

C. Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan, conformity

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"Special Use Parks (p. 15) – Special use parks are a critical element of the open space network. These preserve the history and essence of what makes the City of Maricopa unique. As the city grows, the preservation of this history and character will connect new residents with the longtime residents of the areas. The recommendation is to preserve unique farming structures, archeological sites, and washes as special use parks."

- i. The Plan calls for a Heritage Park incorporating the water tower.

"Proposed Special Use Parks/ Railroad Heritage Park (p. 46) – The Railroad has a deep-seated history in the City of Maricopa. Several remnants of railroad history are intact adjacent to the railroad tracks. These include an observation car from the California Zephyr train and the Old Railroad Water Tower located adjacent to the tracks at the intersection of the Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and John Wayne Parkway Highway. These two icons of the railroad heritage along with a linear park adjacent to the rail would provide a landmark park for Maricopa. Other potential features in the park could include recreated train station, which could serve as a chamber of commerce, an information center, paths, observation decks, additional restored train cars and engines, children's railroad park with a scale train, and a highway rest area."

- i. The Plan calls for a Heritage Park on the west side of S.R. 347 that would incorporate these uses. A recreated train station would be located further west in the Transportation Center. It could include a restaurant and night club, with a Chamber of Commerce office located closer to S.R. 347.

"Community Centers (p. 42) – As community anchors, Maricopa's Community Centers will be public gathering places that convey a sense of community. The centers will provide recreation, library, meeting space, park and ride, police substations and satellite city hall type services. Specific uses may include Recreation, Public Meeting Rooms, Aquatic Centers, Library, Senior Center, Children's After School Programs, and Intersession and Summer Programs, Government Offices, and Park and Ride."

- i. The Plan calls for a to be located in the RDA. The City has developed an Aquatic Center with the construction of the Copper Sky Multi-Use Facility south of the RDA and private development proposes the construction of a water park west of the RDA, which satisfy the intended goals of the General Plan. Construction of the new City Center complex east of the RDA has located the city's "Government Center" in a more centrally located and accessible location for the whole of the city. With this relocation of the Government Center, there should be at a minimum a Community Center with recreational programs for children and families, possibly a mini-city hall annex, and publicly available meeting rooms.

"Aquatic Centers (p. 43) – Aquatic centers can be standalone facilities or built-in conjunction with community centers. The aquatic centers should be themed to provide a unique experience for the users. Potential uses include: Lap Pool, Diving Pool, Zero Edge/Beach Entry Pool, Splash Pad, Wave Pool, Lazy River, Plunge Areas, Slides, Sun Decks and Sun Lawns."

- i. The existing Copper Sky Multi-Use Facility south of the RDA has incorporated all of these components within close access to the RDA.

"Washes, utility corridors and buffers as trail corridors (general)."

- i. The RDA Plan designates washes, utility corridors, buffers, and multi-use paths as the "trail system" linking neighborhoods with parks, schools, and shopping.

"Town Square Park (p. 52) – This will become an urban core for the city which will be a community wide draw. To provide a truly "hometown" feel and amenity, this plan proposes a "Town Square Park" in the manner of great American community planning traditions. The Town Square Park would provide a "heart" of the city and be the city's living room surrounded by commercial and civic buildings. While serving as a community as a community gathering place and creating a sense of place, the town square would also be an event space that could host; farmers markets, art fairs, culinary festivals, etc. Facilities in the park would be; a landmark fountain and art piece, a "grand lawn," community pavilion/amphitheater, public comfort stations, etc. The Town Square Park would be one of the "Chamber of Commerce" photo-ops and a city landmark."

The RDA Plan has designated two alternatives for a 10-acre Town Square Park in the center of Government and mixed-use buildings. If the Government Center is not built, there is still a need for a 10-acre park in the area to serve existing.