

428.17 Fort Lowell Park Improvements

Location: This project is located in Fort Lowell Park at 2900 N. Craycroft Road, which is located along The Loop.

Scope: This project continues to build the comprehensive Master Plan approved by the Pima County Board of Supervisors and the City of Tucson Mayor and Council. Scope includes improvements identified in the Master Plan in Zone 2 – Organized Sports Fields. Zone 2 improvements may include reconfiguring and consolidating the sports fields now scattered around the park, improving the quality, orientation, lighting and access to the fields. Facilities included in Zone 2 include: 2 new lighted soccer fields, 1 championship-quality full-size baseball field and limited additional and improved parking. If funding is available, sports field lighting will be included at the 2 currently unlit multi-purpose fields.

Benefits: The Fort Lowell Park Master Plan will guide the rehabilitation, preservation, enhancement, development and operations of Historic Fort Lowell Park. Implementing the Master Plan will help to achieve several goals including: protecting important natural and cultural resources, defining the history of Fort Lowell Park, providing park experiences for a variety of ages and interest groups, respecting the relationship between the park and the surrounding neighborhood and establishing good park access and connectivity.

Total Cost Estimate: \$2,000,000

Bond Funding Estimate: \$2,000,000

Other Funding Estimate: None identified at this time.

Total Cost Estimate by Major Task: \$220,000 for planning and design (and mitigation), \$1,780,000 for construction.

Implementation Periods: 4, 5

Project Schedule by Major Task: Planning and design at 16 months, construction at 18 months.

Project Manager: City of Tucson (Project requested by City of Tucson)

Operator: City of Tucson

Future Operating and Maintenance Costs: This project will impact the City of Tucson Operation and Maintenance Budget. The City will identify this impact and incorporate it into its annual budget process to cover the increased cost associated with the addition of these facilities. The estimated increase in annual operating expenditures based on current design and similar existing facilities is \$250,000. There is also an estimated increase in annual revenues of \$15,000. Both expenditures and revenues will need to be adjusted at the time of actual construction.

Regional Benefits: This project will have a regional benefit in providing facilities that will meet the public demand for sports fields and recreational facilities. Fort Lowell Park is home of the annual youth soccer tournament, the Fort Lowell Shootout that hosts approximately 10,000 participants. This park also hosts over 1,500 Little League, Baseball, Softball and Football participants from throughout the region, annually. Fort Lowell Pool is one of the most heavily used pools and attracts 8,900 annual visits from throughout the region. In partnership with the Tucson Audubon Society, the park draws approximately 300 bird watchers per month and includes several bird watching activities.