



# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

“The Town celebrates and maintains the spectacular visual character of our Sonoran Desert setting and we value our open space, mountain views, washes, vegetation, and wildlife. We encourage private and public efforts to acquire, maintain, and preserve valuable open space for its intrinsic value and for its contribution in creating a strong sense of place.

We value recreational amenities and activities and seek to maximize external opportunities with neighboring communities, schools and Town resorts. As opportunities present themselves, we should identify and secure land throughout the community to provide visual relief, beautification, and enhanced community space.”

Town of Paradise Valley  
Visioning Committee 2011

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## 5. Open Space and Recreation

### 5.1 Open Space

The Town of Paradise Valley is nestled around the Camelback Mountain, Mummy Mountain and the Phoenix Mountain Preserve which offer residents and visitors unparalleled mountain views, an extensive wash system, and low impact recreation opportunities in between.

In November 1997 the Town Council created the Mummy Mountain Preserve Trust in order to perpetuate the natural landscape, desert plants, wildlife and scenic beauty of the mountain areas of the Town. Residents who take special pride in the distinctive scenic panoramas can continue to enjoy them and visitors from throughout the world can continue to share this beauty. Native desert plants and wildlife within the preserve can flourish without disruption. The Town desires to maintain and protect the mountain views and natural features by acquiring, maintaining, preserving and protecting undeveloped real property and developed real property that can be returned to its natural state on and around the mountains.

The Town has four categories of open space: 1) open space preserve – trust/easement; 2) open space preserve – privately owned; 3) private open space; and 4) public open space. Open space preserve is applied to those open space areas within the Town that are within a designated preserve area as described in the paragraph above that are either publicly owned, or under the control of private trusts. Private open space is applied to the turf areas of the Town's three golf courses as well as dedicated open space areas in certain subdivisions such as Judson. Public open space applies to all of the Town's rights-of-ways and designated open spaces such as the Barry Goldwater Memorial.

Open space views from private property are not regulated by the Town but should be preserved wherever possible. The Town encourages neighbors to discuss projects that may impact private open space views and reach a mutually acceptable outcome.

The Town's open spaces provide some of the most significant views, wash areas, and wildlife habitat in the county. These public and private areas define the community and are fundamental to the Town's high quality of life.

Goals and policies in the Open Space Element identify future needs and methods to increase, conserve, protect, and promote these areas and their functions as regional connections to other cities.

#### GOAL OS 5.1.1

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**Open Space Protection.** To protect and expand open spaces, mountain views and natural features throughout the Town and enhance their physical or visual accessibility by Town residents, their guests and resort visitors.

## Policies

- OS 5.1.1.1 **Public Open Space.** The Town shall create and administer a new land use category, Public Open Space, which shall include the entire Town rights-of-way and any Town owned open spaces such as the Barry Goldwater Memorial, portions of the Town Hall campus, and the Berneil Wash corridor.
- OS 5.1.2.1 **Gifts of Land or Easements.** The Town shall pursue and target gifts of land or easements for the purpose of preserving and restoring open spaces and mountain views, and to encourage adjacent jurisdictions to accomplish similar objectives.
- OS 5.1.3.1 **Mummy Mountain Trust.** The Town shall encourage the preservation of Mummy Mountain and other steeply sloped, irregularly contoured, and highly visible terrain through donation or purchase.
- OS 5.1.4.1 **Preservation of Other Lands.** The Town shall encourage the preservation of culturally or historically significant properties that may contribute to the Town's open space inventory.
- OS 5.1.5.1 **Wash Preservation and Restoration.** The Town shall require the preservation and encourage the restoration of the area's natural washes to provide storm water drainage, aesthetic view corridors, wildlife habitat, and natural open spaces.
- OS 5.1.6.1 **Rights-of-way.** The Town shall utilize existing street rights-of-way to provide more public open space and increase mountain views.
- OS 5.1.7.1 **Landscape Guidelines.** The Town shall adopt landscape guidelines and require they be used on all Town projects and in public rights-of-way while allowing a diverse range of treatments on individual properties. Residents and builders shall be encouraged to utilize the guidelines to further the preservation and enhancement of the community's natural environment.
- OS 5.1.8.1 **Mountain Views.** The Town shall continue to monitor the effect of, and adjust where necessary and possible, Special Use Permit guidelines and building codes intended to minimize the impact of new development on mountain views from both the public rights-of-way and neighboring properties, recognizing that those mountain views are both a community and an individual asset.
- OS 5.1.9.1 **Mountain View Consideration.** The Town shall place a high priority on the preservation and restoration of mountain views from public rights-of-way during any new, intermediate or major Special Use Permit amendment process.

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**OS 5.1.10.1 Open Space Connectivity.** The Town shall require the dedication of land or easements during new, intermediate, or major SUP amendments for the purpose of connectivity and accessibility when the property to be developed is adjacent to an existing open space, park site, or area otherwise identified as high priority for open space uses.

### Goal OS 5.1.2

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**Open Space Program.** Manage an open space program that is responsive to public need and exemplifies the Town's commitment to leadership in providing open space, mountain views, and low impact recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life of residents, their guests and resort visitors.

### Policies

**OS 5.1.2.1 Citizen Involvement.** The Town shall support and encourage active citizen involvement in the development and management of open space.

**OS 5.1.2.2 Operations and Management.** The Town shall provide consistent and effective operations and maintenance for all public open space and facilities.

**OS 5.1.2.4 Additional Open Space.** The Town shall seek to provide additional open space through acquisition, incentives, dedication, or "set aside" for natural open spaces, mountain views from public rights-of-way, and to provide areas for low impact recreational activities.

**OS 5.1.2.5 Tourism Support.** The Town shall support resort tourism in the community by preserving, restoring, creating and maintaining public open space, mountain views from public rights-of-way, and low impact recreational facilities and opportunities.

## 5.2 Recreation

Since the Town's inception in 1961, the Town of Paradise Valley has been known for ensuring limited government and services and thus, has traditionally not offered conventional recreational opportunities such as parks and other public open spaces aside from bike lanes in the streets. Instead, the Town has historically encouraged new residential subdivisions to incorporate open space preservation features in order to maintain visual openness throughout the Town.

Some residents have expressed a desire for additional recreational opportunities throughout Town. However, the unique characteristics of Paradise Valley suggest little emphasis should be placed on playgrounds and neighborhood parks with

active areas for children such as play equipment. Rather, emphasis should be placed on creating more low impact recreational opportunities at existing public facilities such as churches and schools and in existing rights-of-way such as enhanced bike lanes and pedestrian walkways.

Low impact recreational activities include hiking, biking, in-line skating, and horseback riding. High impact recreation is prohibited in open space preserve areas. High impact recreation includes activities such as soccer, football, Frisbee, softball and any other activity that may harm or impact the fragile ecosystems in the open space preserve areas. High impact recreation may be allowed on private open space tracts.

Goals and policies in the Recreation Element identify future needs and methods to provide for recreational opportunities for town residents and visitors.

### Goal R 5.2.1

**Recreational Opportunities.** To support the provision of low impact recreation facilities and activities for Town residents, their guests and resort visitors.

#### Policies

**R 5.2.1.1 Public Facilities.** The Town shall encourage the use of public and quasi-public facilities (e.g., schools, places of worship, Town Hall) for public recreation programs and activities.

**R 5.2.1.2 Resort Facilities.** The Town shall encourage the use of resort properties for private recreation programs and activities for Town residents.

**R 5.2.1.3 Citizen Involvement.** The Town shall strive for citizen involvement in all phases of the planning and delivery of recreational programs, services, and amenities.

**R 5.2.1.4 Periodic Assessment.** The Town shall conduct periodic assessments of community needs and preferences in recreation programming and services.

**R 5.2.1.5 Resident and Visitor Wellness.** The Town shall support and encourage involvement in recreation programs to improve the wellness and well-being of all residents and visitors.

**R 5.2.1.6 Trailhead Parking.** The Town shall pursue a solution that minimizes the impacts of recreational user parking on residential neighborhoods in the vicinity of the Echo Canyon and Cholla Trail trailheads.

**R 5.2.1.7 Linkages.** The Town shall encourage the linkage of open space and recreational resources within the community and with adjacent municipalities/regional networks.

### **5.3 Implementation Measures**

The Open Space and Recreation Element sets forth broad goals and policies related to open areas and recreation within the Town. Implementation requires translating these broad statements to specific actions, systematically evaluating progress, and active community participation.

The following implementation measures have been identified for Open Space and Recreation and serve as a basis for performance evaluation of Town staff, leadership and Town volunteers in the execution of the General Plan.

<b>Table 5.3-1. Open Space and Recreation Implementation Program</b>		<b>2012-2015</b>	<b>2016-2020</b>	<b>2021-2030</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>1. Open Space Land/Easement Donations</b> Identify parcels of land and solicit the owners for donations of land or easements in order to preserve and restore open space and mountain views, Mummy Mountain, and other culturally and/or historically significant properties.		<b>X</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	O 1.1.1, O 1.1.2, O 1.1.3, O1.2.4					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Town Council supported by Town Manager					
<b>2. Wash Preservation &amp; Restoration</b> Continue to preserve the Town's washes through periodic code enforcement inspections and encourage the restoration of washes via development incentives such as setback flexibility.		<b>X</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	O 1.1.4					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Community Development supported by Planning Commission and Town Council					
<b>3. Right-of-way Utilization</b> Utilize existing rights-of-way to create more open space by reevaluating how the space is used and designing a universally accessible, safe, experimentally rewarding open space system that promotes passive recreation such as walking and biking.		<b>X</b>				
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	O 1.1.5					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Town Council supported by Planning Commission					

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Table 5.3-1. Open Space and Recreation Implementation Program		2012-2015	2016-2020	2021-2030	Annual	Ongoing
<p><b>4. SUP Open Space</b></p> <p>During the review of new, intermediate or major SUP amendments, preserve mountain views and open space from rights-of-way potentially affected by SUP development and require the dedication of land or easements for connectivity and accessibility when SUP property is adjacent to an existing open space, park site or other area identified as a high-priority open space.</p>		X				X
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	O 1.1.6, O 1.1.7, R 1.1.5					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Town Council supported by Planning Commission					
<p><b>5. Citizen Involvement</b></p> <p>Provide recommendations to the Town Council on the development and management of open space and recreational programs and services in the Town and to conduct and ongoing assessment of community needs and preferences in recreation programming and services.</p>		X				
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	O 1.2.1, R 1.1.2, R 1.1.3					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Town Council supported by Town Manager					
<p><b>6. Open Space Operations and Maintenance</b></p> <p>Continue to provide consistent and effective operations for all public open space and facilities.</p>						X
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	O 1.2.2.					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Public Works supported by Town Manager					

<b>Table 5.3-1. Open Space and Recreation Implementation Program</b>		<b>2012-2015</b>	<b>2016-2020</b>	<b>2021-2030</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<p><b>7. Tourism Support</b></p> <p>Identify ways to preserve, restore, create and maintain low impact recreational opportunities and open space experiences for resort visitors such as publishing a trails/bike path brochure for the resorts to distribute.</p>		<b>X</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	O 1.2.5, R 1.1.4					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Town Manager supported by Town Council					
<p><b>8. Public Facility Use</b></p> <p>Encourage schools and places of worship in the Town to create and promote recreation programs and activities for Town residents.</p>						<b>X</b>
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	R 1.1.1					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Community Development, Planning, Engineering and Building Divisions supported by Town Council , Water Utility Committee					
<p><b>9. Trailhead Parking</b></p> <p>Periodically evaluate current measures to alleviate parking problems related to the Echo Canyon and Cholla Trail, such as the trolley service and no parking signs, to ensure effectiveness and amend as necessary.</p>		<b>X</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	R 5.2.1.6					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Town Manager supported by Town Council					