

## **UTSA Athletic Park**

UTSA, the City of San Antonio and Bexar County are discussing how to address mutual recreational and athletic facility needs in our community. Since the State Legislature cannot appropriate funds for university athletic facilities, public universities like UTSA must be creative in funding recreational and athletic facilities. Currently student fees and private donations are the norm. There is only so much students can bear. Private donations are a possibility, provided there's a well organized fundraising campaign. These are areas UTSA has considered, but developing facilities with the City and County makes perfect sense given that all three entities have similar needs.

The City and County have discussed separate bond proposals to address streets, drainage, parks and other community infrastructure improvements. UTSA has expressed a great interest in partnering with the City and County to be included in these bond initiatives. UTSA needs parks and fields for baseball, softball, track, soccer and tennis. The City and County have expressed interest in building similar facilities for youngsters and families to participate in and attend local, regional, national and international competitions.

Athletic facilities located at UTSA would be utilized by the University, and several City and County events. For example, the UTSA Convocation Center where the Roadrunners play volleyball and basketball annually hosts University and community events attended by more than 285,000 people--nearly 120,000 (42%) of which are attending events not associated with UTSA. Improved athletic facilities could bring thousands of additional youngsters to the UTSA campus to participate in and attend NCAA, UIL, international games and local youth competitions. Getting youngsters on campus opens their eyes to the possibility of going to college. Already UTSA, the City and County partner to host the NCAA Basketball Final Four and other regional and national championships. Why not enhance this productive partnership with new facilities.

This cooperative effort could serve youngsters throughout our community and could serve UTSA's growing athletic needs. More importantly it could position UTSA to do greater things, like help our community host future Pan American Games. The San Antonio Sports Foundation has identified numerous other large events that could be attracted to San Antonio if our community had adequate and accessible fields and facilities concentrated in a particular area. UTSA offers a possible solution to address both needs. Please support the effort to take UTSA and community athletic facilities to the next level.

# UTSA about to get room to grow

## Regents OK deal to buy 125 acres near Loop 1604 campus.

BY MELISSA LUDWIG  
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

The University of Texas at San Antonio is poised to expand farther west after University of Texas System regents voted Thursday to allow the purchase of a 125-acre parcel of land near the Loop 1604 campus.

And, in a rare move, regents agreed to kick in three-quarters of the estimated \$20 million cost because UTSA's rapid growth hasn't allowed it to stow away much money.

UTSA President Ricardo Romo said the university likely would use the tract for athletics, intramural fields, parking and housing, which will free up space on the main campus for academic buildings.

The new parcel, about half a mile west of the main campus, near West Hausman Road, would add about 20 percent more space to the university's 600-acre campus.

This fall, the university enrolled 28,000 students, an increase of more than 50 percent since 1999.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime kind of deal," Romo said Thursday. "If we don't make this happen, we don't know if there will be any more opportunities for large tracts of land here."

Though the deal is yet to be negotiated, UTSA plans to contribute \$5.5 million, and \$14.5 million will come from the Permanent University Fund, which supports schools in the UT and Texas A&M systems through oil and gas royalties.

Regent Cyndi Taylor Krier of San Antonio said regents typically guard PUF money carefully, but UTSA presented a compelling need.

"Because UTSA has been growing so rapidly, it has been paying its local funds just to keep up," Krier said. "The opportunity to buy this came up so quickly and would have passed so quickly that (regents) went forward and supported it."

In the past year, regents have allocated at least \$99 million to UTSA to help build a new engineering building, renovate existing science buildings and expand its university center.

Romo said the deal popped up three months ago, when the landowner, Patricia Shield Ayres, offered UTSA the opportunity to buy the land at its appraised value. Ayres' husband, Robert Ayres, is the former vice chancellor of Sewanee: The University of the South in Tennessee.

Robert Ayres said, "I could sell this property to developers, but I would much rather you guys look at it," Romo said.

Before that, Romo had been searching for more land for about two years, after master plans revealed the university eventually would come up 60 or 70 acres short of what it needed to expand.

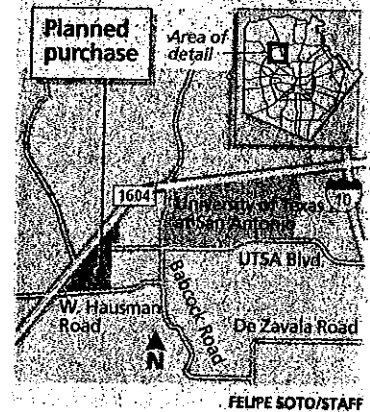
Romo also said he's still working city and county officials to help fund a \$55 million, joint-use athletics complex that ideally would be located on the new land.

Because it's not adjacent to the main campus, spectators could flood in for sporting events without disturbing classes or hogging parking, and students could easily get back to the main campus via a five or 10 minute shuttle ride, he said.

The added space will give the 1604 campus plenty of breathing room, Romo said, but the quest for land goes on.

"The big news right now is downtown," Romo said. "That's where we need more land."

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## **PROPOSED ATHLETICS PARK for UTSA**

### ***PRELIMINARY PROGRAM***

O'Connell Robertson & Associates

18 May 2005

#### **General**

Working with the UTSA's Athletic Department, O'Connell Robertson & Associates (ORA) has developed a preliminary program for a proposed Athletics Park for UTSA. The purpose of this program is to establish what facilities should be included in the complex and the amount of land required to accommodate them.

#### **Facilities**

##### **SOFTBALL**

- Seating for 1500
- Batting cage
- Team locker rooms

##### **BASEBALL**

- Seating for 4000
- Batting cages
- Team locker rooms

##### **SOCCER**

- 5000 seat capacity (approximately 2500 per side)
- International size field

##### **TRACK & FIELD**

- 10,000 seat capacity (5000 proposed to be temporary)
- Field events in the middle

##### **TENNIS**

- Seating for 1500
- 12 outdoor courts

##### **TEAM FACILITY (All Sports)**

- Multiple locker rooms
- Training facility

##### **MAINTENANCE BUILDING**

##### **CENTRAL TICKETING**

##### **PUBLIC TOILETS AND CONCESSIONS**

- Some of these will be at individual fields

##### **PRACTICE FIELDS**

##### **PARKING**

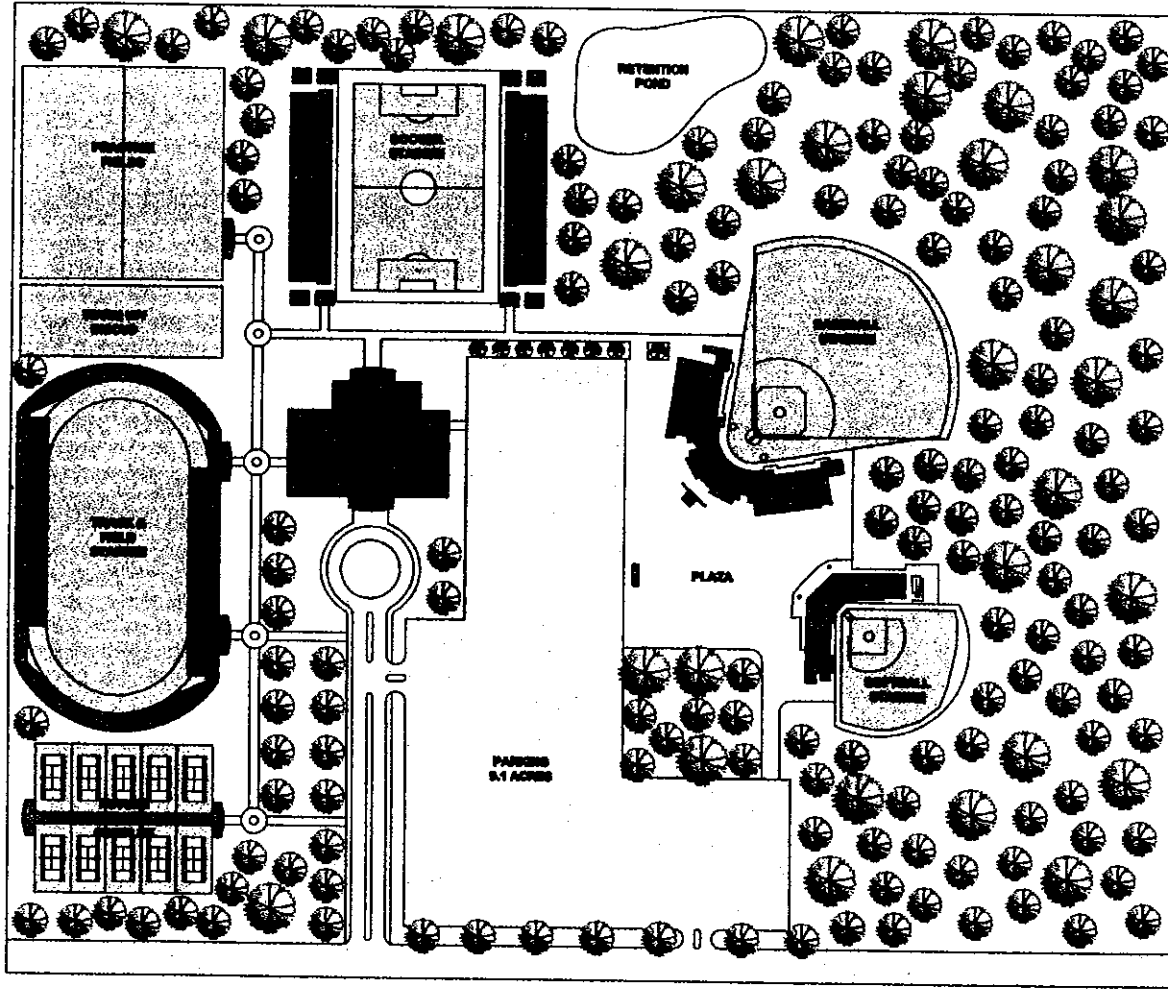
- Surface parking for 1000 cars

##### **BUFFER/CIRCULATION**

- Approximately 20%

#### **Preliminary Acreage Required**

The acreage required for these facilities will be approximately 48 acres. Eliminating the parking and the practice fields will reduce this amount to 40 acres. Once a site is selected, ORA will work with UTSA to establish a preferred layout and the specific amount of acreage required.



**UTSA ATHLETICS MASTER PLAN**

O'Connell Robertson  
 & Associates, Inc.   
 Architecture • Engineering • Interiors

**UTSA ATHLETIC PARK  
BUDGET CONCEPTUAL ESTIMATE  
(November 2006)**

<b><u>Description of Work</u></b>	<b><u>Cost</u></b>
Baseball Field	\$10,364,261
Softball Field	\$5,305,053
Soccer Field	\$5,925,053
Track Stadium	\$6,831,579
Practice Fields	\$992,155
Tennis Courts	\$3,964,521
Multi-Purpose Building	\$16,646,456
Sitework	\$9,885,011
Contingency	\$7,994,533
<b>Total Estimated Project Cost</b>	<b>\$59,914,414</b>

## **POTENTIAL EVENTS FOR UTSA ATHLETIC PARK**

Below is a list of potential events that could be held in a destination championship venue. Due to the location of the complex on or around the main 1604 UTSA campus and its proximity to La Cantera, Fiesta Texas, Sea World, and the Rim there would be great opportunities to draw in special events that would have significant economic impact for the city.

The park would accommodate events in soccer, track and field, baseball, softball, and tennis. Championship events for all age groups could be hosted in the park.

Regional UIL Championship Events  
Clinics for Coaches and Athletes  
NCAA Regional Championships  
National Youth Championships  
Senior Games  
Para Olympics  
Special Olympics  
Pan Am Games  
International Track and Soccer Events  
Professional Exhibition Matches