



JULY 2021 | FINAL



PARKS

STRATEGIC
MASTER PLAN

APPENDIX D
Public Input



PREPARED BY **Kimley»Horn** AND **pros consulting**
Inc.

FOCUS GROUPS

Parks Focus Group Meeting Notes

When: Tuesday Feb. 4, 2020 @ 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Where: City Hall 4th Floor Large Conference Room

Attendees:

- Andy Bass
- Mickey Ohland
- Don Tolle
- Dan Haskins
- Curtis Masterson
- Frank Martinez
- Mike Hueysom
- Claud Kopft
- George Cazares
- Tyrone Allen
- Jeff Kratzke
- Sean Wozny
- Mike Svetz

Meeting Purpose:

This meeting is a focus group meeting with the parks maintenance staff to have a discussion regarding the maintenance of the parks system.

Mickey – Parks and recreation master plan back in 2000. This is a strategic master plan, everything that effects park since we are nearing build out. KH on board to produce master plan. Parks input and Citizen input. Want to develop a road map on what the park system will become.

Jeff – Began the meeting with a project introduction and overview.

Kimley-Horn and PROS consulting professional in the parks and recreation experience. ETC will be administering the statistically valid survey. KH will be working with many of the parks staff to tour, inventory and evaluate your park assets. Looking at the conditions and the lifecycle for your existing parks to help define the next 15 to 20 years for your facilities.

Project schedule: Project will take 1 year and end next February 2020.

The project team will be conducting a focus group meeting with management this afternoon and providing a project overview to the parks board this evening. The recreation focus group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday Feb. 5th, 2020.

Michael Svetz, Pros Consulting will be looking at parks and recreation trends and standards as a part of this plan.

One of the key elements for the plan is a complete inventory and assessment of the parks and recreation facilities. The Kimley-Horn team will be conducting inventories of all the park sites and facilities, this inventory will also be utilized as part of the asset management plan.

The plan will include external engagement with the community. This will be an opportunity to identify what elements are missing and elements the community would like to see? Where can they fit. The plan will include parks and amenities recommendations.

Strategic Action Master Plan

Final Document

Mike – asked the group to think through your response to questions with a viewshed towards maintenance, resources and potential users. Think through these questions with multiple hats. Understand the need for an operations and maintenance plan. Need to look at the total cost of ownership. Asset management plan. Nothing lasts forever. Part of the plan is to press upon staff, council and others to understand lifecycle costs.

Mike provided the analogy of when you purchase a car and how important is it to maintain the car and what happens when you do not properly maintain the car when you use it.

Mike asked everyone to tell the group the number of years you have been with the City and your role within the parks system.

Don Tolle park planning superintendent 17 years with the City of Chandler. Don's responsibilities include park design and development and his approach is to keep in mind what staff likes to see and think through what will last and be easy to maintain.

Curtis Masterson, 18 years with the City of Chandler is a parks maintenance supervisor. He oversees maintenance and irrigation. Mike asked how many irrigation controllers exist within the park system. Curtis said it is around 90 controllers, the City is in the process of switching over to one standardized controller which is the Baseline controller. Try to keep consistence. Everyday day issue vandalism

Frank Martinez, 15 years with the City of Chandler is a parks maintenance providing daily maintenance within the east part of town.

Mike Hueysom, 30 years with the City of Chandler has several crews.

Claud Kopft – 32 years with the City of Chandler and his area is the downtown complex and special use areas including: Tumbleweed, Vereran's Oasis, Paseo Lindo.

Dan Haskins, City of Chandler CIP Project Manager.

Andy Bass, Parks Director and has been with the City of Chandler for 6 months.

George Cazares, 16 years with the City of Chandler is a Maintenance Technician providing irrigation plumbing, playground is considered a jack of all trades.

Tyrone Allen, 17 years with the City of Chandler is a Parks Maintenance superintendent is responsible for working with maintenance staff and oversees O&M budget. Work orders go through Tyrone, respond to citizens. The City contracts out mowing at all the parks except for two parks (the City Mows Tumbleweed Park and Snedigar Park). The City contracts out maintenance for 6 to 8 full size neighborhood parks. The City contracts out our maintenance for all 1-acre park.

Mike asked the group *Question no. 1. What is it you do well?*

The overall answer from the group is the maintenance staff does more with less. The maintenance crew has specialists, but everyone can do everything. Doing what is expected with what we have. Tyrone said he hears from other cities and residents outside the City of Chandler that the parks look good. The City does a good job of keeping the parks at the level they are at with the number of staff we available.

The City has a balance between part time and full time. Coverage can vary in terms of regularly scheduled maintenance for instance trash pick-up usually occurs on the weekends. They will utilize part time help with tournaments on the weekends. The City has around 50 full time employees.

Build new parks – City does good at building projects that involve staff and thinking through the maintenance during design to ensure when built they can be maintained.

Seeing a large disconnect between planning and maintenance and operations for non-parks projects. An outside city project (non-parks) that gets turned over to the parks team for maintenance does not allow for City Parks Maintenance the opportunity to review and provide input.

The Parks team does a good job with involving maintenance staff for review of new parks during the design stages.

Response time with short staff is excellent. Pretty quick to jump on new or unforced requests

Outside citizen comment on average 20 times per week which is typically a repair request or tree removal.

More with less is the City Council mantra. It has been pretty much in place for as long as the staff can remember. The parks team truly works together and survives on teamwork. The team has specialists, but the entire group helps each other, the team has a good work culture, team works together well, but gets along. Probably 80% of the time everyone helps each other out to get stuff done. Have tremendous experience and knowledge collectively as a group. Andy felt a key part of the equation was having a good planning at the start that kept development to within a mile instead of overbuilding.

Mike asked what are the weaknesses of the team? The group felt the team always responds well but tends to drop regular work activities and tasks to respond to fires. The team seems to always in a reactive mode or condition. The team finds themselves prioritizing by complaint rather than by

necessity. Mike asked if the team feels they have the opportunity to say no? Not really as requests tend to go up and back down the food chain.

Part of the process needs to be an education on what the maintenance team takes on. Mike asked if the team tracks reactive or response work in lieu of routine work? The group said no. Mike said the action plan will help develop schedules for routine work to help maintenance. Mike gave the example of properly maintained playgrounds have a lifespan of 15 year, but when not properly maintained the lifespan can shrink to 10 to 12 years.

How many more staff do you need? What kind of staff to you need? Do you need a crew that just reacts? Maybe have a tree crew, but resources are thin. Do you need a playground crew? Tyrone said adding an overall 10 more employees would make life easier.

How would you use those 10 additional employees? Do you create a balance between routine or add 10 maintenance Technicians with specialties in irrigation for example?

Sports fields – receive comments from sport organizations very vocal. High visible areas – Downtown / Tumbleweed. Add to the grounds crew to help pruning.

Input regarding budget and resources to operate and execute the work plan.

Mike asked if the group has any say regarding resources – money? Staff is asked when budgets are being developed. The team puts together a decision package every year for City staff and the team has been asked to provide, but don't know the interworking's or how it works.

Why factor what you are up against at the end of the year? Never want to give money back.

No personnel expenditures – equipment and chemical. Had a fertilizer budget in the past but lost it about seven years ago. Tyrone communicates with the team regarding budgets as it is not a matter of not knowing what we have available.

The questions regarding the budget process comes from a higher level. The team seems to receive a lot of one-time funding.

The maintenance team seems to be operating from behind and never can seem to get ahead. The team never receives ongoing maintenance dollars and must apply for it every year.

Windshield time between traveling to the park.

Mike said the action plan will also have to look at equipment or fleet replacement as these are also important factors that also include life cycles and maintenance components.

City trying to implement a replacement program, but no timeline. Need to do a decision package for one-time funding for replacement. Budget is ongoing and not given. Certain things we are short include irrigation and chemicals. Are budget constraints related to repair?

Pump repair, valves, irrigation. State of existing system? Is the infrastructure starting to wear out? Yes. Budget and constraints are not taking this into consideration. Disconnect between existing assets due to age. Try to utilize capital improvement funding for replacement, but this is a timing issue.

Mike spoke about how important to understand the hundreds and millions of dollars within the ground. The Streets department does a really good job at telling people about the costs to build and maintain the cities roadways.

Parks has large built environment but does not identify that way with the public and even with other departments.

Mike asked if the team had an overall tree count for their entire system or even by park? The team did not know the number trees in the system. So how do we know what to budget for maintaining trees. Mike said the City good benefit from an urban forestry plan to address the number of trees, age, types and maintenance etc.

What is the one thing you would like to change if you were king for a day? Maintenance, planning operations? Feel the need to do everything – permission to say no or not right now. Permission to prioritize. Safety issue or water availability should take precedence. Permission to say yes, but staff dictate the priority. Some people only see one park don't have an idea on the rest of the system.

The City's population includes 250,000 people why do we change the way we do something due to one person or comment.

Example of falling tree crew prioritizes it removes the tree and then people question why staff couldn't clean or trim the rest of the park since they were there?

Not a recognition of the amount of work and all the work you do. People don't view parks as assets. So how do we use numbers to quantify and help people citizens understand the work you do. How do you inform people the work you do?

Fail to quantify work within the park system. What people understand is dollars and cents – need to put a cost to it. The largest issue is budget. Need to get into that game. Strategies to education and advocacy. Define costs associated with the parks system and the maintenance if that system.

Mike said the team needs to use the number to tell the story. Capacity to react. Need to be reactive versus responsive.

Need a better inventory of trees in order to take better care of what we have.

Budget process easier. Not only on budget side, but then jump through the procurement hoops.

Mickey – expectations of what people expect from a design or maintenance perspective.

People don't see what it takes to take care of parks because they look good, but the staff is under staffed and has limited resources.

Budget surveys come back with high remarks and so don't get to see what it takes.

Several means to contribute.

Want to understand parks system that can be maintained and financially maintainable.

Educate and create that balance.

Management Focus Group Meeting Notes

When: Tuesday Feb. 4, 2020 @ 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Where: City Hall 5th Floor Large Conference Room

Attendees:

- Dan Haskins, CIP Project Manager
- Mickey Ohland, Community Services Planning Manager
- Andy Bass, Community Services Director
- Andy Goh, City Engineer
- Kim Moyers, Cultural Development Director
- Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director
- Marsha Reed, City Manager
- Debra Stapleton, Assistant City Manager
- Joshua Wright, Assistant City Manager
- Matthew Burdick, Communications and Public Affairs
- Sean Duggan, Chief of Police
- Michael Svetz, Pros Consulting
- Jeff Kratzke, Kimley-Horn
- Sean Wozny, Kimley-Horn
- Don Tolle, Parks Superintendent of Planning

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Jeff – Began the meeting with a project introduction and overview.

Kimley-Horn and PROS consulting professional in the parks and recreation experience. ETC will be administering the statistically valid survey. KH will be working with many of the parks staff to tour, inventory and evaluate your park assets. Looking at the conditions and the lifecycle for your existing parks to help define the next 15 to 20 years for your facilities.

Project schedule: Project will take 1 year and end next February 2020.

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One of the key elements for the plan is a complete inventory and assessment of the parks and recreation facilities. The Kimley-Horn team will be conducting inventories of all the park sites and facilities, this inventory will also be utilized as part of the asset management plan.

The plan will include external engagement with the community. This will be an opportunity to identify what elements are missing and elements the community would like to see? Where can they fit. The plan will include parks and amenities recommendations. Robust community engagement. Moving around the four quadrants in the City. PROS will be looking at trends and standards. They will also work on strategies. Inventory Asset / data collection. Data will be tied into the GIS system. Community engagement late spring early summer. Asset management plan to understand the existing built environment and the life cycles for these facilities.

Strategic Action Master Plan and facility assessment will be part of the final document.

Questions:

The team is going to ask a series of questions tailored today towards the City Management group. Want you to understand the process and insure the team understands and captures your vision.

Jeff began the question portion for this focus group.

Quality and Importance

Question: 1. On a scale of 1-5 (5 being excellent – 5 stars and 1 being poor – 1 star), how would you rate the quality of the City of Chandler's parks and the experiences they provide to the community and why?

Question: 2. What do you feel is the MOST IMPORTANT function provided by the City of Chandler Parks system? Why?

Marsha Reed, City Manager

The City has a great amount of land for parks as the focus has been on the quality of life. Chandler's explosion in the 90s and 2000s, lead to fast development of parks. I would rate the parks system and experience to be a rating of 3.5 stars because are we still providing what the community needs and what we can maintain for quality of life.

Debra Stapleton, Assistant City Manager

I would rate the City of Chandler's parks system and experience to be between a 3 and 4. I feel the experience should be about open space. I feel open space is attracting families in order to provide diverse experiences and allow for multifaceted opportunities.

Kim Moyers, Cultural Development Director

I would rate the City of Chandler's parks system and experience to be between 3 and 4 stars.

Matthew Burdick, Communications and Public Affairs

I would rate the City of Chandler's parks system and experience to be 4 stars. The most important function of the system is to provide that gathering space that family and friends want to engage in.

Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director

I would rate the City of Chandler's parks system and experience to be between 3 and 4 stars in the larger parks. Parks in lower income neighborhoods are counted on to provide opportunities and facilities to the community that needs and depends upon.

Joshua Wright, Assistant City Manager

I would rate the City of Chandler's parks system and experience to be 4 stars. The City has done a great job of investing into the parks system. The overall vision of having a park per mile has been met. The City has provided upkeep and upgrades with LED lighting and Shade Structures. I feel there is room to improve as the City builds a lot of parks, but they are kind of vanilla and repetitive. Parks are one of the first areas and points of pride for a neighborhood and community. Parks often serve as the first exposure to hometown pride creating memorable experiences connected to your childhood.

Sean Duggan, Chief of Police

I would rate the City of Chandler's parks system and experience to be 5 stars. I am basing this rating on the quantity due to the ratio of people. Parks are a link between public safety and the community. It is important for the community to understand the maintenance and upkeep of the parks. Need to give more attention.

Perceptions of Access and Opportunities

Question: 1. Are there any segments of the community (age segments, socio-economic status, special interest groups, geographic location) in the City of Chandler that need to be better served by Parks system?

Question: 2. What role do you believe the Parks system plays into the City's economic development and why?

Matthew Burdick, Communications and Public Affairs

Economic development – Intel Example this is an asset. Variety of parks with various amenities. Lot of types of experience people can have in all the parks. Lifestyle.

Marsha Reed, City Manager

Segments – special interests groups with youth sports. Chandler is aging need to take a look at amenity placement – north chandler. Geographically. Southeast chandler was HOA – provided amenities.

Debra Stapleton, Assistant City Manager

Look at parks in north chandler to be more functional for the people they serve. East Mini park. Aging infrastructure. Look to create excitement. Tumbleweed what do we want to be when we grow up. Have large events need to understand fields verses event needs. Competing interests. Set the priority

Kim Moyers, Cultural Development Director

Dr. AJ Chandler Park. Downtown Gathering Place. Place for the community to come and draw more people. What can it do for the office people and how they can use it. How it functions - urban.

Matthew Burdick, Communications and Public Affairs

Multi-cultural amenities. Definition of seniors has change. Seniors are active users. Geographic. Residents in the south. Don't forget west chandler and north chandler. City is going to rebrand west chandler for private sectors.

Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director

Neighborhood parks reflect the identity of the neighborhood. Being able to capture of identity of neighborhoods.

Joshua Wright, Assistant City Manager

Geographic – how do we get out of trying to be everything to everyone. Special interest groups. Worry about the average user with all these competing interests. Can be all things to all people.

Sean Duggan, Chief of Police

Downtown unique to chandler with large park next door. Need to balance events and usage.

Funding

Question: What are the funding opportunities and/or barriers that need to be considered as part of Parks Master Plan?

Marsha Reed, City Manager

Questions from new business – schools and parks. Attractive recruitment.

Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director

More opportunities for programing from employees. Volunteering.

Funding Opportunities

How do we make sure the plan is implementable and sustainable?

Very supportive council and community. What is the vision. Layout the parks master plan to get support. Timing of the roll out regarding spending and tax increases. Need to be out of the box, but not over

Parks has approx. \$34M remaining in the existing bond. Discussion on future parks bond.

Debra Stapleton, Assistant City Manager

Run lean and mean – sustainability is very important. Added a lot of park and amenities with low increase in head count. O&M needs to be part of the conservation when presenting to council. Need a realistic implementation for the plan.

- Capital Costs
- Maintenance and Operations Cost
- Lifecycle replacement

Kim Moyers, Cultural Development Director

1. Special events – opportunities to have special events or bring into the City to then attract outside the community in to capture revenues.
2. Foundation – urban parks to help with maintenance of the park. Large parks have foundations that help take care of the park.

Matthew Burdick, Communications and Public Affairs

Council foundation – Lean organization - ongoing expenses – Staff and Maintenance

The City has some bond capacity but depends on projects. Have conservative council cognitive on going into debt. Council and community are supportive of parks.

Infill and redevelopment opportunities.

Corp partnerships to bring amenities into business.

Reducing parking within redevelopment areas.

Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director

CBCG dollars are being used but have delayed census tracts associated with it.

Putting maintenance dollars aside. Use formulas to determine maintenance but need to look at that formula for budgeting and long-term.

Private public partnerships. – Tumbleweed. Mesquite Groves. Partnerships that make sense. What activities make money and how is that communicated back to the community and council so other revenue sources can be identified.

Vision for the future

Question: What do you believe is the most important opportunity / challenge facing the City of Chandler Parks system in the next 10 years?

Marsha Reed, City Manager

Revisit the plan – sports look at reorganizing amenities in a central or singular location to help with opportunities for tournaments.

What are the Private Public Partnerships and Private opportunities.

Transportation plan update with off street trails and pathways. Ways to integrate into the plans. Walking is the number one programming element.

Opportunity to find funding for trails and pathways within Transportation / Streets instead of parks.

Current plans have served the community well. How do we get this to a point to provide the community with changing needs and not become stagnate?

Debra Stapleton, Assistant City Manager

Good to reset. Big names like intel to look for opportunities to adopt a park to help with financial and partner with the community.

Kim Moyers, Cultural Development Director

Met with the school district and they have too many elementary schools and they need high school

Balance to provide for today amenities, but understanding

Matthew Burdick, Communications and Public Affairs

Linear parks big opportunity with alleyways to turn into parks with connectivity for bicycle and trails. Look at rail corridors.

Technology use in parks to present an opportunity to partner with the tech companies.

Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director

Can we make parks be adaptable for unforeseen amenities? Technology. Emerging trends in the future.

Joshua Wright, Assistant City Manager

How do we communicate it back to give a sense of where we are going? Aging community. Dual challenge to get younger people to use the outdoor environment.

Sean Duggan, Chief of Police

CEPTD in future design.

Andy Bass, Community Services Director, asked the group to provide their definition of a “destination park”.

Matthew Burdick, Communications and Public Affairs

Destination parks – McCormick-Stillman Railroad park – iconic park – heavily themed.

Marsha Reed, City Manager

Veterans Oasis Places that offer something completely different

Debra Stapleton, Assistant City Manager

Personally, growing up on the east coast always around water.

Kim Moyers, Cultural Development Director

Kylde Warren Park in Dallas

Millennium Park, Chicago large scale – has several spots, incorporates art and technology. Lot of programming. Gathering spots.

Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director

Central Park, NYC – Nature feel all throughout and surrounding you while in the middle of the larger urban City environment.

Joshua Wright, Assistant City Manager

McCormic Stillman Park, Scottsdale

The group quickly determined the destination parks were actual examples without sport fields.

Recreation Focus Group Meeting Notes

When: Wednesday Feb. 5, 2020 @ 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: City Hall 4th Floor Large Conference Room

Attendees:

- Dan Haskins, CIP Project Manager
- Mickey Ohland, Community Services Planning Manager
- Andy Bass, Community Services Director
- Joseph Petrella, Recreation Manager
- *Josh Adams, Business Systems Support Specialist*
- *Jeff Larsen, Parks Operations and Maintenance Manager*
- *Missing Lady Right of Jeff Larson*
- *Susan Richardson, Recreation Coordinator II*
- *Erica Berry, Recreation Superintendent*
- Michael Svetz, Pros Consulting
- Jeff Kratzke, Kimley-Horn
- Sean Wozny, Kimley-Horn
- Don Tolle, Parks Superintendent of Planning

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Jeff – Began the meeting with a project introduction and overview.

Kimley-Horn and PROS consulting professional in the parks and recreation experience. ETC will be administering the statistically valid survey. KH will be working with many of the parks staff to tour, inventory and evaluate your park assets. Looking at the conditions and the lifecycle for your existing parks to help define the next 15 to 20 years for your facilities.

Project schedule: Project will take 1 year and end next February 2020.

The project team held separate focus group meetings with parks maintenance staff and City Management and provided a project overview to the parks board on Tuesday February 4, 2020.

This focus group is in regard to park activities not recreation programming within the recreation center. The team will reference the multi-generational center feasibility project which is also moving forward in the next month.

One of the key elements for the plan is a complete inventory and assessment of the parks and recreation facilities. The Kimley-Horn team will be conducting inventories of all the park sites and facilities, this inventory will also be utilized as part of the asset management plan.

The plan will include external engagement with the community. This will be an opportunity to identify what elements are missing and elements the community would like to see? Where can they fit. The plan will include parks and amenities recommendations. Robust community engagement. Moving around the four quadrants in the City. PROS will be looking at trends and standards. They will also work on strategies. Inventory Asset / data collection. Data will be tied into the GIS system. Community engagement late spring early summer. Asset management plan to understand the existing built environment and the life cycles for these facilities.

Strategic Action Master Plan and facility assessment will be part of the final document.

Questions:

The team is going to ask a series of questions tailored today towards the Recreation team. Want you to understand the process and insure the team understands and captures your vision.

Jeff began the question portion for this focus group.

Quality and Importance

Question: 1. On a scale of 1-5 (5 being excellent – 5 stars and 1 being poor – 1 star), how would you rate the quality of the City of Chandler's parks and the experiences they provide to the community and why?

Question: 2. What do you feel is the MOST IMPORTANT function provided by the City of Chandler Parks system? Why?

Josh Adams, Business Systems Support Specialist

I would rate the City of Chandler's parks system and experience to be a 3-ish. I am a father of a 7-year-old daughter and do frequent several parks. The equipment is aging. Gilbert has several new parks with innovative design and mix of amenities. They have park benches that are smart benches that utilize solar panels to provide phone charger plug ins.

Desert Sky Park has a Ninja Warrior full course with additional play amenities for medium and smaller age groups. The park also has a lake along with the multi-purpose fields. Something for everyone.

The most important function is to provide a safe atmosphere with a low cost point for families to gather and be active.

Joseph Petrella, Recreation Manager

I would rate the system a 3 as I am not a big user but would like to see different amenities in different parks. The most important function is to provide a connection to the outdoors.

Jeff Larsen, Parks Operations and Maintenance Manager

I would rate the system a 2.5. Jeff has previously worked in Austin and Montgomery County, PA. Not cookie cutter. 10 to 15-minute drive to a different park. He spends some time going to the Riparian Park in Gilbert for the Birds and a different experience. He feels Chandler does not have enough people to provide the proper maintenance coverage. The maintenance is reactive and not preventative. The asset management plan will help drive maintenance budgets.

Lady sitting next to Jeff Larsen?

I would rate the system a 3. The parks are very cookie cutter would like to see more variety and innovation. Ninja Warrior type amenities, inclusion playgrounds, interactive with applications through the cell phone.

Susan Richardson, Recreation Coordinator II

I would rate the system a 3 with similar reasons as previously mentioned. Lack of maintenance staff, variety of parks, issues with amenities for instance the height of shade canopies being too high and don't really provide shade in summer time.

Erica Berry, Recreation Superintendent

I would rate the system a 3. I like to use the smaller parks like Roadrunner Park. Probably need a refresh on some of the parks. The maintenance staff can't keep up with what we have with lack of staff and equipment. I feel the most important function is providing the opportunity for families and users to get out and recreate.

Perceptions of Access and Opportunities

Question: 1. Are there any segments of the community (age segments, socio-economic status, special interest groups, geographic location) in the City of Chandler that need to be better served by Parks system?

Question: 2. What role do you believe the Parks system plays into the City's economic development and why?

Joseph Petrella, Recreation Manager

Therapeutic adaptive and all-inclusive amenities

Erica Berry, Recreation Superintendent

Playgrounds for Adults

Jeff Larsen, Parks Operations and Maintenance Manager

Playgrounds for all abilities and inclusive.

Mike Svetz provided a couple of examples of all-inclusive type playgrounds. Inspiration Park in Fresno, CA and Round Rock Texas, Play for All. These types of facilities utilize sight / sound and sensory type applications such as pavement, types and colors as well as walls with different materials.

Safety Town is another type of example that is a learning experience in Austin that provides store fronts with streets and traffic signals and includes donors and sponsors from businesses.

In terms of geographic service, the parks land is pretty much built out. Other user groups would like to see a dedicated cricket pitch without sharing with soccer.

Josh Adams, Business Systems Support Specialist

Older active adults or any adult sports not offered by the City. Southeast Chandler is lacking on parks space. Girls softball has 8 softball fields and they could use 8 more. Tournament opportunities with USA Softball. Joe we can't bring in tournaments. Mickey said we can't be everything to everyone.

Youth sports is a large group to balance while serving residents. The leagues would like to stay at home and not have to travel. People recreate in other areas. People don't think about jurisdictions or boundaries. League come in Chandler and have 1/3 Chandler Kids.

Mike spoke about the different levels associated with youth sports: what does Chandler want to be?

- Practice Location
- Practice and Game Location
- Practice, Game and Tournament Location

Joseph Petrella, Recreation Manager

Community wants to provide small / family feel, but also want large events.

Erica Berry, Recreation Superintendent

What do we want to have people think about Chandler? Want to have a technology tie-in, Chandler wants to be cutting edge. Back in the day Tumbleweed was know for the first really destination playground with the Playtopia experience. Need to plan parks for the next two generations.

Mike Svetz said he has kids who are attending NAU and they have robots that are delivering food. This is what shapes the expectations and experiences for the next generations.

Joe mentioned the use of the Agents of Discovery application and how it is tied into the trail at Discovery. Mickey said this is all great stuff, but if you can't maintain what is the point. The group all agreed that the large issue is the ability to keep up and stay ahead on just day to day maintenance in the parks.

Economic Aspects

Parks are a huge component for high quality of life. One of the most important aspects is the economic benefits of parks and how high quality of life attracts businesses. Chandler has seen this with Intel. The Cricket demand is coming from Intel.

Erica spoke about the City's community services is a big part of where people want to live. People feel they have a personal connection. The City has good people and a successful community services program that provides a high caliber service.

Vision for the future

Question: What do you believe is the most important opportunity / challenge facing the City of Chandler Parks system in the next 10 years?

Joe and Josh both said maintenance is the biggest challenge facing the City.

Susan spoke about how programming is a valuable asset as she lives in Phoenix and comes to Chandler for the programs. She can't get the types of programs in Phoenix. Location is not a deterrent for her as she will travel to get the services and programs she wants.

Joe also thought the ability to say NO at certain levels is also a challenge. Andy sees the ability to renovate existing parks as a big opportunity. The common issue and challenge is taking care of the assets.

Mickey said the City has to be willing to pay or find partners in order to take the next step.

Management is behind this plan, they are into it and like the how and want to use the plan as a tool to provide specific data on the why.

They understand the issue of maintenance and resources.

Mike spoke about the need for a Champion for Parks with Council or Management. Several park systems have foundations or corporate endowments. Need to identify or find political support of parks.

Sports Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting Notes

When: Tuesday March 3, 2020 @ 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Where: City of Chandler Tumbleweed Recreation Center – South Multipurpose Room

Attendees:

- Dan Haskins, CIP Project Manager
- *Mark Stewart, City of Chandler Councilmember*
- Mickey Ohland, Community Services Planning Manager
- Andy Bass, Community Services Director
- Joseph Petrella, Recreation Manager
- *Jeff Larsen, Parks Operations and Maintenance Manager*
- *Susan Richardson, Recreation Coordinator II*
- *Erica Berry, Recreation Superintendent*
- Jeff Kratzke, Kimley-Horn
- Sean Wozny, Kimley-Horn
- Don Tolle, Parks Superintendent of Planning

Meeting Purpose:

This meeting is a focus group meeting with the community sports stakeholders to have a discussion regarding the City of Chandler parks system.

Mickey Ohland, City of Chandler Community Services Planning Manager, Began with a background regarding the need for the plan update. Parks and recreation master plan back in 2000. This is a strategic master plan, everything that effects park since we are nearing build out. KH on board to produce master plan. Parks input and Citizen input. Want to develop a road map on what the park system will become. City continues to get requests for amenities. Only have three parks left to build. SPMP provide the blueprint. Half the parks are over 20 years old. Help determine the community needs.

Mark Stewart, City of Chandler Councilmember, provided some opening remarks in regard to the City's decision to move forward with this plan update. There is a need to update the plan to help assess what we have and determine future needs. It has been 15 to 16 years since our last plan. The City has seen tremendous growth which has included the parks system. Don't have a lot of park land left but need to also understand the parks assets to understand infrastructure and maintenance needs.

Jeff Kratzke, Kimley-Horn, Began the meeting with a project team introduction and overview of the meeting.

Kimley-Horn and PROS consulting professional in the parks and recreation experience. ETC will be administering the statistically valid survey. KH will be working with many of the parks staff to tour, inventory and evaluate your park assets. Looking at the conditions and the lifecycle for your existing parks to help define the next 15 to 20 years for your facilities.

Project schedule: Project will take 1 year and end next January 2020.

One of the key elements for the plan is a complete inventory and assessment of the parks and recreation facilities. The Kimley-Horn team will be conducting inventories of all the park sites and facilities, this inventory will also be utilized as part of the asset management plan.

The plan will include external engagement with the community. This will be an opportunity to identify what elements are missing and elements the community would like to see? Where can they fit. The plan will include parks and amenities recommendations. Robust community engagement. Moving around the four quadrants in the City. PROS will be looking at trends and standards. They will also work on strategies. Inventory Asset / data collection. Data will be tied into the GIS system. Community engagement late spring early summer. Asset management plan to understand the existing built environment and the life cycles for these facilities.

Strategic Action Master Plan and facility assessment will be part of the final document.

Tonight we are looking for your input regarding eight questions focusing on the parks and recreation experience and facilities.

Questions:

Question 1: How would you rate the quality of the Chandler Sports Fields on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest quality?

Billie Ross, Alliance Youth Sports; We utilize two parks for youth football. Shawnee Park and Nozomi Park. We have had good experiences and usually do not have any problems. In terms of rating the quality I would rate a 4 due to occasional issues with irrigation not functioning correctly.

Maria Trask, Chandler Youth Softball (Girls Softball); We utilize Foley Park. What are you looking for regarding the ranking? Jeff explained how the team wants to hear about your cross-section of experience in use of the fields.

Maria spoke about how Foley Park has four baseball fields for both Adults and Youth. The City has recently completed some field improvements to vastly improve the fields however the fields are not to a regulation standard. The irrigation system is antiquated and needs to be updated. I would give an overall rating of 4.

Maria also said they utilize school fields as well, but they are maintained by the District. Maria has also utilized fields at the following City of Chandler parks in addition to Foley Park.

Shawnee Park – the infield needs works would rate as a 2.

Pima Park both the infields and outfields are in poor condition would rate a 3. A large consideration is the playability and the safety. Fields have ruts or gopher holes throughout and concern with safety of players.

Joanna Fritz, East Valley Baseball Little League

Their little league uses the fields within Espee Park – which has three great fields. Would like to see the City add another smaller additional baseball field for smaller ages. This park has great field drainage and the fields have good irrigation. 5

Joanna also said that their league has also utilized the fields at Pima Park and they have poor drainage within those fields, would rank at a 3.

Vikas Korde, utilizes fields for Cricket. Has a positive experience at Snedigar Sports Complex, 5. Would like to see more fields or options throughout the City.

Mike Dulacncy USA BMX User Group

Mike has been a Camp counselor and is familiar with a number of parks throughout City of Chandler. Most impressed with Chandlers parks and staff's ability to provide and maintain quality parks.

Question 2: How well does the field allocation and reservation system work for your group?

Billie Ross, Alliance Youth Sports; Billie uses the reservation system to schedule football field use. She would rate the system as a 5. She is in the youth sports collation. Some fields are not designated on the online reservation system, but when she goes to the office in person at tumbleweed she can see all the fields. The system provides reservations up to 7 days in advance.

Maria Trask, Chandler Youth Softball; Girls softball – coaches want more fields have 40 teams. The comments from the coaches focus around the inability to secure fields. It doesn't go well when coaches are waiting at 8am when the reservations go active for the following week or showing up at the office and all the fields are gone.

They are competing with four different baseball leagues which results in unhappy situation. Never enough fields and the coaches want lighted fields do to year-round playability and summer temperatures.

Susan Richardson with City of chandler said that soccer and football can fit more people and teams on one field based on youth and age groups.

Softball is internally trying to share, but this does not work as other groups are in the outfield. Safety concern due to lack of space.

Joanna Fritz, East Valley Baseball Little League

Joanna said the little league is happy with the reservation system, 5. Coaches give good feedback and Sue with the City of Chandler is great and helpful. So many sport groups and the biggest issue is number of fields. If the little league is unable to secure fields they can go to the indoor batting cages.

Vikas Korde, Works with Sue who is very good and the system works great, 5.

Questions 3: Do you feel there are enough sports fields for your group's needs?

Billie Ross, Alliance Youth Sports;

Depending on the priority for example softball vs. football. Football does not have an issue as they play within their season which make them a priority. They also utilize rectangular fields and they would like to see additional football field. Rating 4.

Football always have fields as they are primary. 50/50 but don't have as many teams as girls softball.

Maria Trask and Debbie O'Connell, Chandler Youth Softball; Issue with the lack of regulation fields especially for girls' softball as they need a flat infield. Often, they are on baseball fields with pitcher's mounds. Some baseball leagues are using portable mounds.

Joanna Fritz, East Valley Baseball Little League; There are not always enough baseball fields. Really need fields for youth little leagues as they have 50 teams that are seven years and under.

Jeff spoke about the upcoming assessments for each of the parks sites. The team will utilize input from staff and the community to marry up needs with existing facilities to determine possible changes for the existing parks. There could be changes at existing parks based on needs.

Mike Dulacncy USA BMX User Group; Mike said that he believes the system currently has enough fields today but said in 5 to 10 years the City would definitely need additional fields.

Debbie O'Connell, Chandler Youth Softball; The City does not currently have any regulations youth softball fields. The fields at Foley are Adult fields, but they are not regulation. She often has to share outfields with soccer for practices. If soccer is using an outfield girls' softball cannot practice.

The City is really short on softball fields for young girls.

Question 4: Do you feel sports fields fee are reflective of the quality you receive?

Billie Ross, Alliance Youth Sports; Football is very grateful and feels the quality of the fields is in line with the fees.

Maria Trask and Debbie O'Connell, Chandler Youth Softball; The Softball fees are adequate. Their league is having difficulty in retaining coaches especially if coaches are having to paying for lights. Their coaches are volunteers.

Debbie said they youth softball is always experiencing lots of repairs to the irrigation system. Seems like there is always various water leaks. Debbie doesn't feel the girls' softball fields are in the same condition as the boys' fields.

There is a struggle when it comes to the sharing of fields with sports lighting. Limited number of fields with sports lighting.

Joanna Fritz, East Valley Baseball Little League; Joanna feels the fees for the Baseball fields are appropriate and her league does not have any complaints.

Debbie O'Connell, Chandler Youth Softball;

The leagues feel the fees are adequate and we would be willing to pay more if we could get more fields with lights and per regulations. All coaches are volunteers and coaches have to pay for lights. Leagues are trying to gain sponsorships to help offset costs for lighting.

Question 5: Do you feel the parks and sports fields in chandler are equitable and accessible?

Billie Ross, Alliance Youth Sports; We utilize two parks for youth football. Shawnee Park and Nozomi Park. Neighbors complain about parking in the street during practices and games.

Debbie O'Connell, Chandler Youth Softball;

Foley have the highest crime rate, Debbie has conducted a study. They would like to see a more adequate location with regulation youth fields. We have 7 year old girls maybe it would make more sense to have adult softball utilize Foley due to the crime rate. Foley's location is accessible and in a great location for their league. Desert Breeze is the biggest hike for their league.

Joanna Fritz, East Valley Baseball Little League;

The little league baseball likes the Espee park location. Joanna and her family moved closer to be within the Espee park boundaries as they really like Espee Park.

Mike Dulacncy USA BMX User Group;

As a user I feel there is a shift towards more inclusion within sports, more equable and accessible. As a resident the far western side of the City is underserved. Larger tracks and tougher in some areas for parks. Are the existing parks appropriate to make changes in time?

Question 6 interested in the consolidation of fields in a particular location? If so, where would that be?

Billie Ross, Alliance Youth Sports; As their league continues to grow perhaps in time, but they feel their current use is adequate.

Debbie O'Connell, Chandler Youth Softball; Youth softball does not have adequate or regulation facilities to host tournaments. They would like to have this ability to host tournaments as this can help

with fundraising. Could consolidate at Snedigar Sportsplex. Youth boys and adults can play but not rentable to girls' softball as these fields are not per youth softball regulations.

Tumbleweed would also be a good place to create a softball pinwheel.

Joanna Fritz, East Valley Baseball Little League;

She believed at several sites another baseball field to allow for two fields instead of one field would allow tournament use. It is always better to have two fields.

Debbie O'Connell, Chandler Youth Softball; Girls softball would be interested in running a tournament for 40 to 60 teams.

Mike Dulacncy USA BMX User Group;

Colorado tournaments sparkler tournament – significant revenue to the city. Valuable to consolidate fields to be able to provide soccer one week and then cricket the next week.

Need to look at long term. Need to look at how to bring in large scale tournaments. Tucson example of people coming in from out of state driving through Chandler to get to Tucson.

Jeff said the future for some of the parks will be based on responses / feedback and community needs.

People get fix on how the driveway is designed now. Could present that there is room to fix or expand.

Issue with the Chandler Airport trying to expand might impact tumbleweeds ability to put up lights.

Question 7 How should new sports leagues be treated regarding start-up?

Joanna Fritz, East Valley Baseball Little League;

Chandler Youth Sports Association (CYSA) Meeting – this was just discussed. This is coming up with the new lacrosse programs. Baseball supports new sports and they do like to promote multiple sports with their youth.

Debbie O'Connell, Chandler Youth Softball;

Debbie spoke about how lacrosse is currently tearing up the softball fields at Foley Park– limited amount of baseball fields why can't we keep them off baseball fields and only allow Lacrosse on multipurpose rectangular fields?

Mike Dulacncy USA BMX User Group;

There are various formulas to determine the number of user hours based on percentage of size and number of fields. There is also a priority based on league types, for example:

- Youth nonprofit 1
- Adult nonprofit 2

- Youth for profit 3
- Adult for profit 4

The City needs to think though how to prioritize field use among the various sports with the number of available fields.

Debbie O'Connell, Chandler Youth Softball; Snedigar Sportsplex is not open to girls softball because there is an income stream from other leagues and sports.

Question 8: What do you see for your organization in the next 5 to 10 years?

Billie Ross, Alliance Youth Sports; We see growth in football, since 2005 the league has tripled in size. Growth of the youth is happening in Chandler. Teams are getting larger. Expansion of teams is happening now with football.

Debbie O'Connell, Chandler Youth Softball; Girls Chandler softball continues to grow. Has a waitlist. Trying to secure the coaches. Not enough coaches. Coaches are volunteers. Trying to have the league help pay for lights. Pay for end of year awards dinner. Trying to add incentives to attract and retain coaches. Growth is increasing, but having trouble securing coaches.

Boys are playing fastpitch softball in California this could be large growth for the sport.

Joanna Fritz, East Valley Baseball Little League;

Baseball continue to grow and evolve.

Better communicators. Tightening up roles. Attracting more people.

Mike Dulacncy USA BMX User Group;

From a user / organization perspective – Built a \$23M BMX recreation training facility in Tulsa. Need to build a new track.

User trend is away from completion to more recreation-based programs. Want to be part of a team and just practice. Going towards non-completive. Multi-use field more user groups. What makes it a good fit. Hard part – would like to have the facility at home, but when you shop it to other cities they become home.

Jeff wrapped up with thoughts regarding the master plan process and how it is going to allow the opportunity to evaluate existing facilities. What do they look like what are the opportunities and best fits based on the type of assets you have in the system.

