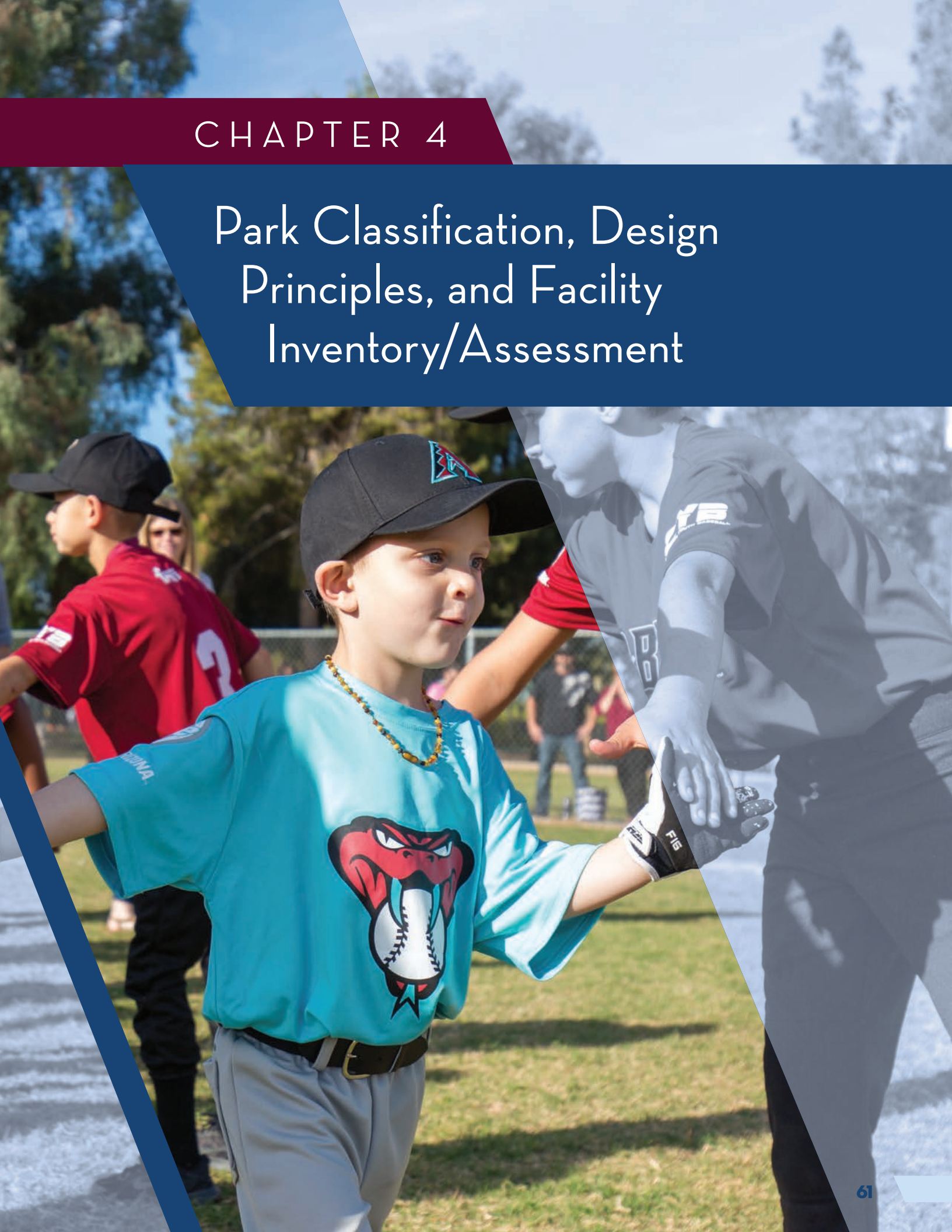
CHAPTER 4

Park Classification, Design Principles, and Facility Inventory/Assessment



CHAPTER 4 - PARK CLASSIFICATION, DESIGN PRINCIPLES, AND FACILITY INVENTORY/ASSESSMENT

In developing design principles for parks, it is important that each park be programmed, planned, and designed to meet the needs of its service area and classification within the overall parks and recreation system. The term programming, when used in the context of planning and developing parkland, refers to a list of uses and facilities and does not always include staff-managed recreation programs. The program for a site can include such elements as ball fields, spray parks, shelters, restrooms, sport courts, trails, natural resource stewardship, open meadows, nature preserves, or interpretive areas. These types of amenities are categorized as lead or support amenities. The needs of the population of the park it is intended to serve should be considered and accommodated at each type of park.

Every park, regardless of type, needs to have an established set of outcomes. Park planners and designers design to those outcomes, including operational and maintenance costs associated with the design outcomes.

Each park classification category serves a specific purpose, and the features and facilities in the park must be designed for the number of age segments the park is intended to serve, the desired length of stay deemed appropriate, and the uses it has been assigned. Recreation needs and services require different design standards based on the age segments that make up the community that will be using the park. A varying number of age segments will be accommodated with the park program depending on the classification of the park.

Terminology Utilized in Park Design Principles

- **Land Usage:** The percentage of space identified for either passive use or active use in a park. A Parks and Recreation Master Plan should follow land usage recommendations.
- **Programming:** Can include active or passive programming. Active means it is organized and planned with pre-registration by the user. Examples of active programming include sports leagues, day camps, and aquatics. Passive programming is self-directed by the user at their own pace. Examples of passive programming include playground usage, picnicking, disc golf, reading, or walking the dog.
- **Park/Facility Classifications:** Includes pocket park, neighborhood park, community park, regional park, sports complex facility, recreation/special use park and greenbelts, and conservation.
- **Revenue Facilities:** These include facilities that charge to play on them in the form of an access fee, player fee, team fee, or permit fee. These could include pools, golf courses, tennis courts, sport field complexes, concession facilities, nature centers, reservable shelters, and special event spaces.
- **Signature Facility/Amenity:** This is an enhanced facility or amenity which is viewed by the community as deserving of special recognition due to its design, location, function, natural resources, etc.

Over the last 20 years, the City of Chandler's park system has expanded and grown more diverse in the experiences that it provides to its residents. As the park system has evolved so has the need for classification system that the City utilizes to classify its parks. The consulting team recommends the adoption of the park classification system and design principles found in the following sections.

General Park Design

Intent: To provide the City with parks that are centerpieces of neighborhoods; places that people use regularly and care for; are aesthetically pleasing, universally accessible, and safe; allow for both individual and group activities and both formal and impromptu use; are successfully maintained; and are programmed, planned, and designed to meet the needs of its surrounding neighborhood(s) and typology within the overall parks and recreation system.

GENERAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

- Parks should be designed to be aesthetically pleasing, inviting, innovative, universally accessible, connect people with place, and create value and a sense of ownership among its users.
- Park entries and edges should be inviting and well maintained. Bounding streets should be integrated into the design (planting street trees, repaving sidewalks, etc.) as feasible and appropriate. Entries should be clearly marked with park signage.
- Path circulation should provide access to amenities as well as loops for walking.
- Restroom buildingsin community and regional parks should be located in near recreation fields, children's play areas, and group picnic areas, if possible. Restroom buildings should be aesthetically pleasing and well-maintained. They can provide opportunities for unique architectural and artistic expression in the park.
- Parks should be designed to ensure safety and the perception of safety, through visibility, activation, and other applicable strategies of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- Parks should have sufficient lighting to ensure safety, day and night.
- Care should be made to preserve valuable existing trees.
- New parks should be a central feature of a neighborhood and should be located where it can be easily accessed by residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.
- Parks should be programmed, planned, and designed to meet the needs of the surrounding neighborhood and classification within the overall parks and recreation system. Please refer to Chandler's Park Classifications, including minimum acreage and typical amenities, when creating design goals.
- The designer should establish a set of outcomes or design goals, based on Chandler's Park Classifications, and should design to those outcomes, including operational and maintenance costs associated with the design outcomes.

PROXIMITY STANDARDS

Further service delivery analysis should be undertaken to ensure equitable access to Parks. The service area of a park is another level of service measurement that the city should consider to assess the quality of the system. Service area is directly attributable to how accessible the park system is to the City's residents. In short, a park or facility's service area is the accepted amount of time that most park patrons will travel from their home to get to a given recreation destination. The service area standards by park/facility type could be as follows:

PARK TYPE	WALK/BIKE SERVICE AREA	DRIVE TIME SERVICE AREA
Neighborhood	**5 to 10-minute walk/bike time; bus stop within ¼-mile, preferred**	Less than 10 minutes
Community	10 to 15-minute walk/bike time	**10 to 20-minute drive time**
Regional	Greater than 30-minute walk/bike time	**30 to 60-minute drive time**

A potential goal of City's could be for each household in the city to be served by a neighborhood, community, or regional park utilizing a set of walking and/or driving distance standards. City staff acknowledge, however, that development patterns across the city make certain areas not suitable for neighborhood, and in some cases, community parks. There are also heavily developed neighborhoods where the Department relies on homeowner's associations to operate and maintain neighborhood parks for their communities.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

POCKET PARKS

A pocket park is a small outdoor space, usually less than 0.1 acres up to 1½ acres, most often located in an urban or residential area surrounded by commercial buildings or houses. Pocket parks are small spaces that may serve a variety of functions, such as: small event space, play areas for children, spaces for relaxing and socializing, taking lunch breaks, etc. Successful pocket parks have four key qualities: They are accessible; they allow people to engage in activities; they are comfortable and inviting; and they allow for sociability. In general, pocket parks offer minimal amenities on-site and are not designed to support programmed activities. The service area for pocket parks is usually less than a quarter-mile and they are intended for users within close walking distance of the park.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks in Chandler typically serve neighborhoods within a one-square-mile area and are generally one to 10 acres in size. The service area that these parks reach is approximately ½-mile radius. Many neighborhood parks in Chandler have been developed adjacent to elementary schools to share amenities and parking. Neighborhood parks serve the recreational and social focus of the adjoining neighborhoods and contribute to a distinct neighborhood identity. Amenities typically include playgrounds, pavilions, multi-use courts, lighted walking paths, and open areas. Chandler currently has 51 developed neighborhood parks and two more neighborhood parks (Lantana Ranch and Homestead North) scheduled for development.

A neighborhood park should be 1½ to 10 acres; however, some neighborhood parks are determined by use and facilities offered and not by size alone. The service radius for a neighborhood park is typically ½-1 mile. Neighborhood parks should have safe pedestrian access for surrounding residents; parking typically not provided for neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks serve the recreational and social focus of the adjoining neighborhoods and contribute to a distinct neighborhood identity. There may be opportunities to create joint-use sites that serve as both neighborhood parks and recreational space for schools.

- **Service radius:** ½ - 1 mile radius,
- **Site Selection:** On a local or collector street. If near an arterial street, provide natural or artificial barrier. Next to a school, where possible. Encourage location to link subdivisions and linked by trails to other parks.
- **Length of stay:** One to four hours.
- **Amenities:** One signature amenity (e.g. playgound, sport court, gazebo). If an signature amenity is not present it may include one non-programmed sports field, playgrounds for ages 2-5 and 5-12, one reservable shelter for parks three acres in size or greater, loop trails, one type of sport court, benches, and/or a small shaded area next to play areas.
- **Landscape design:** Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience.
- **Revenue facilities:** none.
- **Land usage:** Eighty-five percent (85%) active/15 percent passive.

- **Programming:** Typically, none.
- **Maintenance standards:** Provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding. Seek a goal of Level 2 maintenance standards. Some amenities may require Level 1 maintenance
- **Signage:** Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience.
- **Parking:** Where possible, design should include widened on-street parking area adjacent to park. Goal is to maximize usable park space. Traffic-calming devices encouraged next to park.
- **Lighting:** Security only.
- **Size of park:** Typically, 1 to 10 acres.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are intended to be accessible to multiple neighborhoods and should focus on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally larger in scale than neighborhood parks, but smaller than regional parks, and are designed typically for residents who live within a three-mile radius. When possible, the park may be developed adjacent to a school. Community parks provide recreational opportunities for the entire family and often contain facilities for specific recreational purposes: athletic fields, extreme sports amenity, loop trails, picnic areas, reservable picnic shelters, sports courts (tennis, basketball, sand volleyball), restrooms with drinking fountains, large turfed and landscaped areas, and a playground or spray ground. Passive outdoor recreation activities, such as meditation, quiet reflection, and wildlife watching also take place at community parks.

Community parks in Chandler generally range from 10 to 50 acres. Community parks serve a larger area — radius of two to three miles and contain more recreation amenities than a neighborhood park. They also have the capacity to function as neighborhood parks for the local area. There are currently nine community parks in Chandler with two more to develop (Lantana Ranch and Mesquite Groves).

- **Service radius:** Two to three-mile radius.
- **Site selection**: On two collector streets minimum and preferably one arterial street. If near an arterial street, provide natural or artificial barrier. Minimal number of residences abutting site. Preference is streets on four sides, or three sides with school or municipal use on fourth side. Encourage trail linkage to other parks.
- **Length of stay:** Two to three hours experience.
- **Amenities:** Four signature amenities at a minimum (e.g. trails, sports fields, large shelters/pavilions, community playground for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with some shaded elements, recreation center, pool or family aquatic center, sports courts, water feature); public restrooms with drinking fountains; ample parking; and security lighting. sport fields and sport complexes are typical at this park.
- **Revenue facilities:** One or more (e.g. pool, sports complex, pavilion).
- **Land usage:** Sixty-five percent (65%) active and thirty-five (35%) passive.
- **Maintenance standards:** Provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding. Seek a goal of Level 2 maintenance standards. Some amenities may require Level 1 maintenance.
- **Parking:** Sufficient to support the amenities; occupies no more than 10% of the park. Design should include widened on-street parking area adjacent to park. Goal is to maximize usable park space. Traffic-calming devices encouraged within and next to the park.
- **Lighting:** Amenity lighting includes sport field light standards.
- **Signage:** Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience. May include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility.
- **Landscape design:** Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience. Enhanced landscaping at park entrances and throughout park.
- **Other:** Strong appeal to surrounding neighborhoods; loop trail connectivity; linked to regional park, trail or recreation facility.
- **Size of park:** Typically 10 to 75 acres.

REGIONAL PARK

A regional park functions as a destination location that serves a large area of several communities, residents within a city, city or county, or across multiple counties. Depending on activities within a regional park, users may travel as many as 60 miles for a visit. Regional parks include recreational opportunities such as soccer, softball, golf, conservation-wildlife viewing and fishing. Although regional parks usually have a combination of passive areas and active facilities, they are likely to be predominantly natural resource-based parks.

A common size for a regional park is 50 or more acres in size. A regional park focuses on activities and natural features not included in most types of parks and often based on a specific scenic or recreational opportunity. Facilities could include those found in a community park and have specialized amenities, such as an amphitheater, golf course, or natural area with interpretive trails. Regional parks can and should promote tourism and economic development. Regional parks can enhance the economic vitality and identity of the entire region.

- **Service radius:** Three-mile or greater radius.
- **Site selection:** Prefer location which can preserve natural resources on-site, such as wetlands, streams, and other geographic features or sites with significant cultural or historic features. Significantly large parcel of land. Access from public roads capable of handling anticipated traffic.
- **Length of stay:** All or multiple day experience.
- **Amenities:** Six to 12 amenities to create a signature facility (e.g. dog parks, fishing/boating access, golf course, tennis complex, sports complex, lake, regional playground, 3+ reservable picnic shelters, camping, outdoor recreation/extreme sports, recreation center, pool, gardens, trails, zoo, specialty facilities); restrooms with drinking fountains; concessions; restaurant; ample parking; special event site.
- **Revenue facilities:** Typically, park designed to produce revenue to offset operational costs.
- **Land usage:** Up to 50% active/50% passive.
- **Maintenance standards:** Provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding. Seek a goal of Level 2 maintenance standards. Some amenities may require Level 1 maintenance.
- **Parking:** Sufficient for all amenities. Traffic-calming devices encouraged within and next to park.
- **Lighting:** Amenity lighting includes sport field light standards.
- **Signage:** Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience, may include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility.
- **Landscape design:** Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience. Enhanced landscaping at park entrances and throughout park.
- **Other:** Linked to major trails systems, public transportation available, concessions, food and retail sales available, dedicated site managers on duty. Wi-Fi and telephone/cable TV conduit.
- **Size of park:** Typically, 75 to 250 acres.

SPORTS COMPLEX

Sports complexes at community parks, regional parks, and stand-alone sports complexes are developed to provide four to 16+ fields or courts in one setting. A sports complex may also support extreme sports facilities, such as BMX and skateboarding. Sports complexes can be single focused or multi-focused and can include indoor or outdoor facilities to serve the needs of both youth and adults. Outdoor fields should be lighted to maximize value and productivity of the complex. Agencies developing sports complexes focus on meeting the needs of residents while also attracting sport tournaments for economic purposes to the community.

Sport field design includes appropriate field distances for each sport's governing body and support amenities designed to produce revenue to offset operational costs.

Signature sports complexes include enhanced amenities, such as artificial turf, multipurpose field benches and bleachers, scoreboards, amplified sound, scorer's booths, etc. Enhanced amenities would be identified through discussion between City and schools and/or sports associations and dependent upon adequate funding.

- **Service radius:** Determined by community demand.
- **Site selection:** Stand-alone sports complexes are strategically located on or near arterial streets. Refer to community or regional park sections if sport complex located within a park. Preference is streets on four sides, or three sides with school or municipal use on fourth side.
- **Length of stay:** Two to three hours experience for single activities. Can be all day for tournaments or special events.
- **Amenities:** Four to sixteen or more fields or sports courts in one setting; restrooms, ample parking, turf types appropriate for the facility and anticipated usage, and field lighting.
- **Revenue facilities:** Four or more (e.g. fields, concession stand, picnic pavilion).
- **Land usage:** Ninety-five percent (95%) active and 5% passive.
- **Retention basins:** While joint use is acceptable, park-related uses in storm-drainage basins typically do not satisfy City requirements for amounts of parkland needed to serve local populations.
- **Programming:** Focus on active programming of all amenities.
- **Parking:** Sufficient to support the amenities. Traffic-calming devices encouraged within and next to park.
- **Lighting:** Amenity lighting includes sport field light standards.
- **Signage:** Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience. May include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility.
- **Landscape design:** Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience. Enhanced landscaping at entrances and throughout complex.
- **Size of park:** Preferably 20 or more acres for stand-alone complexes.

SPECIAL-USE PARKS

Special-useparks are those spaces that don't fall within a typical park classification. A major difference between a special-use facility and other parks is that they usually serve a single purpose whereas other park classifications are designed to offer multiple recreation opportunities. It is possible for a special-use facility to be located inside another park. Special-use facilities generally fall into the following categories:

- **Historic/cultural/social sites** – Unique local resources offering historical, educational, and cultural opportunities. Examples include historic downtown areas, plaza parks, performing arts parks, arboretums, display gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, churches, and amphitheaters. Frequently these are located in community or regional parks.
- **Nature parks** – Parks where people can experience a preserved or enhanced natural environment and a refuge from active, urban life. This classification is appropriate for areas where the human experience is emphasized.
- **Golf courses** – Nine and 18-hole complexes with ancillary facilities, such as club houses, driving ranges, program space and learning centers. These facilities are highly maintained and support a wide age level of males and females. Programs are targeted for daily use play, tournaments, leagues, clinics and special events. Operational costs come from daily play, season pass holders, concession stands, driving range fees, earned income opportunities and sale of pro shop items.
- **Outdoor recreation facilities** – Examples include baseball stadiums, aquatic parks, disc golf, skateboard, BMX, and dog parks, which may be located in a park.

  - **Size of park:** Depends upon facilities and activities included. Their diverse character makes it impossible to apply acreage standards.
  - **Service radius:** Depends upon facilities and activities included. Typically serves special user groups while a few serve the entire population.
  - **Site selection:** Given the variety of potential uses, no specific standards are defined for site selection. As with all park types, the site itself should be located where it is appropriate for its use.
  - **Length of stay:** Varies by facility.
  - **Amenities:** Varies by facility.
  - **Revenue facilities:** Due to nature of certain facilities, revenue may be required for construction and/or annual maintenance. This should be determined at a policy level before the facility is planned and constructed.
  - **Land usage:** Varies by facility.
  - **Retention basins:** While joint use is acceptable, park-related uses in storm-drainage basins typically do not satisfy City requirements for amounts of parkland needed to serve local populations.
  - **Programming:** Varies by facility.
  - **Maintenance standards:** Provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding. Seek a goal of Level 2 maintenance standards. Some amenities (i.e., rose gardens) will require Level 1 maintenance.
  - **Parking:** On-street or off-street parking is provided as appropriate. Goal is to maximize usable park space. As necessary, provide a minimum of five to 10 spaces within park including accessible spaces. Traffic-calming devices encouraged next to park.
  - **Lighting:** Security or amenity only.
  - **Signage:** Directional and regulation signage to enhance user experience.
  - **Landscape Design:** Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience.

OPEN SPACE/CONSERVATION LANDS

Open space/conservation lands are undeveloped but may include natural or paved trails. Open space/conservation lands contain natural resources that can be managed for recreation and natural resource conservation values, such as a desire to protect wildlife habitat, water quality, and endangered species. Open space/conservation lands also can provide opportunities for nature-based, unstructured, low-impact recreational opportunities, such as walking and nature viewing.

- **Amenities:** May include paved or natural trails, wildlife viewing areas, mountain biking, disc golf, and interpretation and education facilities.
- **Maintenance standards:** Demand-based maintenance with available funding. Biological management practices observed.
- **Lighting:** None.
- **Signage:** Interpretive kiosks, as deemed appropriate.
- **Landscape Design:** Generally, none. Some areas may include landscaping, such as entryways or around buildings. In these situations, sustainable design is appropriate.

GREENBELTS/TRAILS

Greenbelts are recognized for their ability to connect people and places while serving as active transportation facilities. Linking neighborhoods, parks, recreation facilities, attractions, and natural areas with a multi-use trail fulfills three guiding principles simultaneously: 1) protecting natural areas along canals and open space areas, 2) providing people with a way to access and enjoy them, and 3) providing a safe, alternative form of active transportation.

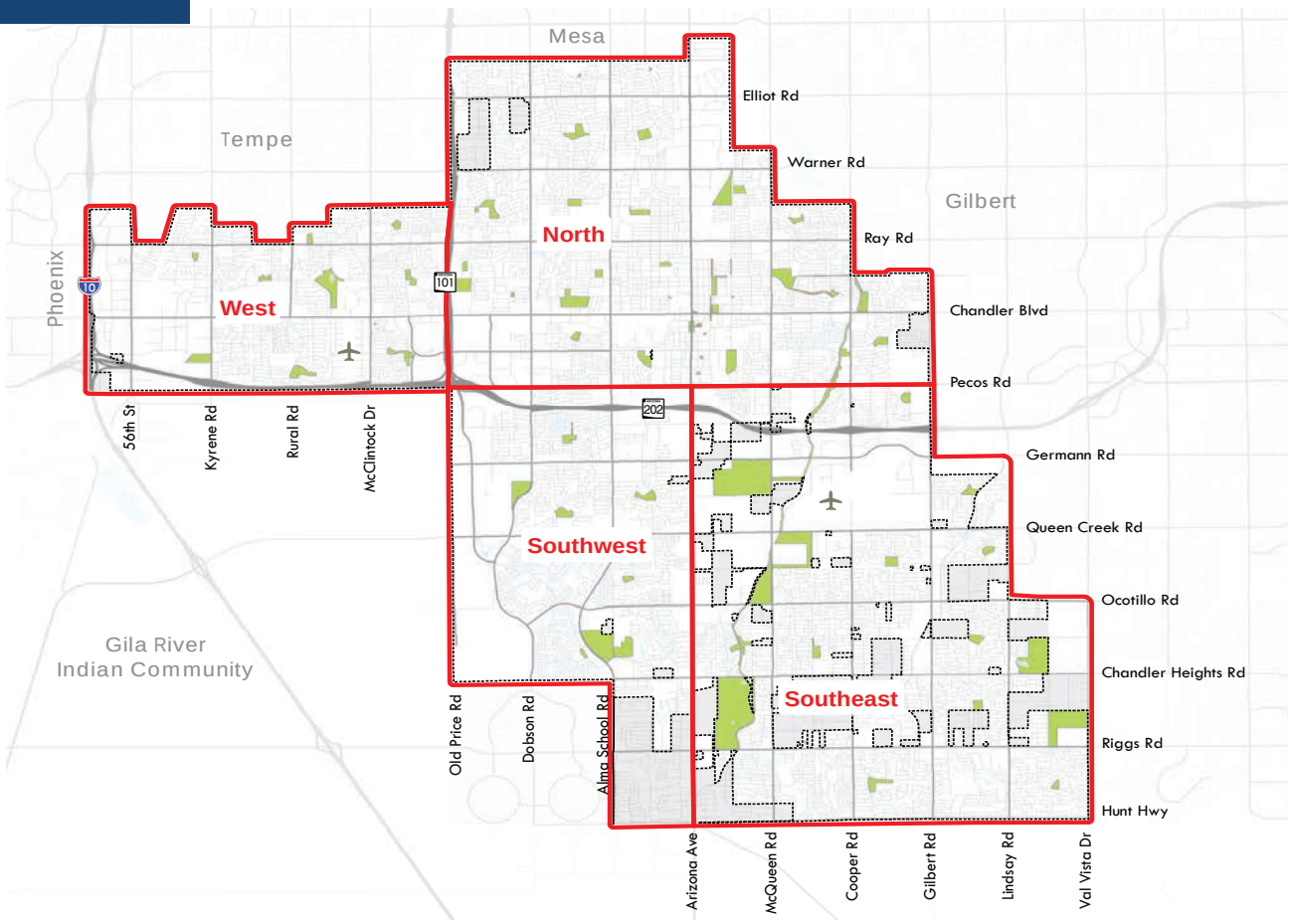
- **Site selection:** Located consistent with an approved Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Master Plan.
- **Amenities:** Parking and restrooms at major trailheads. May include small parks along the trail.
- **Maintenance standards:** Demand-based maintenance with available funding. Biological management practices observed.
- **Lighting:** Security lighting at trailheads and along trail is preferred.
- **Signage:** Mileage markers at 1/4-mile intervals. Interpretive kiosks at all trailheads and where deemed necessary.
- **Landscape design:** Coordinated planting scheme in urban areas. Limited or no planting in open space areas.
- **Other:** Connectivity to parks or other City attractions and facilities is desirable.
- **Size:** Typically, at least 30 ft. width of unencumbered land for a greenbelt. May include a trail to support walk, bike, run, equestrian type activities. Typically, an urban trail is 8-10 feet wide to support pedestrian and bicycle uses. Trails incorporate signage to designate where a user is located and where the trails connect in the City.

The Department manages 66 park assets, which equates to an average of more than one park per every square mile.

Facility Inventory/Assessment

At nearly a quarter of a million residents, the City is the fourth largest city in Arizona. This population boom has led to a balanced diversity of parks and associated amenities throughout its history and growth. Per its mission, the Department 'champions everyday experiences that encourage the community to discover, imagine, and grow'. As the city has grown since its establishment in 1912 to encompass 64.90 incorporated square miles, the number of parks and facilities has equally grown with it. Currently, the Department manages 67 park assets, which equates to an average of more than one park per every square mile of the City's boundaries. The over 1,000 acres of parks and facilities, maintained by the City, offer an ample mix of traditional park types.

For the purposes of this assessment, the City has been separated into four distinct planning areas, as shown in the graphic below.



UNDEVELOPED PARK LANDS

The City currently owns over 200 acres of undeveloped parklands. Land was previously acquired and set aside by the City to expand existing and/or create new facilities at the following locations:

DEVELOPED PARKS

- **Desert Breeze Park:** 2.50 Acres
- **Tumbleweed Park:** 77.95 Acres

UNDEVELOPED PARKS

- **Homestead North Park:** 7.60 Acres
- **Lantana Ranch Park:** 50.77 Acres
- **Mesquite Groves Park:** 98.40 Acres

SYSTEM-WIDE AMENITIES AND QUANTITIES

Amenity	Quantity
ARCHERY RANGE	1
BASEBALL FIELD (LIGHTED)	20
BASKETBALL COURT (LIGHTED)	40
BBQ PIT / GRILL	162
BEAN BAG TOSS (CORNHOLE)	4
BENCH	852
BIKE RACK / LOOP	72
BIKE / SKATE PARK (SF)	60,000
BLEACHERS	48
BOCCE BALL COURT	3
CRICKET FIELD	1
DECORATIVE FOUNTAIN	3
DISC GOLF COURSE	1
DOG BAG STATION	252
DOG PARK	4
DRINKING FOUNTAIN	96
FENCING (LF)	1,888
FITNESS STATION	17
FLAG POLE	19
HORSESHOE PIT	11
IRRIGATION SYSTEM (AC)	1,066
KIOSK (INTERPRETIVE)	18
LAKE / POND	10
LIGHTING (SITE, SPORTS, PED, ETC)	2,950
MAINTENANCE YARD / BUILDING	5
MULTIUSE COURT (LIGHTED)	2
MULTIUSE COURT (NON-LIGHTED)	1

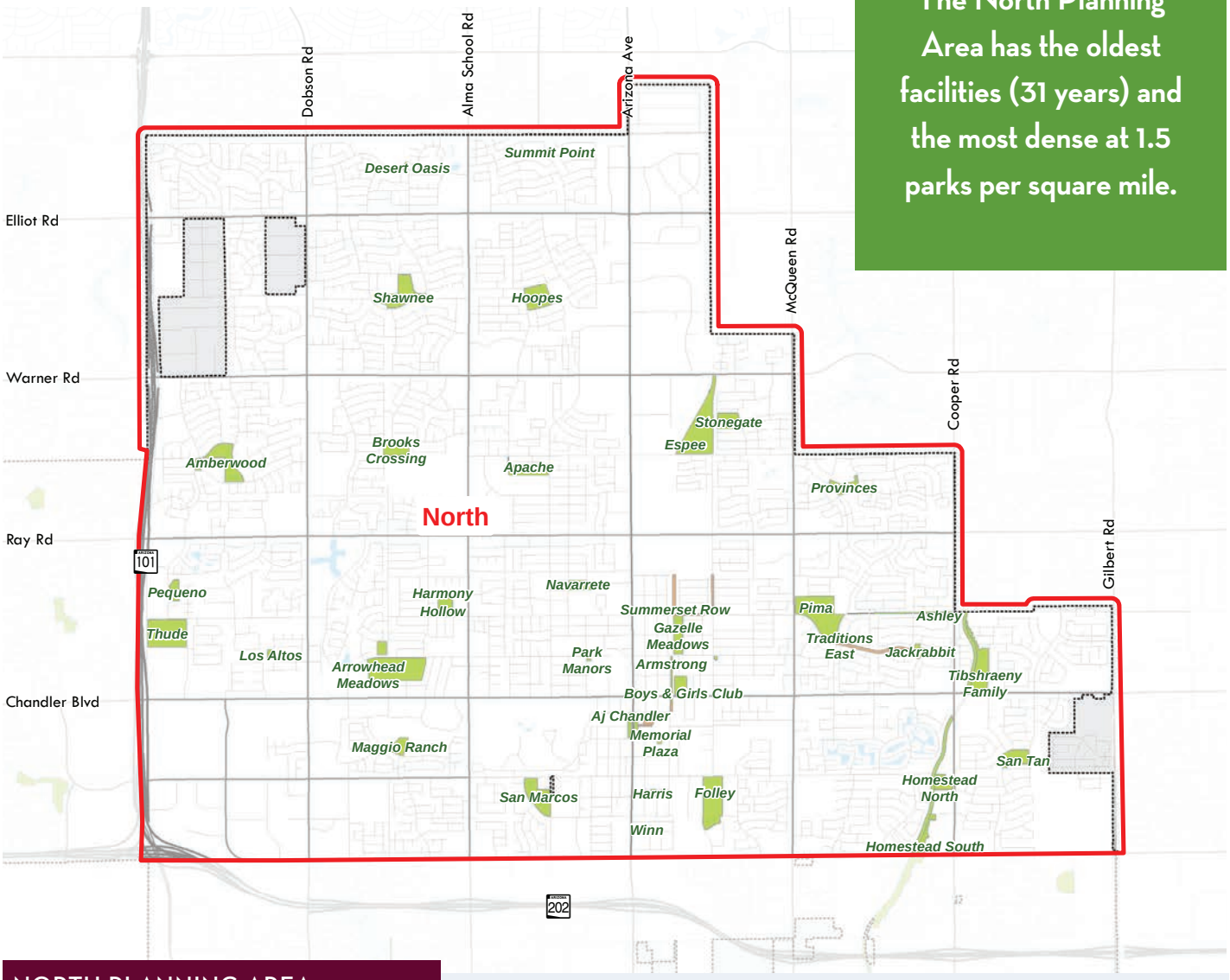
Amenity	Quantity
MULTIUSE FIELD (LIGHTED)	22
MULTIUSE FIELD (NON-LIGHTED)	7
OPEN TURF AREA (AC)	300
PARKING LOT (SPACES)	4,464
PICKLEBALL COURT	9
PICNIC TABLE	760
PLAYGROUND (NON-SHADED)	13
PLAYGROUND (SHADED)	82
PUBLIC ART	7
RACQUETBALL COURT (OUTDOOR)	2
RAMADA	155
RC AIRPLANE FLYING AREA	5
RESTROOM BUILDING	26
SHADE STRUCTURE (STAND-ALONE)	62
SIGNAGE (PARK ENTRY)	137
SIGNAGE (REGULATORY)	282
SOFTBALL FIELD (LIGHTED)	9
SOFTBALL FIELD (NON-LIGHTED)	2
SPRAY PAD	3
TENNIS CENTER	1
TENNIS COURT (LIGHTED)	25
TRAIL - NON PAVED (MI)	9.5
TRAIL - PAVED (MI)	53.9
TRASH RECEPTACLE	1,896
VETERANS MEMORIAL	1
VOLLEYBALL COURT (SAND)	35

The City's parks and facilities are generally well distributed geographically and have a consistent variety of amenities at each location. However, due to planned development communities and home owner's associations maintaining their own recreational facilities in newer parts of the city, the west and north planning areas have more facilities than the southwest and southeast areas.

WEST PLANNING AREA

Park/Facility	Built	Size
DESERT BREEZE	1991	44.40
HARTER	1993	8.65
MOUNTAIN VIEW	1989	18.07
NOZOMI	2004	21.36
PINE SHADOWS	1997	5.28
PRICE	1993	12.57
PUEBLO ALTO	1997	0.25
SUNDANCE	1993	3.52
SUNSET	1999	4.99
WINDMILLS WEST	1990	6.32
Average Age – 25.4 Years		
Total Acres		125.4

The North Planning Area has the oldest facilities (31 years) and the most dense at 1.5 parks per square mile.



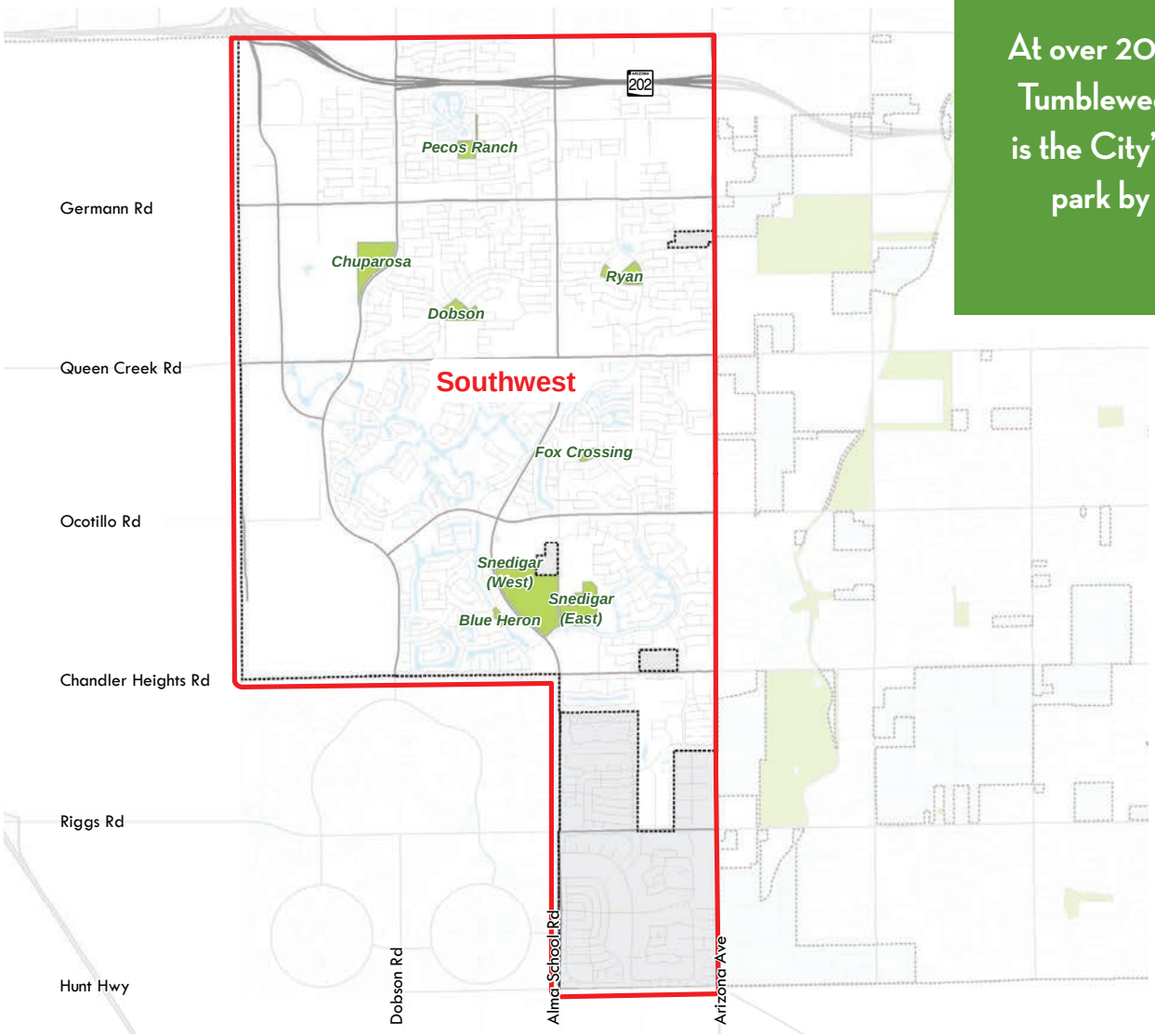
NORTH PLANNING AREA

Park/Facility	Built	Size
AMBERWOOD	1986	16.47
APACHE	1977	9.97
ARMSTRONG	2009	1.57
ARROWHEAD MEADOWS	1974	30.84
ASHLEY TRAIL	1996	2.51
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	2009	5.40
BROOKS CROSSING	1986	8.16
DESERT OASIS	1992	0.72
DR. AJ CHANDLER	1912	3.52
EAST MINI	1970	0.26
ESPEE	2004	32.77

Park/Facility	Built	Size
FOLLEY MEMORIAL	1974	22.86
GAZELLE MEADOWS	1985	8.39
HARMONY HOLLOW	2003	6.06
HARRIS	1967	0.66
HOMESTEAD SOUTH	2018	4.98
HOOPES	1984	12.54
JACKRABBIT	1995	2.79
LOS ALTOS	1999	1.17
MAGGIO RANCH	1994	5.28
NAVARRETE	1969	4.37
PARK MANORS	1999	0.29

Park/Facility	Built	Size
PASEO TRAIL*	2009	26.85
PEQUENO	2002	4.54
PIMA	1980	31.68
PROVINCES	1999	5.97
SAN MARCOS	1994	14.65
SAN TAN	1995	9.71
SHAWNEE	1983	17.55
STONEGATE	1984	8.32
SUMMIT POINT	1987	0.29
THUDE	1995	25.98
TIBSHRAENY FAMILY	2007	16.34
WINN	1986	0.80
Average Age	31.1 Years	
Total Acres	344.2	

At over 200 acres, Tumbleweed Park is the City's largest park by area.



OF THE 66 FACILITIES INVENTORIED AS PART OF THIS ASSESSMENT, THERE WERE:

- 51 Neighborhood Parks
- 9 Community Parks
- 5 Special-use Facilities
- 1 Regional Park

SOUTHWEST PLANNING AREA

Park/Facility	Built	Size
BLUE HERON	2006	2.85
CHUPAROSA	2003	29.38
DOBSON	1994	12.45
FOX CROSSING	1999	5.16
PECOS RANCH	1994	10.61
RYAN	2006	13.85
SNEDIGAR SPORTSPLEX	1991	90.83
Average Age	21.0 Years	
Total Acres		*165.13*

NOTE

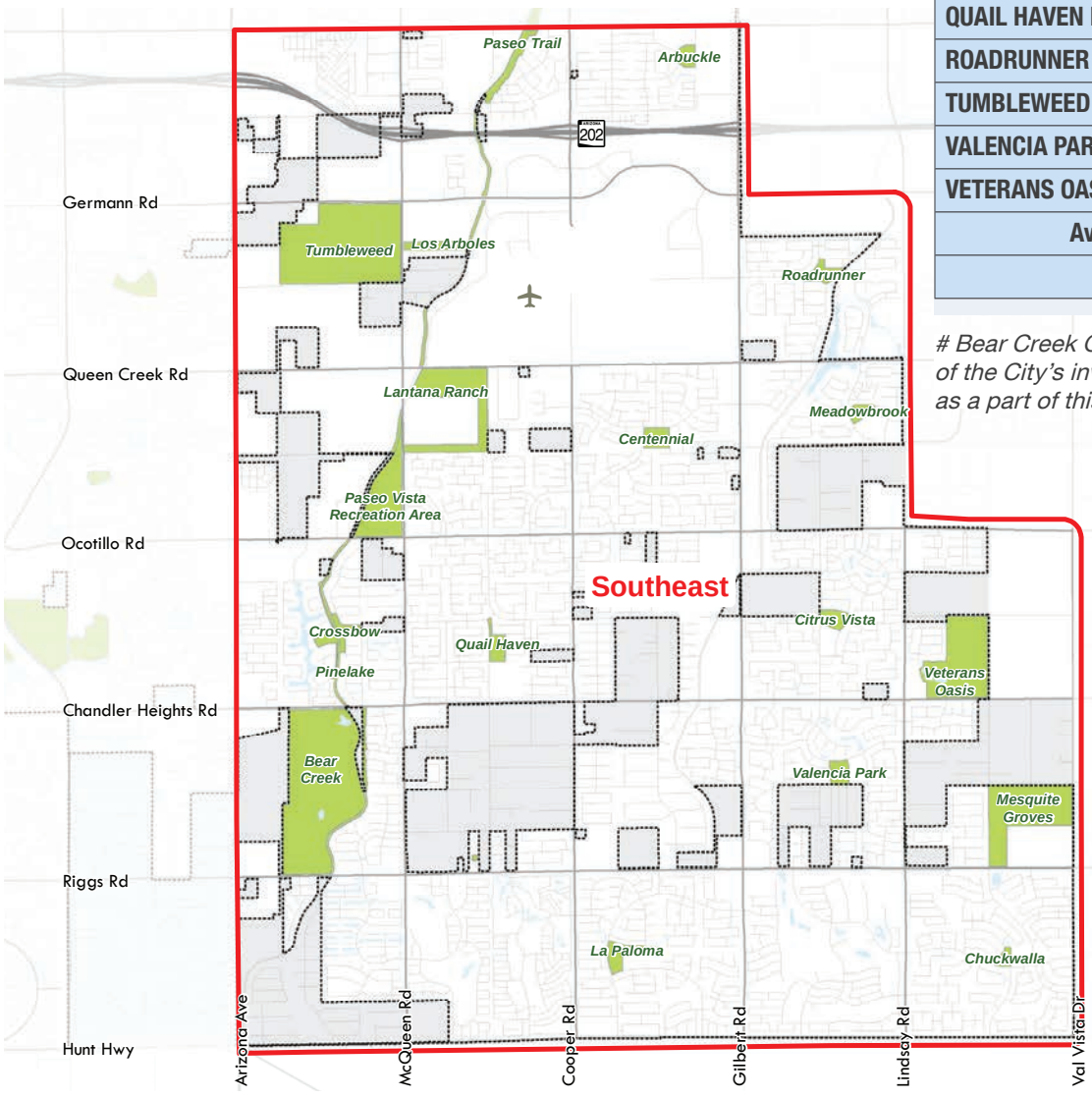
It is important to note that the on-site inventory and assessment process was performed May 4th through May 8th, 2020. During that time the global pandemic associated with the COVID-19 virus was ongoing, therefore the availability of certain facilities and amenities were not easily accessible given government mandates and social distancing measures being practiced at that time.

The assessments used reasonable efforts to review these amenities. Facilities, such as restrooms and maintenance buildings were reviewed from the exterior and the Department's knowledge and input was utilized to fill in the remaining assessment items, such as restroom interior conditions, as needed to provide a complete and thorough inventory of the existing system.

SOUTHEAST PLANNING AREA

Park/Facility	Built	Size
ARBUCKLE PARK	2007	7.89
BEAR CREEK GOLF COURSE #	2000	234.3
CENTENNIAL PARK	2014	10.88
CHUCKWALLA PARK	2006	4.46
CITRUS VISTA	2015	11.21
CROSSBOW PARK	2008	7.95
LA PALOMA PARK	2002	15.64
LOS ARBOLES PARK	2003	11.37
MEADOWBROOK PARK	2018	7.09
PASEO TRAIL*	2009	53.7
PASEO VISTA RECREATION AREA	2009	62.50
PINELAKE PARK	2006	7.80
QUAIL HAVEN PARK	2004	9.77
ROADRUNNER PARK	2013	10.24
TUMBLEWEED PARK	2002	211.10
VALENCIA PARK	2014	9.35
VETERANS OASIS PARK	2007	113.0
Average Age	11.4 Years	
Total Acres		788.2

 # Bear Creek Golf Course is considered part of the City's inventory but was not assessed as a part of this study.



The Southeast Planning Area has nearly 150 acres of undeveloped park land which are currently owned by the City of Chandler.

The inventory and assessment of the existing park system is a vital step in this planning process to understand the physical condition of the Department's assets. This inventory is intended to build off the City's previous parks and recreation master plans and studies by evaluating past recommendations, current geographic information databases, and physical on-site assessments by looking at each asset in terms of location, number, size, and quality.

GROWTH

The additional expansion or growth of the City is extremely limited given its existing geographic and political boundaries with the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) and the Cities of Tempe, Mesa, Gilbert, and Phoenix. Any realistic growth opportunities for improvement to parks and amenities will be through the development of expanded connections, such as greenways, bike paths, and trails along existing transportation corridors and public infrastructure. The current Paseo Trail along the Consolidated Canal is an excellent resource serving a wide variety of users and linking the entire city north to south. The City should make it a priority to maximize opportunities with CIP projects, such as roadway/street improvements to develop additional paths, trails, and other methods of safe bike and pedestrian transportation to assist in closing 'gaps' and expanding access to existing park facilities. The expansion of these connections will only further help in providing that "last mile" for both citizens and visitors alike to experience the City's park assets.

CONDITION

While there are a few parks and facilities in the southeast area, which are relatively new and in good condition, in general the parks and amenities visited were observed to be in an average state of condition. This is primarily due to the age of amenities within the park system and current maintenance practices. While, nothing was noted as being in complete disrepair or a safety hazard, there are a number of amenities, that due to their age, will soon need accelerated maintenance plans and/or complete replacement. Typically, these assets involve amenities, such as ramadas/shade structures, benches, or playgrounds, which have been highly used and are exceeding their lifecycle. Due to these aging amenities, improvements will be needed to upgrade the existing parks to meet modern recommendations for playground equipment and access. While many amenities have been noted as aging, the Department's commitment to high-quality maintenance is clearly evident throughout the entire system. The City clearly recognizes the key role its parks system plays in providing a high quality of life for its residents.

MAINTENANCE

The Department has done a good job with routine maintenance and general upkeep of its parks, so much in fact, that many amenities appear to have far exceeded the manufacturer's recommended lifecycle. With that in mind, the upgrade and/or full replacement of these amenities will need to be addressed in the very near future. As these amenities continue to age, additional challenges in maintaining them will arise for the Department if not upgraded or replaced soon. The Department should be aggressive in implementing a plan to identify existing park and amenity upgrades for future CIP projects.

ADA COMPLIANCE

While a full Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance review was not part of this assessment process during on-site investigations, it was noted that several playground structures and surfacing appear to need review to ensure a continued commitment to safety. The Department is currently undertaking such an effort to inspect existing facilities, conduct self-evaluations, and update its transition plan as needed to continue meeting the standards and regulations for ADA compliant accessibility. Several parks have sidewalk panels that show some vertical separation exceeding 1/4 inch (the maximum vertical difference allowed under ADA). The department should develop a plan to sawcut, dowel, and replace any panels in question.

MAXIMIZING PROGRAMMING

During the on-site assessments, it was noted that the smaller open turf areas were not in nearly as good of condition as the larger more active turf spaces, which is mostly due to lack of proper irrigation maintenance. In addition, most open turf areas, regardless of size, are in need of general grading and drainage improvements to minimize low spots, address slope erosion, and improve or replaced irrigation systems to maximize healthy turf growth. The Department should focus on strategic turf improvements, as they will ultimately increase the usability and future programming opportunities for these spaces.

MATURE TREES

Most of the trees within the west, north, and southwest areas of the city are large and mature, as well as provide incredible shade from the sun in the harsh desert environment. While these trees are a great asset due to their size and aesthetic appeal, some of them are declining in health due to age and other environmental factors. In addition, some of these larger trees create situations of poor turf quality due to the dense shade they project, as well as sidewalk cracking and heaving. It is recommended that the Department undergo a tree lifecycle analysis at all of its parks to understand the impacts the trees age may have on future maintenance. An inventory analysis and recommended best practices will be critical for establishing a plan for systematic removal and replacement. Removing all mature trees at one time would be devastating to the character of several facilities and should be avoided when possible. Additionally, developing a plan for sidewalk replacement and relocation should be considered to provide sufficient root zone separation.

SPORTS FIELDS

The Department's sports fields (baseball, softball, multi-use, and soccer) are generally well maintained. There are signs of inconsistent turf growth and bare spots which are a direct result of poor irrigation maintenance. Overall, the turf playing surfaces are in above average condition at most fields. The fencing, dugouts, and backstops at several softball and baseball fields is noticeably aging, bowing and in need of replacement. Additionally, all fields should be upgraded with LED lighting.

PARKING LOTS

The asphalt-concrete pavement is showing signs of cracking due to age and surface ponding in many of the park parking lots. Most cracks range from a ½ to an inch in width. It is recommended that the Department seal coat all surface cracks with, at the most, every three years for ease of maintenance and to increase the surface's life expectancy. In most cases the existing parking pavement and subbase have significant life remaining before replacement will be required. Proper sealing and treatment of cracks, along with proper drainage conveyance, limiting the infiltration of moisture, can prolong the life of the parking lots.

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Due to the age of many parks and the apparent inconsistencies of existing irrigation coverage and maintenance, particularly in turf areas, it is recommended that the Department undertake a system-wide irrigation audit to fully inventory and assess the existing irrigation systems and maintenance practices at all parks and facilities. The audit should evaluate the existing equipment, available supply and demand, perform hydraulic analysis, and provide prioritized recommendations and costs for necessary improvements. As noted above, identifying deficiencies in the irrigation systems and fixing them will lead to consistent, quality turf and open space areas that will in turn strengthen the number of programming opportunities.

LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

Similar to irrigation mentioned above, both the system and many individual parks display inconsistencies in lighting types. While some parks have been converted to LED and standardized equipment, others have not. Existing lighting and electrical systems have been repaired and replaced on a case by case, as needed basis. It is recommended that the Department undertake a system-wide lighting and energy study to develop alternatives and solutions for improving lighting by retrofitting existing fixtures for greater efficiency and energy savings. Additionally, the incorporation of smart emerging technologies can be planned and incorporated into new infrastructure implementation.

The quality of each asset was assessed as a part of the on-site review and inventory. The following factors were the primary categories reviewed during the inventory phase:

- Asset Age
- Asset Size
- Asset Condition
- Asset Connectivity (Vehicular, Non-Vehicular and Contextual)

Summary

In general, the overall impression of the Department's assets are as follows:

- Parks are clean, consistent and well-maintained at or near a NRPA Level III
- There is a good variety of park types and amenities
- Facilities are clearly valued by residents given their visible use
- Higher density of city facilities in the north and west areas
- Recommendations from the recent ADA audit should be implemented
- Parks contain many mature trees, many of which are exceeding their lifecycle
- Decomposed granite in planting areas has weathered and washed away
- Several irrigation maintenance issues on turf slopes
- Quality maintenance has prolonged the lifecycle of many amenities
- Park signage is consistent but small and not instantly recognizable
- Newer parks have a uniqueness and individuality, which older parks lack
- Parking lots are generally in need resurfacing and restriping
- Many restroom facilities are original and need renovation/replacement
- Many turf areas are in poor condition and lack usability
- Miscellaneous grading and drainage improvements are needed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