

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council
THROUGH: Steven Methvin, Deputy City Manager, x8811
Keith Burke, Community Services Director, x5819
FROM: Craig Hayton, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks, x5234
Shawn Wagner, Deputy Community Services Director – Recreation, x5299
DATE: April 22, 2021
SUBJECT: Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this presentation is to provide Mayor and Council with updated information and seek input on the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION OR DIRECTION REQUESTED:

Staff is requesting Council input and feedback on the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Quality of Life – 3.16: Achieve ratings of “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with the Quality of City recreation, arts, and cultural centers greater than or equal to the national benchmark cities as measured in the Community Survey.

Quality of Life – 3.17: Achieve ratings of “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with the “Quality of Community Services programs” greater than or equal to the top 10% of the national benchmark cities as measured in the Community Survey.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Plan Format & Organization

This comprehensive planning effort, led by Phoenix-based PLAN*et Communities, provides a system-wide approach to evaluating Tempe’s parks and recreational amenities, facilities, and programs, resulting in broad goals and achievable strategies. The draft plan updates the 2001 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and provides a 10-year roadmap for ensuring an appropriate balance of facilities, amenities, events and programs throughout the community, benefitting Tempe’s residents and park users. The plan is provided as an online document (Story Map), supported by a printable PDF. This format quickly engages viewers, enhances the overall user experience and is easily accessible on a smart phone, tablet or computer.

The draft plan is organized in nine separate chapters: the first three provide important introductory information on the plan and format. The middle three chapters highlight background information, covering the planning process, Tempe in 2020, as well as the current parks and recreation system and services available in 2020. The final three chapters contain forward looking elements of the plan, including a vision of Tempe’s parks and recreation for the next decade, how we get there, and related funding elements associated with plan implementation.

Planning Process

The planning process has included five, interrelated steps, as shown in the graphic below, highlighted specifically in the following narrative:



Community Engagement:

One of the key elements of the planning process has been the continuous, diverse community engagement, ensuring that the planning team has listened to and learned from the community and stakeholders throughout. Community engagement informing the development of the plan has consisted of a robust public “opt-in” survey resulting in more than 1,800 responses, a dozen focus groups, multiple public meetings and Tempe Forum input opportunities, presentations to a dozen different boards and commissions, and three Council work study sessions. Additionally, an internal technical advisory committee, consisting of staff from various city departments and two members of the Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Board, have played a key role in the planning process, ensuring the plan is consistent with and supports other important organizational efforts.

Additional Facilities & Amenities:

As Tempe’s population increases, more facilities and amenities will be needed to keep up with the anticipated demand. As a mechanism to analyze Tempe’s current park and recreational facilities and amenities to ensure they are best able to meet future needs, a Level of Service Analysis (LOS) was completed by PLAN*et Communities. The LOS evaluates Tempe’s recreation facilities and amenities against benchmark jurisdictions identified by the consultant, project team and Technical Advisory Committee. This analysis was essential for assessing future parks and recreation facility need. This analysis, coupled with public input, led to recommendations that help identify potential gaps in service, guide new investments, determine future expenses, and ultimately, support future programming opportunities, realizing that programming drives facilities and amenities, and vice versa. Updated LOS recommendations have been included in appendix 1. Of note, the LOS for seven of the sixteen amenities are recommended to be increased over current levels of service. These include diamond fields, dog parks, pickleball courts, skate parks, splash pads, swimming pools, and fitness courses. It is important to note that amenities that show a lower recommended LOS than the current level of service will not result in the removal of amenities or facilities.

Plan Principles & Strategies:

The drafting process established and refined four guiding principles, grounding the planning effort and identifying high level divisional priorities for the next decade, each of which flow from City Council Strategic Priorities. They are inclusion, resilience, strategic, and sustainability. A definition for each guiding principle and what it means in the context of the plan, are identified below. For each guiding principle, the draft plan includes strategies that the division will continue to work on, or will take up in the near and mid-term, in order to accomplish the guiding principles over the next decade.

Inclusion: Providing community access and opportunity regardless of color, gender orientation, age, income, or ability.

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that:

- Are connected to and integrated into the community.
- Meet the recreation needs of our diverse community.
- Are welcoming and designed for all regardless of race, income, ability, age, gender or sexual orientation.
- Are equitably distributed through the community.
- Are accessible, ADA-compliant and affordable.

- Connect the community to multiple modes and networks of transportation to easily travel throughout Tempe.

Resilience: Parks and recreation system and services that help communities thrive despite disruptive environmental, societal and health events.

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that:

- Foster community connections, allowing Tempe to overcome disruptions.
- Integrate into the community through design and programming.
- Provide respite from extreme heat and drought.
- Are well-maintained so they are safe and clean.
- Are able to withstand increased use.
- Are able to mitigate local flooding.
- Are able to respond to unforeseen events.

Strategic: Flexible parks and recreation system and services that focus on continuous improvement.

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that:

- Are supported by the community.
- Expand recreation opportunities for Tempe residents as a result of partnerships between Tempe Parks and Recreation Division and other city departments, non-city entities such as not-for-profits and private organizations.
- Provide a critical link in the city's 20-Minute City network.

Sustainability: Parks and recreation systems and services that enrich and sustain the community, nurture the environment and contribute to the economy.

Parks and recreation facilities and programs that:

- Contribute to the health of the community.
- Benefit the city's economy through recreation opportunities, activities and events.
- Are well operated, designed and maintained.
- Contribute to the city's green infrastructure.
- Provide environmental benefits.
- Minimize administration and maintenance costs without sacrificing a quality recreation experience.

Remaining Tasks & Timeline

Before plan implementation can occur, staff will wrap up final board and commission meetings by the end of April, in addition to seeking input from Mayor and Council at the April 22, 2021 work study session. These final comments, along with those received through the recently completed Tempe Forum will be compiled, reviewed, and considered, prior to the finalization of the plan. Staff will seek formal Council adoption at an upcoming Regular Council Meeting, anticipated to occur prior to the end of the current fiscal year.

FISCAL IMPACT or IMPACT TO CURRENT RESOURCES:

There is no financial request attached to this specific action.

ATTACHMENTS:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Presentation
Input Summary Report

Appendix 1

City of Tempe Recommended Levels of Service: Park and Recreation Facility Demand										
Facility Name	Total Current Facilities	Current LOS Per 10,000	PLAN Recommended LOS Per 10,000	Total Facilities Recommended per Plan in 2020	2020 Current Need (a)	2030 New Facilities Needed (b)	2030-2040 Total New Facilities Needed (b)	2040-2050 Total New Facilities Needed (c)	2020-2050 Total New Facilities Needed (c, d)	
Census Est. Population 2020				192,000		217,100	247,000	272,400	# Needed to Meet Plan LOS	
Baseball / Softball / Diamond Fields	27	1.39	1.70	33	6	4	5	4	19	Provide capacity through increasing the number of lit fields and/or new construction and partnerships.
Basketball Courts	50	2.57	1.31	25	-	-	-	-	-	Consider adding new multi-use courts in urbanizing areas through public and publicly accessible private development.
Disc Golf	1	0.05	0.05	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dog Park	6	0.31	0.37	7	1	1	1	1	4	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
Volleyball Courts	33	1.70	1.70	33	-	4	5	4	13	Maintain capacity through shared use and/or new construction.
Pickleball Courts	12	0.62	1.00	19	7	2	3	3	15	Maintain capacity through shared use and/or new construction.
Racquetball Courts	24	1.24	0.75	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skate Park	4	0.21	0.23	4	-	1	1	1	3	Provide additional capacity through increasing the number of skate parks or renovation.
Soccer / Rectangle / Multi-use Fields	37	1.91	1.91	37	-	4	6	5	15	Provide capacity through increasing the number of lit fields and/or new construction and partnerships.
Tennis Courts	51	2.63	1.45	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tot Lots / Playgrounds	43	2.21	2.21	43	-	5	7	6	18	Identify opportunities to achieve this LOS through public and publicly accessible private development.
Picnic Area / Shade Element/Ramada	81	4.17	4.17	81	-	10	12	11	33	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
Splash / Spray Pad	4	0.21	0.30	6	2	1	1	-	4	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.
Swimming Pools	3	0.15	0.19	4	1	-	1	-	2	Meet capacity through expansion through renovation and/or new construction.
Community / Multi Gen Center	5	0.26	0.26	5	-	1	1	-	2	Meet capacity through expansion through renovation and/or new construction.
Fitness / Par Course	3	0.15	0.30	6	3	1	1	1	6	Identify opportunities to achieve this level of service through public and publicly accessible private development.