

Public outreach yielding valuable information for Marana Parks and Recreation Master Plan

To understand the needs and preferences of Marana residents as they relate to the community's park system, the Parks and Recreation Department has conducted a multi-faceted outreach program that included public meetings, an on-line survey, a telephone survey, information booths at community events, and meetings with various stakeholders. While opportunities for public input will continue throughout the project, the initial data collection will conclude in early March. This outreach program has produced valuable information that will help guide the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for 2020 - 2030.

The on-line survey was completed by more than 1700 residents and the telephone survey involved another 400. Several hundred additional residents interacted with the planning team at special events or attended the initial public meetings. Included were residents of south Marana (the Continental Ranch and Saguaro Bloom areas), Northwest Marana (the Gladden Farms and San Lucas neighborhoods), and Northeast Marana (the Dove Mountain area).

The telephone survey and the on-line survey found that there is a perceived need and very strong support for:

1. The construction of new developed parks
2. Expansion of the linear park and trail system
3. Expansion and enhancements of the natural resource park and preserve system
4. Construction of a multi-generational community center
5. Construction of a new aquatic facility

The telephone survey also addressed the community's priorities for the construction of specific facilities within new and existing parks. The facilities identified as having the highest priorities were:

1. Ramadas and picnic areas
2. Playgrounds and play structures
3. Fields for soccer, football, and lacrosse
4. Baseball fields
5. Trailheads providing access to mountain parks and preserves
6. Swimming pool
7. Softball fields
8. A sports complex for local and regional tournaments
9. Shared-use pathways along major streets
10. Linear parks with paved pathways and other amenities
11. Hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails
12. Open turf grass play areas
13. Splash pads
14. Outdoor basketball courts
15. Bike park

Other facilities valued by the community included multi-purpose areas for fairs and markets, dog parks, sand volleyball courts, skate parks, tennis courts, and pickleball courts.

How will this information be used?

The information received as part of the public outreach program will be used to determine the type and location of new facilities to be constructed as the Town grows from its current population of 50,000 to an anticipated population of 65,000 in 2030. Attention will be given to providing facilities that serve all geographical areas and all users of Marana's parks, preserves, pathways, trails, and recreation programs.

What's next?

The planning team will use the information received as part of the public outreach program to develop a draft Master Plan for public review. The plan will include elements related to developed parks, community recreation and aquatic facilities, linear parks and trails, natural resource parks and preserves, and recreation programs. It will also include an evaluation of the existing parks in the Marana park system to determine how the existing parks might be enhanced to better service community needs.

Opportunities to review and provide input on the Draft Master Plan

Individuals who completed the on-line survey and provided an email address with their survey response will be notified when the draft plan is available for review. Information related to the Draft Master Plan will also be posted on the Town's website and the Parks and Recreation Department's mobile app.