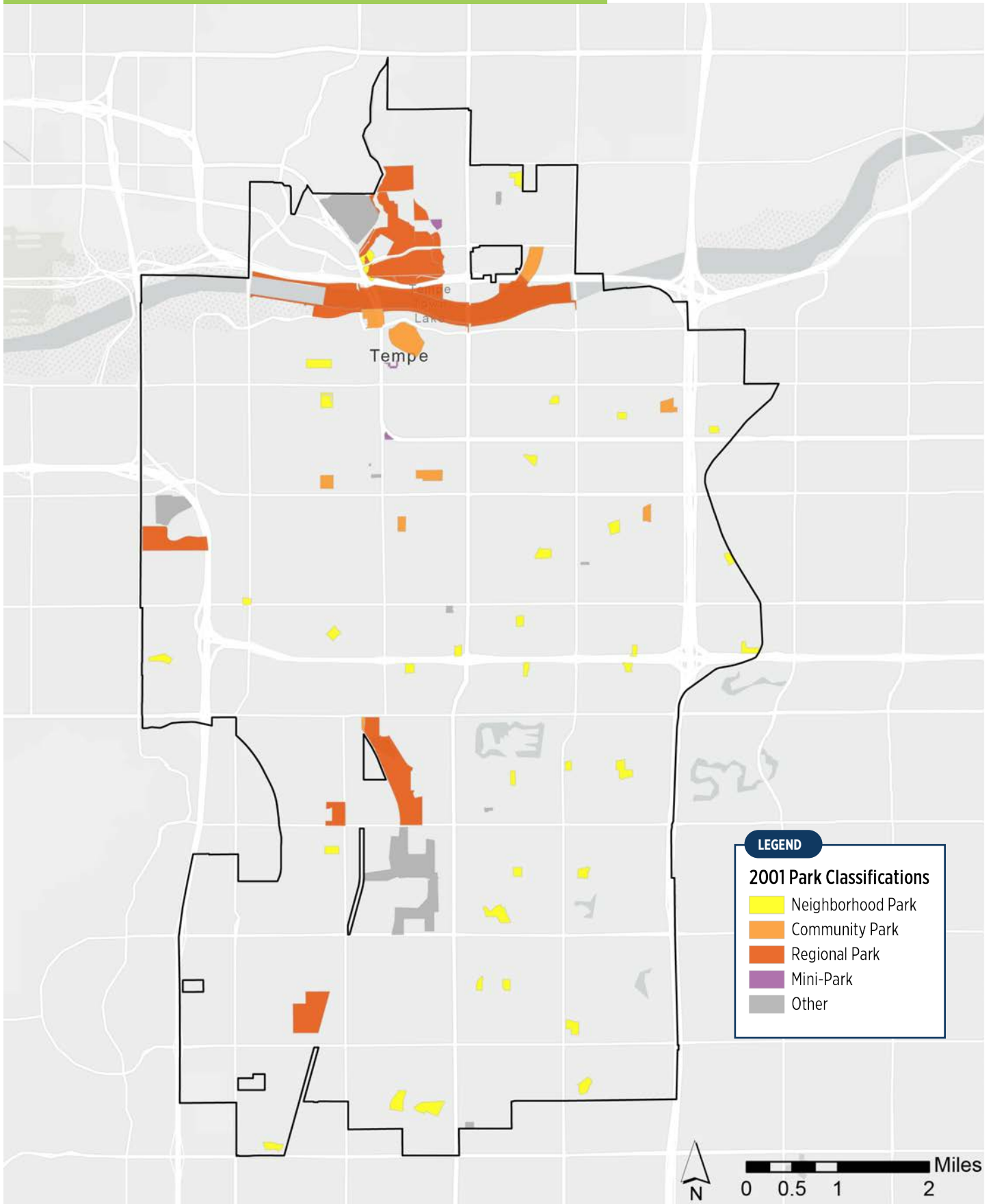


Figure 4.3: Tempe Park Classifications Today ('01 Plan Classifications) Map



## Current Park Classification (2001 Master Plan)

Park classifications are used to guide the types of facilities, activities, and maintenance that are associated with different parks and recreation sites. This map reproduces the Parks Classification Map included in the 2001 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Since the 2001 adoption of this plan, only one new city park (Esquer) was constructed. This park is included on the map as a neighborhood park. (The original map can be located in the 2001 Tempe Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Appendices - Equity Map Analysis). According to the 2001 master plan, the city has:

- Four (4) mini-parks
- 18 community parks (including 5 parks associated with Rio Salado)
- 35 neighborhood parks
- 3 regional parks
- 3 sports complexes, & some unclassified facilities, including two (2) golf courses.



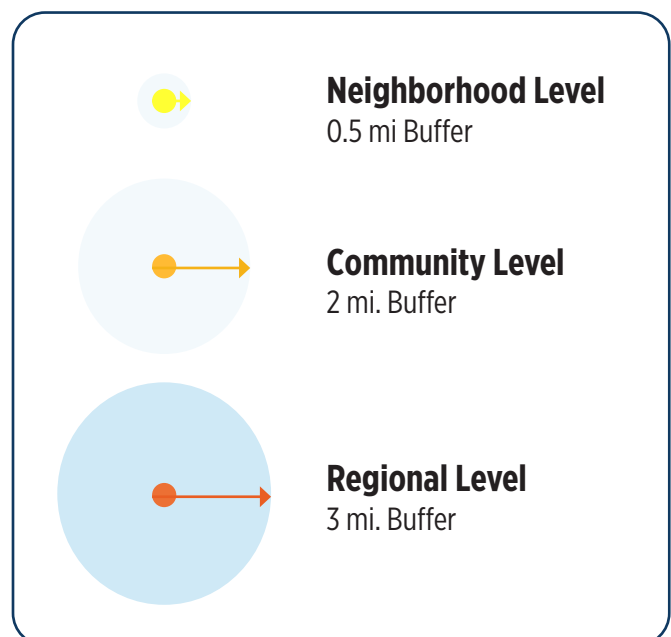
### 2001 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

View the 2001 Parks and Recreation Master Plan [here](#).

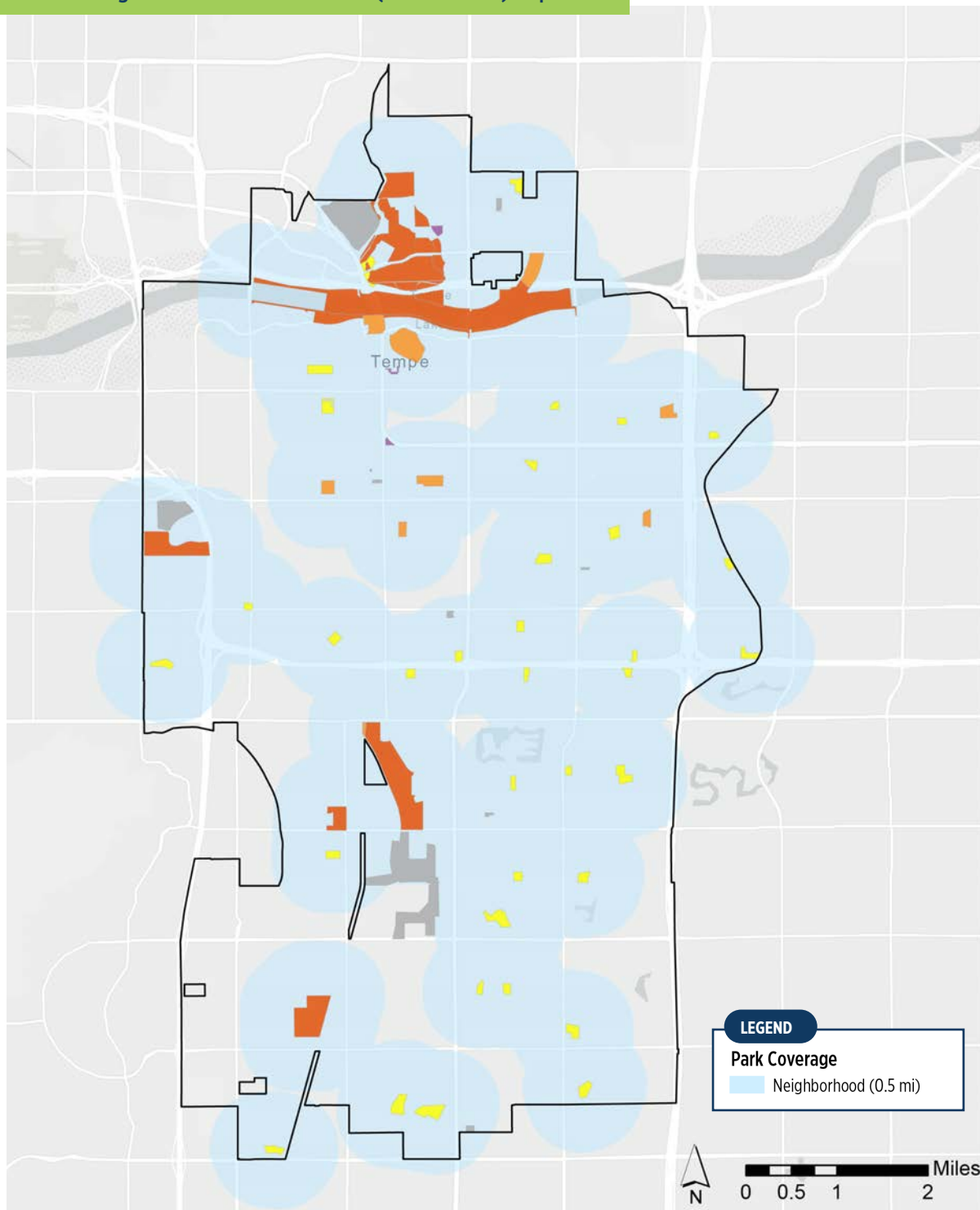
## Park Service Areas

Parks serve the neighborhood, community, city region. In Tempe, neighborhood park facilities are included in community and regional parks. This section of the plan examines how Tempe is served by it's current neighborhood, community, and regional parks.

## Current Park Service Areas (2001 Master Plan)



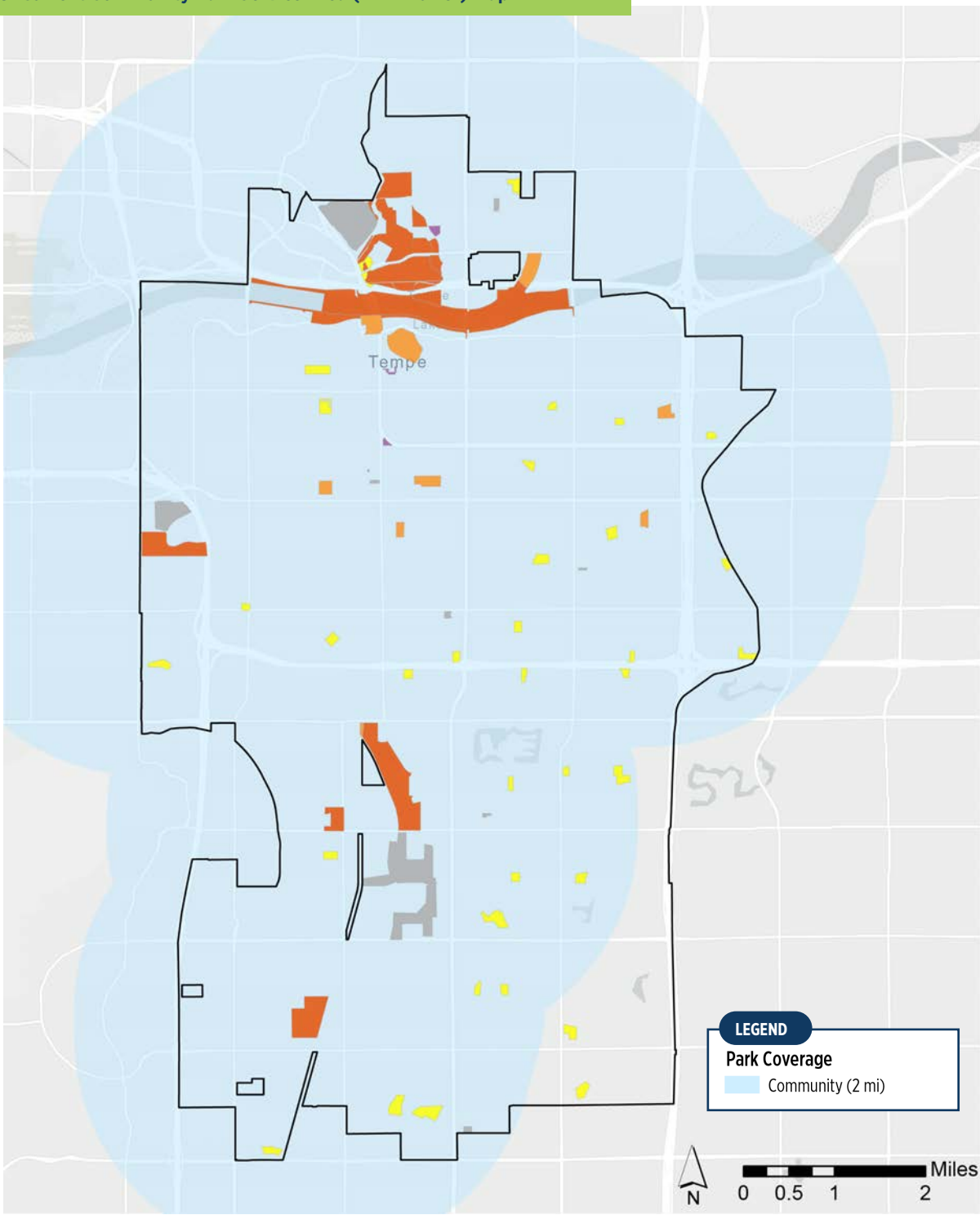
**Figure 4.4: Current Neighborhood Park Service Area (0.5 mi. Buffer) Map**



### **Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks are the cornerstone of a community provided within 1/2 mile walking distance of every home. Park and recreation facilities provide a place for relaxation, gathering, play & different types of group activities. This map shows neighborhood park service areas, based on the 2001 plan park classifications.

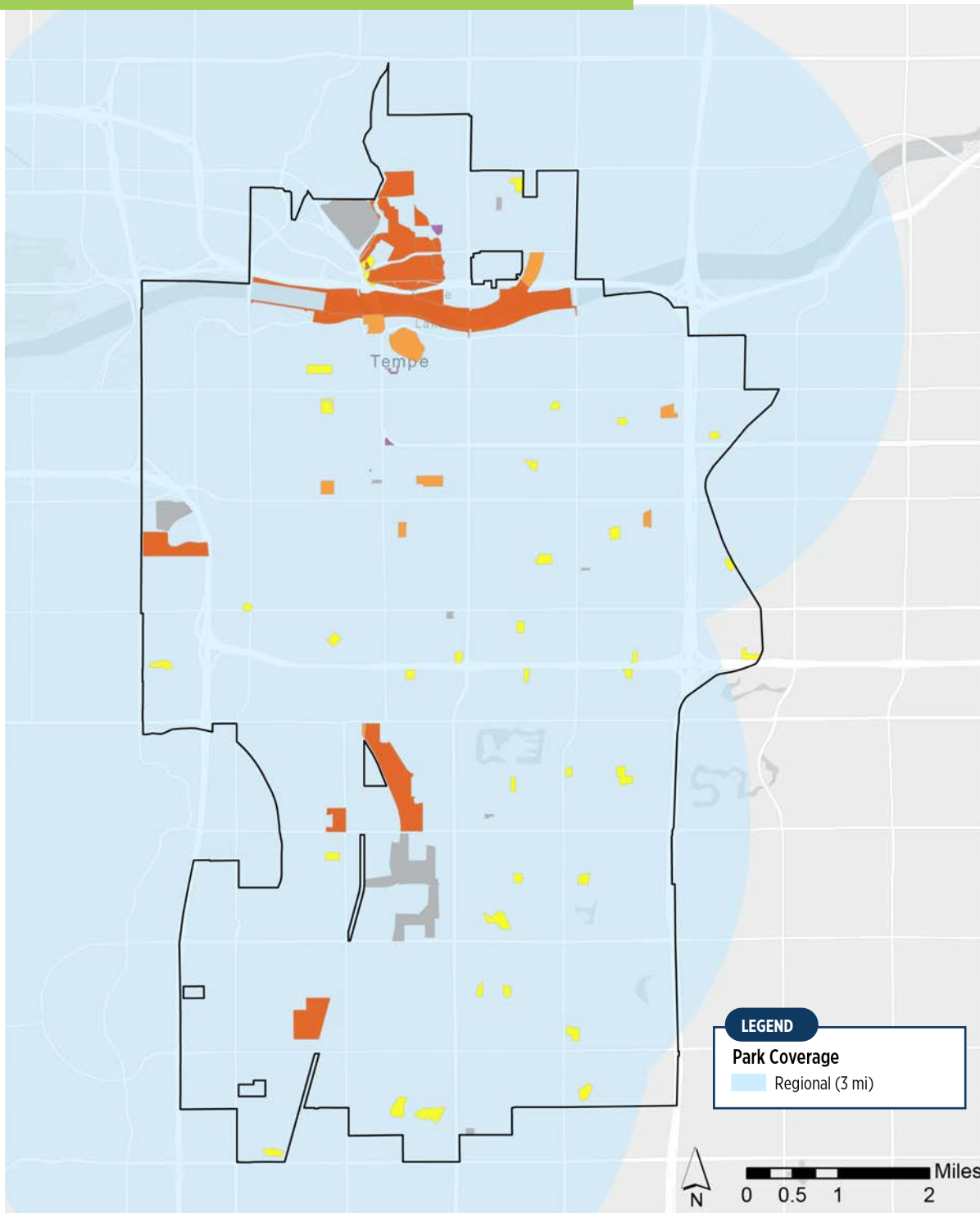
Figure 4.5: Current Community Park Service Area (2 mi. Buffer) Map



### Community Parks

Community parks are places where a diverse set of park and recreation facilities are integrated with neighborhood-scale facilities. These parks service area extend beyond the neighborhood to accommodate larger groups and additional amenities. With the exception of far south-east Tempe, most of the community is served by community parks. This map shows community park service areas, based on the 2001 plan park classifications.

Figure 4.6: Current Regional Park Service Area (3 mi. Buffer) Map



### Regional Parks

City parks classified as regional parks in the 2001 Master Plan include many of the city's signature parks such as Kiwanis, Rio Salado, Papago Preserve, and the Diablo Stadium, Benedict, and Tempe sports complexes. Regional parks include neighborhood and community facilities within them. The city is well served by regional parks. This map shows regional park service areas, based on the 2001 plan park classifications.



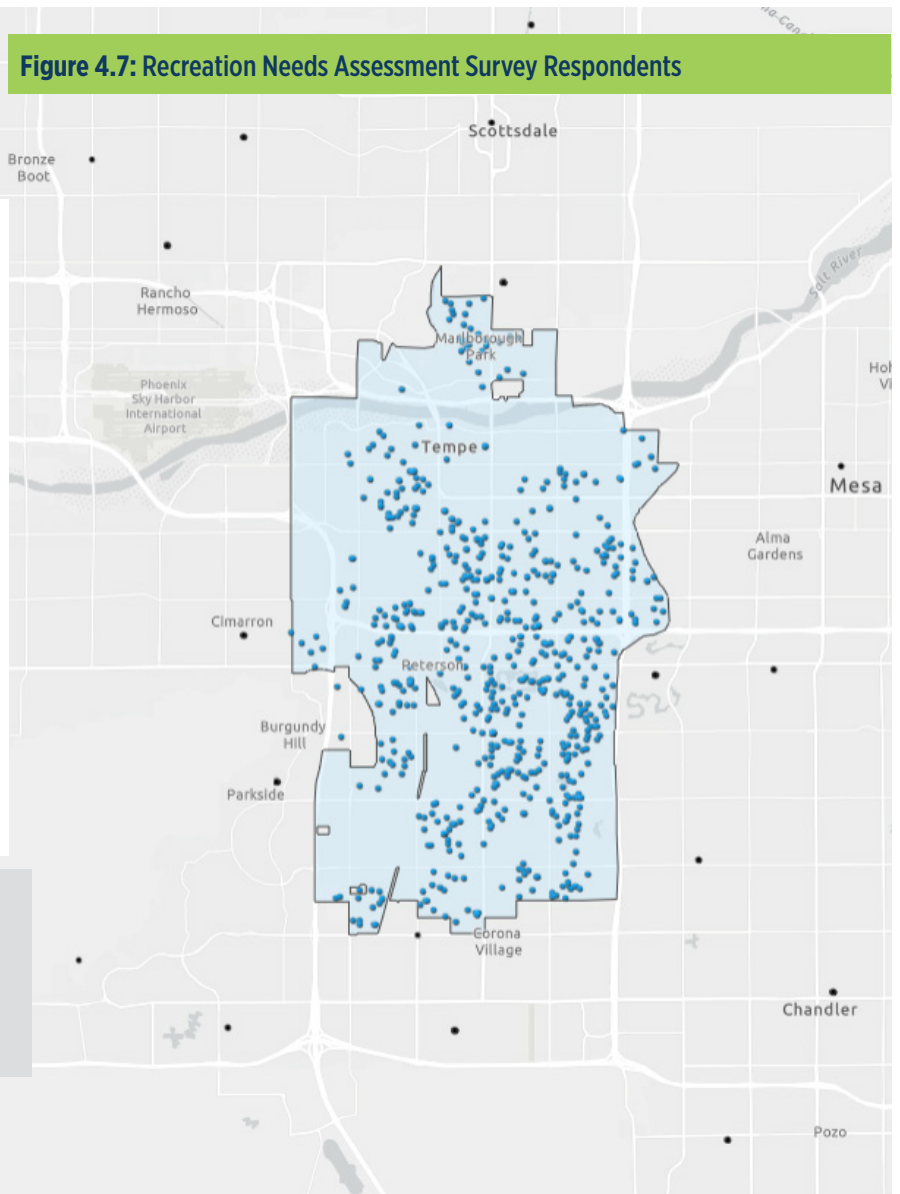
# Recreation Needs Assessment

**Figure 4.7: Recreation Needs Assessment Survey Respondents**

## Recreation Needs Assessment

The citywide recreation survey conducted as part of this plan in the summer of 2019 included a [Recreation Needs Assessment](#). Over 1,800 people completed all or part of the survey. Of the 894 survey respondents who provided an address, 708 (almost 80%) said they live in Tempe. This map shows where people who responded to the survey said they live.

The Needs Assessment included questions about city parks and recreation facilities, programs, and funding opportunities



### Parks and Recreation Master Plan Needs Assessment

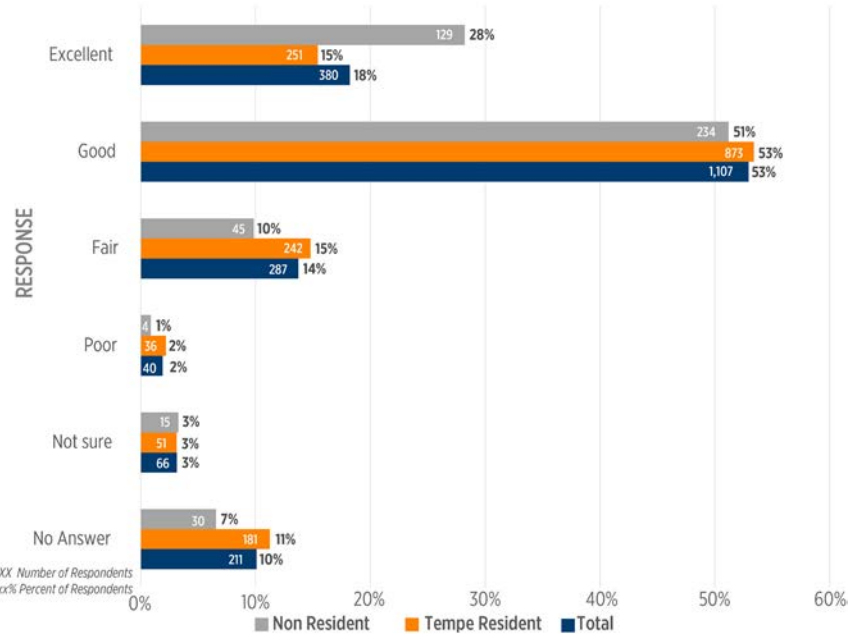
View the *Recreation Programs and Services Trends and Assessments* [here](#).



### Needs Assessment: Parks & Recreation Facilities

City park and the recreation facilities they contain are important elements of the parks and recreation system. Part of the Parks & Recreation Master Planning process included a community assessment of city parks and recreation facilities.

**Figure 4.8: Quality of Parks and Recreation Facilities**



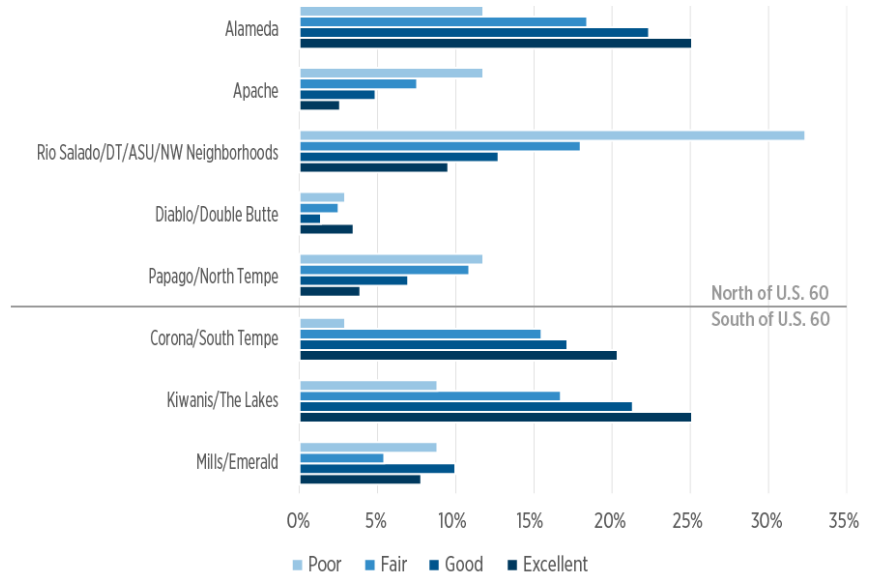
### Parks & Recreation Facilities

Almost three-quarters (72%) of all survey respondents rate city parks as good or excellent. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of Tempe respondents say the overall quality of city parks & recreation facilities is good or excellent. Non-Tempe respondents rate the quality of city parks higher than Tempe respondents, with 79% saying the quality of city parks is good or excellent.

## Tempe Parks Rating by Neighborhood

Neighborhoods throughout the city rate the quality of their parks differently.

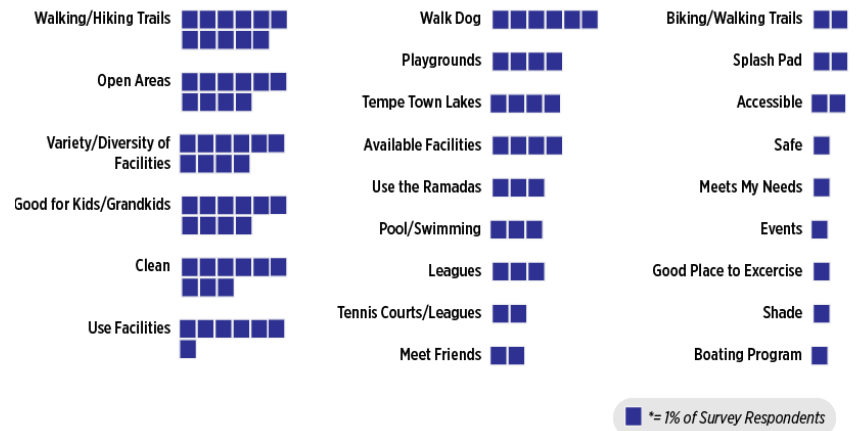
Figure 4.9: Tempe Resident Park Rating by Neighborhood



## Areas of Satisfaction

Survey respondents revealed a variety of reasons on how city Parks & Recreation services met their needs.

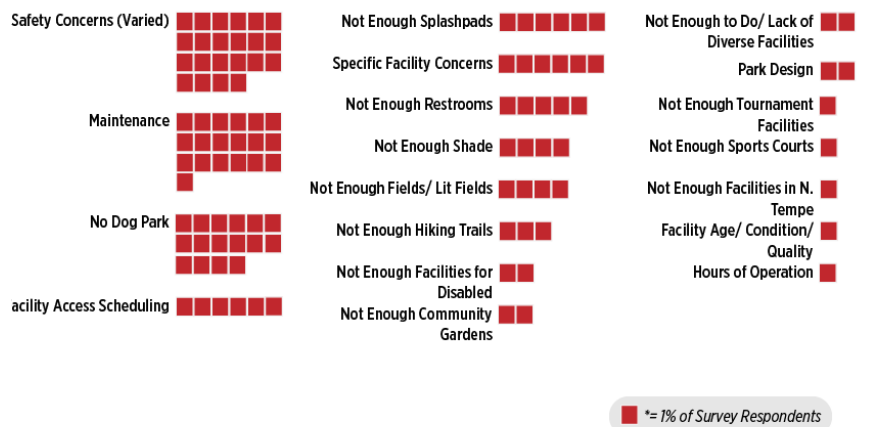
Figure 4.10: Why Tempe Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs Meet My Needs



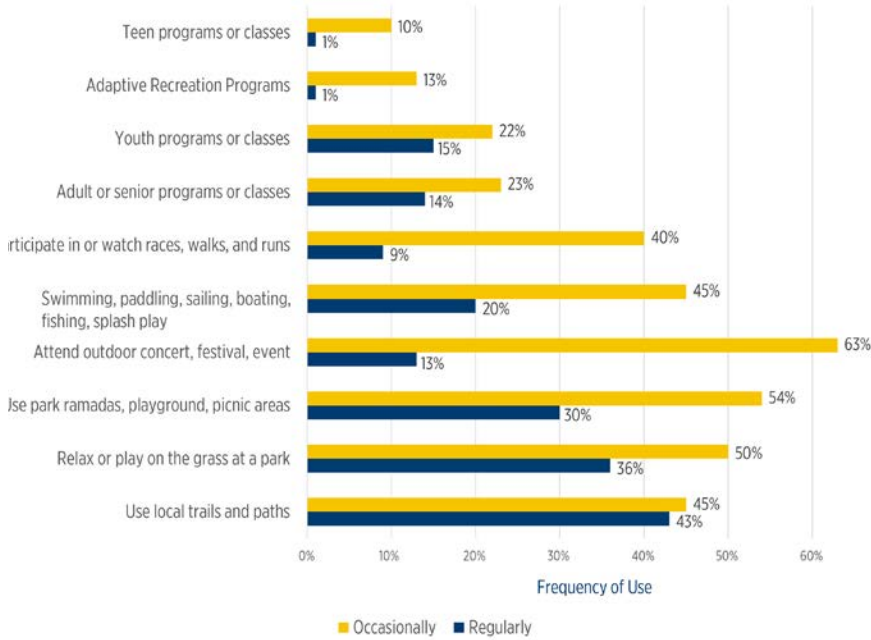
## Areas for Improvement

A lack of dog parks, safety, and ample free programs are among the areas where all survey respondents said parks and recreation programs and facilities did not meet their needs.

Figure 4.11: Why Tempe Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs Do Not Meet My Needs



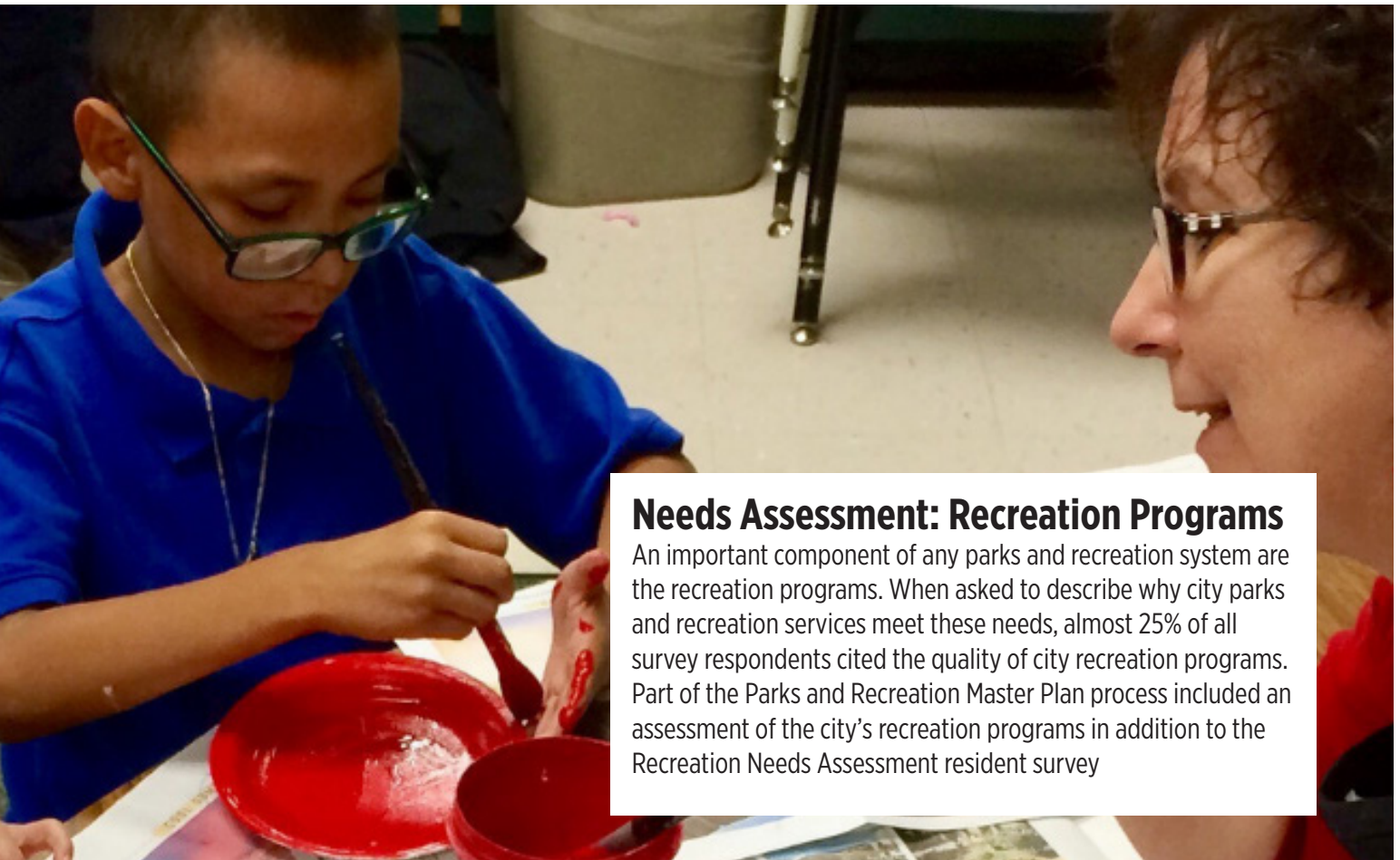
**Figure 4.12: Frequency of Use: Tempe Recreation Activities**



**Facility Use**

Survey respondents state that the types of recreation activities they most frequently participate in at public and private facilities are:

- Outdoor events
- Ramadas
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Water-based activities
- Trail-based activities



**Needs Assessment: Recreation Programs**

An important component of any parks and recreation system are the recreation programs. When asked to describe why city parks and recreation services meet these needs, almost 25% of all survey respondents cited the quality of city recreation programs. Part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process included an assessment of the city’s recreation programs in addition to the Recreation Needs Assessment resident survey

## Recreation Program Strengths

An assessment of recreation programs was conducted as part of the master plan update. The assessment found the City has a strong recreation program with relatively few gaps.

- Sports, including both youth and adult team and individual sports
- Aquatics programming with an emphasis on swim lessons, and aquatic exercise
- Youth summer and break camps and after-school programs
- Education based programs, especially preschool programming
- Special events
- Programming that serves seniors
- Programming focuses on teens
- Self-directed activities



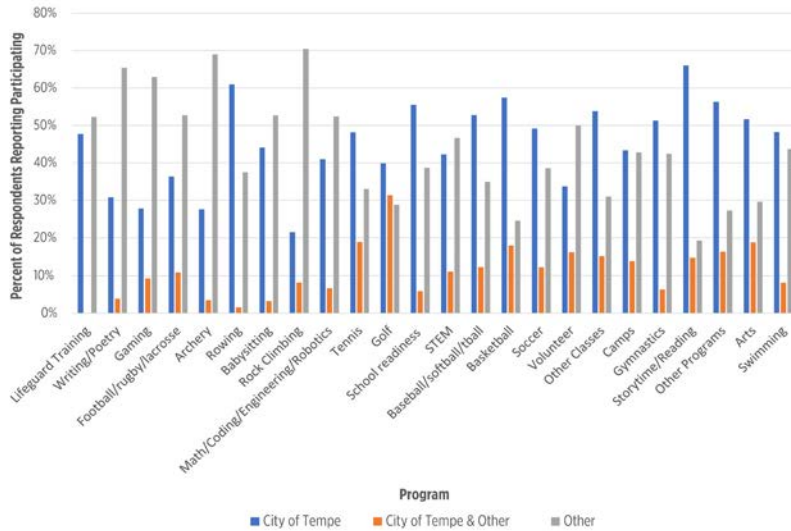
## Recreation Program Opportunities

The assessment identified opportunities to enhance the city's recreation programs including expanding offerings in the following areas:

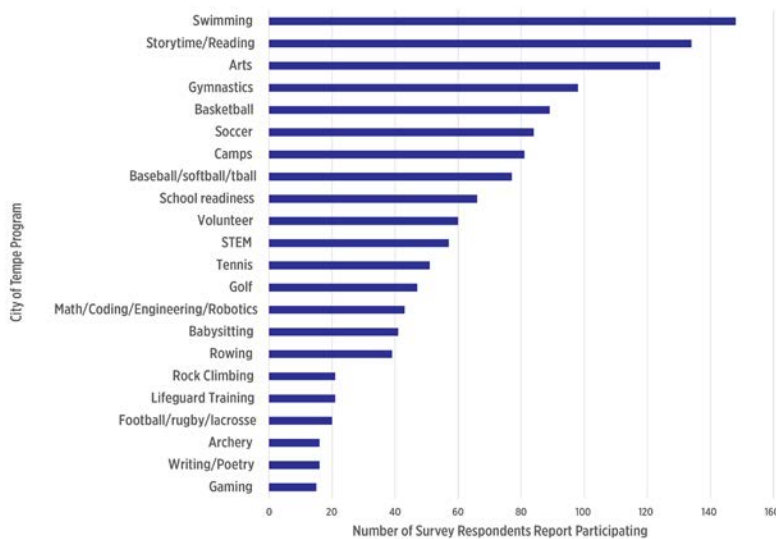
- Outdoor recreation programs (with the exception of boating)
- Non-traditional & adventure based programs
- Programs focused on the younger and more active 50+ resident
- Ethnic- & culturally-based programs
- Family unit-based programs



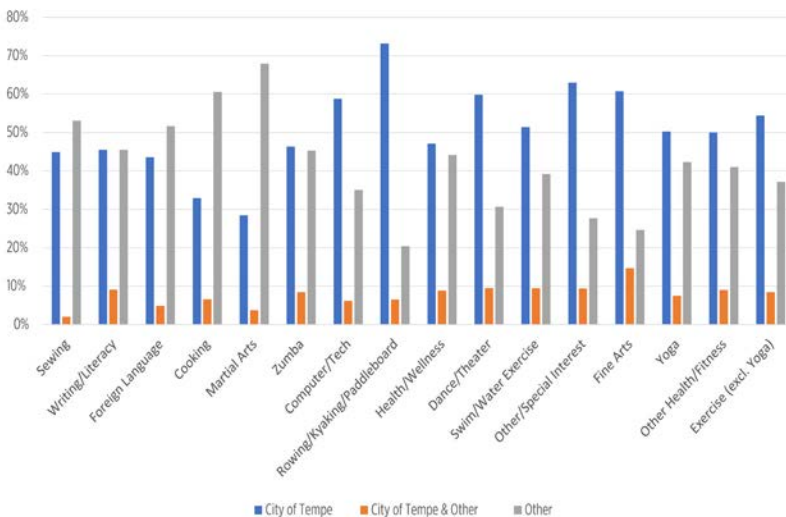
**Figure 4.13: Use of Tempe and Other Provider Youth Programs**



**Figure 4.14: Tempe Youth Program Participation**



**Figure 4.15: Use of Tempe & Other Provider Adult Programs**



## Use of Tempe & Other Provider Youth Programs

To understand where opportunities for new recreation programs may exist, or where there may be program areas that could be retired or better met by providers other than the city, the survey asked about recreation providers. Survey respondents who regularly or occasionally participate in recreation programs report participating in city-provided youth tennis, golf, school readiness, sports leagues, gymnastics, story time/reading, arts & swimming recreation programs more than programs offered by other entities, demonstrating an ongoing community interest in these program areas. Additionally, city tennis courts and golf courses are important locations that are used by private and club programs.

### Youth Program Participation

The largest number of survey respondents reported participating in city youth swimming, reading and arts program/classes.

## Use of Adult Tempe & Other Provider Programs

Survey respondents reported using city adult computer/tech, rowing/kayaking/paddleboard, health & wellness, dance/theater, swim/water exercise, special interest, fine arts, yoga, fitness & exercise classes more than those provided by other providers.

# A Parks & Recreation System for Our Future

*Meeting the City of Tempe Parks & Recreation Facility Needs for 2030 & Beyond*



## Introduction

This section of the plan includes recommendations to ensure the city’s parks and recreation facilities and programs equitably contribute to the health, community, and economy of an increasing population and a more urbanized City.

## Future Recreation Needs

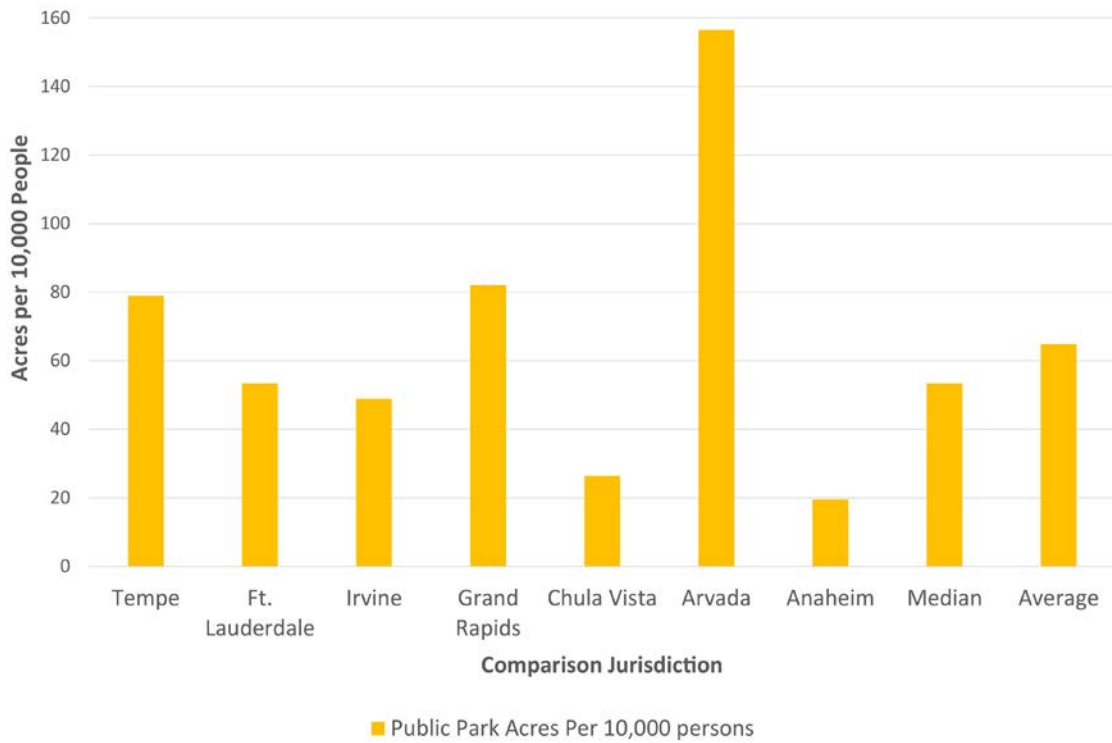
### Level of Service (LOS)

LOS describes the number of facilities per unit of population. LOS helps the city assess the recreation experience it provides to the community. Facilities with a high LOS are usually less crowded than those with a low LOS. While communities hope to optimize the use of recreation facilities, operating at capacity all the time is not always desirable. More crowded facilities (such as fields) may result in fewer use opportunities or a diminished recreation experience (dog parks, splash play areas, pools, and playgrounds). Other considerations of higher use include more wear and tear resulting in less time for regular maintenance such as reseeding fields, refinishing gym floors and higher facility maintenance and repair costs.



*A higher LOS means a lower level of use.*

**Figure 5.1: Public Park Acres per 10k Persons**

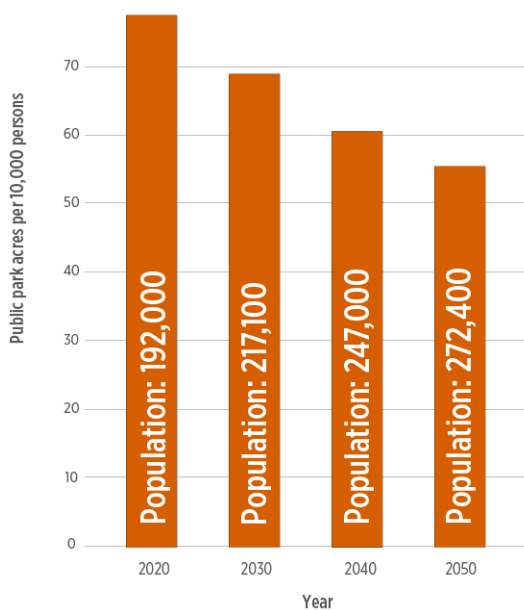


### Current Park Level of Service

The city has choices about how it wants to provide recreation opportunities. We can choose to add new parks in areas of high growth or we can choose to add recreation facilities to existing parks, or a combination of both.

In 2020, the City of Tempe provided almost 79 acres of public park per 10,000 people. When compared to other jurisdictions with similar urban forms and density, Tempe provides slightly more than the average and median of parks per acre.

**Figure 5.2: Acres of Public Park per 10k Persons**

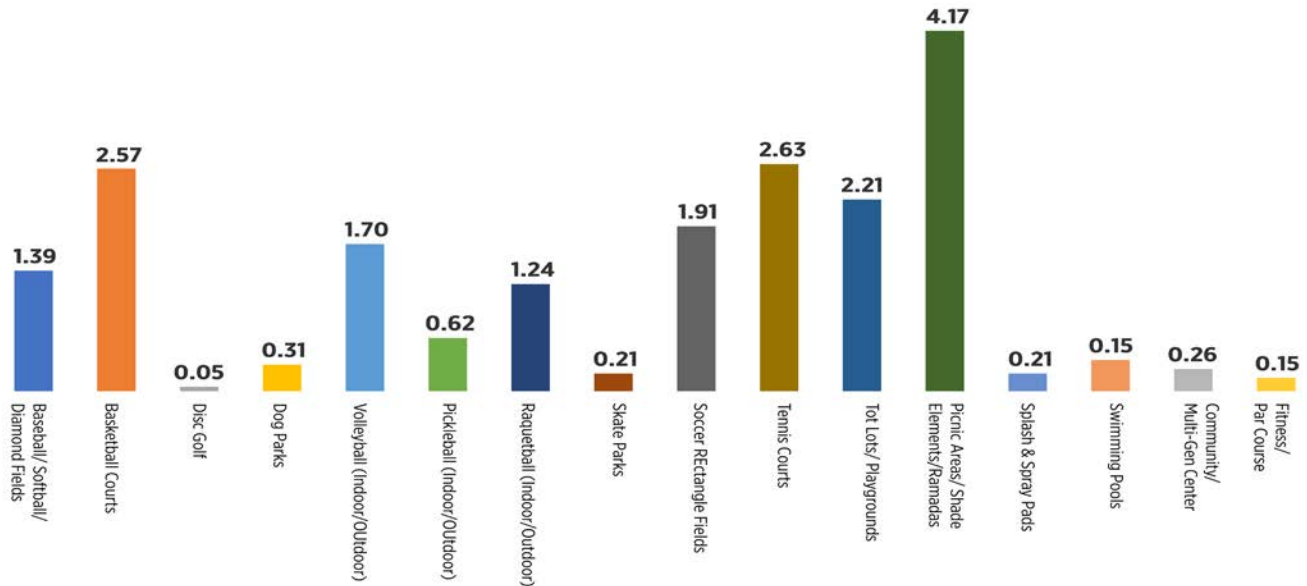


### Future Parks Level of Service

As the city’s population increases, the acres of parks per capita will decline. Tempe’s parks are already intensively used, and limited areas within existing parks are available to add new facilities.



Figure 5.3: City of Tempe Recreation Facilities Current (2020) Level of Service (Facilities per 10k Residents)



## Current Park & Recreation Facilities Level of Service (LOS)

The City of Tempe offers a wide variety of recreation facilities throughout its park system. The current Parks Capital Improvements Plan seeks to ensure every city neighborhood and community park offers base recreation facilities.



### Parks Capital Improvement Plan

View the Parks Capital Improvement Plan [here](#).

Neighborhood & Community Park Recreational Value Base Amenities		Tempe GOAL
RAMADAS	COVERED RAMADA Either by roof or shade fabric 1 ramada = 20'x20'	0-1.99 acres = 0 2-5.99 acres = 1 6-11.99 acres = 2 12 acres = 3
TREES	Trees are placed appropriately to maximize shade and increase biodiversity	25 trees per acre
PLAYGROUNDS	INCLUSIVE EQUIPMENT Equipment that includes multiple challenge levels for children with and without disabilities that meets Tempe's Inclusivity Index Standards  PLAY STRUCTURE Contains central play structure  INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS Contains individual play components  ADA SURFACING Exceed ADA surfacing standards  SHADE Contains a playground shade element or structure	Include with every playground
SITE FURNISHINGS	PICNIC AREAS 7'-11' table with grill  BENCHES Style varies by park  DRINKING FOUNTAINS 3-tiered drinking fountain  TRASH & RECYCLE CONTAINERS Side-by-side design  DOG BAG DISPENSERS Located by a trash container	1 per every 2 acres  1 per acre  1 per every 5 acres  1 per acre  1 per every 3 acres

tempe.gov/ParkUpdates



### Neighborhood & Community Park Recreational Value Base Amenities

View the Neighborhood & Community Park Recreational Value Based Amenities [here](#).

**Figure 5.4: Park and Recreation Facilities Level of Service (LOS)**

Facility Name	Total Current Facilities	Current LOS Per 10,000	PLAN Recommended LOS Per 10,000	Total Facilities Recommended per Plan in 2020	2020 Current Need	2030 New Facilities Needed	2030-2040 Total New Facilities Needed	2040-2050 Total New Facilities Needed	2020-2050 Total New Facilities Needed	
<b>Census Est. Population 2020</b>				<b>192,000</b>		<b>217,100</b>	<b>247,000</b>	<b>272,400</b>	<b># Needed to Meet Plan LOS</b>	
<b>Baseball / Softball / Diamond Fields</b>	27	1.39	1.70	33	6	4	5	4	19	Provide capacity through increasing the number of lit fields and/or new construction and partnerships.
<b>Basketball Courts</b>	50	2.57	1.31	25	-	-	-	-	-	Consider adding new multi-use courts in urbanizing areas through public and publicly accessible private development.
<b>Disc Golf</b>	1	0.05	0.05	1	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Dog Park</b>	6	0.31	0.45	9	3	1	1	1	6	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
<b>Volleyball Courts</b>	33	1.70	1.70	33	-	4	5	4	13	Maintain capacity through shared use and/or new construction.
<b>Pickleball Courts</b>	12	0.62	1.15	22	10	3	3	3	19	Maintain capacity through shared use and/or new construction.
<b>Racquetball Courts</b>	24	1.24	0.80	16	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Skate Park</b>	4	0.21	0.21	4	-	-	1	1	2	Provide additional capacity through increasing the number of skate parks or renovation.
<b>Soccer / Rectangle / Multi-use Fields</b>	37	1.91	1.91	37	-	4	6	5	15	Provide capacity through increasing the number of lit fields and/or new construction and partnerships.
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	51	2.63	1.45	28	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Tot Lots / Playgrounds</b>	43	2.21	2.21	43	-	5	7	6	18	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
<b>Picnic Area / Shade Element/ Ramada</b>	81	4.17	4.17	81	-	10	12	11	33	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
<b>Splash / Spray Pad</b>	4	0.21	0.30	6	2	1	1	-	4	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	3	0.15	0.19	4	1	-	1	-	2	Meet capacity through expansion through renovation and/or new construction.
<b>Community / Multi Gen Center</b>	5	0.26	0.26	5	-	1	1	-	2	Meet capacity through expansion through renovation and/or new construction.
<b>Fitness / Par Course</b>	3	0.15	0.23	4	1	1	1	1	4	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.

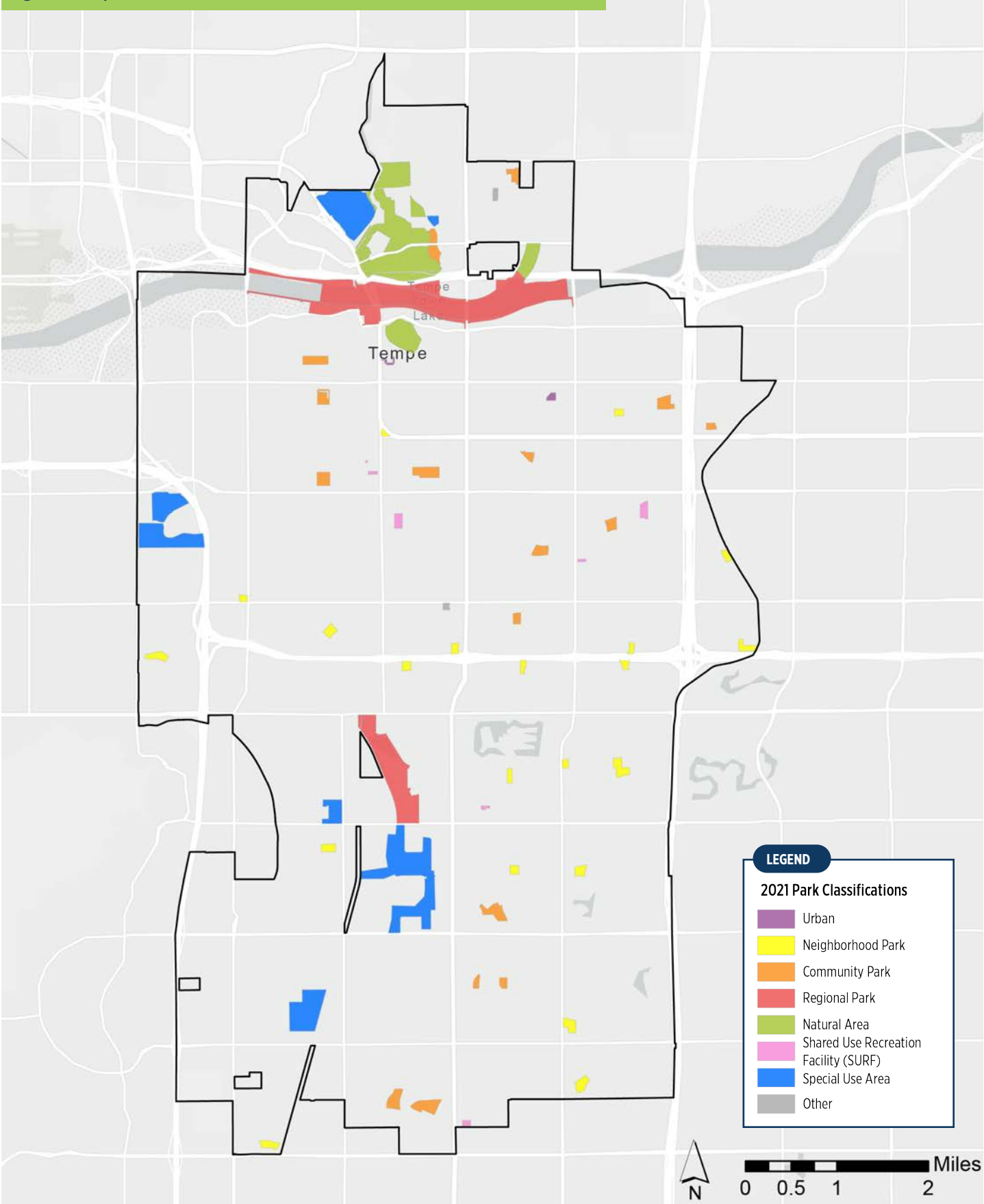
## Updated Park & Recreation Facilities Level of Service

Upon review of the city’s current LOS, the Recreation Needs Assessment, and consideration of the LOS provided by other, comparable cities, this plan increases in the LOS for diamond (baseball/softball) fields through adding new facilities, converting single use facilities into multi-use facilities, lighting unlit fields and seeking partnerships with schools and other entities. This plan recommends an increase in the LOS for fitness courses provided in parks. The city recently completed an Aquatic Needs Assessment Study which addresses the development of new aquatic facilities. This document is incorporated into this plan by reference.



**City of Tempe Aquatic Needs Assessment Study**  
View the Aquatic Needs Assessment Study [here](#).

Figure 5.5: Updated Park Classifications



# Park Classification

## Updated Park Classifications

A park classification system helps define how a park serves a community, and the scale of activities that are appropriate to a park. This map shows the updated classifications for city parks that are recommended in this plan. A park classification study to update the city's current park classification system was conducted as part of the planning process. As a result definitions for park classifications were updated, new park classes were added, and some city areas have been reclassified.



### URBAN PARK

#### Urban Park Criteria

**Size** | .5 to 5 acres

**Service Area** | 1/2 mile

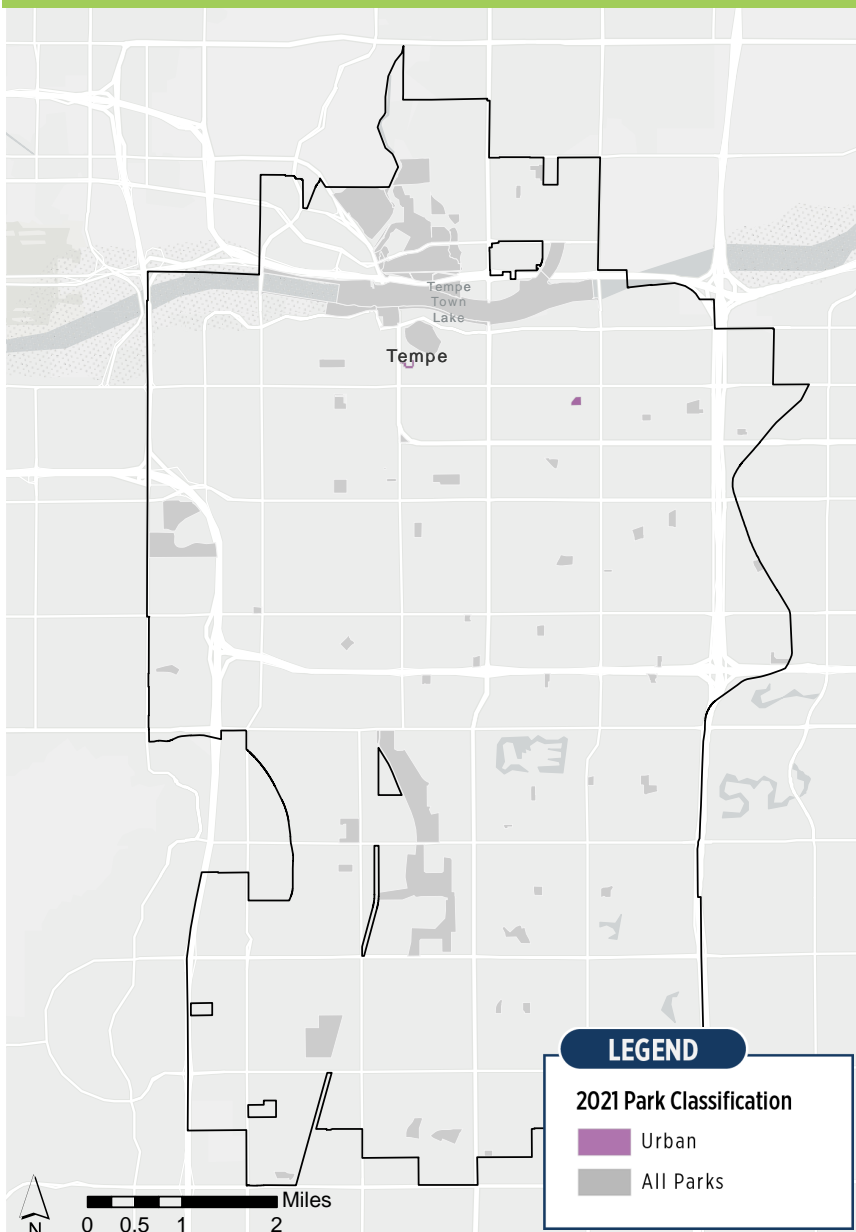
Minimum Requirements:

- Passive activity area
- Seating areas
- Shade

#### Urban Park Design Guidance

Urban parks typically include amenities such as drinking fountains, benches, litter receptacles, trees and shrubs, paved walkways and plazas. These parks may be located near government and/or commercial facilities and designed to serve the workforce, visitors, and community. Urban parks should provide clear site lines throughout the space and exclude the use of edge elements that create barriers to entry. Areas for passive activities, seating, shade and other elements that provide relief from the urban environment are important components of urban parks. These parks are designed for intense and consistent use and should include sturdy and lasting materials including and not limited to brick, stone and wrought iron. Integrated and participatory art, historic, or cultural themes should be incorporated into these parks, utilizing input from appropriate divisions, to ensure they are accurately connected to the community.

Figure 5.6: Updated Urban Park Classification





## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home recreation experiences. They are designed to serve people within walking and bicycling distance of the park. These parks can contribute to the identity and cohesiveness of a community by providing a location for neighborhood events. They contribute to community health by providing nearby opportunities for physical activity and social interaction.

This plan identifies 20 neighborhood parks located throughout the city.

Neighborhood parks include amenities such as playground equipment, picnic tables, ramadas and trees, pathways, and multi-use open grass areas.

### Neighborhood Park Criteria

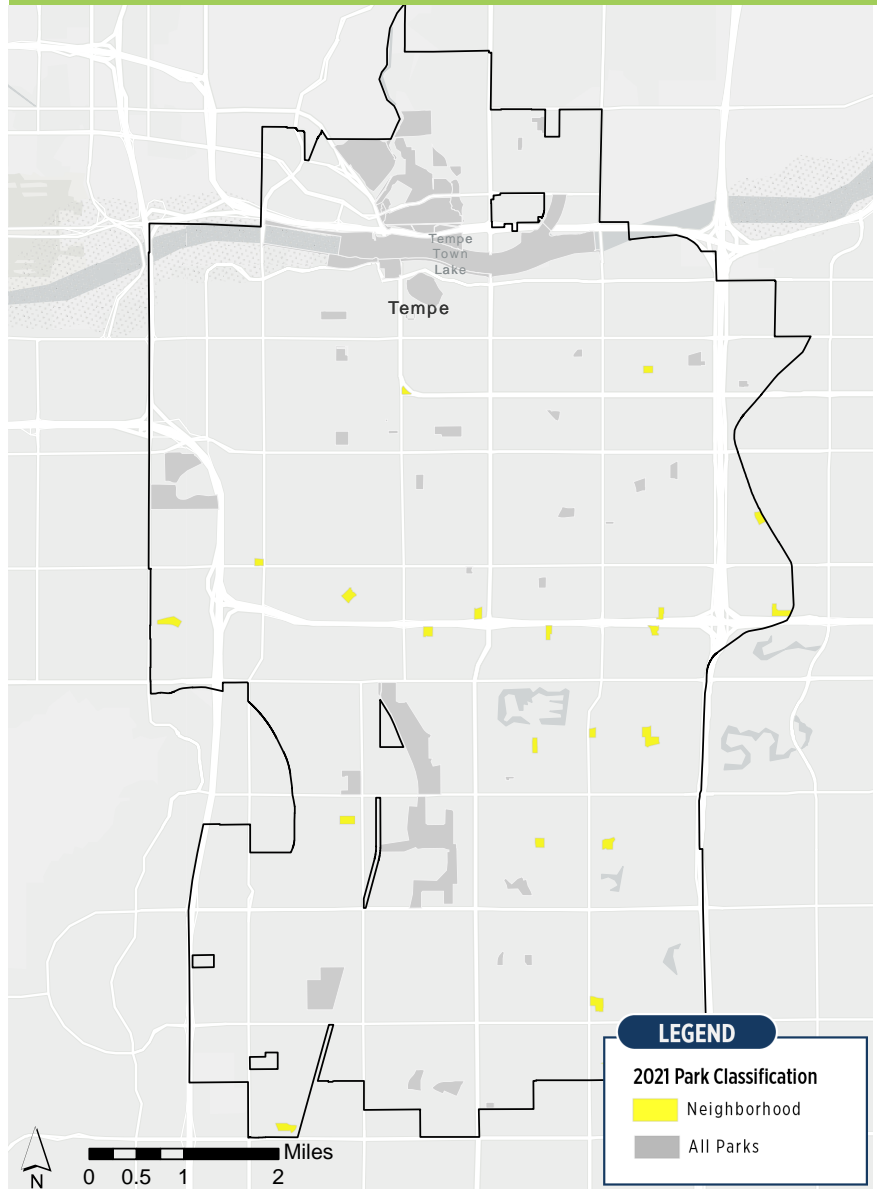
**Size** | 0 to 10 acres

**Service Area** | 1/2 mile

Minimum Requirements:

- Grass area for passive and informal recreation
- Playground
- Seating
- Structural shade

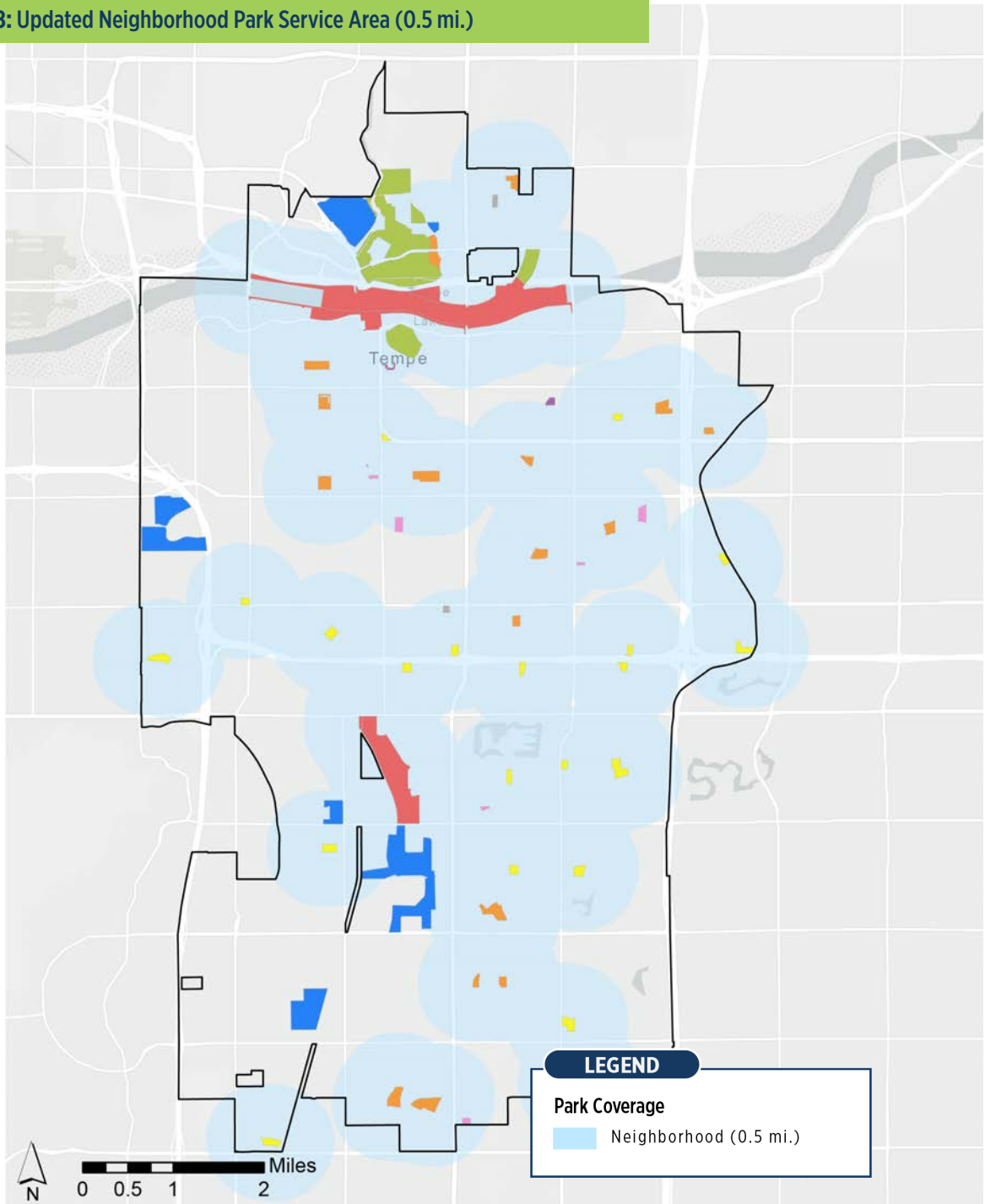
Figure 5.7: Updated Neighborhood Park Classification



### Neighborhood Park Design Guidance

Neighborhood parks are primarily planned and designed for primarily non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities that are of limited size and scale. Places for passive recreation, toddlers, pre-teens and others who may not be able to bicycle, drive, or use public transportation to access other recreation facilities should be a high priority consideration in the design of these parks. Housing developments located adjacent to a community park should provide direct access to the park. Sidewalks, bike paths, crosswalks and connections between the surrounding neighborhood and larger trail systems should be established at all neighborhood parks.

**Figure 5.8: Updated Neighborhood Park Service Area (0.5 mi.)**



### **Neighborhood Park Service Areas**

The majority of the city is located within the service area for neighborhood parks and park facilities. Some areas, such as those located in far southeast Tempe, have access to privately owned and managed neighborhood parks such as those located within the Gila Springs master planned community located east of Kyrene Road between West Ray Road and West Chandler Boulevard. Other locations not within a neighborhood park service area are largely commercial areas. These include the Arizona Mills Mall at I-10 and the Loop 202, the ASU Research Park at the loop 101 and E. Warner Road, and the large industrial area in north east Tempe generally located east of Kyrene Boulevard south of Broadway Road and East of Priest Drive south of the Loop 202.



Image Credit: Lance Enyart, LEA Architects

## COMMUNITY PARK

Community parks provide a wider variety of facilities that can accommodate larger numbers of people than neighborhood parks. Because community parks are generally larger and serve a larger area than neighborhood parks, they are appropriate for community centers and larger facilities. Community parks provide the benefits of and can serve as neighborhood parks for those who live near them. They can also provide facilities that support events (such as tournaments and festivals) that can be enjoyed by the larger community.

This plan identifies 15 community parks located throughout the city.

### Community Park Criteria

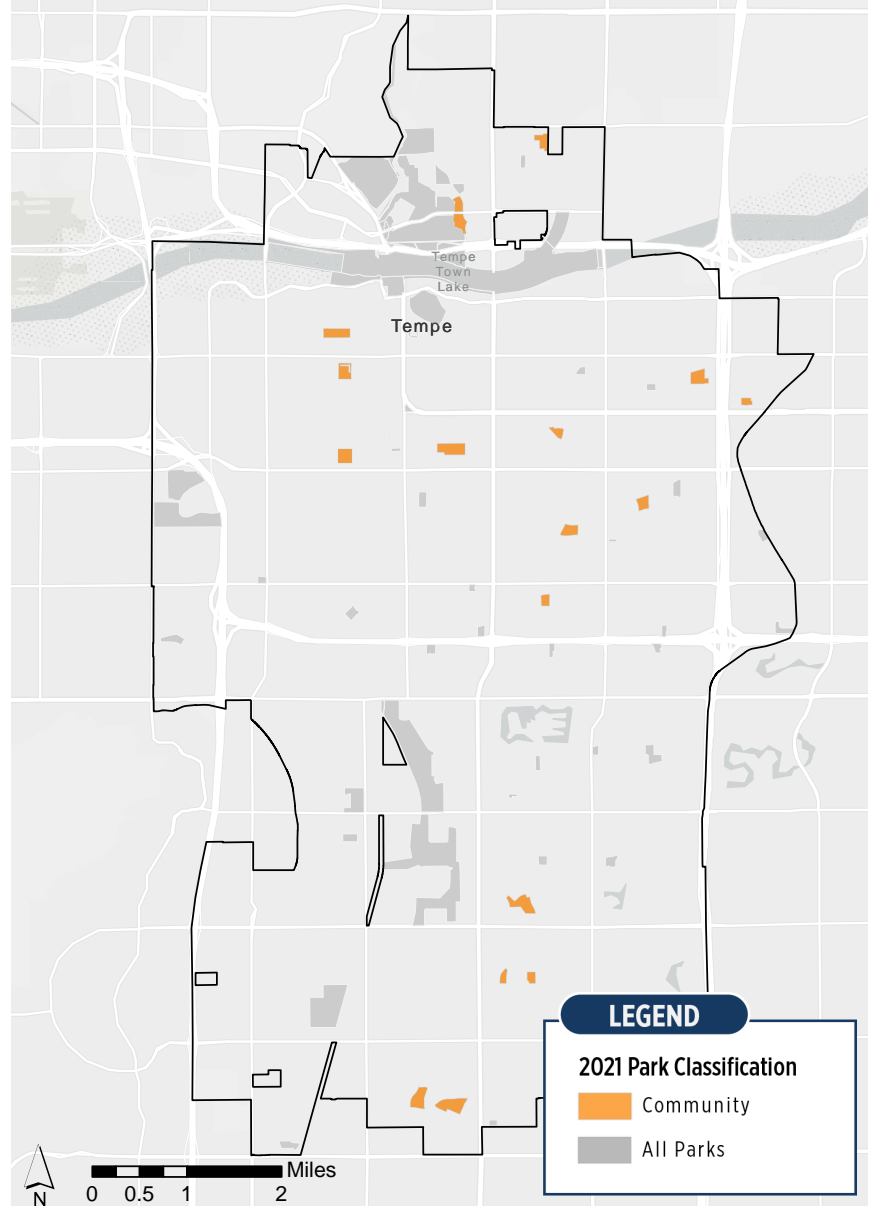
**Size** | 0 to 10 acres

**Service Area** | 1/2 mile to 2 miles

Any of the Following Qualifies a Park as a Community Park:

- Group Picnic/ Ramada Areas
- Any Combination of Two (2) or More Sports Courts and / or Fields

Figure 5.9: Updated Community Park Classification

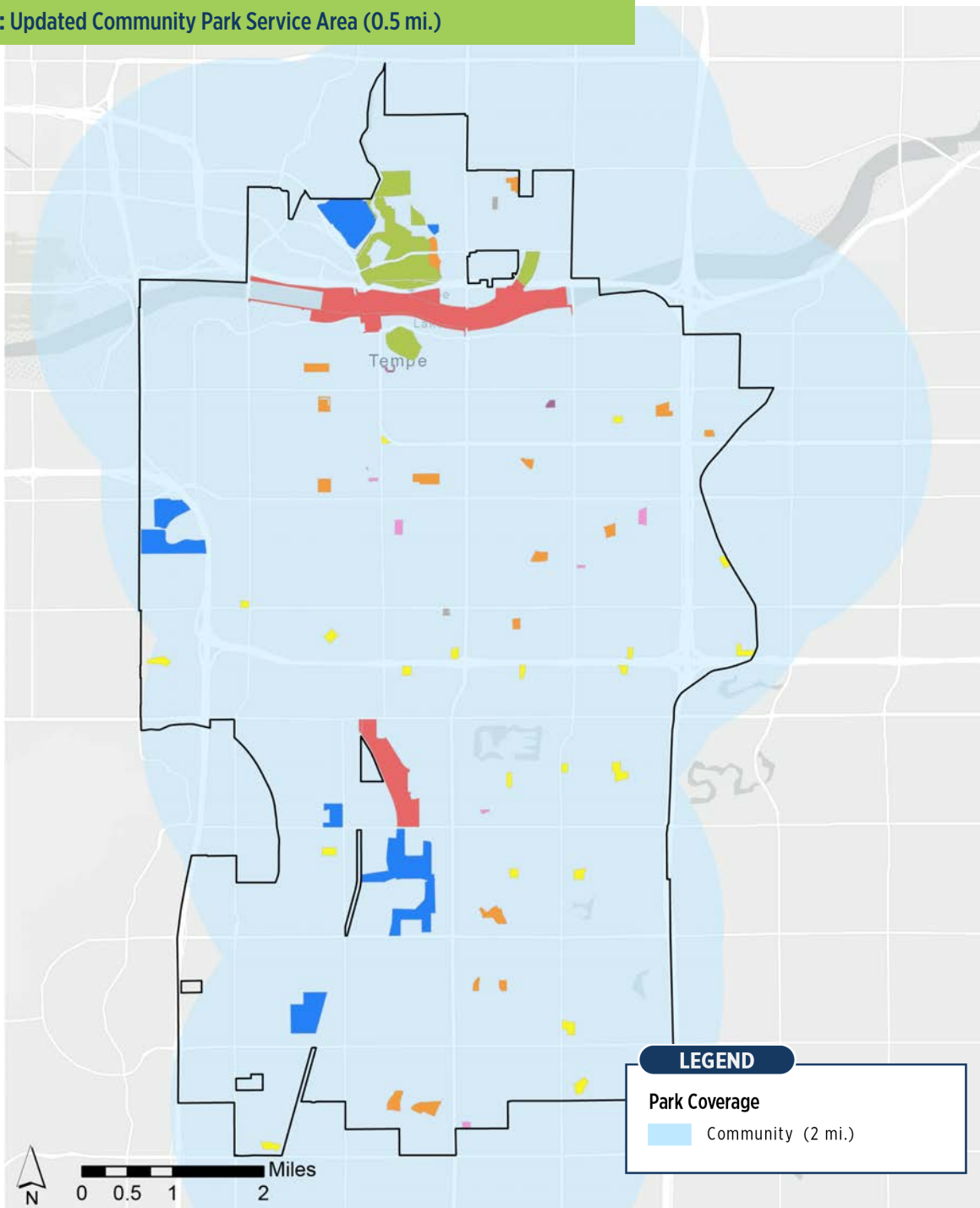


### Community Park Design Guidance

Community parks require additional support facilities, such as on-site parking and restrooms. The size of these parks provides opportunities to offer active and structured recreation activities for young people and adults.

Approximately two-thirds of a community park should be reserved for active recreation uses such as: ball fields, tennis, basketball, pickleball and volleyball courts, open grass area for free play, children's playgrounds and space for outdoor events. Paved pathways and signs should direct users to areas within the park as well as to adjacent trails, greenways, streets and sidewalks. Housing developments located adjacent to a community park should provide direct access to the park.

**Figure 5.10: Updated Community Park Service Area (0.5 mi.)**



### **Community Park Service Areas**

The entire Tempe community is within the 2 mile service area of a city-owned and operated community park.





## REGIONAL PARK

This plan recognizes that the larger, 365 acre Rio Salado Park includes the Tempe Town Lake, as well as smaller individually named parks, like Tempe Beach Park, Giuliano Park, Arts Park and Marina. Rio Salado Park and Kiwanis Park are identified in this plan as regional park.

### Regional Park Criteria

**Size** | 50 or more acres

**Service Area** | Citywide

Any of the Following Qualifies a Park as a Community Park:

- Group Picnic/ Ramada Areas
- Any Combination of Four (4) or More Sports Courts and / or Fields

Must Include:

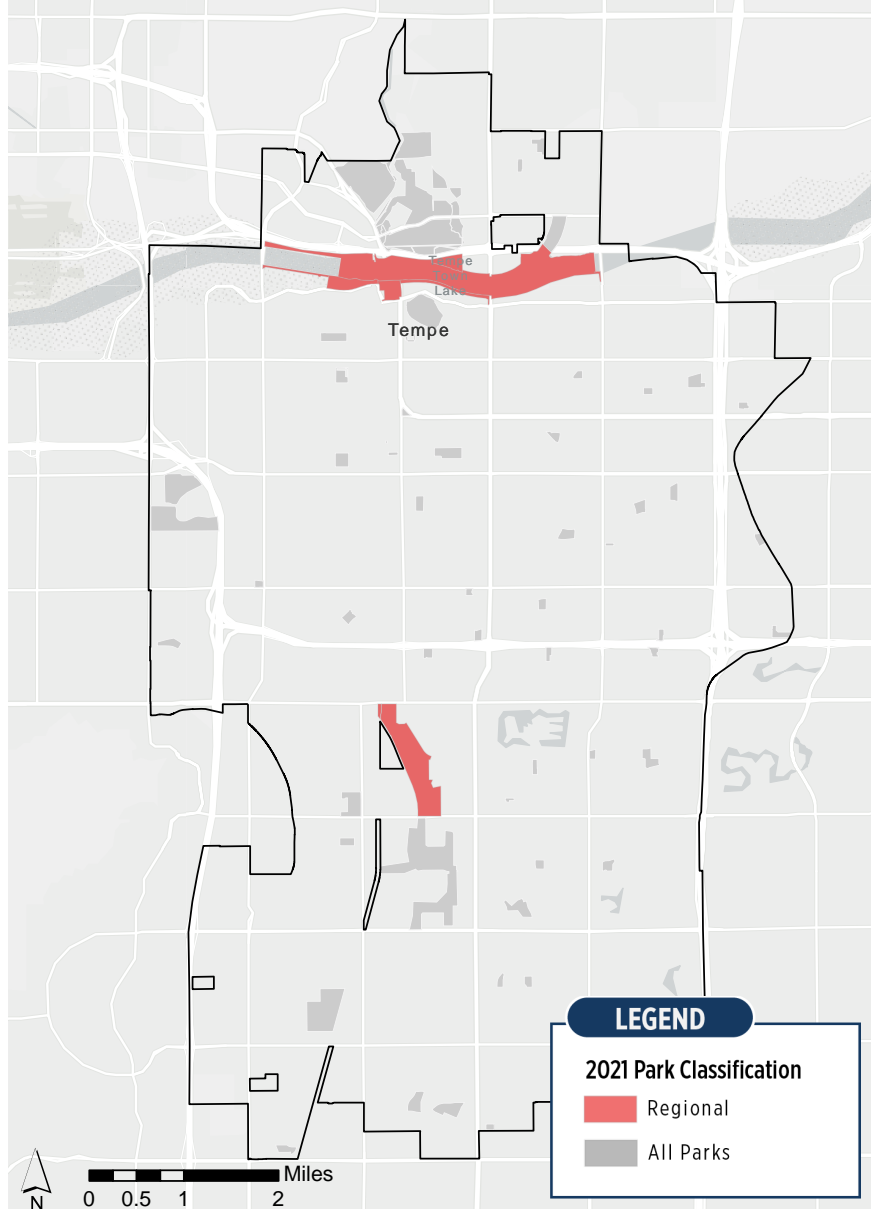
- On-site Parking
- Restrooms



### Kiwanis Park Management Plan

*The City's Kiwanis Park Management Plan provide guidelines for future programming, amenities, facilities and operational needs of the park and recreation center. The management planning process included extensive research and analysis into how Kiwanis Park and the recreation center are used today. View the plan [here](#).*

Figure 5.11: Updated Regional Park Classification



### Regional Park Design Guidance

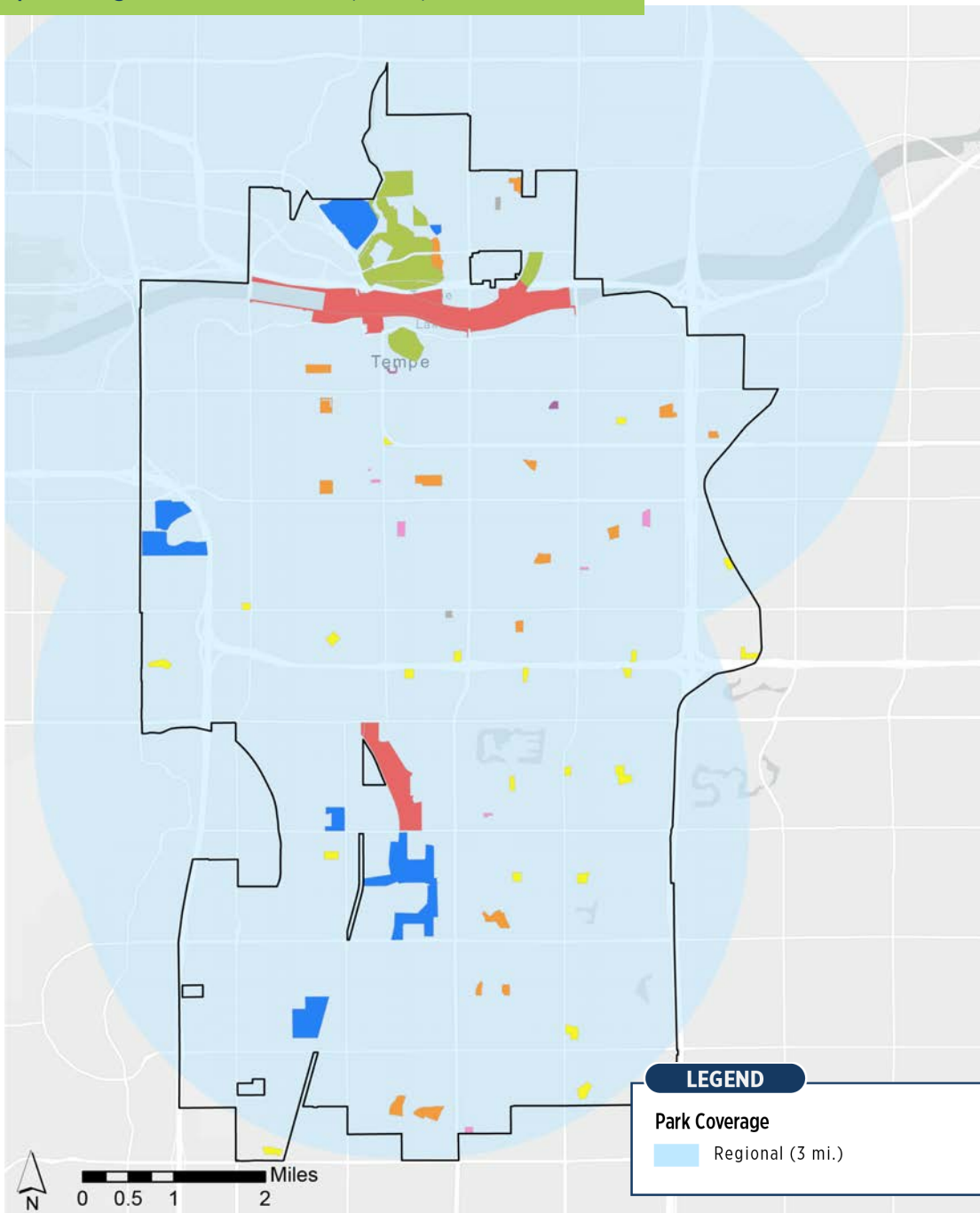
Management plans to guide the future development of Rio Salado and Kiwanis parks were developed and respectively adopted in 2018 & 2020. According to the Park Classification Update, a regional park is 50+ acres and must include on-site parking and restrooms. Regional parks may include areas for large events, aquatic facilities, boat launches, community and neighborhood park facilities, concessions, and splash playgrounds. They will have greater than one group party area and sports field or court.



### Rio Salado and Tempe Beach Park Master Plan

*View the Rio Salado and Tempe Beach Park Master Plan [here](#).*

Figure 5.12: Updated Regional Park Service Area (0.5 mi.)



### Regional Park Coverage

The entire Tempe community is within the 3 mile service area of a regional park.



## SHARED USE RECREATION FACILITIES (SURF)

Five (5) shared use facilities that include courts and amenities shared with other entities such as schools, are identified by this plan. Most of Tempe’s shared use recreation facilities are generally owned by schools and used as a public recreation facility during non-school use times.

### Shared Use Recreation Facility (SURF) Criteria

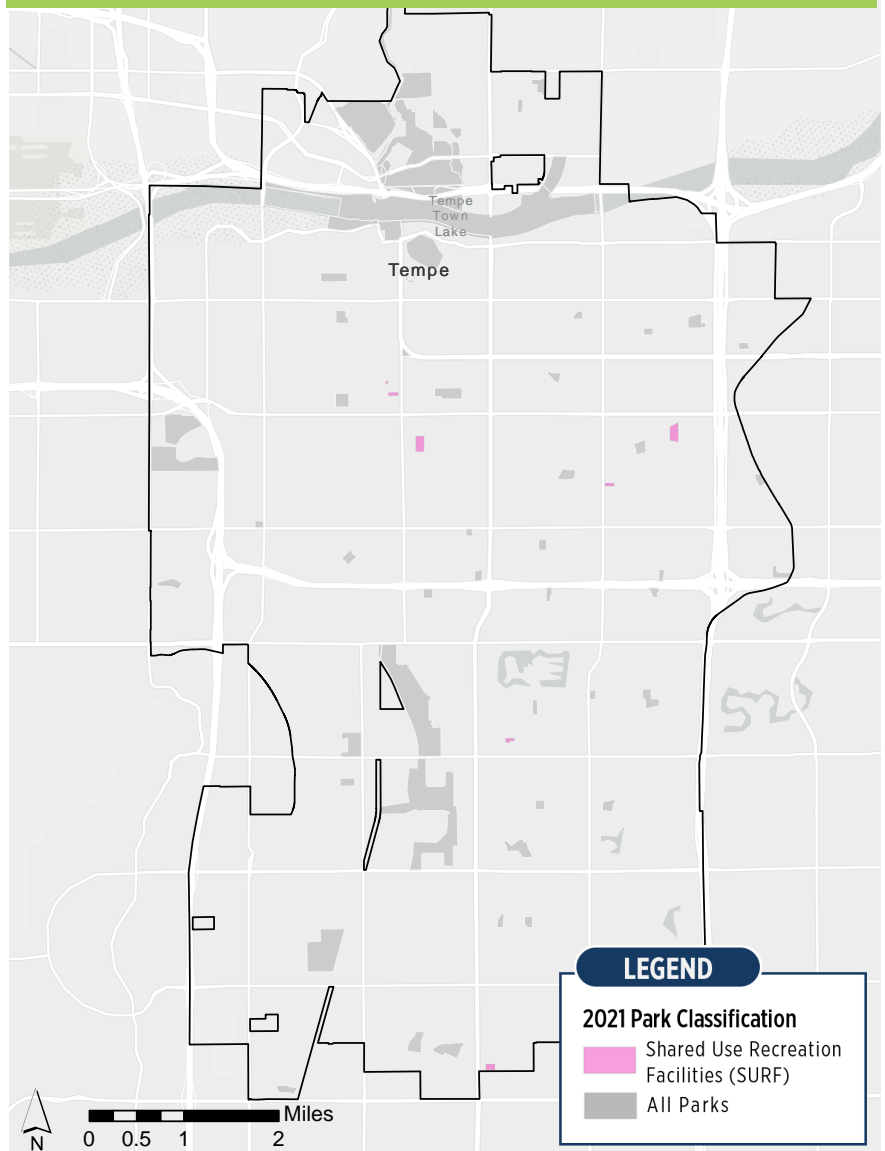
**Size** | Varies

**Service Area** | Varies & depends on the facility

Must Be:

- Recreation areas or facilities owned and / or managed by another entity (such as a School District)

Figure 5.13: Updated Shared Use Recreation Facilities (SURF) Park Classification



### Shared Use Recreation Facility (SURF) Design Guidance

**Design:** Shared Use Recreation Facilities should be designed to maximize participation by people of all abilities, and allow for flexible use. For example, basketball courts that could be striped for volleyball.

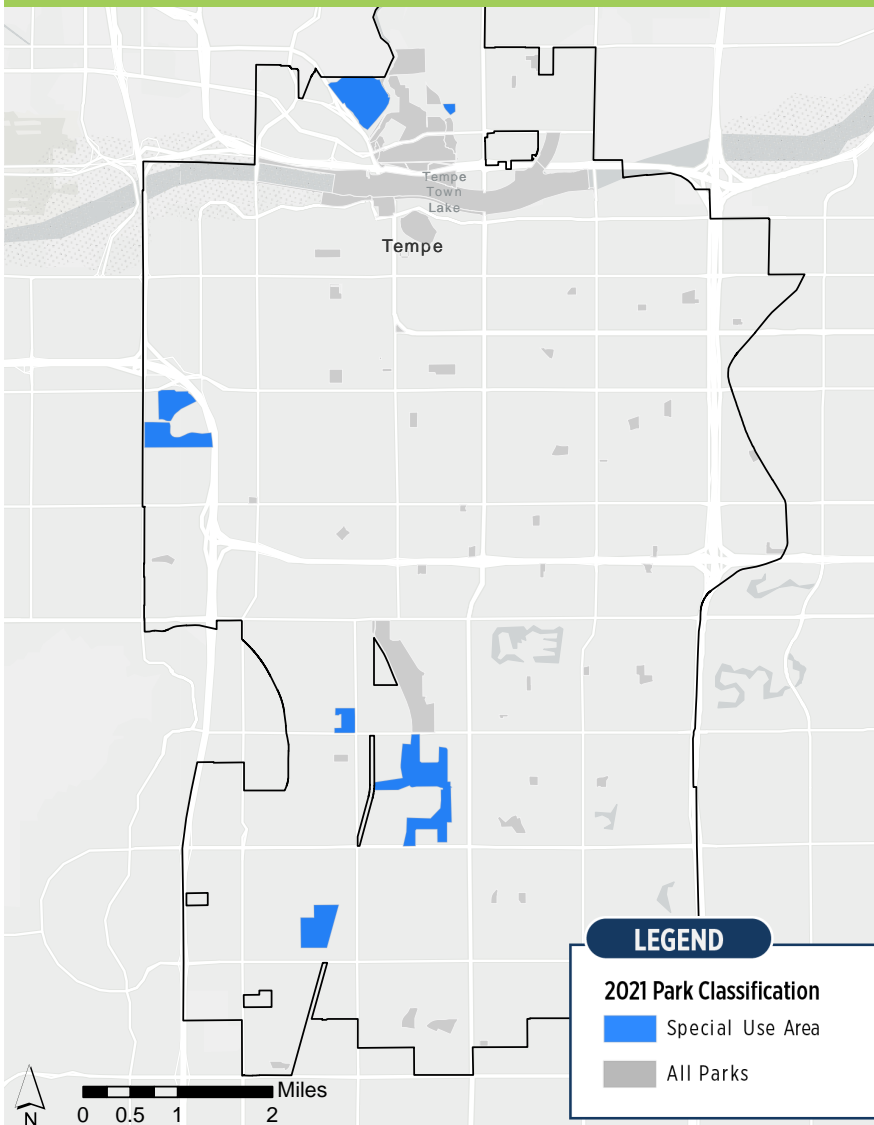
**Access:** Parking should be appropriate and adjacent to the facility. Locations near public transportation are more desirable. All shared use facilities shall provide bicycle racks.

**Shade:** When possible or practical, shaded seating or observation areas are desirable.

**Safety:** All fencing shall be see-through fencing allowing sight lines to the street and neighborhood shall be used. When possible and practical, the facility shall be lit for night use. Shared Use Recreation Facilities may be locked during times when they are not available to the public.

**Signage:** Shared use facilities should be signed with the facility name, facility owner name, facility manager name, public use hours, facility rules, and maintenance contact information clearly visible.

**Figure 5.14: Updated Special Use Park Classification**



## SPECIAL USE AREA

This plan identifies nine (9) special use recreation facilities including and not limited to golf courses, sports complexes, and Tempe Double Butte Cemetery.

### Special Use Recreation Facility Criteria

**Size** | Varies

**Service Area** | Citywide

Should Be:

- Congregate sports facilities
- Single function that is the predominant use within the park
- Special event sites

## Special Use Area Design Guidance

**Design:** Special Use Facilities should be designed to accommodate the primary use.

**Access:** Parking should be appropriate and adjacent to the facility. Locations near public transportation are more desirable. All special use facilities shall provide bicycle racks.

**Shade:** When possible or practical, shaded seating or observation areas are desirable.

**Safety:** When possible and practical, the facility shall be lit for night use. The use of on-site or perimeter fencing is discouraged except when necessary for safety or functionality.

**Signage:** Special use facilities should be signed with the facility name, facility rules, and maintenance contact information clearly visible.

**Site amenities & design:** When possible or practical and in keeping with the primary use, water fountains, landscaping, and art should be included within the site.



## NATURAL AREA

Natural area parks provide natural areas within the city that support the desert environment. Natural area may be managed for different purposes, including storm water management, wildlife habitat, and flood retention. Natural areas are designed to protect or conserve significant natural features, such as desert landscape, topography, wetlands, environmentally sensitive areas, and wildlife habitat. Where appropriate, these parks may also support outdoor recreation, such as trail-related opportunities, bird and wildlife viewing, environmental interpretation and education, and small-scale picnicking.

This plan identifies five natural area parks including the 200-acre Papago Preserve and the 25-acre Hayden Butte Preserve.

### Natural Area Park Criteria

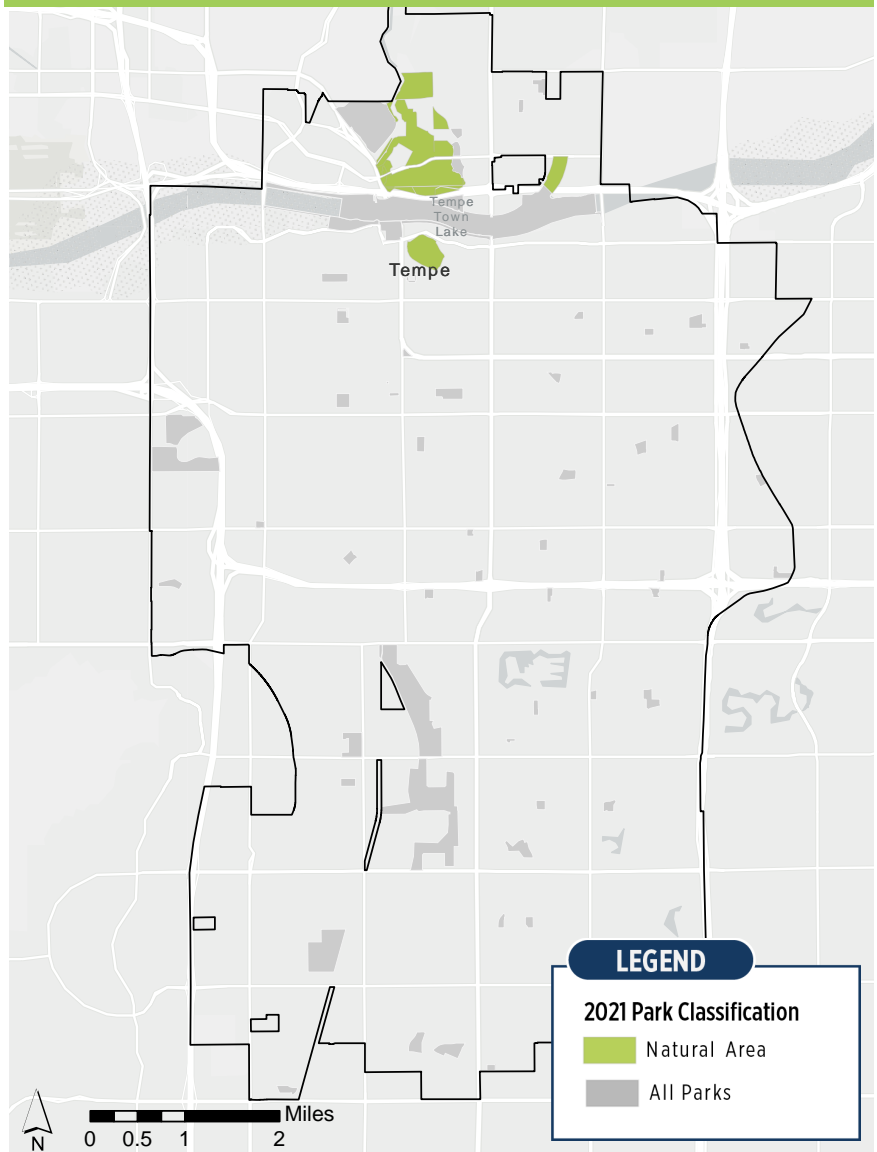
**Size** | Varies

**Service Area** | Varies

Must Include Predominantly (>70% of park area):

- Open space areas maintained for open space, wildlife, & habitat values
- Undeveloped and / or unmaintained open spaces

Figure 5.15: Updated Natural Area Park Classification



### Natural Area Design Guidance

Within these areas, paths & trails provide access to designated activity areas, natural areas and unique geologic and cultural features. Interpretative and informational signage are designed to be compatible with the landscape and keep visitors on existing trails and in identified activity areas. Trail corridors may support non-motorized transportation, recreation, exercise, and community access. Trails within these areas should be looped and interconnected to provide a variety of trail lengths and destinations. They should link to various parts of the community, as well as existing park sites. Lighting within a natural area park, with the exception of designated activity areas (such as ramadas and parking areas), is not recommended. Buildings and shade structures, if appropriately designed and compatible with the surrounding area, can be considered if they further the purpose of the park.

Management plans for Papago and Hayden Butte preserves will be conducted in the near- future. These adopted plans shall update this design guidance.

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Safety

What would make you feel safer when you are in a Park? (In order of importance)

1 = Most Important | 8 = Least Important

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cleanliness	1, 1	2	3	4			7	
Maintained landscaping	1	2, 2	3, 3			6, 6	7	8
People & activities in the park	1	2	3, 3			6	7	8
Emergency Call Boxes					5		7	8, 8
Signs directing me to park facilities & exits			3	4	5	6	7	
Areas that you can see & hear from the street	7, 7	2	3	4			7	
Equipment maintenance	1		3	4, 4	5		7	

# Plan Principles & Strategies

## Introduction

This section includes the plan guiding principles and strategies. The guiding principle strategies are broken up into near and mid term strategies, with near term referring to the next 1-5 years and mid term referring to the next 6-10 years.



### Guiding Principle: Inclusion

Providing community access and opportunity regardless of color, gender orientation, age, income, or ability.



### Guiding Principle: Resilience

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that help the community thrive despite disruptive environmental, societal and health events.



Image Credit: Scott Cook

### Guiding Principle: Strategic

A flexible system that focuses on continuous improvement.



Image Credit: Erin Kirkpatrick

### Guiding Principle: Sustainability

Parks and recreation systems and services that enrich and sustain the community, nurture the environment and contribute to the economy.



## Guiding Principle: Inclusion

Providing community access and opportunity regardless of color, gender orientation, age, income, or ability.

### What this Principle Means:

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that:

- Are connected to and integrated into the community.
- Meet the recreation needs of our diverse community.
- Are welcoming and designed for all regardless of race, income, ability, age, gender or sexual orientation.
- Are equitably distributed through the community.
- Are accessible, ADA-compliant and affordable.
- Connect the community to multiple modes and networks of transportation to easily travel throughout Tempe.

### We Will Continue To:

- Implement city's ADA Transition Plan.
- Include community input in design and renovation projects.
- Provide amenities such as seating, shade, drinking water, to enhance visitor experiences, with an emphasis on areas with the greatest need.
- Include adult changing tables and/or family restrooms in park and recreation facility renovations.
- Utilize Tempe's Inclusive Playground Guide for the renovation and installation of playgrounds in city parks.
- Identify areas of historic and/or cultural significance; solicit input from tribal communities and Historic Preservation Officer.
- Partner with organizations to bring unique recreation programs to the city.
- Provide recreation programs that are affordable and offer a vibrant combination of active and passive activities that are inclusive of the entire community, such as "adaptive recreation day".



**Near-Term Strategies:**

- GP 1-1** | Design and construct a fully accessible and inclusive play area, which will act as a template for further regional park play area installations and improvements.
- GP 1-2** | Consider working with a social justice entity to support community engagement with park and recreation improvements and design.
- GP 1-3** | Increase culturally diverse programming and design as part of the overall effort to serve the cultural interests of the community.
- GP 1-4** | Integrate ethnic and cultural diversity into recreation programs and facilitate multi-generational interactions and dialogues.
- GP 1-5** | Conduct an equity study to impact park and amenity distribution and access.
- GP 1-6** | Conduct an equity study and based on the study, develop a service philosophy that promotes equitable recreation program and facility access to ensure that deeper investment occurs in areas with community members who have less resources.
- GP 1-7** | Ensure that the results of equitable studies and community input are incorporated timely into evolving programming and facility improvements.
- GP 1-8** | Include a variety of gender expressions in recreation facilities, activity guides and advertising materials, web pages and other forms of communications.
- GP 1-9** | Consider universal access and multi-generational uses to encourage participation and inclusive play by people of all abilities and ages in all park and recreation facility upgrades and design decisions.
- GP 1-10** | Establish ongoing review of engagement and outreach practices to ensure that Tempe recreation programs are designed to, and in fact, reach the community.
- GP 1-11** | Incorporate O'odham and Piipaash designs and perspectives into city park signage, naming and design.
- GP 1-12** | More clearly identify in the Tempe Opportunities Brochure, those programs that are designed for specific population.
- GP 1-13** | Design parks to provide places for social interaction that is appropriate to the park and considers individual and community health and safety.

**GP 1-14** | Leverage parks and recreation programs and facilities to make city education and programs more accessible to the community, such as Human Services, Sustainability, Solid Waste and Water Conservation.

**GP 1-15** | Expand park access by providing amenities that allow people to use various transportation modes to safely and reliably access parks.

**Mid-Term Strategies:**

- GP 1-16** | Distribute acres of parks per capita equitably within the city.
- GP 1-17** | Incorporate art and design elements into parks that reflect the modern, historical and /or indigenous culture and character of the surrounding neighborhood and/or community.
- GP 1-18** | Ensure inclusion of parks, facilities and open spaces into the city's goal of becoming a 20-minute city is done in an equitable and inclusive way, based on neighborhood demographics, assets and density.
- GP 1-19** | Ensure program registration is provided in accessible formats, in the event that online registration is not possible.



## Guiding Principle: Resilience

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that help the community thrive despite disruptive environmental, societal and health events.

### What this Principle Means:

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that:

- Foster community connections, allowing Tempe to overcome disruptions.
- Integrate into the community through design and programming.
- Provide respite from extreme heat and drought.
- Are well-maintained so they are safe, clean and attractive
- Are able to withstand increased use.
- Are able to mitigate local flooding.
- Are able to respond to unforeseen events.

### We Will Continue To:

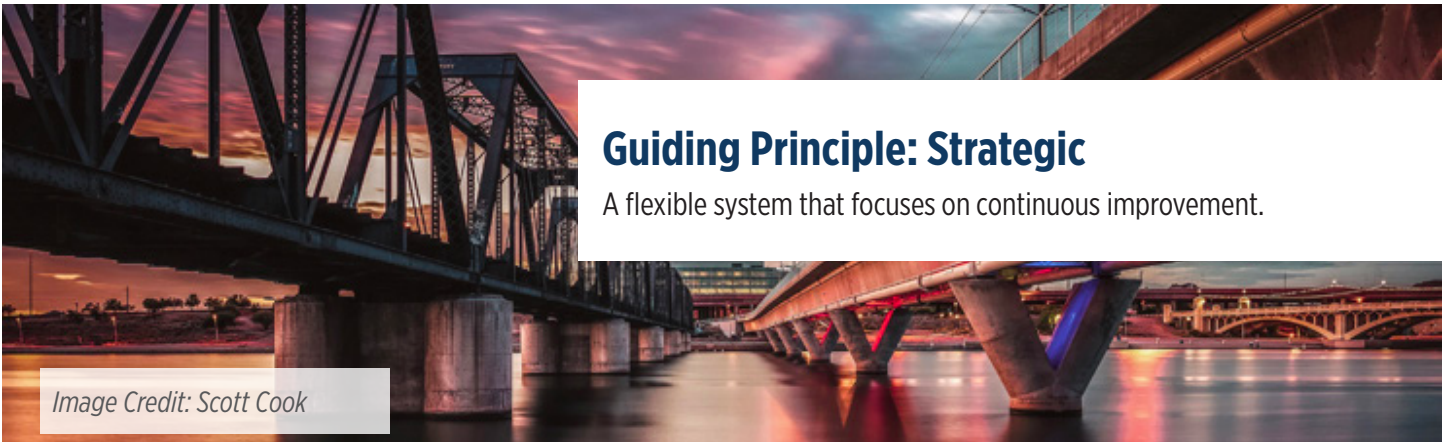
- Implement the Urban Forestry Master plan to reduce urban heat island by increasing shade in City parks.
- Strive to use best practices in park planning, maintenance, & operations.
- Provide robust community engagement and communication during park and recreation improvement opportunities.
- Refresh aging landscape in neighborhood, community and regional parks.
- Seek operating impact funding to maintain park improvements; convert funding to FTEs, when financially possible to ensure on-going, skilled maintenance support.
- Use parks and recreation sites as key gathering areas and hubs for community resilience & emergency management.
- Explore opportunities to support heat relief efforts.
- Coordinate with City Emergency Management & County All Hazards Mitigation Plans.
- Work with the Fleet Services to annually assess maintenance equipment for planned repairs and replacement.

**Near-Term Strategies:**

- GP 2-1** | Design & retrofit parks to respond to regional climate change projections to build resilience against increasing heat.
- GP 2-2** | Research and identify Cool materials for use and incorporate heat and health data into park design.
- GP 2-3** | Incorporate best practices in the design of parks and selection of plant materials to enhance environmental benefits and promote resilient landscapes.
- GP 2-4** | Research and integrate technology to help deliver park and recreation maintenance and services more efficiently.
- GP 2-5** | Align parks and recreation maintenance staffing and material/supply levels with qualitative and quantitative maintenance standards; propose increases through annual budgetary process.
- GP 2-6** | Explore adding sprinklers to flood irrigated parks to increase community use and improving flood detention, while providing supplemental flood irrigation.
- GP 2-7** | Partner with city departments on community resilience efforts (Cool Kids, CERT, etc.).
- GP 2-8** | Work with Engineering and Environmental Services to determine where Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development in parks could help support local flood mitigation.
- GP 2-9** | Explore partnership opportunities through community gardens to positively influence food islands.
- GP 2-10** | Enhance the connection between the community and parks by expanding the adopt-a-park program to participate in park maintenance activities, as well as additional non-profit and community based organization partnerships.
- GP 2-11** | Partner with Water Utilities to develop and implement stormwater infrastructure inspections and maintenance strategies within city parks to improve drainage within neighborhoods and the city.

**Mid-Term Strategies:**

- GP 2-12** | Implement and adopt Cool materials for use, as well as the continued incorporation of heat and health data into park design.
- GP 2-13** | Develop and implement Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development plan in parks that could help support local flood mitigation.
- GP 2-14** | Partner with citywide food planning efforts through community gardens and food access programs.
- GP 2-15** | Enhance the connection between the community and parks and recreation through non-profit and community-based organization partnerships.
- GP 2-16** | Explore opportunities for regional partnerships and funding for urban forestry, green infrastructure and use of cool materials.



## Guiding Principle: Strategic

A flexible system that focuses on continuous improvement.

Image Credit: Scott Cook

### What this Principle Means:

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that:

- Are supported by the community.
- Expand recreation opportunities as a result of partnerships between Tempe Parks and Recreation Division and other city departments and community entities, such as not for profits and private organizations.
- Provide a critical link in the city's 20-Minute City network.
- Make data driven decisions.
- Incorporate responsible and timely technological improvements.
- Recruits, develops and retains a competent focused workforce.

### We Will Continue To:

- Support and participate in the city's interdepartmental approach to ensure parks and preserves are clean and well maintained for all users.
- Work with boards and commissions to provide input on parks and recreation facilities and programs.
- Implement recently completed planning efforts, including the Rio Salado Master Plan, Kiwanis Park Management Plan and the Aquatics Needs Assessment.
- Participate in the city's Public Facilities Committee to review, evaluate and implement the Maker's Study: Facilities Master Plan.
- Coordinate programming and operations efforts with maintenance teams to identify and repair facilities efficiently, while minimizing facility and programming impacts.
- Include maintenance, programming and operations staff in all city parks and recreation construction and renovation design reviews.

**Near-Term Strategies:**

- GP 3-1** | Provide adequate levels of staffing and other resources to maintain existing park and recreation facilities.
- GP 3-2** | Establish a dedicated urban forestry team for parks related tree maintenance activities.
- GP 3-3** | Develop and implement a formal park donation policy.
- GP 3-4** | Determine, evaluate and include base amenities within regional parks, similar to the neighborhood park recreational value program.
- GP 3-5** | Add additional parkland and recreation facilities as identified in the Level of Service study with an eye towards equitable distribution.
- GP 3-6** | Develop an ongoing equitable and inclusive community engagement plan that focuses on building relationships and trust, improving community conditions, creating higher-performing parks and recreation spaces, as well as equitably distributing investments.
- GP 3-7** | Develop, in partnership with Transportation, a comprehensive and coordinated wayfinding/signage design plan that directs people to walking, biking and transit options within or near parks and other nearby destinations.
- GP 3-8** | Conduct a study to identify areas within neighborhood and community parks for potential multi-use field use.
- GP 3-9** | Consider lighting unlit fields to extend their use time.
- GP 3-10** | Support the newly formed Desert Conservation Commission in their efforts to identify and establish partnerships, increase awareness through education, participate in planning and design efforts, and identify appropriate uses and prioritize needs within Tempe's desert preserves.
- GP 3-11** | Develop and implement management plans for Tempe's desert preserves.
- GP 3-12** | Use the design guidance and park classification criteria in this plan when updating existing and designing new parks.
- GP 3-13** | Develop proactive park and recreation volunteer program to supplement maintenance and operations.

- GP 3-14** | Ensure design themes and identities for neighborhood parks are appropriate to the surrounding community and are reflective of approved character area plans.
- GP 3-15** | Establish focus groups, surveys and user evaluations that create opportunities for the community to provide input in the design of recreation programs and facilities.
- GP 3-16** | Update and modernize the city's municipal code, Chapter 23 – Parks and Recreation.
- GP 3-17** | Seek innovative and equitable partnerships with schools and other Tempe and regional service providers to identify opportunities to increase community health and access for those with disabilities through parks and recreation programming.
- GP 3-18** | Every five years conduct a field and facility "life cycle analysis" that looks at use, costs, and facility appropriateness to determine if fields and or sports courts should be reprogrammed to other uses.
- GP 3-19** | Periodically conduct a program "life cycle analysis" that looks at historic program attendance, fees, private sector offerings, cost, facility appropriateness/need and other factors when evaluating program offerings.
- GP 3-20** | Continue to work with community organizations like Tempe Tourism and Downtown Tempe Authority to attract quality events to Tempe.
- GP 3-21** | Work with boating organizations and ASU to partner on opportunities to update rowing and boating facilities at Tempe Town Lake.
- GP 3-22** | Establish an effective recreation planning process internally and externally to determine an appropriate position in the marketplace for all recreation services.
- GP 3-23** | Identify internal partnerships to track and monitor goals and opportunities, while reducing silos and fostering increased collaboration.

**Mid-Term Strategies:**

- GP 3-24** | Consider conducting a follow-up Level of Service study in years 5 or 6, including both national and local benchmark jurisdictions.
- GP 3-25** | Consider seeking CAPRA certification for the Parks and Recreation Division.

- GP 3-26** | Consider forming a “Friends of Tempe Parks and Recreation” not-for-profit to raise funds that promote equitable park distribution, access, and facilities, adaptive recreation and programs.
- GP 3-27** | Develop, for each park, a comprehensive and coordinated way finding/signage design plan that directs people along walking and biking corridors leading to parks and other destinations.
- GP 3-28** | Consider providing opportunities for “specialized” activities through public-private partnerships, contracted agreements, internal investment, etc.
- GP 3-29** | Expand online facility reservations for fields, courts, classrooms, etc..
- GP 3-30** | Develop a task force to prioritize events and assignment of event locations; consider economic impact, community benefit (i.e., charitable, community direct benefit), benefits to the environment, impact on surrounding community and cost to the city.
- GP 3-31** | Identify cost of maintenance of shared use recreation facilities.
- GP 3-32** | Explore updating shared use recreation agreements with equitable application of maintenance costs.
- GP 3-33** | Actively implement an employee leadership and development program that encourages professional development through certifications, mentorships, cross training, networking, education, etc.



## Guiding Principle: Sustainability

Parks and recreation systems and services that enrich and sustain the community, nurture the environment and contribute to the economy.

*Image Credit: Erin Kirkpatrick*

### What this Principle Means:

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that:

- Contribute to the health of the community.
- Benefit the city's economy through recreation opportunities, activities and events.
- Are well-operated, designed and maintained.
- Contribute to the city's green infrastructure.
- Provide environmental benefits.
- Minimize administration and maintenance costs without sacrificing a quality recreation experience.

### We Will Continue To:

- Reduce GHG emissions by continuing to invest in energy efficiency; when possible, practical and cost-effective, convert the gas-powered equipment to battery-powered and all remaining high-pressure sodium and metal halide lighting to LED.
- Address deferred maintenance by implementing the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Parks Plan, Aquatics Infrastructure Plan, Community Services Asset Management Plan, and other asset management plans to renovate, repair and replace existing infrastructure.
- Implement city's Urban Forestry Master Plan through the addition of trees, with an emphasis on equity throughout the city.
- Shade play areas and playgrounds within city parks, while also adding covered picnic areas.
- Implement and update the city's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program to reduce the use of synthetic pesticides.
- Research and implement Organic Land Management principles, such as using compost and organic fertilizers.
- Partner with Solid Waste to ensure trimmings are composted and returned to parks and golf courses.
- Partner with Water Conservation to implement strategies to improve water efficiency and plant health, while reducing operation and maintenance costs, such as through the implementation of new sprinkler controllers that utilize flow meters, master valves and evapotranspiration (ET) to optimize water use.
- Provide and support opportunities for public and private special events and extensions of premise throughout Tempe.
- Utilize and implement new software solutions to help with special event scheduling.

## **Near-Term Strategies:**

- GP 4-1** | Pilot more use of solar installations in parking lots, buildings, pathways and ramadas.
- GP 4-2** | Explore opportunities to install EV chargers at park locations.
- GP 4-3** | Pilot SITES certification for a future park project.
- GP 4-4** | Look for opportunities to support pollinators and native species; consider options to pilot food forests and native pollinator gardens.
- GP 4-5** | Employ a team member to work with park volunteers and community groups.
- GP 4-6** | Employ a desert park supervisor to manage the unique and sensitive desert park and preserve habitat.
- GP 4-7** | Enhance experiences in Natural Areas through appropriate amenities, programs and events.
- GP 4-8** | Create a line of healthy recreation programs that could include healthy cooking, mindfulness, meditation and offer them through the Parks and Recreation Division.
- GP 4-9** | Create a “fit Tempe” coordinator position to integrate programs that contribute to individual and community health with parks and recreation activities.
- GP 4-10** | Create an on-line “recreation tracker” that helps people track and monitor their physical activity at parks; offer rewards, free program registrations or free event admission for activity milestones.
- GP 4-11** | Complete Golf Fund financial study to ensure long-term viability of the enterprise fund.
- GP 4-12** | Partner with Economic Development to identify public private partnership opportunities for the full replacement of the Ken McDonald golf course clubhouse.
- GP 4-13** | Partner with Economic Development to include language in development agreements addressing opportunities for open space that provide recreational benefits and operational consistencies into proposed projects.
- GP 4-14** | Partner with Community Development to develop and implement standards that ensure private development projects provide publicly available recreational amenities and access, especially in areas of greatest density.

- GP 4-15** | Utilize development impact fees to identify, acquire, design, construct and operate parks and open space in areas of increased growth, greatest density and highest need.
- GP 4-16** | Consider partnering with high schools to expand the city’s inventory of fields prior to building additional.
- GP 4-17** | Explore public-private partnership funding approaches to supplement the city’s GO Bond program for capital improvements.
- GP 4-18** | Incorporate signage and exhibits to connect visitors to the landscape and highlight the sustainability and conservation value of the site.
- GP 4-19** | Partner with Solid Waste to assist event producers in minimizing their production and audience waste to achieve as close to zero waste events as possible.

## **Mid-Term Strategies:**

- GP 4-20** | Consider opportunities for a connected habitat between the Papago Preserve and the Rio Salado parks.
- GP 4-21** | Consider new types of facilities that serve the community and attract visitors.
- GP 4-22** | Explore revenue opportunities for park operations, maintenance and programming through compatible concessions and lease opportunities, user fees, naming rights, sponsorships and parking fees.
- GP 4-23** | Coordinate with 20-minute City efforts to provide safe, convenient, and shaded access by walking, biking and transit to and from parks.
- GP 4-24** | Consider a “magnet” recreation facility or program in some neighborhood and each community park that would create an identity for the park.
- GP 4-25** | Examine the event approval process.
- GP 4-26** | Develop and regularly update a special event, facility and program fee policy.
- GP 4-27** | Develop park maintenance field and event plan to balance special events and programming with maintenance needs.





# Implementation & Finance

## Introduction

This section discusses the opportunities and estimated costs for achieving the Level of Service (LOS) recommended in this master plan. The financial forecasts in this section do not include costs associated with repair and upgrades to existing recreation amenities and parks associated with the current and on-going Parks and Recreation capital improvement program.

## Demand for Park & Recreation Facilities

The demand for park and recreation facilities in Tempe from 2020 through 2050 is based on the recommended Level of Service (LOS) established in this Master Plan. Demand by major facility is outlined in the following tables. The Recommended Levels of Service Park and Recreation Facility Demand table illustrates the demand calculation with a listing of total current park facilities, the current Tempe LOS per 10,000 people and the recommended LOS (per 10,000 people) of this master plan. The population forecast for Tempe from the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is provided in the table. Tempe is forecasted to grow by approximately 25,100 people between 2020 and 2030 and another 29,900 people by 2040.

In some cases, the recommended LOS is lower than the current city LOS resulting in an excess of certain facilities. For example, there are 25 more basketball courts in the city today than the master plan recommends. The excess number of courts is large enough that as the city grows over the next 30 years, no additional courts will be demanded unless determined by future outreach and planning efforts. As new parks are developed and existing parks are retrofitted, it may be appropriate to redistribute existing recreation facilities to maintain the LOS throughout city parks. In addition, the city should not need to construct any additional racquetball courts, basketball courts, or tennis courts over the next 30 years.

The city completed an aquatic needs assessment in 2017 that provides information on aquatic facility recommendations identified in this plan.

**Figure 7.1: Park and Recreation Facility Demand Level of Service (LOS)**

Facility Name	Total Current Facilities	Current LOS Per 10,000	PLAN Recommended LOS Per 10,000	Total Facilities Recommended per Plan in 2020	2020 Current Need	2030 New Facilities Needed	2030-2040 Total New Facilities Needed	2040-2050 Total New Facilities Needed	2020-2050 Total New Facilities Needed
<b>Census Est. Population 2020</b>				<b>192,000</b>		<b>217,100</b>	<b>247,000</b>	<b>272,400</b>	<b># Needed to Meet Plan LOS</b>
Baseball / Softball / Diamond Fields	27	1.39	1.70	33	6	4	5	4	19
Basketball Courts	50	2.57	1.31	25	-	-	-	-	-
Disc Golf	1	0.05	0.05	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dog Park	6	0.31	0.45	9	3	1	1	1	6
Volleyball Courts	33	1.70	1.70	33	-	4	5	4	13
Pickleball Courts	12	0.62	1.15	22	10	3	3	3	19
Racquetball Courts	24	1.24	0.80	16	-	-	-	-	-
Skate Park	4	0.21	0.21	4	-	-	1	1	2
Soccer / Rectangle / Multi-use Fields	37	1.91	1.91	37	-	4	6	5	15
Tennis Courts	51	2.63	1.45	28	-	-	-	-	-
Tot Lots / Playgrounds	43	2.21	2.21	43	-	5	7	6	18
Picnic Area / Shade Element / Ramada	81	4.17	4.17	81	-	10	12	11	33
Splash / Spray Pad	4	0.21	0.30	6	2	1	1	-	4
Swimming Pools	3	0.15	0.19	4	1	-	1	-	2
Community / Multi Gen Center	5	0.26	0.26	5	-	1	1	-	2
Fitness / Par Course	3	0.15	0.23	4	1	1	1	1	4

Date Revised: 6/10/21

The Recommended Levels of Service Park and Recreation Facility Demand table identifies the decade in which the facilities should be constructed. The 2020-2030 timeframe includes future facility needs plus any current deficit in 2020. Facility categories that have a deficit or current need for facilities in 2020 include diamond fields and fitness/par course. Those facilities are planned for construction within the 2020-2030 timeframe. Over time, additional facilities will be needed to achieve the plan LOS including diamond and rectangular fields, dog parks, volleyball & pickleball courts, skate parks, tot lots & playgrounds, picnic areas, splash pads, swimming pools, fitness courses and multi-generational community centers. The demand for park and recreation facilities is well-distributed across the next 30 years.

Figure 7.2: Park and Recreation Facility Costs Excluding Land Purchase: In Current (Inflated) Dollars

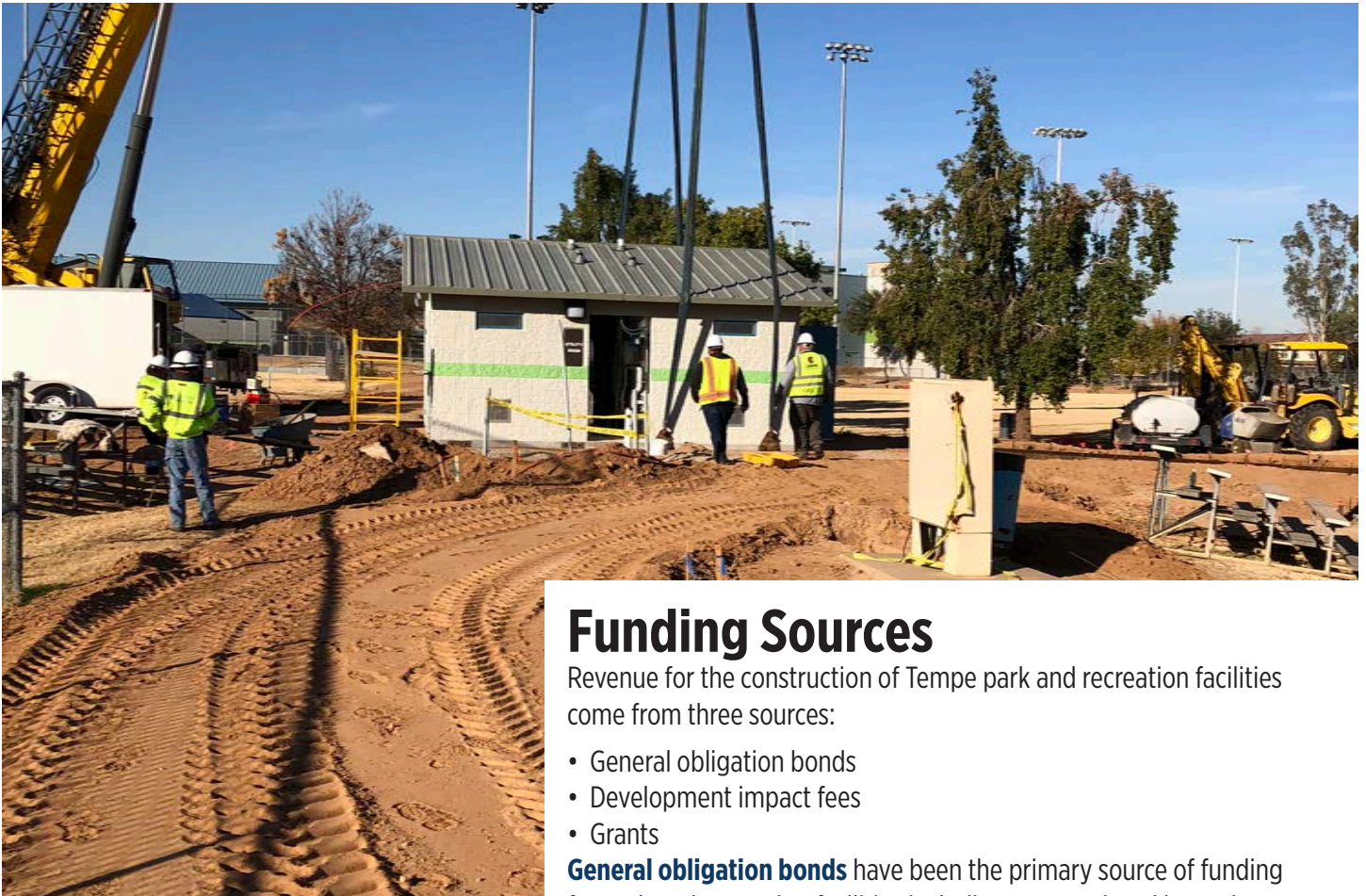
Facility	Total Current Facilities	Current LOS Per 10,000	PLAN Recommended LOS Per 10,000	Total Facilities Required per Plan in 2020	2020 Current Need	2020-2030 New Facilities Needed	2030-2040 Total New Facilities Needed	2040-2050 Total New Facilities Needed	2020-2050 Total New Facilities Needed
<b>Population Forecast</b>				<b>192,000</b>		<b>217,100</b>	<b>247,000</b>	<b>272,400</b>	
Baseball/Softball/Diamond Fields (Lighted)	27	1.39	1.70	33	\$5,187,075	\$3,892,509	\$5,891,847	\$5,802,299	\$20,773,730
Basketball Courts (Lighted)	50	2.57	1.31	25	-	-	-	-	-
Disc Golf	1	0.05	0.05	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dog Park	6	0.31	0.45	9	\$855,938	\$362,273	\$419,974	\$486,865	\$2,125,049
Volleyball Courts (Lighted)	33	1.70	1.70	33	-	\$347,782	\$503,969	\$467,390	\$1,319,141
Pickleball Courts (Lighted)	12	0.62	1.15	22	\$1,033,300	\$305,295	\$353,920	\$410,291	\$2,102,806
Racquetball Courts	24	1.24	0.80	16	-	-	-	-	-
Skate Park	4	0.21	0.21	4	-	-	\$1,343,916	\$1,557,967	\$2,901,884
Soccer/Rectangle/Multi-use Fields	37	1.91	1.91	37	-	\$3,767,641	\$6,551,592	\$6,329,243	\$16,648,476
Tennis Courts (Lighted)	51	2.63	1.45	28	-	-	-	-	-
Tot Lots / Playgrounds	43	2.21	2.21	43	-	\$3,622,731	\$5,879,634	\$5,842,378	\$15,344,743
Picnic Area / Shade Element / Ramada	81	4.17	4.17	81	-	\$652,092	\$907,144	\$963,992	\$2,523,228
Splash / Spray Pad	4	0.21	0.30	6	\$3,000,000	\$1,738,911	\$2,015,875	-	\$6,754,786
Swimming Pool	3	0.15	0.19	4	\$10,850,000	-	\$14,581,493	-	\$25,431,493
Community/Multi Gen Center (30,000 SF)	5	0.26	0.26	5	-	\$18,867,186	\$21,872,239	-	\$40,739,425
Fitness / Par Course	3	0.15	0.23	4	\$183,325	\$144,909	\$167,990	\$113,771	\$609,994
<b>Totals</b>					<b>\$21,109,638</b>	<b>\$33,701,329</b>	<b>\$60,489,592</b>	<b>\$21,974,196</b>	<b>\$137,274,754</b>

## Financial Forecast

Facility cost estimates are provided on the Park and Recreation Facility Costs Excluding Land Purchase table. Cost estimates are presented in 2020 dollars and then inflated at an annual rate of 3% per year. Design, engineering, testing, and other fees are estimated at 15% of construction cost plus a 10% contingency.

The total estimated cost of park and recreation facilities by decade is shown on the table. These costs represent typical unit costs and may not include other factors, such as costs associated with historic preservation, sustainability, etc. The current 2020 demand for diamond fields and fitness/par course equipment is included in the 2020-2030 cost estimates. For the 2020-2030 decade, approximately 17% of forecasted construction costs of \$55 million are related to the development of diamond lit fields to address the current deficit of six fields, plus an additional four fields related to population growth through 2030. From 2020 through 2040, the primary facility costs are related to the construction of two community centers. Over this time period, approximately 43% of all park and recreation facility costs are for the development of the community and multi gen centers.

All cost estimates assume that any new facilities will be built in existing parks; costs exclude any purchase of additional park land. In addition, the costs outlined in the Park and Recreation Facility Costs (Excluding Land Purchase) table represent expected capital costs of development and do not include the cost of operation or maintenance of the facilities.



## Funding Sources

Revenue for the construction of Tempe park and recreation facilities come from three sources:

- General obligation bonds
- Development impact fees
- Grants

**General obligation bonds** have been the primary source of funding for park and recreation facilities including a recent bond issue that is being used to address existing infrastructure repairs and upgrade all neighborhood parks to a minimum level under the Recreation Value Capital Improvement Program. **Development impact fees** are collected on new construction in the city under the assumption that new community members and businesses create demand for park and recreation services. **Grants** have also been used to improve park facilities, but their availability is more uncertain and subject to competition with other communities.

TischlerBise prepared Tempe's Infrastructure Improvement Plan and Development Fee report in 2015 which included projects for parks and recreation facilities to be funded by impact fees. In compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes Section 9-463.05 which govern impact fees, the IIP will be updated at a minimum every 5 years. The next update is currently underway and recommendations from the Parks & Recreation Master Plan will inform the projects in the next IIP. A projection of revenues will be included in each update of the IIP.

In most communities, park and recreation facilities are often supplemented by private interests that may include homebuilders and subdivision developers. In some cases, these facilities are privately owned but still provide for the recreational needs of the community. However, in Tempe's case, since the city is built out, there is little opportunity for the provision of park improvements from private developers and homebuilders.

# Additional Funding Sources

## Public Private Partnerships

The concept of public private partnership is to collaborate with the private sector to build and operate an amenity with public benefits on city-owned land. An example of this arrangement may be the renovation of a clubhouse on one of the city's golf courses that may include a restaurant or other services open to the public.

## User Fees

User fees are often a minimal source of funding and for most agencies, parks services are the most difficult program area in which to recover expenses. A number of obstacles stand in the way of charging a fee for the leisure use of a park, the most difficult of which is collecting a fee for any type of use. Cities often view parks and recreation budgets as not being cost and revenue neutral but rather providing an important quality of life element for the community. Rentals of ramadas and other facilities provide some income, but not enough to offset the expense of maintaining the parks. User fees are part of the city's General Fund to fund operations and maintenance. Cost recovery is set by City Council policy with 100% direct cost recovery for most programs.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the near shutdown of all recreation activities during the last quarter of the fiscal year, charges for recreational services and programs were forecasted to raise \$6.7 million in the FY2019-20 Tempe budget. Instead, approximately \$4.4 million in revenue was generated for the entire year, a reduction of 31.2% from user revenues collected in FY2018-19. The FY2020-21 budget assumes the impact of the pandemic will be largely over by the second quarter of the fiscal year and user fee revenue could return to near normal levels. However, in the event that COVID-19 restrictions remain in effect for the entire fiscal year, the budget has a lower adjusted estimate of revenue for the fiscal year.

Compared to the FY2019-20 budget forecast of charges for recreation services and programs of \$6.7 million, the overall Parks & Recreation budget is \$23.4 million which includes a wide array of management services including golf courses and sports complexes. A full analysis of user fees and cost recovery will be conducted at a future date.

## **Dedicated Sales Tax**

A number of cities in Arizona have established dedicated sales taxes for public safety, transit, and arts and culture, as well as parks and recreation. Tempe's sales tax rate of 1.8% is one of the lowest in the region and is expected to generate \$105 million in revenue in FY2019-20. A 0.1% increase in the tax dedicated to Parks and Recreation would generate another \$5.8 million annually. The raising of taxes is always a complex issue and would need to be considered in light of other city priorities. However, the impact of an increased sales tax on local residents would be partially offset by the fact that visitors would also be subject to the tax. Alternatively, a GO bond paid from property taxes places the burden solely on the local community and businesses.

## **Lodging, Restaurant and Bar Dedicated Sales Tax**

An alternative to an across-the-board sales tax increase is a tax on certain types of business activities. One of the most common methods is an additional tax on hotels and motels and/or restaurants and bars. This type of tax is directed more toward non-resident, visitors to the community rather than placing the tax burden solely on local community. Most cities have a bed tax in addition to the normal sales tax rate. Only a few cities have a higher tax rate on restaurants and bars including Glendale, Goodyear, Kingman, and Surprise. One of the most prominent examples of such a program is the BBB tax in Flagstaff (informally known as the bed, board and booze tax, but now referred to as the lodging, restaurant and lounge tax). This 2% sales tax, levied in addition to the city's sales tax rate of 2.281%, has been in effect for a number of years and revenue is directed to parks and recreation, economic development, tourism, arts and science and community beautification.

Once again, the consideration to increase sales tax rates is a complex issue that is undertaken within the context of overall city priorities.



For more information, visit the Tempe Parks and Recreation Master Plan site at: [tempe.gov/government/community-services/parks/parks-recreation-master-plan](https://tempe.gov/government/community-services/parks/parks-recreation-master-plan).

