

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: January 26, 2012

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Erik Solberg, Public Works Director, Steve Zimmerman, Public Works Parks Manager

CC: Kevin Burke, Josh Copley, Jerene Watson, Leadership Team

SUBJECT: BUDGET RETREAT FOLLOW-UP: REPURPOSING OR DECOMMISSIONING PARKS

This report provides additional information on the topic of park decommissioning or repurposing discussed at the November Budget Retreat. Specific requests included:

- (1) Provide a definition of the types of parks, acreage and a map depicting all the parks and their categories.
- (2) Provide details on how you arrived at the \$25,000 in savings on specific parks (resurrect the earlier breakout page to show the details of the savings – it was not included in the Council Retreat information). Include a map of those parks identified as yielding a savings.
- (3) If HOA's are approached on taking on responsibilities like adding additional features and/or maintaining, report on the constraints we would face in requiring that they remain accessible to the public (work with Legal staff).
- (4) Discuss history of the parks being considered for decommissioning and also how you would repurpose a Specialty Park like Buffalo Park.

DISCUSSION

- 1) Provide a definition of the types of parks, acreage and a map depicting all the parks and their categories.

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Park would consist of 1-10 acres, serving the immediate neighborhood within a distance of 1/3 mile radius.

Community Park

Community Park would consist of 20-40 acres and serve the surrounding community within a distance of a 2.5 mile radius.

Regional Park

Regional Park could generally be greater than 100 acres and serve the surrounding community to a distance of a 6 mile radius.

Specialty Park

The old name for a Specialty Park was identified in the 1996 Master Plan as a Special Purpose Park. The size can vary depending on the purpose and the service area would be communitywide. Specialty Parks are unique facilities designed around a special function or ecological asset. Specialty parks could include sports, aquatic, equestrian or interpretative parks. Examples of this would be Buffalo Park, Wheeler Park and the BMX Facility.

- 2) As shown by the table below it would require the closure of nine (9) parks to reach the \$25,000 target. To be able to realize any substantial savings all contractuals and commodities would need to be eliminated. Savings in labor would not be considered because it would be transferred to other sites to maintain or increase existing service levels. The transfer of these resources (\$29,000 labor) will not have a significant impact on current service levels. Refer to the map for locations of the parks.

<i>Park Site (General Fund)</i>	<i>Contractual / Commodities</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Total Cost for Site</i>
Mobile Haven Park II		\$600	\$600
Colton Park		\$913	\$913
Coconino Park	\$0	\$2,108	\$2,108
Plaza Vieja	\$421	\$2,941	\$3,362
University Highlands	\$150	\$3,302	\$3,452
Old Town Springs Park	\$4,178	\$3,573	\$7,751
Cheshire Park	\$2,516	\$5,599	\$8,115
Smokerise Park	\$8,032	\$5,946	\$13,978
Mountain View Park	\$7,497	\$1,738	\$9,235
Guadalupe Park	\$4,821	\$2,889	\$7,710
Mobile Haven Park	\$11,515	\$7,644	\$19,159
Ponderosa Park	\$8,883	\$8,127	\$17,010
Wheeler Park	\$14,700	\$13,426	\$28,126

Sub Total Cost

\$62,714

\$58,806

\$121,520

BBB Funded Sites	
The Basin/BMX Facility	Bushmaster Park
Bow and Arrow Park	Continental Sports Complex
McMillan Mesa Park	Thorpe Park Sports Complex
Foxglenn Park	
Sechrist School	Thomas School
Christensen School	Killips School
Mt. Elden Middle School	

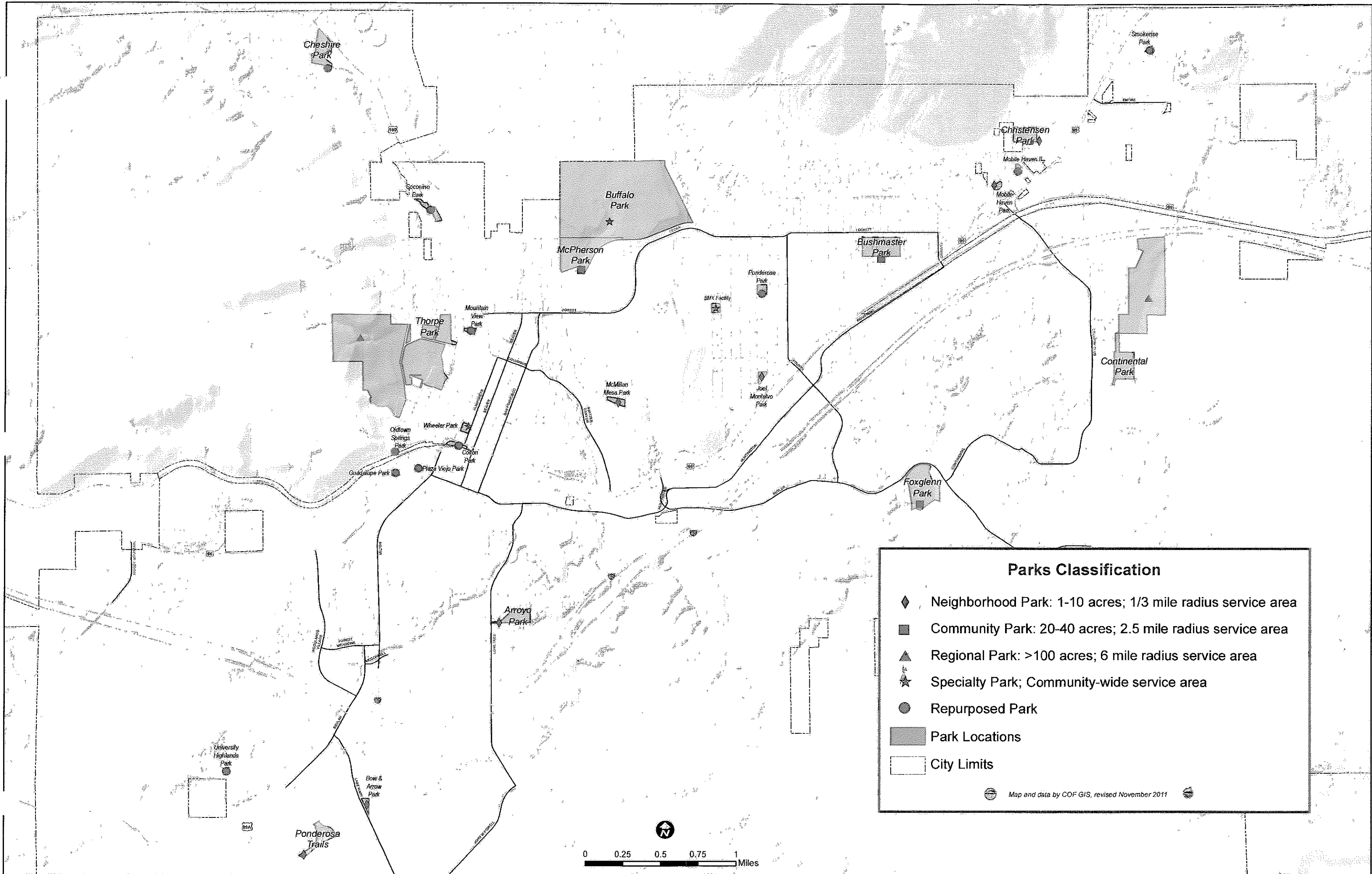
- 3) If the property still remained under the city's ownership there should be no issues with public access and this could be addressed through any agreement with the HOA. If there was a transfer of ownership to a HOA the public accessibility issue could be addressed through a deed restriction.
- 4) When considering park closures several things were taken into consideration:
 - Usage
 - Protecting City's Infrastructure
 - Community Needs
 - Demographic Location
 - Available Partnerships – Neighborhood groups, Adopt-A-Park, HOA'S
 - Cost Savings

So the overall key consideration was trying to formulate a strategy for cost savings that would have the least impact on the whole community.

There has been no internal discussion of repurposing Buffalo Park. There has only been a classification name change being recommended by the new draft Parks and Recreation Master plan. The old name classification was a "Special Purpose" and the new name now under consideration is a "Specialty Park". To decommission a Specialty Park, like Buffalo park we would look for a special interest group i.e.: Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, and Native Plant Society.

RECOMMENDATION / OPTIONS

- 1) Staff agrees with the new classification of Parks as recommended by the City's consultant working on the draft Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Map is attached showing the parks with their classification, acreage and service area.
- 2) An option is to close the above referenced parks to reach the targeted reduction amount of \$25,000.
- 3) A recommendation by Legal cannot be made at this time until a more in depth research can be performed.
- 4) Staff concurs with the recommended name change.



Parks Classification

- ◆ Neighborhood Park: 1-10 acres; 1/3 mile radius service area
- Community Park: 20-40 acres; 2.5 mile radius service area
- ▲ Regional Park: >100 acres; 6 mile radius service area
- ★ Specialty Park; Community-wide service area
- Repurposed Park
- Park Locations
- City Limits

Map and data by COF GIS, revised November 2011

