



Community Services Department – Memo No. CS24-027

Date: November 21, 2024

To: Parks and Recreation Bond Sub-Committee

From: John Sefton, Community Services Director
Kim Moyers, Cultural Development Director
Mickey Ohland, Community Services Senior Planning Manager

Subject: **2025 Bond Election Community Service Projects –
Parks and Recreation Bond Subcommittee
Recommendations/Rankings**

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the Bond Subcommittee 2025
Proposed Project Rankings

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: The Subcommittee met several times between October and November which included tours of the Tumbleweed Ranch, AJ Chandler Park, and the Snedigar Sports Complex. After presentations by staff and committee discussion/debate, the group developed a consensus on the rankings of the projects to be included in the 2025 Bond Election.

PROPOSED MOTION: Move to approve that the Parks and Recreation Bond Subcommittee support and recommend to the Bond Steering Committee the bond-eligible projects and prioritized as presented.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Development Project Rankings
November 21, 2024

1. Existing Neighborhood Park Improvements/Repairs **\$23,345,000**

Each year citizens make requests to the Community Services Department for improvements in many of Chandler's existing fifty-three (53) neighborhood parks. This project provides an equitable distribution of neighborhood park improvements throughout the city. Improvements include:

Playground replacement/renovation.
Irrigation system renovation/Water Conservation.
Ramada renovations.
Lighting renovations.
Landscaping renovations.

2. Existing Community Park Improvements/Repairs **\$17,350,000**

Chandler's existing parks system includes nine (9) developed Community Parks. These parks typically serve several neighborhoods located within approximately 1-2 miles of the park. Community parks provide more specialized and elaborate facilities such as lighted sports fields, group picnic areas, restrooms, and play areas. This project provides for the equitable distribution of community park improvements throughout the city. Improvements could include but are not limited to the following:

Playground replacement/renovations.
Sports Field LED lighting conversions.
Irrigation system renovation/Water Conservation.
Ramada renovations.
Restroom renovations.
Landscaping renovations.

3. Exist. Community/Recreation Centers Improvements/Repairs **\$6,000,000**

This project is for various improvements and/or renovations to the City's existing twelve (12) recreation and aquatic facilities whose average age is over 29 years. Facilities include the Tumbleweed Recreation Center (TRC), Snedigar Recreation Center, Tennis Center, Environmental Education Center, Community Center, Senior Center, and six (6) aquatic facilities.

- 4. Dr. AJ Chandler Park Renovation – Phase 1 **\$10,000,000****

Dr. AJ Chandler Park is a 3.52-acre park in the middle of downtown and was last renovated in the 1980's. In 2024, a revised Dr. A.J. Chandler Park Master Plan was completed which included a phased construction approach. The park's Master Plan was designed to be a destination driver for Chandler with unique features and amenities that will appeal to all segments of Chandler's community as well as drawing from outside the community. Phase 1 includes improvements to both sides of Arizona Avenue as well as the crosswalk on Arizona Avenue. Features/amenities include unique shade structures, seating areas, restrooms, trees and landscaping, new hardscape and lighting.
- 5. Folley Pool Renovation **\$37,745,000****

Folley Park is a 24-acre community park originally developed in 1976. In 1981, the aquatic center was completed. This project is for a complete re-design of the pool and park. The park had a minor renovation in 2016 and the pool was last renovated in 1996 with the addition of the play pool, splash pad, and pool equipment replacement. Folley Pool is the only aquatic facility that operates as a summer only facility (8 weeks) as the design and equipment only provides the opportunity for limited seasonal use. While lesson programming at Folley has remained strong, the lack of amenities like those found at other Chandler aquatic facilities has negatively impacted public swim attendance. A full replacement of the facility is necessary to meet the existing demands of user groups and provide opportunities for year-round programming.
- 6. Mesquite Groves Park - Phase 2 **\$30,263,000****

The Community Services Department has established a series of community park service zones (2-mile radius) as a means of assuring equitable distribution of community parks throughout the City. In 2002, the City of Chandler purchased 100 acres on the northwest corner of Val Vista Drive and Riggs Road for the development of a future community park (Mesquite Groves). In 2008, the aquatic center was constructed on approximately 10 acres of the park. With the population and development in southeast Chandler steadily increasing over the years, additional recreational facilities are needed in this area of the city. System Development Impact Fees (SDF) will fund 30 acres of the park development (Phase 1). Phases 2 will develop approximately 30-acres of the park.

- 7. Desert Breeze Park Renovation (New Project) **\$10,000,000****
Desert Breeze Park, West Chandler's largest community park was originally built in 1991. The park features: Baseball/Softball Fields, a Community Fishing Lake, Multi-use Fields, Picnic Pavilions, Playground, Restrooms, Sand Volleyball, Spray and Splash Pads, Tennis, Walking Trails and the Desert Breeze Railroad, a 1/3 scale GP-38 locomotive running of a ¾ mile train track around the park. This project will infuse a needed capacity to update the critical infrastructure related to the park's destination features including the play features, common areas, landscape, and recreational amenities.
- 8. Snedigar Sports Complex Renovation (New Project) **\$20,000,000****
Snedigar Sportsplex is a 90-acre facility located in South Chandler. The park features a top-rated skate park, two professional-sized baseball fields, four softball fields, four Little League baseball fields, 12 soccer fields, a full-sized cricket field, 2 playground structures, a bark park for dogs, and picnic pavilions as well as a recreation center with rental space for special events/activities. Serving the south-west area of Chandler, the Snedigar Sportsplex was originally constructed in 1991 with expansions over the years. This project will infuse a needed capacity to update the critical infrastructure related to the ballfields, common areas, landscape, and recreational amenities.
- 9. Lantana Ranch Park – Phase 2 **\$5,741,330****
In 2004, the City purchased approximately 70-acres of land located south of the Chandler Municipal Airport. Approximately 50-acres of this site will be developed as additional open space and utilized for general recreation. Phase 1 development was completed in 2022 and included approximately 7-acres of park development. This project is for the design and construction of the balance (43-acres) of the property.
- 10. Tumbleweed Ranch Historic Preservation Development (New Project) **\$13,239,000****
Tumbleweed Ranch, located within Tumbleweed Park, is 14-acres in size and has been designated to preserve and highlight Chandler's rich historic past. The Tumbleweed Ranch Master Plan identifies improvements of existing facilities including the McCroskey House, Edwards House, Red Shed Theater and grocery store and develops future phasing to allow for special events, children's playground, and enriched educational opportunities. The Chandler Museum Foundation voted to support the addition of thoughtful space for processing, conservation and exhibition of art and cultural objects in Chandler.

11. Tumbleweed Multi-Gen Expansion **\$19,604,000**

The Tumbleweed Recreation Center (TRC) is a 62,000 square-foot multi-gen recreational facility located in Tumbleweed Regional Park designed to assist patrons in getting and staying active. This facility has provided a wide variety of classes, activities, and events for all ages since 2008. The TRC currently features an art studio, catering and teaching kitchen, ceramics studio, child watch, classrooms, dance studio, fitness areas, group exercise studio, gymnasium, indoor track, locker room with showers, meeting rooms, multipurpose room, and racquetball courts. The initial, and funded, phase of the expansion will open Spring 2025 featuring 11,000 square feet of additional programming space. The new project funding will complete phase two with a 14,500 square-foot multi-purpose gymnasium and indoor walking path.

12. Mesquite Groves Park - Phase 3 **\$35,229,000**

The Community Services Department has established a series of community park service zones (2-mile radius) as a means of assuring equitable distribution of community parks throughout the City. In 2002, the City of Chandler purchased 100 acres on the northwest corner of Val Vista Drive and Riggs Road for the development of a future community park (Mesquite Groves). In 2008, the aquatic center was constructed on approximately 10 acres of the park. With the population and development in southeast Chandler steadily increasing over the years, additional recreational facilities are needed in this area of the city. System Development Impact Fees (SDF) will fund 30 acres of the park development (Phase 1). Phases 3 will develop approximately 30-acres of the park.