

In Encanto Park, Phoenix, Arizona

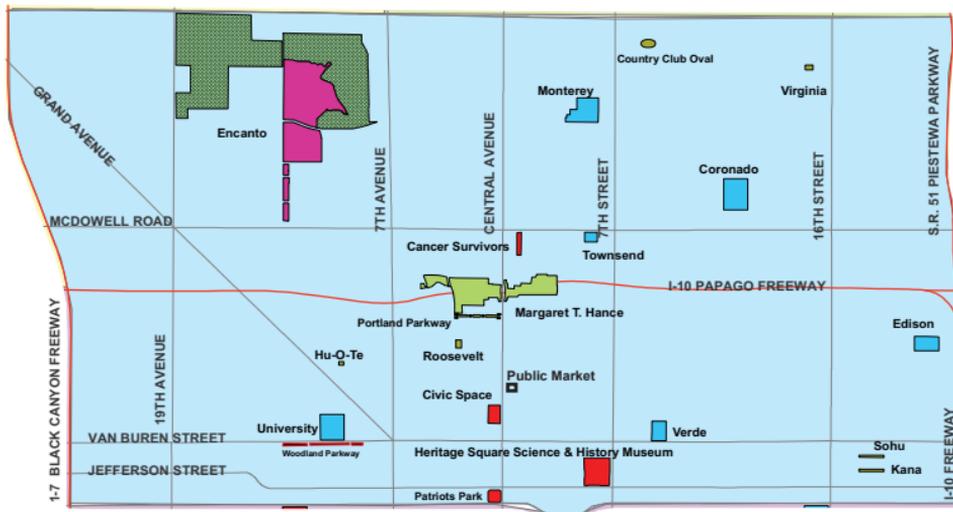
FIELD GUIDE

TO DOWNTOWN PHOENIX PARKS

BY KIRBY HOYT

DOWNTOWN PHOENIX PARKS

This Field Guide provides some basic information to some of the parks located in downtown Phoenix. While not inclusive of all of the parks or public spaces, it offers a cross-sectional view of a variety of parks found in the downtown of Phoenix. In addition to locating and describing the parks and their programs, this guide suggests nearby coffee houses, museums, restaurants and bars to visit in order to make you visit to these parks more enjoyable.



Legend
NOTE: SYMBOLS OF FEATURES MAY COVER OTHER SYMBOLS OF FEATURES ON THE MAP

- Parks**
- District
 - Community
 - Neighborhood
 - Mini
 - Special Area
 - Basins
 - Golf
 - Undeveloped/Unnamed

City of Phoenix
Parks and Recreation Department
Parks Preserves and Facilities
Downtown Division

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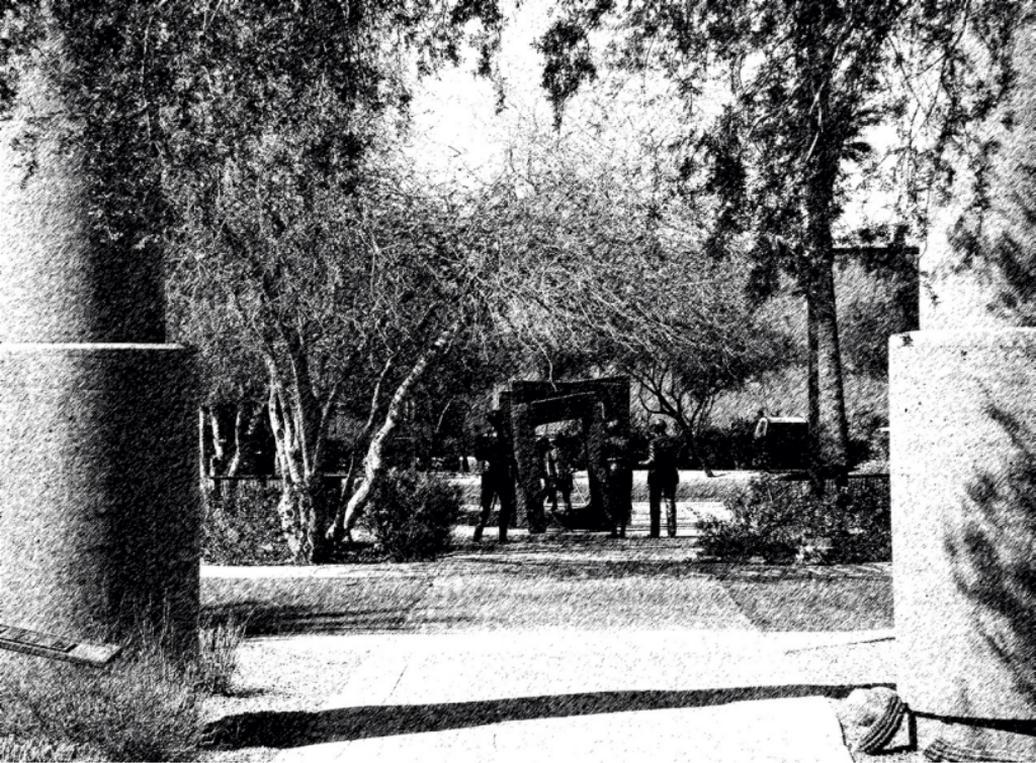
WOODLAND PARKWAY

This seventy-foot wide linear park is located along Van Buren Street between 9th and 15th Avenues. Feel free to walk by the park but **DO NOT** use it! The park contains a variety of traces of its former self, which is a remnant of the original Woodland neighborhood's 1913 Beaux Arts design, including extensive parks and boulevards. On the ride back into downtown, stop by the lounge at the **Crescent Ballroom** and have a pint. Open weekdays 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., weekends 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.



HU-O-TE PARK

Designated as a “mini” park, this space is located at 941 North 11th Avenue (on the corner of 11th Avenue and West McKinley Street). In this park you can enjoy a picnic area and shaded playground. While you’re in the neighborhood be sure to stop by the **Funk Lab** at 1007 Grand Avenue, the creative studio of EDGE Industries, and join Rob and Kirby for a beer on their patio.



CANCER SURVIVOR'S PARK

One of twenty-four Cancer Survivor's Parks funded by Richard and Annette Block across the United States, it stretches from Willetta to McDowell on First Street. Start at Burton Barr Library and walk north to enjoy the park, then grab a pastry and coffee at [Giant Coffee](#) located at the north end of the park. Keep walking north across McDowell to visit the [Phoenix Art Museum](#), open Wednesday to Sunday. \$12 adults; \$10 senior citizens & fulltime college/university students w/ID; \$6 children ages 6-17.



CORONADO PARK

As an anchor of the Coronado Neighborhood, this park offers ball fields, tennis courts, swimming pool, basketball courts, playgrounds and picnic shelters. The bus will drop you at the 12th Street and Palm Lane intersection. After your visit, drop by the [Ladybug House of Sandwiches](#) at 11th Street and McDowell. Make sure to try their famous “Soft Shoe” sandwich, a mixture of egg salad, lettuce and tomato. Open Monday thru Friday 10 a.m. until 2:00 a.m.



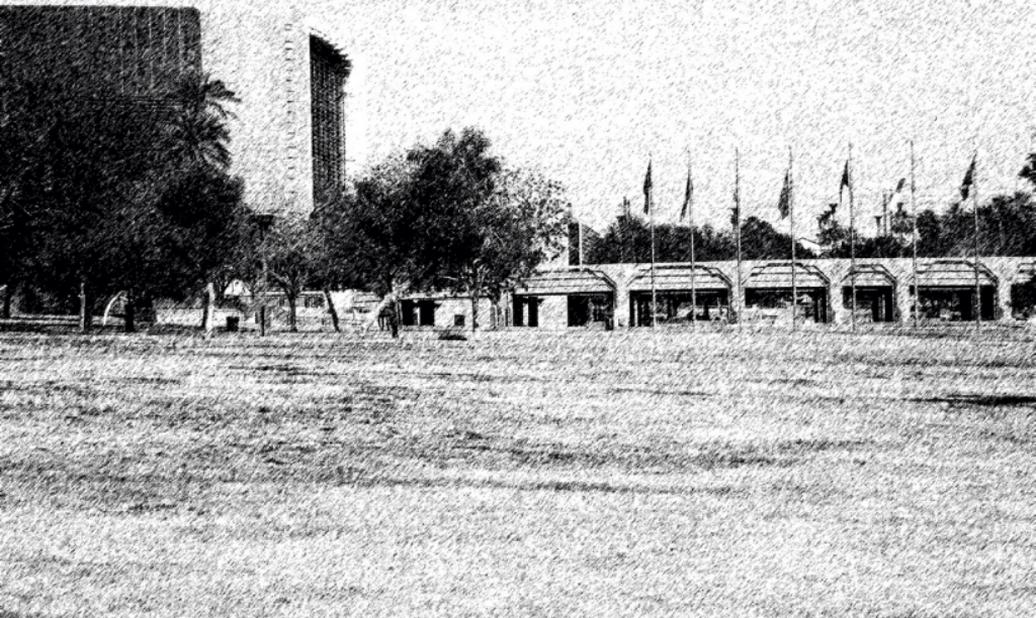
COUNTRY CLUB OVAL

Sitting smack dab in the middle of a residential neighborhood, the “oval” (which is in reality an ellipse) offers no on-street parking unless you possess a residential parking permit. Therefore the best option is to walk to the park from where parking is allowed. The park has some trees, grass and a back-stop. The closest place to eat is the **Tuck Shop**, the real reason to visit this park. Open Tuesday to Saturday 5 to 10 p.m.



EDISON PARK

Located at the southwest corner where the Papago Freeway (I-10) turns south (Roosevelt and North 20th Streets), this park offers a spray pad to keep cool during the summer. It also has large grass play areas, shelter and playground to keep you occupied. Before you go, be sure to stop by **Ranch Market** at 16th Street and Roosevelt to grab a picnic lunch. Maybe some bacon-wrapped hot dogs and horchada followed with some fresh churros.



MARGARET T. HANCE PARK

See if you can tell if this park constructed over a freeway. Divided by Central Avenue and named after the first female mayor of Phoenix (serving four consecutive terms from 1976 until 1983), the park opened in 1990, a few months after her death. If it's near happy hour, be sure to stop at **Chevront Restaurant and Wine Bar** and try a glass of Spanish tempranillo. Located at 1326 North Central Avenue. Open daily.



KANA PARK

Flanked by public housing, this park measures a mere seventy feet wide and a bit over six hundred feet long. The program consists of basketball courts, shade structures, playground and a small soccer field. It can be reached by light rail from either the 12th or 24th Street station, then by walking to 18th Street north to East Adams Street. If you use the 12st Street light rail station, be sure to stop in to **Bobby C's** at 1140 East Washington, say hi to Joy and try her famous Southern Fried Chicken.



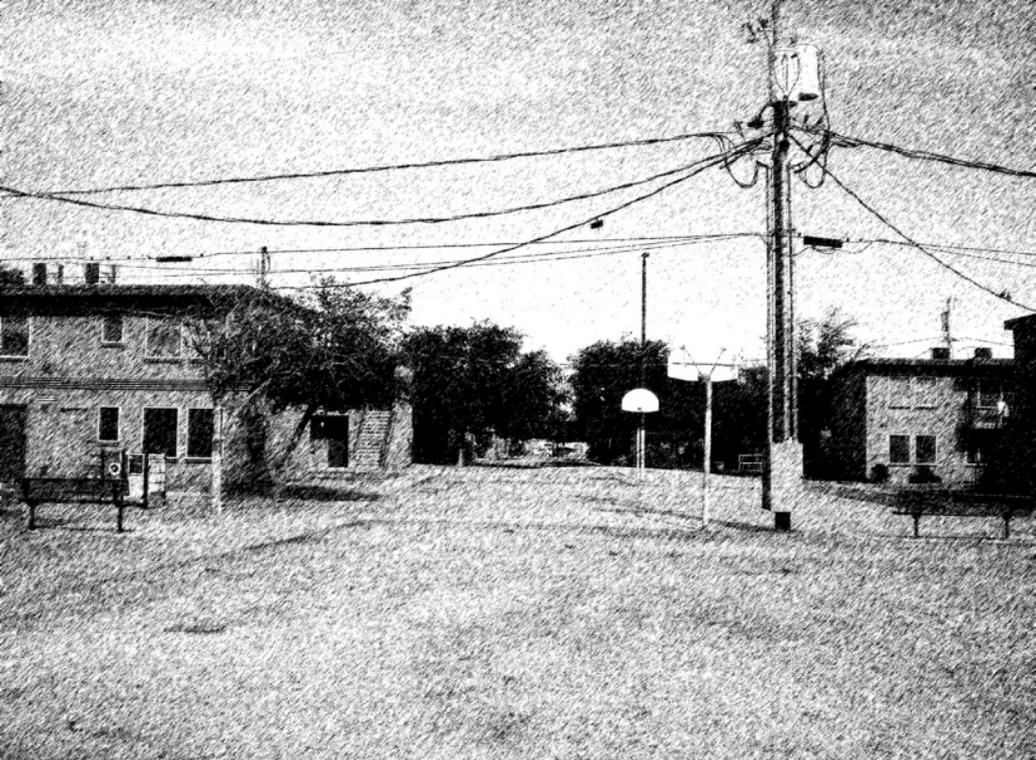
PORTLAND PARKWAY

You don't have to walk very far from the Roosevelt /Central Avenue light rail station to find this linear park. It's a great way to get to the Japanese Friendship Garden (entrance on Third Avenue) and you don't have to go empty-handed either. Stop in at **Fair Trade Cafe**, 1020 North First Street, for an organic locally roasted coffee.



ROOSEVELT PARK

I've lived here for almost eight years and never realized this park existed. I'm sure I've been by it since it's situated along Third Avenue just south of Roosevelt Street, but its existence is quite subtle. There's a great sculpture in the grassy lawn and some nice shady spots to relax. Get a cuppa Joe at [Lola Coffee](#) located at 1001 North 3rd Avenue and sit a spell in this quaint neighborhood park.



SOHU PARK

A relative twin to Kanu Park, Sohu exhibits many similar characteristics. Same dimensions but slightly different programs. If you didn't know where to go you'd probably walk right by this small linear park. It's located a block north of Kanu Park in the same housing development. If you get hungry during your sojourn, make sure to drop in at **Who's Ya Daddy's BBQ**, 1619 East Washington, and try of their fall-off-the-bone ribs.



TOWNSEND PARK

Even though the address is 520 E Lynwood Street, you will find this park front and center on McDowell Road just west of 7th Street across from the Safeway store. At the moment the playground is undergoing a renovation so only part of the park is open. It's a nice simple neighborhood park. Understated. If you go there, stay away from the multitude of chain restaurants and visit **Chico's Grill**, 530 East McDowell. They are locally owned and operated. 99 cent tacos on Tuesdays.



UNIVERSITY PARK

Located north of Van Buren between 10th and 12th Avenues, University Park offers a community swimming pool, playgrounds, shelters, basketball courts, volleyball, and a softball field. It's fenced so you'll have to use designated access points. If you get hungry, it's best to walk over to **Cibo**, an urban pizzeria cafe, located on the corner of 5th Avenue and Filmore. They're open everyday of the week. Try the Saltimbocca Al Formaggi with a glass of chianti and some fava beans.



VERDE PARK

If you walk east from the Arizona Center along Van Buren about five minutes you'll run into Verde Park at the corner of 9th Street. Once at the park you can play basketball, lay in the shade of some old palm trees, or meet with friends, who may or may not be homeless. After your time here, walk over to another Phoenix public space, Heritage Square and visit a local icon, [Pizzeria Bianco](#) (the best pizza in the city) or the [Rose and Crown Pub](#) for an authentic English pint.



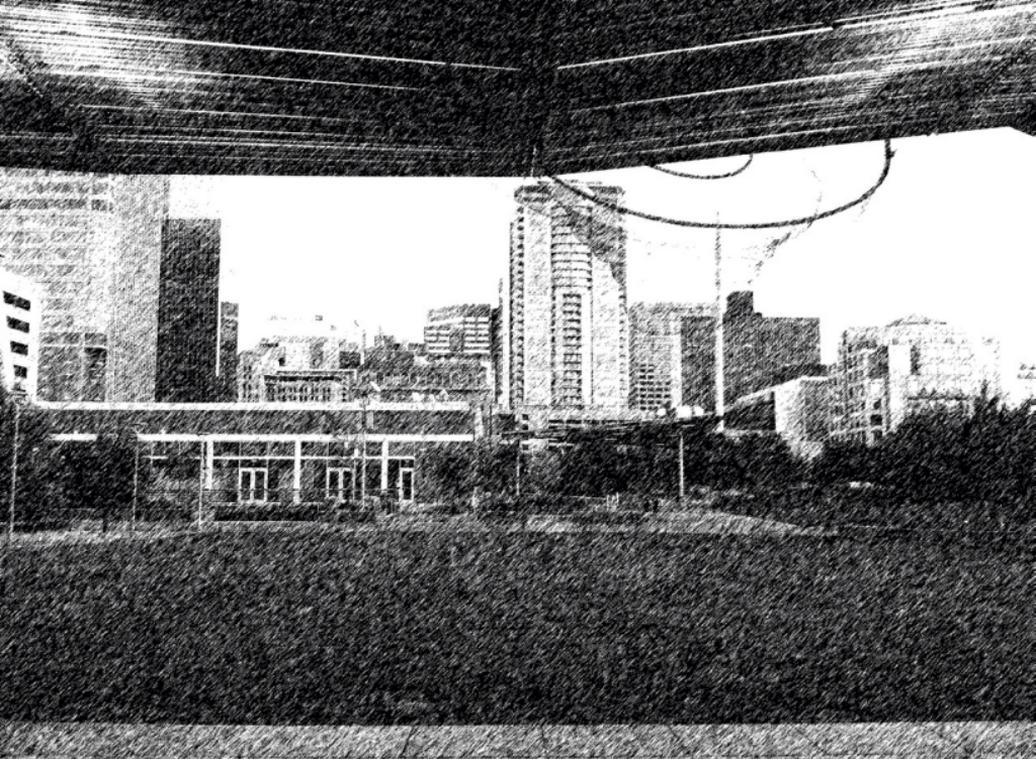
VIRGINIA PARK

Located on the corner of 15th and Virginia Streets, this quaint park has a small shaded playground and a grassy area. It can be accessed by a short walk from the bus stop on 16th Street. This really defines a small neighborhood park, one that is walkable for a number of local kids and their parents. When you're in the neighborhood be sure to check out the [Barrio Cafe](#), 2814 North 16th Street, for some wonderful central-southern Mexican food. Open Tuesday through Sunday.



ENCANTO PARK

At 222 acres, this park weighs in as one of the larger downtown public spaces. Part of its size is due to the golf course, but there's also plenty of everything else too. Complete with an amusement park, swimming pool, lagoon, urban fishing, Encanto is one of the oldest parks in Phoenix. Be sure to go hungry and then stop in at the **Original Hamburger Works** at 2801 North 15th Avenue for a mesquite-broiled hamburger. You can top it with whatever your heart desires from their "fixins" wagon.



CIVIC SPACE PARK

The newest park in the Phoenix downtown area with the worst name, Civic Space Park can be accessed by light rail at the Central Avenue and Van Buren Station. From there walk north and you can't miss it. The centerpiece of this space is the sculpture entitled "Her Secret is Patience" by Janet Echelman. While you're there you can get a coffee at **Fair Trade Cafe** in the lower level of the A.E. England building located in the middle of the park.



PHOENIX PUBLIC MARKET

Located on Central Avenue between McKinley and Pierce Streets, the Public Market holds a weekly Farmer's Market on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. On Fridays you'll find a variety of food trucks serving great meals prepared on the spot. **Royal Coffee** is located adjacent to the market serving piping hot java. Inside the market you'll find a variety of locally grown produce, wines, meats, and cheeses.