

[https://www.gvnews.com/news/new-green-valley-park-open-but-lots-of-work-ahead/article\\_3a200566-1a76-11e9-83d4-0b268abadc5b.html](https://www.gvnews.com/news/new-green-valley-park-open-but-lots-of-work-ahead/article_3a200566-1a76-11e9-83d4-0b268abadc5b.html)

FEATURED

## New Green Valley park open, but lots of work ahead

By Dan Shearer [dshearer@gvnews.com](mailto:dshearer@gvnews.com) Jan 17, 2019



Crews work on the park at the former Canoa Hills Golf Course last September. Plans are being made to address a lack of restrooms, water fountains and a name for the park.

[Buy Now](#)

Bobby Joe Smith | Special to the Green Valley News

Green Valley's newest public park is open for business but Pima County says it will be a while before it's up to snuff.

The defunct 130-acre Canoa Hills Golf Course was signed over to Pima County on Dec. 21 with the intention of making it a "natural, open-space park." It was donated by businessman Morgan North.

What's still missing are bathrooms, drinking fountains and a name. But there's an abundance of tumbleweeds, and the county's working on that, said Suzanne Shields, director of Pima County Regional Flood Control.

Thao Tiedt, who heads the Green Valley Council's Park Advisory Board, said existing county equipment is too top heavy to navigate the park's steep slopes. She said controlling weeds is a priority, and that invasive species also will be targeted. Shields said a new piece of heavy equipment has been ordered to scoop up weeds.

Shields said another priority is to shore up erosion creeping toward some of the seven miles of paths throughout the park. She said most paths are in good condition but that asphalt needs to be addressed in some places. She also said a pedestrian bridge could be added if sediment buildup becomes an issue.

"The paths themselves are in pretty good condition but we'll want to go in and paint the edges," Shields said.

Shields said one of the two existing bathrooms in the park "could be made workable," but that there is no water to it currently. The other restroom will not work, she said.

Friends of the Park, a volunteer group in Green Valley, will look into grants and partnering with businesses to build restrooms, but there is no timetable. The same situation exists for drinking fountains.

Shields said she expects the volunteer group to be involved in several tasks, including planting native plants provided by the county and seeking donations for benches. Barriers will go up to keep cyclists and golf carts out of the park but allow motorized wheelchairs or other modes of travel for the disabled.

The GVC's Park Advisory Committee is putting together a list of potential park names and members hope to have the Board of Supervisors sign off on one in March.

The GVC will also have a button on its site (gvcouncil.org), likely in February, to report issues at the park and for other information.

Shields said she expects the county to spend about \$100,000 a year for “the first couple of years” on the park, then about \$30,000 annually for maintenance.

The golf course closed in 2013, and was purchased by North a year later along with San Ignacio golf course. North, who owns Borderland Construction, a civil contracting business, never reopened Canoa Hills.