



AGENDA

Parks and Recreation Commission

STUDY SESSION

September 9, 2026 ~ 12:00 pm

Creekmore Community Center

3301 South M Street Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

August 2026 Minutes

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Review FY27-FY31 Capital Improvement Plan

PROJECT UPDATES

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURN

City of Fort Smith
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
August 12, 2026

The Parks and Recreation Commission met at noon on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in the Rose Room at Creekmore Park Community Center.

Park Commission members present: Chris Raible, Madeline Marquette, Sam Hanna, David Roberts, Shawn Kispert, and Nancy Raney

Park Commission members absent: Sandy Sanders

Staff members present: Sara Deuster, Brian Penix, and Amber Plank

Others: Darlin Hall-Kightlinger, Jo Elsken, Jennifer Stevens, Linda Kaelin, Andre Good, and Josh Buchfink

Raible called the meeting to order at 12:00pm. Raible made a motion to approve the minutes as revised to reflect that he was absent for the June meeting and Hanna was present for the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Hanna and unanimously approved.

1. Items of Business

A. Review submission for operation of Kelley Ballfields Complex

A Request for Proposals for the operation of the Kelley Ballfields Complex was advertised on July 5th and again on July 12th. Fort Smith Youth Baseball and Softball (FSYBS) was the sole respondent to the RFP. Raible made a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors to enter the lease agreement with FSYBS for operation of the Kelley Ballfields Complex with an initial five (5) year agreement with five (5) 2-year terms. The motion was seconded by Roberts and unanimously approved.

B. Review submission for operation of Tennis Center at Creekmore Park

A Request for Proposals for the operation of the tennis center at Creekmore Park was advertised on July 5th and again on July 12th. The Western Arkansas Tennis Association (WATA) was the sole respondent to the RFP. WATA has operated the Tennis Center at Creekmore Park since 2003. Hanna made a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors to enter the lease agreement with WATA for operation of the Tennis Center at Creekmore Park with an initial five (5) year agreement with five (5) 2-year terms. The motion was seconded by Raney and unanimously approved

C. Girls Scouts Artwork Proposal-Creekmore Wading Pool Pump house

Two members of troop 4398, Neveah and Sophie, chose beautifying the pump house at Creekmore Park for their silver award. Since they could not be present in person, the girls made a video to present their project to the Commission. Raney made a motion to approve the artwork as presented. The motion was seconded by Hanna and unanimously approved.

2. Project Updates

Creekmore Park Tennis Court Improvements – This project is progressing on schedule. LED light fixtures have been installed on the lower courts and the new fencing is currently in progress.

Cisterna Park Pumphouse – Deuster provided the Commission with a proposed change order to decrease the height of the pumphouse by 20” to address concerns raised by members of the Darby Legacy Project. The Commission voted five (5) in favor and one (1) opposed to recommend to the Board of Directors not to proceed with the proposed change order.

Tilles Park Splash Pad Locations – Deuster noted she had previously sent the Commission an email regarding the need to proceed with replacing the splashpad. Staff is currently determining the best location within the park. To allow an opportunity for citizen input regarding the design, citizens participates in a Dotmocracy during City Play Day to vote on key features.

Creekmore Pool Pumphouse Renovations – The Board approved an agreement with MAHG Architecture, Inc. for the design of this project. Deuster noted a construction manager will be used to complete this project, similar to how the bathhouse was completed.

Riley Farm Trail and Tilles Parking Lot – The Board approved construction contracts for both projects. The contracts are currently being executed.

Kelley Park Ballfields Restrooms – Deuster noted because there is a project including consent decree work that will impact the parking lot off Old Greenwood Road, this project will be pushed forward one year to coincide with the Engineering Department’s project.

Maintenance Updates – Penix noted staff have been doing routine maintenance on the splash pads, mowing, and landscaping throughout the parks. He added our new CDL drivers have received further heavy equipment training.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Commission and Staff Comments

None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21pm

Chris Raible, Chairman
Amber Plank, Administrative Coordinator



MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Staff
DATE: September 4, 2026
SUBJECT: Parks FY27-FY31 CIP

SUMMARY

Attached for your review is the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the Parks and Recreation Department. These projects are funded by the 1/8% Sales and Use Tax dedicated for parks capital projects. This tax was voted on and approved by citizens in 2012 for a period of ten (10) years. Citizens voted to extend this tax an additional eight (8) years, through September 30, 2030.

Please contact our office should you have any questions.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Draft FY27-FY31 CIP.pdf](#)



Fiscal Year 2027 - Fiscal Year 2031 Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan

	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
BEGINNING BALANCE	1,662,911	1,829,097	1,341	3,197	5,053	6,909
Current Year Revenues						
1/8% Sales and Use Tax	3,681,856	3,681,856	3,681,856	3,681,856	3,681,856	3,681,856
Interest Earnings (FY26 reflects the cumulative sum)	802,063	-	-	-	-	-
Grants/Contributions	896,500	3,212,348	100,000	100,000	-	-
Total - Current Year Revenues	5,380,419	6,894,204	3,781,856	3,781,856	3,681,856	3,681,856
Total Funds Available	7,043,330	8,723,301	3,783,197	3,785,053	3,686,909	3,688,765
Projects						
Carol Ann Cross Park Improvements	-	-	-	300,000	-	-
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Improvements	-	-	-	500,000	200,000	-
Maybranch Greenway	1,168,405	5,025,000	2,000,000	1,750,000	-	-
John Bell, Jr. Park	-	-	525,000	300,000	750,000	-
Tilles Park Improvements	406,520	1,100,000	325,000	-	-	-
Tilles Park Parking Lot Resurfacing	210,788	-	-	-	-	-
Trails & Greenways					1,250,000	2,000,000
Methodist Village Connector Trail	38,500	246,960	-	-	-	-
Creekmore Park Pool Upgrades	308,322	1,750,000	-	-	-	-
Outdoor Restroom Improvements						
Kelley Park Ballfields	75,000	425,000	-	-	-	-
Downtown Fort Smith (Location TBD)	-	-	-	200,000	-	-
Creekmore Park	-	-	-	-	-	425,000
Outdoor Park Pavilion/ Shade	-	-	-	-	425,000	-
Riverfront Skate and Bike Park	78,876	-	-	-	-	-
Carol Ann Cross Park	-	-	300,000	-	-	-
Harley A. Wilson Park	-	-	150,000	-	-	-
Fort Smith Park	-	-	-	200,000	-	-
Neighborhood Park Improvements					400,000	500,000
Woodlawn Park	176,488	-	-	-	-	-
Spradling Park	-	-	375,000	-	-	-
Riley Farm Park	342,620	170,000	-	-	-	-
Hillcrest Park	5,095	-	-	-	-	-
Imani/Stagecoach Park Phase II	-	-	-	275,000	-	-
Outdoor Exercise & Fitness Center	-	-	-	-	-	130,000
Chaffee Crossing Pickleball Courts	-	-	100,000	-	-	-
Cisterna Park Improvements	231,124	-	-	-	-	-
Community Center Upgrades	-	-	-	250,000	650,000	250,000
Tennis Court Resurfacing	1,407,495	-	-	-	-	-
Riverfront Skate and Bike Park Expansion	-	-	-	-	-	375,000
Total Projects	4,449,233	8,716,960	3,775,000	3,775,000	3,675,000	3,680,000
Other Project Expenses (Note 1)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Non-Departmental						
Parrot Island Waterpark (Ordinance No. 4-26) (Note 2)	760,000	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,214,233	8,721,960	3,780,000	3,780,000	3,680,000	3,685,000
Ending Balance	1,829,097	1,341	3,197	5,053	6,909	3,765

Note1 : These costs include land acquisition, recording contract documents with the courthouse, and legal fees related to capital projects.

Note2 : Ordinance No. 4-26 appropriated \$760,000 in interest earnings from the Parks 1/8% SUT to fund the Parrot Island Waterpark Expansion.

Grants/Contributions							
Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnerships Program (R-147-26)	600,000	1,840,388	-	-	-	-	-
ArDOT TAP Grant (Maybranch Greenway Phase I)	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-
Friends of Recreational Trails (Maybranch Greenway Phase I)	-	125,000	-	-	-	-	-
Carol Ann Cross Park Cell Tower Revenue (Playground)	200,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carol Ann Cross Park Cell Tower Revenue (MV Trail)	38,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
ArDOT TAP Grant (Methodist Village Trail) (R-62-26)	-	196,000	-	-	-	-	-
Methodist Village Senior Living (Methodist Village Trail)	-	50,960	-	-	-	-	-
Park Partners (Riverfront Skate & Bike Park Shade)	58,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Partners (Maybranch Phase II)	-	-	100,000	100,000	-	-	-
TOTAL GRANTS/CONTRIBUTIONS	896,500	3,212,348	100,000	100,000	-	-	-

Project Title: Carol Ann Cross Park Improvements

Project Number: 6200230003

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☒ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☐ Complete

Location:

Carol Ann Cross Park (1601 South 74th Street)

Scope of Work:

Phase I improvements (FY22-FY23) included the repaving of the parking areas and roadway, demolition and replacement of two restrooms, replacement of the pedestrian bridge, and construction of an additional fishing pier on the west side of the lake. The total cost for this phase was \$1,268,941.97.

An approximate 0.45-mile concrete walking path and 0.15-mile boardwalk with an overlook area of the Arkansas River in the northeast corner of Carol Ann Cross Park was completed in 2024. The completion of this project creates a 1.2 mile walking path within Carol Ann Cross Park.

Phase II improvements (FY24-FY25) addressed the dilapidated play equipment. The existing play equipment was over three decades old, and replacement pieces compatible with the structures were difficult to find. This resulted in the removal of play components due to safety hazards. The new inclusive playground offers designated play areas for ages 2-5 and ages 5-12, focusing on providing unique play amenities that emphasize climbing, balancing, problem solving, sensory experiences, fine motor skills, and collaborative play.

FY29: Several areas of the concrete walking path around the lake continue to deteriorate. Due to the heavy usage of this amenity, it is recommended to widen certain areas of the walking path and replace the deteriorating sections.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

NCR-1.5 PFS-5.2 PFS-3.2.3 FLU-1.4

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000

Project Title: Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Improvements

Project Number: 6200230013

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☒ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☐ Complete

Location:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (1815 North Greenwood Avenue)

Scope of Work:

FY22: An inclusive playground was completed that features a variety of amenities designed for individuals of all abilities, including poured in place rubber surfacing in lieu of the wood fiber mulch.

FY23: To create a safer environment for families, a quad restroom was installed with two single-user stalls on both the east and west sides. This positioning allows parents/guardians to watch their child enter/exit the restroom from either side of the restroom. Drill stem fencing was also installed along the perimeter of the northwest section of the park to prevent citizens from driving into the park and parking on the grass.

FY24-FY25: A new splash pad was constructed due to the age and continued deterioration of the existing spray amenities and mechanical system of the original splash pad. The new splash pad further advances our department's commitment to creating an inclusive parks system for individuals of all ages and abilities. The backside of the Nautilus 2 (water slide) has a cove with a light, steady rain fall. This feature offers a calming space for children who may become overstimulated by the sounds and movements of natural play. Two (2) softer spray features were selected to complement the cove to create a calming area in the southwest section of the splash pad.

FY29-FY30: Conversion of sports facility lighting (Grizzly Field, remaining basketball court, and soccer fields) to LED fixtures. Additional funds will go towards improvements to the skate park, parking lot improvements/expansion, and repurposing the northwest corner of the park.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

NCR-1.5 PFS-5.2 PFS-3.2.3 FLU-1.4

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 700,000
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 700,000

Project Title: **Maybranch Greenway**

Project Number: 6200230008

Category:

- ☒ New Development ☐ Improvement to Existing
☒ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☒ New Construction ☒ Trails and Greenways
☐ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☒ Private Contribution
☒ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other: \$3.44M from ORLP and ArDOT

Status:

- ☐ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☒ Final Design ☒ Partial Completion

Location:

Riverfront Drive > Martin Luther King, Jr. Park > Creekmore Park > Kelley Park Ballfields

Scope of Work:

Once complete, this will be an approximate 4.2-mile, 10-foot-wide, concrete greenway that will connect Riverfront Drive to the Kelley Park Ballfields. Phase IA begins at Short 7th Street and continues along P Street for approximately 0.7 miles through Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Phase IA was completed in July 2025. Phase IB (FY26-FY27) will begin at Riverfront Drive and tie into Phase IA at Short 7th Street.

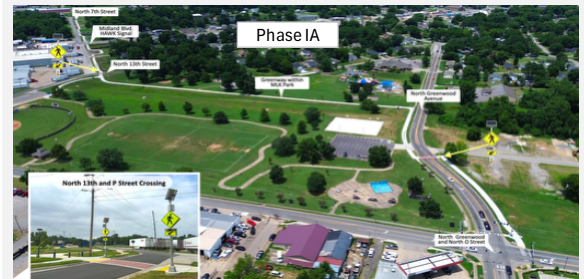
The City has received multiple outside funding sources to complete Phase I. Park Partners, a local nonprofit, contributed \$125,000 for Phase IA and will contribute an additional \$125,000 for Phase IB. The City was also awarded \$2,440,937.55 in matching funds from the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnerships Program for Phase I. Additionally, the City was awarded \$1,000,000 in TAP funding from ArDOT for Phase IB.

Phase II (FY27-FY29) will continue from North O Street and tie into Creekmore Park. Phase III (FY29) will pave the existing crusher dust trail that extends behind Girls, Inc., The Gregory Kistler Center, and Flocks Field, terminating at South "O" Street.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

FLU-3.4.2 ED-6.1 HN-1.6 NCR-1.4 CCD-1.1 TI-1 PFS-5 PFS-4.3.1

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ 20,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 295,000
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Construction Cost	\$ 1,148,405	\$ 4,800,000	\$ 1,950,000	\$ 1,700,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,598,405
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ 1,168,405	\$ 5,025,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,750,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,943,405

Project Title: John Bell, Jr. Park

Project Number: 6200230011

Category:

- ☒ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☒ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☐ Not Started ☒ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☐ Under Construction

Location:

John Bell, Jr. Park (1900 Riverfront Drive)

Scope of Work:

This is a multi-year development of a new, 51-acre park located at 1900 Riverfront Drive. The park was formally named John Bell, Jr. Park in 2022. Development of this park began in 2015 with the creation of a master plan. Since then, the following amenities have been completed: two adult-size soccer fields, paved parking and lighting, walking paths around the currently developed areas, Fort Smith's first inclusive playground, restroom facility, and large pavilion.

Phase III (FY28-FY30) will consist of improvements to the existing soccer fields and construction of sports fields and/or other recreation amenities determined by citizen surveys. Final plans for the construction of pickleball courts and basketball courts are completed. However, due to other priorities, this project was postponed. The need for additional pickleball courts and will continue to be evaluated throughout FY27. Lastly, since installing the large picnic pavilion, several organizations have hosted events at John Bell, Jr. Park. If funds allow in FY27 due to the timing of actual construction, installing concrete and additional seating under the pavilion will be completed.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

FLU-1.5 FLU-2.1 FLU-2.2 NCR-1.4 TI-5.2.1 NCR-1.5 PFS-5.2

Map/Photo:



Soccer Fields



Inclusive Playground



Maintenance Facility



Pavilion

Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 525,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ 1,575,000
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 525,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ 1,575,000

Project Title: **Tilles Park Improvements**

Project Number: 6200230014

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☐ Not Started ☒ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☐ Substantially Complete

Location:

Tilles Park (3700 Grand Avenue)

Scope of Work:

Phase I (FY23-FY24) consisted of the construction of an asphalt walking trail, drainage improvements, replacement of benches along the walking path, conversion of two of the tennis courts to basketball courts, and improvements to the disc golf tees.

Phase II (FY25) included the construction of an inclusive playground. The design and location of the play area utilizes the existing tree canopy to provide shade for users. This project was designed to encompass a variety of developmental benefits, including sensory play; motor, cognitive, and social skills; and is uniquely designed to encourage collaborative play across individuals of all abilities.

Phase III (FY26-FY28): This phase will include several improvements that complete the renovation of the park:

- Replacement of the existing splash pad due to issues with the mechanical system. Replacing the mechanical system will cost around \$150K (based on MLK splash pad). Given this cost, continued maintenance issues, frequent downtime, continued citizen requests for improvements, and the need for a larger water area, it is recommended to proceed with replacing the splash pad in its entirety.
- Conversion of the concrete pad for the existing splash pad into a youth basketball court.
- Resurfacing/rehabilitation of the southern two (2) tennis courts. Whether these courts are rehabilitated as tennis courts and/or to serve another purpose will be directed by citizen input. This will also include the conversion of light fixtures to LEDs.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

PFS-3.2 PFS-5.2 NCR-1.1 NCR-1.3

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,000
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ 356,520	\$ 1,075,000	\$ 325,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,756,520
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ 406,520	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 325,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,831,520

Project Title: **Tilles Park Parking Lot Resurfacing**

Project Number: 6200230014

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☐ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☒ Under Construction

Location:

Tilles Park (3700 Grand Avenue)

Scope of Work:

The parking lot on the north side of the park (Grand Avenue) continues to deteriorate. This parking area has multiple potholes and significant alligator cracking. If the damage was isolated to a certain area, patching would be the more cost-effective option. However, this issue extends across multiple sections of the parking lot. The recent improvements to Tilles Park have significantly increased the traffic at this park, making parking lot improvements a priority. The Board of Directors awarded a contract to Forsgren, Inc. during their July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting. Contract documents have been executed, and work will begin in September. This project, pending weather, is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

PFS-3.2 PFS-5.2 NCR-1.1 NCR-1.3

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ 63,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,200
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ 147,588	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 147,588
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ 210,788	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 210,788

Project Title: Trails & Greenways

Project Number: N/A

Category:

- ☒ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☒ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☒ New Construction ☒ Trails and Greenways
☐ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☒ Private Contribution
☒ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☒ Not Started ☒ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☐ Under Construction

Location:

Multiple Locations

Scope of Work:

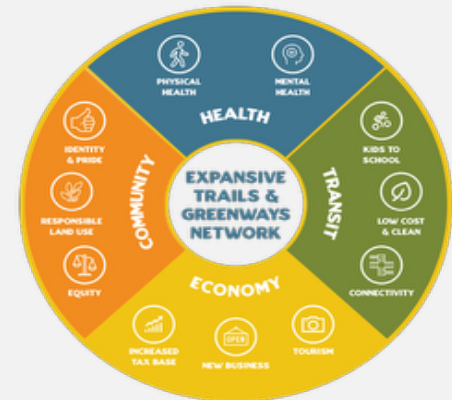
FY26-FY27: The Board of Directors approved Resolution No. R- 53-25 expressing the City's willingness to serve as the Sponsor for the Methodist Village Walking Trail project to receive funds through the 2025 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This project will create a paved, accessible path to connect Methodist Village Senior Living (MVSL) to Carol Ann Cross Park to better allow residents to access the park. This ADA compliant walking trail will not be exclusive to residents of MVSL and can be utilized by all citizens, especially those residing in the neighborhoods to the southeast corner of the park. As part of this project, MVSL will grant the City a public trail easement to ensure the trail remains accessible to the public in perpetuity. The Methodist Village Connector Trail was awarded funding in the amount of \$196,000.00 for construction costs. Acceptance of this award requires a local match in the amount of \$49,000.00, which will be paid by MVSL.

FY30-FY31: This funding allocation is set aside for projects identified in the Trails and Greenways Master Plan. Potential projects include adding to the extensive network of trails throughout the Chaffee Crossing area, making connections to parks, sharrows, bike lanes, etc. Given this allocation is not until later years, the exact projects are not identified. Parks Staff will engage in community outreach efforts to gather input from citizens during 2028.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

HN-1.6 NCR-1.4 TI-1 TI-3 PFS-5

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ 38,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,500
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ -	\$ 246,960	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,496,960
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ 38,500	\$ 246,960	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,535,460

Project Title: Creekmore Park Pool Upgrades

Project Number: 6200230001

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☐ Not Started ☒ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☐ Substantially Complete

Location:

Creekmore Park Pool (3303 South M Street)

Scope of Work:

FY25-FY26: Demolition of the dilapidated bathhouse and construction of a new bathhouse that is adequate to accommodate both recreational use and serve as a host site for swim meets. Also included in this allocation was the redesign and expansion of the parking lot at the pool to better accommodate park patrons. This project was completed simultaneously with the repaving of the parking lot near the Creekmore Community Center.

FY26: Replacement of fiberglass pool grates with an HDPE grating system. New diving boards, compliant with current codes, were also installed in the diving well.

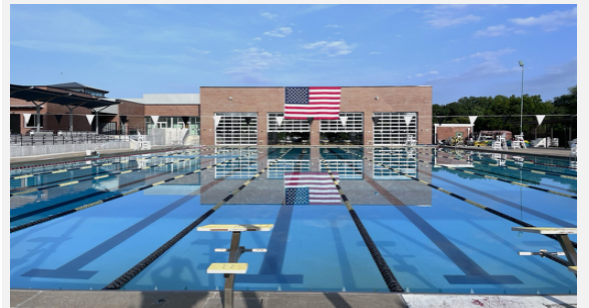
FY26-FY27: This allocation is to replace the mechanical system that services the diving well and main pool. This equipment has not been updated since 1990.

Future Improvements: Per the master plan, future improvements for consideration include installing a Myrtha RenovAction for the competition pool and diving well. This will essentially build a new pool within the existing pool rather than completely replace both pools and/or continue to install liners. Constructing an indoor leisure pool is also identified in the master plan. These improvements are currently not a priority and are not reflected in the CIP.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

FLU-1.4 PFS-3.2.3

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ 147,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 147,600
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ 160,722	\$ 1,750,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,910,722
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ 308,322	\$ 1,750,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,058,322

Project Title: **Outdoor Restroom Improvements**

Project Number: 6200230006

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☐ Not Started ☒ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☐ Under Construction

Location:

Multiple Locations

Scope of Work:

Improvements to the outdoor restrooms across our parks system continue to be completed. To date, the outdoors restrooms at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (FY23 - near the inclusive playground), Carol Ann Cross Park (FY23), and Woodlawn Park (FY24) have been replaced.

FY26-FY27: Kelley Park Ballfields - A portion of work, including Consent Decree work, under the Streets, Bridges, and Associated Drainage CIP involves impacts to the Kelley Park Ballfields, specifically the main parking lot off Old Greenwood Road. It is more cost-effective and will result in less service interruptions if improvements to the Ballman Restroom are completed at the same time as the Engineering project. Therefore, this project has been moved forward by one year.

FY29: Downtown Fort Smith - This has been a continued request by citizens, even more so as the Farmer's Market and Downtown events continue to grow. To mitigate unwarranted behavior and individuals using restrooms as shelter, it is recommended to consider an alternative to a traditional building. Several large cities have had success in installing restrooms, such as the Portland Loo, in high traffic areas, as they can be customized to "fit in" with their surroundings.

FY31: The structure itself of the restroom at Creekmore Park is in decent shape. Therefore, if possible, improvements will be geared towards a renovation rather than a complete replacement. However, the funding allocation reflects a total replacement until the feasibility of such is explored.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

PFS-4.3.1 PFS-5

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,000
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ -	\$ 425,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 425,000	\$ 1,050,000
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ 75,000	\$ 425,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 425,000	\$ 1,125,000

Project Title: Outdoor Park Pavilions/Shade

Project Number: N/A

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☒ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☒ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☒ Final Design ☐ Complete

Location:

Multiple Locations

Scope of Work:

Most of our parks have outdoor pavilions, both large and small. The wooden pavilions with shingle roofs are deteriorating and need to be replaced with more durable steel beams and metal roofs. Some have the newer powder coated metal picnic tables while others have the dated concrete picnic tables. The allocation for these improvements will be used to replace outdated/deteriorating wood pavilions, including picnic tables and seating, and add shade throughout our parks.

FY26: The Riverfront Bike and Skate Park currently does not offer any shade. The biking/skating community and recreational users have requested shade at this location for the past few years. A cost-effective, modern shade structure(s) will be incorporated to this site. Park Partners is contributing \$58,000 towards this project.

FY28: Both Carol Ann Cross Park and Harley A. Wilson Park have one large, wooden pavilion. These longstanding structures have increasingly started to show their age. Maintenance Staff continue to make spot repairs to deteriorated wood, holes, and shingles. These structures need to be replaced with steel pavilions, which will last at least 20 years. Carol Ann Cross Park has a smaller wood pavilion that will also be replaced.

FY29: The wood pavilions at Fort Smith Park have been in need of replacement since before the 2019 flood event.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

FLU-1.4

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ 78,876	\$ -	\$ 450,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 728,876
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ 78,876	\$ -	\$ 450,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 728,876

Project Title: **Neighborhood Park Improvements**

Project Number: 6200230017

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☒ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☒ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☐ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☒ Under Construction

Location:

Multiple Locations

Scope of Work:

This allocation is set aside for existing parks in need of updates. The focus of these updates will be on ADA compliance, addressing dilapidated infrastructure, and other site improvements. Following an inventory and evaluation of existing neighborhood parks, individual parks will be identified, and a general plan established for each in future CIPs. The current prioritized improvements include:

FY26: Woodlawn Park – Phase II improvements included replacing the dilapidated play equipment and ADA compliance improvements in the southwest corner of the park.

FY26-FY27: Riley Farm Park – These improvements will be completed in phases, with the first being to the walking trail, as it is a maintenance need. Due to the swampy nature and drainage paths within the park, the existing wooden bridges are in constant need of repair. The approved project includes a partial realignment of the soft surface trail, resulting in the need for only one pedestrian bridge, which will be constructed with composite decking, similar to what was installed on the boardwalk at Carol Ann Cross Park. Parks Staff will host a neighborhood meeting with nearby residents to collect feedback regarding Phase II improvements to Riley Farm Park. Information will be mailed to residents regarding this prior to construction beginning on the walking trail.

FY28: Spradling Park - The first priority for improvements at this park are to the soft surface walking trail, which will mirror those performed at Tilles Park. However, the plan is for the trail to remain crusher dust. Any funding available after this will be used to make lesser priority, but still needed, improvements.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

NCR-1.1 PFS-3.2.2 PFS-5

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ 73,860	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73,860
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ 450,343	\$ 170,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,170,343
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ 524,203	\$ 170,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,244,203

Project Title: **Neighborhood Park Improvements**

Project Number: N/A

Category:

- ☒ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☒ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☐ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☒ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☐ Under Construction

Location:

Location(s) to be determined by citizen input.

Scope of Work:

Outdoor fitness/exercise courts continue to be requested by residents, specifically along trails, and improvements to the existing equipment at Creekmore Park. Since this allocation is not until FY31, the specific locations have not been identified.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

PFS-5.2 PFS-3.2.3 PFS-2.3 NCR-1.5

Map/Photo:



Example of centralized fitness center.



Examples of fitness equipment along walking path.



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000

Project Title: **Chaffee Crossing Pickleball Courts Resurfacing**

Project Number: N/A

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☒ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☐ Under Construction

Location:

7220 Mahogany Avenue - Barling, Arkansas

Scope of Work:

Through a collaboration with the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority (FCRA) and the City, two former tennis courts were resurfaced to function as eight (8) pickleball courts. This project was completed expeditiously to meet a strong demand for pickleball courts from community members. This project was completed to serve a purpose, not become a tournament-quality facility. The courts continue to experience cracking, which Parks Maintenance Staff repair as funds and timing allow.

Recognizing the popularity of pickleball, the City intended to construct new pickleball courts at an alternative location and/or invest a substantial amount of funds into replacing the existing courts at Chaffee Crossing. During the evaluation process, Sebastian County was able to secure funding to build a tournament-quality eight-court pickleball complex at Ben Geren Regional Park. To avoid service overlap, the City chose to pause on making any substantial improvements to the courts at Chaffee Crossing to gauge whether the need for a complete reconstruction was necessary.

The Chaffee Crossing Pickleball Courts are currently siloed, making them less attractive for tournaments versus the complex at Ben Geren. It is Parks Staff recommendation to forego building a tournament-quality pickleball complex at this time. Instead, it is recommended to perform a standard resurfacing to accommodate recreational play.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

PFS-5 NCR-1.3 FLU-1.4

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000

Project Title: Cisterna Park Pumphouse

Project Number: N/A

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☐ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☐ Design Modification ☒ Under Construction

Location:

Cisterna Park (1001 Garrison Avenue)

Scope of Work:

As part of the budget reductions approved by the Board at their May 9, 2025 Regular Meeting, the replacement of the Cisterna Park pumphouse was transferred to the Parks 1/8% SUT program.

The original intent for this project consisted of the demolition and replacement of the pumphouse for the Cisterna Park fountain. The existing pumphouse is underground and subject to frequent flooding during rain events. This has become a growing hazard for maintenance staff, as they must service the equipment for the fountain and electric for other areas of the park that is controlled inside the pumphouse. While the original design resulting in a larger building is preferred from a maintenance perspective, this option proved to not be cost effective in this situation. Therefore, the redesign of this project consists of raising the finish floor elevation of the pumphouse approximately 3ft with the mechanical equipment being raised approximately 4ft once the equipment pads are poured. This required partial demolition of the existing pumphouse to allow for the walls to be raised approximately 37" to mitigate flooding issues with the electrical and mechanical equipment housed in the pumphouse. Stone veneer similar to what is existing will be installed around the perimeter. This project is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

FLU-1.4

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ 36,948	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,948
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ 194,176	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 194,176
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ 231,124	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 231,124

Project Title: **Community Center Improvements**

Project Number: N/A

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☒ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☐ Under Construction

Location:

Multiple Locations

Scope of Work:

Creekmore Community Center was constructed in 1984. While improvements have been made to the facility, i.e., addition of the Administrative Office, there have been no significant improvements made to the community center itself. Over the past few years, this has become the most heavily utilized rental facility in our parks system for traditional citizen bookings. Priority improvements include upgrading the kitchen area and lowering the ceiling to become more energy efficient.

The River Park Events Building is heavily utilized by entities for large events, such as concerts, festivals, and the Mayor's 4th of July. While improvements are currently being made through the Riverfront/Downtown Operating Budget, there are capital items that will need to be addressed in the next few years, such as the Amphitheater steps.

Replacement of the entrance to the Darby Community Center is needed. Since this facility is in the Historic District, the applicable design guidelines will need to be followed to preserve this facility's appearance.

Given the CIP allocation for this project is not until FY29-FY31, the specific improvements have not been identified or prioritized at this time.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

FLU-1.4

Map/Photo:



Example of stones separation along the Amphitheater steps. Repairs are made as needed, but a complete rehabilitation will be needed within the next few years.



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,150,000
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,150,000

Project Title: **Tennis Court Resurfacing**

Project Number: N/A

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☐ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☐ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☒ Under Construction

Location:

FY26: Creekmore Park (3301 South M Street)

Scope of Work:

Phase I (FY16) consisted of the complete resurfacing of the bottom four (4) courts at Creekmore Park. The courts at Tilles Park were also improved during this phase by filling in the large cracks throughout the surface, surface painting, and new striping. The Western Arkansas Tennis Association (WATA) helped advance these improvements by applying for and being awarded \$15,000 in grant funds for this project.

Phase II (FY25-FY26): This project consists of the resurfacing of the southern four (4) tennis courts, reconstruction of the northern four (4) tennis courts to a post-tension concrete base rather than retain an asphalt base, conversion of the antiquated light fixtures to LEDs, addition of spectator seating along the east side of the courts, and replacement of the fencing. Also incorporated into this project is the conversion of the four (4) light poles at the pool to LED fixtures. This project will be complete by the end of the year, weather permitting.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

PFS-5 NCR-1.3 FLU-1.4

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ 58,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,750
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ 1,348,745	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,348,745
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ 1,407,495	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,407,495

Project Title: Riverfront Skate and Bike Park Expansion

Project Number: N/A

Category:

- ☐ New Development ☒ Improvement to Existing
☐ Public-Private Partnership

Type:

- ☒ New Construction ☐ Trails and Greenways
☒ Infrastructure Improvement ☐ Playground Amenity

Funding:

- ☒ 1/8% Sales and Use Tax ☐ Private Contribution
☐ Grant ☐ Other:

If Other:

Status:

- ☒ Not Started ☐ Preliminary Design
☐ Final Design ☐ Under Construction

Location:

Riverfront Skate and Bike Park (121 Riverfront Drive)

Scope of Work:

FY18: This was a public-private partnership in which the City purchased 3.49 acres of land adjacent to the parking lot at the River Park Events Building to serve as additional parking for the River Park facilities. The private sector funded the construction of the skate and bike park (\$600K). The completed project features a pump track, bicycle playground, and skating and biking amenities. These amenities, along with the incorporation of features for beginner, intermediate, and advanced skill levels, offers something for all ages and abilities.

FY31: Plans for future expansion of the Riverfront Skate and Bike Park have been in discussion for several years. Most recently, USA BMX presented the Parks Commission with a proposal to create a BMX course to the east of the skate and bike amenities. This location is favorable because it has an adjacent facility (River Park Events Building), restrooms, and ample parking. In addition to a formal presentation from representatives with USA BMX, the skating/biking community have expressed interests in either improving the existing infrastructure and/or adding amenities to increase the use of this park.

Future Fort Smith Goals:

FLU-1.4 FLU-1.5 PFS-5 NCR-1

Map/Photo:



Cost Summary

Category	Est. 2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000