

## CHAPTER 9

# Conclusion



## SIX MAJOR FOCUS AREAS

Improve Access to Parks  
and Trails and Maintain  
Quality

Increase Connectivity

Invest in Existing Resources

Create an Economic  
Catalyst

Grow Operations  
and Staffing

Finance the System



## CHAPTER 9 - CONCLUSION

The City of Chandler's Strategic Parks Master Plan was developed to provide the Department a roadmap for the future utilizing knowledge gained from community input, park inventory and assessment and comparison to national standards and trends all while assessing the realities of the current economic and political climate. The planning process incorporated a comprehensive series of discovery and analysis strategies to understand the workings of the Department and included an extensive community engagement process. Several strategic recommendations resulted from this effort and were aligned into the six major focus area categories of implementation actions shown in this plan.

The park system is highly valued by community residents and leaders. It serves multiple purposes, including recreational, environmental, educational, social, and economic development, and it improves the overall quality of life for its residents. The condition and upkeep of existing parks is a priority for residents. It is evident that the Department has made this a high priority as multiple parks have been maintained with such care that they have far exceed their lifecycle. This has, however, created a situation where many parks will be in need of significant repairs and/or renovation in the near future.

The City of Chandler's population is increasing and projected to experience a 32% growth over the next 15 years. If strategies and policies are not in place to address this increased growth, it will create unnecessary pressure on the Department's already stressed resources. The Department should make it a priority to strategically invest, develop, and maintain parks and facilities in relation to current and future housing development areas. Currently, the City lacks sufficient parkland to meet the needs of residents, most notably athletic fields, pickleball/tennis courts, and shade ramadas do not meet the recommended national standards. It is important to note there is an anticipated need for an additional 466 developed park acres within the next 15 years to keep up with the projected population growth. It is recommended that the City partner with future homeowner associations to help shoulder some of this load by having them focus solely on developing the needed neighborhood parks.

To ensure that the City has a plan for capital projects, an approach was developed that organized projects into two categories:

**Sustainable Projects** and **Visionary Projects**. This comprehensive approach provides departmental staff a systematic three-tiered plan to categorize and prioritize projects, which will ultimately be provided through a detailed capital improvement plan for the next 15 years, starting with \$136 million to be accomplished over the next seven-year CIP-cycle.

The information included in this Strategic Parks Master Plan provides the Department an approach for accomplishing its goals, initiatives, tactics and measurements to ensure that as the city grows, the Department does so as well—effectively, efficiently and sustainably—while providing world-class services, programs, parks, and facilities to the community for many years to come.

**Building upon the collaboration and coordination started as a part of this planning effort, continued engagement of the Department, City Council, Parks and Recreation Board, and the residents of Chandler will be critical to ensure that the maximum benefit of the strategies outlined in this plan are realized.**



