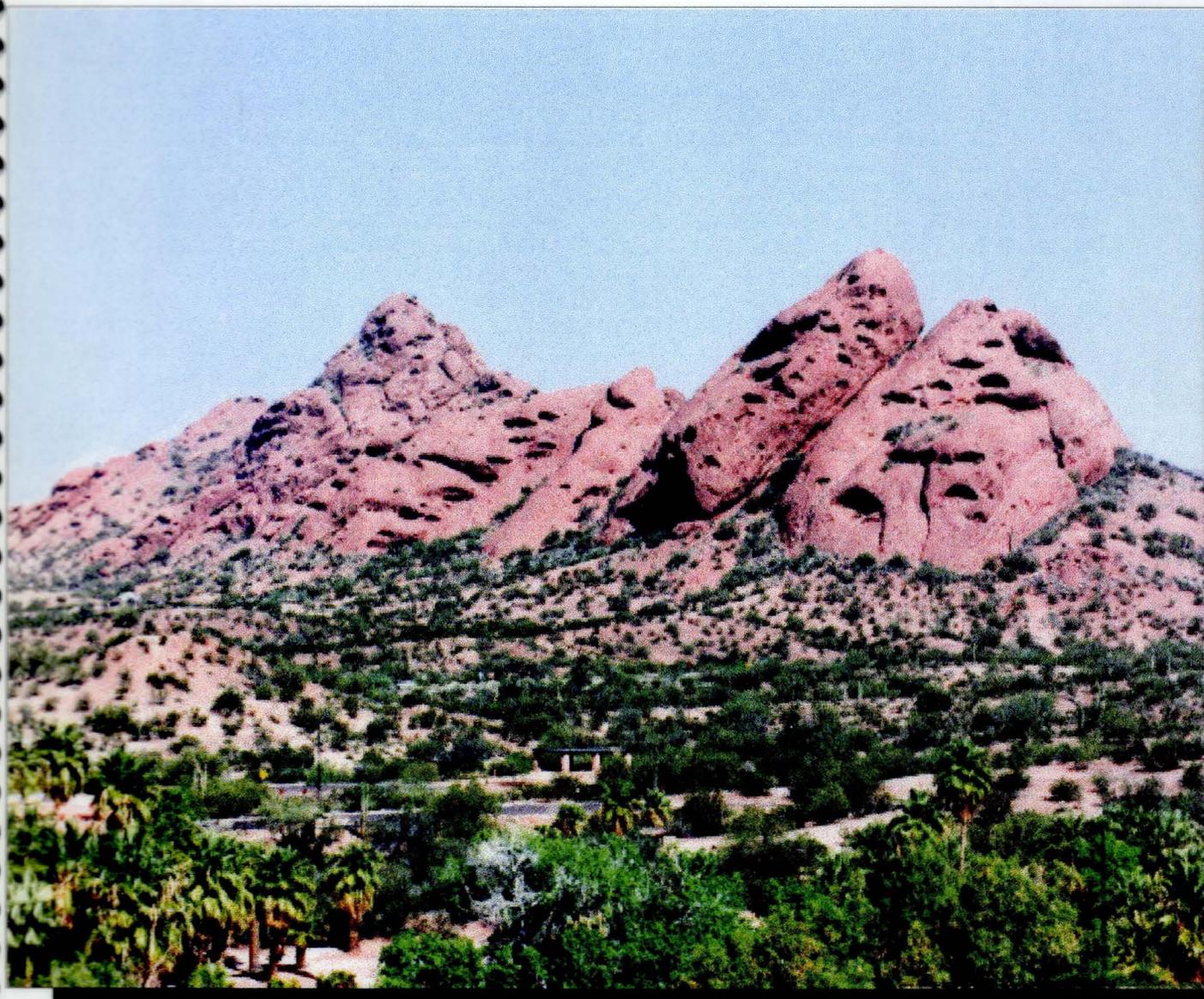


Phoenix Arizona

Papago Park

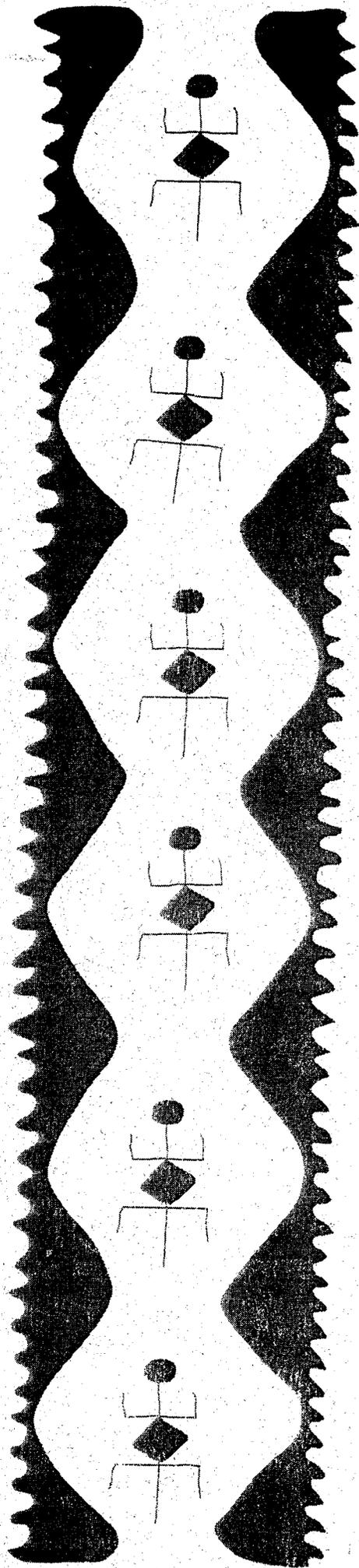
Master Plan



Prepared By: The City of Phoenix Parks, Recreation and Library Department

March 1998

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No description can give lightly the slightest sketch of the full scene beheld with a single sweep of the eyes over any quarter... in a semi-circle array, like outposted sentry towers, or terraced and battle melted castles, some peakroofed-guarded the passes from our camp site to the mountains stood on a line northward bending westward, a series of red colored crags of basalt...[which] threw out low spurs glowing just above the cacti and bush growth, which grew tree-like nearer to them, whilst all too seemed to grow redder than any one or part of them.

Frank Hamilton Cushing, Anthropologist &
Explorer of the Southwest - 1880s

Papago Park Master Plan
March 1998

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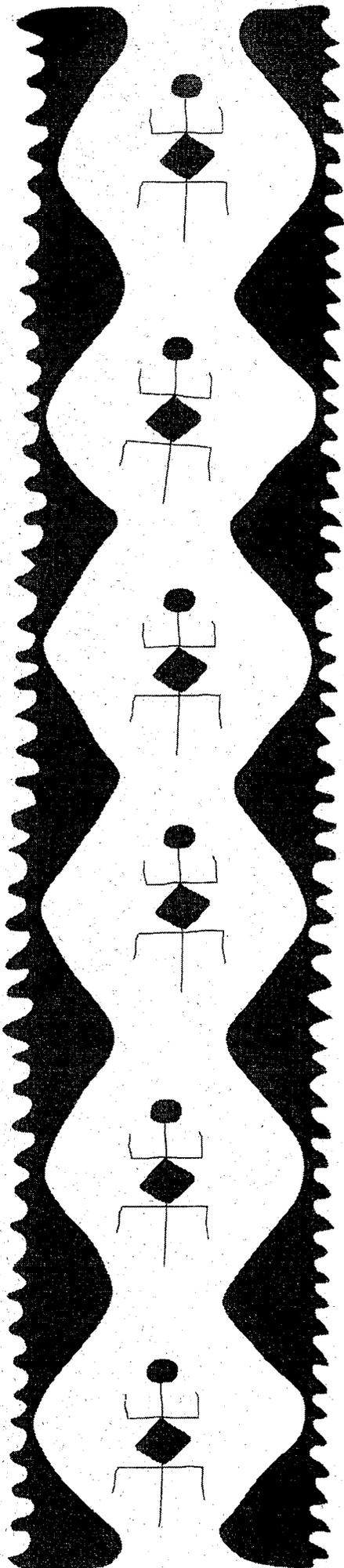
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With Special Thanks to

Jason H. Gart

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SWCA Inc. Environmental Consultants

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Volume II
Table of Contents

List of Supplements iv

Executive Summary v.

Papago Park Inventory Volume I (Chapter 1 and Chapter 2) is available at Parks, Recreation and Library Dept, Parks Development Division, 200 West Washington, 16th Floor

CHAPTER 3

Introduction.....3-1

The Process

Inventory/Analysis.....3-3

Program Development.....3-4

Conceptual Design Development.....3-4

Final Master Plan.....3-6

The Plan

Municipal Stadium

Plan Summary.....3-8

Recommendations3-8

Phasing.....3-9

Papago Park

Plan Summary.....3-10

Recommendations3-12

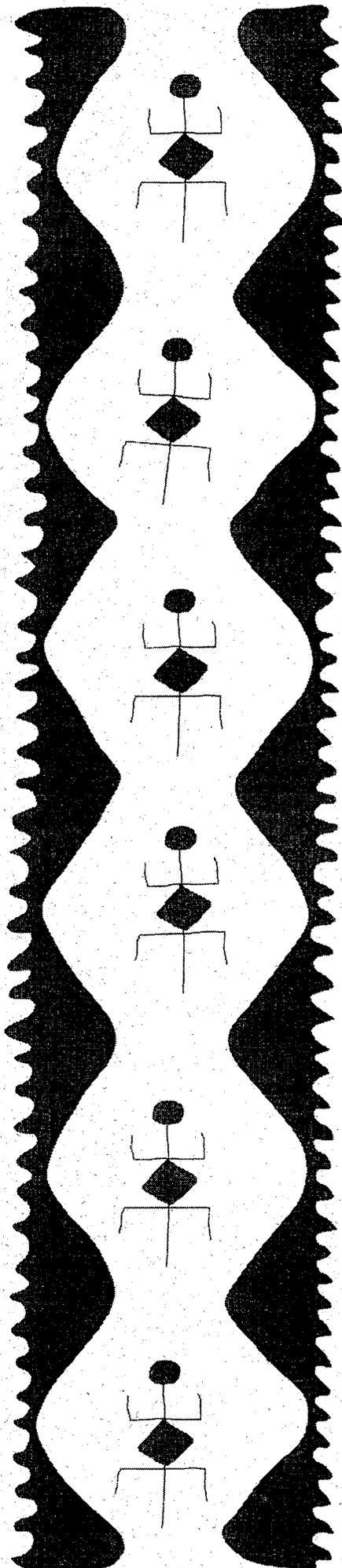
Phasing.....3-14

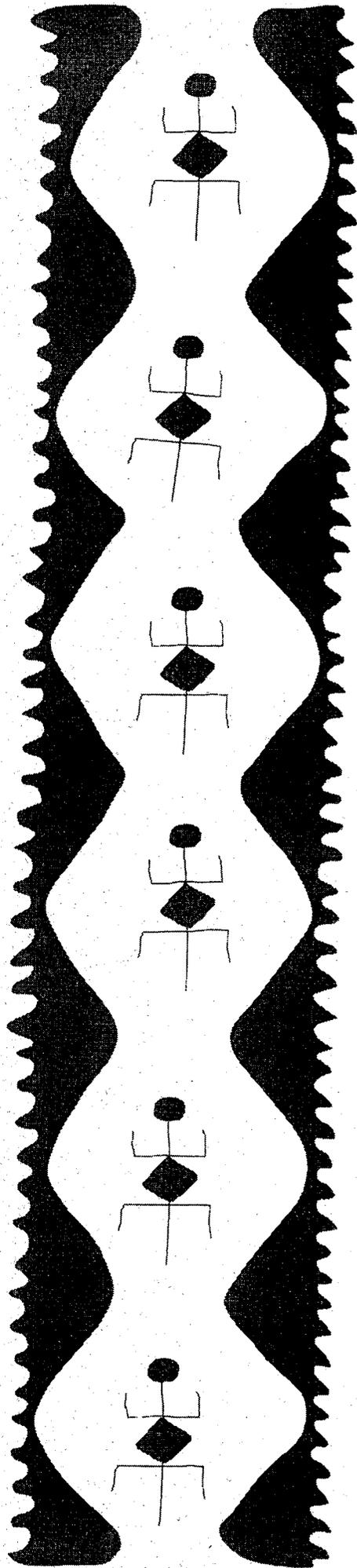
Sports Complex

Plan Summary.....3-15

Recommendations3-16

Phasing3-18





List of Supplements

(Available for review at Parks, Recreation and Library Department, Parks Development Division, 200 West Washington, 16th Floor)

Papago Park Inventory- Volume I

Appendix A Past and Related Master Plans of Papago Park

Appendix B Papago Park Improvements 1955-1997

Appendix C Cultural Resources

Appendix D Calendar of Major Annual Events at Papago Park

Appendix E Papago Park Deed

Papago Park Photo Book

Visual Quality Photo Reference

Papago Park: A History of Hole-In-The Rock from 1848 to 1996 - Jason H. Gart

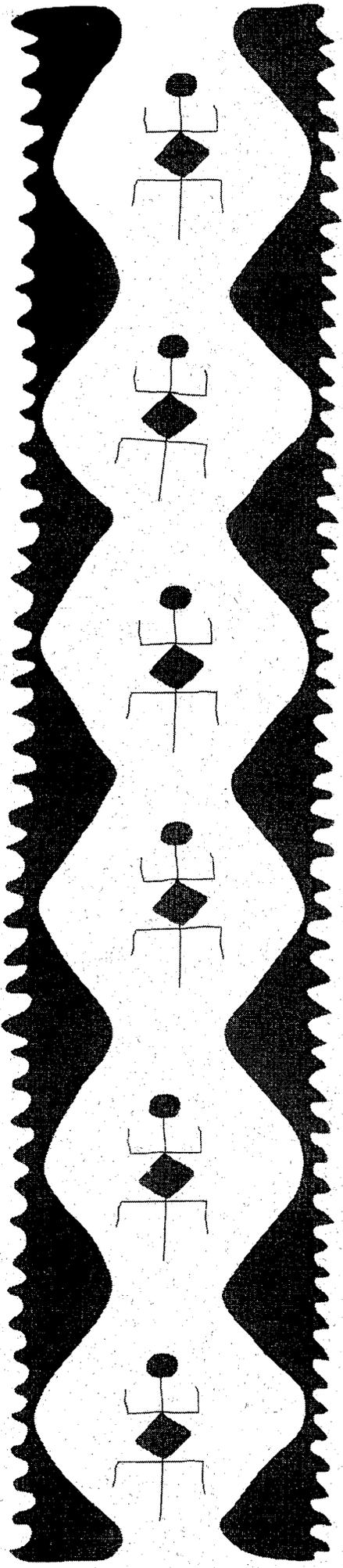
Archaeological Survey of Phoenix's Papago Park, Maricopa County - K. J. Schroeder

Phoenix Historical Preservation Commission Recommendations

Tempe Papago Park Master Plan - 1986 Cella Barr Associates

Wildlife Habitat Inventory- SWCA Inc. Environmental Consultants- 1998

Papago Park Trails Plan- Technical Document and Trails Inventory- School of Planning and Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design, Arizona State University

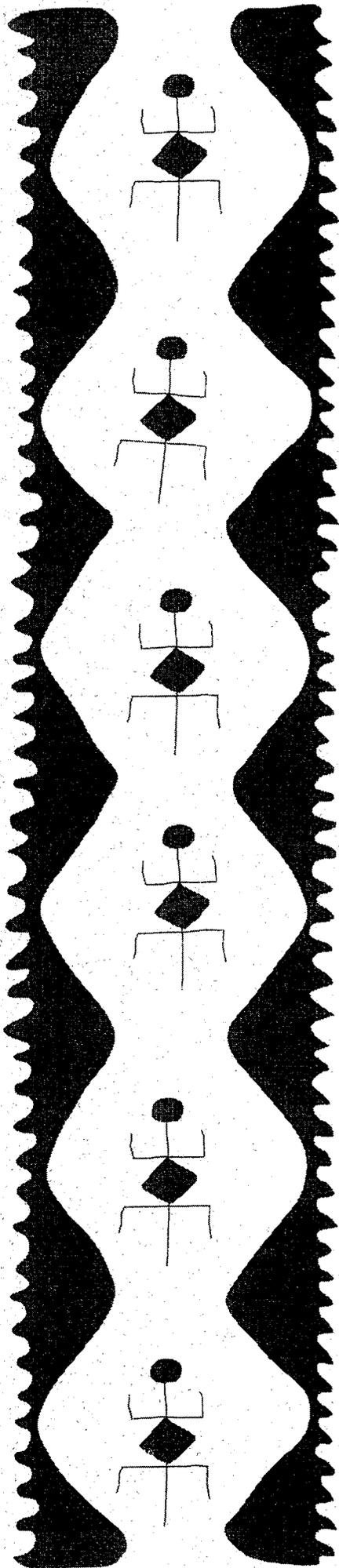


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Phoenix's Papago Park is a regional park that serves citizens throughout the Valley of the Sun. Papago Park is also a popular tourism destination for the state of Arizona, with over two million visitors annually. Papago has many out-standing features, making it a unique recreation area in the midst of metropolitan Phoenix. The most distinguishing natural elements in the park are terra-cotta colored rock outcroppings collectively known as the Papago Buttes. Valleywide attractions and events at Papago Park include: Major League baseball spring training; The Phoenix Zoo; Desert Botanical Garden; and numerous opportunities for casual outdoor recreation such as hiking, bicycling, picnicking, and fishing, to name a few.

The Papago Park Master Plan is a series of recommendations to assist in guiding future development, management, and operation of Phoenix's Papago Park. The Papago Park Master Plan proposes balanced, well-managed recreation opportunities and high quality facilities while supporting natural, archaeological, and historical resources that characterize the park's landscape. To achieve these goals, this plan makes the following recommendations:

- Provide opportunities for formal interpretation of the park's flora, fauna, historic, prehistoric, and natural features.
- Preservation of Papago Buttes with trails placed around their base. Preserve and restore sensitive habitats. Protect valuable views to and from the buttes.
- Revegetate open space using native Sonoran plant materials and seed mix, which is appropriate for Papago Park and consistent with park revegetation plans.



- Use planning to balance development and management efforts, and improve public awareness towards the park's prehistoric, historic, and cultural resources. Traditional planning methods will be integrated with landscape and environmental values to accomplish this goal.
- Develop comprehensive graphics and signage to direct and inform park visitors. Signage will identify destination points within the park, provide an overview of trail systems throughout the park, interpret natural and historic features, provide information on the proper use of facilities, and promote safety.
- Designate specific corridors for development of a recreational trail system. Trails will be designed and constructed for use by hikers, joggers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Define a hierarchy of trail by type and difficulty. Measures to discourage "trail blazing" will be implemented to preserve park vegetation, wildlife, and features.
- Renovate existing buildings, ramadas, and other structures. Renovation shall preserve and enhance the integrity of historic structures. Restrooms and other buildings will be modified to comply with current building and accessibility codes. New building materials shall be selected for compatibility with the surrounding natural environment.
- Develop new facilities that meet the need for recreation and support facilities. Sports lighting will be added with current technology using "cut-off" type fixtures to minimize light glare. New facilities will be integrated into the existing terrain to achieve an aesthetic, non-intrusive appearance.

Chapter 3

Introduction

The City of Phoenix purchased Papago Park in 1959. In its nearly forty year span as a city park, Papago has gained a special place in the heart of this community as a highly cherished park and delicate natural resource. Papago Park's own endearing qualities have become an over-extended invitation to our citizens and outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

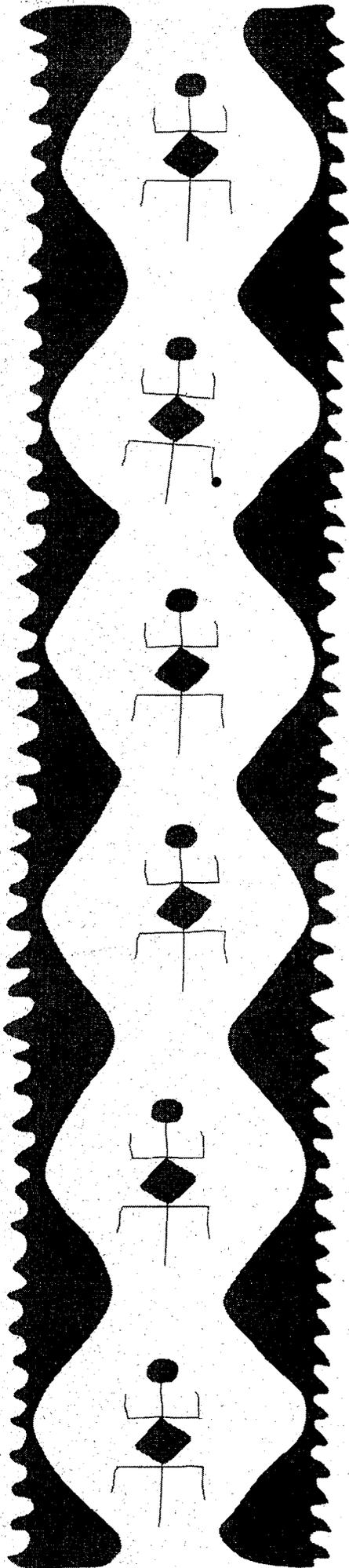
It is no wonder that Papago Park is a desirable destination point. Scenic vistas throughout the park give beautiful skyline views at every point of the compass for hikers and joggers and a challenge to be conquered by mountain cyclists.

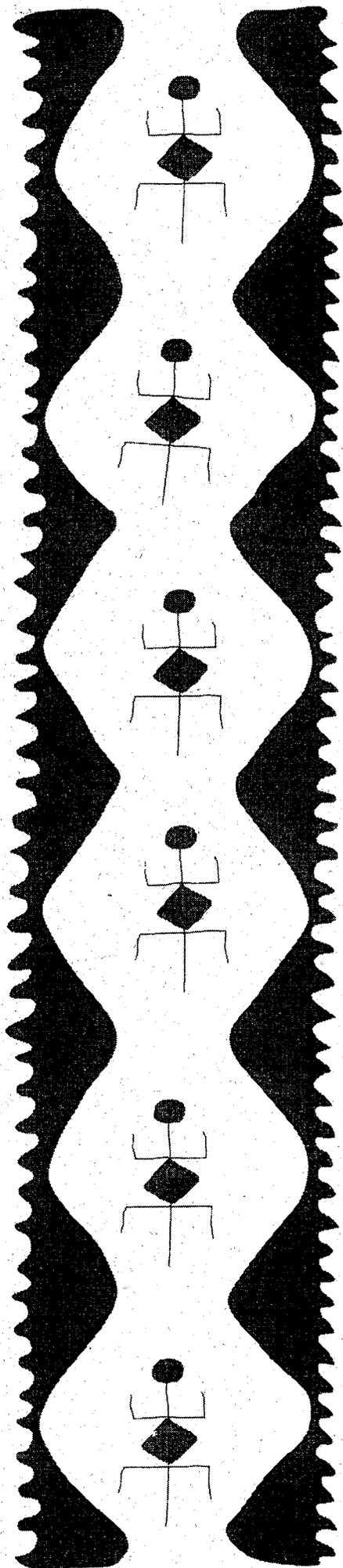
Papago has open and undeveloped space which appeals to developers as a place to implement their ideas for creative uses.

Winding park roads serve as necessary commuter thoroughfares. Rush hour traffic travelling at rush hour speed contrasts and conflicts with the leisurely pace of pedestrians and bike riders.

In addition to the intrinsic qualities of Papago which naturally attract visitors, a growing number of events and celebrations bring in people by the hundreds and thousands.

All this use of Papago Park has raised concern for the preservation of Papago's natural features. At the same time, growing populations and the need for expanding services have made demands on the City of Phoenix for more places to hold organized activities and sporting events.





It is time that Papago Park receive due attention to accomplish the important task of natural resource preservation and providing balanced recreation opportunities for all.

In April 1996, the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board approved the initiation of a master plan process to direct the future of Papago Park. The board appointed a steering committee that worked with City of Phoenix Parks, Recreation and Library Department staff to develop the Papago Park Master Plan. In keeping with the goals of the board, this master plan recommends ways to preserve, enhance, and improve Papago's delicate eco-system while offering well-managed, quality recreation opportunities for citizens and visitors. The Papago Park Master Plan will be implemented over a 20-year period. The cost is estimated at \$23 million to be funded by future City of Phoenix capital improvement bond programs.

What follows is a summary of the master plan process and a description of the master plan with its components, priorities, and phases.

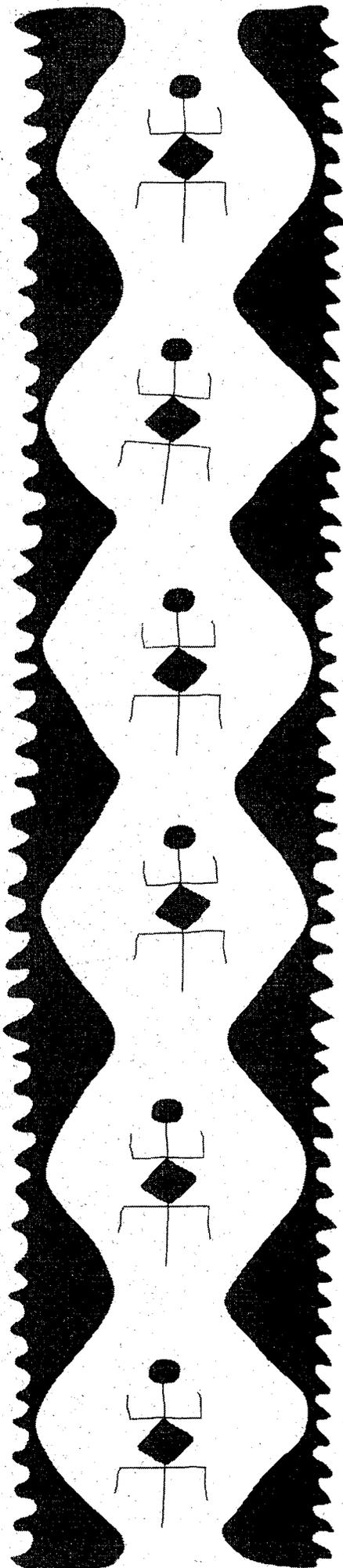
Inventory/Analysis

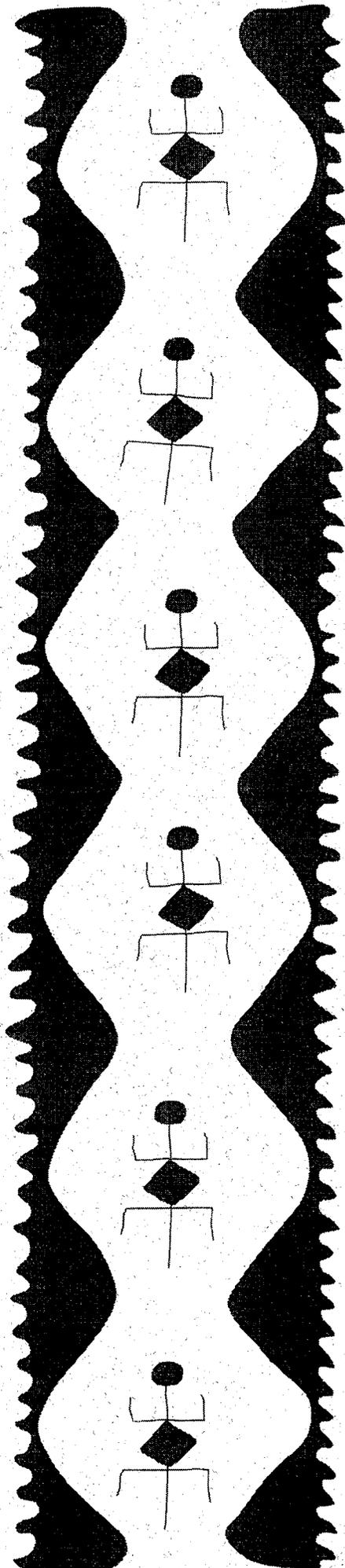
To begin the planning process, Parks Development staff from the Parks, Recreation and Library Department completed a comprehensive park inventory (see Papago Park Inventory—Volume I) as a basis for the master plan. Field inventories and photographs were taken to record and evaluate existing park conditions. Staff also researched city archives to collect information about park activities since 1959 when the City of Phoenix took ownership.

To supplement staff efforts, both an archaeologist and historian were hired to prepare and publish written accounts about Papago Park. The historical account encompasses years between 1848 and 1995. The archaeological survey maps archaeological sites within Papago Park and contains sketches of various artifacts.

A grant to fund a wildlife habitat inventory came from the Arizona Game and Fish Department. With that money, a consultant was hired to conduct a one-year study to record vegetative plant communities and habitats of resident mammals and reptiles. Migratory and resident birds were also surveyed. Included in the habitat inventory are recommendations on how to protect these natural resources.

Graduate students from the School of Planning and Landscape Architecture, College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Arizona State University prepared and presented a comprehensive trails plan for Papago Park. The trails plan includes recommendations to create a hierarchy trail system. The students recommendations are used in the master plan.





Program Development

Actual program development kicked off with the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board appointing a 15-member steering committee.

Committee members represented the following interests and entities: the cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe; Papago Salado Association; Arizona National Guard; Desert Botanical Garden; The Phoenix Zoo; Historic Preservation Commission; Pueblo Grande Museum Auxiliary; Mountain Biker's Association of Arizona; Women's Softball Association; Golf Advisory Council; and private citizens. The committee began their work by reviewing the Papago Park Inventory and touring the park to learn the layout. They met monthly to develop the park program and design concept alternatives.

The general public participated in the planning process through two public open houses. Public comment, both written and verbal, were recorded and analyzed for consideration by staff and the committee. Interested participants were kept informed of updates on the planning process through newsletters.

Conceptual Design Development

To organize the planning process, Papago Park was divided into three areas (see Figure 3-1) each with its own design concepts.

Municipal Stadium - South of Van Buren Street: Includes Phoenix Municipal Stadium and adjacent parking, Hall of Flame, and peripheral undeveloped areas.

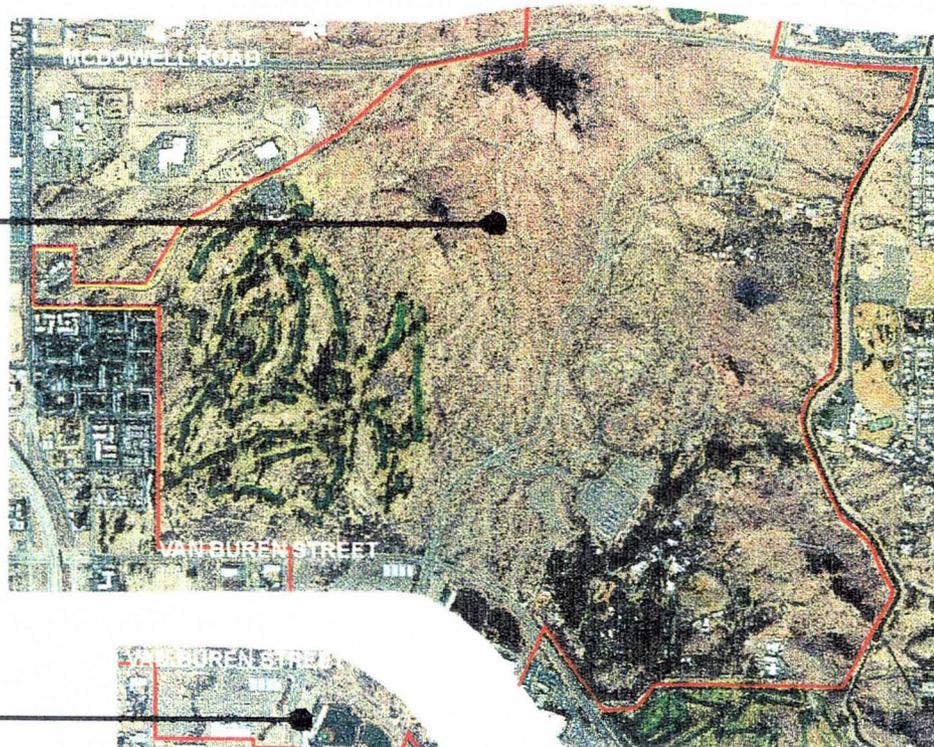
Papago Park Master Plan Planning Areas

Figure 3-1

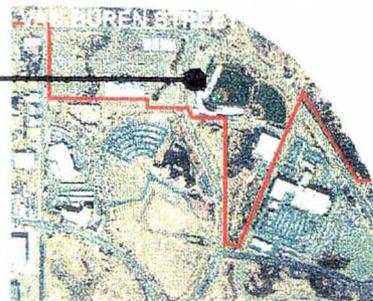
Sports Complex

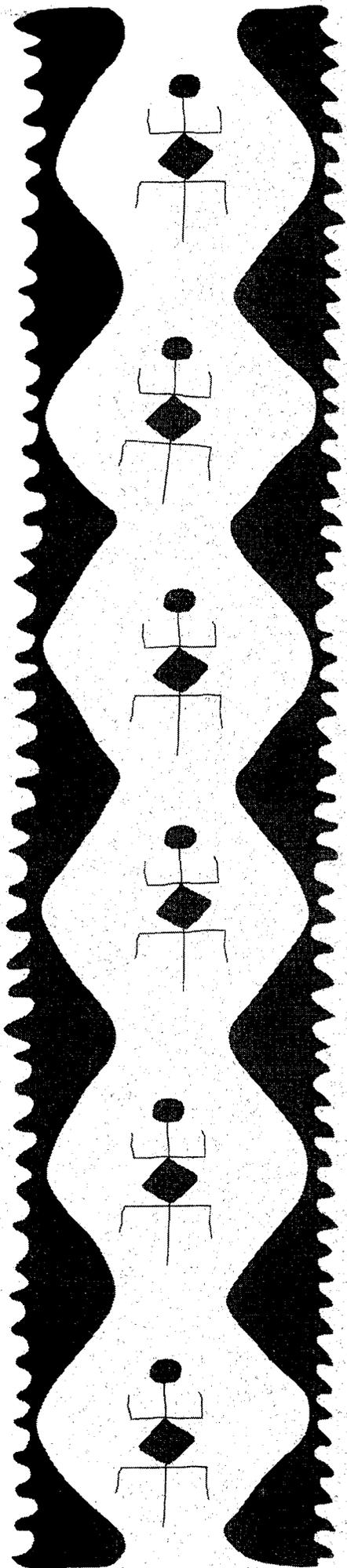


Papago Park



Municipal Stadium





Papago Park - Between Van Buren Street and McDowell Road: Includes Desert Botanical Garden, The Phoenix Zoo, lagoons, picnic and ramada areas, trails, the buttes, Hole-in-the-Rock, Hunt's Tomb, interpretive trails, ranger station, desert open space, and Papago Golf Course.

Sports Complex - North of McDowell Road: Includes the Papago Park Baseball Facility (Oakland A's training complex), Papago Softball Complex, archery range, buttes, trails and desert open space.

Based on the Papago Park Inventory, goals and objectives were developed for each planning area and address the following issues: Park identity, enterprise, management and operations, environmental enhancements, pedestrian and vehicular travel, and facility and golf course renovations.

City staff prepared several design concepts for Papago Park area and the Sports Complex. Only one plan was developed for Municipal Stadium. With the amount of existing facilities there is minimal significant open space remaining. Several concepts were prepared which propose varying levels of development and preservation of park features. The concepts addressed aesthetic and functional concerns as part of the planning process. For example, proposed facilities were located so they integrate well into natural surroundings.

The steering committee approved a recommended Papago Park Master Plan in December 1997, which was approved with modifications by the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board in March 1998.

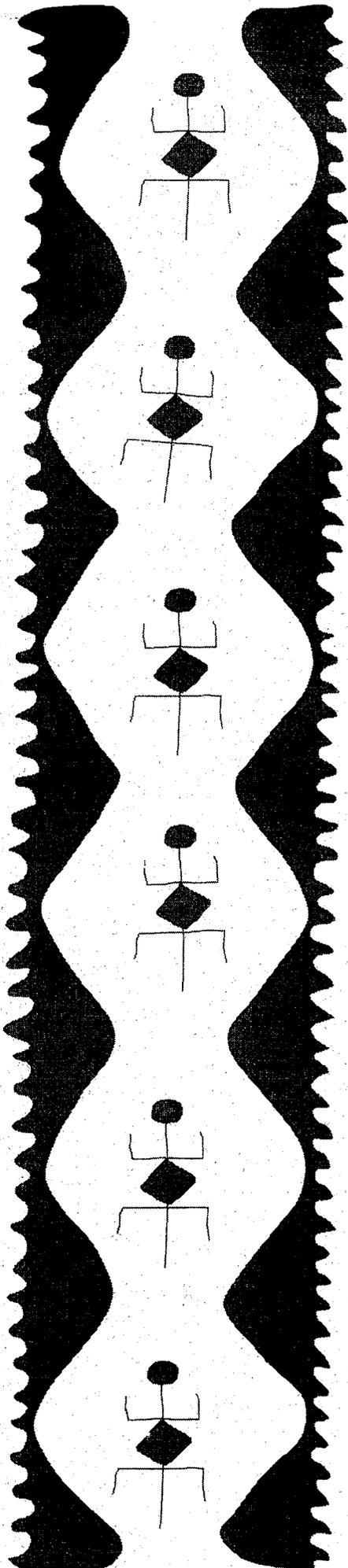
Final Master Plan

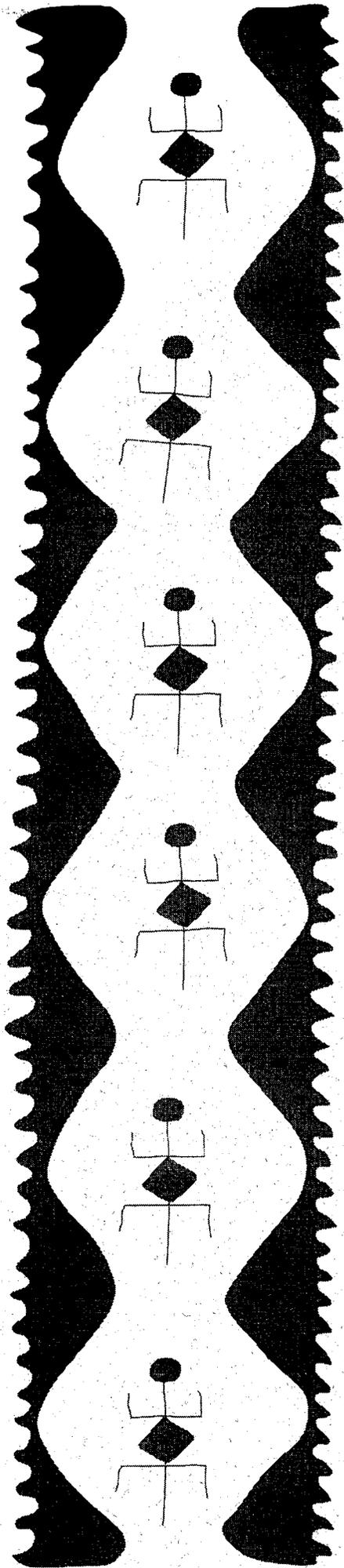
The approved Papago Park Master Plan proposes balanced, well-managed recreation opportunities and high quality facilities while supporting natural, archaeological, and historical resources that characterize the park's landscape.

The ultimate success of the master plan depends on the preservation of Papago's natural assets. Natural features such as Papago Buttes and other rock outcroppings, desert open space areas, and vegetation are to be preserved and enhanced. Views of the park from surrounding streets and from within the park are to be given primary consideration in future design and development decisions. Views to significant features must be kept unobstructed. Desert open spaces will be enhanced using landscape materials, forms, colors, and textures that complement the natural elements in Papago Park.

By making some areas of the park less accessible to vehicle traffic, the park will regain an element of solitude. A redesign of the trail system will allow more use by pedestrians and minimize damage to natural areas and habitats. A trails inventory completed by ASU includes a list of existing trails designated by type and user and rated by difficulty. Implementation of the master plan will incorporate recommendations from this report to develop a trail system that is user friendly and respects the natural areas of the park.

A plan for a complete signage system will be developed and use the Parks, Recreation and Library Department's existing approved sign package to provide directional, regulation, trails and information signage throughout the park.





The plan recommends removal of approximately 4,800 linear feet of asphalt paving. West Park Drive, between the golf course parking lot and Galvin Parkway will be removed entirely. A new multi-use, fully accessible trail will be created in this alignment. In the picnic area, roadways will be redesigned to improve traffic flow, parking, and reduce cruising.

The park will regain its former luster with selected areas to be revegetated using native Sonoran plant materials and seed mix. Initially, areas north of McDowell Road will contain a demonstration project surrounding the baseball facility. A temporary irrigation system will be installed and the area fenced to prevent damage by rodents and recreation users. Once the demonstration project is determined to be successful, the revegetation effort will be implemented at a larger scale throughout the park.

Municipal Stadium

Plan Summary

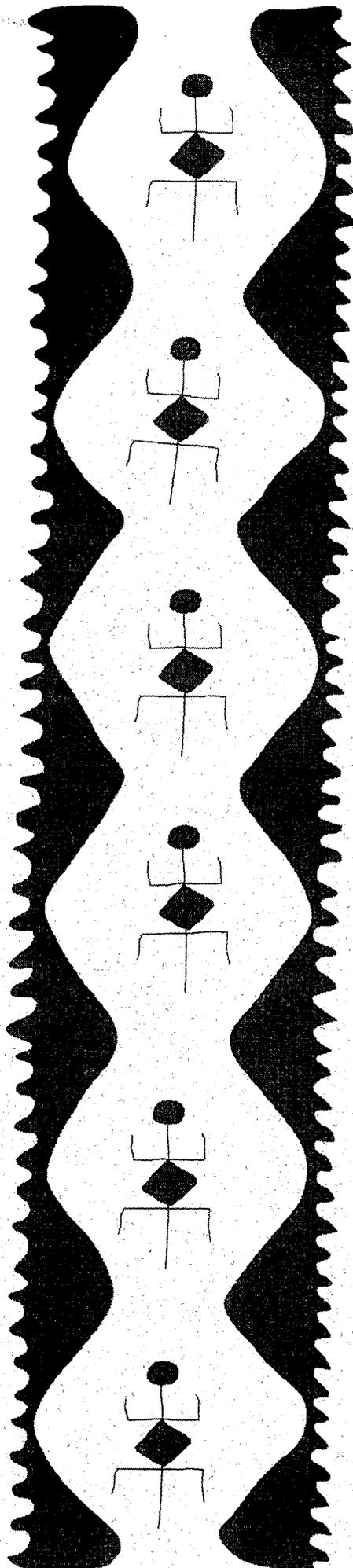
The Municipal Stadium area is a 57-acre section of land south of Van Buren Street, which serves as an enterprise zone in Papago Park. Contracts with the Oakland Athletics and a parking and food concessionaire provide revenue to the City's operating budget. Annually, the stadium and parking lot generate more money by hosting several special events whose attendance exceeds 120,000.

Continued revenue production is the key function in this area of the park. The master plan recommends an expansion of Phoenix Municipal Stadium. The City is also considering acquisition of a property at the southwest corner of Van Buren and 56th Street for future enterprise development.

Recommendations

Figure 3-2 illustrates the proposed master plan for Municipal Stadium.

- ◆ Expand Municipal Stadium Complex and add other contractual revenue producing entities.
- ◆ Enhance landscaping and pedestrian environment along Van Buren Street and Priest Drive, include landscape improvements to the washes in this area.
- ◆ Improve transit stops
- ◆ Parking Area - Improve with landscaping, resurface and stripe the parking lot to maximize the number of spaces, improve vehicle east access (handicapped parking area) which at present is accessible only from the south.





Municipal Stadium

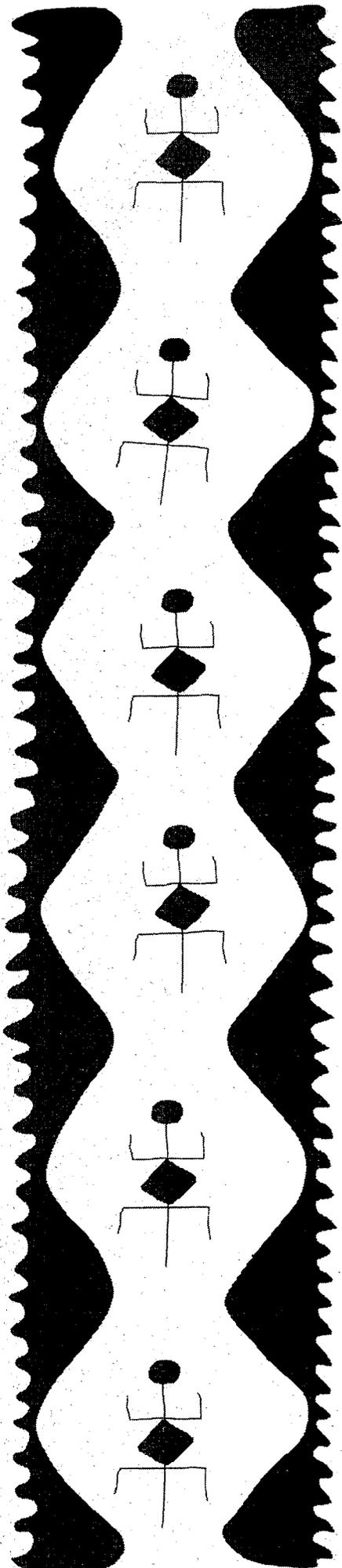
Figure 3-2

- Park Boundary 
- Trails 
- Intersection Improvement 
- Entrance Monument & Directional Signage 
- Transit Stops 
- Streetscape Improvements 
- Potential Acquisition 
- Wash Improvements 

Papago Park Master Plan

Approved by The Parks
and Recreation Board
March 1998





- ◆ Design and install entrance monument signs.
- ◆ Replace information/directional signs, using approved sign package, at Galvin Parkway and Van Buren Street intersection.
- ◆ Enhance pedestrian bridge over Priest Drive.
- ◆ Evaluate alternatives for a safer crossing of Van Buren.
- ◆ Complete trail connections and improvements to surrounding uses.

Phasing

Phase I - Landscape, resurface, and stripe parking lot and re-stripe and modify Priest Drive to improve accessibility to east parking lot.

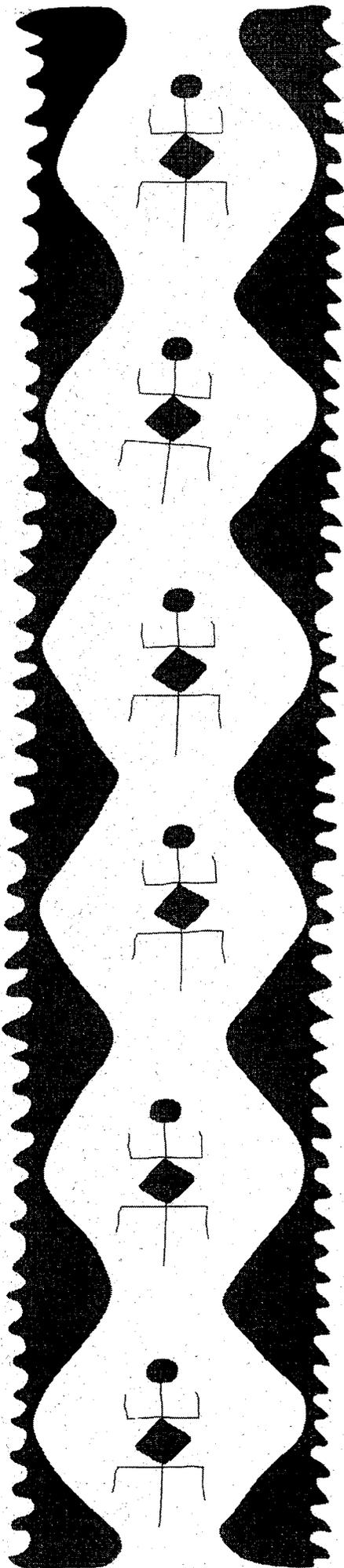
Projected cost: \$1.3 million-\$1.6 million

Phase II - Add directional and monument signs; add landscape treatment to Van Buren Street, enhance washes; and install transit stops, trail improvements, and connections to surrounding areas.

Projected cost: \$500,000-\$850,000

Phase III - Improve pedestrian crossings to north side of Van Buren Street and make enhancements to pedestrian bridge.

Projected cost: \$700,000-\$900,000



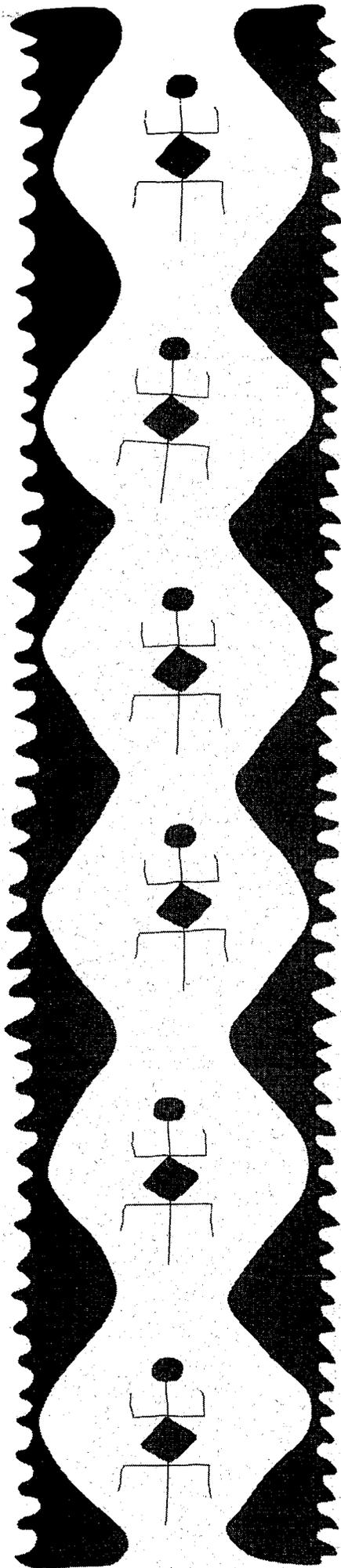
Papago Park

Plan Summary

The 940-acre, Papago Park contains the majority of natural open space and destination features which visitors come to enjoy: The Phoenix Zoo, Desert Botanical Garden, Papago Golf Course, Hole-in-the-Rock, picnic areas, and fishing lagoons. This area is the main focal area of Papago Park and provides the most opportunities for improvement and preservation that will raise the park to the status of a premier desert park in an urban surrounding.

The master plan recommends a comprehensive interpretation program to guide and educate the public about Papago's historic and natural resources.

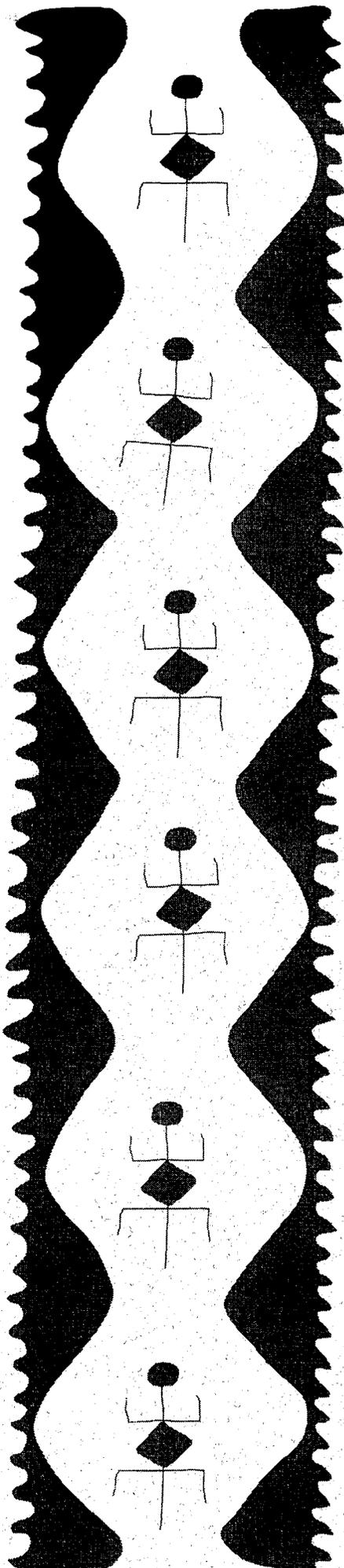
Trail corridors inside the park will be designed to allow visitors to experience the natural features such as the buttes, desert open space, native vegetation, views, and animal habitats. Trail routes will also provide improved access to park services. Trailheads will be created that offer shade, drinking water, and parking at strategic locations. The trails will be properly signed with ratings for difficulty. Trail users of all abilities will have opportunities to hike throughout the park. The existing roadway from Galvin Parkway to Papago Golf Course will be removed and transformed into a multi-use trail. A potential tunnel will tie together both sides of Papago Park by crossing under Galvin Parkway, south of the Desert Botanical Garden.



The picnic area will be renovated by redesigning roads and parking areas to eliminating unnecessary paving. Restrooms and ramadas will also be remodeled. These improvements will recreate safe and enjoyable picnic grounds and provide accommodations for all visitors.

The existing ranger station in the picnic area will be enlarged and remodeled to provide a complete interpretive experience for Papago Park visitors.

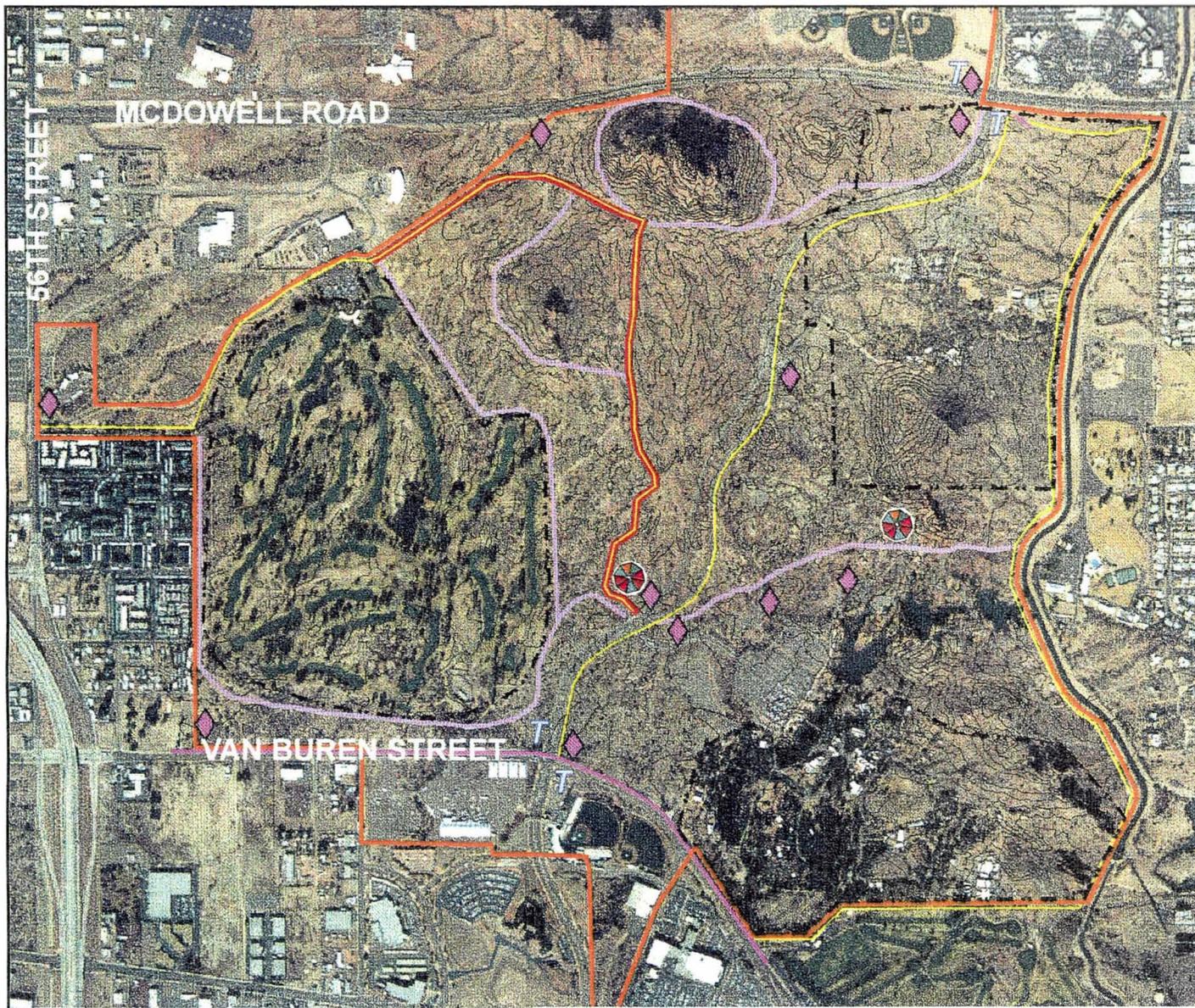
The banks of the lagoons will be stabilized and revegetated to prevent further erosion and improve natural wildlife habitats and water quality.



Recommendations

Figure 3-3 illustrates the proposed master plan for Papago Park.

- ◆ Develop a park interpretation plan with educational information on historical, natural, and cultural features within Papago Park.
- ◆ Expand and remodel existing ranger station in the picnic area to provide a complete interpretive experience for Papago Park visitors.
- ◆ Revegetate open space areas (see Figure 3-4). Revegetation work shall be geographically phased throughout the zone.
- ◆ Provide designated multi-use trails throughout the park, around Barnes Butte (south of McDowell Road), around the smaller (unnamed) butte south of Eliot Ramada, and from Crosscut Canal to the lighted intersection at Galvin Parkway.
- ◆ Remove West Park Drive from the golf course boundary to Galvin Parkway and transform into a multi-use trail with trailhead amenities (parking, shade, and water).
- ◆ Modify signage to identify the pullout parking area adjacent to the amphitheater on McDowell Road as drop-off only.
- ◆ Implement a comprehensive graphics plan, using approved sign package, to include entrance monument markers at all park entrance points, including the 52nd Street access. Add directional signage on Galvin Parkway at McDowell Road, Desert Botanical Garden, and The Phoenix Zoo entries.



Papago Park

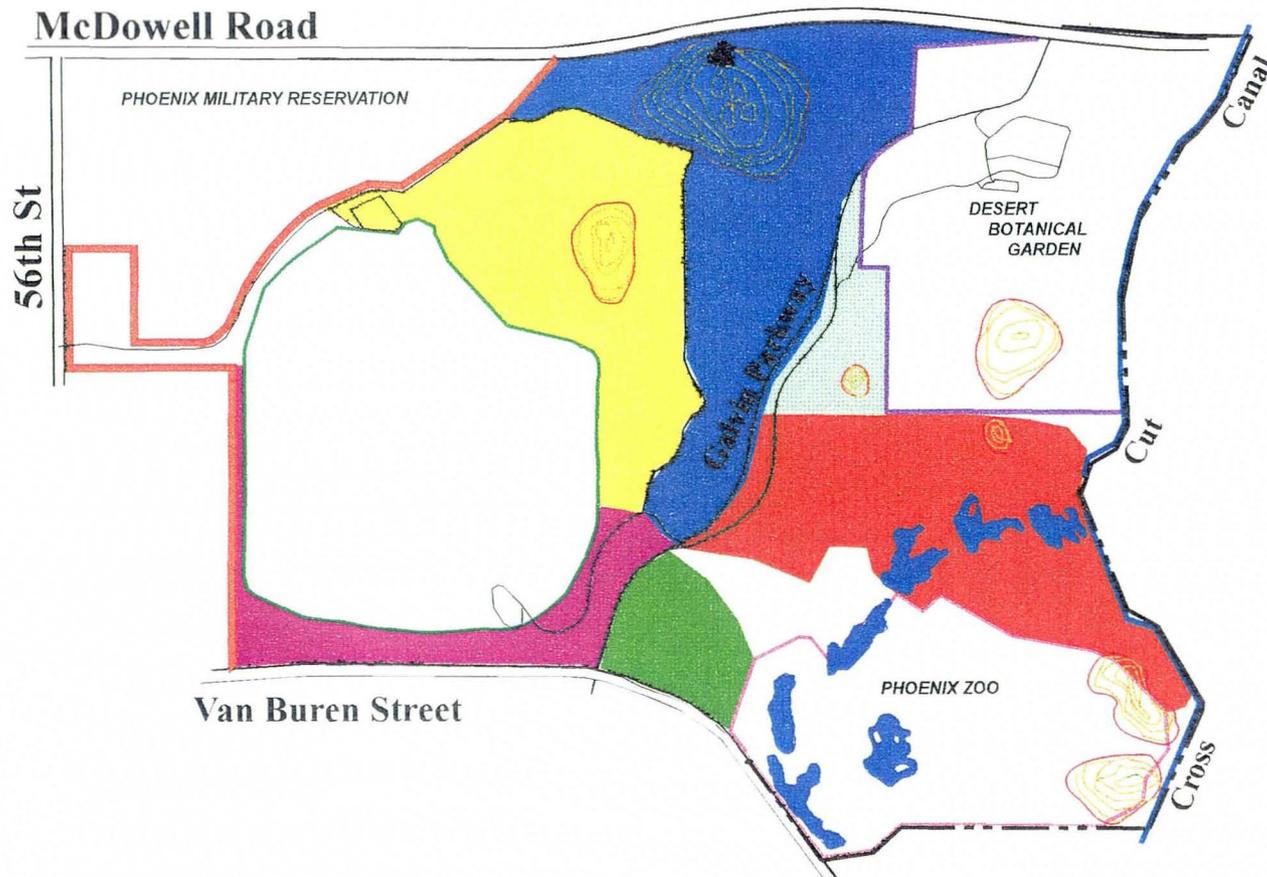
Figure 3-3

- Park Boundary 
- Remove Road 
- Trails 
- Multi-Use Trail 
- Trailhead
 - Shade 
 - Drinking Fountains
 - Ramada
- Entrance Monument & Directional Signage 
- Transit Stops 

Papago Park Master Plan

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and Recreation Board
March 1998





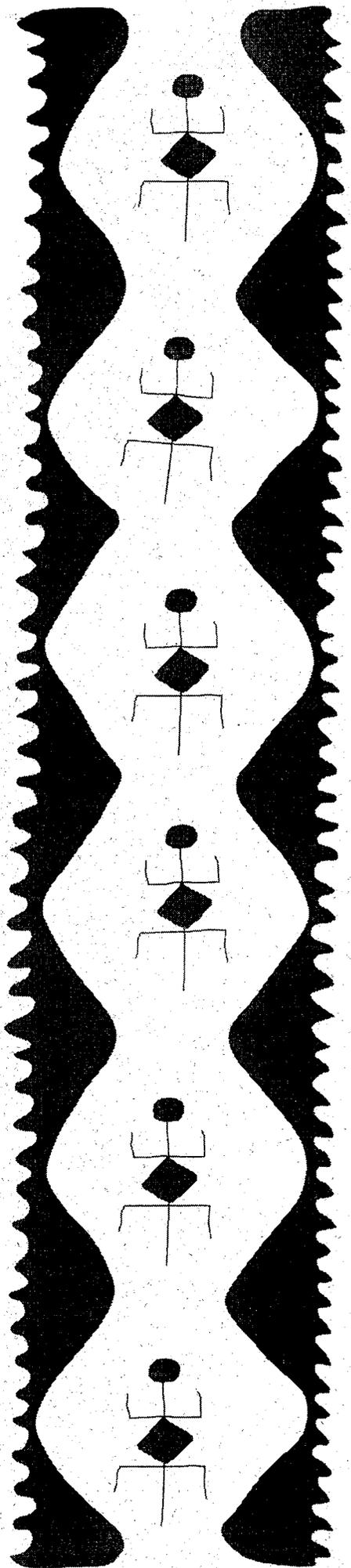
Papago Park Revegetation Phases

Figure 3-4

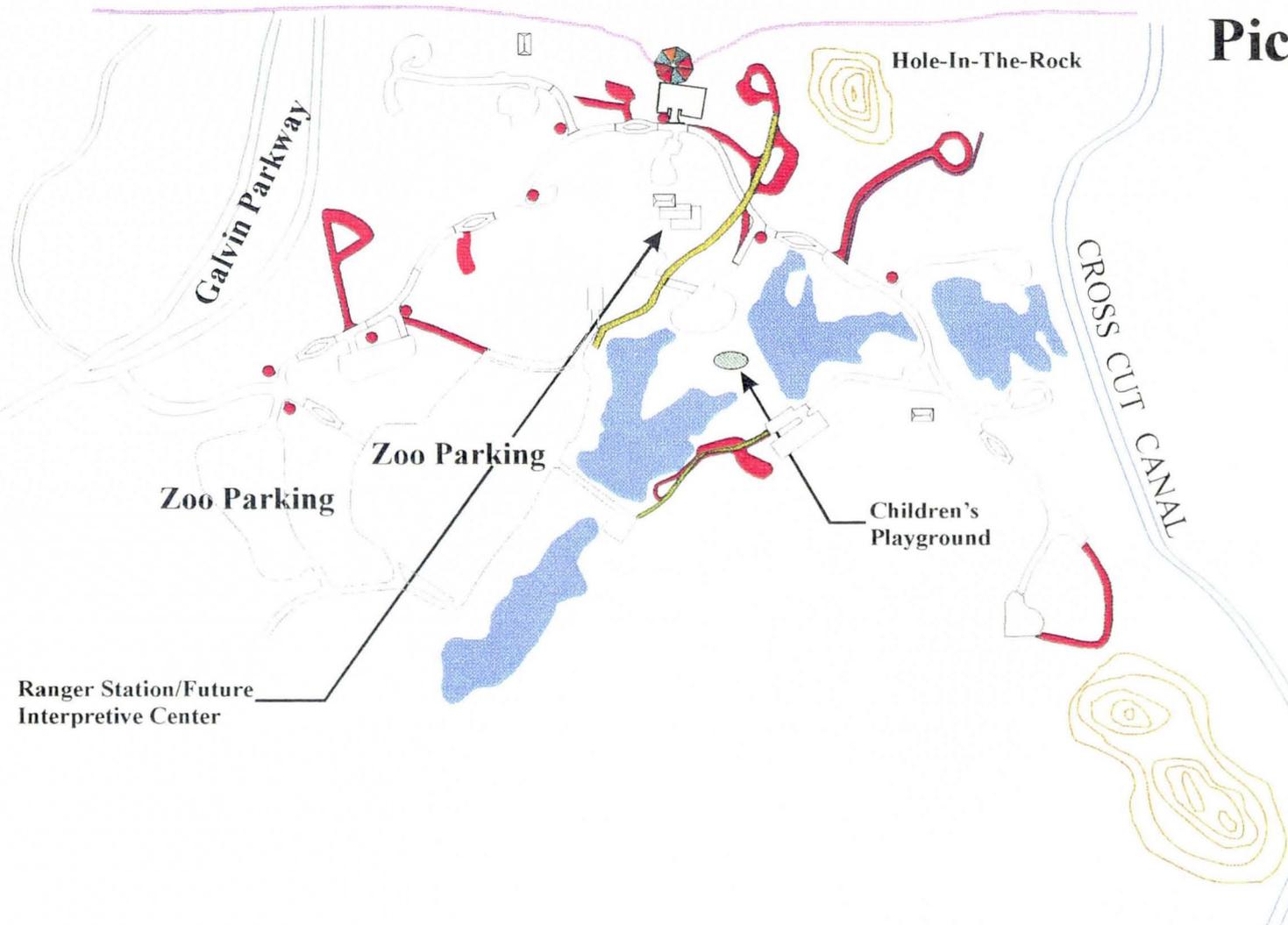
- Phase I
- Phase II
- Phase III
- Phase IV
- Phase V
- Phase VI

Papago Park Master Plan

North March 1998



- ◆ Initiate renovations and improvements to the existing golf course. Replace non-indigenous vegetation as it dies with species that are compatible to Papago Park.
- ◆ Renovate existing clubhouse. Renovations to be paid for by the Golf Enterprise Fund.
- ◆ Do not expand golf course beyond existing boundaries.
- ◆ Renovate lagoons with water level controls and bank stabilization for improved water quality and habitat. Revegetate shorelines for wildlife enhancement. Provide accessible fishing docks.
- ◆ Remove orienteering course.
- ◆ Renovate picnic area to improve picnic and support facilities and improve efficiency of vehicular and pedestrian traffic (see Figure 3-5.) Renovation will include removing pavement, adding and relocating parking, revegetating open space, adding a children's playground, renovating historic structures, and increasing the size of the existing ranger station for an interpretive center.
- ◆ Research the feasibility of constructing a multi-use tunnel under Galvin Parkway south of the Desert Botanical Garden.



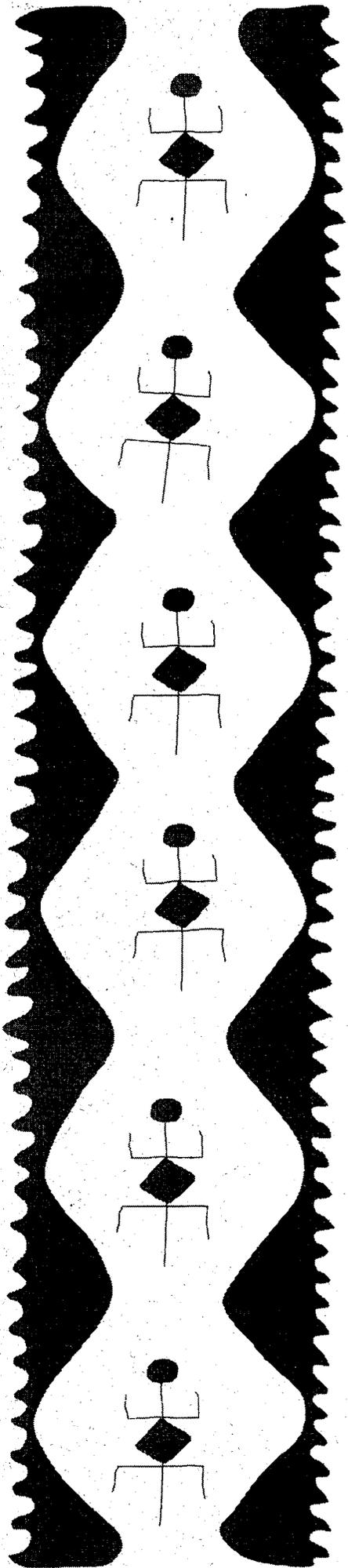
Picnic Grounds

Figure 3-5

-  Trail
-  Remove asphalt roadway
-  Install asphalt roadway
-  Install dirt trail
-  Remove roadway-install trail
-  Stop sign
-  Trailhead

Papago Park Master Plan

 North March 1998



Phasing

Phase I - Revegetate highest priority areas, improve and complete trail system, remove roads to Eliot Ramada and replace with trailhead and multi-use trails, provide trail directional signage, remove orienteering course, add lagoon water level controls, and repave roads and parking lots in picnic area. Projected cost: \$1.3 million-\$1.6 million

Phase II - Continue revegetation program, renovate lake shoreline stabilization, improve picnic area parking and streets, complete directional signage, and complete remainder of trail improvements. Projected cost: \$2.5 million

Phase III - Renovate restrooms and ramadas and historic structures. Complete revegetation in the picnic area, add playground area, expand ranger station to provide an interpretive center, and evaluate possibility of a tunnel under Galvin Parkway. Develop wetland habitat around lagoons. Projected cost: \$1.8 million-\$2 million.

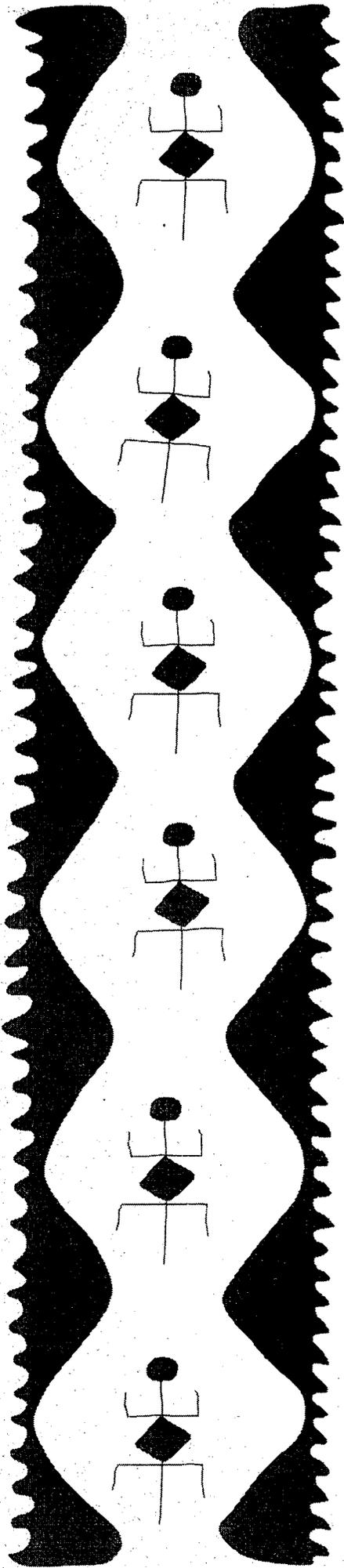
Sports Complex

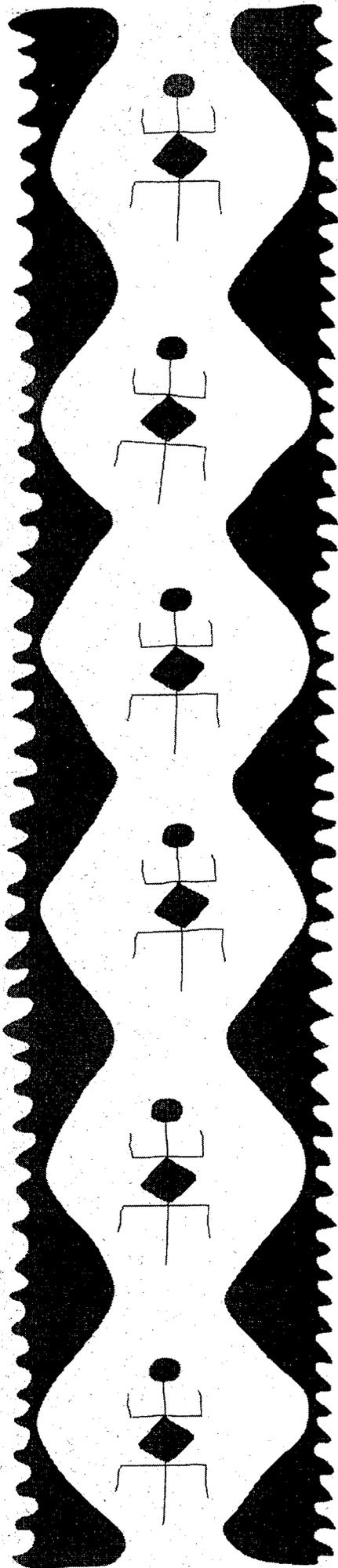
Plan Summary

The Sports Complex area north of McDowell Road is Papago Park's most active area and is 107 acres in size. The Sports Complex includes the Oakland A's training complex, an archery range, a four-field softball complex, trailheads, and open desert space. Barnes Butte is the primary natural feature and creates a significant visual focal point to the west.

Trail corridors will be redesigned with some routes closed for renovation or revegetation. Some trails will be closed permanently. A trailhead with desert character will be developed near the parking area. In addition, trail information, drinking fountains, shade, and seating will be provided. Also in this area, a family recreation component will be added and include a non-lighted basketball and volleyball court, picnic facilities and a children's play area.

Currently, there are 73.6 acres of open space in the Sports Complex. Development recommended in the master plan for this area would require 7 acres of land and leave a balance of 66.6 acres of open space.

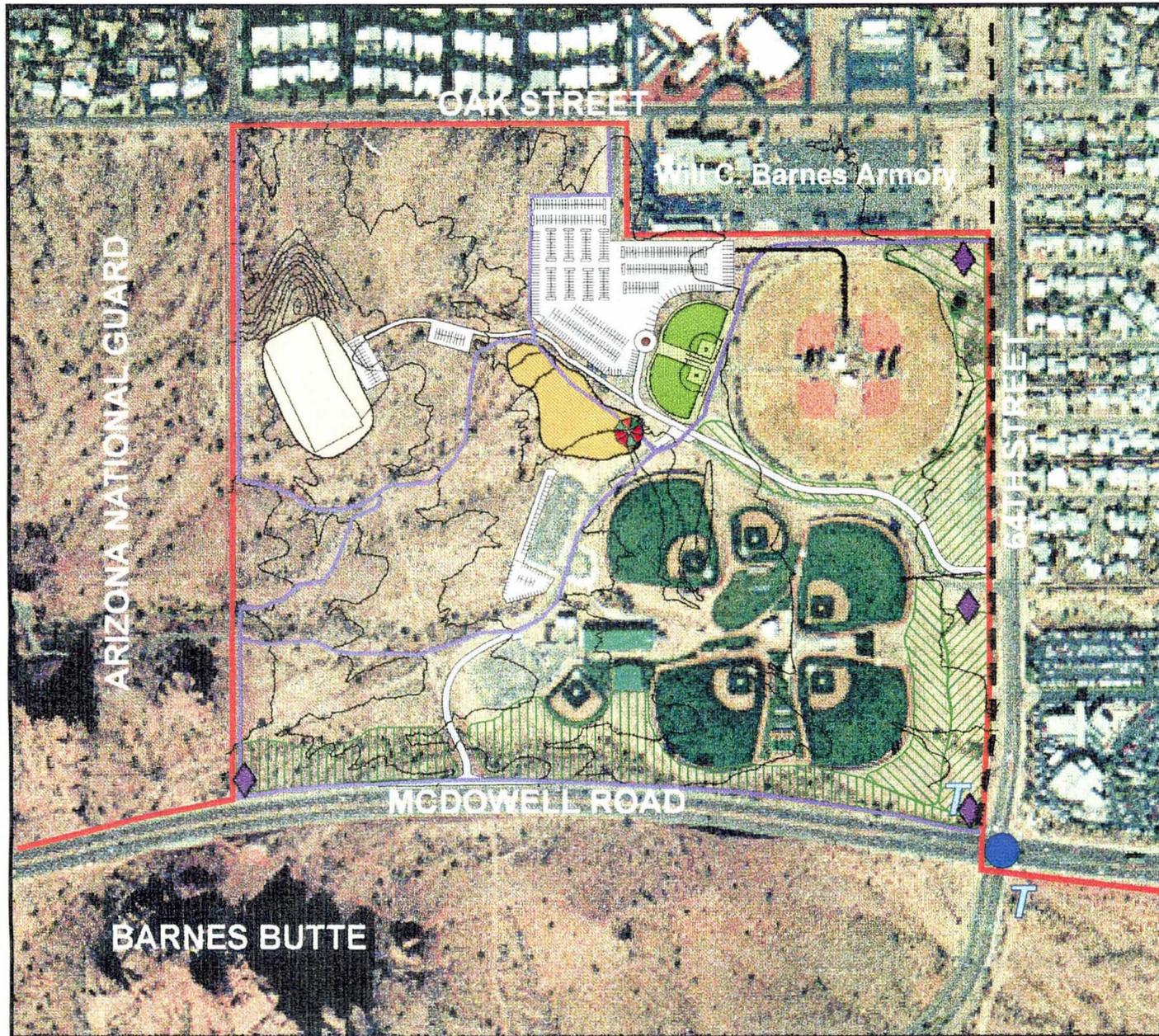




Recommendations

Figure 3-6 illustrates the proposed plan for the Sports Complex.

- ◆ Complete revegetation demonstration program initiated March 1997. Landscaping shall be native Sonoran plant materials and seed mix, which is appropriate for Papago Park and consistent with the revegetation plan (see Figure 3-7).
- ◆ Add landscaping that is compatible with Papago Park's native vegetation at park edges to provide screening for neighbors.
- ◆ Renovate the softball complex to include the following:
 - Upgrade field lighting
 - Improve turf irrigation, backstops, and dugouts
 - Upgrade restroom, concession building, add shaded bleachers.
 - Build a shaded playground for families using the softball complex
- ◆ Provide a network of multi-use trails. Trails shall follow wash corridors where appropriate.
- ◆ Create trailhead with ramada, drinking fountain and signage from approved sign package.
- ◆ Develop family recreation component to serve children and families. Facilities will include picnic ramadas, one non-lighted basketball court, one non-lighted volleyball court, and a children's playground.
- ◆ Improve the archery range to provide drinking fountain, shade, lighting, new access road and parking.



Sports Complex

Figure 3-6

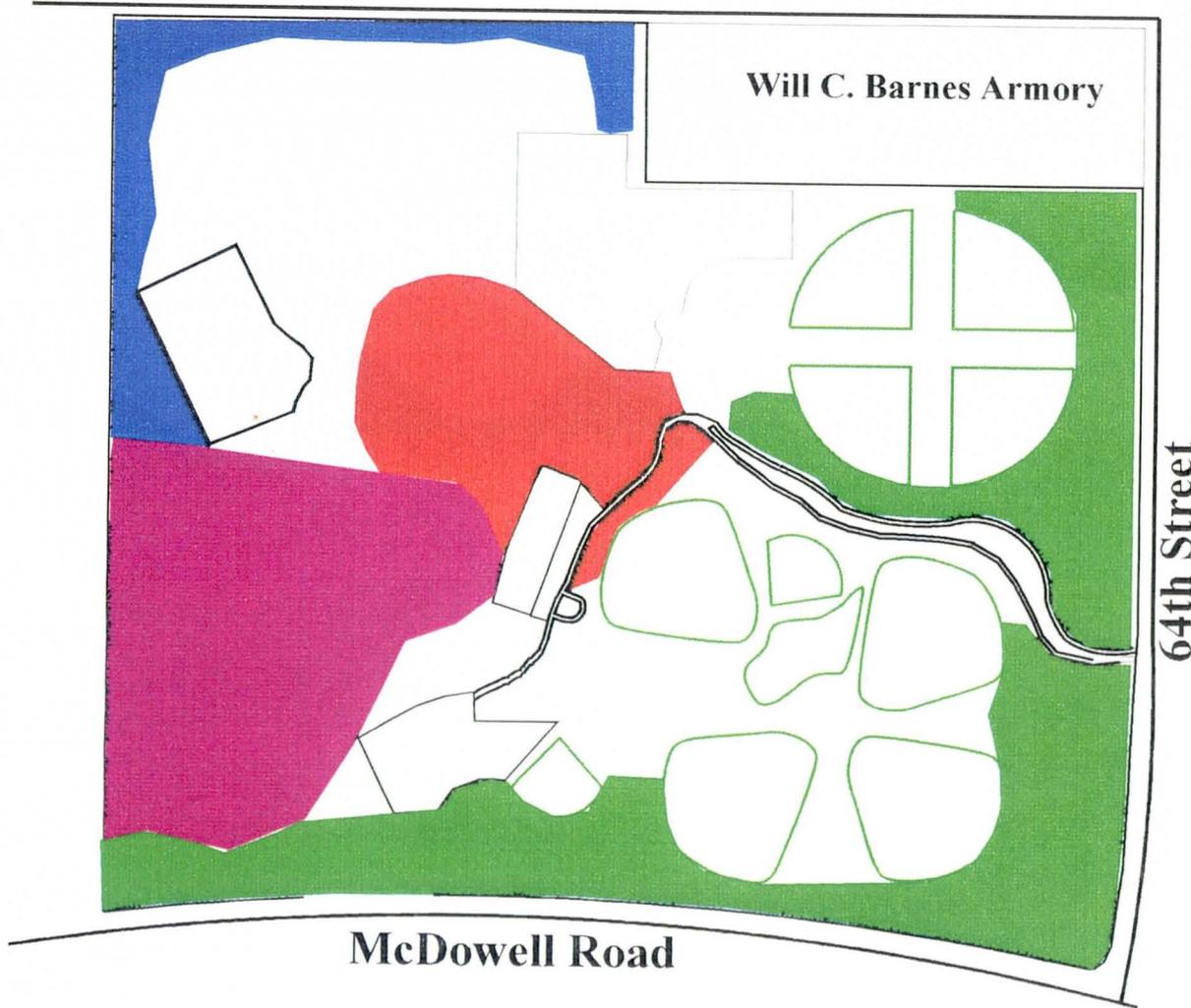
- Park Boundary 
- Trails 
- Softball Complex Access 
- Intersection Improvement 
- Trail Head Shade 
- Drinking Fountains 
- Ramada 
- Family Recreation Component 
- Archery Range 
- Entrance Monument & Directional Signage 
- Transit Stops 
- Revegetation Demonstration Areas 

Papago Park Master Plan

Approved by The Parks and Recreation Board
March 1998



Oak Street



Will C. Barnes Armory

64th Street

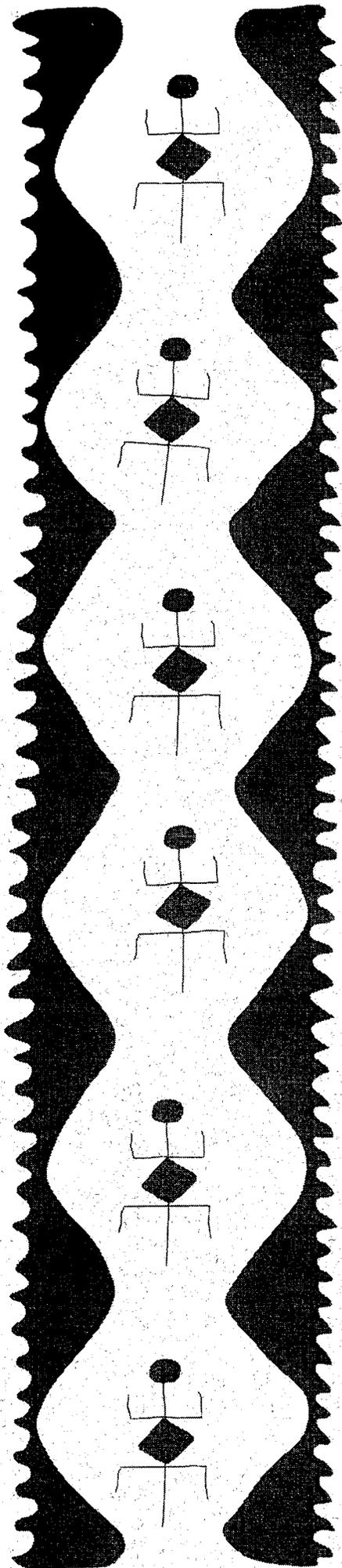
McDowell Road

Sports Complex Revegetation Phases

Figure 3-7

- Phase I 
- Phase II 
- Phase III 
- Phase IV 

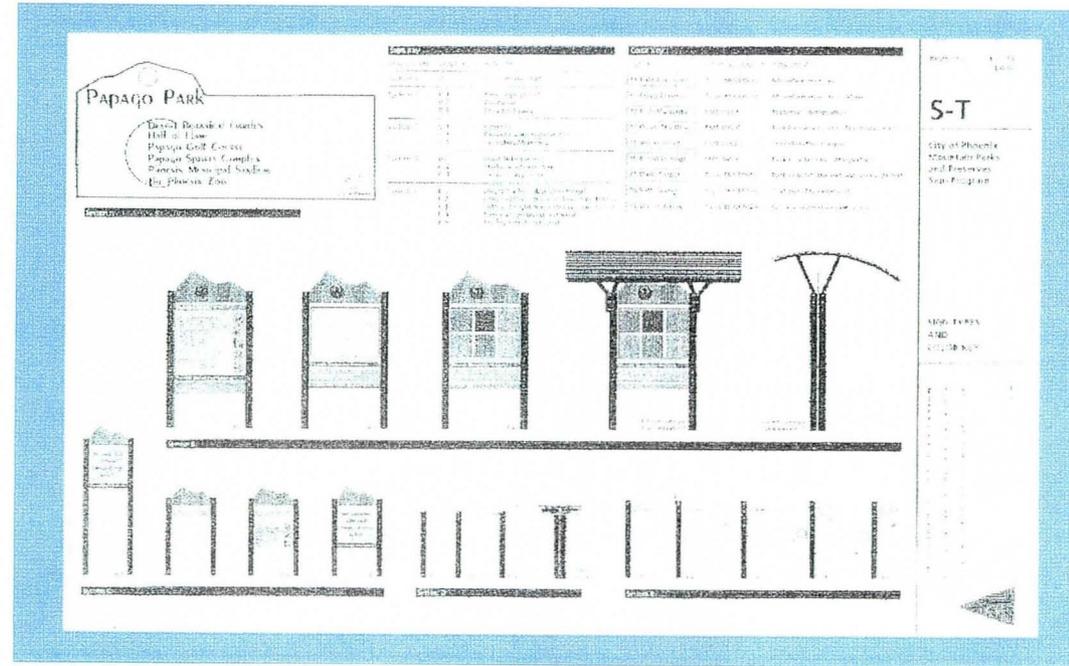
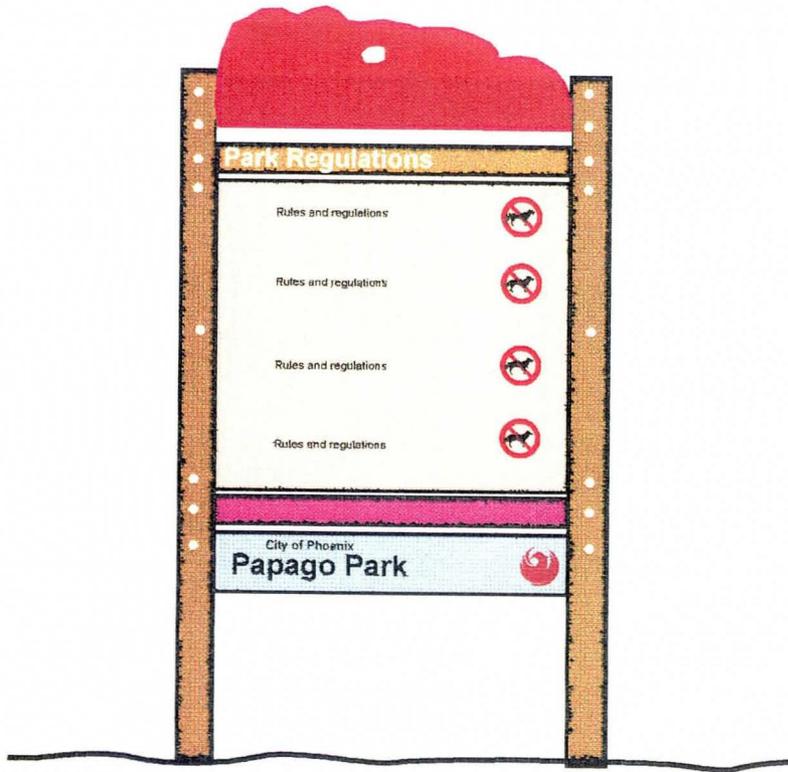
Papago Park Master Plan



- ◆ Develop two lighted fast-pitch softball fields.
- ◆ Increase the parking lot to 500 +/- spaces. The parking lot will be landscaped with appropriate native vegetation and screened from surrounding uses.
- ◆ Modify the Oak Street entrance for emergency use only.
- ◆ Add an entrance/exit on the north side of McDowell Road near the Papago Baseball facility.
- ◆ Expand the access way off 64th Street to be a four-lane park drive separated by a landscaped median.
- ◆ Provide entrance monument sign at 64th Street and McDowell Road and other directional signage as required. Signs will be developed from approved sign package (see Figures 3-8 and 3-9).

Graphics and Signage

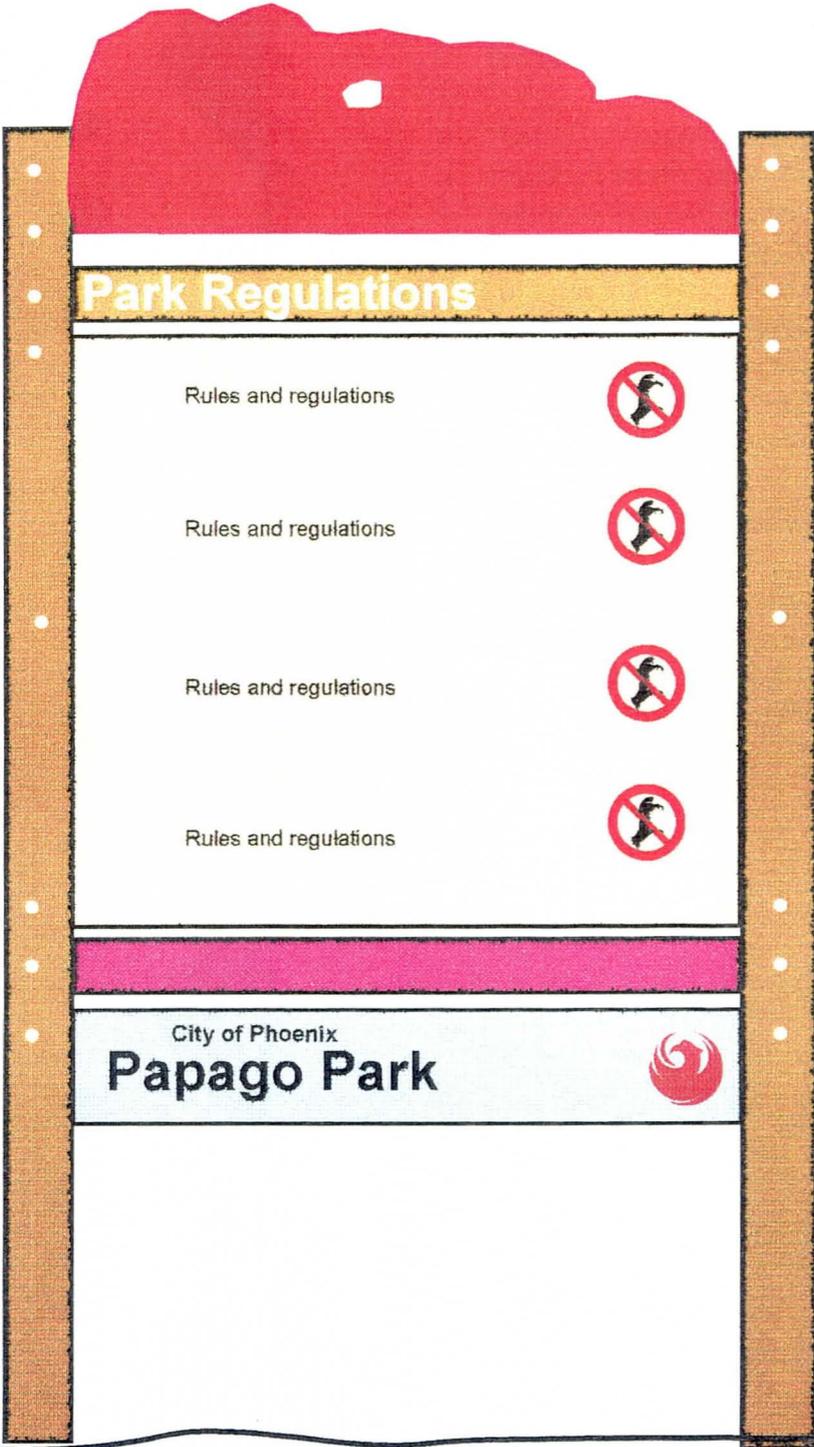
Figure 3-8



*Use Approved Sign Package

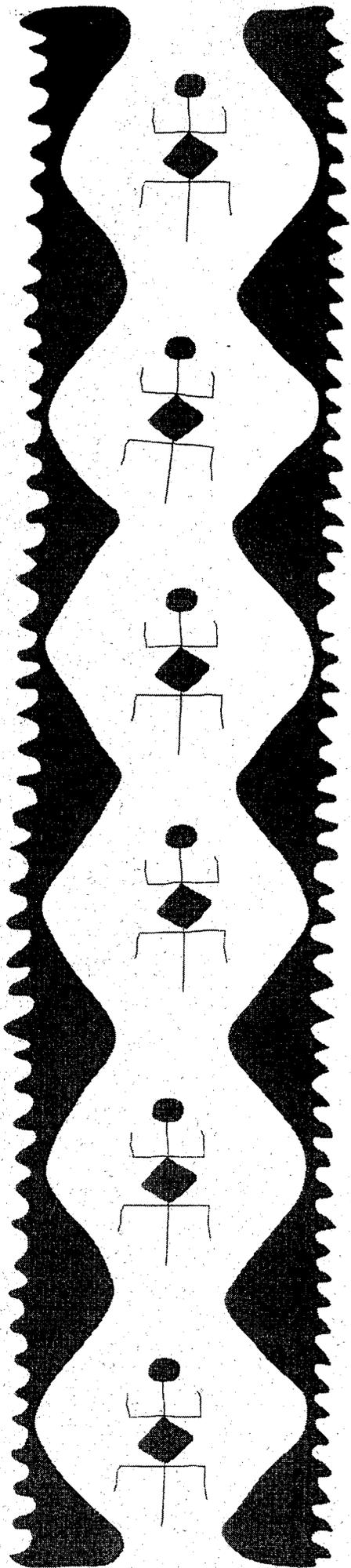
Papago Park Master Plan

Papago Sign Example



*Use approved Sign Package

Figure 3-9



Phasing

Phase I - Continue with revegetation plan initiated in March 1997 and improve the softball complex parking lot to include security lighting, construct multi-use trails along wash corridors, add signage, and begin improvements to softball complex (improve turf irrigation, new backstops and dugouts, remodel restroom).

Projected cost: \$1 million-1.3 million

Phase II - Continue with revegetation, construct family park component and trailhead, add two lighted fast pitch softball fields, modify Oak Street entrance for emergency use, develop McDowell Road access, widen park entrance from 64th Street, complete improvements to softball complex (remodel concession building, provide shade for bleachers, and construct children's playground).

Projected cost: \$5 million.

Phase III - Upgrade archery range. Complete revegetation efforts, trail improvements, and signage.

Projected cost: \$200,000-\$500,000