



# City of Surprise

## Parks and Recreation Master Plan

December 2015





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# 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.



# OUR CITY

## WHAT DO WE HAVE?

To better understand community needs, the Plan identified existing Park assets, and how they compare to other communities in the valley.

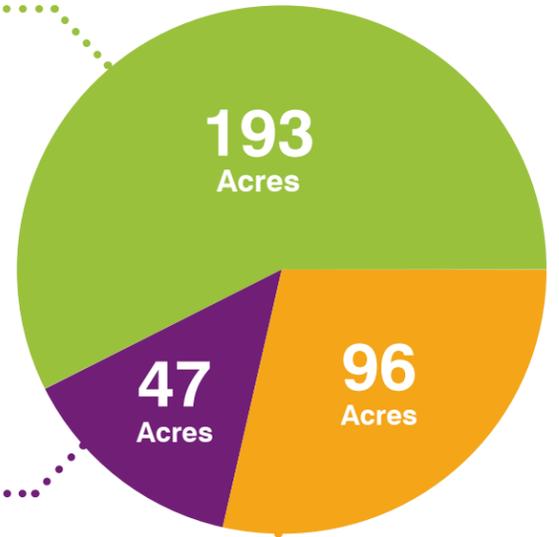
# the LARGE parks

**4** community + city parks  
 Marley Park | Surprise Farms | Asante  
 Surprise Community Park

# the small parks

**8** neighborhood + pocket parks  
 Habitat | Section 10 | Stonebrook | Three Star | Bicentennial  
 Gaines | Sierra Montana | Veramonte

336 TOTAL ACRES OF PARK SPACE:

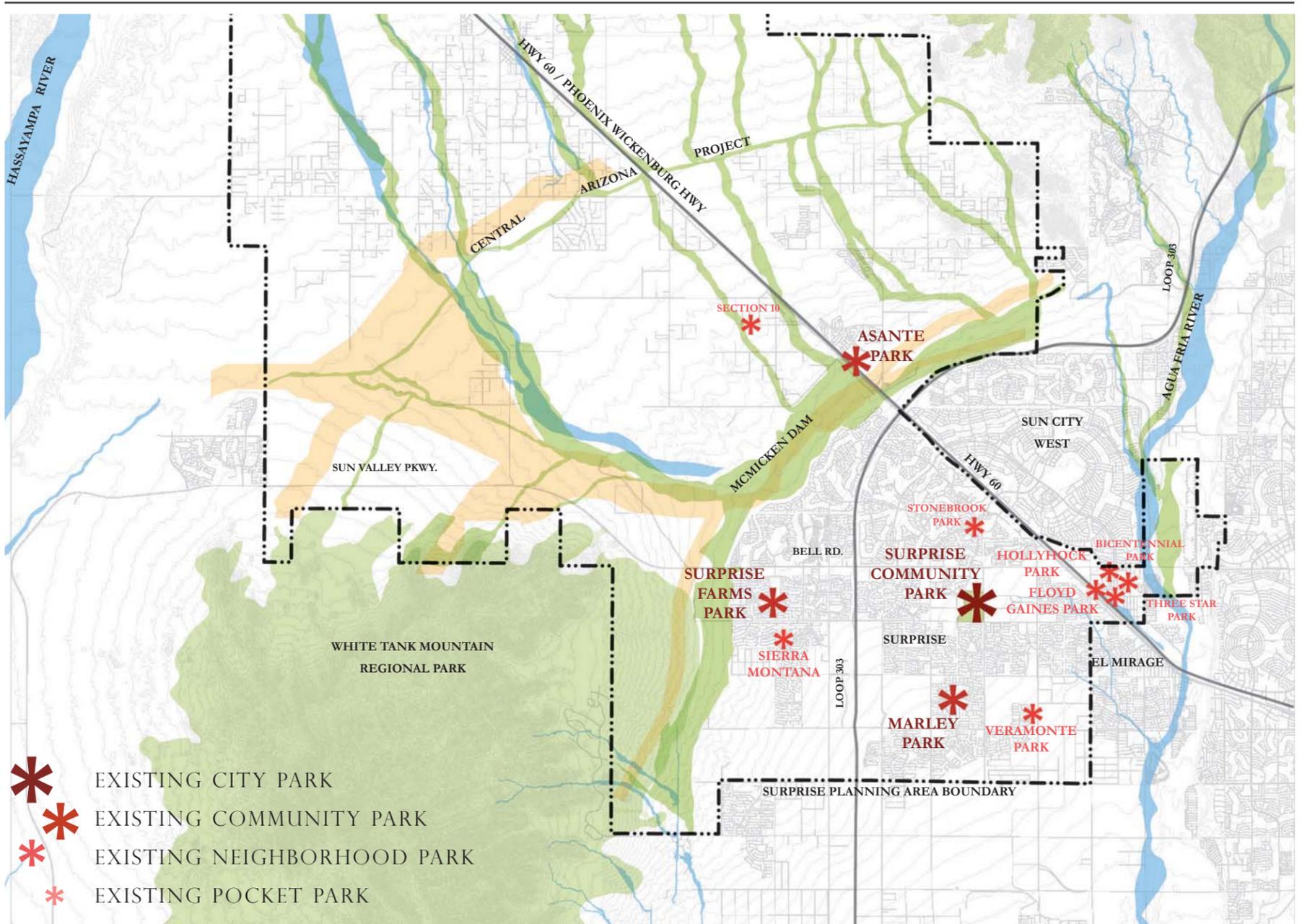


# Surprise Recreation Complex

## HOW DO WE COMPARE?

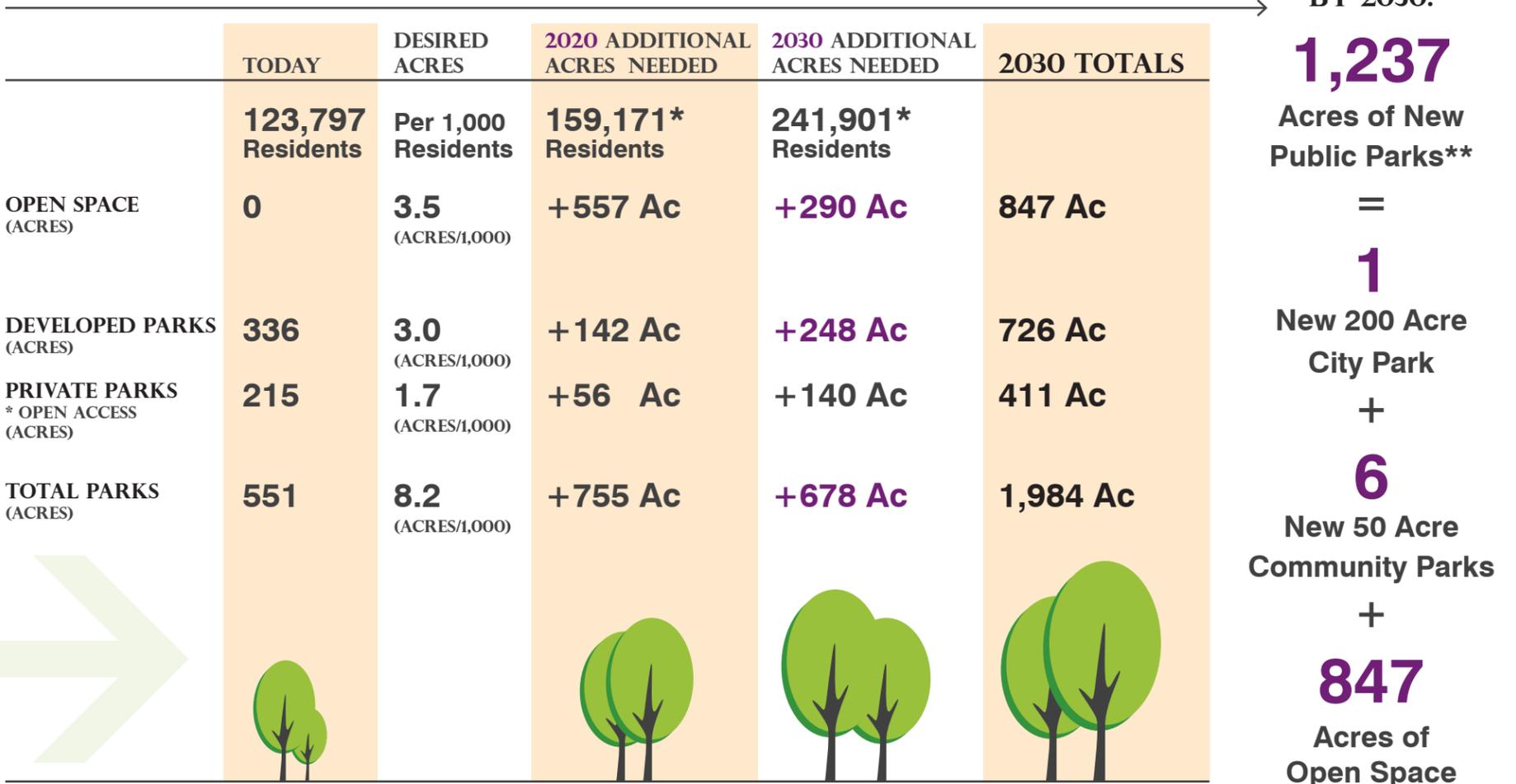
	SURPRISE	PEORIA	CHANDLER	SCOTTSDALE	GLENDALE	AVERAGE
POPULATION	<b>123,797</b>	<b>154,065</b>	<b>245,628</b>	<b>223,514</b>	<b>232,143</b>	<b>213,838</b>
OPEN SPACE (ACRES / ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION)	0/ <b>0.0</b>	1,000/ <b>6.5</b>	336/ <b>1.4</b>	78*/ <b>0.4</b>	1,297/ <b>5.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>
DEVELOPED PARKS (ACRES / ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION)	336/ <b>2.7</b>	571/ <b>3.7</b>	1,192/ <b>4.9</b>	974/ <b>4.3</b>	891/ <b>3.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>
TOTAL PARKS (ACRES / ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION)	336/ <b>2.7</b>	1,571/ <b>10.2</b>	1,528/ <b>6.3</b>	1,052*/ <b>4.7</b>	2,188/ <b>9.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>

\* DOES NOT INCLUDE MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK



Based on input from the community and the CRS, goals for meeting current and future needs, based on population growth and desired levels of service are identified.

## WHAT DO WE NEED FOR TOMORROW?



\* MAG PROJECTIONS FOR SURPRISE MPA POPULATION: 2020 - 159,171, 2030 - 241,901

\*\* DOES NOT INCLUDE NEW PRIVATE PARKS

# PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN - ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN



## GREEN ARMATURE FRAMEWORK

Natural open space (major washes) systems and man-made structures (CAP Canal, McMicken Dam) provide the basis for a Green Armature for the City. Preserved and developed as a connected framework, these features will guide the City's growth patterns while protecting critical drainage, infrastructure and wildlife corridors.



## OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL LANDS

Acquire through partnerships with County and Federal agencies to acquire, manage and enjoy valuable open space and conservation lands in and around Surprise. The goal of the Master Plan is to increase the City's inventory of open space from 0 to 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents, resulting in approximately 850 acres of open space, natural lands, and wildlife corridors by 2030.



## GREENWAYS

Develop partnerships with the development community to create Greenways along the City's natural wash corridors. When the Greenways are fully developed, they will provide over 52 miles of continuous parkways, linear parks and trail systems providing a signature open space system for the City that protects our natural drainage corridors and provides buffers for connected wildlife corridors.



## PARKS

Every resident will have access to meaningful park space within 1-mile, (20 minutes walking distance) from their home, to a variety of larger public parks and small private community parks. The City will increase the amount of public parklands from 2.7 to 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents by focusing on creating Community Parks (25-50 acres in size) and a new City Park (over 200 acres in size).



## BIKEWAY & TRAILS

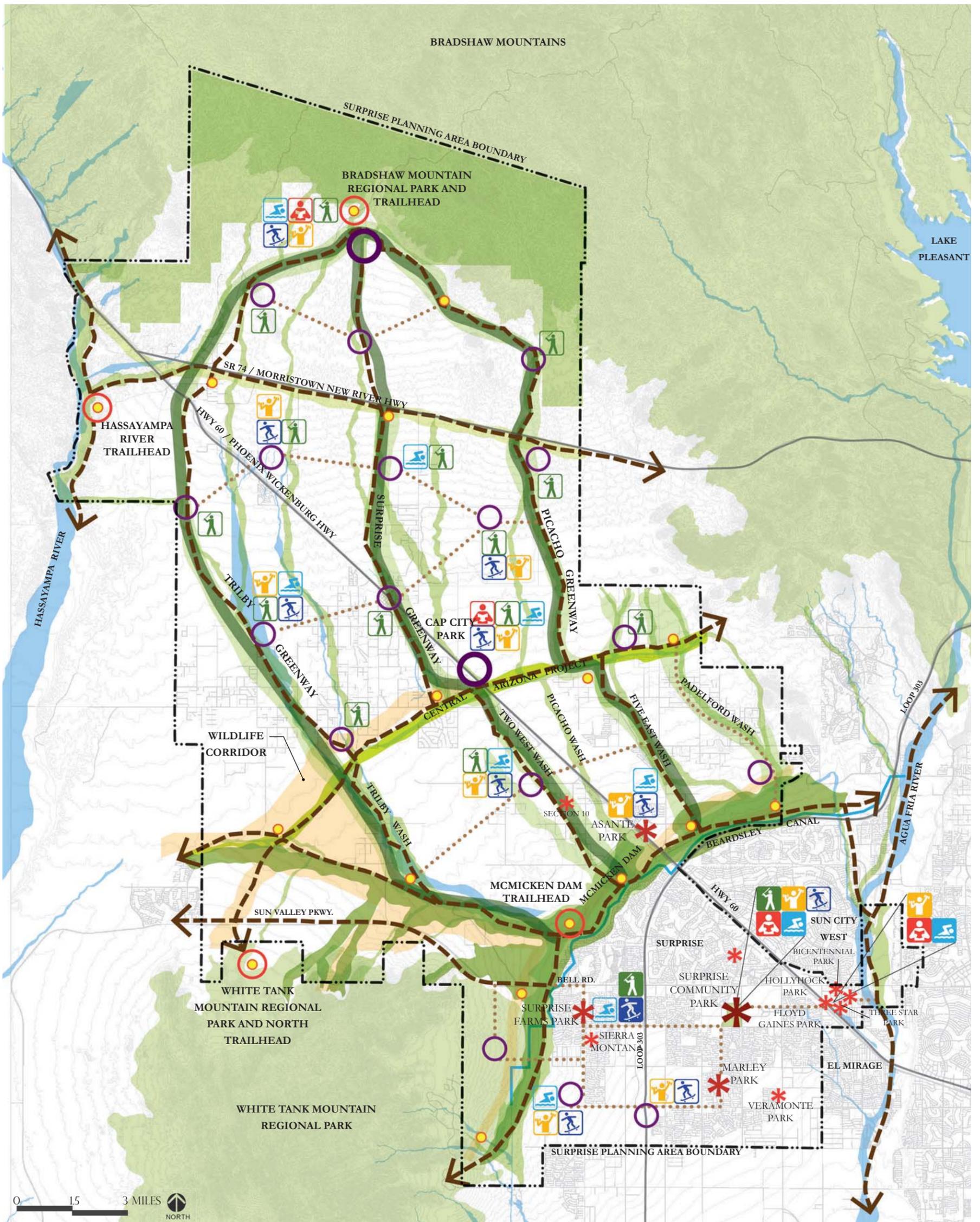
All of the public parks will be accessible by designated pathways that accommodate safe travel by pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as drivers. The Greenways, Central Arizona Project (CAP) and the Maricopa Regional Trail create the backbone of the path and trail system that connects our City. The plan identifies over 13 miles of new natural surface, 19 miles of improved surface paths and 10 trailheads to be constructed by 2030.



## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Increase the number of recreation centers, aquatic centers and libraries so that every resident is within a 5-mile distance from a major community facility. By 2030, the city will expand our library system, add 3 new aquatic centers, 3 new recreation centers and a new fieldhouse that can host regional and national basketball and volleyball tournaments.

# PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN



- EXISTING CITY PARK
- EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK
- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- EXISTING POCKET PARK
- NEW CITY PARK
- NEW COMMUNITY PARK
- CITY OF SURPRISE PLANNING AREA
- NEW MAJOR TRAILHEADS
- TRAILHEADS

- REGIONAL PATH
  - LOCAL / COMMUNITY PATH
- |                                      |  |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| E<br>X<br>I<br>S<br>T<br>I<br>N<br>G |  | SPORTS COMPLEX                      |
|                                      |  | MULTIGENERATIONAL RECREATION CENTER |
|                                      |  | AQUATIC CENTER                      |
|                                      |  | LIBRARY                             |
|                                      |  | SKATE PARK/BMX PARK                 |
|                                      |  | WILDLIFE CORRIDOR                   |

# FRAMEWORK PLAN

The City of Surprise has a unique setting between the White Tank Mountains and the Bradshaw Mountains to the north, creating a substantial desert plain that is occasionally interrupted by major wash corridors. This natural setting of mountains connected by washes provides a unique opportunity to preserve and create a natural framework for the City.

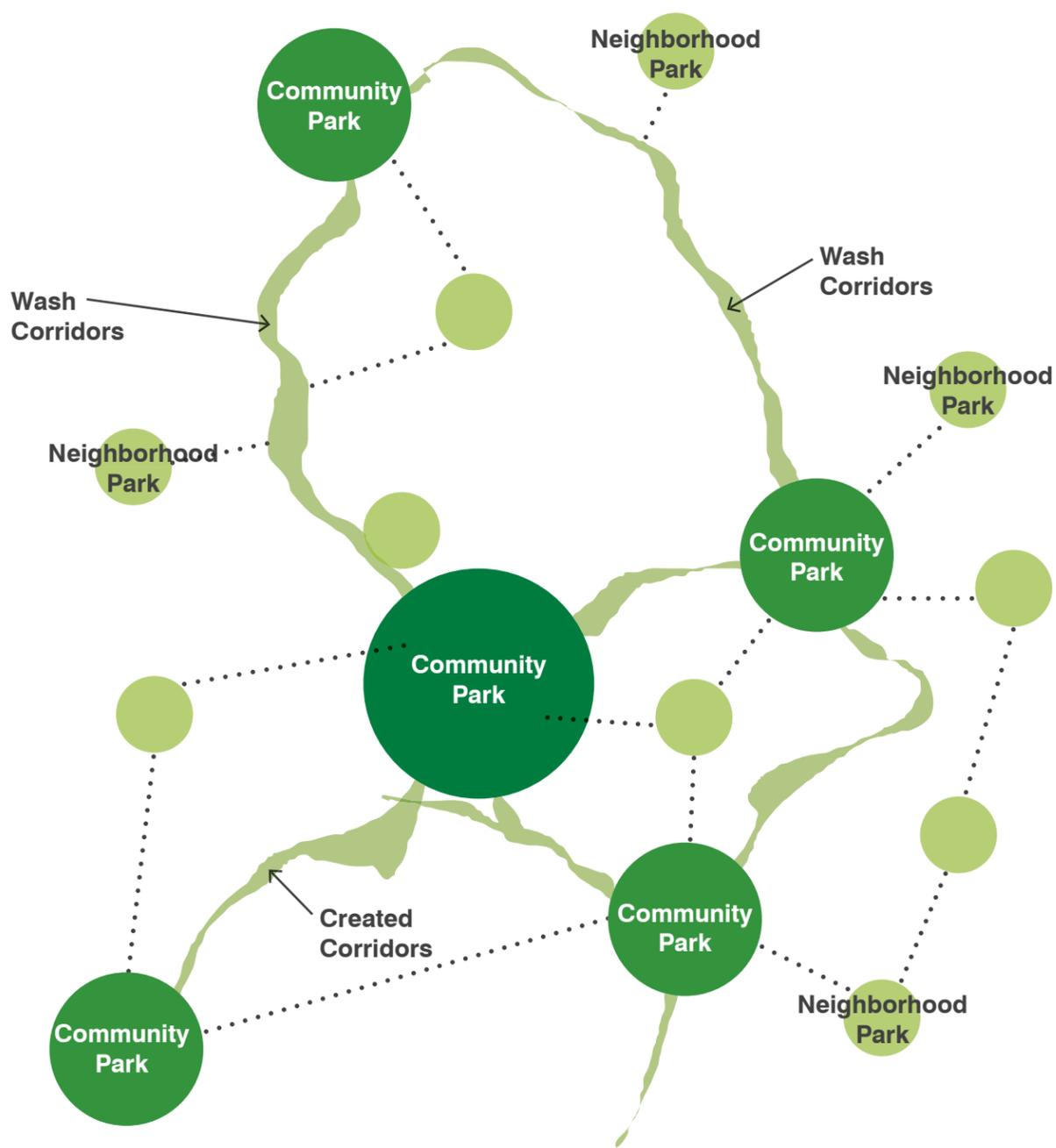
Similar to the City of Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash, Surprise has three similar, if not larger, washes. The City has the opportunity to be visionary by protecting and establishing Trilby Wash, 2 West Wash and Picacho Wash as the most important natural features in the City. In addition to the natural features, two man-made features, McMicken Flood Retarding Structure (McMicken Dam) and the Central Arizona Project (CAP), provide great opportunities for large open space corridors, conservation areas and wildlife corridors in what will be the future center of the City. McMicken Dam provides approximately 3,500-acres of open space in its pool area. While its first priority is protecting the community from major flood events, for the City it represents a significant open space area that will provide passive recreation, bikeways and trails, while sustaining desert wildlife. The CAP bisects the City from west-to-east, providing an important open space connection between the wash corridors. Upstream of the CAP, this large corridor has potential for a City Park that could include passive, as well as active recreation. Phoenix's Reach 11 Recreation Area is an example of the recreational uses possible within a very similar environment, including a major soccer complex, equestrian facilities, trails and open space.

## KEY COMPONENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK PLAN ARE:

- Natural Features as an overall Framework.
- Wash Greenways connect the City.
- Greenways will be a defining feature of the City.
- Conservation Lands Preserve Critical Habitat and Wildlife Corridors.

**“This natural setting of mountains connected by washes provides a unique opportunity to create a natural framework for the City.”**

## connected community framework diagram



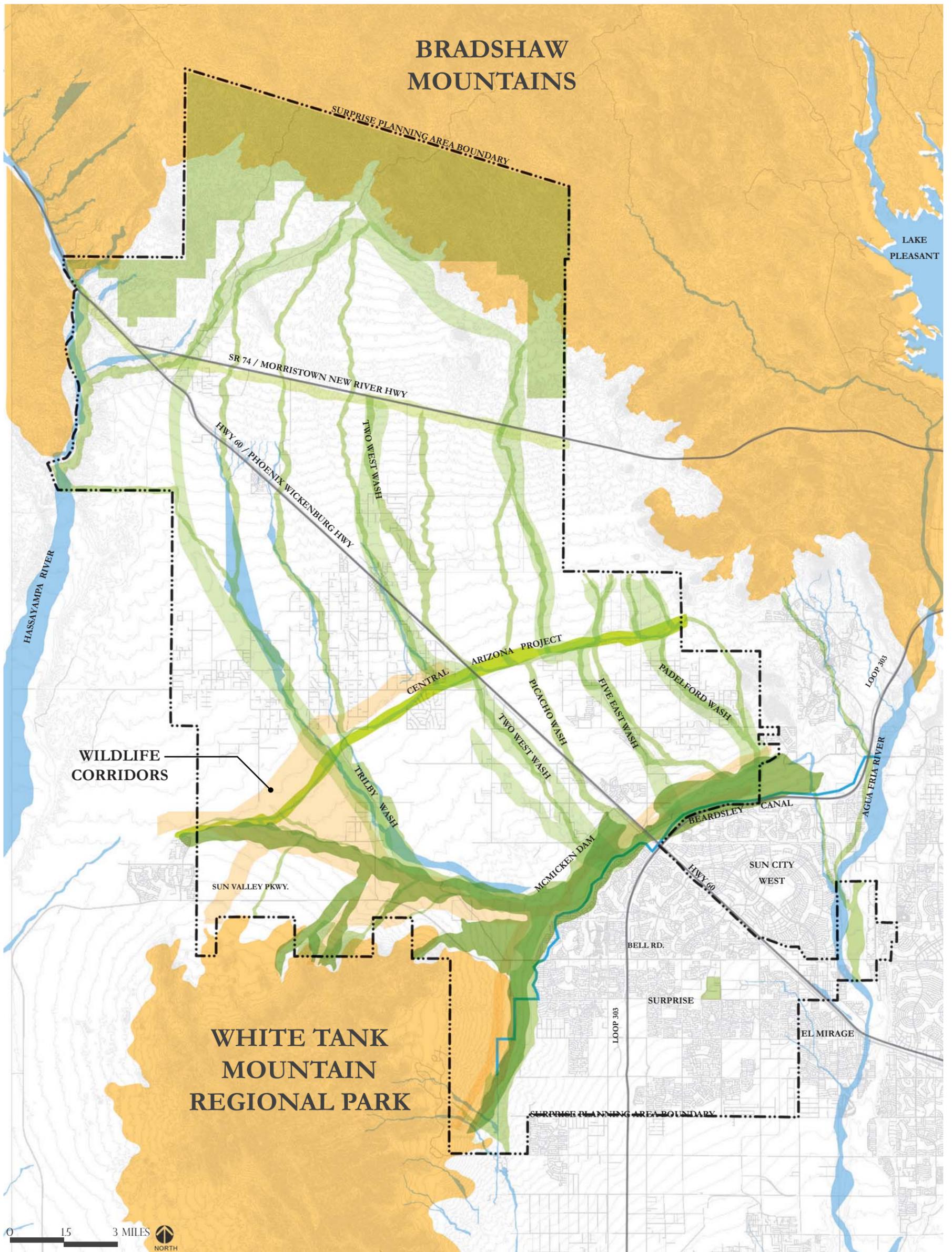
DESERT WASHES



SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS



# FRAMEWORK PLAN DIAGRAM



# OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL LANDS

Opportunities to conserve open space and natural lands cover a wide range of possibilities, including partnerships with private property owners, County government and Federal agencies. Within the planning area of the City there are five opportunities identified to obtain residents' access to open space and natural lands:

## **WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK TRAILHEAD:**

The Maricopa County Parks Department manages over 3,000 acres of natural areas that provide a variety of fee-based recreational opportunities, including day use picnic areas, hiking trails, competitive mountain bike courses and extended stay RV and tent camping. The current access to the White Tank Regional Park is along West Olive Avenue. The opportunity for the City is to partner with the County and a not-for profit organization, to develop a trailhead, and an environmental educational center accompanied by a day use park area that would provide access to the northern face of the mountain for residents and visitors.

## **MCMICKEN DAM CONSERVATION AREA:**

Owned and operated by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County (FCDMC) provides flood protection for the cities in the Valley, including the City of Surprise. Originally constructed to protect Luke Air Force Base, McMicken Dam is being upgraded and fortified through an ongoing effort to reconstruct the entire length of the dam and outlet channel. The dam incorporates over 14 miles of flood retarding structure and over seven miles of an outfall channel that drains the dam to the Agua Fria River. The water storage area behind the dam and channel includes over 3,500 acres of possible conservation open space area, including a wildlife corridor and 15-miles of regional trails that represent a possible partnership between the City, Maricopa County Parks Department and FCDMC in what will soon be within the heart of the City.

## **WILDLIFE CORRIDORS:**

Wildlife corridors, as identified by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and reflected in the General Plan, require the unaltered preservation of natural washes and buffers to protect their natural and biological functions. As part of this Plan, the Greenways, parks and open space corridors are incorporated as buffers parallel to designated wildlife corridors, providing additional wildlife cover and separation

of human activities from wildlife habitat. The parameters for wildlife corridors will be further studied by the City with respect to their boundaries, development buffers and roadway crossings.

## **CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT (CAP) RECREATION AREA:**

Owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and managed by the CAP Conservation District, this 15-mile long corridor presents a significant opportunity for the City to create a major east-west open space corridor and natural area preserve that links the north-south wash corridors through the middle of the City. The CAP runs through the City, providing an opportunity to protect and enhance native vegetation while providing passive and active parks and trails. The CAP corridor may provide ample open space for major sport facilities as the City expands north, with programming similar to City of Phoenix's Reach 11 Park.

## **BRADSHAW MOUNTAINS REGIONAL PARK:**

Owned and managed by the United States Forest Service (USFS) this scenic landscape represents a potential City of Surprise branded Regional Park. The mountains at the northern edge of the City provide an opportunity for a regional park that is as significant as the White Tank Mountains are in the southern portion of the City. In the long-term, the City might elect to develop a partnership with the USFS to manage a major regional park through a public-private partnership similar to the McDowell Mountain Preserve in Scottsdale.

## **HASSAYAMPA NATURE PRESERVE:**

Located along the banks of the Hassayampa River, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owns and manages approximately 80 acres. The opportunity for joint use and management would need to be explored with the BLM and could result on a significant partnership to extend the conservation of the Hassayampa River watershed similar to The Nature Conservancy's Hassayampa Preserve south of Wickenburg.

BRADSHAW MOUNTAINS



Bradshaw Mountains by Mimi Cummins, 13 March 2015. Flickr

HASSAYAMPA RIVER

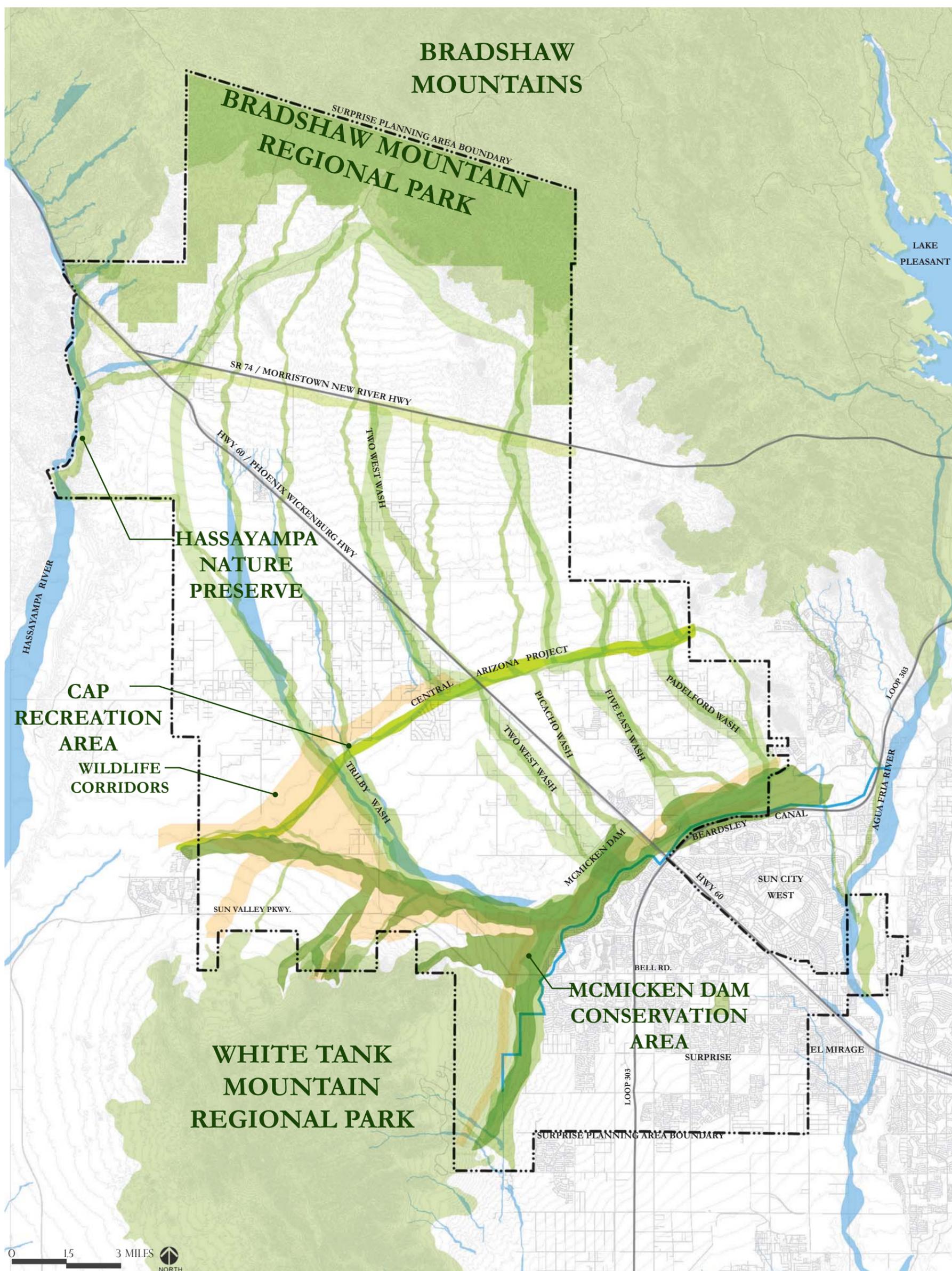


Photo Credit by Allan Hall



ILLUSTRATION OF WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK TRAILHEAD

# OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL LANDS



# GREENWAYS

A signature feature and one of the major elements of the park system, the Greenways provide an overall connected framework for the City. The Greenways primarily follow the major wash corridors beginning at the northern portions of the City and extending south to McMicken Dam. The Greenways may be maintained as a natural wash with adjacent pathways similar to Greenway Parkway in Phoenix or developed as green linear parks similar to Indian Bend Wash in Scottsdale. The Greenways will interconnect the City's future parks and provide the community with unobstructed and accessible open space.

Greenways serve as a part of the City's structural framework, supporting and providing a buffer to the natural drainage courses, wildlife corridors and the biological processes associated with them.

## THE GREENWAYS INCLUDE:

- Trilby Greenway: 24-Miles – follows Trilby Wash from McMicken Dam to the Bradshaw Mountains.
- Surprise Greenway: 18-Miles – follows Two West Wash tributaries from McMicken Dam to the Bradshaw Mountains.
- Pichaco Greenway: 18-Miles – follows Pichaco Wash tributaries from McMicken Dam the Bradshaw Mountains.

The implementation of this park system element will require the development of wash corridor master plans and design guidelines that address regional trail linkages, trail design, trailhead locations, linear park standards, wildlife corridor protection and roadway crossings.

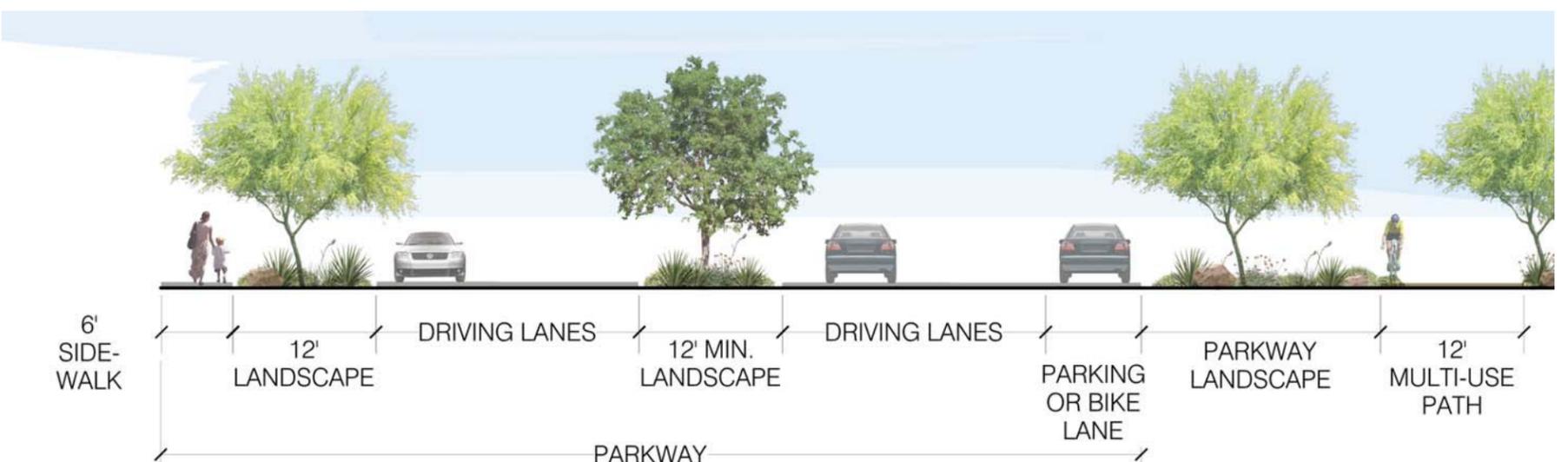
## KEY COMPONENTS OF THE GREENWAYS ARE:

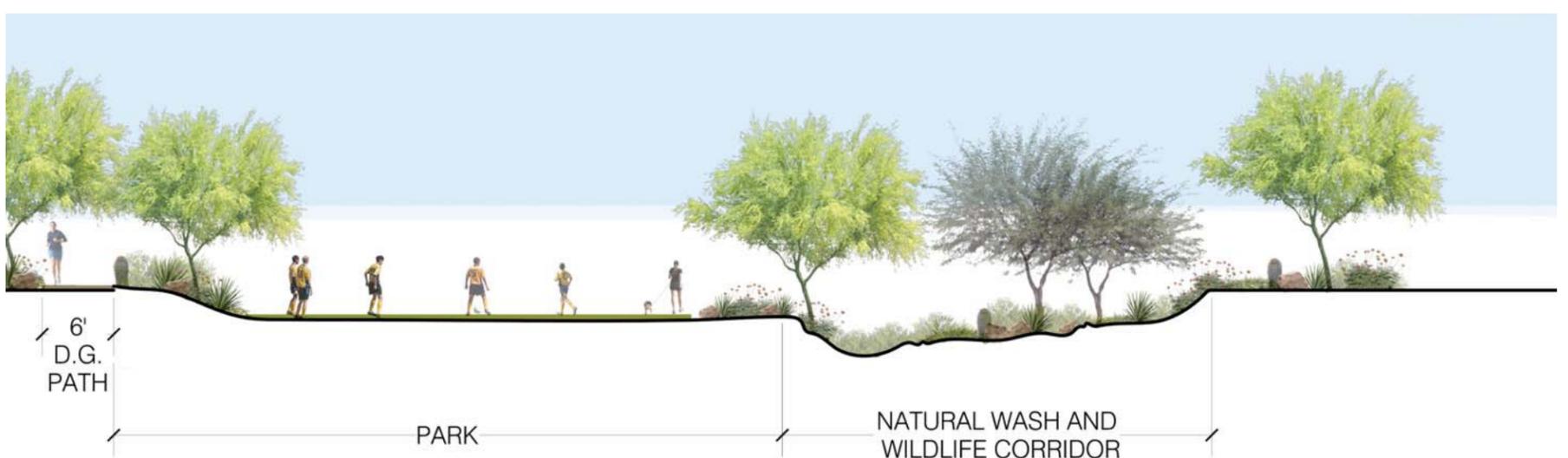
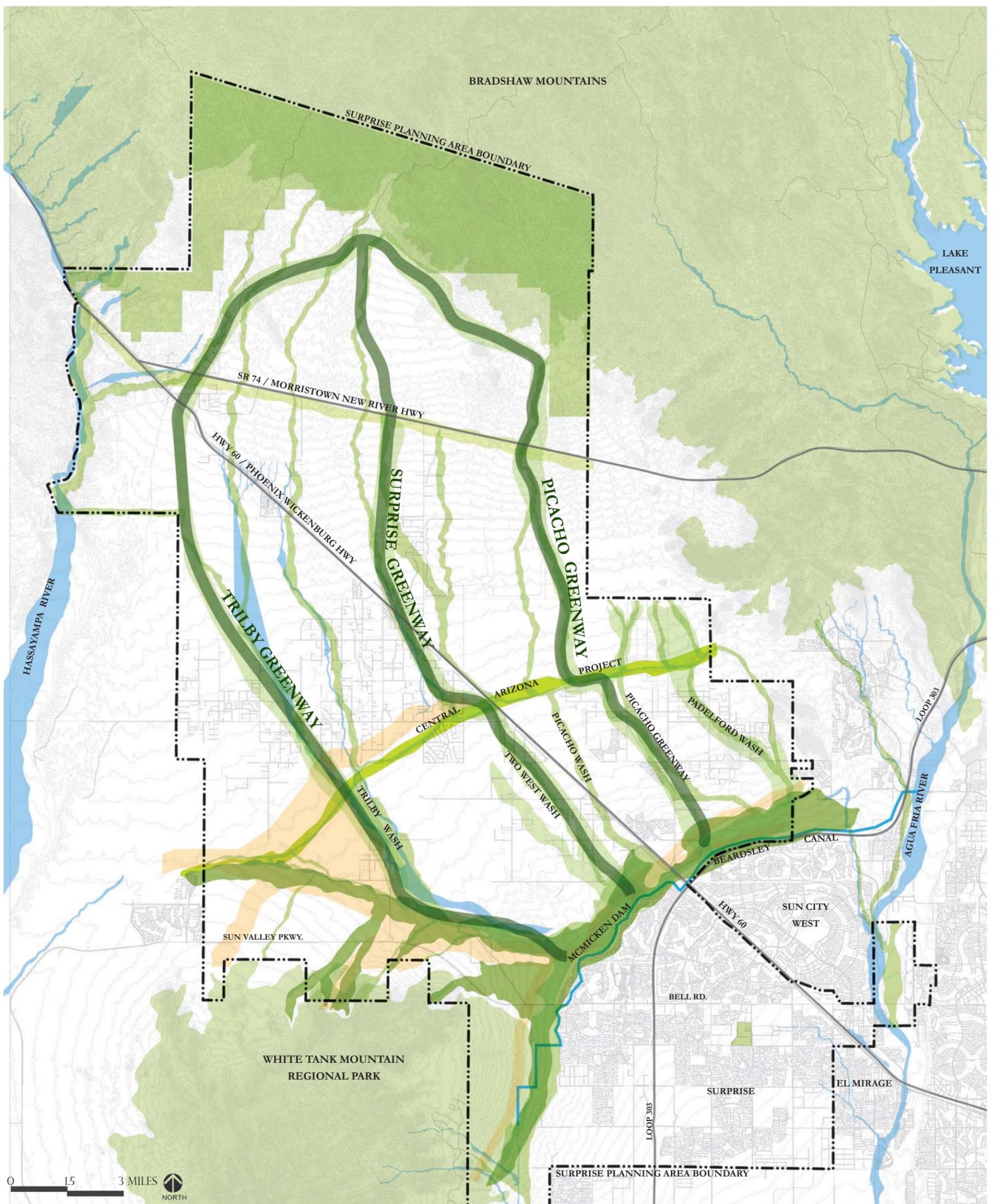
- Preservation and enhancement of natural wash corridors as a feature.
- Protection of natural drainage corridors for flood water conveyance, ecological processes and wildlife habitat.
- Parallel roadways or widened linear parks to maintain an open, accessible public corridor, preventing an isolated corridor between residential walls.
- Continuous multi-use pathway with rest areas, trailheads and restrooms.
- Grade-separated pathways at major arterials and safe at-grade crossing at minor arterials and residential streets.



ILLUSTRATION OF GREENWAY WITH PARKWAY, LINEAR PARK AND WASH CORRIDOR

## PROPOSED PARKWAY + LINEAR PARK SECTION





# PARKS

Access to meaningful parks is a priority for Surprise residents. Acquisition of land for future public parks will be Community Parks and City Parks. Community Parks, characterized as 25-50 acre sized parks, provide the necessary land area to offer a variety of activities and programs that are not provided at the neighborhood level. City Parks offer city-wide amenities and are typically over 100 acres in size.

The development pattern of the City has been primarily composed of master planned communities that provide neighborhood-scale parks that are less than 5-acres (and many less than 1-acre) in size. These neighborhood parks provide an important level of access to recreation associated with the neighborhoods, but are too small to accommodate use by the larger community. Often times they also provide stormwater retention, resulting in a very small areas that are suitable for active recreational use. Neighborhood parks, due to their size and need for a high level of maintenance, are better managed by the residential community homeowners associations. Exceptions would be for areas under-served where there is limited available land; such as in the Original Town Site area, and urban plaza.

The city will evaluate future park development opportunities, acquisitions and land donations based on their ability to meet the Community Park level of service. The City will focus on developing Community Parks, between 25-50 acres in size, with no more than 60% of the land proposed for storm water retention. Community Parks will be located to serve residents within a 3-mile radius.

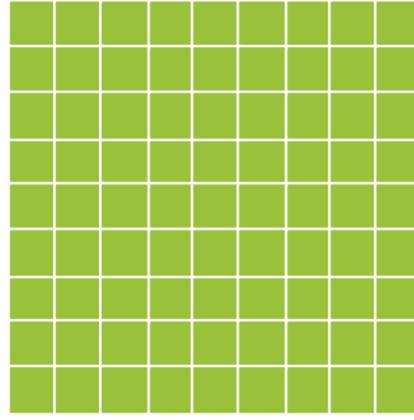
In addition to Community Park acquisitions, the City will continue to reinvest in existing parks to improve the level of service and the quality of amenities and experience for Surprise residents.

A change from prior park descriptions adds the “City Park” designation for larger parks that serve residents throughout the City. The current Surprise Community Park is an example of a City Park, serving the larger community, offering a wide variety of amenities and accommodating tournament level sports programming. In addition, the City Park should include community gathering and meeting facilities, a recreation center and/or aquatic center, and a library. The Plan envisions two additional City Parks in Surprise by 2030, one located near the Central Arizona Project (CAP) and Highway 60 and the other in the northern portion of the City, associated with the future Bradshaw Mountain Regional Park.

## PARK LANDS CHARACTER:

The General Plan update introduces “Sub-Areas” as a way of describing a variety of Land Use Character Area’s (character areas) within the City. Responding to these character areas, park programming and design will also be developed to be consistent with the character of each sub area within the City. Although most new parks will be located within a suburban environment, and include a wide variety of recreational activities (including lighted activities), there are two character areas that will require greater context sensitivity in planning and design: Scenic Lands Development and Wildlife Linkage Corridors. The Scenic Lands Development character area is located in two areas of the City: the northern and easterly slopes of the White Tank Mountains; and north of State Route 74 to the Bradshaw Mountains and along the Hassayampa River. The Scenic Lands character areas recognize the natural limitations of the land, its sloping terrain and the desire to preserve the natural beauty of the area. The new parks developed in these areas will respect these sensitive lands by focusing on passive recreational uses and limiting active play where level land for play fields may not be readily available. The Wildlife Linkage Corridor character area represents sensitivity to wildlife habitat and movement patterns. Park development within Wildlife Linkage Corridors will be programmed and designed to provide buffers and passive uses immediately adjacent to wildlife corridors, and provide appropriate vegetative cover for wildlife and separation from human activity.

## CITY PARKS



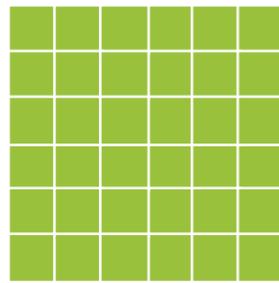
**100+**  
ACRES IN SIZE

**10**  
MILE SERVICE AREA

- Large Group Ramadas
- Event Grounds
- Tournament Level Facilities
- Aquatic Center
- Recreation Center
- Civic Facility (i.e., library)
- Fishing Lake
- Skate Park
- Restrooms

**1** NEW CITY PARK NEEDED BY 2030

## COMMUNITY PARKS



**25-50**  
ACRES IN SIZE

**3**  
MILE SERVICE AREA

- Playground
- Individual and Group Ramada
- Open Turf
- Multi-Use Fields
- Structured Fields
- Swimming Pool
- Skate Park
- Splash Pad
- Restrooms

*ASANTE PARK*  
*SURPRISE FARMS PARK*  
*MARLEY PARK*

**6** NEW COMMUNITY PARKS NEEDED BY 2030

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



**5-15**  
ACRES IN SIZE

**1/2 to 1**  
MILE SERVICE AREA

- Playground
- Ramada
- Open Turf
- Multi-Use Fields

*BICENTENNIAL*  
*GAINES*  
*SIERRA MONTANA*  
*VERAMONTE*

**20** NEW PRIVATE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS NEEDED BY 2030

## POCKET PARKS



**>5**  
ACRES IN SIZE

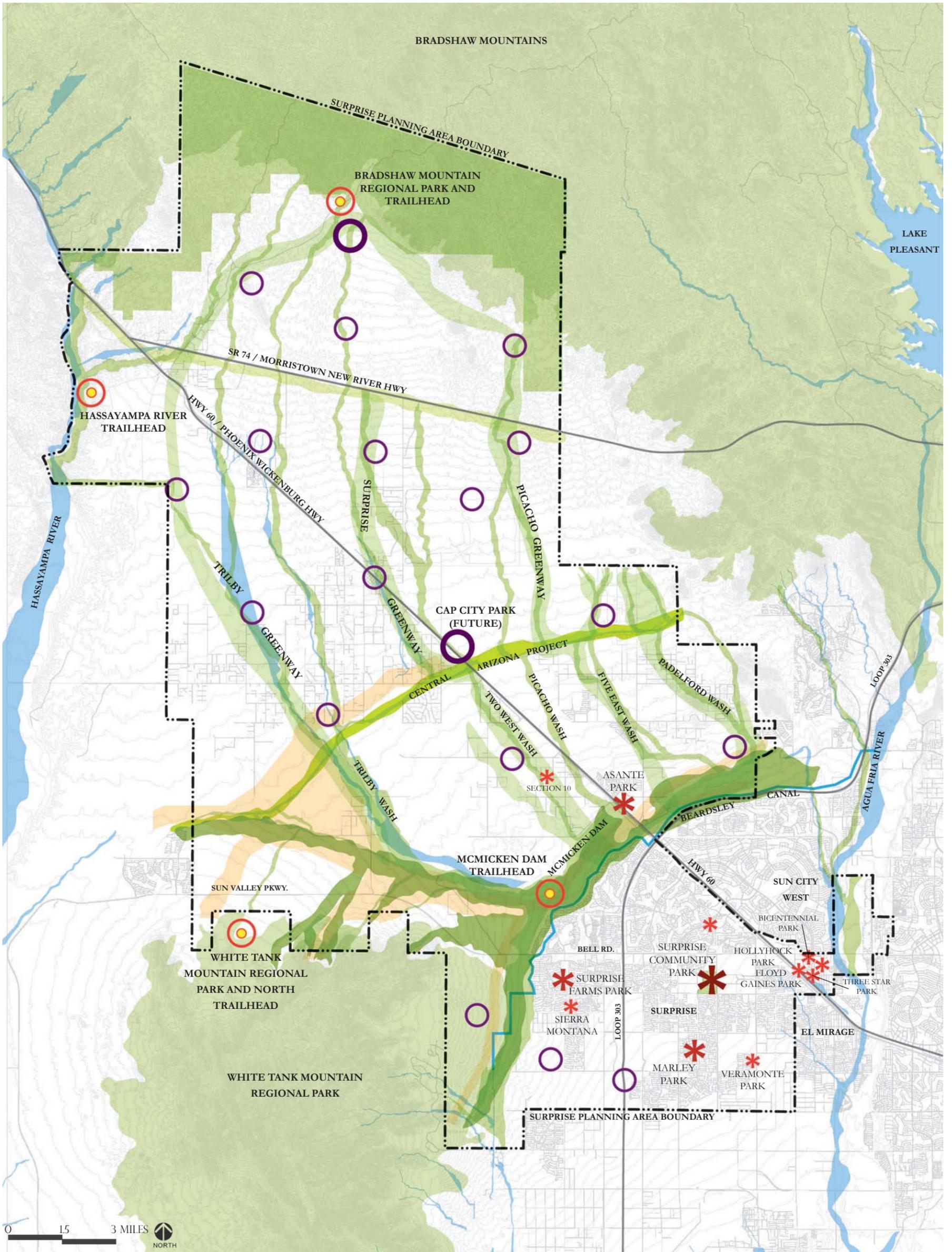
**1/4-1/2**  
MILE SERVICE AREA

- Playground
- Ramada
- Open Turf

*THREE STAR*  
*HOLLYHOCK*  
*SECTION 10*

## RECREATION AMENITIES WE’LL NEED

Amenities	Level of Service	2015 Current	2020 Need	2030 Need	New Amenities	Total Amenities
Population	Per 100,000 Residents	123,797	159,171	241,901		
Ball Fields	15.9	15	10	13	23	38
Soccer/Multi-use Fields	15.0	11	13	12	25	36
Basketball Courts	11.5	12	6	10	16	28
Sand Volleyball Courts	7.0	7	4	6	10	17
Tennis Courts	20.0	25	7	17	23	48
Pickleball Courts	16.0	8	17	13	31	39
Dog Parks	2.0	2	1	2	3	5
Skate Parks	1.3	1	1	2	3	4
Splash Pads	3.8	3	3	6	9	12
Playgrounds	10.0	10	6	8	14	24
Restrooms	9.5	11	4	12	16	27
Amptheater	1.5	2	0	1	2	4



-  EXISTING CITY PARK
-  EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK
-  EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
-  NEW CITY PARKS
-  NEW COMMUNITY PARKS
-  NEW MAJOR TRAILHEAD

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities include a wide range of recreational uses, including recreation and aquatic centers, senior centers, libraries, specialty parks and event plazas. These facilities offer a specific stand-alone use, though they can be located within or adjacent to public parks sharing facilities to integrate related programming. Each community facility has location and service levels that need to be evaluated based on land area required, demographic of residents it serves and relationship to other city facilities and parks.

## MULTI-GENERATIONAL/RECREATION CENTERS AND FIELDHOUSE:

The City is currently evaluating the program and location of a new 25-acre Multi-Generational Recreation Center and Fieldhouse facility. The current program includes a 30,000 to 50,000 square foot recreation center providing fitness, indoor track, basketball courts and supporting facilities. The Fieldhouse is programmed as a 124,000 square foot enclosure that would accommodate up to 12 indoor basketball courts. It is envisioned that the site would include opportunities for sports fields supported by facilities located in the recreation center.

## LIBRARIES:

The City has two existing libraries, the Northwest Surprise Regional Library and the Hollyhock Branch Library. The Maricopa County Library District currently operates the libraries for the City. As the City continues to grow, the need to provide additional library facilities will be required. Expansion of the library system may include enlargement of the existing Surprise Regional Library or the addition of up to two additional libraries. It is envisioned that a new City Library will be located in a new City Park and new branch libraries may be located within new Community Parks.

## AQUATIC CENTERS:

A new Aquatic Center is a high priority for the City. The Surprise Community Pool has extremely high use and demonstrates the need for additional aquatic facilities. Included in the master plan for Surprise Farms Park, a new aquatics facility would include a bathhouse, a recreation swimming pool, a play pool with water slides and a splash pad.

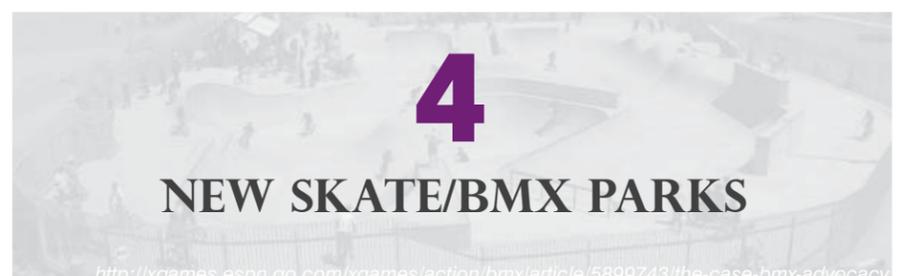
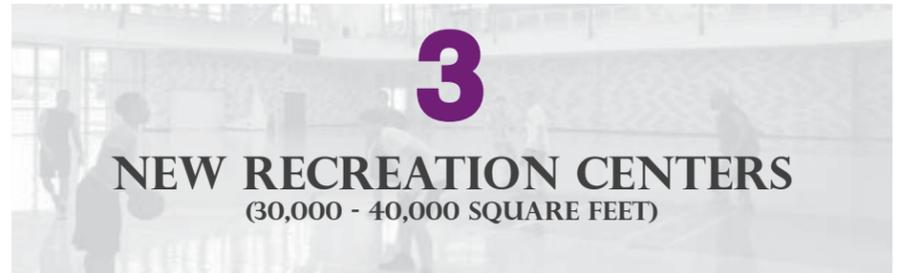
## SPORTS COMPLEX:

Three tournament fields and 16 practice fields on a site of approximately 65-acres is in the planning phase by The City. It is envisioned to include a central exhibition field and team clubhouses. The soccer complex will provide much needed practice fields as well as a venue to develop and support local, regional and national tournaments.

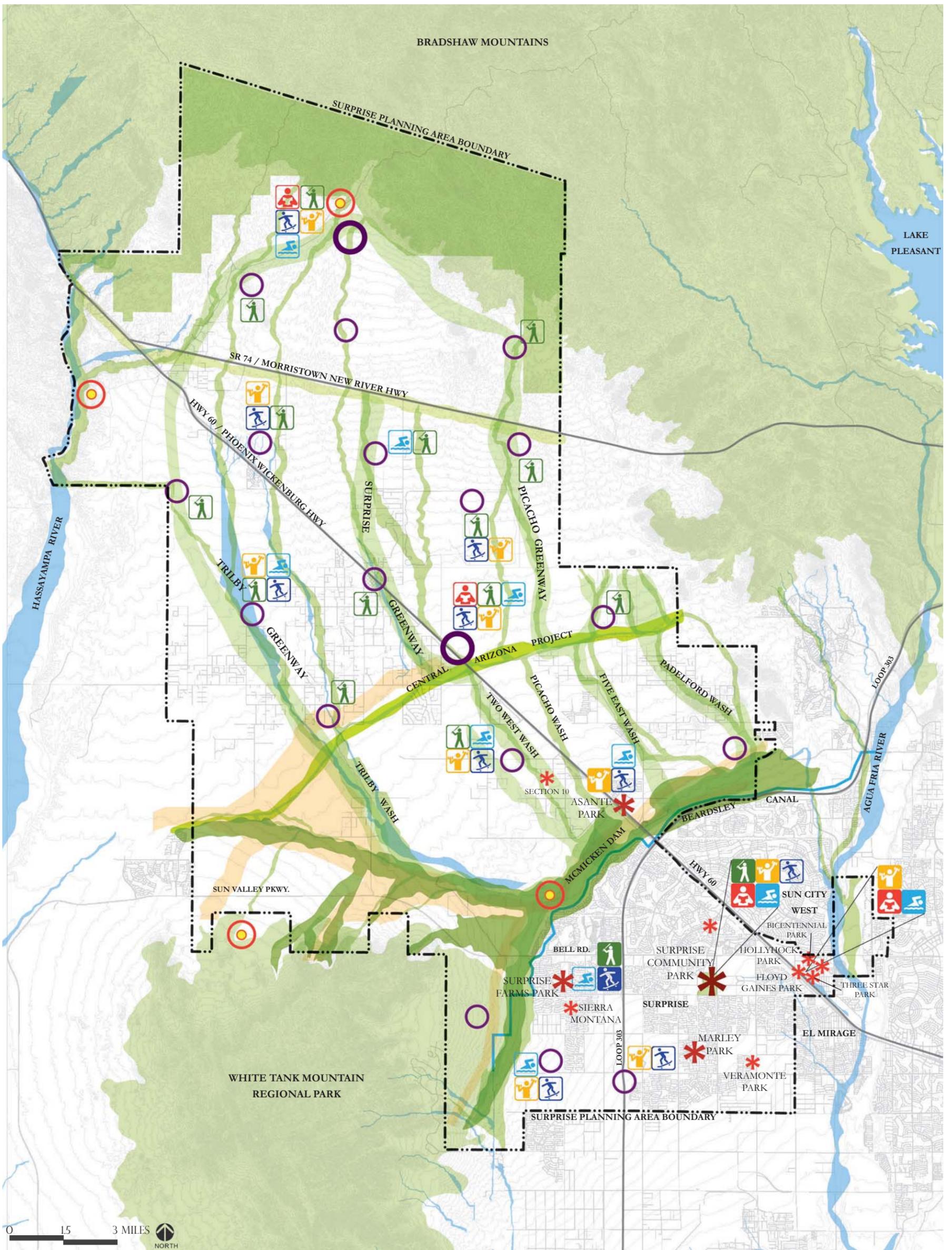
## SKATE PARKS:

The City recently developed a successful skate park at Surprise Farms Park. This plaza style skate park met an urgent need for community and youth skating activities. During the skate park public work session for Plan development, residents vocally supported a larger, more sophisticated skate park and a BMX park to be located elsewhere in the City.

## COMMUNITY AMENITIES NEEDED:



# COMMUNITY FACILITIES



EXISTING



NEW



SPORTS COMPLEX

MULTIGENERATIONAL RECREATION CENTER

AQUATIC CENTER

EXISTING



NEW



LIBRARY

SKATE PARK/BMX

# BIKEWAYS AND TRAILS

Connectivity to the community and neighborhoods they serve is an important part of park system planning for a modern city. Connections between residents and parks and community destinations provide alternatives for non-motorized transportation, as well as associated recreation opportunities and health benefits. A well designed path, trail and bikeway system provides contiguous safe routes for people of all ages to get to home, school, work or play.

The City's Bikeway and Trails Master Plan is integrated with the overall Transportation Plan for the City because much of this non-vehicular network is located within the City streets rights-of-way. Multi-use trails as part of the transportation network must also be integrated into parks and open space, in particular the linear Greenways established in the Green Armature.

Three levels of trails are identified in the Master Plan:

## REGIONAL PATH:

Regional paths are part of a larger circulation plan connecting the City with the rest of the Valley. The Regional Path can be envisioned as a thoroughfare for pedestrians and cyclists. These multi-user paths provide continuous alignments with little or no interruption by vehicular traffic by implementing grade separated crossing at major roadways. The path has a minimum width of 12 feet of concrete paving with a parallel 6 feet minimum decomposed granite trail within an average easement width of 50 feet. The path will be lighted for evening and early morning use and may have restrooms and trailheads developed for access and comfort. The Maricopa County Regional Trail running along McMicken Dam is an example of a regional trail system that not only interconnects residents within the City, but connects the City to other Valley destinations.

## COMMUNITY PATH:

Typically designed as multi-use paths that accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists, the community path represents the main pathway that interconnects neighborhoods, parks and community destinations. The path has a minimum concrete width of 10 feet with a parallel 5 feet decomposed granite trail. The path and trail is separated from the street curb with a landscape area, providing a safety buffer. Community paths that are aligned through open space are within a 30 feet minimum width easement to allow for safe travel, lighting and rest areas.

## LOCAL PATH:

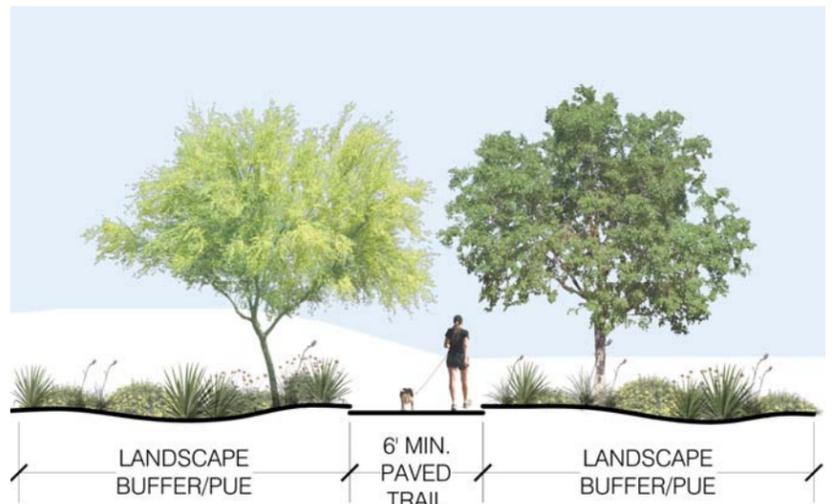
Primarily designed as separated sidewalks within neighborhoods, these paths, continuous and accessible, have the specific purpose of connecting residents internally to neighborhood parks and externally as feeder paths to the larger Community and Regional Path network. Local paths are often located within the street rights-of-way providing safe routes to parks and schools.

## BIKEWAYS AND TRAILS NEEDED:

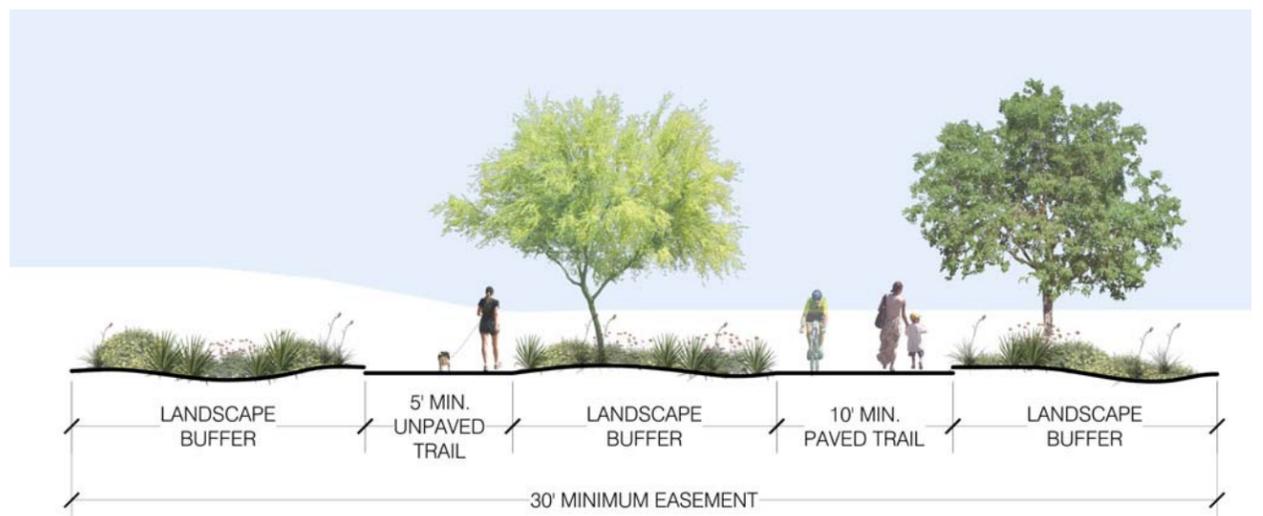
**13**  
MILES  
NATURAL  
SURFACE  
TRAILS

**19**  
MILES  
IMPROVED  
SURFACE PATHS

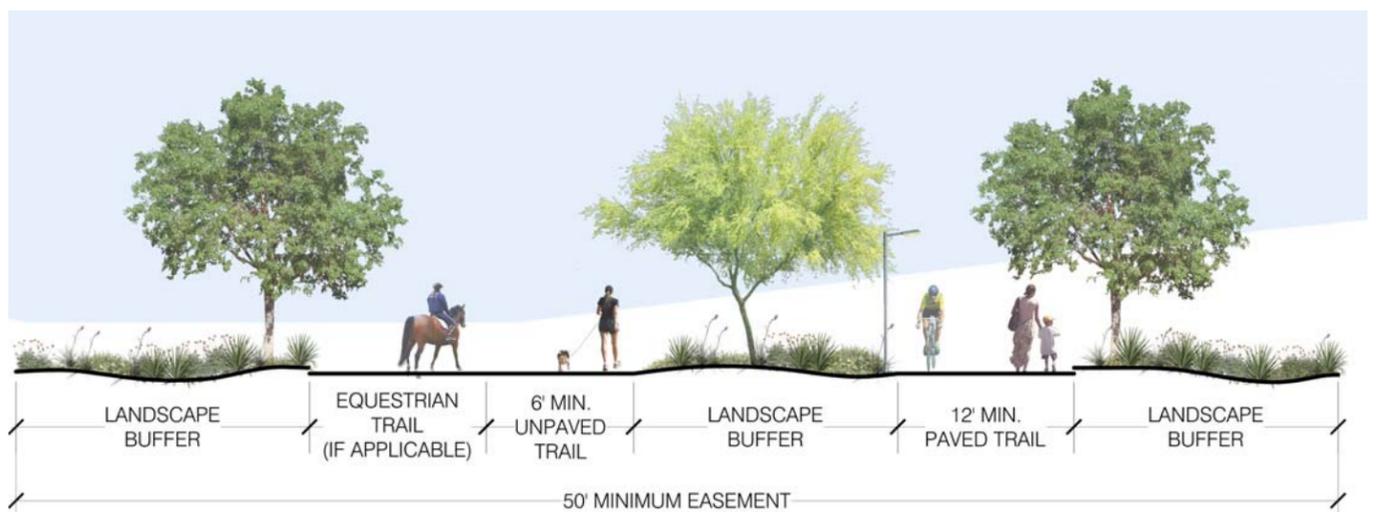
**10**  
NEW  
TRAILHEADS



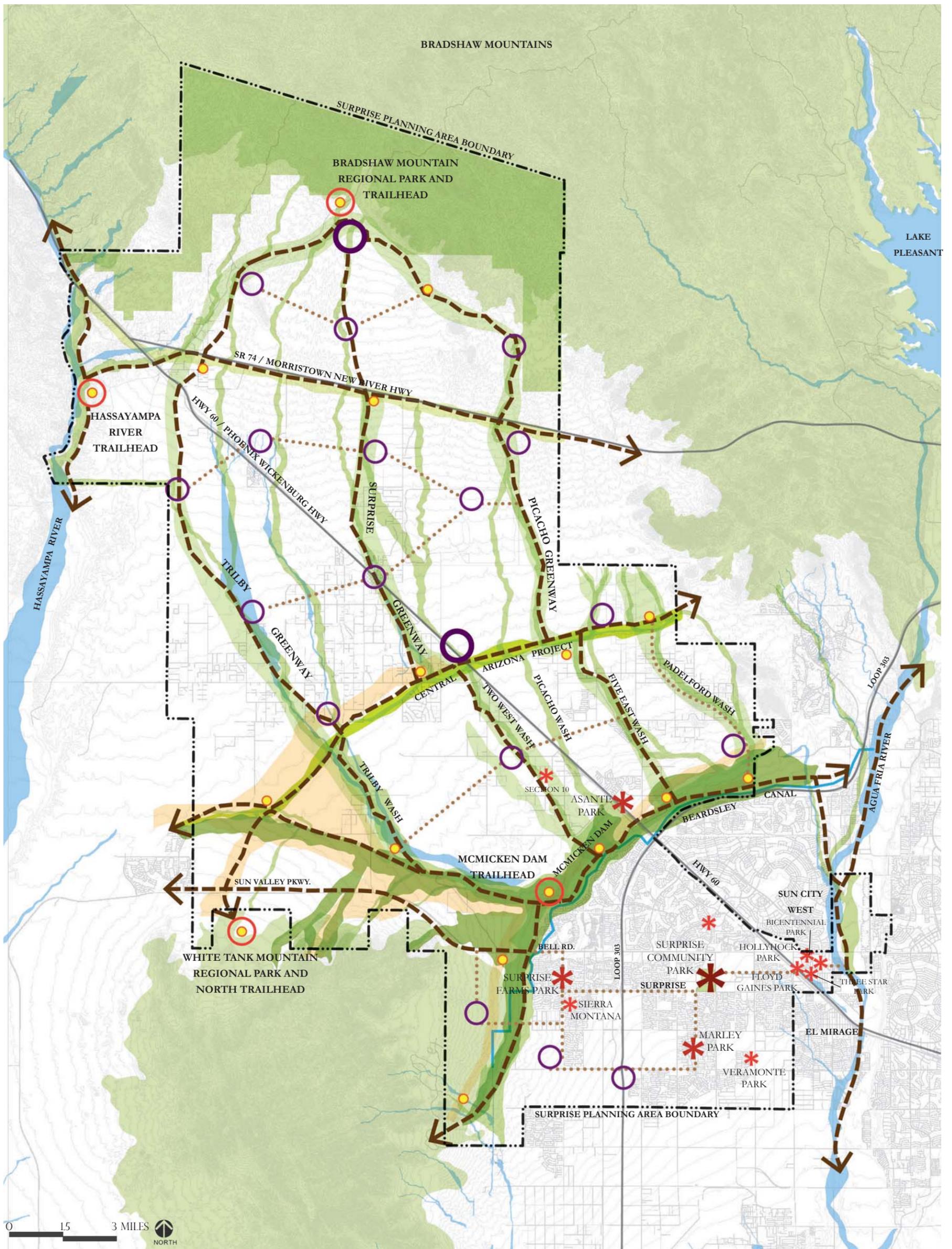
LOCAL PATH



COMMUNITY PATH



REGIONAL PATH



-  REGIONAL PATH
-  COMMUNITY PATH
-  EXISTING CITY PARK
-  EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK
-  EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

-  NEW CITY PARKS
-  NEW COMMUNITY PARKS
-  TRAILHEADS
-  NEW MAJOR TRAILHEADS

NOTE: LOCAL PATHS (NOW SHOWN) ARE PART OF PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS AND WILL CONNECT TO THE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL PATH SYSTEM.

# WHERE DO WE START?

As compared to our peer cities, Surprise is behind on the amount of parks and open space needed to meet future needs of our residents. It is very difficult to gain ground, especially for developed parks since land has been parceled out and land either not available or the land cost make acquisition very difficult. Open space availability, on the other hand, is available to meet the City’s need for open space, through developing partnerships with the underlying County and Federal owners.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a high-level document, identifying a framework for the parks, open space and facilities development through the full buildout of the City. The next 15-years outline the development of 354-acres of new parks, including 6 new Community Parks and 1 new City Park, and the addition of 847-acres of open space.

The CRS identified four immediate priorities for Park and Recreation Master Plan:

- **Improve Residents’ Quality of Life by Reinvesting in our Existing parks**
- **Promote Active Recreation, Sports and Tourism**
- **Provide a Connected Park Experience through the Development of an Overall Park System**
- **Pursue Opportunities to Create New Parks and Open Space**

In meeting these priorities, a detailed timeline and budget for each of the master plan components has been developed as a companion document to the master plan. This detail, referred to as the Scoreboard, identifies specific park and open space improvements, land requirements and budgetary estimates. The Scoreboard is intended to be a working document for the City allowing modifications to reflect changing priorities, available funding and planning of Capital Improvement Projects.

The projected cost for reinvestment in existing parks, new park construction and open space development represent over \$260,000,000 investment by the City over the next 15-years.

A summary of the projected park development cost and land acquisition through 2030 is as follows:

Improvements	2020	2025	2030	TOTAL
Existing Park Reinvestment	\$4.	\$4.	\$0.9	\$8.9
New Parks	\$9.8	\$13.0	\$46.7	\$69.5
New Facilities	\$45.5	\$70.1	\$46.9	\$162.5
Open Space/Greenways	\$5.0	\$8.4	\$5.7	\$19.3
<b>Total Cost (Millions)</b>	<b>\$64.5</b>	<b>\$95.5</b>	<b>\$100.2</b>	<b>\$260.2</b>
New Park Lands	63.0	316.0	25.0	404.0
New Open Space	482.0	322.0	9.0	813.0
<b>Total Land (Acres)</b>	<b>545.0</b>	<b>368.0</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>1,217.0</b>

## THE NEXT 5 YEARS

A 5-year planning horizon was identified so that specific, measurable tasks can be identified to meet the immediate goals of the master plan. Also, the 5-year horizon instills a sense of urgency for the City to identify funding and land acquisition strategies in order to get ahead of growth in developing the City’s park system. The following focuses on specific action items to meet goals set for 2020, all within the context of the 2030 Master Plan. The following is a summary of the actions to be completed by the City through the year 2020:

## REINVEST AND COMPLETE OUR EXISTING PARKS

The main theme of CRS and the Surprise Parks Department is to deliver a high quality park and recreational experience. A thorough inventory of all the existing parks was conducted and a list of existing amenities was ranked regarding their condition and possible repair or replacement. In addition, possible amenities to be added or renovated were identified for each of the parks. The following represents the reinvestment in existing parks.

- |                                        |                                  |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • <b>3 Star Park</b>                   | Replacement Playground           |
| • <b>Bicentennial/Lizard Run</b>       | Replacement Ballfield Lighting   |
| • <b>Hollyhock Community Pool</b>      | Replace Deck and Re-plaster Pool |
| • <b>Surprise Recreation Campus</b>    | 8-Acre Park Fencing              |
| • <b>Pickleball Expansion</b>          | 8-10 Additional Courts           |
| • <b>Countryside Recreation Center</b> | Replace Gym Floor                |
| • <b>Bullard Aquatic Center</b>        | Replace Deck and Replace Slide   |
| • <b>Stone Brook Park</b>              | Replace Playground               |
| • <b>Parks/Campus Maintenance</b>      | Expansion of Current Facility    |

## ACTIONS:

1. **Assess Improvement Priorities**
  - a. Assess priorities as part of Capital Improvement Project budgets and determine funding schedule. Complete by 2016.
  - b. Improvements to be complete by 2020 – year end.

## NEW PARKS

The City will focus on developing Community Level Parks, providing the greatest diversity of recreation and activities for the resident. The park size will be between 25-50 acres in size and provide a level of programming and amenities that are not currently being met by neighborhood level and private parks within master planned communities. A major focus for the next 5-years is to acquire park land for future community parks.

In addition, land for a New City Park will be identified. A City Park is a new designation of park for the City of Surprise and the largest of the parks at 100+ acres. The location of the new City Park represents forward thinking by CRS so that a large parcel of land can be identified and secured for future expansion of the park system. The City’s growth pattern, 10-mile service area and compatible land



use may direct a possible location along the Central Arizona Project (CAP) east of the State Route 60. Similar to Reach 11 Recreation Area in the City of Phoenix or Westworld in Scottsdale, the northern bank of the CAP is in a floodplain creating a condition that is unsuitable for development, but appropriate for recreational uses and open space preservation. The CAP is managed and operated by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) and owned by the United States Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Title 28 of the Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 allows for cities to enter into Recreation Land Use Agreements along the CAP.

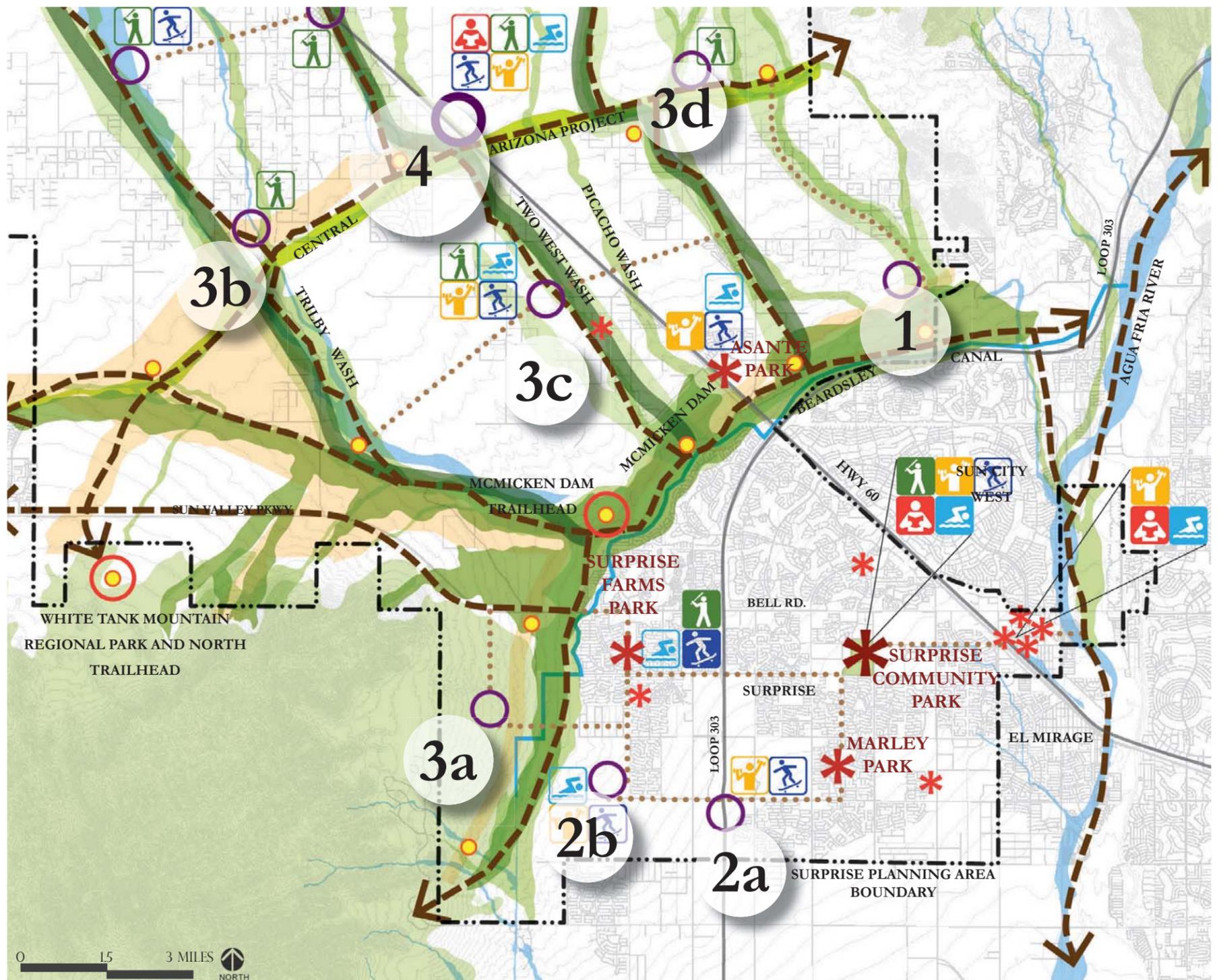
**ACTIONS:**

1. **Rancho Mercado**
  - a. Rancho Mercado Community has deeded 13-acres to the City for the establishment of a park. The property is currently vacant and not funded. The City will evaluate the level of park and determine potential programming, improvement cost and needs for the park. A Master Plan to be completed by 2017. Construction completed by 2019, if funding is available.
2. **Prasada or Sycamore Farms Community Parks**
  - a. Establish a new 25-50 acre Community Park within Prasada and/or Sycamore Farms Community. Current planning for the land parcels is unknown, but the anticipated residential development and service area will support one Community Park and further the Parks department mission of supporting a diversity of activities and recreation programming. Land acquisition through Developer donation to be complete by 2017. Preparation of a master plan to be complete by 2018. Construction to be complete by 2020 if funding is available.
3. **Future Community Park Land Along Greenways**
  - 3a. White Tank Mountain Community Park. Establish a 25-50 acre park along the McMicken Dam western boundary or along a major wash leading from the White Tank Mountains to McMicken Dam. Strategic location of the park will provide trail access to the White Tank Mountains and access to the Maricopa Regional Trail. Land acquisition through developer donation to be completed between 2016-2020.
  - 3b. Trilby Wash Community Park. Establish of a 25-50 acre park along the northern boundary of the CAP or along the eastern boundary of Trilby Wash to take advantage of the floodplains created by the CAP. Land acquisition through developer donation to be completed between 2020-2025.
  - 3c. 2 West Community Park. Establish a 25-50 acre park along 2 West Wash will take advantage of the future Greenway. Land acquisition through developer donation to be completed between 2018-2023.
  - 3d. Picacho Wash Park. Establish a 25-50 acre park along the northern boundary of the Central Arizona Project and along the Picacho Wash corridor. Land acquisition through developer donation to be completed between 2020-2025.
4. **City Park (200-Acres)**
  - a. Meet with BOR and CAWCD representatives to discuss possible partnerships associated with establishing a Recreation Land Use Agreement along the CAP. Complete by 2016.
  - b. Evaluate the location of a new City Park, east of Highway 60 along the CAP and prepare a concept master plan. Complete by 2017.
  - c. Develop an agreement process guideline, timetable and budget for CRS consideration. Complete by 2017.
  - d. Present to City Council with a recommended action to partner with BOR in establishing a new City Park. Complete by 2018.
  - e. Complete Memo of Understanding (M.O.U.) and begin evaluation and design process under Title 28 requirements. Complete requirements by 2023.
  - f. Construction of new City Park scheduled for 2026.

**NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

Providing a place to gather, play, socialize and learn instills Community for the residents our City. Three major community facilities are planned for completion by 2020, including a new Aquatic Center, a new Fieldhouse and a new Library or expansion to the existing Northwest Regional Library.

**Aquatic Center** – Master planned for Surprise Farms northeast of the ballfields



will be a recreational, non-competitive pool. The facility will include dual use play/lap pool, water slides and water play features, bathhouse and parking. The aquatic center will substantially complete the last phase of Surprise Farms Park.

**Fieldhouse** – A 124,000 square foot facility that will host basketball, volleyball and cheer competitions. The City of Surprise has developed sports facilities that garner local, regional and national attention. The goal of developing a top level court facility is to attract top level amateur and professional tournaments, furthering the recognition of the City as a hub of sports tourism, while providing residents with superior sports facilities.

**Library** – Current funding is available for a possible new library or an expansion to the existing Northwest Regional Library. A feasibility study will be developed to determine the best option for providing additional library services.

**ACTIONS:**

**1. Aquatic Center:**

- a. Develop program and preliminary design for Aquatic Center to determine the site and cost parameters. Complete by 2017. Construction complete by 2019 if funding available.

**2. Fieldhouse:**

- a. Develop a program and preliminary design for the Fieldhouse and assess possible site locations to determine cost parameters. Complete by 2017. Construction complete by 2021 if funding is available.

**3. Library**

- a. Commission a feasibility study to determine the options for a new library or a library expansion. Complete by 2016. Construction to be complete by 2018 based on available funding.

**4. Funding**

- a. Assess funding and consideration for Parks Improvement Bonding. Bonding analysis complete by end of year 2016.

**NEW OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAYS**

The Greenways establish the connected backbone for the City and the overall park system. One of the big moves in establishing a signature open space for the City, the Greenways take advantage of the primary washes as major path and trail corridor while preserving and maintaining the water conveyance of the major washes. The opportunity to develop a signature open space system for the City relies on the City's unique to the region: to work with private land owners to plan and develop their land so that it opens up the wash corridors as a public amenity. The opportunities include preservation of the natural wash character and/or developing the corridors as linear parks similar to Indian Bend Wash while protecting and buffering critical wildlife corridors.

Additionally, the Maricopa County Regional Trail along McMicken Dam provides an east-west open space connection for the terminating washes. The Maricopa County Parks Department currently manages the Maricopa Regional Trail along the northern boundary of the McMicken Dam pool area. This established trail system provides an opportunity to partner with the County Agencies to expand and enhance the regional and local network.

**ACTIONS:**

**1. Establish Greenways:**

- a. Prepare conceptual level Greenway Master Plans for Trilby, Surprise and Picacho Greenway corridors. The master plans will establish wash edges, parallel roadways and major arterial crossings, path and trail alignments, trailheads and linear park locations. Master Plans to be completed by 2017.
- b. Acquire land for 2-miles of Trilby Wash, 2-miles of Surprise Wash and 2-miles of Picacho Wash Greenways. Land acquisition through developer donation to complete by 2018.
- c. Construct demonstration projects along Trilby Greenway and Surprise Greenway consisting of a continuous path and trail, lighting and trailheads. Construction to be complete by 2021 if funding is available

**2. Establish McMicken Dam Conservation Area & Trailhead (467-acres):**

- a. Meet with the Maricopa County Parks Department and Flood Control District of Maricopa County to discuss partnerships, joint use and access to the Maricopa Regional Trail System and establishment of a McMicken Dam Conservation Area. Complete by 2016.
- b. Establish Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) with County agencies to secure and promote open space agreements for recreation and conservation easements. Complete by 2017.
- c. Present finding to CRS and City Council with recommended action. Complete by 2017.
- d. Establish an Intergovernmental Agreement to create the McMicken Dam Conservation Area by 2020

**3. White Tank Mountain Regional Park - North Trailhead**

- a. Meet with the Maricopa County Parks Department to discuss partnerships, joint use and establishment of a north trailhead along the White Tank Mountain Regional Park. Trailhead location to align with the County's Master Plan (2014-2034) at approximately 243rd Avenue and Wild Rose Road Parkway (future development). Complete by 2017.
- b. Establish Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) with County to secure and promote open space agreements for recreation and trail access. Complete by 2018.
- c. Prepare a conceptual level master plan for a major trailhead. Complete by 2018.
- d. Present finding to CRS and City Council with recommended action. Complete by 2018.
- e. Establish an Intergovernmental Agreement to create a North Trailhead at the White Tank Regional Park. Complete by 2019.



# APPENDIX

## PARK DEFINITIONS

PARK CLASSIFICATION	SIZE	AMENITIES	EXAMPLE OF EXISTING PARKS
Civic Space/Plaza	<2 Acres	Programmed Events Amphitheater Stages Grass Seating Event Space	Phoenix Civic Space Westgate City Center PeoriaCentennial Plaza
Pocket Parks	<5 Acres	Playground Ramada Open Turf	Stonebrook Park Three Star Park
Neighborhood Parks	5-15 Acres	Playground Ramada Open Turf Multi-Use Fields	Veramonte Park Bicentennial Park
Community Parks	25-50 Acres	Playground Ramada Open Turf Multi-Use Fields Structured Fields Swimming Pool Fishing Lake Skate Park Dog Park Equestrian Facilities Restrooms	Marley Park Asante Community Park Surprise Farms Park
City Parks	100+ Acres	Event Grounds Group Ramadas Structured Fields Tournament Facilities Aquatic Center Recreation Center Civic Facilities (Library) Equestrian Facilities Fishing Lake Skate Park Dog Park Restrooms	Surprise Community Park Surprise Recreation Campus
Speciality Parks	Varies	Tournament Facilities Programmed Events Opportunity Facilities Skate Park BMX Park Dog Park Restroom	Reach 11 Sports Complex Surprise Farms Skate Park
Greenways, Trails & Open Space	Varies	Local Trails Community Trails Regional Trails Conservation Areas Wash Corridors Mountain Parks	Lizard Run McMicken Dam Phoenix Reach 11 New River Trail
Regional Parks	500+ Acres	Developed Trailheads Ramadas Equestrian Facilities Restrooms	White Tank Mountain Regional Park McDowell Sonoran Preserve



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ARIZONA

**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
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