



**City of El Mirage**  
10000 N El Mirage Road  
El Mirage, AZ 85335

# Press Release

**Date:** 04-10-2024  
**Contact:** Kari Sliva, Communications & Marketing Specialist  
**Phone:** (623) 876-2938  
**E-mail:** [ksliva@elmirageaz.gov](mailto:ksliva@elmirageaz.gov)  
**Website:** [www.ElMirageAZ.gov/Parks](http://www.ElMirageAZ.gov/Parks)

## **El Mirage Plans to Expand Parks & Recreation City Council Approves \$1.5 Million Purchase of 13 Acres**

*EL MIRAGE, Ariz.* – The El Mirage City Council tonight approved the purchase of 13.34 acres of vacant property located at 12500 W. Cactus Road (west of the southwest corner of Cactus Road and El Mirage Road) with the intention of expanding future parks and recreational opportunities for residents.

“Our Council set a strategic goal of enhancing the quality and quantity of parks and recreational opportunities while prioritizing the construction of parks, recreation facilities and trails,” said El Mirage Mayor Alexis Hermosillo. “This acquisition will not only serve as an enormous benefit to our residents, but also demonstrates that the Council is actively listening to them.”

The action authorizes the purchase of two parcels in the amount of \$1.5 million from a private trust. The land is just west of the City’s existing Basin Park, a 20-acre passive recreation area featuring open lawn space, benches and a paved and lighted, 1/3-mile pathway. Basin Park connects to the recently completed Hohokam Trail, making the park easily accessible to residents in the nearby neighborhoods.

In 2022 the City contracted the “El Mirage Recreation Facility Assessment and Level of Service Analysis” with PLAN-et Communities, which recommended an expansion of park and recreation facilities and the amount of public space devoted to parks, in order to keep pace with anticipated growth. The funds needed to purchase the property for park improvements will come from the City’s five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

“The City is following through with its commitment to addressing critical service deficiencies and increasing our athletic field capacities,” said El Mirage City Manager Crystal Dyches. “Once the purchase is finalized, our new Parks and Recreation Department will initiate the development process which includes seeking additional input from the community.

## NEW PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

In Fiscal Year 2024 the City created a new Parks and Recreation Department and hired its first Parks and Recreation Director, Sean VonRoenn. VonRoenn oversees planning, development and operations of 52 acres of existing city parks and open spaces, as well as special events and recreation programs. He brings more than 25 years of experience in parks programming, facilities management and customer service to the position.

Based on El Mirage’s population of approximately 36,000, previous discussions for new park amenities have suggested adding football, soccer, multi-use fields, pickleball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, exercise and pedestrian pathways and dog park areas.

“The Parks and Recreation Department has recommended a comprehensive master planning project in the near future to include significant public engagement efforts,” VonRoenn said. “This process will establish short and long-term goals for the community as it relates to enhancing our quality-of-life program offerings and physical infrastructure. That engagement process includes exploring this exciting opportunity of parkland acquisition, as well as future development opportunities adjacent to Basin Park”.

VonRoenn stressed that there have been no decisions made on what types of facilities will be built. For more information on El Mirage Parks & Recreation, visit [ElMirageAZ.gov/Parks](http://ElMirageAZ.gov/Parks).

## PROCESS

For legal purposes and to ensure due diligence in finalizing transactions, cities often utilize a Special Council Meeting for the purchase of property. This helps to ensure that taxpayers are receiving the most advantageous purchasing position possible while also adhering to open meeting laws.

##

Follow the City of El Mirage on Facebook @ElMirageAZ, Instagram @cityofelmirageaz, X @ElMirageArizona, YouTube and Nextdoor  
City website: [ElMirageAZ.gov](http://ElMirageAZ.gov)

Follow the City of El Mirage Fire Department on Facebook @ElMirageFire, Instagram @elmiragefiredepartment

Follow El Mirage Police Department on Facebook, Instagram, and X @ElMiragePD, Nextdoor and YouTube.