

Neighborhood Parks and Rehabilitation Committee Work Plan

Chair: Councilman Joel Navarro

Member: Councilman Mark Mitchell

Goal: The committee will address park rehabilitation and maintenance efforts through a collaborative effort between citizen input/feedback and City staff responsible for oversight of park design and maintenance.

- a. Work to develop the coordination and assessment of neighborhood park design process.
 - Communicate the current procedure for conducting the neighborhood design process.
 - Involve the local neighborhood group in the initial design formulation.
 - Have town hall/neighborhood meetings to allow citizen input on how they want their park to look.

- b. Assessment of Master Plan process.
 - Update on completed park renovation projects for 2008
 - Update on scheduled Master Plan designs for 2009
 - Evaluate current design and review process for Master Plans.
 - Update on current and future Master Plan schedule

- c. Assessment of the park maintenance program.
 - Complete park asset inventory and assessment of current conditions
 - Implementation of a level of care/service guidelines for all parks
 - Implementation of park maintenance standards.
 - Implementation of our Resource Management Resource Program. We will continually identify and assess the latest technological advancements that may assist in more efficient park maintenance development.
 - Process for determining staffing levels for new parks such as Esquer Park.

- Utilization of sustainable design concepts and environmental stewardship.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Provide education and interpretation opportunities for staff and the public, advocating appreciation for the natural world and promotion of environmentally conscious lifestyles.

1. Involve staff in an environmental education program that explains the commitment to environmental education. Provide information about environmentally conscious lifestyles and workplace choices and habit. Stress the need for staff input and involvement in order to make this program successful.
2. Increase efforts to inform the public about environmental efforts.
3. Use Earth Day and Arbor Day as a vehicle to educate the public about the environment.

WASTE REDUCTION AND PROPER WASTE HANDLING

Strive to reduce waste productions through the reuse and recycling of materials from facility and park operations.

1. Implement ways to recycle maintenance/construction materials that are discarded.
2. Utilize compost or reuse landscape waste. Parks would establish a partnership with the City's Sanitation Department to utilize green waste from parks and the community for making compost.
3. Notify sports field user groups and individuals that Tempe recycles and encourages them to do so by placing an adequate number of recycling containers at convenient locations. Post signage where it can be seen, recycling symbols, etc.
 - d. Maintenance of City Landscape Right-of-Ways.
 - Re-vegetation of pre-determine square feet of Row's per year as funds are made available.
 - Seek guidance for funding and establishing a ROW Landscape Rehabilitation Master Plan.
 - e. Urban Forest Management Plan.

- Seek direction and guidance for adoption and implementation of a City Urban Forest Ordinance.
- f. Improving sports field playability at Benedict Sports Complex
- Update on the schedule/timeline for renovation of all five multi-use fields at Benedict.
- g. Locating sites for additional sports fields
- Seek guidance and direction to pursue.
- h. Communications from Parks to the community.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

1. Utilize mail and telephone surveys to periodically assess community recreation trends, user preferences and levels of satisfaction with parks, facilities, programs and services.
2. Utilize neighborhood meetings to receive public input regarding the planning of parks and facilities and educate residents to all aspects of the Park Services.
3. Enhance residents' awareness of parks through regular mailings and by disseminating educational and public relations information to user groups gathered for programs and activities.
4. Promote parks through a multi-media based public information program and inserts in City water bills.

i. Volunteerism

Goal: Continue to make use of volunteers, community groups and organizations and other public and private agencies to assist in the development and maintenance of the park system. An "Adopt a Park" program would be a useful technique to assist the City in the ongoing burden and responsibility associated with park maintenance.

USE OF VOLUNTEERS

Utilize volunteers to assist the Parks Department in fulfilling its mission.

1. Provide volunteer maintenance opportunities to service clubs, scouts, schools, churches and neighborhood groups, and to individual residents.

2. Partnerships with various local and county organizations.

j. Connectivity of our Parks.

1. Goal is to partner with the Transportation Department to determine the feasibility of connecting bike/pedestrian pathways and connectivity from park to park to downtown, Town Lake and Papago park area. Using open space (canals, along rail roads, etc.).