

## CITY OF CHANDLER RIVER PARK (16 acres)



River Park is a hidden jewel and has great potential to be a popular regional destination park supporting nature tourism. Improving this park fits into one of the City of Chandler's Comprehensive Plan goals of providing a diversity of parks and recreation opportunities for all age groups. The park provides some of the best river access fishing in the region as well as bird watching.

### **When was River Park established?**

River Park had its beginnings in 1971 with a joint agreement between Henderson County and the Upper Neches River Authority. It covered 3.17 acres and included picnic tables and asphalt boat ramp.

### **When did the city take control of the park?**

Chandler's city limits were extended in 2006, out to the Neches River. In an effort to better control crime and dumping in the River Park area and to have increased maintenance of the park the city council voted to take the necessary steps to assume control over the park.

In January 2007, the County transferred its lease with the Upper Neches River Authority for the 3.17 ac. river park to the city. At that time the city began regular maintenance, improved the boat ramp and cleared out much of the underbrush.

In July 2012, the city extended the River Park area through a long term lease for 12.5 additional acres on the north side of Hwy 31. This lease was done in partnership with the Woods and Waters Foundation. At that time a 100 space parking lot was added in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Highway Department, and Henderson County. River Park is now just under 16 acres on the north and south sides of Hwy 31.

The City of Chandler has cut over a mile and a half of nature trails along the river to facilitate bank fishing as well as nature walks. This river ecosystem will offer unique views of wildlife and nature.

**What projects are underway at River Park?**

Phase II of the River Park Improvements have begun which will link the north side of the park with the south side, both on a pedestrian level, as well as, a vehicular one. The City of Chandler has gotten a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to connect the north and south sides of River Park with a concrete walk under Hwy 31. In addition the grant will fund an improved boat ramp and parking lot on the south side with an improved access drive off of Hwy 31. The north park drive will line up with the south drive and TXDOT is constructing a median break between the two drives allowing for direct access by car from one side to the other. At a later date Phase III of the River Park project will include the installation of restrooms.