

DRAFT #1

not yet Board approved

SAN ANTONIO SPORTS FOUNDATION Bond Program

In following the soon-to-be-released 20-year facility plan, the San Antonio Sports Foundation asks the Bond Committee and the City of San Antonio to approve the following projects. These facilities will both provide new athletic opportunities the youth of San Antonio, while creating economic impact by attracting National and International events to our community.

Each of these recommendations is an attempt to **leverage public funds to attract private sector, independent sector, and additional public partners to each project.** After decades of neglect, our community is too far behind for any one sector of our community to build, manage and maintain all of the needed facilities. The SASF believes that **only through partnerships can we begin to successfully address our woeful youth sports and fitness facility shortage.**

We recommend that the Bond Committee and the City of San Antonio approve the following projects:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Culebra Creek | \$600,000 |
| 2. Brooks Sports Complex | no additional funds needed |
| 3. Regional Soccer Tournament Complex | \$2.0m |
| 4. Regional Baseball Complex | no additional funds needed |
| 5. UTSA Athletic Complex | TBD |

The **Culebra Creek** project began with a donation of land by developer Wayne Harwell. Mr. Harwell asked specifically that a soccer park be developed. The land set idle and undeveloped until funds were approved in the 2004 bond election. Although construction has not yet begun, the 2004 bond funds will develop 4, linear, mixed-use fields, some park roads and restrooms.

Adjacent to the Culebra Creek Park to the west is the Alamo Youth Soccer Organization Sportsplex. To the north is 48 acres of surplus SAWS land. SAWS has committed to sell this land to the City (or a non-profit) for \$600,000. The Sports Foundation requests the Bond 2007 Committee to include this land purchase in the 2007 (Community Initiatives) bond.

If the City purchases this land, Mr. Harwell has committed to additional land and easement donations to fully link the existing Culebra Creek Park, the AYSO Sportsplex and the SAWS land. The AYSO has committed to develop and maintain soccer fields on both the SAWS land and Culebra Creek Park.

The **Brooks Sports Complex** has seen many iterations in just the last few years. What started out as a donation of land by the Brooks Development Authority (BDA) to expand an existing city park into a south side soccer complex, turned into a failed plan to bring a MLS team to San Antonio. When the MLS plan died at birth, the Brooks Youth Soccer Complex was also shelved accidentally. When new leadership came to the BDA, the plan was immediately resurrected, but in a slightly different form.

Since the Air Force has significantly altered its timeline for departing Brooks, the land available for development was reduced. This changed the ability of the BDA to donate the planned acreage. The plan was modified, so that **the BDA would retain development rights to the “outside” (street-frontage) of the land, but would still donate the “inside” to the City or a non-profit.**

For the Brooks Youth Soccer Complex, **we are not asking for a commitment of dollars, but a commitment.** We are asking that the City consummate the deal with the BDA and take possession of the committed land, **site plan the entire project** with youth soccer in mind, and **allow the South/Southeast Youth Soccer and East Central Lakeside Athletic Association to develop fields on the additional land.**

Finalizing the agreement between the City and the BDA on the donated soccer land will leverage additional commitments from the original donor (BDA), the community soccer non-profit, and neighboring businesses that have agreed to support this project.

A **REGIONAL Soccer Tournament Complex** will give San Antonio a Regional sports facility that will create enough fields **to draw State-wide, Regional and National caliber tournaments.** The national trend is in creating such facilities with the intent of having one location for large (200 + team) tournaments, while at the same time relieving the pressure on the overused Parks and Recreation facilities.

As a major tourism destination, San Antonio has this backwards! Our families are leaving San Antonio and spending their money in other cities, instead of inviting those families to the destination-city of San Antonio. We currently have car caravans driving past San Antonio to play in tournaments in the Austin area, the Valley and Corpus Christi. A Regional Soccer Tournament Complex will allow San Antonio families to play at home, while growing our sports-tourism industry.

The San Antonio Sports Foundation supports the ongoing efforts, spearheaded by Mr. Hartman to develop a Regional Soccer Tournament Complex in the abandoned quarry.

A **REGIONAL Baseball Tournament Complex** is both an incredible need and an incredible opportunity. Currently, there are no, full-sized (15 years to adult) baseball complexes anywhere in Texas. Local and statewide teams frequently travel to Arizona for tournaments. Not only would a Regional Baseball Tournament Complex allow our

children to play in town, it would give San Antonio a “first-mover’s” advantage in developing the complex, establishing a tournament schedule, bringing collegiate teams to town for spring-break training, etc. This would be another incredible opportunity to build sports-tourism.

We are **not requesting funds** from the 2007 bond for this project. We are merely **requesting that an 8-field baseball facility be included in the design specifications for the Voelcker Park project.**

If a full-sized baseball 8-plex can be included in the Volker design, **the Sports Foundation will solicit private funding to build the complex.** Again, we are trying to leverage public land to attract private dollars, to build community facilities.

The **UTSA Athletic Complex** creates another unique opportunity for San Antonio that could again build our event-hosting capacity. In addition to all of the NCAA Division I events that would be hosted in that complex, and all of the obvious UIL and Olympic sports events that could be attracted, **the addition of a new varsity athletic complex to UTSA’s already existing intramural facilities would give San Antonio nearly the identical facility footprint as Disney’s Wide World of Sports!**

Placing a facility like this in the middle of Fiesta Texas, Sea World, La Cantera and The Rim would **allow San Antonio to compete with Orlando as a family sports-vacation destination on summer weekends!**

If the UTSA students pass their own student activity fee election and decide to invest in themselves, **the City should invest “start-up” funding for this project.**

These five (5) projects will allow San Antonio to use sports to facilitate both human and economic development through sports.