

Physical Education / Athletics Master Plan

CHICO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CHICO HIGH SCHOOL

June 2014



HOME OF THE PANTHERS



CHICO HIGH SCHOOL

Existing Conditions



The existing athletic facilities, above, are in need of an update. Existing facilities are non-compliant and aging. New improvements will require investment in utility infrastructure as well as improvements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as Title IX.

The Physical Education / Athletics Master Plan for Chico High School was a work in progress well before this plan materialized. Many dedicated volunteer hours have been spent brainstorming and engaging the community in the discussion. This Athletics Master Plan is intended to guide future discussions centered on a phased implementation of the plan, site priorities, as well as compliance with Title IX requirements. It was important to the community and school site stakeholders that the improvements, especially the stadium, become a beacon of community and Panther pride. To that end, a clear and welcoming entry, seating capacity for the "big game" and graduation, as well as an aesthetically pleasing street presence were important considerations.

Existing infrastructure influenced some key decisions. First and foremost, the site has numerous storage, restroom and community-built facilities that will need to be demolished as part of the upgrades. These facilities, not approved by the Division of the State Architect (DSA), are non-compliant and not usable as part of the master plan. Additionally, the site

Option 1





has an irrigation well, pump and storage tank that will require further investigation. At this time, it is assumed that the well will remain, and that the storage tank and pump will be relocated to make way for a larger stadium footprint.

Finally, it was understood that the master plan implementation will be phased, perhaps over a significant amount of time. While this document cannot anticipate the size and/or timing of the individual phases, the committee has recommended a first phase. The plan is outlined, in likely increments, on the following pages.



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Phase I: Stadium and Amenities

The recommended first phase for the Athletics Master Plan Implementation is centered on the stadium and related facilities, including:

- 8 lane all weather track, 9 lane sprint lanes preferred
- Synthetic turf field, suitable for football, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. Minimum width: 65 yards.
- Field Lighting
- Electronic Scoreboard
- Bleachers – Aluminum I-Beam Construction (1,500 home/300 visitor)

- Press Box – Elevator not required for press box below 500 square feet.
- Storage Facilities – approximately 4,500 SF.
- Welcoming entry building – tickets, concessions and restrooms – approximately 1,500 SF.

There are significant choices to be made in the implementation of the plan, including product selection, validation of the size/plan of proposed support buildings as well as the timing or certain improvements and phasing to match funding availability.



Garage doors allow easy access to linear storage buildings for athletic equipment, buildings and ground maintenance materials. The buildings back wall provides a barrier between the city sidewalk and the stadium.



Simple chain link fence, planted with ivy, changes the perception of the campus perimeter to one that is a more aesthetically appropriate face to the community.



Shade "sails" in school colors provide interesting gathering spaces for students and the community.



Aluminum bleachers with I-Beam construction, as shown, allow access for ease of maintenance below the bleachers.



Future Phases

The Master Plan recommends reconfiguration of the softball fields, and improvements, in place, at the baseball field. The softball program was part of a Title IX complaint, following which Chico Unified agreed to developing equivalent facilities to the baseball program including electricity for batting machines, a water source, an outfield fence as well as improved dugouts. With a new, lighted softball field, care should be given to ensuring that both the baseball and softball fields are brought to an equal level.

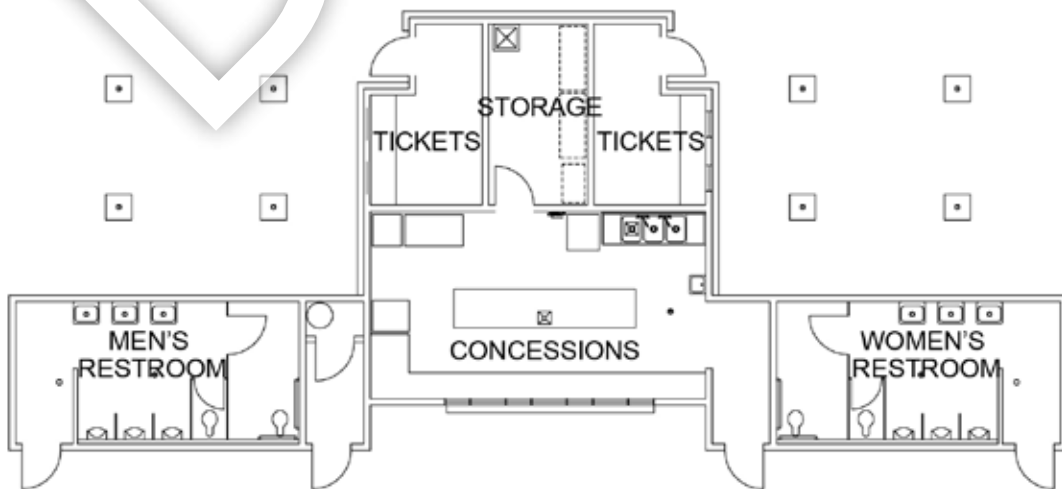
- Natural grass
- Covered dugouts
- Fencing, including removable outfield fencing that will allow PE use of the outfield grass
- Batting cages, including power
- Access to restrooms/drinking fountains
- Equivalent spectator seating (i.e. picnic tables, bleachers, etc.)

Upgrading the existing soccer field into an all-weather PE area with lighting is considered to be particularly relevant during the Winter sports season when both boys' and girls' soccer are competing and practicing. Another future consideration include a building housing changing rooms, restrooms, locker rooms and a coach office.

- Classroom space / Team Rooms
13,000 SF
- All weather field 70 yard x 116 yard
- Maintenance building - 400 sf
- Tennis court expansion - 4 additional



CHICO HIGH SCHOOL



Student Access and Equity

The health and well being of the students and the community, as they use the outdoor PE/athletics facilities, is of primary importance to the District. This includes not only issues related to Title IX compliance, but to accessibility issues as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). While at completion of the Master Plan, it is assumed that the facilities design has addressed the compliance with both Title IX and ADA, it is important that the District reviews carefully the incremental implementation (phasing) of the plan to ensure that equity and access are achieved at each phase of the program.

The following chart outlines the athletics participation "gap" between male and female students at Chico High School. This is just one component in assessing Title IX compliance in high school athletics. It is also essential that school districts assure that both genders have equal access and quality of coaching and training, equipment, monetary resources and publicity, among other factors. It is also essential that the school and/or district have a plan for continually improving the participation gap. The gap, with the recent adoption of Cheer as a District sport, is closing.

Equal access to, and quality of facilities are other assessment factors, and the primary subject of this Physical Education/ Athletics Facilities Master Plan. Lionakis and Verde Design

are not prepared to assess the total of Title IX compliance at Chico High School, but have summarized here the outdoor athletics facilities in this document so that others may include these factors in their review.

A previous Title IX complaint identified deficiencies in the softball complex when compared with baseball. These complaints – related to dugouts, fencing, water and power – are an area of focus by the District, many of which have been improved in the short term. At the completion of the master plan, the likely concerns will relate to the operational use of the stadium and all-purpose practice field for field hockey and football in the fall and soccer in the winter. With a synthetic turf field, practice and competition should use the field as often as is practical. It is important that student athletes have an opportunity to practice on the surface on which they will play and that an equitable competition schedule allows access to the stadium for all athletes.



SPORT	MALE STUDENT ATHLETES	FEMALE STUDENT ATHLETES
Indoor Competition		
Basketball	47	39
Volleyball	25	45
Wrestling	43	6
Cheer		40
Offsite Competition		
Cross Country	23	14
Swimming	35	24
Golf	12	12
Tennis	16	40
Ski and Snowboard	20	12
Outdoor Competition		
Football	135	
Field Hockey		31
Soccer	24	37
Track and Field	79	100
Baseball/Softball	40	26
Total Student Athletes	499	426
Percentage of Student Athletes	54%	46%
Student Enrollment	863	806
Percentage of Student Enrollment	52%	48%

Tennis competition is held off site for both genders; practice occurs on site in separate seasons



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Acknowledgments

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