

## **Kino Coalition of Neighborhoods**

**SOUTH PARK • PUEBLO GARDENS • LAS VISTAS • WESTERN HILLS**

Four Neighborhoods Committed to Helping Each Other Live Safe and Drug Free



**Ajo Detention Basin / Hidalgo Park**  
**PIMA COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT PROPOSAL**  
November 20, 2007

## **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT**

The Kino Coalition is applying for funds in the amount of \$500,000 for the implementation of the first phase of the Ajo Detention Basin / Hidalgo Park Project, a larger, \$2,200,000 multi-use park facility to be located within the Western Hills II Neighborhood. This initial phase will incorporate the construction of a soccer field with lighting, restrooms, and 30-space gravel parking.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD / COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES**

The Kino Coalition is made up the following four neighborhoods: South Park, Pueblo Gardens, Las Vistas, and Western Hills II; and is bounded by 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Aviation Parkway to the north, Interstate 10 and Ajo Way to the South, Country Club Road and Palo Verde Road to the east, and the City of South Tucson to the west.

## **LOCATION OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The location of the proposed improvements is a currently unused, unfilled 7.5-acre lot located on the eastern corner of Naco Vista and Hidalgo Vista near the southeastern side of the Western Hills Neighborhood.

## **ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS TO BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

10,657 individuals and 2,876 households are contained within the Kino Neighborhoods Area. 3,810 children and 856 individuals over the age of 65 live in these neighborhoods, and five public schools with an enrollment of 2,295 attend classes in the area. All would benefit from the addition of these park facilities.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE CONDITIONS OR ISSUES WITHIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL ADDRESS**

The four immediate neighborhoods of the Kino Coalition formed a collaboration in order to help each other live safe and drug free, quality-of-life issues that currently affect all of the 10,000 plus residents of the area. People who live in the community understand that accomplishing this goal means continually forming partnerships which can help improve the area through active physical development. A park will provide a cleaner, safer area for residents to participate in healthy activities. Although there is a large park west of the proposed project area, it is located across a major arterial roadway and is not easily accessible for the many children and elderly residents comprising half of the coalition, the majority of which reside east of Kino Parkway. Furthermore, a park in the heart of our neighborhoods that can be host to new and existing organized sports leagues that our children can take part in would fulfill a dream of many area residents, as well as provide a safe and close walking area that our seniors can feel comfortable using.

## **PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### ***Scope***

The initial phase of the Ajo Detention Basin / Hidalgo Park Project, will include a soccer field, lighting and utility infrastructure, a restroom facility with septic system, and 30 spaces of gravel parking.

### ***Cost Estimate/Budget***

A detailed cost estimate in the amount of \$500,000 provided by the Pima County Natural Resources Parks & Recreation Department is included with this proposal, as well as the estimated costs and plans for the future park facility.

### ***Neighborhood Demographic Information***

Median Household Income: \$27,812

Households with Families: 2,218

Households with Children: 1,581

Total School Enrollment: 3,134

Adult Population without High School Diploma: 39%

Housing Tenure: 63% owner-occupied; 37% renter-occupied

### ***Partnerships with Governmental Organizations***

The Kino Coalition is an existing active participant in the US Department of Justice Weed and Seed Program, a nation-wide crime reduction strategy for neighborhoods afflicted with high crime rates. It has effectively made use of the four central components: law enforcement; community policing; prevention, intervention, and treatment; and neighborhood restoration to address vital quality-of-life issues. In October 2006, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission performed an evaluation of the Kino Coalition's 5-year Weed and Seed Strategy, and concluded that the criminal activity rates across several types: violent, property, drug, disorderly conduct, and overall crime, had dropped significantly since the program's implementation.

In addition, the Kino Coalition partners regularly with the Pima County Adult Probation Community Service Program for the active involvement in neighborhood clean-up efforts to assist seniors and beautify the area while providing required service hours for individuals.

## **CONSENSUS FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

Members of the Kino Coalition Steering Committee, selected by members of the coalition neighborhoods, on behalf of the residents of the Kino Neighborhoods, confirmed their strong support for the completion of the project during their regular meeting on July 11, 2007, and signed a support statement which is attached. Since then, additional support has been communicated by neighborhood residents as evidenced by signatures which have been gathered (also attached).

## **CONCLUSION**

The Kino Coalition of Neighborhoods is committed to bettering the life of its residents for the positive overall contribution to an improved quality of life for the greater Tucson population. Although we have largely adhered to our goals and been successful in many areas, much work still remains. Of the five public schools in the Coalition area (Borton, Cavett, Holladay, Pueblo gardens, and Utterback), 3 are located east of Kino Parkway and consist of a student population of 1,868 (81% of the total public student population in the area). A park in close proximity to these campuses would only serve to benefit these children. During the summers when school is out of session, these kids need an easily-accessible location for healthy recreational activities. Anticipated organized sports programs would also provide the opportunity for children to engage in fun, safe, and team-oriented activities which would act as deterrents to potentially detrimental behaviors. Furthermore, a park will provide the elderly population of the Kino Coalition with a place to walk in the mornings and evenings, and for area churches to take part in sponsored events. Finally, such a facility can effectively play a part in the overall health of our neighborhoods, by promoting positive community involvement and discouraging criminal activities, enhancing the complete quality of life for all individuals, children, families, and seniors.

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Cost Estimates and Location Plans
- Documentation of Consensus Support
- Letters of Support from Advocates for the Project
- Current Photos of Site