



A.R.S. Section 9-461.05

E.2. Recreation Element

A recreation element showing a comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation, including the following and, if practicable, their locations and proposed development: (a) Natural reservation. (b) Parks. (c) Parkways and scenic drives. (d) Beaches. (e) Playgrounds and playfields. (f) Open space. (g) Bicycle routes. (h) Other recreation areas.

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D.1. Open Space Element

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

5 – Parks, Recreation & Open Space

This element provides an overall guide for park and recreation facilities planning, as well as for open space designation. Parks and recreational facilities work in harmony with open space to provide a number of things for the Town and its residents, including but not limited to: recreational opportunities, contributions to the physical and aesthetic qualities of the Town and enhancement of economic development opportunities.

Within this document are development standards for new recreation facilities and a neighborhood analysis for park needs. Also included in this element is an analysis of the current need for open space designation within the Town, including a description of possible open space areas.

This element is structured in the following format. The Background and Existing Conditions section contains an inventory of the existing parks, open space and recreation facilities within the Town. The Evaluation and Analysis section reviews park, open space and recreation needs based on population and geographic standards. The Goals, Objectives and Policies, describe the Town's desires in regards to parks, open space and recreation facilities. The Action Plan identifies steps to bring the parks and recreation facilities to the standards identified in the Goals, Objectives and Policies.

5.1 BACKGROUND AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Town of Quartzsite manages one park at this time. Town Park is classified as a regional park and provides such amenities as a volleyball court, basketball court, children's play equipment and newly improved baseball facilities. Town Park provides for open space and the field activities contribute to meeting the recreation needs of the Quartzsite community. However, Quartzsite is still in need of smaller neighborhood and pocket parks, more public recreation facilities and more areas designated as open space. Following is a description of park classifications and of Town maintained facilities.



5.1.1 PARK FACILITIES

Parks typically include trees, grass, open play areas, walking paths and benches and have clearly defined geographic locations and boundaries. Parks are classified by the following categories: Regional Parks; Seasonal Parks; Area Parks; Neighborhood Parks; and Pocket Parks. The classifications differ by size, content, purpose, and service area. A service area is the geographic region where the users of a specific park live.

REGIONAL PARKS

These major parks are primarily used for outdoor recreation such as picnicking, sports, play areas, swimming, and walking. The service area for this type of park is defined by a one-hour driving time. A park of this nature will generally serve several communities. The overall population standard for a Regional Park is one for every 100,000 persons. The park size is from 25 to 250 acres. Regional parks may also include features that are contiguous to or encompass natural resources.

Quartzsite has one regional park, Town Park, which comprises 80 acres. Town Park currently consists of a volleyball court, a basketball court, children's play equipment and donated fighter jets which serve as an ornamental display in the Park. In 2003, lighting and landscaping for the baseball field will be completed. A children's water play station is also planned for the Park. The northeast corner of Plymouth and Quail Trail contain Celia's Gardens, a community effort in natural landscape architecture in memory of a younger Quartzsite community member who passed away several years ago.

AREA PARKS

Area parks are smaller than regional parks and are suited for intense recreational facilities such as community recreation centers and large swimming pools and include areas of natural quality or outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnic areas and other passive activities. These parks serve residents within a 1 to 2 mile radius and are 15 to 25 acres in size. They should be easily accessible to residents within the service area (4 square miles) and should be located along arterial streets. Area parks may also include features such as man-made lakes and areas suited for intense park development. There currently are no area parks located within Quartzsite. However, one is needed south of Town in the future to accommodate residents who live south of Interstate 10 and for whom Town Park is not easily accessible by foot or bicycle.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks allow a space for informal recreational activities such as field and court games, picnicking, walking, jogging and tot lots. The service area for this



type of park is between a $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius (one square mile) and serves a population of 5,000 people in a neighborhood. The desirable park size is from 3 to 15 acres. The park should be accessible to neighborhood populations by a safe walking and biking distance and should not be adjacent to any arterial streets. Quartzsite is currently lacking any neighborhood parks. A future neighborhood park is proposed for the northwest section of Town, near the current elementary and future high school.

POCKET PARKS

These small parks are special park facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population and can be designed to serve specific population groups such as children or senior citizens. The service area for this type of park is less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. The size of the park is typically between 1 and 3 acres. They should be located close to neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes. Residential developers can be encouraged or required to include these types of parks in their developments.

5.1.2 OPEN SPACE

Open Space is an open area of land that allows for the unconstrained movement of people and their exposure to nature. Open space is typically undeveloped land in its natural state and can include washes, mountains and trails. Occasionally, open space can be seen in areas adjacent to commercial or multi-use development in the form of a plaza or a town center. The size can range from a small pedestrian plaza to a regional park to miles of washes to an entire mountain range. The purpose of promoting open space is to preserve natural areas, provide public gathering places, therefore protecting environmentally and geologically sensitive areas, and supply a balance to urban development; in essence providing an improved quality of life for Quartzsite's residents and minimizing the negative impacts of higher density development. And in conjunction with a trail system, open space can create a network of connections to a community's park and recreation facilities.

There are a number of open space areas maintained by the Town. All of the Town's washes are designated as open space due to the fact that these areas cannot be developed with buildings and other urban uses due to potential danger from flooding. "Q" Mountain provides an opportunity for another open space designation. To guide the Town in its open space conservation efforts, an Open Space land use category is included on the Parks and Open Space Map and in the Land Use Element of this General Plan. This designation implements the open space goals and objectives of this Element by:

- Conserving natural resource areas required for the conservation of wildlife and plant life, including floodplains, floodways, the habitat of wildlife species and areas required for research and study.



- Maintaining areas of importance for outdoor recreation including areas of cultural and historical value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including those providing access to “Q” and Granite Mountains and Tyson Wash; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations, including utility banks of washes, trails, and Old Bouse Road.
- Delineating open space for public health and safety including, but not limited to, areas that require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions, such as floodplains and areas required for the protection of air and water quality.
- Providing for open spaces to create buffers between different land uses to minimize impacts.

5.1.3 PATHS, LANES, ROUTES AND TRAILS

A comprehensive path, lanes, routes, and trails system provides for connectivity between parks and promotes alternative sources of transportation and recreation. Bicycle paths, lanes, and routes are designated courses that provide an opportunity for cycling and need not be intensively developed to function effectively as a corridor connecting other park and recreation facilities. Pedestrian and equestrian trails also offer the community an opportunity for an alternate source of recreation and transportation.

BICYCLE PATHS, LANES AND ROUTES

Bicycling is one of the most popular forms of recreation in the United States with 46% of American bicycling for pleasure. It offers a convenient and economical form of transportation. The primary purpose of a bicycle paths, lanes, and routes plan is to identify a system of bikeways that will serve as a tool for planning future bicycle facilities and roadway improvements. This plan is intended to provide a fair assessment of current and future bicycle needs, implementation costs, and funding opportunities for bicycle facilities. Currently, the Town of Quartzsite offers no bicycling facilities with bicycle racks located at the Elementary School and at Town Hall.

Once implemented, an effective bikeway system can offer residents the convenience of cycling to destinations and reduce the number of vehicles on local roads; resulting in enhanced health and safety, improved quality of life and increased air quality. The plan recommends a system of bicycle routes that will connect existing and developing residential areas to destination points for commuter and recreational bicyclists.

Bicyclists are entitled to travel on all roads except those that are lawfully prohibited to them. Many motorists are unaware that by law bicyclists are not required to stay on the shoulder of the road or on a separated path. Indeed, there are many bicyclists who prefer to cycle in the land of traffic. However, Quartzsite is a community



comprised of cyclists of differing or diverse abilities and those who desire different types of facilities. All three bike facilities, Class I bike paths, Class II bike lanes, and Class III bicycle routes described below serve different purposes and different user groups. Design standards for each of the bikeways have been established by the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

Class I - Bikeways

Class I bikeways are facilities where exclusive right of way with cross-vehicular traffic is minimized. Class I bikeways serve the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians and are not shared by motor vehicles except for maintenance, security or emergencies. The minimum paved width for a two way bike path is 2.4 m. (8 ft.). The minimum paved width for a one way bike path shall be 1.5m. (5 ft.). A bicycle path is not a sidewalk, but can be designed as multi-use to permit shared use with pedestrians.

Class II – Bicycle Lanes

Class II bikeways (bike lanes) are established within the paved area of roadways adjacent to vehicle lanes through identifiable pavement striping and markings and signage. It is generally recommended that Class II bicycle lanes use a minimum of 1.2m. (4 ft.) paved roadway shoulder with a standard 100mm. (4 in.) edge stripe to improve the safety and convenience for bicyclists and motorists.

Class III – Bicycle Routes

Class III bikeways (bike routes) are intended to provide continuity to the bikeway system. Bike routes are established along through routes not served by Class I or II bikeways, or to connect discontinuous segments of bikeway (normally bike lanes) where there is not adequate width to install bike lanes. Class III facilities are shared facilities, either with motor vehicles on the street or with pedestrians on sidewalks. In either case, bicycle usage is secondary. Class III facilities are established by placing bike route signs along roadways.

PEDESTRIAN PATHS AND TRAILS

The development of walking paths and trails in Quartzsite should be a priority as many residents and winter visitors partake in this recreational activity. Walking paths and trails can be developed in coordination with bicycle routes and equestrian trails. The pedestrian paths and trails should include landscaping and rest areas with benches and water fountains.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

Equestrian activities are a common thread in the history of the Southwest. Due to its rural setting and large amounts of open space, Quartzsite is a prime location for the development of Equestrian related activities and trails. Equestrian trails should be



located mainly on the perimeter of Town and adjacent to rural areas. The exception in Quartzsite is the proposed equestrian trail that extends through Tyson Wash.

5.1.4 CULTURAL FACILITIES

Cultural facilities have unique recreational characteristics or qualities that serve the community, region, and/or nation. These facilities may support social or cultural events, large gatherings of various types, performing arts, historical museums, regionally significant portrayals of historical events or circumstances, historic trails, education or advanced training classes, or other unique opportunities for recreation. Facilities for such activities may be developed in cooperative or joint agreements with public agencies.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Tyson Wells Stage Stop Museum, located on Main Street west of SR 95, displays many mining and historical artifacts which present an interesting history of Quartzsite. A cultural center in an area adjacent to the Museum is needed as a cultural resource for the Town. This center could provide a place for activities such as those mentioned above, especially during the summer months when high temperatures would restrict such activities from the Town Park.

HISTORIC TRAILS

The Quartzsite area has a long and distinctive history of various people and groups occupying or moving through the area. As the United States expanded westward, many groups of people traversed the area because of its water resources. The Native Americans, Forty-Niners and the US Army are examples of such groups.

Recognition and preservation of such routes through the development of interpretive historic trails, memorials, or other monuments provides an acknowledgement of the areas past while providing recreational opportunities. Old Bouse Road could be developed more as a historic trail by Quartzsite. This trail traverses through Town Park making it an ideal connection with other cultural and historical facilities.

5.1.5 RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreation facilities are improvements designed for active, recreational exercise requiring the installation of hard surfaces, building improvements or other physical modification of the natural environment. These facilities enhance the features of a park and are the main reason many people will use the facility. The following recreational facilities are available for use at Town Park: volleyball court, basketball court, and baseball diamond.



Many school playgrounds and athletic facilities serve the education needs of the community, as well as being available to the general public for recreational programs. Generally, school facilities can be used for community recreational programs on a time available basis. However, the availability of these facilities is limited by school operators. Consequently, the Town should offer recreational programs utilizing the local school on a case-by-case basis.

5.2 EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS

This section will address how the Town is meeting the park and recreation needs of the community. Two methods were utilized to evaluate parks and recreation facility needs. The first method reviews the current population totals and future projections and the second method examines the geographic location of existing and future populations. These population and location based objectives identify the desired quantity and location of the parks and recreational facilities. A population of 3,354 for the Town was used to identify overall park and recreational facility deficiencies for the residents within the Town limits. The analysis identified that the Town, in general, was deficient in the number and types of parks and recreational facilities it offers for current and future residents.

5.2.1 PARKS AND POPULATION

Park Facility	Standard	Existing	Park Needs 2003	Park Needs 2010	Park Needs 2020
Regional	1 per 100,000	1	1	1	1
Area	1 per 25,000	0	1	1	1
Neighborhood	1 per 5,000	0	1	3	5
Pocket		0	3	5	7

The second method of evaluating park and recreation facility deficiencies is to identify specific location shortfalls. The parks needed for an area cannot be determined exclusively on a population basis. The population numbers must be balanced with the physical layout of the community in order to meet any locational deficiencies. Each type of park should be dispersed in a manner consistent with the population distribution. This will focus the Neighborhood and Area Parks within a reasonable distance to their primary service population. The population analysis was completed on a one square mile level.

The Town has been successful in addressing Regional park needs in and around the community, but there are deficiencies. Many residential areas not adjacent to Town Park are in need of Area, Neighborhood or Pocket Parks. Within Map P-1 can be found the approximate locations of existing and proposed park facilities. The future facility locations were identified to meet the recreation needs of the future population.



The locations are only approximate and therefore could vary with population and geographic factors.

5.3 GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Goal: Provide open space and recreational opportunities that reflect the unique needs of the Quartzsite community.

- Objective: Provide an adequate number of attractive, well-located parks and recreational facilities as well as adequate open space for all residents and visitors to the community.
- Objective: Work with Quartzsite citizens, including the youth and elderly, to identify the appropriate and preferred mix of park and recreation facilities.
- Objective: Design and retrofit park and recreational facilities with consideration to accessibility, safety, neighborhood surveillance, and lighting.
- Objective: Develop recreation facilities and utilize existing resources to offer a variety of cultural and artistic experiences.
- Objective: Achieve a master planning program for all existing and future park facilities and open space resources to assure functional efficiency and an effective capital improvement process.
- Objective: Work together with developers to establish guidelines for including open space in new residential and commercial developments.
- Objective: Continue to implement programs which make use of school facilities.
- Objective: “Adopt-a-Park” and “Adopt-a-Trail” programs to continue working with service organizations, private companies, and individuals to provide and maintain park and recreational facilities.

Goal: Create an easily accessible open space and recreation system which connects open space, parks, and washes and serves the needs of citizens and visitors alike.

- Objective: Link open spaces to recreation and park facilities through a network of pathways, trails, and other open spaces throughout the Town in order to help define the physical and aesthetic appearance of the Town.



- Policy: Develop a trail master plan that utilizes washes and other flood control facilities, utility easements, parks, and other public lands to create non-motorized pathways and trails.
- Policy: Require continuity in open space and trails between developments.
- Policy: Establish a historic trail along Old Bouse Road, which begins in Town Park.
- Policy: Coordinate with federal, state, other entities, and private landholders to provide public access trails to recreational resources.
- Policy: Provide shared use of non-motorized trail opportunities for persons with disabilities where feasible and practical.
- Objective: Utilize open space to protect sensitive areas.
- Objective: Expand recreational opportunities through landscape or conservation easements, trail easements, land leases, or other non-ownership methods.

Goal: Educate residents and visitors about Quartzsite's open spaces and their value to the community.

- Objective: Coordinate with various entities to educate the public about open spaces in Quartzsite.
- Policy: Work with the Chamber of Commerce to provide pamphlets to residents and visitors regarding the necessity and availability of open space and its benefits to the community.
- Policy: Work with the Arizona Trails Commission to promote the trail-based recreation opportunities in Quartzsite.
- Objective: Promote the open space areas of historical and cultural significance within Quartzsite.
- Policy: Distribute pamphlets to public which display the historical and cultural opportunities within Quartzsite.
- Policy: Develop a comprehensive sign package, visible from I-10 and other major corridors, that directs residents and visitors to trails and recreational opportunities.



Goal: Use park facility standards as the basis for providing appropriate levels of park facilities needed to achieve a balanced park and recreation system.

- Objective: Regional Parks – One regional park for every 100,000 citizens. The size of the regional park is from 25 to 200 acres, and services an area within a 1-hour drive time.
- Objective: Area Parks – One area park for every 25,000 citizens. The size of the regional park is from 15 to 25 acres, and services an area incorporating a 1 to 2 mile radius.
- Objective: Neighborhood Parks – One neighborhood park for every 5,000 citizens. The size of the neighborhood park is from 3 to 15 acres, and services an area incorporating ¼ to ½ mile radius. Neighborhood parks should be located within a 5 – 10 minute walk or bicycle ride making them accessible to residents within an identified neighborhood. Natural or man-made barriers may require more parks in a neighborhood area than dictated by numerical standards.
- Objective: Pocket Parks – Provide pocket parks such that their location is nestled in neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes to provide pockets of open space. The size of the pocket park is 1 to 3 acres, and services an area incorporating less than ¼ mile radius.

5.4 PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PROGRAMS AND PLANS OF ACTION

In implementing the goals, objectives and policies of this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element, the assistance programs and action plans identified in this section will outline specific actions to achieve those goals, objectives and policies. The programs include both the current and projected programs that will address the Town's unmet parks, recreation, and open space needs. Each action plan identified in this section includes a description of the housing assistance program, program objectives, funding source, program implementer, and implementation time frame.

5.4.1 PROGRAMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The following programs attempt to address the need for local, regional and State parks, pathways and trails.



STATE PROGRAMS

Arizona State Parks “LRSP (Local, Regional and State Parks) Program”

The LRSP (Local, Regional and State Parks) Program budgets up to \$3.5 million annually from the Arizona State Parks Board Heritage Fund for the support of land acquisition and development of facilities for outdoor recreation throughout Arizona. The application deadline is at 5:00 pm on the last official work day of February. More information can be found at www.pr.state.az.us/partnerships/grants/grantdesc.html.

5.4.2 PROGRAMS FOR THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

STATE PROGRAMS

Arizona State Parks “Historic Preservation Program”

The Historic Preservation Program budgets up to \$1.7 million annually from the Arizona State Parks Board Heritage Fund for the support of historic preservation efforts, including acquisition, stabilization, and rehabilitation of historic properties and preservation education. The application deadline is 5:00 pm on the last official work day of March. More information can be found at www.pr.state.az.us/partnerships/grants/grantdesc.html.

5.4.3 PROGRAMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF PATHWAYS AND TRAILS

STATE PROGRAMS

Arizona State Parks “Trails Program”

The Trails Program budgets up to \$500,000 annually from the Arizona State Parks Board Heritage Fund for the support of non-motorized trail acquisition, construction and improvements throughout Arizona. The application deadline is 5:00 pm on the last official work day of February. More information can be found at www.pr.state.az.us/partnerships/grants/grantdesc.html.

Arizona State Parks “Recreational Trails Program – Motorized Portion”

The Recreational Trails Program – Motorized Portion budgets up to \$1.4 million annually from state motor-fuel tax revenue for the support of motorized trail development, mitigation, acquisition, and education for OHV recreation. The application deadline is 5:00 pm on the first official work day of December. More information can be found at www.pr.state.az.us/partnerships/grants/grantdesc.html.



5.5 ACTION PLAN

Phase	Project	Responsible Agency/ Department	Funding Source
1 -5 years	Develop a Quartzsite Arts and Cultural Center.	Parks	CDBG/ Town of Quartzsite
	Create a Town Parks Master Plan to update the current Town Park Master Plan and to address the park and recreation needs of the growing Quartzsite population.	Parks	Town of Quartzsite
	Pursue land acquisition from private owners and BLM to provide for future parks.	Parks	Town of Quartzsite/ Grants
	Construct various Bike/Trail/Pathway facilities.	Parks, Public Works	Town Quartzsite/ Grants
6 + years	Partner with the Bureau of Land Management and La Paz County to extend Bike/Trail/Pathway facilities outside the Quartzsite Area.	Parks	Town of Quartzsite
	Construct various Bike/Trail/Pathway facilities.	Parks	Town of Quartzsite
	Develop strategies and target opportunities to provide park facilities in the fast growing areas of the community.	Parks	