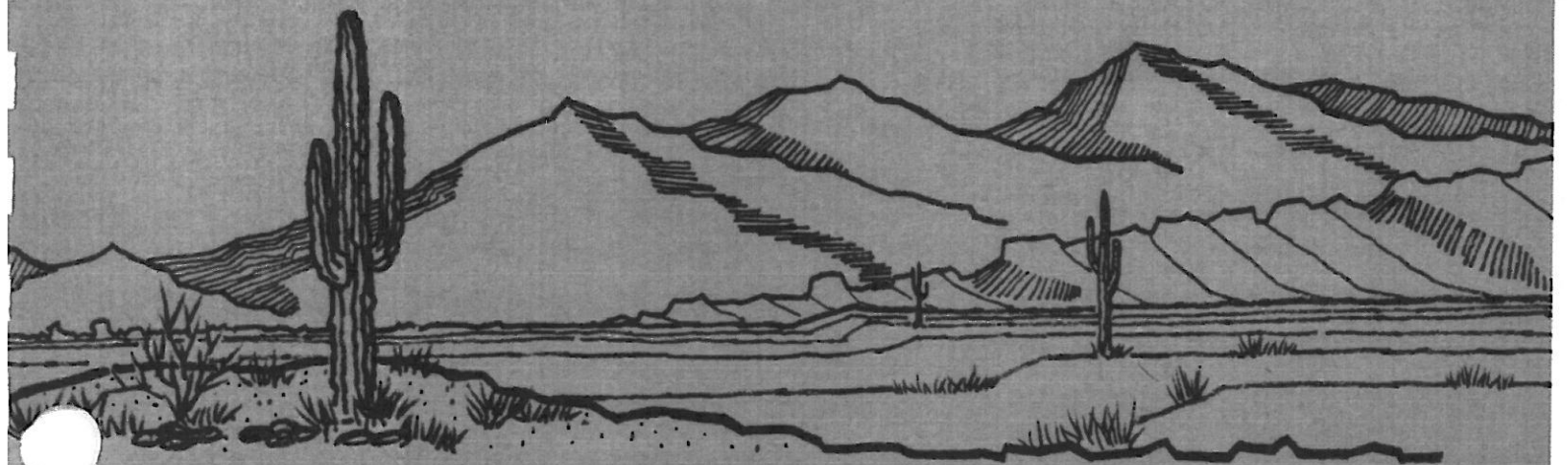


MASTER PLAN

BUCKEYE HILLS
RECREATION AREA



MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Paul W. Van Cleve, AIP, ASLA, Director

MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

C O U N T Y G O V E R N M E N T A L C O M P L E X

February 5, 1969

Honorable Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
Mr. B. W. "Barney" Burns, Chairman
Mr. Henry H. Haws, Member
Mr. Bob Stark, Member
Room 603, Administration Building
111 South Third Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

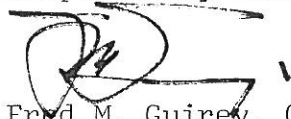
It is indeed a pleasure that we, the members of the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Executive Park Committee, hereby transmit the "Master Development Plan for Buckeye Hills Recreation Area".

The plan was prepared by Van Cleve Associates, Consulting Planners, Mr. Paul W. Van Cleve, Director and Chief Planner. During the preparation of the plan, full consideration was given to the recommendations of the Buckeye Hills Citizens Advisory Committee. Further, the plan conforms with the "Maricopa County Regional Park System Plan", Volumes 1 and 2.

The plan was presented in final form to the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Commission and the Executive Committee. The public hearing was held in Buckeye, December 12, 1968.

Therefore, we, the members of the Commission and Committee, do unanimously recommend adoption of this document as the official master plan of development for the Buckeye Hills Recreation Area.

Respectfully submitted,



Fred M. Guirey, Chairman
Maricopa County Parks and Recreation
Commission and Executive Park Committee

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

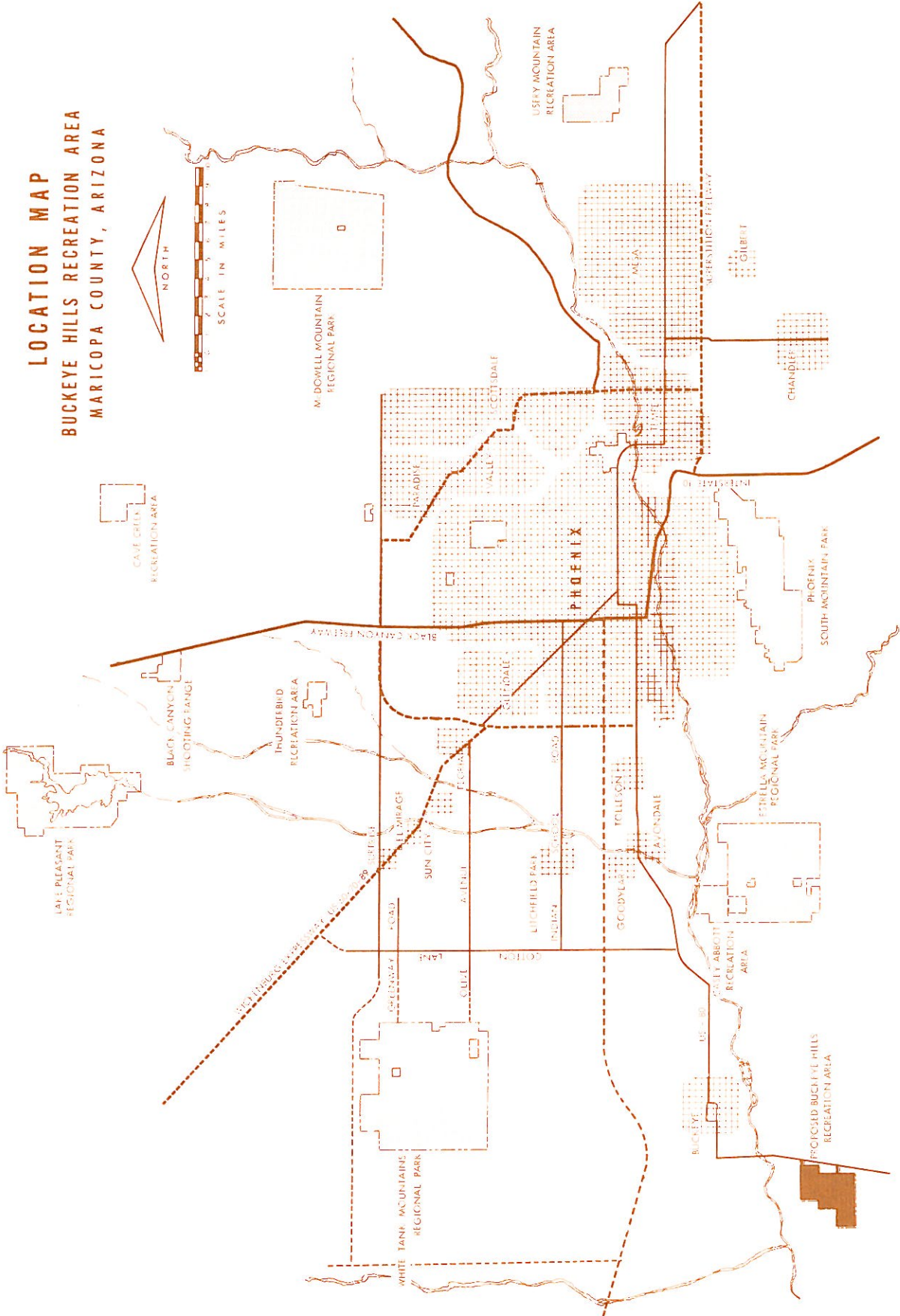
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CHESTER D. MCNABB
A. T. FRED STAPLEY

THOMAS R. WARDELL - DIRECTOR

**LOCATION MAP
BUCKEYE HILLS RECREATION AREA
MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA**



MASTER PLAN

BUCKEYE HILLS RECREATION AREA

for

Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department

Phoenix, Arizona

Van Cleve Associates, Inc., Consulting Planners

January 1969

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PART I
REGIONAL FACTORS

Location

Buckeye Hills Recreation Area is a 3,627-acre component of the Maricopa County park system located six miles southwest of the Town of Buckeye and fifteen miles north of Gila Bend. The southwest county park region in which Buckeye Hills is situated is an area of approximately 4,400 square miles including all of that part of Maricopa County lying west of 59th Avenue (extended) and south of the Buckeye-Harquahala Valley Road.

The frontispiece shows the location of Buckeye Hills Recreation Area in relation to nearby communities and the Phoenix metropolitan area, and to other regional parks and recreation areas in the county park system.

U.S. Highway 80 provides direct access to the park, from which it is separated by from one-half to three-quarters of a mile of State land, presently leased for grazing purposes. The park is bounded on the north, west and south by Federal land under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Service Area

Recent estimates* indicate that about 32,000 people presently live in the southwest county park region heretofore described. Approximately 18,000 of these people are urban residents of Avondale, Goodyear, Tolleson, Buckeye and Gila Bend. The remaining 44% of the region's population resides on farms and ranches, chiefly in the Gila River Valley, including the farming communities of Cashion, Palo Verde, Arlington, Cotton Center, Theba and Sentinel.

* Maricopa County Community Shelter Plan, Report No. 2, Van Cleve Associates, Inc., 1968

The park region also includes portions of three Indian Reservations, The Gila River, Gila Bend and Papago. A large portion of the southern half of the region is occupied by the unpopulated Williams Bombing and Gunnery Range.

In addition to Buckeye Hills Recreation Area, the southwest county park region contains Estrella Mountains Regional Park, 16,468 acres, and the adjoining 2,124-acre Casey Abbott Recreation Area. Estrella Mountains and White Tank Mountains Regional Parks, the latter located northwest of Litchfield Park, are about equidistant from the Town of Buckeye, and both will provide Buckeye residents with large-scale regional recreation facilities. Residents of the Tolleson-Goodyear-Avondale area will probably prefer to use Casey Abbott Recreation Area due to greater proximity and established habit born of its earlier development.

Hence, the portion of the region directly tributary to Buckeye Hills Recreation Area and comprising its primary area of service includes the Town of Buckeye and immediate environs, and the Gila River Valley extending to and including the Town of Gila Bend. This service area contains approximately 14,000 people, of whom about 9,000 are rural residents.

Service Area Population Characteristics

Since essentially, a public park is a service facility provided and maintained to satisfy the outdoor recreation interests and needs of surrounding residents, a thorough investigation and analysis of its service area population is basic to determining the general character of the facility and planning the kinds of recreation activities for which it will provide.

Present and future outdoor recreation demands are strongly influenced by several factors directly related to the characteristics of the service area population:

1. Population - total numbers, projected growth, age composition, and distribution in relation to available recreation areas and facilities.

2. Income - the residents' relative ability to afford recreation and to participate in specific types of recreation activities.
3. Leisure Time - how much time is left for recreation? - related directly to income and occupation, and indirectly to the general trend toward shorter workdays and workweeks and longer vacations.
4. Distance and Ease of Travel - directly related to income and distribution of population, and indirectly to availability of recreational facilities.

The 1960 median family income in the service area was among the lowest in the county with about one-third of the families receiving less than \$3,000 annually, and less than 10% earning more than \$10,000. Farm management, farm labor and agriculture-related occupations are predominant. Median age was somewhat higher than the county average, and the average household size was also higher. In respect to educational attainment, adult residents of the service area had completed a median of 8.5 school years compared to 11.6 for county residents as a whole. Non-whites comprise about 12% of the population, and the white population included about 22% having Spanish surnames. An appreciable, though undefined, proportion of non-whites were undoubtedly Indians.

In general, all characteristics of the service area population are typical of rural-farm communities. No dramatic changes in population or population characteristics, and, ergo, in the nature of recreation demands, are expected to occur in the Buckeye Hills service area during the foreseeable future. While it is certain that wage rates will rise, that incomes will increase substantially, particularly at the lowest levels, and that education attainment levels will improve, these changes are not expected to result in any appreciable change in recreation desires. Farming and service to agriculture will remain the principal occupation pursuits. Urban development will increase and the ratio of urban-to-rural population in this region will rise, but not dramatically. Aside from a growing population in the Harquahala Valley resulting from new farming operations and commercial development attendant to construction

of the Brenda Cut-off, the general distribution of population will remain much the same.

The general character of the service area population definitely dictates that park facilities at Buckeye Hills should emphasize those activities which are relatively communal and inexpensive in nature and which require neither highly-developed skills nor expensive equipment.

Service Functions of the County Recreation Area

The Regional Park System Plan* describes the "semi-regional park" (now termed recreation area) as combining some of the features of county regional and urban community parks. In terms of service, the county recreation area provides a bridge between the two. It is less extensive in area and less remote in location than the typical regional park. Whereas the regional park is selected as a major reserve having outstanding scenic, natural and historic features, the county recreation area is selected primarily on the basis of its location in relation to the distribution of population in its service area. Its features and facilities are selected and developed specifically to satisfy the needs of its service area population. It provides for both active and passive types of recreational activities of a more intensive and localized nature than is characteristic of the regional park.

Due to the widely scattered population of its service area, the absence of community park facilities in most of the region, and its relative remoteness from the Phoenix metropolitan area, Buckeye Hills Recreation Area should provide to nearby towns and ranch communities those large-scale community park features and facilities which, in more heavily populated urban areas, would normally be a part of a municipal park system. Judging from the intense interest and active participation of Buckeye citizens in its acquisition and planning, Buckeye Hills Recreation Area will receive its heaviest use from citizens of Buckeye.

* Regional Park System Plan, Maricopa County, Arizona, 1965

PART II
EXISTING CONDITIONS

In general character, Buckeye Hills Recreation Area is quite different from every other site in the county regional park system. It is not an especially scenic area, nor are there dramatic views except perhaps from the higher mountain slopes which can be reached only on foot or horseback. On the other hand, most of the terrain lends itself admirably to relatively intensive recreation use and inexpensive development. It is remarkably well-suited to development for its intended function as a large-scale community-type park supplementing both more intensive urban parks and less intensive regional parks in the overall system of city-county recreation facilities.

An outstanding and immediately obvious positive characteristic of the site is its tracklessness. While the area has been under grazing lease for many years, grazing has been limited to winter months and the annual plants brought forth by winter moisture. The area has never supported any great number of cattle and there are few cattle trails except in the lowest bottomlands. Similarly, there are none but very old vehicle trails and these are unused and well healed over. These conditions are assumed to be the direct result of the presence of a well-maintained line fence extending through the park from north to south about one-half mile west of the east boundary.

Terrain

The Buckeye Hills, for which the recreation area is named, comprise a range of scattered hills and low, rocky mountains which flank the Gila River from Gillespie Dam to Waterman Wash. There are three major formations within the park, the largest of which forms the south boundary and reaches an elevation of 1,859 feet. These mountains, which are extremely steep, rocky and sparsely vegetated, are flanked by broad alluvial slopes, deeply cut with innumerable rocky washes. Park drainage is concentrated in two major washes coursing in a northwesterly direction

which contain heavy deposits of sand and are bordered by native palo verde, ironwood and other desert trees. The northeast area of the park is characterized by low, undulating, disintegrating granite hills separated by shallow drainage courses. For the most part, soils in the park are composed of decomposed granite. Abundant rock outcrops testify to the fact that bedrock is nowhere very far below the surface.

Water

Groundwater has not been developed in the park. On nearby State land are the remains of a sizeable earth tank, an old well and iron storage tank, evidencing the pumping of groundwater in that area during times past. Irrigated lands along the Gila River within a mile of the park are supplied by groundwater pumping and new wells may be constructed there since it is not as yet designated as a "critical" water area. Thus, it is assumed that major water supplies may be readily secured through importation and pumping from a distance of not over a mile north of the park boundary. Limited local supplies can probably be secured by drilling new wells along major drainage courses within the park, particularly in Sections 34 and 35.

Vegetation and Wildlife

Vegetation is extremely limited throughout the park, chiefly due to the shallow decomposed granite soils. Alluvial plains are scattered with palo verde, cacti and typical arid desert shrubs, while mesquite and ironwood are generally confined to wash areas where there is more moisture and deeper soil.

Field observations indicate that native wildlife species are those normal to low desert-and-mountain terrain in Central Arizona. Desert mule deer use the sheltered canyons of the higher mountains in the southwest part of the park. There appear to be relatively few quail and mourning doves, probably due to lack of surface water and adequate cover. Coyotes, badgers, rabbits and other small mammals and reptiles are apparently numerous.

Climate

Buckeye Hills, by reason of its low elevation, rolling terrain, sparse vegetation and scant rainfall, will be a seasonal recreation area. Little or no activity can be expected in the months of June through September when ground temperatures are unusually high and nights are hot. Its heaviest use will undoubtedly occur from November to May.

Mining

Field inspection revealed the presence of several recently re-marked mining claims on the northeast slope of the mountain bounding the park on the south. Steps should be taken immediately to ascertain the validity of these claims and evaluate their possible affects on park development and use.

PART III
MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

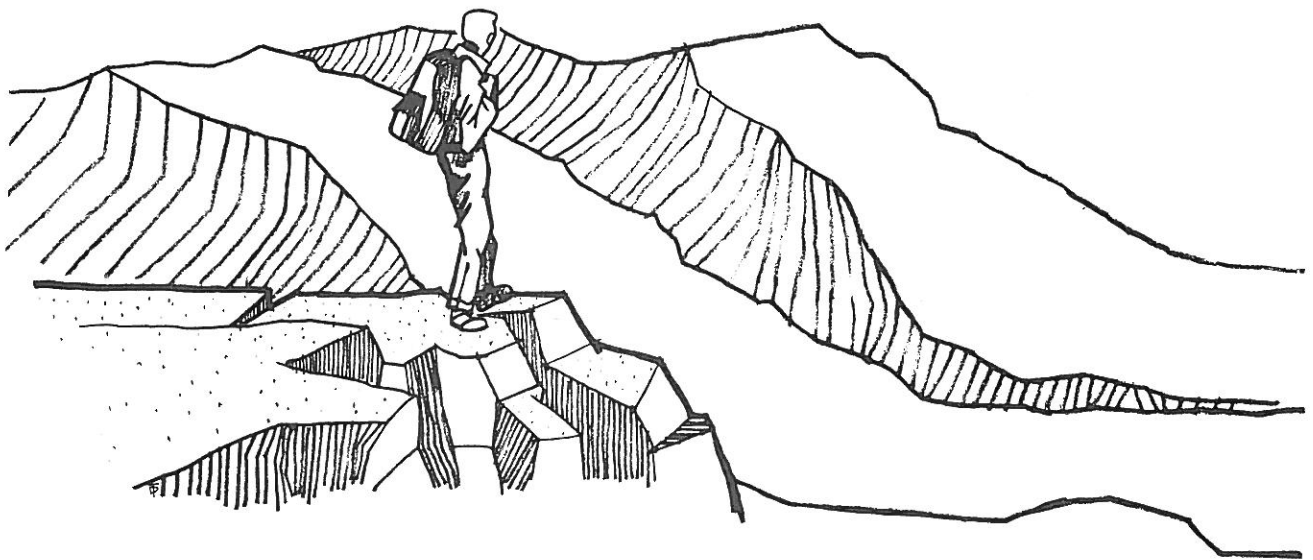
Basic principles to guide county park system planning and development were adopted in 1962-63 by the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission. These principles were further defined, refined and expanded in the Maricopa County Regional Park System Plan, published in 1965, which provides guidelines, criteria and design standards for master planning of the various components of the system. That Plan also defined and differentiated between the function of "regional" and "semi-regional" parks in the system, as heretofore described.

The System Plan attempted to project rather definitively the 1980 recreation demands for the county, for each region and for each park. Unfortunately, the Buckeye Hills site was acquired too late for inclusion in the system plan and hence no statistical guidelines to demand and need were provided in that plan.

A Citizens' Advisory Planning Committee, composed of residents of the Buckeye Community and chaired by Mr. Chet McNabb, was organized late in 1967 for the purpose of considering the types and extent of development to be planned for Buckeye Hills Recreation Area. The Committee's report of February 13, 1968, set forth its recommendations giving special emphasis to its desire that the natural beauty of the site - its vegetation, terrain and wild areas - be preserved in subsequent park design and development.

The objectives of this master plan for Buckeye Hills Recreation Area are to present a basic guide for park development which designates land usage and shows the inter-relationships between planned activities, and to accomplish this within the framework of (1) the general guidelines and design standards set forth in the Regional Park System Plan, and (2) the specific recommendations of the Citizens' Advisory Planning Committee. A third, and no less important consideration in master planning - perhaps

even an over-riding consideration - has been to plan for the optimum development of the site in a manner that will take advantage of its natural amenities without destroying them in the process. This last point, which was emphasized by the Committee, should, in fact, be the first point of consideration in the preparation of any park master plan.

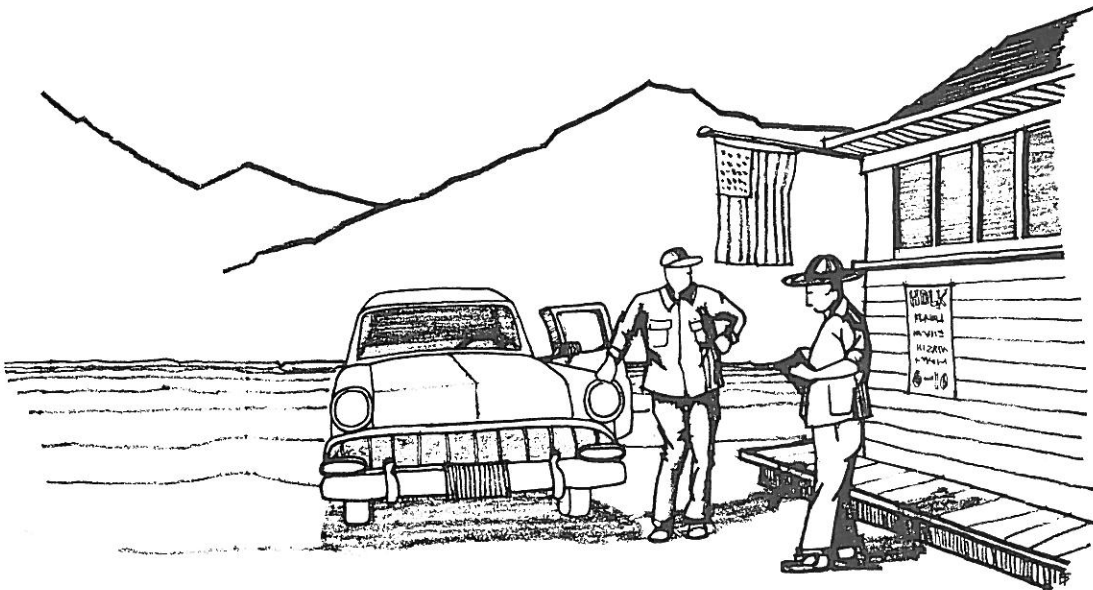


PART IV
DESCRIPTION OF THE MASTER PLAN

This Master Plan for Buckeye Hills Recreation Area envisions a broad range of recreational activities and facilities which have been selected, located and sized to meet the criteria established in the foregoing statement of planning and development objectives. It also considers park maintenance and protection problems, and such basic services and utilities as water supply and distribution and sewage disposal.

Access and Circulation

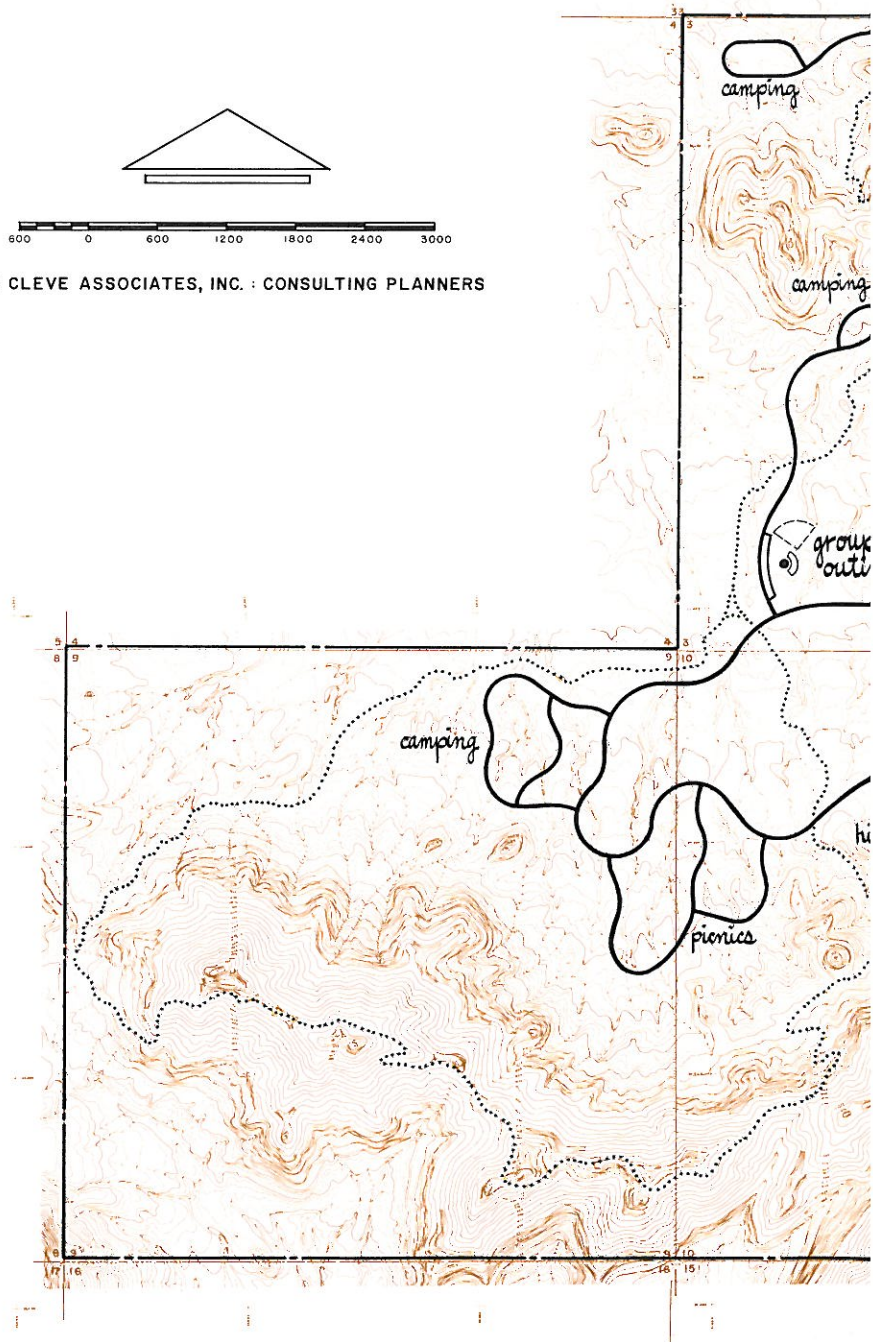
Vehicular access to Buckeye Hills Recreation Area from U.S. Highway 80 is by way of two strips of land an eighth of a mile wide through State land. The north entrance is located immediately north of the existing State highway roadside development. The south entrance is located two miles to the south a mile north of the south park boundary. Each of these park entrances are to be provided a control and information station situated just within the park proper.



MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN
BUCKEYE HILLS
RECREATION AREA
MARICOPA COUNTY ARIZONA



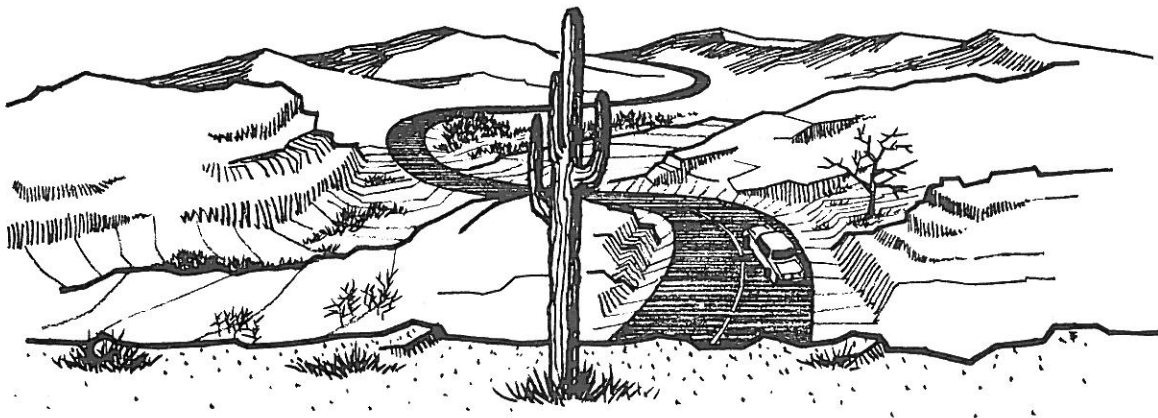
VAN CLEVE ASSOCIATES, INC. : CONSULTING PLANNERS



The main park road extends between the two control stations in a curvaceous alignment closely fitted to the topography. The initial construction of both entrances and the connecting park road will permit development and use of a representative range of activity areas with a minimum of road construction cost. It will be essential to confine all vehicular traffic to park roads, and initially, to prevent penetration of vehicles into other areas of the park until facilities therein have been developed and are ready for use.

Two secondary park roads branch off from the main stem to serve: (1) the park headquarters area, golf course and archery range, and (2) picnic areas and campgrounds in the mountainous section of the park. In addition, there are several long cul-de-sac roads providing access to widely separated campgrounds, shooting range and cycle course.

It should here be noted that the locations of activity areas have been carefully selected for natural character and ability to meet criteria governing the particular activity. Due to terrain and other conditions, activity areas tend to be widely separated, a feature which has the advantages of: (1) Making possible the step-by-step development and expansion of activity areas and facilities, and (2) Preventing the excessive concentration of people which would negatively influence the recreation experience and make it difficult to preserve natural character.



Conversely, this wide separation of activity sites has the disadvantages of requiring construction of more linear feet of park roads, and making it more difficult to prevent vehicular trespass in non-activity areas. The choice was made in favor of achieving the greater recreation values.

All vehicular circulation is intended to be two-way with the exception of one-way turnarounds on cul-de-sac roads. Park roads should be purposely designed for low speeds and designed to lie lightly upon the terrain avoiding deep cuts and fills. Relatively short-radius horizontal and vertical curves will maintain a continuing intimacy with the natural character of the terrain. Cut and fill slopes should be rounded and warped at the ends for transition. Design speed - the maximum speed at which a curve can be safely driven - should not exceed 25 miles an hour.

Primary park roads should be 28 feet wide, comprising a pavement width of 22 feet with a 3-foot shoulder on either side. Secondary roads should have 20 feet of pavement plus two 3-foot shoulders. One-way looproads need not exceed 12 feet in width with shoulders three feet wide. Road slopes should not exceed 3:1 on cuts and 4:1 on fills.

Parking areas are an integral part of the circulation system. They should be placed where their intrusion on significant features and activities will be minimized without undue loss of convenience to the user. The size of the parking areas should be limited as closely as possible for effective operation. Whereas parking may be limited initially to one car per single picnic or camp unit, it should be so located that expansion can be made with minimum expense as greater need is proven.

In general, road surfacing should be in harmony with the natural character of the site. With few exceptions, an adequate alignment can be selected which will avoid deep cuts or fills. The abundant supply of decomposed granite dictates its use as both road base and pavement chipseal. Availability and low cost of decomposed granite

would appear to offset its poorer wearing quality when used as a chipseal. Any borrow pits created in the park should be very carefully located to avoid creation of non-eradicable scars.

Park Headquarters Area

Whereas park headquarters is usually planned as a principal focal point of park activities and functions as an interpretive and administrative center, there is a question whether this sort of facility will be required in Buckeye Hills Recreation Area. As development and use progresses, it may prove that one of the two ranger stations can be expanded sufficiently to function adequately in this capacity. At any rate, a park headquarters area is not proposed as part of the first-stage development. The selected location is on the slope near the base of the mountain where it looks out over the more intensive activity areas in the center of the park.



Community Outings

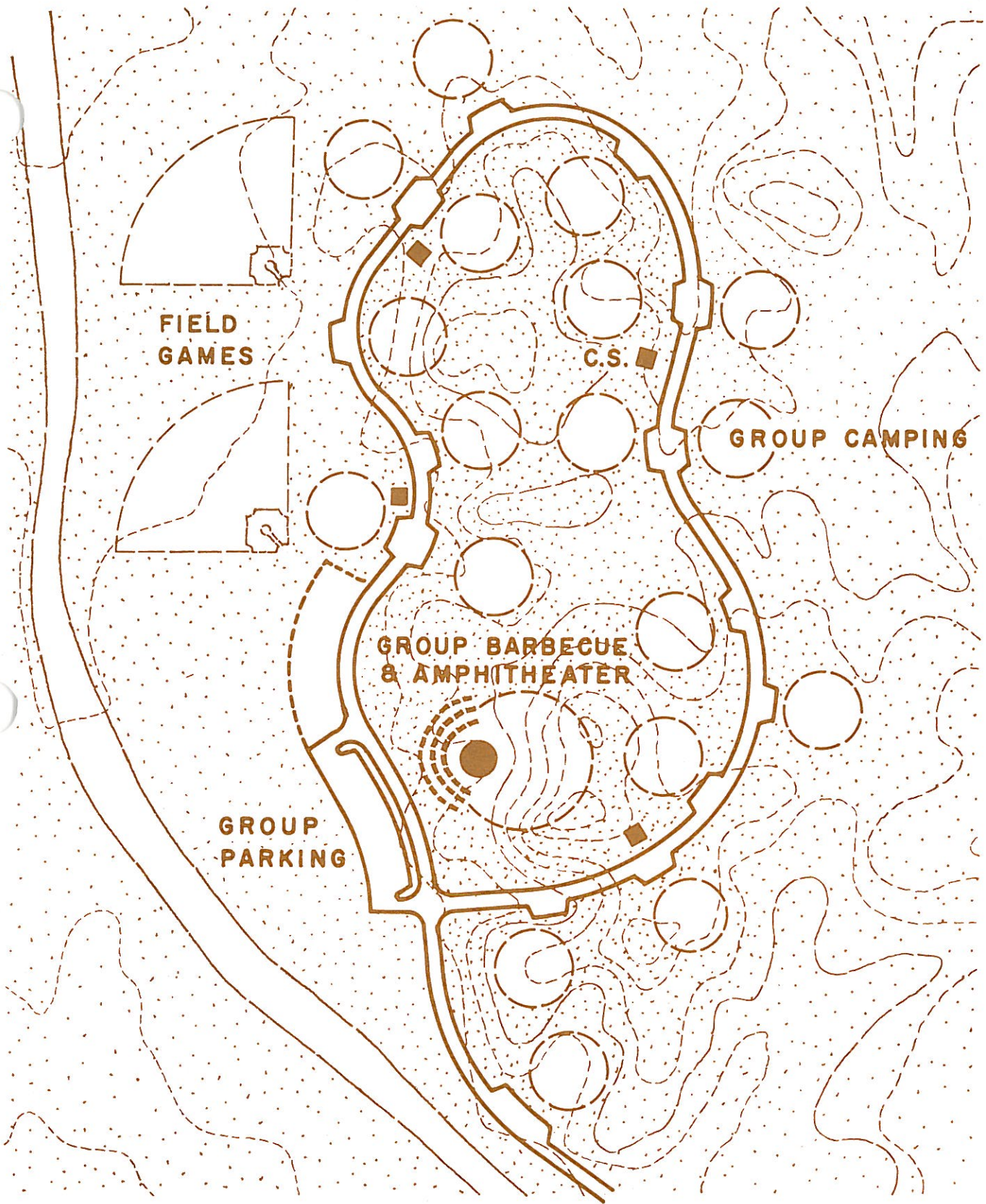
The principal feature on the main park road and one which generally characterizes the community-service type of activities planned for Buckeye Hills is a large multi-purpose facility for group outings. Its main feature is a combination picnic-camp-ground which is designed to accommodate a number of small groups numbering eight to ten cars, campers or tents around a central campfire or cooking place. A Boy Scout patrol, an Indian Guide tribe, or a several-family group are examples of the basic activity unit making up this facility. The entire complex is composed of approximately 18 of these units, from 100 to 300 feet apart and separated from each other by natural tree groups, rock outcrops and topography. Central to these units is a small amphitheater shaped around a level stage area providing a center for assembly of all groups for pow-wows, bonfires, group barbecues, lectures and similar activities. The use of this very flexible complex may range from a number of small unrelated local groups to an entire regional jamboree or week-end campout involving up to 500 participants.

The community outing area is provided such supporting facilities as level run-and-play areas, ball fields for informal games, comfort stations and parking areas.

A second group outing area is planned for later development in the southwest section of the park. Here, the terrain is more open and more suitable for large, informal, single-purpose assemblies than for groups-within-a-group.

Picnic Areas

The plan provides for development of picnic facilities in three widely separated locations. Each of these general areas is composed of several smaller separate units designed to fit the topography and to permit gradual expansion of facilities as the need arises.



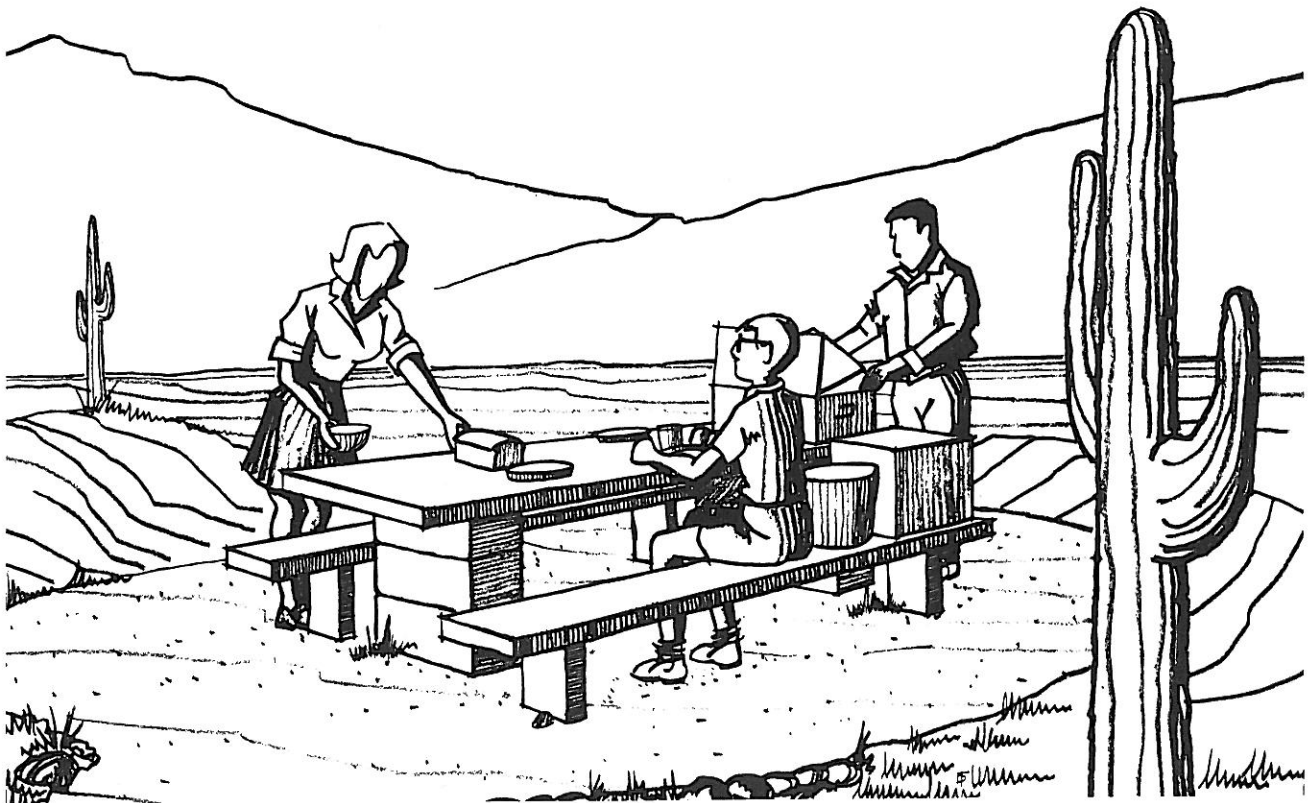
PLAN : COMMUNITY OUTINGS



Sparse vegetation and moderately open terrain dictate a relatively wide spacing - 75 to 100 feet - of individual picnic units. Picnic sites should be carefully selected in the field to take advantage of special conditions of terrain, vegetation and view with as little disturbance of the natural landscape as possible. With few exceptions, individual units should be no farther than 300 feet from the nearest comfort station. In keeping with the seasonal nature of the park use, no ramadas are proposed.

While most picnic sites will be single-family units, several sites in each picnic area should be developed for use by small groups of families. These group sites would comprise a number of family-size tables arranged around a cooking center.

Altogether, the plan provides for a total of approximately 200 picnic units accommodating a total of about 1,000 persons. One picnic area capable of serving up to 50 families is recommended for first-stage development.



Campgrounds

Five campgrounds are located in widely scattered areas of the park, the locations being selected to insure the best possible camping experience. These campgrounds range from 15 to 50 units each and provide a total of 200 individual campsites.

One 42-unit campground is located near the south park entrance and is recommended for construction as part of the first-stage development program.

In general, campgrounds are designed as a system of loops, permitting easy expansion as use increases. Campgrounds are intended to accommodate tents, travel trailers and camper trucks, and while no campground is designed exclusively for one or the other of these modes, spaces for one kind of camping are generally grouped together. Individual parking slips or side loops are provided for camping vehicles, allowing them to park well off the traveled roadway. No utility hookups for camping vehicles are to be provided.

Campsites are generally spaced at least 100 feet apart, taking advantage of vegetation, terrain and view. Each site should be carefully selected in the field to provide maximum camping enjoyment as well as privacy from the road and separation from other sites. Very few should be farther than 300 feet from a comfort station. Individual sites will consist of a level, compacted pad of decomposed granite for tent or vehicle, a picnic table and charcoal burner. The general absence of firewood in the park precludes provision of wood-burning fireplaces or permission of wood fires at individual sites. Council fire rings should be provided for use by each group of about ten sites.

It is recommended that several campgrounds in the more remote areas of the park be maintained for primitive camping. As applied to this park, the term "primitive camping" connotes a feeling of remoteness from other park activities and minimal facilities, including graded, unpaved roads and parking spots, and latrine compounds composed of palisades of heavy posts or native rock.

Caravan Center

Located in the central area on level land near the major drainage way is a new recreational feature called a "caravan camp". This facility is designed especially for use by organized groups of campers, composed of families who know each other and enjoy travelling and camping together. Most of these people use travel trailers or camper trucks or buses, and prefer a camping arrangement with individual units spaced relatively close together around a central open area. The proposed design is an arrangement patterned after the historic covered wagon circle, with the enclosed open space used for communal cooking, assembly, games and similar group activities. The central open area should be about 120 feet in diameter.

The caravan camp should include a designed and improved roadway, delineated parking slips, a comfort station and group cooking facilities. It would provide for from 15 to 20 vehicles or individual sites on the inside of the loop, with room for expansion on the outside of the roadway. Additional caravan camps can be constructed in this general area as the demand and use dictates.



Hiking and Riding Trails

The Plan provides for 14 miles of developed riding trails, all of which may also be used by hikers, and about three miles of foot trails exclusively for hikers. Riding trails emanate from a trailer parking and assembly area located on the main park road. These horse trails, rather primitive in the rough, steep mountain sides, provide for a trail ride up to four hours in length. Hiking trails provide for short walks to features of special interest or scenic value. In addition, each picnic and camping area has its own internal network of local walks connecting with the park trail system.

Golf Course

The Plan provides for the possible ultimate development of an 18-hole golf course in the north central park area where the rolling terrain is especially well-suited to golf use. A 6,100-yard course, occupying approximately 245 acres and including a clubhouse and driving range, is proposed.

Determination of whether and when this golf course will be developed should be based on (1) general policy of the County Parks & Recreation Commission regarding distribution of such facilities, (2) proven availability of sufficient water supply, and (3) proven demand for such a facility in the Buckeye Hills service area.

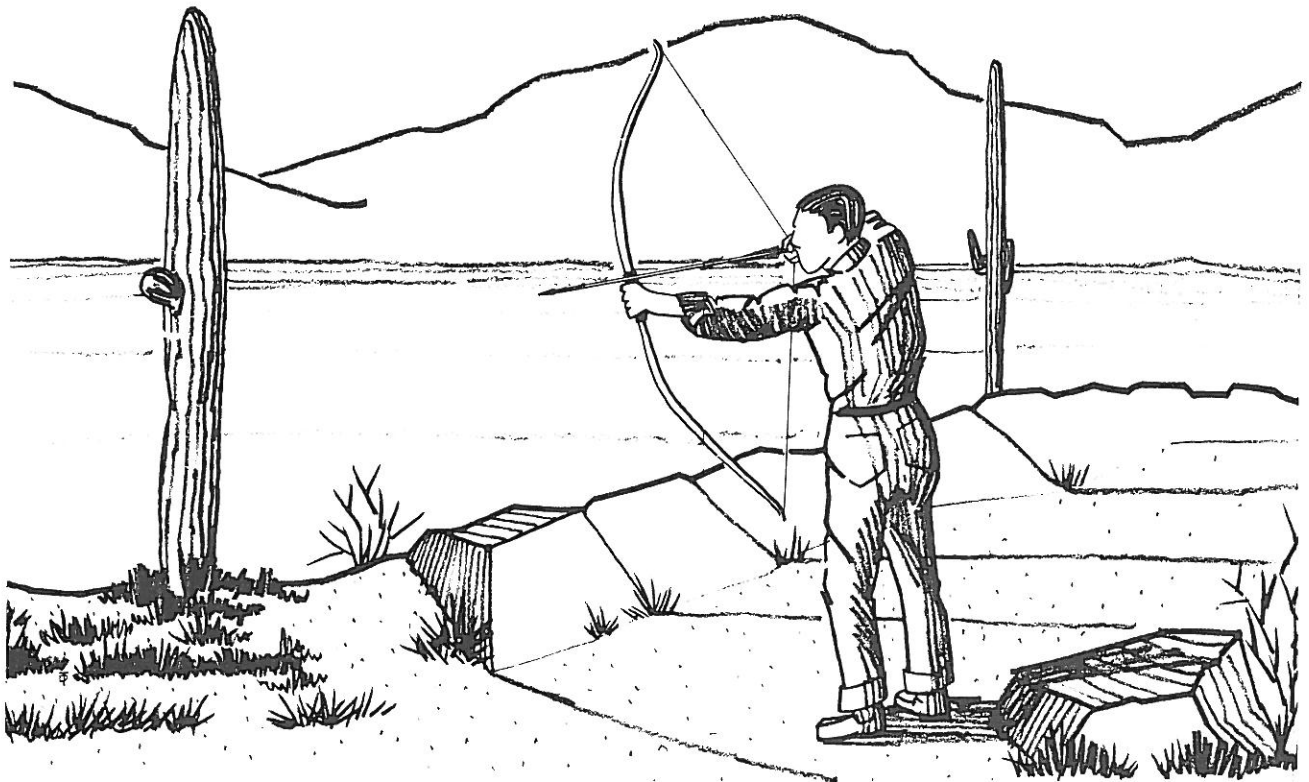
Shooting Range

Provision of a shooting range is one of the high priority demands of the Citizens' Advisory Planning Committee, and such a facility is provided in the southeast area of the park. The proposed range, providing large-bore targets up to 200 yards as well as small-bore and pistol sections, is situated well away from other park activities where the mountain backdrop can be utilized for safety. There is no level site in the park which meets shooting range safety criteria; however, the planned site is considered developable without excessive construction cost.

Cross-Country Cycle Course

Motorcycles, "tote-goats" and motor scooters have become a serious problem in parks, wilderness and forest areas where they use open areas and hiking and riding trails to the detriment of the natural ground surface and the pleasure of the users for whom such trails are intended. Contributing to this nuisance and destructive use is the fact that no areas have been set aside or developed especially for cyclist. The Plan proposes development of a cross-country cycle course in rolling terrain in the northwest corner of the park where noise and dust is screened from other park activities.

The proposed course offers opportunity for cross-country practice and competition. It consists of three miles of interlocking tracks ranging from one to three miles in length traversing a variety of terrain and graded to widths varying from 12 to 25 feet. Supporting facilities include access road, parking area and comfort station.



Archery Range and Field Course

Archery facilities, including a 28-target field course, running deer range, archery golf and broadhead, clout, and flight ranges, are proposed for development near the shooting range. The Plan also shows an alternate location on the golf course loop road, wherein the ranges would be situated on level land along the drainage way and the field course in rolling terrain to the west. Constructed to standards established by the National Field Archery Association and similar organizations, the archery center would provide for state and regional archery meets, Park Department competitions and practice by individuals. It is anticipated that the Parks and Recreation Department would be assisted in actual course layout by local archery clubs and enthusiasts.

Maintenance Area

The proposed park maintenance area is located off the main park road near the east park boundary where it can be appropriately screened from view. This facility should include an office and shop as well as space for storage of vehicles, equipment and materials, all within a fenced compound.

With construction of the proposed golf course, a second, smaller maintenance area exclusively concerned with golf course maintenance, would be required in closer proximity to the course.



cross country cycle course

alternate location field archery course

hiking & riding trail

camping

camping

camping

hiking & riding trail

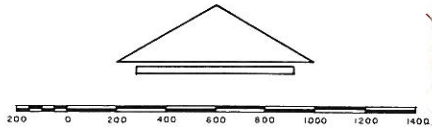
hiking & riding trail

hiking trail

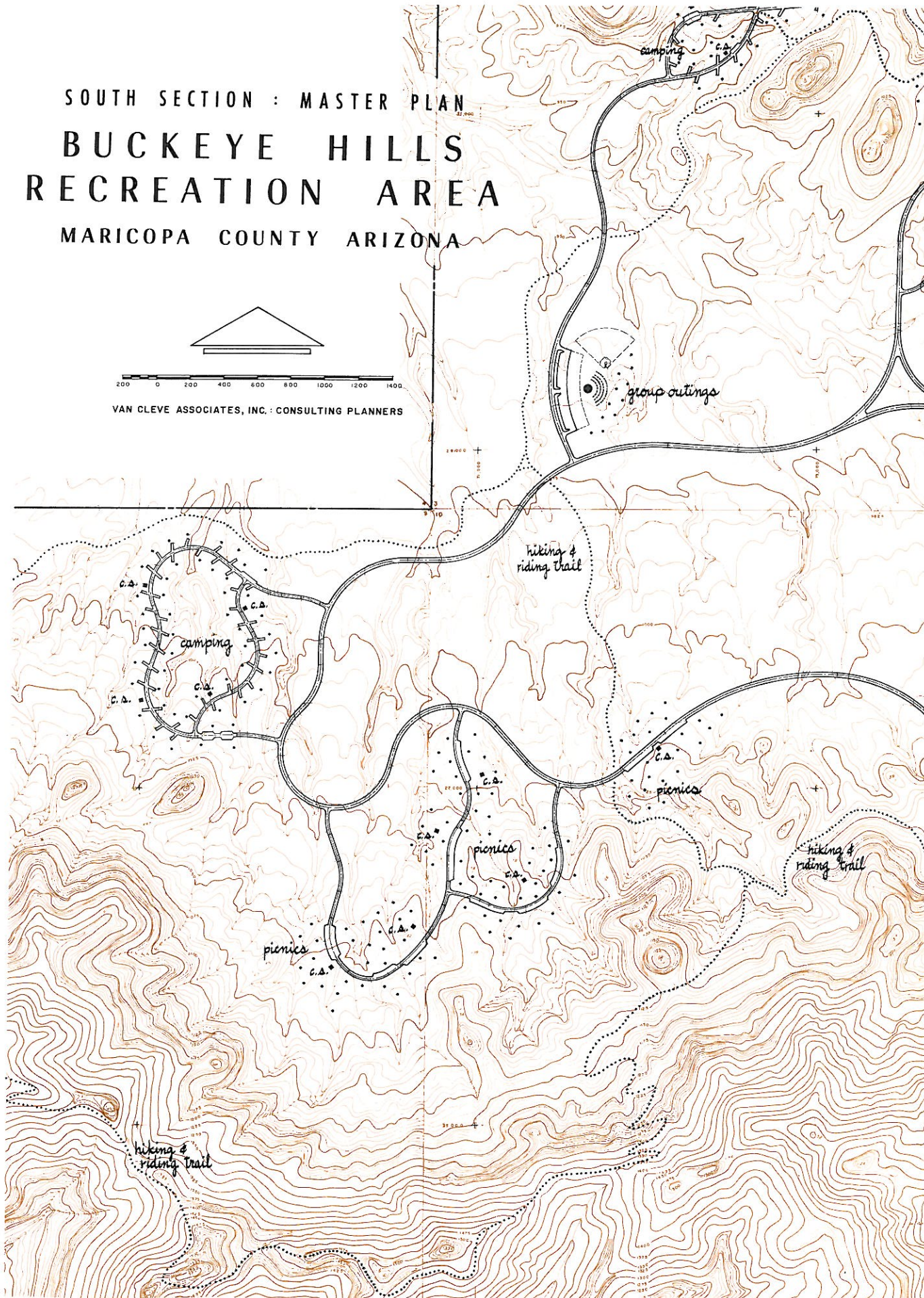
hiking trail

camping

SOUTH SECTION : MASTER PLAN
BUCKEYE HILLS
RECREATION AREA
MARICOPA COUNTY ARIZONA



VAN CLEVE ASSOCIATES, INC. : CONSULTING PLANNERS



PART V
UTILITIES AND BASIC SERVICES

Water Supply

As mentioned heretofore, no investigations have been made of potential underground water supplies in Buckeye Hills Recreation Area. Wells driven in the Gila River floodplain one mile north of the park may be expected to produce a reliable, adequate supply. However, the necessity of pumping this water a distance of two miles to a storage tank in the park suggests the wisdom of first exploring possibilities within the area. A test well in the major drainageway in the SE 1/4 of Section 34 may prove the existence of adequate groundwater in that location. The preferred location of the first aboveground storage tank would be at the 1,000-foot elevation near the south line of Section 35. To provide gravity flow to the southwest area of the park, a second storage tank would be located at the 1,050-foot elevation near the center of Section 3.

Water supply requirements of planned park activities will be relatively low; however, from 55,000 to 100,000 gallons per day required for maintenance of an 18-hole golf course. A thorough investigation of water sources, initial construction costs and delivery costs should be made to determine the economic feasibility of constructing and maintaining a golf course in the park.

The type, location and planned use of Buckeye Hills Recreation Area suggests the possibility of constructing the first stage or two of park development without water supply. Most picnickers and campers in desert areas are accustomed to bringing sufficient water to last overnight or a day or two, and local users would not be unduly inconvenienced by lack of water supply in the park. The several recommended "primitive" campgrounds could be operated satisfactorily without local water supply. It might even prove most feasible to haul and store sufficient water to supply widely-scattered activity areas, rather than construct a second storage tank. However, it should be recognized that pit or chemical toilet facilities would be necessary if no water is provided.

Sanitary Facilities

All sanitary facilities except those in the primitive camping areas should ordinarily be of the flush type requiring water supply. The distance between comfort stations and between activity areas, together with the high permeability of soils throughout the park, are among factors supporting the recommendation that septic tanks and leaching fields or cesspools be planned for individual and closely-grouped installations.

Refuse Disposal

Trash containers should be profusely distributed throughout activity areas and enforcement against littering must be constant and vigorous. While the aboveground trash container may be a somewhat distressing distraction from the natural scene, it has generally proven more successful than the underground type. Disposal of collected refuse should be by hauling to the nearest sanitary landfill. Disposal by burning is not recommended.

Power and Communications

There are no existing power installations in or immediately near the park. All necessary power and communication lines should be installed underground.

Maintenance and Operation

Each park activity should be designed and constructed for easy maintenance. Positive but unobstrusive controls should be designed and built into each site to prevent undue wear and destruction of both man-made facilities and natural environment. Picnic tables, charcoal burners and all other site facilities should be designed to be as vandal-proof as possible, and should be permanently fixed in place. Water fountains and sanitary facilities should have flush fixtures and metal bowls.

As in every desert park, the problem of keeping vehicles on park roads and parking areas will prove difficult and frustrating. However, since in this kind of terrain and soil every vehicle leaves a scar which nature takes many years to obliterate, it is particularly important to prevent indiscriminate driving.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BUCKEYE HILLS CITIZENS ADVISORY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Citizens Advisory Planning Committee was organized in 1967 and met several times to study the natural character of the park and the recreation needs and desires of service area residents. The Committee's recommendations regarding general approach to park planning and development and the preservation of natural character were a valuable and essential input to this master plan.

Chet McNabb, Chairman

Mrs. Carl Babcock, Buckeye 4-H Club	Mrs. Edward Kacer, Am. Legion Auxiliary
Charles Baker, Old Timers	Bob Lanford, Buckeye Farm Bureau
John R. Beloit, former Buckeye Mayor	Dean Malan, Valley National Bank
Fred L. Bruner, Palo Verde	James Marionneaux, Maricopa Co. Farm Bureau
Roy A. Clark, Boy Scouts	Billy F. Meck, JP
John C. Coker, Helzapoppin	Leslie Meredith, Arlington
Mrs. Pat (Lloyd) Coker, Rebekahs	Othel Narramore, Old Timers Union
Mrs. Barbara DeMuth, Liberty 4-H Club	Pete Narramore, Buckeye Museum
Katherine Eakins, VFW Auxiliary	Mrs. Joan (Joseph) Palumbo, PV Homemakers
James Elder, Buckeye	Sam Richardson, B.U.H.S. Board
William (Bill) Flower, APS	Mrs. Vernon Beloit, Sr. Women's Club
Quinton Griffin, Buckeye	Joseph Schettino, Buckeye
George Hammer, Buckeye Town Clerk	Mrs. Betty (Willard) Schroder, Jr. Woman's Club
Walter Hegi, Buckeye	Harold G. Thorpe, American Legion
J.B. Hill, VFW	James Walker, Lions Club
Mrs. Elizabeth (Jimmie) Jagow, Eastern Star	Ralph Watkins, Sr., Buckeye
Louis Joslin, C of C, Palo Verde	Ralph Watkins, Jr., Buckeye
Mark Shepard, Buckeye Valley News	W.W. Weigold, Buckeye

Chet McNabb and Fred Nobbe, Liaison Members
Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

