

PHOENIX

Phoenix updating its parks plan for first time since 1989, seeking your thoughts

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Arizona Republic

Published 6:01 a.m. MT Sept. 12, 2024 | Updated 6:01 a.m. MT Sept. 12, 2024

Phoenix is updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the first time since 1989 and residents can have their say in how they want their parks to be.

The Parks Department launched the master plan process earlier this month with an eight-month public input period. Phoenix residents are asked to submit feedback online at parksmasterplanphx.com, by emailing ParksMasterplanPHX@barnhartco.com, or by calling the 24/7 hotline at 623-825-3444.

Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego said the master plan was crucial to “ensuring that these amenities remain active, cared for, and accessible for future generations. We are committed to creating a plan and a vision that reflects the needs and hopes of all Phoenix residents.”

City spokesperson Teleia Galaviz said the parks department “can't speak” to why it hasn't updated the master plan in 35 years but “recognizes that Phoenix has changed drastically since 1988” and wants to identify residents' current interests and needs.

On the website, residents can drop suggestions by pinpointing specific locations on an interactive map. A pop-up button also calls on website visitors to fill out a survey.

The city will also host in-person events, or residents can provide comments at the Parks Board public meetings, which happen once per month at the City Council chambers at Second Avenue and Jefferson Street. A list of in-person meetings will also be published on the master plan website — city spokesperson Adam Waltz said residents should stay tuned for more information.

The master plan guides future development and management of Phoenix's parks. The process helps the city “set priorities and goals that truly reflect what residents want to see in

their neighborhood parks and recreation facilities," Waltz said.

The master plan will also assess how to improve water efficiency and public safety at the facilities.

It is slated to be completed by summer 2026. The plan, conducted by PROS Consulting Inc., will be presented to the City Council's transportation and infrastructure subcommittee but final approval is granted by the Parks Board. Agendas for the board can be found at phoenix.gov/cityclerk/publicmeetings/notices.

Without an up-to-date master plan, Galaviz said Parks Department staff has focused on neighborhood-specific engagement to ensure park amenities meet residents' needs. But a master plan "will give us a more comprehensive assessment, long-term strategic plan to use as a guiding tool."

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