

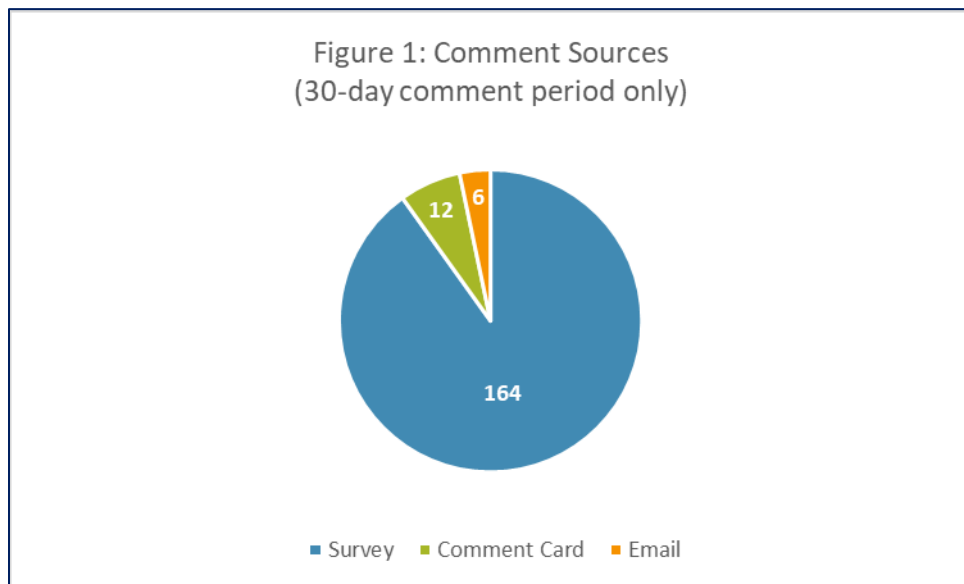


**McDowell Mountain Regional Park
Master Plan Update
Comments from November 5, 2018 Public Open House Meeting**

SUMMARY

This public meeting was conducted in a presentation style format; a Power Point presentation was given along with questions and answers throughout the presentation. Additionally, display boards were stationed throughout the room and the public was invited to work their way around the room to view each board after the presentation. Department staff was available to answer any questions and to engage in discussions during the presentation and afterward. Comment cards were available for interested parties to provide their comments and feedback. Approximately 21 people signed in for the meeting and twelve (12) comment cards were received by the end of the open house.

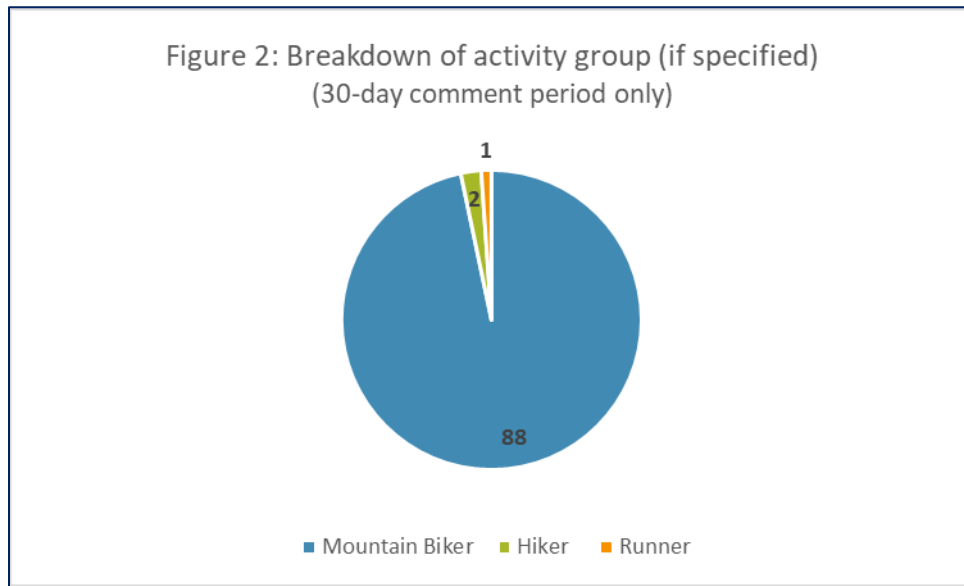
The Department allowed a 30-day comment period, concluding on December 5, 2018, to provide the general public adequate time to comment. Figure 1 demonstrates how the various pieces of communications were received during the 30-day comment period.



Commenters were allowed to choose more than one activity group that best represents themselves. Of those that specified their preferred activity, “Bicyclists / Mountain Bikers” represented 96% of respondents, followed by “Hiker/Runner” at 4% (Figure 2).



**McDowell Mountain Regional Park
Master Plan Update
Comments from November 5, 2018 Public Open House Meeting**



Department planning staff reviewed each of surveys received. Out of those 92 submitted surveys, Department planning staff recognized 166 unique comments. Further, out of the 166 unique comments, 30 (or about 18 percent) were considered to be out of the scope of the Master Plan Update. *Out of scope* means that the comment or suggestion is already covered by another planning document; it may also mean that the comment pertains to an operational matter; or it may mean that the comment does not otherwise fall under the purview of a master plan. Other comments deemed out of scope may also be too generalized or vague to work with. In any case, all comments were forwarded to park management for their reference.

Table 1: Unique and Out of Scope Comments	
Unique Comments:*	166
Out of Scope Comments:	30
Percent out of scope	18%

*One comment card may have contained more than one type of comment.
Total will exceed number of respondents.

A master plan does not dictate hours of operation, staffing, programming or other day-to-day activities. A master plan also does not dictate activities that occur outside of park boundaries. As noted at the public meeting, the purpose of a master plan is **to outline the long-range vision for the park as well as development priorities that will provide for both the public's enjoyment and the protection of the park's resources.** A master plan also:

- Serves as a guide and policy document for current and future park staff, partnering agencies, elected officials, and interested members of the public.
- Guides management of natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
- Considers a range of issues such as staffing, funding, encroachment, wildlife corridors, public needs, and more.
- Considers staff, stakeholder, and public recommendations.



**McDowell Mountain Regional Park
Master Plan Update
Comments from November 5, 2018 Public Open House Meeting**

- Identifies park enhancement opportunities including possible upgrades to park facilities, recreation infrastructure, restoration opportunities, etc.

The remaining substantive comments will be further evaluated and potentially carried forward into the recommended or preferred alternative for the master plan. Many of the trail related comments will be deferred until the next Trail System Plan update and/or Trail Maintenance Manual update as many of the trail related comments would require a change in established trail use guidelines or perhaps park policy and that is beyond the scope of this Master Plan Update. Table 2 details each unique comment received.

Table 2 - Public Meeting #2		
30-Day Public Comment Period		
Method	Comment	Out of Scope
Comment Card	Consider adding another trail that would connect the Cedar Tank area to the Campground area. Currently the only option from the norther side of Pemberton is via Lariat and the Pemberton to PBTH to the Visitor Center but you have to use the road to get to parking by the RV dump station. A nice flowing trail similar to the Lariat or Delsie would be great and provide an alternative for mountain bikers/hikers, other than PB.	
Comment Card	Add additional loops to the competitive track.	
Comment Card	Design and build a skills park	
Comment Card	Consider using the old alignment of the Pemberton Trail as the west boundary.	
Comment Card	Consider making the flow trail go from the Scenic High Point to the Escondido	
Comment Card	Ensure that all lighting outside (path lights, playground lights, etc) are IDA approved and intelligently designed to avoid any light pollution or "Uplight." Also buildings where interior lights may be on at night should have blackout shades installed.	x
Comment Card	The term "Concessionaire" concerns me. I would not want a food service concession or any type of entertainment venue in this park.	
Comment Card	Add new trails from Fountain Hills east of Dixie Mine connecting to Dixie Mine Trail.	
Comment Card	I hope the park can leverage its existing dark skies and follow the lead of the National Parks to become a "dark Sky park." This will increase the parks off-hour visitation and tie in well with Fountain Hills recent IDA Dark Sky Community designation.	x
Comment Card	Extend Hilltop Trail along the ridge and connect to Scenic Trail. If implemented, it would be okay to close a portion of the Scenic Trail that is bypassed if desired.	
Comment Card	Make McDowell a Dark Sky Park	x
Comment Card	Please consider the Scenic Trail as a hikers only Trail	
Survey Monkey - Question #3: After reviewing the proposed park amenities, which would you like to see developed first?		
Survey Monkey	I would like to see the bike skills park.	
Survey Monkey	Trails, flow and additional comp loops	
Survey Monkey	MTB park	
Survey Monkey	An additional mountain bike trails	



**McDowell Mountain Regional Park
Master Plan Update
Comments from November 5, 2018 Public Open House Meeting**

Survey Monkey	new loops and flow trail	
Survey Monkey	Skills park & trails	
Survey Monkey	Mountain bike skills park.	
Survey Monkey	Bike skills park	
Survey Monkey	Bike skills and flow trails and flow tracks.	
Survey Monkey	Mountain Bike Skills Park	
Survey Monkey	The Flow trail and the Skills park.	
Survey Monkey	flow trail and a skills bike park!	
Survey Monkey	Competitive loop trails added to, add flow trail and skills park	
Survey Monkey	Mountain biking skill course	
Survey Monkey	As a runner first and a mountain biker second, it would be great to see additional trails and trailheads built in the park. I think additions to the competitive loop and a bike park would reduce congestion on the main trails as well between runners, hikers, bikers, and equestrians.	
Survey Monkey	Bike trails and skills park	
Survey Monkey	Bike park	
Survey Monkey	For track.	
Survey Monkey	Skills Bike Park	
Survey Monkey	Flow Trail	
Survey Monkey	Mountain bike skills trails and park	
Survey Monkey	More jump lines	
Survey Monkey	Expand the bike park and flow trails. Look at what Flagstaff did at Fort Tuthill as an example	
Survey Monkey	The flow trail	
Survey Monkey	Bike park	
Survey Monkey	Bike skills park	
Survey Monkey	Bike skills park and flow trails	
Survey Monkey	Bike park	
Survey Monkey	competitive Track Extension	
Survey Monkey	Interpreter trail/skill trail would be a great addition to the already great flow trails existing.	
Survey Monkey	Bike/Skills park	
Survey Monkey	Bike park/flow trail	
Survey Monkey	Four peaks skill park	
Survey Monkey	Any amenities that pertain to the trails. Particularly MTB.	x
Survey Monkey	Mountain bike skills park, flow track, pump tracks.	
Survey Monkey	Mtb skills park. We have NOTHING like this in the Valley. And for this being a destination for bikers and a city of this size?	
Survey Monkey	Bike skills park	
Survey Monkey	Mountain bike park	
Survey Monkey	flow track for mountain bikes... especial an advanced trail	
Survey Monkey	Flow trail/bike skills area	
Survey Monkey	The proposed mountain bike trails would definitely draw me back to McDowell Mountain Regional Park, and make a yearly pass worth it.	



**McDowell Mountain Regional Park
Master Plan Update
Comments from November 5, 2018 Public Open House Meeting**

Survey Monkey	Expansion of the competitive loops and bike skills park	
Survey Monkey	Skill park	
Survey Monkey	Bike park and new trails to the Competitive Track area.	
Survey Monkey	Mountain bike trails	
Survey Monkey	Skills park	
Survey Monkey	Flow trail	
Survey Monkey	Bike skills/drills course for improving riding abilities	
Survey Monkey	Skills park, flow trail.	
Survey Monkey	Bike parks and skills trails	
Survey Monkey	A Bike park with jump lines, skill areas, etc.	
Survey Monkey	I'd love to have a proper mountain bike skills/flow course. People currently ride some questionable DIY tracks out in the desert to get this experience, so having something that is groomed and maintained would bring them in and keep them safer.	
Survey Monkey	Mountain biking skills area.	
Survey Monkey	Bike skills park. We're sorely lacking a skills progression park in the Valley. Flagstaff and Sedona have done some amazing things lately with theirs.	
Survey Monkey	Mountain Bike Skills Park and New trails	
Survey Monkey	Flow trail	
Survey Monkey	Bike skills park and flow trail.	
Survey Monkey	Flow/jump lines	
Survey Monkey	Skills area	
Survey Monkey	The addition of a mountain bike skills park and flow trails would be amazing.	
Survey Monkey	Competitive Track Extensions	
Survey Monkey	Skills bike park	
Survey Monkey	skills park	
Survey Monkey	Extensions to the comp loops and bike park	
Survey Monkey	The bike skills park	
Survey Monkey	Flow trail.	
Survey Monkey	The flow trail and mountain bike skills area!	
Survey Monkey	Flow trail/skills park	
Survey Monkey	The mountain bike skills park and flow trail would be phenomenal!!	
Survey Monkey	Bike/Skills Park and Flow Trail please!	
Survey Monkey	Skills bike park.	
Survey Monkey	Bike flow trail, bike skills park, etc.	
Survey Monkey	Personally I like the expansion of multi use (hikers, bikes and horses) trails. Bike parks are becoming more and more popular across the US. If done properly this could have a strong economic impact for the area.	
Survey Monkey	Bike skills park	



**McDowell Mountain Regional Park
Master Plan Update
Comments from November 5, 2018 Public Open House Meeting**

Survey Monkey	The mph train bike areas look fantastic. I've been mountain biking in McDowell Mtn Park since 1989 and would love to see even more expansion.	x
Survey Monkey	Do not build the cabins! Leave that area pristine. Use the money for more environmentally friendly projects.	
Survey Monkey	Flow trail / Bike skills park, I like the idea of a paved ADA path	
Survey Monkey	Bike Skills Park	
Survey Monkey	Mtb park	
Survey Monkey	Mountain bike park	
Survey Monkey	PLEASE develop mountain bike flow trail and skills park as soon as possible. It will greatly enhance McDowell Mountain Park as a premier mountain biking destination!!	
Survey Monkey	I'd really like to see the bike skills park. I'm always amazed how younger riders, including my children, enjoy them.	
Survey Monkey	More MTB trails and skills park.	
Survey Monkey	Updating the mountain biking trails and adding the skills park and flow trail.	
Survey Monkey	Bike skills area	
Survey Monkey	Mountain Bike Skills park / flow trails / etc.	
Survey Monkey	flow trail	
Survey Monkey	Four peaks skill park	
Survey Monkey	A mountain bike skills and bike park. There is nothing like that anywhere in the valley and this will attract East valley riders. There are no trails in the valley that offer purpose built jump lines that beginners and advanced riders can enjoy.	
Survey Monkey	Restrooms with showers for tent camping (so they don't have to use the main loop showers).	
Survey Monkey	Campground extension to generate revenue. Verde Trail Extension and Flow Trail.	
Survey Monkey	New Trails & MTB Skills Park	
Survey Monkey Question #4 - Of the proposed park amenities identified, are there any others you would like to see incorporated into the updated master plan?		
Survey Monkey	Cheap tent camping	
Survey Monkey	I would like to see additional youth primitive group camping sites	
Survey Monkey	Restricted snow bird camping. It's too hard to get a spot in the winter since they bounce every 14 days to another spot.	x
Survey Monkey	Downhill trail/ track that has varying difficulty	
Survey Monkey	Water Points on the trails	
Survey Monkey	Maintenance of existing trails to keep us all safe. Banked corners. Removal of wooden "bridge" on Pemberton that are about to fall apart, could cause injury to biker or hiker	x
Survey Monkey	Flow track	
Survey Monkey	Bike park for jump progression, drops, etc.	
Survey Monkey	Flow and pump tracks	
Survey Monkey	Skills Park	
Survey Monkey	wooden drops in skills area	



**McDowell Mountain Regional Park
Master Plan Update
Comments from November 5, 2018 Public Open House Meeting**

Survey Monkey	Bike park	
Survey Monkey	More mountain bike trails	
Survey Monkey	Bike park	
Survey Monkey	No at this time. This 2 new additions are a great idea	x
Survey Monkey	Bike repair station	
Survey Monkey	Pump track	
Survey Monkey	This is an awesome park. Continue past practice. Thank You.	x
Survey Monkey	Additional MTB or multi use trails.	
Survey Monkey	ADA amenities (trail, camping)	
Survey Monkey	More trails	
Survey Monkey	Food and drinks with in the park always come handy even if it is food truck at least during the week ends	x
Survey Monkey	A separate lane at the entry station for yearly pass holders. Could also be used as a bypass for regular park users during events.	
Survey Monkey	Mountain bike trails	
Survey Monkey	Flow trails	
Survey Monkey	Additional dedicated trails for mountain biking around competitive loops.	
Survey Monkey	The flow trail in between cinch and Shallomo	
Survey Monkey	Mountain bike flow/jump line.	
Survey Monkey	Mountain Bike Skills Park	
Survey Monkey	More trail markers	
Survey Monkey	Any additions to the competitive loops would be beneficial.	
Survey Monkey	No, proposed plan looks great	x
Survey Monkey	I really want the skills park.	
Survey Monkey	Pump track	
Survey Monkey	As many new mountain bike trails as possible with jumps!	
Survey Monkey	More competitive track trails or trails with a relative high amount of elevation change	
Survey Monkey	More technical trails.	
Survey Monkey	Do not build the cabins! Leave that area as pristine open space.	
Survey Monkey	Mountain bike flow trail and skills park	
Survey Monkey	Showers at the primitive camping	
Survey Monkey	More MTB trails and skills park.	
Survey Monkey	"Fix it" stations for bikes located at the comp loops and at the new trail heads	
Survey Monkey	Any additional mountain bike trails would be great	x
Survey Monkey	Expand the bike park to include modern flow trails. Mountain biking has evolved and the valley hasn't done anything to stay up to date on riding.	
Survey Monkey	Add a trail extending north to south through the middle of the park, connecting the major East to West trails.	
Survey Monkey	Consider coin-operated laundry facilities for the RV campground.	



**McDowell Mountain Regional Park
Master Plan Update
Comments from November 5, 2018 Public Open House Meeting**

Survey Monkey	A shower facility in the tent camping area would be appreciated.	
Survey Monkey	Consider an astronomy area in the area of the proposed nature area. Some circular pads for setting up telescopes close to a parking area. The area needs to be away from street lights and auto headlights. Perhaps screened from the parking lot. Other suitable areas would be the picnic area or Minks Camp. Good astronomy viewing sites are starting to become travel destinations.	
Survey Monkey - Additional Comments		
Survey Monkey	Love this park and this will make it even better	x
Survey Monkey	Sedona did a skills, please move quickly to improve the park.	x
Survey Monkey	I like the idea of keeping our land and parks natural. No more concrete needed.	x
Survey Monkey	With the exception of a bike park and potentially additional showers, please keep everything else as close to natural as possible. The park is beautiful and much of the joy of recreation in the park comes from its natural setting.	x
Survey Monkey	Pump Track	
Survey Monkey	Great Trails!	x
Survey Monkey	More bike park and fun trails please! 😊	
Survey Monkey	Thank you for your support to this outdoor community.	x
Survey Monkey	All for this park renovation!! Hope it gets the attention it deserves	x
Survey Monkey	A park of the caliber that is in the master plan would be an amazing addition to the Valley!	x
Survey Monkey	MMRP is the best asset in greater Phoenix. Have loved it since 2001.	x
Survey Monkey	Excited for what is to come!	x
Survey Monkey	Thanks and looking Fw for the new developments	x
Survey Monkey	All events should have a cap on total registrants. Some of the current events (RAGNAR) are too big for this park and should not be allowed. There should also be a refundable deposit for all events. If the park is returned to as good as or better shape after the conclusion of the event the deposit is returned. If not, the deposit is used for clean-up (horse shit) and/or repairs.	x
Survey Monkey	I'm just excited to see improvements coming. Mountain biking seems to growing at a rapid pace.	x
Survey Monkey	I'm excited to see the updates to the park, it's one of my favorite places to ride.	x
Survey Monkey	Please build a skills park.	
Survey Monkey	Thank you for listening to the mountain bikers.	x
Survey Monkey	The plan looks great. Build it and they will come.	x
Survey Monkey	Thank you!	x
Survey Monkey	Do not build the cabins! Leave the area pristine.	
Survey Monkey	Bike skills park would be a great addition.	
Survey Monkey	Any additional trails would be wonderful!	x
Survey Monkey	This will attract more riders than ever before.	x
Survey Monkey	We love McDowell. We camp here several times per year and bike here at least once per month.	x



**McDowell Mountain Regional Park
Master Plan Update
Comments from November 5, 2018 Public Open House Meeting**

Survey Monkey	I'm a day user only, but since the majority of the revenue comes from camping fees, it makes sense to add amenities for campers.	x
Comments Submitted via email		
Email	Consider a coin-operated laundry facilities for the RV campground. The closest laundromat is the Eagle View RV Resort at Fort McDowell.	
Email	<p>We would like to see hunting banned at McDowell Pk or limited to an extremely small area. We have had several unfortunate encounters with hunters, & feel that with the expanded staging & camping areas, the potential for park patrons to be injured by a stray bullet will be even further increased.</p> <p>We have on multiple occasions had shots fired very close to us while walking down to the pond, & had to yell at the hunter to stop. We have encountered a hunter literally sitting in a lawn chair in camo clothing with what looked like a rifle right next to the pond. We have also heard shots in other areas, but not as close.</p> <p>Hunters don't stay on the trails (damaging the desert plants) & there is no way to enforce the distance they are supposed to stay away from trails. We have talked to several park employees about this, & they all said that they would like to see hunting banned at the park, & that they have expressed that opinion multiple times.</p> <p>It is very disconcerting to feel that we are putting our lives at risk by simply walking down to the pond. With so many activities going on at the park, having hunters randomly shooting all over the place is an accident waiting to happen. Eventually someone will be shot & injured or killed.</p>	x
Email	<p>Surveys</p> <p>Many of the comments at the public open houses and follow up were about hiking trails. Mountain bikers are 58.9% of the users and surprisingly few comments about mountain biking. Wondering if the mountain bikers are coming from a larger area than Rio Verde and Fountain Hills.</p>	x
Email	Fountain Hills Resident - I am concerned about having cabins in the park. I can't bike on trails due to knee surgery so I use the roads and I don't want to see more traffic in this area or cabins. I think this area is beautiful and I don't want to see it ruined just for the placement of a few cabins.	x
Email	<p>Future Revenue</p> <p>Raise the fee for the day users and the annual passes. As a purchaser of an annual pass, I would be happy to pay more for the annual pass or an additional fee to keep the Park as it is. You will immediately start putting money into the parks fund with no debt or maintenance costs.</p>	x
Email	<p>Proposed Park Amenity Request</p> <p>What are the costs of the proposed projects? Costs should include planning costs including staff time, engineering and architectural costs, infrastructure, operation and</p>	x



**McDowell Mountain Regional Park
Master Plan Update
Comments from November 5, 2018 Public Open House Meeting**

	maintenance costs, and cost of capital. Also, there is the additional cost of destruction of acres of Upper Sonoran Desert.	
--	---	--