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Bringing new life to city parks



City parks are the focal points of neighborhoods across Tempe, bringing people together and creating community. They connect you to nature and open spaces, and they can improve health by providing recreational and fitness activities.

Three years ago, the City Council approved a plan to devote \$60 million over five years to reinvest in city parks. To date, more than 40 park projects have been completed and more than 15 are in various stages of planning, public input, design or construction this year.

To guide decision-making on park improvements that are not related to addressing health and safety issues or

maintaining existing amenities, city staff is focused on equipping all neighborhood parks with base amenities before adding new features. Base amenities include:

- 25 trees per acre
- Playgrounds: central play structure, individual components, shade, inclusive play equipment and ADA surfacing
- Ramadas: covered picnic area
- Furnishings: picnic tables, benches, drinking fountains, trash/recycling containers and pet bag dispensers.

All current and upcoming projects and general park information can be viewed at tempe.gov/parks.

Coming soon: new online payment system

A better way to pay for Kid Zone, city utilities and Tempe Municipal Court fines is coming to Tempe this fall. A new, centralized system will enhance security and allow residents to make payments on multiple city accounts, all in one place.

Cyber security is evolving. The new online portal reflects those changes, providing a high level of encryption to protect sensitive payment and account information. The portal is also mobile-friendly and offers convenient text alerts. Payments can be made by phone as well.

Look for more information in the coming months, including launch timelines and how to register for an account. Eventually, city recreation classes also will be paid for through the system; until then, class registrants should continue to use the system at tempe.gov/brochure.

“Heads Up with Arlene” conversation series begins Dec. 17



City Councilmember Arlene Chin will give you a quick rundown on the issues and events she thinks you should know about at her first-ever conversation event, “Heads Up with Arlene.”

It’s happening on Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 6 to 7 p.m., at Escalante Community Center, 2150 E. Orange St., near the Loop 101 Freeway, north of Apache Boulevard.

“This is a community meet-up to share information you’ll want to know about, like news about issues or upcoming events – for families or for you and your furry friends,” Chin said. “Whether I suggest events or describe a few pending issues that you will want to have the facts on, I hope that these can be events that open a door to all kinds of conversations. I look forward to talking with you!”

Chin said that even though “Heads Up” is geared toward providing an informal, inside look at what’s coming up, she is always available for everyday issues and feedback that residents want to provide. Concerns about city services, input on policy matters and new ideas are all up for discussion in this casual chat.

Appointed by the City Council in May 2019 to fill a vacant Councilmember office, Chin’s term will expire in July 2020. She has committed to serve the interim term and not to seek office in March 2020. More information about Chin is available at tempe.gov/chin.

Budget process begins

Tempe is beginning the annual process of developing its operating and capital budgets for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The Mayor and Council would like our residents to share their priorities for the future of our community. Where do you think the city should focus its limited funds to provide the greatest benefit to the community? Your input and feedback will help determine funding priorities for both the operating budget (day to day operations) as well as the capital budget (major improvements to city facilities and infrastructure).

Community members are invited to submit ideas and feedback via Tempe Forum, the city’s online forum tool. Simply visit tempe.gov/forum and select the budget question. For updated details on the formulation of budgets for the 2020-21 fiscal year, visit tempe.gov/BudgetPlan.



Photo by: Abhivshek Vashistha

Love taking photos?

Tempe Instagrammys celebrates photographers and the best photos taken of Tempe each year. The contest honors local photographers with recognition, trophies and prizes. Your art could be displayed at the Tempe History Museum or at the Tempe Festival of the Arts.

To enter, take a photo of your favorite Tempe people and places. Post them to Instagram and include #tempeinstagrammys2020 in your post. That’s it! We would love it if you also followed us on Instagram, @tempegov. Entries will be accepted from Nov. 16 through Dec. 16.

The 2020 Tempe Instagrammys award ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 24, at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. More details are at tempe.gov/TempeInstagrammys.

EVENTS

THROUGH NOV. 27

Free meals for kids at the Tempe Public Library from 3-4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Part of the Kids Café program from St. Mary’s Food Bank and Feeding America. No RSVP is required.

DEC. 6



The city’s Winterfest family celebration is a free, family event from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the library complex, 3340 S. Rural Road. Create holiday crafts,

write letters to Santa and decorate cookies. Visit with Santa.

tempe.gov/FamilyFun

DEC. 6-8

The Fall Tempe Festival of the Arts happens on and around Mill Avenue in downtown Tempe. Two stages, kids activities and artist-made gifts.

tempefestivalofthearts.com

DEC. 14

The 20th Annual Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade is happening on Tempe Town Lake near Tempe Beach Park. Festively decorated boats, food trucks, holiday shopping, live entertainment, fireworks and Santa – what could be better? Starts at 4 p.m.; parade kicks off at 7 p.m.

downtowntempe.com

[Full events calendar at tempe.gov!](http://tempe.gov)

Tempe compost now for sale

Local gardeners know that Tempe produces amazing compost from the green organics that residents place out for collection. Now you can get what you need at special introductory prices by driving by our compost yard, 1001 N. Rio Road.

What we call our Compost #2 is a chunky mix that is perfect for flower and plant gardens – when mixed with your soil, it helps to retain moisture and keeps soil from compacting. This type has always been and continues to be free for residents; non-residents pay \$10 for a pickup truck-size load.

What we call our Compost #1 is perfect for lawn application and has a finer texture. It can be mixed with soil and used for potted plants. This compost is now selling for \$20 for residents and \$30 for non-residents/commercial users for a pickup truck-size load or less. When you pick it up as a resident, we will add the cost to your next utility bill. Non-residents and commercial customers must pay cash.

For more information, visit tempe.gov/compost.

Recycle your holiday cooking grease

Whether you stuff, roast or deep-fry the bird, holiday cooking can create a significant amount of grease. You can help put that grease to good use – and keep it from ruining your pipes – by having it recycled. The City of Tempe offers four convenient drop-off locations where residents can recycle turkey grease and other used cooking oil.

Residents can drop off used grease from late November through early January. Pour fryer and cooking grease into barrels at the collection locations below, or place containers of grease on a spill-proof surface next to the barrels at these locations:

- Household Products Collection Center – 1320 E. University Drive
- Fire Station #2 – 3025 S. Hardy Drive
- Fire Station #3 – 5440 S. McClintock Drive
- Fire Station #4 – 300 E. Elliot Road

Fats, oils and grease – known as FOG – can wreak havoc on residential plumbing and municipal sewer systems. By recycling cooking grease, residents can help divert thousands of pounds of cooking oil away from drains and sewers, creating more sustainable sewer infrastructure and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by displacing the consumption of fossil fuels. For more information, call 480-350-4311.



Register for winter recreation classes

Tempe offers classes and programs for all ages, interests and abilities – and the winter issue of the Tempe Opportunities brochure showcases them all. Options include fitness, sports, music, art, dance and more. Quality programs are offered at convenient times and locations, at affordable prices. The brochure will be available

Thursday, Dec. 5. Download it at tempe.gov/brochure or pick up a copy at City of Tempe facilities. Registration for Tempe residents begins Dec. 9; non-resident registration begins Dec. 16. Most classes begin the week of Jan. 6. For questions, call 480-350-5200.

Holiday solid waste collection dates

Tempe wants residents to know about alternate solid waste collection days this holiday season. Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, Nov. 28, and Thursdays would be the normal collection day for some residents – instead, those collections will move to Wednesday, Nov. 27. Christmas Day is Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Wednesday is a normal collection day, so it will not be affected. Finally, New Year's Day is Wednesday, Jan. 1, and it will also not be affected. All other collection days will remain the same. You can always call Tempe 311 (480-350-4311) if you have questions or visit tempe.gov/smart.

Setting speed limits: info sessions Dec. 11 or Dec. 14

Tempe is looking to lower speed limits in an effort to make our streets safer for all road users. Lowering speed limits reduces the chances of injury when involved in a crash. In Tempe, one in five high-severity crashes are attributed to driving too fast for road conditions. Residents are invited to join us at two informational sessions to discuss proposed speed limit changes and provide feedback. Both meetings are in the lower level Meeting Room A of the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road. They are Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. For more information, or to provide online input Nov. 16 through Dec. 28, visit tempe.gov/VisionZero.

March 2020
city election info:
tempe.gov/election

Tempe City Council



Mark W. Mitchell
Mayor

Lauren Kuby
Vice Mayor

Jennifer Adams
Councilmember

Robin Arredondo-Savage
Councilmember

Arlene Chin
Councilmember

Randy Keating
Councilmember

Joel Navarro
Councilmember

Andrew Ching
City Manager

To contact the Mayor and Council, call 480-350-8110.

Check tempe.gov/clerk for updated schedules of City Council meetings and agendas or call 480-350-4311. Meeting dates are subject to change.

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and streamed live at tempe.gov/tempe11.

Tempe Today editor Nikki Ripley
nikki_ripley@tempe.gov
480-350-8846 or
480-350-8400 (TDD)

Volunteer tax preparers needed

Be a part of Tempe Community Council's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) as it celebrates its 18th year providing free income tax preparation for low-to moderate-income individuals and families. The Tempe VITA Program partners with the Internal Revenue Service, City of Tempe, ASU's W.P. Carey School of Business and Gracie's Ministries to prepare over 2,000 federal tax returns each year. Thanks to our volunteers, in 2019, more than \$2.3 million in tax refunds, including tax credits, were returned to residents. That improves the financial stability of Tempe's most vulnerable community members. You can help. Sign up for a variety of volunteer jobs, including greeting clients, providing translation and preparing taxes. Free IRS training and certification begins soon and is offered online or in-person. Tempe's VITA tax site will be open from late January 2020 through April 15. Volunteer hours are flexible. Interested in volunteering? Register and learn more at www.tempecommunitycouncil.org or by calling 480-858-2300.

Teens get free clothing at Threadz

Middle and high school students attending Tempe schools can shop for free at either of the two Threadz teen clothes closets located on the Marcos de Niza and Tempe High School campuses. Tempe Community Council, in partnership with the Tempe Union High School District, operates the locations to provide students with clothing, shoes, personal hygiene items, backpacks and school supplies. Students can shop on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4:30 p.m. during regular school days. A valid school I.D. is required. Volunteers and donations are always needed. Items of greatest need are full-size shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash and toothpaste, as well as hoodies and other new or gently used teen-appropriate clothing. Cash donations are welcome and help to purchase new socks, underwear and supplies. For details, visit www.tempecommunitycouncil.org/threadz or call 480-858-2300.

Free parenting classes

Parenting isn't easy. Whether you're dealing with the big, small or one-off problems of raising children and teenagers, Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) offers a wide variety of classes to meet your needs. The City of Tempe and Tempe Community Council offer classes and seminars for parents of children and youth ages 0-16 as well as children diagnosed with special needs. Classes are free, include course materials, snacks or meals and most offer no-cost childcare. Some Spanish classes are available. Participants learn about positive parenting principles and talk with other parents about the joys and challenges of parenting at all stages of development. For a schedule, class descriptions and registration information, visit tempe.gov/TripleP.

December 2019 Mixed Bulk Collection Schedule

Area	Collection Dates	Collection Type
Area A	DEC 2-6	BULK TRASH
Area B	DEC 10-14	
Area C	DEC 16-20	
Area D	DEC 23-27	

tempe.gov/smart • 480-350-4311

Items may be placed for collection no earlier than 10 days prior to Monday of your collection week and no later than 6 a.m. on Monday of your collection week.