

Judith Blair

Building Community Through Sports and Wellness

JUDITH BLAIR COURTS

Judith “Mama” Blair
Basketball
Courts at
Palo Verde
Park



<https://judithblaircourts.com/>



About Judith Blair



Judith “Mama” Blair grew up in Sugar Grove, Ohio, where women’s sports were not taken seriously—if they were acknowledged at all. As she once recounted, her brother’s team could practice in the gym, while she played alone outside on the playground court. She recalled, “It never seemed fair.”

After moving to Tucson in 1992, Judith quickly embraced the city and its vibrant spirit. From cheering on the Wildcats to championing gender equality, Judith Blair left an indelible mark on Southern Arizona. She donated her kidney to a University of Arizona professor, volunteered with her son Joseph’s nonprofit, and inspired others as a senior Olympian.

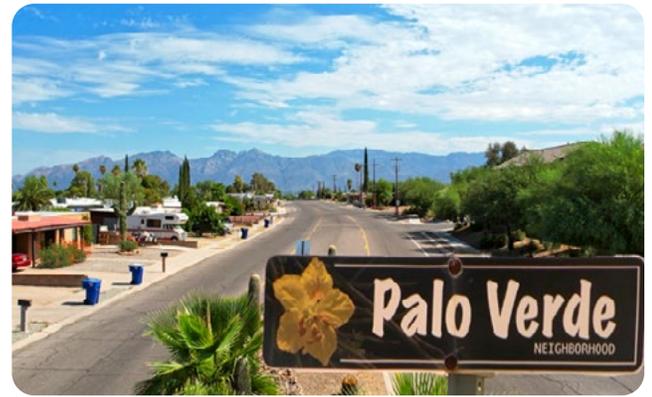
This project seeks to honor Judith’s legacy by transforming the outdated tennis courts at Palo Verde Park into state-of-the-art basketball courts—a hub for sports, mentorship, and community activities.

About the Palo Verde Neighborhood

Population: 35,000 residents, including over 6,400 children under 18.

Economic Challenges:

- 16% below the federal poverty level
- 45% identified as lower middle class (working poor)
- Serves the only fed designated empowerment zone in ward 2 (poverty level over 60%)



An “empowerment zone” (EZ) is a geographically designated area, usually in an economically distressed community, that receives special government support and tax incentives to stimulate economic growth

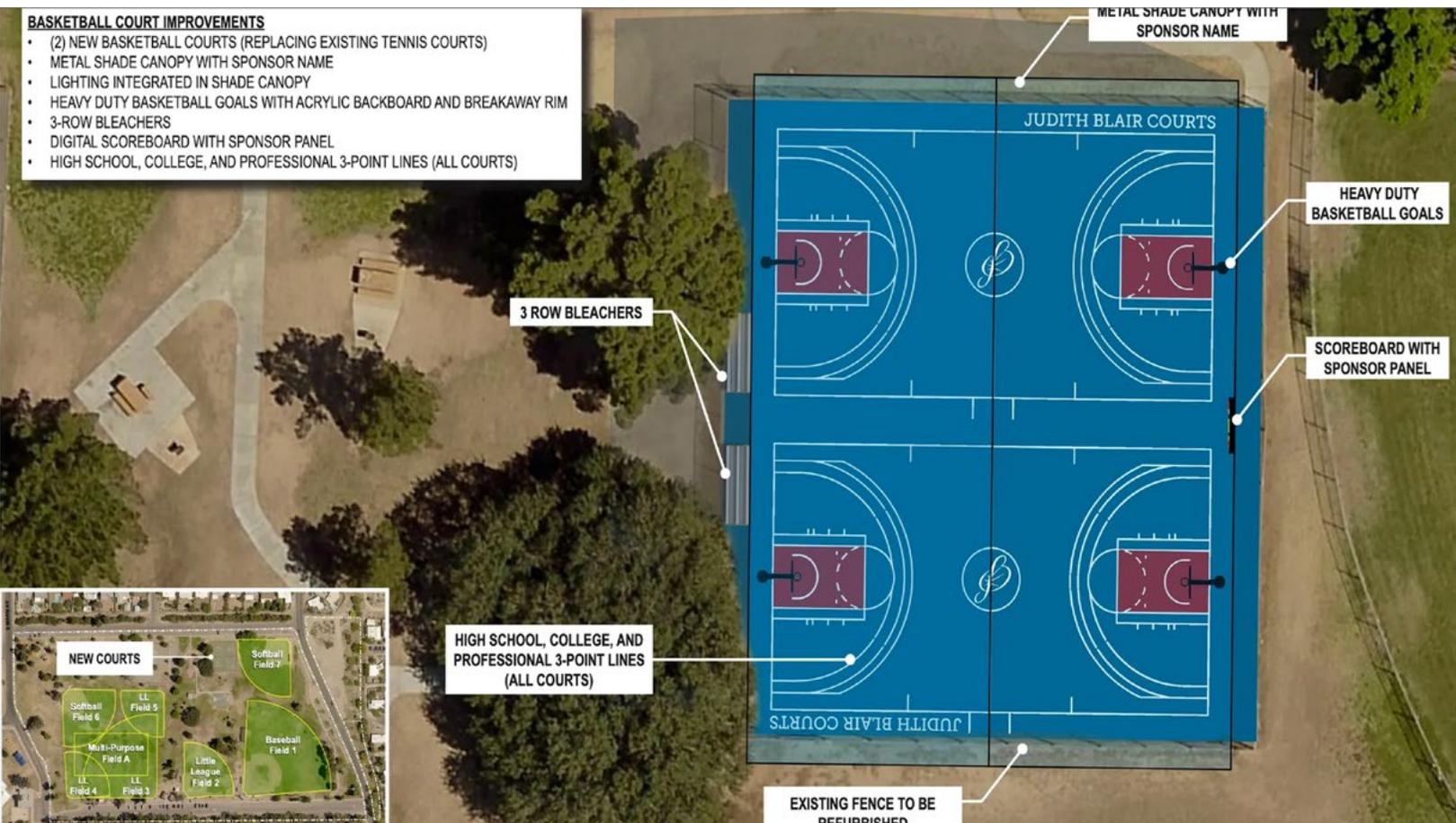
Park Upgrades

Tucson Parks and Recreation is revitalizing Palo Verde Park with a \$2.5 million investment funded through the 2018 Proposition 407 bond, Impact Fees, and Ward 2 funds. Improvements include:

- New LED lighting for existing fields.
- Conversion of tennis courts to the Judith Blair Basketball Courts.
- Replacement of an older basketball court with three pickleball courts.
- Renovations to the pool area, irrigation systems, and additional tree plantings.

Projected Completion: Summer 2025

The Vision: Transforming Palo Verde Park



With \$2.5 million invested by the City of Tucson, an additional \$250,000 is needed to elevate the facility into a premier destination for sports, wellness, and community engagement. The upgrades will create a versatile environment where families, athletes, and the local community can come together to enjoy recreational activities, foster mentorship opportunities, and strengthen neighborhoods. Join us in making this vision a reality and leave a lasting legacy.

These courts will be the home court for Annie W. Kellond Elementary School's basketball team, while Booth-Fickett School, Fountain of Life School, and Palo Verde High School will have access to them for their programs.

All donations are matched 2-1 by the city of Tucson.



BASIC SCOREBOARD WITH SPONSOR PANEL



SCOREBOARD W/ FOULS & TIMEOUTS WITH SPONSOR PANEL



The Judith Blair Basketball Courts Will Feature:

- Two professional-grade courts with markings for high school, college, and NBA 3-point lines.
- Heavy-duty basketball goals with acrylic backboards and breakaway rims.
- Three-row bleachers for spectator comfort.
- Metal shade canopies with integrated lighting and sponsor panels.
- Canopy shade structures to provide sun protection, ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for kids.

How to Donate

City of Tucson is a “qualified organization”, which can receive a charitable donation, see IRS Publication 526 and Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Online website donations: <https://judithblaircourts.com/>

If you have any questions regarding your donation, contact Dina Scalone 520-256-2840.

If you prefer to mail your donation, please indicate Judith Blair Courts on your check.

Make it payable to the City of Tucson and send it to:

City of Tucson,
Parks and Recreation

Recognition

A custom plaque will recognize donors.

Donations of \$25,000 or more: Donor’s logo displayed.

Donations between \$5,000 and \$24,999: Donor’s name displayed.

Ribbon Cutting Celebration

All donors will be invited to the ribbon-cutting event in July 2025.





What This Project Means to Us

"If not for the love of the game that my mom embedded in my heart, there is absolutely no way I could have ever dreamed of finding the success that I have. I'm honored to call myself a Mama's boy! Thank you for joining me in honoring my mother's memory with the Judith Blair Courts."



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<https://judithblaircourts.com/>

