

Parks and Recreation

The mission of the El Paso Parks and Recreation Department is to develop, preserve and maintain quality open space facilities and provide opportunities for structured and unstructured recreational and leisure-time activities for all citizens of El Paso. The Department manages 192 parks, 14 community centers, 9 senior centers, 6 shelters, 9 indoor swimming pools and 5 outdoor pools. In response to the demands of the growing population, the Department achieved local and state passage of the 2006-2016 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the 2006 Mountains to River: A Green Infrastructure Plan for El Paso and an amended local Parkland Dedication Ordinance.



Highlights in FY 06

- Developed a Park Naming Procedure for Department and Park Foundation
- Expanded Indoor After School Programs throughout City
- Completed construction on Northeast Sports Complex and will complete construction on Westside Community Center and Park in May 2007
- Began recruitment and hiring of new Professional Recreation Leaders & Sports Maintenance staff

- Continued to advance the Department's Irrigation and Park Management program with El Paso Water Utilities
- Established a lecture series regarding Parks and Recreation topics featuring distinguished professor and author Dr. John Crompton from Texas A&M University

Museums and Cultural Affairs

The Museums and Cultural Affairs Department (MCAD) administers the City of El Paso's arts and cultural programs and assets, including three municipally owned and operated museums, which are the El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso History Museum, and El Paso Museum of Archeology. MCAD administers funding programs, public art projects, cultural tourism initiatives, visual art exhibits and performing arts programs such as the Music Under the Stars and Alfresco Friday's music series. Each of these elements function together to provide a system of arts and cultural resources, which offer residents and visitors alike access to arts and cultural experiences citywide.



Highlights in FY 06

- Provided over \$320,000 in funding to 22 organizations; supported 2,900 artists; held 560 events with an estimated total attendance of 300,000
- Over 115,000 visitors and residents enjoyed free outdoor summer concerts

- Established the Public Art Program
- The Museums Division had a total attendance at all museums of approximately 189,000
- Completed the construction of The El Paso Museum of History, with a planned opening in June 2007