

# INTRODUCTION

**The City of Surprise is an exciting place to be.** Our growing City continues to improve the quality of life for our residents by updating our pre-recession master plans so they reflect our vision for the future. The Community and Recreation Services (CRS) division is the primary provider of recreation and cultural services for the City.

The City's recreation programs include aquatics, youth and adult sports, tennis programming, library services, special interest classes, teen programming, and adaptive programming. In addition, special event and sports tourism activities includes spring training, regional and national tennis tournaments, as well as community and signature events such as the annual "Surprise Party" and Performances in the Park.

The Recreation Division manages programming that includes youth and adult sports, adaptive recreation, tennis, aquatics, special interest classes, summer camp, tot time, and teen activities totaling over 1,700 programs with more than 190,000 participants. Overall, the Community and Recreation Services Department delivered more than 2,000 recreation and special events programs, servicing over 490,000 participants annually.

With a renewed energy and focus on our residents' health and fitness, recreational experiences and access to cultural amenities, CRS is undertaking this Master Plan Update to establish a renewed vision for the City of Surprise Park System.

The Parks Department launched the master plan update in June of 2013 with an evaluation of the City's existing recreational and cultural assets. After having a comprehensive understanding of our existing parks, we began to gain input from the residents of Surprise and guidance from our Community and Recreation Service Advisory Commission (CRS) members.

Through a combination of surveys and work sessions, the citizens and the CRS members identified four primary goals for the future development of the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space System:

## **IMPROVE RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE BY REINVESTING IN OUR EXISTING PARKS**

All residents will be able to enjoy outstanding parks that fulfill a diversity of activities and will be designed for beauty, function and longevity.

## **PROMOTE ACTIVE RECREATION, SPORTS AND TOURISM**

Continue to build and support active recreational programs and facilities. Surprise will continue to be recognized for their world class facilities in supporting recreational, amateur and professional sports.

## **PROVIDE A CONNECTED PARK EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OVERALL PARK SYSTEM FRAMEWORK.**

Capitalize on the linear nature of our natural wash corridors and man-made features to create a city-wide framework of connected parks, greenways and open spaces that define the City of Surprise.

## **PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES TO CREATE NEW PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**

Pursue opportunities to acquire and create new public parks, open space and conservation areas that support the needs of our residents while protecting our natural environment.

