

# **Canyon Village Park**

## **Greer Park & Recreational District**

### **Project Overview**

**7-15-09**

#### **Project Description**

Canyon Village Park would initially be a public park on approximately five (5) acres of open land at the northern end of the existing Snowy Mountain Inn property, as outlined in the attached map and aerial photograph. These grounds have recently been designated a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. The park would include a fishing pond, picnic areas, propane fire pits, playground equipment, exercise and fitness equipment, a skating rink and athletic equipment. The park would be program-oriented, including the following:

- Out of School Time (OST) and Child Obesity programs that would involve partnering with the Round Valley Unified School District
  - Field Trips that focus on nature, science (earth science) and water
  - Form an ecosystem with frogs, crawdads, fish and river access
  - Retreats for Staff – multiple activities
  - Student Council lends service or supervises activities
  - High Adventure Club and Youth Education
  - Coordination with local school principals
- Child Obesity and fitness programs that very likely involve partnering with the RV Regional Hospital. Track body mass index (BMI).
- First Things First Navajo/Apache County Regional Partnership Council program participation.
- Community and visitor educational, cultural and fitness programs
  - Fishing
  - Nature & Wildlife (NFS & AZ Game & Fish supported)
  - Gardening
  - Photography, art and paintings
  - Music during the day
  - Native American educational program
- Community events
  - Community gatherings
  - Eagle Scout projects
  - Family reunions/retreats

The park would mutually benefit the community, Greer's tourism industry and Snowy Mountain Inn through enhanced property values (+10% - AOT statistics), the creation of retail & restaurant space and the creation of a public area for use by locals and visitors. It is anticipated that the park would operate primarily on a seasonal basis (April through November) daily from 10:00 AM until dusk. Ramadas equipped with fire pits and

weather screening could be open through the off-season winter months and an outdoor (covered) skating rink would be operational during the winter months.

The existing Snowy Mountain Inn lodge would house a restaurant/deli that would be open in conjunction with the park. It would also house retail space and additional retail space may be added. The existing rental cabins may be sold off as nightly rentals or as condominium units, as previously approved by P&Z.

### **Physical Requirements**

The creation of the park will require capital investment, including but not limited to, the following:

- Fitness and playground equipment
- Well and pump house upgrade to supply water
- Lighting and security cameras
- Fencing and signage
- Entry road upgrade and additional parking near the lodge
- Public restrooms
- Trash receptacles and facilities
- Pathways
- ADA-compliant access
- Picnic tables
- Propane fire pits and/or propane BBQ areas
- Ramadas and pads with removable weather screening
- Irrigation and sprinkler equipment
- Connection to NFS trails and rock climbing/rappelling areas
- Ice skating facility (200' x 75') and related equipment (covered)
  - Basketball court in Summer months
- Trampoline, tetherball, putting green, tire swing, Fun Force, tug of war

### **Organization/Funding**

It is anticipated that the park would initially be organized as a non-profit later this year and would then move into a Parks & Recreation District subject to approval by voters in 2010. The purpose for the two-stage approach is to shorten the grant application/approval cycle, because many of the major grants (AZ State Parks, AZ Office of Tourism, etc.) require that an organization be in existence for a minimum of twelve months before an application may be considered.

The Parks & Recreation District formation would provide for operational funding via a property tax levy and it would have the ability to fund construction and equipment with grant money. This approach may require Legislative support in that Title 48 of the Arizona Revised Statutes currently only provides for the creation of a park maintenance

district. At a minimum, the park district would require a significant level of public support:

- >50% of Greer voters in a public election
- >50% support by landowners in Greer by number of parcels
- >50% support by landowners in Greer by total acreage
- >50% support by landowners in Greer by total valuation
- Broad-based support of local organizations, both private and public

The creation of a Greer Parks & Recreation District will require a lot of work, but it will greatly expand the scope of the project from a single parcel at Snowy Mountain. Greer in its entirety would be part of the district. Additional acreage could be acquired in the future via purchase, lease, gift, will, etc. Finally, the park district could provide future benefit to other existing entities in Greer, such as the Community Center, the Museum, the Greer Lakes and Hoyer/Benny Creek Campgrounds by managing those activities or engaging in cooperative programs.

### **What We Need From You**

What we need at this point is your feedback and input on the project.

- Project concept
- Program focus
- Your level of potential support
  - A Letter of Intent to document your support
- Equipment needs and desires
- Funding sources
- Board participation
- Ideas and suggestions