CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

AGENDA DATE: August 29, 2006

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Dr. Norman C. Merrifield, 541-4910

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: City-Wide

SUBJECT:
APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include $ amount if applicable.

Resolution accepting the 2006-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:
Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

The proposed 2006-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been reviewed and discussed in detail by all members of City Council and the Community of El Paso through several LRC's, two previous Council Meetings and numerous Community Meetings. Refer to attached resolution for information pertaining to benefits of the Park Master Plan.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:
Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

Yes, City Council approved the 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:
How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

Funding for Park and Recreation Master Plan has already been appropriated.

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:
Enter appropriate comments or N/A N/A

********************REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION**********************

LEGAL: (if required) _____ **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: _____
(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____

'06 SEP 14 P4:43

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Section 213.004 of the Texas Local Government Code, the City of El Paso may prepare plans, policies or strategies as required; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of El Paso recognizes the need for a 2006-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan ("the Plan") to provide goals, assessments, standards, recommendations and strategies for implementation over a ten year period in an effort to provide for and continually improve park and recreational facilities, provide trail opportunities, preserve open spaces and rehabilitate existing parks in the City of El Paso; and

WHEREAS, the primary objective of the Plan is to enable the City to determine, prioritize and provide park and recreational services desired by the citizens of El Paso, acquire needed open spaces and preserve natural resources; and

WHEREAS, in order to address recreational needs in the future, the City of El Paso has sought input from the citizens of El Paso through surveys, public input meetings, the El Paso Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation staff; and that input has been incorporated into the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan complies with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department master plan guidelines which require parks and recreation needs to be prioritized and addressed in an action plan format; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, having taken into consideration the results of the in-depth study conducted by Halff Associates for the City of El Paso, determines that the Plan is reasonable and appropriately adopted under Section 213.004 of the Texas Local Government Code.

#24460v6/EHEN

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. That the 2006-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of El Paso, Texas ("the Plan"), attached hereto, be and is hereby officially adopted.

2. That the Plan and its incorporated 10 year action plan be used to, among other things, prioritize and guide the provision for and rehabilitation of parks, recreation services, provide guidance in the application of funding, and suggest alternative funding mechanisms.

3. That adoption of the Plan shall not commit the City of El Paso to specific funding levels or implementation strategies, but shall provide guidance for the City's vision for availability and growth of parks and recreation services.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of September, 2006.

THE CITY OF EL PASO

_____
John Cook, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Josette Flores
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

_____
Norman C. Merrifield, Ed.D.
Director, Parks and Recreation Department

#24460v6/EHEN

CITY OF EL PASO TEXAS

TOWARDS A BRIGHT FUTURE

THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN FOR EL PASO, TEXAS

AUGUST 2006

Halff Associates

I. El Paso Today

As part of the Master Plan, the overall context of El Paso was evaluated and analyzed. This includes the physical characteristics of El Paso, trends in the local economy, the demographic and population aspects of the citizens of the community, and other recreational providers in the area. Major trends in recreation that may impact the Parks and Recreation System in El Paso are also discussed.

II. The Geography of El Paso

El Paso is located in El Paso County at the confluence of the states of Texas and New Mexico and the country of Mexico, approximately midway between Ft. Worth and El Paso, and covers an area of 248 square miles. El Paso is situated in the heart of the Chihuahuan Desert, which is the largest desert in North America, covering over 150,000 square miles from West Texas to the eastern portion of Arizona and northern Mexico. Three of the state's major land resources meet here – the High Plains, Trans Pecos and Edwards Plateau. As part of the Chihuahuan Desert, the area tends to have short grasses, sparse and unusually scrubby tree growth, and very limited rainfall. The altitude of El Paso is approximately 3,760 feet above sea level. The city itself occupies approximately 260 square miles.

El Paso's most unique physical characteristics are:

The Franklin Mountains, which extend right into the city, and which rise dramatically to a height of over 2,500 feet above the city.

The Rio Grande River, which forms the southern boundary of the city and its border with both Mexico and the State of New Mexico. The river is channelized for approximately 20% of its length in El Paso, and in the remainder is largely linear in nature with some vegetative cover along its banks. Because of its status as an international boundary, the river is heavily patrolled and in places is unattractive.

The many arroyos and canyons in the area, contain an incredibly diverse plant and animal habitat. These arroyos and drainage areas represent the best opportunity for valuable undeveloped open space in the city itself.

Irrigation and drainage canals which cross portions of the city, transport water from the river to current and former agricultural areas, and are generally found in the Mission Valley and far West planning areas. Drainage canals can be found throughout the flatter areas of the city, and convey runoff instead of the more natural arroyos.

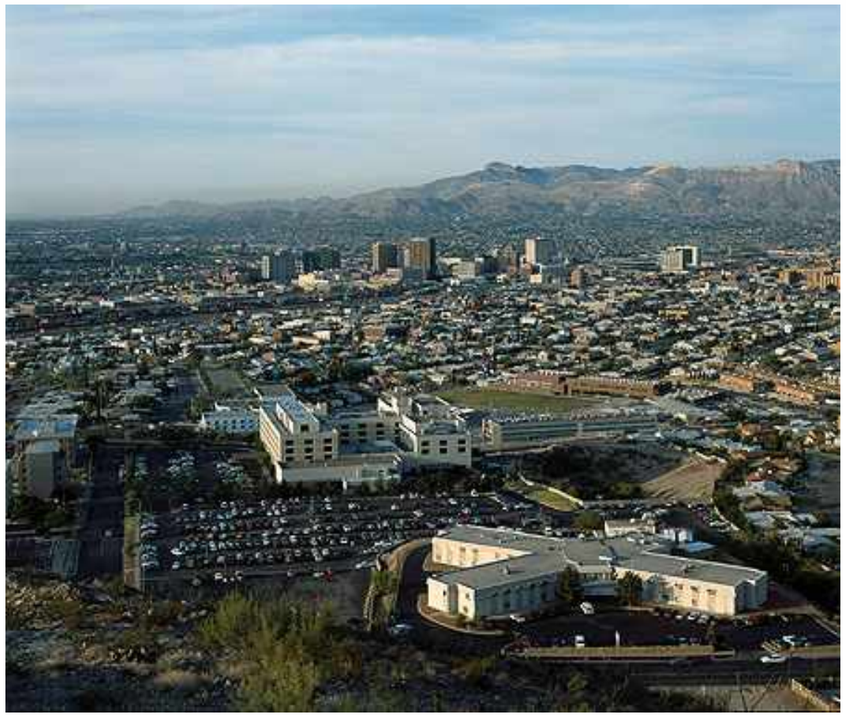
El Paso's Climate

El Paso's climate is arid. Summer night average temperatures decline to the 60's, and day temperatures reach the upper 90s. Winter temperatures range average around 43 degrees to 82 degrees in January. While daytime temperatures are high in the summer months, very low humidity allows for conditions that are conducive to personal comfort, especially during the summer months. Average rainfall is 8.65 inches per year. Most of the rainfall occurs between April and October, with less than an inch per month in the winter. El Paso is known as the Sun City because of the average of more than 300 days of sunshine per year.

III. El Paso's Economy and the Impact of Fort Bliss

El Paso is a key entry point to the U.S. from Mexico. Once a major copper refining area, chief manufacturing industries in El Paso now include food production, clothing, construction materials, electronic and medical equipment, and plastics. Cotton, fruit, vegetables, livestock, and pecans are produced in the area. With El Paso's attractive climate and natural beauty, tourism has become a booming industry as well as trade with neighboring Ciudad Juárez.

Education is also a driving force in El Paso's economy. El Paso's three large school districts are among the largest employers in the area, employing more than 19,000 people between them. The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) has an annual budget of nearly $250 million and employs nearly 3,600 people. A 2002 study by the University's Institute for Policy and Economic Development stated that the University's monetary impact on local businesses is approximately $349 million.



The military installation of Fort Bliss is a major contributor to El Paso's economy. Fort Bliss began as a Calvary post in 1848. Today, Fort Bliss is the site of the United States Army's Air Defense Center and produces approximately $80 million in products and services annually, with about $60 million of those products and services purchased locally. Fort Bliss' total economic impact on the area has been estimated at more than $1 billion, with 12,000 soldiers currently stationed at the Fort. An additional 20,000 troops are projected to arrive at Fort Bliss from overseas assignments. This would be in addition to 3,800 soldiers who would arrive as part of a new brigade combat team stationed at the Fort. The growth is expected to create a strong economic ripple throughout the El Paso area.

In addition to the military, the federal government has a strong presence in El Paso to manage its status and unique issues as a border region. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and the U.S. Customs Service all have agency operations in El Paso to regulate traffic and goods through ports of entry from Mexico. Including these agencies, government job growth in the area is expected to rise to 64,390 jobs by 2007.

Call center operations make up 7 of the top 10 business employers in El Paso. With no signs of growth slowing in this industry, in 2005 the 14 largest call centers in El Paso employed more than 10,000 people. The largest of these in terms of employees are EchoStar, MCI/GC Services, and West Telemarketing.

Continued job growth is projected to be in the form of health care, business and trade services, international trade, and telecommunications.

Items and goods produced: petroleum, metals, medical devices, plastics, machinery, automotive parts, food, defense-related goods, tourism, and boots.

IV. El Paso's Population

The process of developing a long range parks master plan includes understanding the size and the characteristics of the population to be served. El Paso's parks, trails and open spaces provide recreation facilities for the citizens of the city, and for a significant number of persons living in nearby communities and in El Paso County. The rapid population growth poses a huge challenge, in which just keeping up with the needs of the population growth will be difficult enough, much less actually increasing the proportional size of the system.

Population Growth

El Paso's growth over the past 10 years has been extremely rapid. The Texas State Data Center projects that the El Paso Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) will be the sixth fastest growing area in Texas through the year 2020, and will increase from a current population just under 750,000 to almost 930,000 by 2020 and almost 1,200,000 residents by the year 2040. This long term growth is also impacted by the influx of new military personnel by the year 2010, which will further increase the population of the area.

Table 2.1 on this page illustrates the current and projected growth of El Paso and El Paso County over the next 40 years. The population projections are derived from the U.S. Census, as well as the Texas State Data Center and the Texas Water Development Board. The City is projected to add about 160,000 residents over the next two decades, continuing the trend of very rapid growth.

Population growth will primarily occur in the east and west edges of the city. Growth is also anticipated in the northeast as an influx of new Fort Bliss personnel and dependents takes place over the next few years.

Table 2.1
POPULATION TRENDS IN EL PASO AND El PASO COUNTY

	City of El Paso		El Paso County	
Year	**Population**	**% Change**	**Population**	**% Change**
1990 Population (1)	**515,342**(1)		**591,600**	-
2000 Population (1)	**563,662**(1)	9%	**679,622**	15% from 1990
2006 Population (estimated) (2)	**634,252**	7%	**729,800**	7 % from 2000
2016 Population (projected) (3)	**768,503**(4)	15% from 2005		
2020 Population (projected) (3)	**767,750**	27% from 2005	**937,200**	28 % from 2005
2030 Population (projected) (3)	**1,008,000**	67% from 2005	**1,632,000**	123 % from 2005
2040 Population (projected) (3)	**1,116,000**	84% from 2005	**2,030,000**	178 % from 2005

Sources
(1) US Census
(2) Texas State Data Center
(3)Texas Water Development Board
(4) City of El Paso Planning

Table 2.2
POPULATION TRENDS BY SECTOR OF THE CITY

Sector	2000	Beginning 2006	2016	% Increase 2006-2016
Northeast	92,761	97,448	129,416	26%
Mission Valley	100,001	101,450	109,117	8%
East	153,194	197,463	240,584	22%
Central	123,858	120,049	125,132	4%
Northwest	90,848	105,555	148,322	41%
Hueco	n/a	12,287	15,932	30%
Fort Bliss	n/a	6,663	8,854	33%

Source (1)City of El Paso Planning Department

Table 2.3 YEAR 2000 – AGE DISTRIBUTION IN EL PASO		
Under 5 years	47,646	8.5 %
5 to 9 years	50,170	8.9 %
10 to 14 years	47,996	8.5 %
15 to 19 years	46,858	8.3 %
20 to 24 years	38,564	6.8 %
25 to 34 years	80,568	14.3%
35 to 44 years	83,703	14.8%
45 to 54 years	65,808	11.7
55 to 59 years	22,636	4.0 %
60 to 64 years	19,592	3.5%
65 to 74 years	35,041	6.2%
75 to 84 years	19,279	3.4
85 years and over	5,801	1.0%

Table 2.4 YEAR 2000 AGE DISTRIBUTION – YOUNG VS. OLD		
Under 18	**174,494**	**31.0%**
18 and over	**388,727**	**69.0 %**
21 years and over	**362,920**	**64.4 %**
65 years and over	**60,121**	**10.7 %**

Demographic Characteristics

Key characteristics include age and sex, race and origin, income and educational attainment.

Age and Sex - Tables 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 illustrates the age characteristics of the population in El Paso as derived from the 2000 Census.

Statewide, 28.2% of the population is under the age of 18. El Paso has a larger youth population at 31.0%. However, only 9.9% of the state's population is 65 or older, compared with 10.7% in El Paso, or almost a full percentage point higher.

Racial Characteristics - In 2000 approximately 77% of the population of El Paso was of Hispanic origin. The racial characteristics of the population of El Paso are shown in Table 2.3 on this page.

Projections by the State of Texas Data Center estimate that the percentage of the Hispanic population in El Paso County will continue to increase by the year 2020, reflecting a statewide increase in the Hispanic population of the state of Texas.

Family Size – The average household size in El Paso is approximately 3.07 residents per household. The average family size is 3.54 members per family.

Educational Attainment - In 2000, 68.6% of the population of El Paso had received at least a high school education or its equivalent. This is significantly below the statewide average of 75.6% of the population having at least a high school education or GED.

Table 2.5 YEAR 2000 - DISTRIBUTION BY RACE IN EL PASO		
One race	544,472	96.6 %
Two or more races	2,668	2.9 %
White	**413,061**	**73.3 %**
African American	**17,586**	**5.9 %**
American Indian and Alaska Native	4,601	0.8 %
Asian	6,321	0.9 %
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	583	0.1 %
Some other race	102,320	18.2 %
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	**431,875**	**76.6 %**

Median Income - The median annual per capita incomes for the City and the State of Texas were $14,388 and $19,617 respectively in 2000. The median family income in the city was $35,432 in 2000, compared to $45,861 for the state of Texas as a whole.

Poverty Levels - A total of 26,968 families, or 19% of all families in the city, were below the poverty level in 2000. A total of 124,281 individuals, or 22% of the total population, were below the poverty level in the 2000 census. These totals are again significantly higher than the state of Texas, where 12% of families and 15.4% of individuals are below the poverty line.

Key aspects of El Paso's demographic picture

- **Annual population growth in El Paso and El Paso County over the next decade is estimated to be rapid**. This pace of growth will continue to place significant demands on facilities in both the city and the county.
- **Hispanic and Latino residents make up the fastest growing portion of the city's population**, and will continue to be a majority of the population.
- **El Paso has a larger elderly population than the statewide average**. Recreation facilities should address the needs of the elderly throughout the city.
- **El Paso has a much higher than average percentage of citizens living below the poverty line**. Low or no cost recreation facilities play an important role in the community, and attempts to reduce subsidies for recreation facilities or to raise the cost of services provided may prove to be difficult to achieve.

V. Other Key National Trends

The rate of change in the world and United States' is accelerating, and many of these trends are having a direct impact on recreation. These trends include:

- **Instead of having more leisure time, the world's increasingly competitive marketplace is forcing us to work harder to keep up**. As a result, we have less leisure time, and fewer opportunities to enjoy recreational activities. We therefore tend to seek structured activities with a specific goal, rather than simple unstructured activities such as going for a spontaneous walk.
- **We have many more leisure time choices** – Greatly increased at-home leisure opportunities are available today, such as hundreds of channels of television, sophisticated computer games for young adults, and the world of the Internet.
- **Safety is a great concern to parents** – Many parents do not allow our children to go to area parks unattended. In many places the use of neighborhood parks has gone down. This does not seem to be the trend in El Paso.
- **We live in an era of instant gratification –** We expect to have high quality recreation, and to be given activities that we will like. We have many other leisure time activities and outlets, and can pick and choose what we want to do. Cities must be willing to provide a much broader menu of recreation activities, but must draw the line if those activities become too costly.
- **Through the media and the Internet, we are exposed to the best from around the world –** We expect our facilities and activities to be of the highest quality possible.
- **New revenue sources for public funding are difficult to come by –**The federal surpluses briefly experienced at the turn of the century are now a thing of the past, and deficit spending is probable for the next decade. As a result, little help can be expected from the federal government, and even popular programs such as the enhancement funds for trails and beautification may not always be available.

CHAPTER 3:

AN INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARK FACILITIES IN EL PASO

Chapter Contents

I. Purpose of the Inventory
II. Park Classification
III. Size of Existing Park System
IV. Inventory of Existing Parks in El Paso

Major Categories of Parks in El Paso

Local Close-to-Home Space - usually located within the community served by the facility, which includes mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks.

Regional Space - usually located within an hour or two driving distance. Parks in this category serve a number of communities, and include regional metropolitan parks and regional park reserves.

Unique Space - may be either local or regional in nature. These parks can be defined as areas that are unique in some way, whether because of physical features or because of the types of facilities provided. Parks in this category may include linear parks, special use parks, or land conservancies. Rio Bosque and Keystone Heritage Park are examples of unique types of parks.

I. Purpose of the Inventory

The Excellent Park System notes that knowing what parks are in the system is one of the seven traits of an outstanding park system. Having an up to date inventory is a key part of the park planning process; it helps to understand what park and open space facilities are currently available, and to assess the condition of those facilities and whether or not they are addressing the park and open space needs of the city. By comparing the available park facilities with the number of people that the parks system serves, the need for new or improved recreational facilities can be determined.

El Paso has an established network of both neighborhood and larger community park facilities. Many of the existing park sites are well placed and generally well maintained. However, much of the existing older buildings are aging and need repairs or complete replacement, and in many cases parks do not have a great diversity of facilities. The inventory also begins to identify where park service is lacking.

Components of the Existing Parks Inventory - This "inventory" of existing parks reviews several aspects of each park in the El Paso system. These are:

- **Classification:** What is the purpose of a given park? Is it intended to serve a local neighborhood around it, giving children and young adults a place to play? Is it intended to serve a much larger population, providing fields for organized league play? This determines whether a park should be classified as a neighborhood park, a community park, a regional park, a special purpose park, or a linkage park. Key issues that are looked at include:
- **Location:** Where is the park located in relation to the population that it serves? Is it accessible?
- **Size of the Park:** How big is the park? Is it large enough to adequately accomplish its intended purpose?
- **Facilities in each Park:** What does the park contain? Are the facilities appropriate for the type of park?

The Needs Assessment Chapter 5 reviews the condition and issues of many of the existing parks and buildings in the system, and recommends improvements where needed.

II. Park Classification

Park planning principles have identified three broad categories of parks, which are:

Close-to-home parks are the most important category and are of the greatest immediate concern to the City of El Paso. Close to home parks address day to day facilities for all ages and activities, and are usually within walking or driving distance from where we live. The six close-to-home park types that are proposed for El Paso are:

- Pocket Parks
- Neighborhood parks
- Community parks
- Linear Parks
- Special use parks
- Open Space or Nature Parks

A description of the general types of parks included in the El Paso Parks system follows:

Pocket or "Mini" Parks

Pocket parks are small gathering spaces ranging from 1/8 acre to 1 acre. Due to the size of this type of park, parking is typically not provided. Therefore, pocket parks are accessed by pedestrian and bicycle means. Benches, landscaping, and other "focal" features are common items found in these parks. Size is not the key factor of the typical pocket park, but rather the quality of the landscape and features that go into the park. Small green areas planned for the downtown area are examples of pocket parks. El Paso has many pocket parks, and in some cases these are considered to be equivalent to neighborhood parks. However, a small area of land measuring less than 200' by 200' cannot be expected to meet the needs of an entire neighborhood.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide the foundation for recreation in the Local Close-to-Home park system. Ideally, they provide facilities and recreation space for the entire family, but are within easy walking or bicycling distance of the people they serve.

The neighborhood park typically serves one large or several smaller neighborhoods. The ideal neighborhood park in El Paso should serve no more than 2,000 to 4,000 residents per park, and should generally range from 2 to 10 acres in size.

Neighborhood parks should be accessible to residents who live within a one-half mile radius of the park, and are generally meant to be walked to. *As an immediate goal of this Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Master Plan, neighborhood park facilities should be located within a half-mile radius of the residents that will use those facilities. Long term, a ratio of a quarter mile service radius is desired.*

- Neighborhood parks are frequently located adjacent to elementary schools, so as to share acquisition and development costs with the school district. *In the future, where possible, new neighborhood parks should be planned and developed in close coordination with school districts in the area, provided that the school site is adequately sized to meet the school's own needs. This can result in significant cost savings and more efficient use of tax dollars to the city, the county and the school district.*
- Neighborhood parks are generally located away from major arterial streets and provide easy access for the users that surround it. *A neighborhood park should be accessible without having to cross major arterial streets.*

As a long term goal of this Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Master Plan, neighborhood park facilities should be located within a quarter-mile radius of the residents that will use those facilities.

Figure 3.1 A Typical Neighborhood

Size - The size of a neighborhood park may vary considerably due to physical locations around the park. *An ideal size for neighborhood parks in El Paso should be around three to five acres.* Parks may range in size from a minimum of 2 acres to a maximum of 10 acres.

Location - If possible, neighborhood parks should be centrally located in neighborhoods they serve. An ideal location, for example, is adjacent to an elementary school. The park should be accessible to pedestrian traffic from all parts of the area served, and should be located adjacent to local or minor collector streets which do not allow high-speed traffic.

Permanent restrooms are typically not placed in neighborhood parks because they increase maintenance and provide a location for illegal activities.

Facilities - Facilities generally located in neighborhood parks include the following:

- Shaded playground equipment with adequate safety surfacing around the playground
- Unlighted practice fields for baseball, soccer, and football
- Lighted tennis courts
- Lighted multi-purpose courts for basketball and volleyball
- Active areas for unorganized play
- Picnic areas with benches, picnic tables and cooking grills
- Shaded pavilions and gazebos
- Jogging and exercise trails
- Security lighting

Neighborhood Park Parking – Should vary based on the size of the park and facilities provided. A minimum of eight spaces per new neighborhood park are recommended with an additional two handicapped parking spaces per each neighborhood park. The exact amount of parking needed will vary based on the size of the park, the availability of safe on-street parking adjacent to the park, the facilities the park contains and the number of users attracted to the park. For example, **Madeline Park** in El Paso is surrounded by on-street parking, and needs no off-street parking. However, this park does need striped parking spaces that are designated as handicapped accessible spaces.

The diagram on this page illustrates a typical neighborhood park and some of the elements that the park might contain. Note that this is simply a typical arrangement, and each neighborhood park should be designed as a unique part of the neighborhood that surrounds it.

Community Parks

Community parks are larger parks that serve a group of neighborhoods or a portion of a city. Community parks are usually reached by automobiles, although residents adjacent to the park and trail users may walk or bicycle to it. A variety of recreational facilities are provided, including in some cases, lighted playing fields for organized sports, hike/bike trails and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other park users. **Memorial Park in Central El Paso** is an ideal example of a well located community park with a variety of facilities.

Size - The typical community park should be large enough so it can provide a variety of facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas. The park should also have room for expansion, as new facilities are required. A typical community park varies in size from 10 acres to over 50 acres.

Location – Community parks should be located near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access from different parts of the city. Because of the potential for noise and bright lights at night, community parks should be buffered from adjacent residential areas.

Parking – May vary based on the facilities provided and the size of park. The NRPA recommends a minimum of five spaces per acre, plus additional parking for specific facilities within the park such as pools or ball fields. The specific amount of parking provided in each park should be determined by the facilities provided in that park.

Facilities - Facilities generally located in community parks may include:

- Shaded play equipment
- Active free play areas
- Picnic areas and pavilion(s)
- Restrooms
- Jogging, bicycle or nature trails, sometimes lighted for evening use
- Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events
- Recreation center (if appropriate)
- Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park
- Lighting for evening use
- Other facilities as needed which can take advantage of the unique characteristics of the site, such as nature trails or fishing adjacent to ponds, swimming pools, amphitheaters, skate parks, etc.

Figure 3.2 - A Typical Community Park

Blackie Chesser Park is classified as a regional park and serves the Mission Valley portion of the city.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are very large parks that serve an entire region of the city, and very often become the premier park in that area. For example, Zilker Park is one of the largest and most loved parks in Austin, and encompasses everything from passive trails and open space to high use athletic facilities.

The city does not currently have any existing parks that fit the regional park category. While the Franklin Mountains State Park is very large and well known, it does not have the wide range of facilities that attract large numbers of users. A 90 acre tract of land has been acquired by the city on the eastern limits of the city, and could serve as a regional park once fully developed. In the northeastern sector of El Paso, the Northeast Regional Park could be expanded to become a true regional park for that area of the city.

Ascarate Park remains the one true regional park in El Paso County. As such, the upgrading of Ascarate should remain as one of the major goals of both the El Paso City and El Paso County park systems.

Location – Regional parks should be located near major highways or thoroughfares to provide easy access from most of the city. Because of the potential for traffic, noise and bright lights at night, regional parks should ideally be buffered from adjacent residential areas.

Facilities that are typically included in a regional park are as follows.

Regional Parks

Typical Park Facilities

Facilities generally located in regional parks may include the following:

- Large lake or pond for water based activities
- Recreation centers
- Indoor or Outdoor pools
- Large natural habitat for wildlife and bird observation
- Multi-use trail system
- Nature or interpretive center
- Large picnic shelter with grills and tables
- Several individual picnic shelters
- Large shaded playground
- Restrooms
- Large open space areas
- Sports facilities
- Parking areas for each of the facilities listed above

Suggested potential additions to the RAM for a metropolitan park may include:

- Citywide gathering and performance areas,
- small or large performance amphitheaters (if location is appropriate);
- Athletic facilities, so long as they do not dominate the park;
- Limited day camping facilities
- Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park
- Other facilities as needed which can take advantage of the unique characteristics of the site, such as nature trails or fishing ponds, swimming pools, amphitheaters, skateparks etc.

Linear Parks

Linear parks are open park areas that generally follow some natural or man-made feature that is linear in nature, such as canals, drainage ditches, railroad rights-of-way or power line corridor easements. Properly developed to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel, these parks can serve to link or connect other parks in the local system, as well as schools, libraries, and other major destinations. No specific standards apply to linear/linkage parks other than the park should be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they follow. They can also serve as linear greenbelts, which preserve open space.

El Paso has several excellent examples of linear parks. Two of those parks, Paseo de Los Heroes Park in the Central Sector and Pueblo Viejo Park in the Mission Valley, were created by reclaiming drainage corridors. The Pat O'Rourke Memorial Trail corridor in northwest El Paso is an example of how a trail corridor can transform an unattractive roadway into a highly attractive parkway.

Many linear park opportunities exist throughout El Paso, and these may constitute one of the most expedient ways of adding park lands in parts of the city that are already fully developed. Irrigation canals in both the Upper and Mission Valley areas, power line easements throughout the city, but especially in the Northeast planning area, and drainage canals that exist everywhere can all be readily adapted to also serve as excellent linear parks.

Paseo de Los Heroes Park in Central El Paso was created by placing storm drainage underground.

The Pat O'Rourke Trail is a simple trail corridor that dramatically transforms the area around it.

Special Purpose Parks

Special purpose parks are designed to accommodate specialized recreational activities. Because the facility needs for each activity type are different, each special purpose park usually provides for one or a few activities. Examples of special purpose parks include:

- Golf courses
- Athletic fields or complexes
- Nature centers or large natural preserves
- Swimming pool centers
- Skate Parks
- Tennis complexes
- Dog Parks

Athletic complexes and golf courses are the most common types of special purpose parks. Athletic complexes seek to provide fields for organized play in a location that can accommodate the traffic and noise that a large number of users can generate. A key issue at athletic complexes is the inclusion of sufficient fields so that leagues can congregate at one facility and not have to spread out in different locations.

Open Space Preserves and Natural Area Parks

Open space preserves are a critical part of the land use system in any large metropolitan area. With the Franklin Mountains State Park, El Paso is fortunate to have one of the largest in-city open space parks in the country. But while El Paso has this park to dominate the skyline of the city, the vast majority of the remainder of the city has no open space lands to provide visual relief from the developed city. On a per capita basis, and excluding the Franklin Mountains State Park, El Paso has less than one acre of open space for every 1,000 residents of the city. Large areas that are intended to provide access to natural areas, or to preserve key natural assets in a city are a unique category of park in El Paso. Open space parks and preserves typically have little development beyond parking and natural trails.

Multiple open space opportunities exist in and near the city. These include the Castner Range, controlled by the Department of Defense, and undeveloped arroyos and open space in lands controlled by the Public Service Board.

Wetlands, arroyos and mountains illustrate the wide variety of open space opportunities in El Paso.

III. Size of the Existing Park System

The parks system in El Paso includes a total of 175 park sites containing a total of approximately 2,630 acres of parklands and natural areas. This includes all parks in the planning area, with the exception of the Franklin Mountains State Park and Chamizal National Memorial Park. **The overall existing ratio of park acres to population is approximately 4.1 acres of park lands for every 1000 residents of the city and the service area**. Excluding Rio Bosque and McKellingon Canyon, which are large natural or special purpose parks, the overall ratio of parks to population in the city is less than 3.5 acres of in-city parkland for every 1,000 residents of the city.

IV. Inventory of Existing Parks in El Paso

A summary of existing parks in the city, including facilities in each park is shown in the tables on the following pages. Parks are shown by planning sector.

Citywide - All City Parks	Park Acres
Central	218.11
East	512.22
Mission Valley	743.83
Northeast	762.36
Northwest	392.05
Citywide	**2,628.57**

Park Category	Park Acres
Mini Parks	
Central	10.39
East	5.27
Mission Valley	3.90
Northeast	2.50
Northwest	18.04
Citywide	**40.10**
Neighborhood Parks	
Central	34.53
East	136.93
Mission Valley	68.72
Northeast	60.20
Northwest	136.61
Citywide	**436.99**
Community Parks	
Central	113.19
East	173.02
Mission Valley	151.46
Northeast	302.60
Northwest	112.40
Citywide	**852.67**
Regional Parks	
Central	60.00
East	92.00
Mission Valley	70.40
Northeast	100.00
Northwest	35.00
Citywide	**357.40**
In City Natural Areas/Open Space	
Central	0.00
East	105.00
Mission Valley	449.35
Northeast	297.06
Northwest	90.00
Citywide	**941.4**

Northeast Planning Area Parks and Facilities

PARK	ALTERNATIVE NAME	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural areas (acres)	Water Sys	Shelter	Rec Center	Senior Center	Pool	Tennis Court (not lighted)	Tennis Court (lighted)	Basket Ball (not lighted)	Basket Ball (lighted)	Soccer Field (not lighted)	Soccer Field (lighted)	Base Ball Field (not lighted)	Base Ball Field (not lighted)	Foot ball Field	Play Ground	Hand Ball Court	Volley Ball	Rest Rooms	Trees	Picnic Tables	Bleachers	Benches	Trash Cans	Jogging Path(miles)	Back Stops	skate Park
Mini Parks																																		
Nolan Richardson Park		4435 Maxwell	NE	2	Pocket	2.50	0.40		Auto																									
Subtotal						**2.5**	**0.4**			**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Neighborhood Parks																																		
Logan		5500 Byron St.	NE	2	Neighborhood	2.78	2.28		Auto	1													1				13	8						
Mountain View		8400 Diana Dr.	NE	2	Neighborhood	5.95	5.75		Auto		1							1				1	1				23							
Sunrise		3800 Sunrise Ave.	NE	2	Neighborhood	8.00	7.78		Auto	1					4		1						1				28							
Wellington Chew		4430 Maxwell Ave.	NE	2	Neighborhood	3.00	2.60		Auto			1				1							1				58	5						
Arlington		10350 Pasadena Cir.	NE	4	Neighborhood	7.84	7.64		Auto	1					2		1						1				50							
Chuck Heinrich	North Hills	11055 Loma Del Norte Dr	NE	4	Neighborhood	17.40	17.40		Auto														1				98							
Colonia Verde		5452 Ketchikan St.	NE	4	Neighborhood	2.06	2.06		Auto							1							1				21							
Dolphin		5900 Marlin Dr.	NE	4	Neighborhood	4.00	4.00		Auto					1		1							1				25							
Franklin		6050 Quail Ave.	NE	4	Neighborhood	10.00	9.88		Auto						2		1	3			1		1				36		1					
Milagro		5310 Annette Ave.	NE	4	Neighborhood	2.78	2.78		Auto						2		1						1				18							
Shearman	Tiger Eye	5820 Tiger Eye Dr.	NE	4	Neighborhood	4.00	1.82		Auto														1				18							
Student Memorial		9425 Vicksburg Dr.	NE	4	Neighborhood	2.29	2.29		Auto														1				14							
Todd Ware	Site "O"	4600 Stahala Dr.	NE	4	Neighborhood	7.50	7.50		Auto									2					1				33	3						
Subtotal						**77.6**	**73.8**			**3**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**10**	**3**	**4**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**13**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**435**	**16**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Community Parks																																		
Skyline Youth	Site "M" & "P"	5050 Yvette Ave.	NE	4	Community	172.00	24.90	147.10	Auto						2		1	3			2		1		2		154	10	4					
Sue Young	Civic Leaders (Site N)	9730 Diana Dr.	NE	4	Community	25.20	24.70		Auto									6					1			1	91	8					2	
Veterans		5301 Salem Dr.	NE	4	Community	44.00	41.00		Auto		1		1		2			4		3	2		1				77	4	4			1.0		
Subtotal						**241.2**	**90.6**	**147.1**		**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**1**	**13**	**0**	**3**	**4**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**322**	**22**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**1.0**	**2**	**0**
Recreation Centers																																		
Nations Tobin Rec Cen		8831 Railroad Dr.	NE	2	Rec Center																													
Nolan Richardson Rec		4435 Maxwell	NE	2	Rec Center				Auto		1												1											
Rae Gilmore		8501 Diana	NE	2	Rec Center																													
Northeast Rec Center		5301 Salem Dr.	NE	4	Rec Center																		1											
Subtotal						**0.0**	**0.0**			**0**	**3**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Senior Centers																																		
Wellington Chew Senior		4430 Maxwell Ave.	NE	2	Senior Center																													
Subtotal						**0.0**	**0.0**			**0**	**5**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

CITY OF EL PASO TEXAS

Northeast Planning Area Parks and Facilities

PARK	ALTERNATIVE NAME	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural areas (acres)	Water Sys	Shelter	Rec Center	Senior Center	Pool	Tennis Court (not lighted)	Tennis Court (lighted)	Basket Ball (not lighted)	Basket Ball (lighted)	Soccer Field (not lighted)	Soccer Field (lighted)	Base Ball Field (not lighted)	Base Ball Field (not lighted)	Foot ball Field	Play Ground	Hand Ball Court	Volley Ball	Rest Rooms	Trees	Picnic Tables	Bleachers	Benches	Trash Cans	Jogging Path(miles)	Back Stops	skate Park
Swimming Pools																																		
Nations Tobin Pool		8831 Railroad Dr.	NE	2	Pool																													
Veterans Pool		5301 Salem Dr.	NE	4	Pool																													
Subtotal						0.00	0.00			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regional Parks																																		
McKelligon Canyon		1400 McKelligon Rd.	NE	2	Regional	105.00	0.00	105.00	None																3			20						
Nations Tobin		8831 Railroad Dr.	NE	2	Regional	44.00	42.30		Auto		1		1				1	3		2L		3	2		2		130	24	4			1.0		
North East Regional Park		Mcombs & Patriot Freeway	NE	4	Regional	58.27	0.00		Auto																									
Subtotal						207.3	42.3	105.00		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	3	2	0	5	0	130	44	4	0	0	1.0	0	0
Nature Parks/Open Space																																		
North Open Reserve		7401 Alabama St.	NE	4	Nature Park	22.53	0.00	22.53	None																									
South Open Reserve		5045 Alabama St.	NE	4	Nature Park	7.43	0.00	7.43	None																									
Wilderness Museum	Site " K "	4301Transmountain Rd.	NE	4	Nature Park	17.00	0.00	15.00	None																									
Subtotal						47.0	0.0	44.96		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Purpose Facilities																																		
Logan Reserve		5500 Byron St.	NE	2	Rental																													
Sunrise Shelter		3800 Sunrise Ave.	NE	2	Shelter Rental																													
Arlington Shelter		10350 Pasadena Cir.	NE	4	Shelter Rental																													
Cohen Stadium		9700 Gateway North	NE	4	Baseball Field				Auto																									
Desert Downs	BMX Track	T.M.0ptimist Rd. / Railroad Dr.	NE	2	Special Use	7.00	0.00		Manu al																									
Subtotal						7.00	0.00			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Park Area						582.5	207.1	297.1		3	11	1	8	1	14	3	6	22	0	3	5	4	20	0	7	1	887	82	13	0	0	2.0	2	0

Eastside Planning Area Parks and Facilities

PARK	Alternative Name	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys	Shelter	Rec Center	Senior Center	Pool	Tennis Court (not lighted)	Tennis Court (lighted)	Basket Ball (not lighted)	Basket Ball (lighted)	Soccer Field (not lighted)	Soccer Field (lighted)	Base Ball (not lighted)	Base Ball (lighted)	Foot ball Field	Play Ground	Hand Ball	Volley Ball	Rest Rooms	Trees	Picnic Tables	Bleachers	Benches	Trash Cans	Jogging Path(miles)	Back Stops	Skate Park
Mini Parks																																		
Normandy		6300 Normandy Dr.	E	2	Pocket	0.10	0.10		Auto														1				5				1			
Cork		3327 Cork Dr.	E	3	Pocket	1.22	1.22		Auto														1				9				2			
Hueco Mountain		11824 Viitex Circle	E	5	Pocket	0.65																												
Indian Ridge 9		3440 Pendelton	E	5	Pocket	1.00	1.00		Auto																									
Indian Heights		3209 White Bird Dr.	E	5	Pocket	0.10	0.10		Auto																		4							
Tyrone		3301 Tyrone Rd.	E	5	Pocket	1.20	1.00		Manual														1				13			1	2			
Suffolk		3225 Suffolk Rd.	E	6	Pocket	1.00	0.90		Manual																		20				2			
Subtotal						**5.27**	**4.32**			**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**51**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Neighborhood Parks																																		
Cielo Vista		9030 Cosmos Ave.	E	3	Neighborhood	6.60	5.30		Manual						4		4	1					1				43	2			2			
Mcarthur		738 Gerald	E	3	Neighborhood	6.00	1.00		Manual														1				10			1	2			
Arbolito			E	5	Neighborhood				Auto	1					2		1						1				50							
Chester Jordan	Hambrick	Nolan Richardson	E	5	Neighborhood	10.00	10.00		Auto									8		1								4						
Dick Shinaut	Saul Kleinfeld	11701 Rufus Brijalba	E	5	Neighborhood	14.50	14.00		Auto									4					1			4	160	7			10	0.60		1
Indian Ridge 10		3332 Pendelton	E	5	Neighborhood	2.00	2.00		Auto																									
Loma Linda Park		Bell Tower Dr.	E	5	Neighborhood	2.00	2.00		auto																									
Palm Grove		10001 Sumatra St.	E	5	Neighborhood	5.59	5.59		Auto									1					1				29			3	3			
Paseo Del Sol		Joe Battle/Vista Del Sol	E	5	Neighborhood	7.13																												
Pebble Hills		3200 Fierro Dr.	E	5	Neighborhood	9.70	9.00		Auto			1					1					1					60			1	5		1	
Pico Norte		10655 Pico Norte Rd.	E	5	Neighborhood	11.00	11.00		Auto									1	1			1					15				7			
Stanton Heights		11520 Edward James	E	5	Neighborhood	2.00	2.00		Auto																									
Tierra Del Este #1		Pebble Hills	E	5	Neighborhood	17.25			none																									
Tierra Del Este #4		Tierra Este	E	5	Neighborhood	10.00	10.00		Auto																									
Tierra Del Este #18	Proposed	12333 Tierra Volcan Ave	E	5	Neighborhood	3.095																												
McCarthy Park		1170 John Phelan Dr.	E	6	Neighborhood	2.25			auto																									
Montwood Heights	Proposed	Alba	E	6	Neighborhood	5.00	0.00		None																									
Ranchos Del Sol	4.25 + 10 acres	1080 Ted Houghton Dr.	E	6	Neighborhood	14.25			None																									
Sal Berroteran	Sun Ridge	2171 Sun Country Dr.	E	6	Neighborhood	10.00	10.00		Auto									1	1															
Walter Clarke		1519 Bob Hope Dr.	E	6	Neighborhood	16.50	16.00		Auto									6									31				4			
Travis White		1700 Wedgewood Dr.	E	7	Neighborhood	14.40	14.40		Auto														1				74				1			
Vista Del Sol		1900 Trawood Dr.	E	7	Neighborhood	16.00	15.50		Auto									2			1	1	1				111	2		2	7			
Subtotal						**185.27**	**127.79**			**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**0**	**6**	**24**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**583**	**15**	**0**	**7**	**41**	**0.6**	**1**	**1**

CITY OF EL PASO TEXAS

Eastside Planning Area Parks and Facilities

PARK	Alternative Name	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys	Shelter	Rec Center	Senior Center	Pool	Tennis Court (not lighted)	Tennis Court (lighted)	Basket Ball (not lighted)	Basket Ball (lighted)	Soccer Field (not lighted)	Soccer Field (lighted)	Base Ball (not lighted)	Base Ball (lighted)	Foot ball Field	Play Ground	Hand Ball	Volley Ball	Rest Rooms	Trees	Picnic Tables	Bleachers	Benches	Trash Cans	Jogging Path(miles)	Back Stops	Skate Park
Community Parks																																		
Edgemere Median		Airway to Hawkins Blvd.	E	3	Community	20.00	20.00		Auto																		129			3	4	1.25		
Ponder		7500 Burgess Dr.	E	3	Community	23.10	21.75		Auto											3		2	1				51	5	4		13		1	
Vista Del Valle		1288 Hawkins Blvd.	E	3	Community	22.13	16.00		Auto		1		1				1	6					1				132	5		2	5			
Eastwood	Album	3110 Parkwood St.	E	5	Community	47.04	40.00		Auto	1	1			1L			1	4			3	2	2			1	295	9	6	6	20	1.00		
Marty Robbins		11600 Vista Del Sol Dr.	E	6	Community	31.00	30.00		Auto								1	3			4		1			1	165	7	6		20	0.58		
Subtotal						143.27	127.75			1	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	13	0	3	7	4	5	0	0	2	772	26	16	11	62	2.8	1	1
Swimming Pools																																		
Hawkins Pool		1500 Hawkins	E	3	Pool	4.00	4.00		Auto				1														9				2			
T&I Pool	Multipurpose Ctr	9031 Viscount	E	3	Pool								1																					
Marty Robbins Pool (Indoor)		11600 Vista Del Sol Dr.	E	6	Pool								1															6						
Subtotal						4.00	4.00			2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	6	0	0	2	0	0	1
Recreation Centers																																		
Eastwood Recreation Center		3110 Parkwood St.	E	5							1																							
Marty Robbins Recreation Center		11600 Vista Del Sol Dr.	E	6	Rec Center						1																							
Multi Purpose Center		9031 Viscount	E	3	Rec Center						1																							
Subtotal						0.00	8.00			2	3	0	0	0			0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	18	12	0	0	4	0	0	1
Regional Parks																																		
Eastside Regional Park (undeveloped)		Hueco Club	E	5	Regional	92.00																												
Subtotal						92.00	0.00			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Purpose Facilities																																		
Eastside Senior Center		3200 Fierro	E	5	Senior Center																									3				
Eastwood Shelter			E	5	Shelter Rental																													
Subtotal						0.00	12.00			4	0	0	0	0			0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	27	18	0	3	6	0	0	2
Total Park Area						429.81	283.86			9	3	0	4	0	6	0	9	37	2	4	8	7	15	0	0	6	1460	77	16	22	122	3.43	2	6

Mission Valley Planning Area Parks and Facilities

PARK	ALTERNATE NAME	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural areas (acres)	Water Sys	Shelter	Rec Center	Senior Center	Pool	Tennis Court (not lighted)	Tennis Court (lighted)	Basket Ball (not lighted)	Basketball (lighed)	Soccer Field (not lighted)	Soccer Field (lighted)	Base Ball (not lighted)	Baseball (lighted)	Foot ball Field	Play Ground	Hand Ball Court	Volley Ball	Rest Rooms	Trees	Picnic Tables	Bleachers	Benches	Trash Cans	Jogging Path(miles)	Back Stops	Skate Park
Mini Parks																																		
Caribe		250 Cayman Ln.	LV	6	Pocket	2.00	2.00		Auto														1				15							
Pecan Grove 1		9130 Sweet Acacia Ln.	LV	6	Pocket	0.45	0.45		Auto														1											
Pecan Grove 2		Betel	LV	6	Pocket	0.65	0.00																											
Green Lilac		1016 Green Lilac Circle	LV	7	Pocket	0.80	0.80		Auto																		21							
Subtotal						3.90	3.25			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neighborhood Parks																																		
Hidden Valley	Cowboy	200 Coconut Tree Ln.	LV	3	Neighborhood	10.00	9.00		Auto							1					1		1				16	2	1					
Riverside		7600 Alameda Ave.	LV	3	Neighborhood	4.30	4.10		Auto														1				21							
Stiles		7325 Stiles Dr.	LV	3	Neighborhood	7.00	6.70		Auto									1					1				12	1						
Lancaster		701 Brandywine Rd.	LV	6	Neighborhood	5.62	3.00		Auto							2		1		1														
Ysleta		9068 Socorro Rd.	LV	6	Neighborhood	3.60	2.00		Auto														1				18							
Lomaland		715 Lomita Dr.	LV	7	Neighborhood	10.90	9.80		auto					2		1		1					1				42	4	7			0.52		
Marian Manor		8343 Clifford Ct.	LV	7	Neighborhood	9.10	8.50		auto					2		1		1				2	1				28	2	2			0.44		
Thomas Manor		7901 Knights Dr.	LV	7	Neighborhood	12.20	9.20		Manual	1					1		1	1		1			1				45							
William, E.L.	Lafayette	752 Lafayette Dr.	LV	7	Neighborhood	6.00	1.50		Auto												2						34		6					
Subtotal						68.72	53.80			1	0	0	0	4	1	5	1	5	0	2	3	2	7	0	0	0	216	9	16	0	0	1	0	0
Community Parks																																		
Carolina		563 N. Carolina Dr.	LV	3	Community	10.56	5.60		Auto		1					1							1				48	2				1.00		1
Lionel Forti	Hacienda	7735 Phoenix Ave.	LV	3	Community	23.40	20.90		Auto	1			1			1					1	2	1			1	93	4	2					
Pavo Real		9301 Alameda Ave.	LV	6	Community	20.00	17.00		Auto		1	1	1					3			1		1				84		1					
Yucca		7975 Williamette Ave.	LV	7	Neighborhood	16.60	15.10		Auto							1					1	2	1				129	3	22			0.86		
Capistrano		8700 Padilla Dr.	LV	6	Neighborhood	18.00	15.00		Auto							2					3		1			1	53		3					
Pueblo Viejo	Middle Drain	Roseway Dr. E. to Presa Pl.	LV	6	Community	22.00	17.00		Auto					2		4							3		1		103	7				1.00		
Shawver, J.P.	Shawver	8100 Independence	LV	7	Community	40.90	37.60		Auto				1		2	2		4		1	1		1				100	4	1			1.00		
Subtotal						151.46	128.20			1	2	1	3	2	2	11	0	7	0	1	7	4	9	0	1	2	610	20	29	0	0	4	0	1
Swimming Pools																																		
Hacienda Pool		1225 Giles	LV	3	POOL																													
Pavo Real Pool		110 Presa Place	LV	6	POOL																													
Shawver Pool		8100 Independence	LV	7	POOL																													
Subtotal						0.00	0.00			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CITY OF EL PASO TEXAS

Mission Valley Planning Area Parks and Facilities

PARK	ALTERNATE NAME	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural areas (acres)	Water Sys	Shelter	Rec Center	Senior Center	Pool	Tennis Court (not lighted)	Tennis Court (lighted)	Basket Ball (not lighted)	Basketball (lighed)	Soccer Field (not lighted)	Soccer Field (lighted)	Base Ball (not lighted)	Baseball (lighted)	Foot ball Field	Play Ground	Hand Ball Court	Volley Ball	Rest Rooms	Trees	Picnic Tables	Bleachers	Benches	Trash Cans	Jogging Path(miles)	Back Stops	skate Park
Recreation Centers																																		
Carolina Rec Center		563 N. Carolina Dr.	LV	3	Rec Center						1																							
Pavo Real Rec Center		100 Presa Place	LV	6	Rec Center						1												1											
Father Pete Martinez Senior Center	Pavo Real Senior Center	9311 Alameda Ave.	LV	6	Senior Center							1																						
Hacienda Shelter		1225 Giles	LV	3	Shelter					1																								
Thomas Manor Shelter		7901 Knights Dr.	LV	7	Shelter					1																								
Subtotal						0.00	0.00	0.00		2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regional Parks																																		
Blackie Chesher	5-Plex	9144 Escobar Dr.	LV	6	Regional	55.00	53.00		Auto									3	1		5						75	9	5			0.51		
Zaragoza	Ysleta Cut-Off	1100 N. Zaragoza Rd.	LV	6	Regional	15.40	14.00		Auto							1		1			1		1			1	86	2						
Subtotal						70.40	67.00	0.00		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	6	0	1	0	0	1	161	11	5	0	0	1	0	0
Open Space																																		
Basin "G" Wetlands			LV	6	Leased			36.78																										
Feather Lake Wetlands			LV		Leased			42.57																										
Rio Bosque		Socorro Road	LV	6	Nature Park		0.00	370.00	None																									
Subtotal						0.00	0.00	449.35		0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Purpose Facilities																																		
Carolina Skate Park		563 N. Carolina Dr.	LV	3	Skate Park	0.50																												
Ysleta Pedestrian Plaza		Zaragoza Rd/Old Pueblo Dr.	LV	6	Special Use	1.59	0.00		Auto																		11							
Rio Grande River 2	Phase 2	Ascarate to Yarbrough	LV		Trail																													
Subtotal						2.09	0.00			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL						296.57	252.25	449.35	0.00	4	2	1	3	6	3	17	1	16	1	3	16	6	20	0	1	3	1034	40	50	0	0	5.3	0	1

Central Planning Area Parks and Facilities

PARK	Alternative Name	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys	Shelter	Rec Center	Senior Center	Pool	Tennis Court (not lighted)	Tennis Court (lighted)	Basket Ball (not lighted)	Basket Ball (lighted)	Soccer Field (not lighted)	Soccer Field (lighted)	Base Ball (not lighted)	Base Ball (lighted)	Foot ball Field	Play Ground	Hand Ball	Volley Ball	Rest Rooms	Trees	Picnic Tables	Bleachers	Benches	Trash Cans	Jogging Path(miles)	Back Stops	skate Park
Mini Parks																																		
Mesa Terrace		1221 Selden Dr.	C	2	Pocket	1.63	0.77		Auto														1				15							
Summit-Fillmore		4501 Raynor St.	C	2	Pocket	1.44	1.44		Manual																									
San Juan Placita		700 N Glenwood PL	C	3	Pocket	0.15	0.00																											
Boys Club Park		811 S. Florence St.	C	8	Pocket	1.75	1.50		Auto							1											27							1
Calendar		401 E. San Antonio Ave.	C	8	Pocket	0.21	0.01		Manual																		25							
Chihuahuita		400 Charles Rd.	C	8	Pocket	1.15	0.57		Auto							1							1	2L	1		11	1						
El Barrio	Findley	3001 Findley Ave.	C	8	Pocket	0.20	0.00		Auto							1							1				9	5						
Estrella - Rivera		3200 Rivera Ave.	C	8	Pocket	0.62	0.62		Auto							1							1				28	2						
Fire Fighters Memorial Park		316 W Overland @ Leon	C	8	Pocket	0.10	0.10		Auto																									
Lions Plazita		910 S. Santa Fe St.	C	8	Pocket	1.65	0.00		Manual																		8			5				
Pera-Luna	Percy Gurrola	3300 Pera Ave.	C	8	Pocket	0.64	0.63		Auto							1							1				10	2						
Union Plaza Park		117 Anthony	C	8	Pocket	0.10	0.10		Auto																									
Subtotal						**9.64**	**5.74**			**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**		**5**		**0**		**0**		**0**	**5**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**133**	**10**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Neighborhood Parks																																		
Loretto - Lincoln		4500 E. Yandell Dr.	C	2	Neighborhood	4.24	4.10		Auto					1		1							2				32							
Newman		2212 Alabama St.	C	2	Neighborhood	5.00	5.00		Auto														1				31	1		3				
De Vargas		643 De Vargas Dr.	C	3	Neighborhood	2.08	2.08		Auto														1				14			4	5			
Tula Irrobali	Alamo	601 S. Park St.	C	8	Neighborhood	2.00	1.75		Auto								1				2		1				15			10				1
Delta	WW II Veterans Co. E	4321 Delta Dr.	C	8	Neighborhood	12.36	9.00		Auto		1										2		1			1	94	6	4		14			
Armijo Park	Marcos B . Armijo	710 E. Seventh Ave.	C	8	Neighborhood	4.80	1.54		Auto		1		1										2				69	4						
Mary Webb		3401 E. Missouri Ave.	C	8	Neighborhood	2.05	1.72		Auto							1		1					1				13					0.25		
Paseo De Los Heroes		601 E. Eighth St.	C	8	Neighborhood	2.00	1.20		Auto														2				44	28						
Subtotal						**34.53**	**26.39**			**0**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**1**		**2**		**1**		**0**		**0**	**11**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**312**	**39**	**4**	**17**	**19**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Community Parks																																		
Memorial		1701 Copia St.	C	2	Community	43.00	32.38		Auto			1	1		4						1		2			1	425	23	1	11				
Grandview		3100 Jefferson Ave.	C	2	Community	15.00	12.10		Auto	1			1		2		1				1		1				50	3						
Lincoln		4001 Durazno Ave.	C	3	Community	23.00	10.20		Auto		1						3						2	4			142	30						
Modesto Gomez		4600 Edna Ave.	C	8	Community	32.19	20.50		Auto									2	1		2		1	1		1	102	13	4		16	0.72		
Subtotal						**113.19**	**75.18**			**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**0**		**0**		**2**		**0**		**0**	**6**	**5**	**0**	**2**	**719**	**69**	**5**	**11**	**16**	**1**	**0**	**0**

CITY OF EL PASO TEXAS

Central Planning Area Parks and Facilities

PARK	Alternative Name	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys	Shelter	Rec Center	Senior Center	Pool	Tennis Court (not lighted)	Tennis Court (lighted)	Basket Ball (not lighted)	Basket Ball (lighted)	Soccer Field (not lighted)	Soccer Field (lighted)	Base Ball (not lighted)	Base Ball (lighted)	Foot ball Field	Play Ground	Hand Ball	Volley Ball	Rest Rooms	Trees	Picnic Tables	Bleachers	Benches	Trash Cans	Jogging Path(miles)	Back Stops	skate Park
Pools																																		
Chelsea Pool		819 Chelsea	C	2	Pool	0.30	0.00		None				1																					
Grandview Pool		3100 Jefferson Ave.	C	2	Pool								1																					
Memorial Pool		3200 Federal	C	2	Pool								1																					
Armijo Pool		911 Ochoa	C	8	Pool (Indoor)								1																					
Hilos de Plata Pool			C	8	Pool (Indoor)								1																					
Subtotal						0.00	0.00			0	0	0	5	0		0		0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recreation Centers																																		
Acosta Sports Center	Delta Rec	4321 Delta Dr.	C	8	Sports Center						1																							
Lincoln Center		4001 Durazno Ave.	C	3	Rec Center						1																							
San Juan Rec Center		701 N. Glenwood	C	3	Rec Center	0.30	0.00		Auto		1												1											
Seville Rec Center		6700 Sambrano Ave.	C	3	Rec Center	1.00	0.10		Auto		1												1		1		3	3						
Armijo Center		710 E. Seventh Ave.	C	8	Rec Center						1																							
Chihuahuita Rec Center		439 Charles Rd.	C	8	Rec Center						1																							
Leona Ford Washington Center	Missouri Rec Center	3400 Missouri	C	8	Rec Center	0.40	0.10		Auto		1																							
Subtotal						0.40	0.10			0	7	0	0	0		0		0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regional Parks																																		
Washington		200 Washington St.	C	3	Regional	60.00	15.00		Auto			1	1			1				1L		1L	1				180	4	3	6				
Subtotal						62.10	15.30																											
Senior Centers																																		
Memorial Senior		1800 Byron (30)	C	2	Senior Center							1																						
Sacramento Senior Cr.		3134 Jefferson	C	2	Senior Center							1																						
San Juan Senior Cr.		700 N Glenwood	C	3	Senior Center	0.30	0.00					1																						
South El Paso Senior		600 S. Ochoa	C	8	Senior Center	1.00	0.01		auto			1																						
Hilos de Plata			C	8	Senior Center							1																						
Subtotal						1.30	0.01			0	0	5	0	0		0		0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Central Planning Area Parks and Facilities

PARK	Alternative Name	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys	Shelter	Rec Center	Senior Center	Pool	Tennis Court (not lighted)	Tennis Court (lighted)	Basket Ball (not lighted)	Basket Ball (lighted)	Soccer Field (not lighted)	Soccer Field (lighted)	Base Ball (not lighted)	Base Ball (lighted)	Foot ball Field	Play Ground	Hand Ball	Volley Ball	Rest Rooms	Trees	Picnic Tables	Bleachers	Benches	Trash Cans	Jogging Path(miles)	Back Stops	Skate Park
Special Purpose Facilities																																		
Roger Brown Ballfield		1200 Alabama Ave.	C	2	Baseball Field	1.00	1.00		Auto											1L									2					
Alta Vista Baseball Field		3501 Morenci Rd.	C	8	Baseball Field	1.50	1.00		Auto											1L									2					
San Juan Strip -1	Macias Parking	608 N. Glenwood Pl.	C	3	Parking	0.75	0.00		None																		10			4				
San Juan Strip -2	Rosa Parking	601 N. Glenwood Pl.	C	3	Parking	0.75	0.00		None																		1			2				
San Juan Strip -4	Tamburo Parking	5727 Tamburo	C	3	Parking																													
San Juan Strip -3	Landscape	228 N. Glenwood Pl.	C	3	Landscape																													
Raynolds Median		Hastings Dr. to La Luz Ave.	C	2	Median	2.50	2.50		Man ual																		34							
Memorial Reserve		3100 Copper	C	2	Rental																													
Grandview Shelter		3100 Jefferson Ave.	C	2	Shelter Rental																													
Rose Garden		3418 Aurora Ave. / Copia St.	C	2	Special Use	2.00	0.20		Auto																		25							
Pioneer Plaza		Mills / El Paso St.	C	8	Special Use	0.20	0.01		auto																		11							
San Jacinto Plaza		111 Mills St.	C	8	Special Use	1.50	0.77		Auto																		62							
Old Sacramento		4228 Sacramento Ave.	C	2	Special Use Bldg																													
Subtotal						9.20	4.48			0	0	0	0	0		0		0		0		0	0	0	0	0	143	0	2	6	0	0	0	0
Total Park Area						230.36	127.2			1	10	1	8	1		7		3		0		0	22	5	1	3	1307	118	11	39	35	0.97	0	2

CITY OF EL PASO TEXAS

Northwest Planning Area Parks and Facilities

PARK	ALTERNATIVE NAME	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural areas (acres)	Water Sys	Shelter	Rec Center	Senior Center	Pool	Tennis Court (not lighted)	Tennis Court (lighted)	Basket Ball (not lighted)	Basket Ball (lighted)	Soccer Field (not lighted)	Soccer Field (lighted)	Base Ball (not lighted)	Base Ball (lighted)	Foot ball Field	Play Ground	Hand Ball Court	Volley Ball	Rest Rooms	Trees	Picnic Tables	Bleachers	BENCHES	Trash Cans	Jogging Path(miles)	Back Stops	Skate Park
Mini Parks																																		
Alethea		901 Alethea Park Dr.	NW	1	Pocket	1.70	1.70		Auto													1					7			2	3			
Borderland		6327 Modesta	NW	1	Pocket	1.00	1.00		Auto								1						1				31	4			12			
Little River Park	Barth Park	5857 Sixta Dr.	W	1	Pocket	0.92			Auto																									
Palo Verde		6260 Dew Dr.	NW	1	Pocket	1.60	1.60		Manual														1				35			1`	1			
River Park West unit 1		713 Dakota River	NW	1	Pocket	1.02	1.02		Auto																									
Snow Heights		311 Fountain Rd.	NW	1	Pocket	1.75	1.75		Auto														1				37				3			
Buena Vista		420 Nopal Ave.	NW	8	Pocket	1.30	1.20		Auto								1						1				34	3			3			
Caruso		720 Prospect St.	NW	8	Pocket	0.18	0.18		Auto																		4							
Cleveland Square	Golden Age	510 N. Sante Fe	NW	8	Pocket	1.70	0.50		Manual			1															17							
Doniphan		1800 W. Paisano Dr.	NW	8	Pocket	1.33	0.00		Auto							1							1											
Dunn		1501 N. El Paso St.	NW	8	Pocket	0.59	0.57		Auto							1							1				7			2	2			
Grace Chope	Missouri	535 W. Missouri Ave.	NW	8	Pocket	0.70	0.70		Auto																		10	1		2	2			
Houston		900 Montana Ave.	NW	8	Pocket	1.50	1.40		Auto														1				34				4			
Mundy		500 Porfirio Diaz St.	NW	8	Pocket	1.60	1.60		Auto														1				38			5	6			
Sunset Heights		631 Stewart Ct.	NW	8	Pocket	1.15	0.50		Auto														1				16							
Subtotal						**18.0**	**13.7**			**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**9**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**270**	**8**	**0**	**11**	**36**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Northwest Planning Area Parks and Facilities

PARK	ALTERNATIVE NAME	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural areas (acres)	Water Sys	Shelter	Rec Center	Senior Center	Pool	Tennis Court (not lighted)	Tennis Court (lighted)	Basket Ball (not lighted)	Basket Ball (lighted)	Soccer Field (not lighted)	Soccer Field (lighted)	Base Ball (not lighted)	Base Ball (lighted)	Foot ball Field	Play Ground	Hand Ball Court	Volley Ball	Rest Rooms	Trees	Picnic Tables	Bleachers	BENCHES	Trash Cans	Jogging Path(miles)	Back Stops	skate Park
Neighborhood Parks																																		
Francisco Del Gado	Falcon Hills	7020 Imperial Ridge Dr.	NW	1	Neighborhood	4.50	4.00		Auto														1				40				3			
Franklin Hills		Franklin Hills Dr & High Ridge	NW	1	Neighborhood	5.00	1.00	4.00	Auto																									
Lambka, Irwin J.	Cloudview	6600 Cloudview Dr.	NW	1	Neighborhood	13.20	12.86		Manual												4	1	1				44	2	7		10			
Madeline		900 E. Baltimore Dr.	NW	1	Neighborhood	4.55	4.50		Auto					1		1							1				111	4		9	14			
Mission Hills		3800 O'Keefe Dr.	NW	1	Neighborhood	10.80	10.75		Auto						1	1		1					1		1		107	5		11	19	0.60		
Ojo de Agua Park			NW	1	Neighborhood																													
Park Hills	Ojo De Aqua	1001 Calle Parque	NW	1	Neighborhood	3.45	1.50		Auto							1							1				28			4	2			
River Park West unit 3		Esmeralda Armendariz Ave	NW	1	Neighborhood	3.31			Auto																									
Ruby Coates	proposed		NW	1	Neighborhood	3.20																												
South Dakota Park	Dakota Ridge Dr.	Dakota Ridge Dr.	NW	1	Neighborhood	3.63	3.63		None																									
Thorn		5260 Mace St.	NW	1	Neighborhood	3.45	3.40		Auto								1	1					1				23	2			1			
Three Hills	Redd Rd. #23	Redd Rd. / Thorn Ave.	NW	1	Neighborhood	14.10	0.00		None																							0.50		
Tom Lea (Lower)	BROWN ST. PARK	1203 Schuster Ave.	NW	1	Neighborhood	8.00	3.00		Manual														1				35	1			5			
West Green		Saplinas Rd.	NW	1	Neighborhood	4.50	0.00		None														1											
Crestmont		515 Chermont Dr.	NW	8	Neighborhood	7.00	7.00		Auto									1					1				54			5	3			
Marwood		4325 River Bend Dr.	NW	8	Neighborhood	12.50	12.15		Auto	1						1		1			1	2	1				84	1	3		11			1
Pacific		3905 Hidden Way	NW	8	Neighborhood	2.00	1.85		Auto							1							1				41	4			3			
Paul Harvey		6220 Belton Rd.	NW	8	Neighborhood	8.07	8.00		Auto	1					2		1						1				57	2		2	8			
Ponsford, H.T.	Ponsford	6201 Marcena St.	NW	8	Neighborhood	4.85	4.80		Manual														1				55				4			
White Spur		4800 Love Rd.	NW	8	Neighborhood	3.70	3.70		Auto														1				23				3			
Subtotal						**119.8**	**82.1**	**4.0**		**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**5**	**2**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**3**	**14**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**702**	**21**	**10**	**31**	**86**	**1.1**	**0**	**1**
Community Parks																																		
Bear Ridge	Franklyn Hills	Bear Ridge	NW	1	Community	20.00			None																									
Scenic Drive		Rim Rd. to Wheeling	NW	1	Community	5.00	0.00		None																						8			
Valley Creek Park		Gomez Rd. & Upper Valley	NW	1	Community	36.00	8.00		Auto									2																
Galatzan Park	Westside Park	650 Wallenberg Dr.	NW	8	Community	21.40	8.00		Auto		1	1	1					3	1								66		2		7	0.50		
Subtotal						**82.4**	**16.0**			**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**66**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**15**	**0.5**	**0**	**0**

CITY OF EL PASO TEXAS

Northwest Planning Area Parks and Facilities

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Recreation Centers																																		
Galatzan Rec Center	Westside Rec	650 Wallenberg Dr	NW	8	Rec. Ctr.						1												1											
Three Hills Center		Three Hills Park	NW		Rec. Ctr.						1		1																					
Subtotal						0.0	0.0			0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Centers																																		
Golden Age Senior	Out of Service	510 N. Sante Fe	NW	8	Senior Ctr.																													
Polly Harris Sr. Center		650 Wallenberg Dr	NW	8	Senior Ctr.																													
Subtotal						0.0	0.0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swimming pools																																		
Cancellare Pool	Westside Pool	650 Wallenberg Dr	NW	8	Pool																													
Subtotal						0.0	0.0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regional Parks																																		
Westside Park	proposed		NW	1	Regional	35.00																												
Subtotal						35.0	0.0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Purpose Facilities																																		
Murchison	Scenic Drive	1600 Scenic Dr.	NW	1	Scenic	0.20	0.00		None																	2			2	5				
Rim Road		Kansas to Brown	NW	1	Scenic	5.00	0.00		None																					5				
Tom Lea (Upper)		900 Rim Rd.	NW	1	Scenic	3.60	0.48		Auto																	7				4				
Charyl Ann Duck Pond			NW		Leased	12.19																												
Main Library Green Area		112 W. Missouri	NW	8	Library	1.70	0.42		Manual																	19			5					
Marwood Shelter		4325 River Bend	NW	8	Shelter Rntl.																													
Paul Harvey Shelter		6220 Belton Rd.	NW	8	Storage																													
Subtotal						22.7	0.9			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	7	14	0	0	0
Nature Areas / Open Space																																		
Rio Grande Trail 1	Phase 1	Country Club Rd	NW		Trail																										2.00			
Arroyo		700 E. Robinson	NW	1	Nature Park	60.00	00.00	55.00	None																						1.00			
Keystone Heritage Park (Wetlands)		Doniphan	NW	8	Wetlands	35.00		35.00																										
Subtotal						95.0	0.0	90.0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.0	0	0	0
Total Park Area						372.9	112.8	94.0		2	1	2	1	1	3	7	4	9	1	0	5	4	28	0	1	0	1066	29		49	151	4.6	0	1

Chapter 4:

El Paso Speaks
Citizen Input

Chapter Contents

I. Introduction
II. The El Paso Parks and Recreation Telephone Citizen Survey
III. Community Meetings to Gather Input
IV. Final Draft Recommendation Meetings

I. Introduction

The plan for a Bright Future for the El Paso Parks System is closely tied to the concerns and future needs of the citizens of El Paso. Citizen input is key to determining what facilities are most used, where major needs exist, and what level of emphasis the citizens of El Paso would like to place on the recommendations of the Citywide Master Plan. This master plan adopts the philosophy that a citywide planning process should listen to the citizens of the city, and reflect the desires and concerns of all of the citizens of El Paso.

This master plan incorporates an extensive amount of public input, utilizing several alternative methods. By using these methods of public input, feedback from many varying parts of the community were received, leading to a broader consensus on the direction that the master plan should take. Public input methods included:

- **A citywide telephone survey**, to determine broad based public opinions and perceptions from across the city;
- **Public presentations to the Park Advisory Board** and the Quality of Life Legislative Review Committee (LRC) of the City Council.
- **Multiple interviews** conducted with key recreation providers, citizens and representatives of governmental entities in El Paso
- **Neighborhood meetings** held throughout the city; and
- **Citywide Council public hearings for the adoption of the plan.**

A summary of the results and comments received from each of these methodologies is described below. Additional information on public feedback is contained in the appendices.

II. The El Paso Parks and Recreation Citizen Survey (Telephone)

One of the objectives of the Park, Recreation, Open Space and Urban Landscapes Master Plan process was to allow for maximum citizen input in the development of the update. As a component of the citizen involvement strategies, the public opinion research company Raymond Turco & Associates conducted a scientifically valid sampling of residents in the community to generate an analysis of their attitudes and how they relate to park facilities, recreation, trails and open space in El Paso.

The survey was designed to examine citizen participation in recreational activities, as well as to assess recreational needs in the community, especially as they relate to the master plan. The information gathered in this report will allow elected officials and city staff to better understand the park, recreational, open space and urban landscape needs and desires of the residents of El Paso.

The telephone survey was conducted using sampling information from each of the five planning areas of the city.

The planning areas correspond to geographic portions of the city, thereby providing attitude perceptions from the very different sectors of El Paso.

Raymond Turco & Associates conducted the city's 2005 Recreation Needs Assessment and Attitude Survey, a component of the city's parks and recreation master plan update. The public opinion poll captured attitudes on parks and recreational issues in the community from respondents randomly selected from phone-matched households. The respondents were interviewed with a comprehensive questionnaire that collected attitudinal data on a variety of recreational issues including:

- Quality ratings of current facilities,
- Utilization of Current Facilities
- Need for additional amenities,
- Satisfaction with recreational characteristics, and
- Strategies for future development.

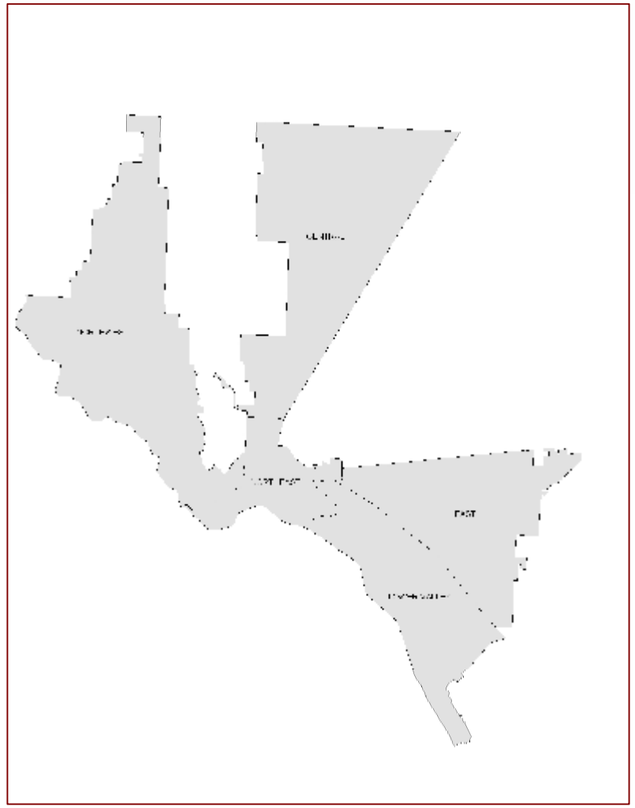
The telephone survey included the responses of 600 individuals. A survey with this sample size is accurate to within 4% at the 95% confidence level. This means there is less than one chance in twenty that the survey results may vary by up to 4% from the results that would be obtained by polling the entire population of the study area.

The highlights from the analysis of the survey are as follows.

Parks and Recreation: Utilization and Opinions

Satisfaction with Current Park Facilities

- **Percent satisfied** - Two out of every three respondents (67%) surveyed acknowledged being satisfied (57%) or very satisfied (10%) with the quality of parks and recreation in El Paso,
- **Satisfied vs. dissatisfied** - The ratio of satisfied to dissatisfied respondents was better than two to one (2.2:1).
- **Least satisfied planning area** - In terms of overall satisfaction, the northwest part of the city was least positive, with a ratio of 1.4:1 (57%-40%), followed by respondents in the Central region, at 1.7:1 (61%-35%).
- **Satisfaction relative to length of residence in El Paso** - Newer city inhabitants were a little more positive than long-term residents (74% of 0-7, to 73% of 8-20, to 63% of 20+ years).
- **Satisfaction of parents vs. non-parents** - Parents (70% of 0-6, to 71% of 6-12, to 68% of 13-18 years) were also more satisfied with parks and recreational quality than non-parents, people who did not have children (64%).



Favorite Recreation Activities

- **Most favorite activity citywide** - Walking/hiking (27%) was by far the favorite recreational activity or sport in which respondents enjoyed participating.
- **Other favorite activities** - Other popular activities

TOP 10 FAVORITE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES OR SPORTS

BY SUBSECTOR

RESPONSE	OVERALL
Walking/hiking	27%
Basketball	9%
Football	8%
Baseball/softball	8%
Swimming	6%
Running/jogging	6%
Soccer	6%
Golf/disc golf	5%
Biking/motorbiking	4%
Tennis	3%

RESPONSE	NW
Walking/hiking	17%
Football	9%
Running/jogging	9%
Swimming	8%
Golf/disc golf	8%
Biking/motorbiking	8%
Baseball/softball	7%
Skiing/skating/ice skating	6%
Basketball	5%
Soccer	3%

RESPONSE	CENTRAL
Walking/hiking	33%
Basketball	7%
Football	7%
Swimming	7%
Soccer	7%
Golf/disc golf	7%
Basketball/Softball	7%
Biking/motorbiking	5%
Baseball/softball	3%
Running/jogging	3%

RESPONSE	NE
Walking/hiking	26%
Basketball	12%
Swimming	11%
Football	9%
Running/jogging	5%
Fishing/camping/hunting	5%
Bowling	5%
Baseball/softball	4%
Soccer	4%
Tennis	4%

RESPONSE	LOWER VALLEY
Walking/hiking	23%
Basketball	15%
Baseball/softball	15%
Football	10%
Soccer	9%
Running/jogging	5%
Swimming	4%
Volleyball	4%
Tennis	2%
Fishing/camping/hunting	2%

RESPONSE	EAST
Walking/hiking	28%
Baseball/softball	11%
Basketball	10%
Running/jogging	7%
Football	6%
Soccer	6%
Biking/motorbiking	6%
Tennis	4%
Fishing/camping/h	4%
Swimming	3%

generated by this open-ended query were basketball (9%), football, baseball/softball (both 8%), and swimming, running/jogging, and soccer (each 6%).

- **Variance in favorite activities** - Other activities in which participation varied were basketball (15% in Lower Valley, to 5% in Northwest), baseball/softball (15% in Lower Valley, to 3% in Central), and swimming (11% in Northeast, to 3% in East).
- **Favored activities by sex** - Women liked to walk/hike (36%-17%), while men were more likely to enjoy basketball (12%-7%), football (10%-5%), and baseball/softball (10%-5%).
- **Favored activities by older residents** - The older the respondent, the more frequently he or she listed walking/hiking (16% of under 35, to 27% of 36-55, to 36% of over 55) as their favorite recreational activity.
- **Favored activities by younger residents** - basketball (19%-7%-4%), football (12%-7%-4%) and soccer (11%-5%-3%) were the choice of younger survey participants.

Favorite Park Facilities

- **Most frequently used types of park facilities** over the past 12 months include:
  - Visiting a small park near your home (73%);
  - Using a trail for walking or exercising (66%);
  - Visiting a city playground (65%);
  - Used a large park with athletic fields (47%);
  - Attending festivals, concerts, or events sponsored by the Parks (43%);
  - Attending events at Chamizal National Monument (40%).
- **Lowest rated activities** - Of the 15 items tested, the lowest rated activities were:
  - Using a city senior center (11%);
  - Participating in an adult athletic league (11%);
  - Using a public golf course in El Paso (17%),
  - Participating in a youth athletic league (18%);
  - Using a city rental pavilion for special events (18%).
- **Use of pools and community centers** - Approximately one in three said they used a city pool (33%), visited or used a municipal athletic field (30%), or a city community or recreation center (30%).
- **Highest variance by planning area**
  - use of a city pool (43% in Lower Valley, to 23% in Northwest, -20),
  - attendance at festivals, concerts, or events sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department (51% in Central, to 35% in Northeast, -16),
  - visiting a city playground (70% in Lower Valley, to 55% in Northwest, -15), and
  - attendance at events at Chamizal National Monument (48% in Central, to 33% in Northeast, -15).
  - **Lowest variance by planning area** - The only item to have less than a 10 percent variance was for using a city rental pavilion for special events (21% in Lower Valley, to 15% in Central).
- Respondents from the Lower Valley subsector were the most active utilizers of facilities, followed by the Northwest area.
- **Most frequently used parks** over the past 12 months

included:

- **Album/Eastwood (20%),**
- **Memorial (11%)**
- **Veteran's (8%)**
- **Marty Robbins (7%)**

- **Most frequently used Senior Centers -** Memorial (13%), Eastside (12%), and San Juan (10%) were the most visited city senior centers
- **Most frequently used recreation centers -** Album/Eastwood (17%), and Pavo Real and Veteran's (both 7%)
- **Most popular recreation programs** - sports activities such as basketball or volleyball (45%), fitness activities such as aerobics or weights (44%), summer program for kids (27%), and programs or events for seniors (21%) were the most popular programs.
- **Reasons for people not participating in recreational programming** - Didn't know about program (76%-21%, 3.6:1) and the program did not interest them (58%-33%, 1.8:1)
- **Cost and lack of transportation were not mentioned as frequently -** program they wanted cost too much (41%-47%, 0.9:1), the facility was too far away (53%-44%, 1.2:1), and they did not have available transportation (50%-43%, 1.2:1).

In the survey, residents of El Paso were asked whether they agreed or not with a series of statements about parks. The levels of agreement were extremely high for many of the statements, indicating a high degree of support for park initiatives.

Key responses included:

- Better parks will help to improve our city image (97%-2%, 49.0:1) and
- Parks contribute to the quality of life in our city (96%-2%, 48.0:1) were far and away the parks-related statements that generated the highest ratios of agreement to disagreement among survey participants.
- "I feel that parks contribute to the economic viability of the city" (88%-9%, 9.8:1).
- In comparison, support was not nearly as strong for the statement "the appearance of parks in the city is adequate" (68%-30%, 2.3:1).
- **Degree of passion -** The statements that generated the greatest passion (strong agreement) were that parks contribute to the quality of life in our city (48%). Intensity was lowest for the statement about the appearance of parks in the city being adequate, at just 6%.

STATEMENT	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREEMENT RATIO
Parks contribute to the quality of life in our city.	48%	48%	2%	0%	0%	48.0:1
I feel safe when I visit parks in my area.	16%	64%	15%	2%	3%	4.7:1
The appearance of parks in the city is adequate.	6%	62%	27%	3%	2%	2.3:1
Better parks will help to improve our city image.	35%	62%	2%	0%	1%	48.5:1
I feel that parks contribute to the economic viability of the city.	20%	68%	7%	2%	4%	9.8:1

TOP 10 BEST AND WORST RATINGS OF CITY RECREATIONAL ASPECTS

BEST ASPECTS	10 Best Ratio
The overall safety of recreation centers	1.4:1
The overall safety of city parks	1.3:1
The maintenance of city parks	1.2:1
The overall quality of area golf courses	1.2:1
The maintenance of recreation centers	1.2:1
The overall quality of recreation centers	1.1:1
The overall quality of city parks	1.0:1
The variety of amenities within recreation centers	1.0:1
The overall appearance of the city	0.9:1
The maintenance of city athletic fields	0.9:1

WORST ASPECTS	10 Worst Ratio
The amount of hike and bike trails in the city	0.3:1
Having hike and bike trails conveniently located for people in your area	0.3:1
The number of parks in the city	0.5:1
Having parks conveniently located for people in all areas	0.6:1
The number of athletic fields in the city	0.6:1
Having athletic fields conveniently located for people in all areas	0.6:1
The variety of recreational facilities within parks	0.7:1
The number of recreation centers in the city	0.7:1
Having recreation centers conveniently located for people in all areas	0.7:1
Landscaping along major streets and intersections	0.8:1

Citizens were also asked to rate their agreement with a list of 21 park and recreation facility characteristics.

- **The top five positive characteristics were as follows;**
  - The overall safety of recreation centers (52%-37%, 1.4:1),
  - overall safety of city parks (54%-42%, 1.3:1),
  - maintenance of city parks (53%-44%, 1.2:1),
  - overall quality of area golf courses (37%-30%, 1.2:1), and
  - maintenance of recreation centers (49%-40%, 1.2:1).
- **A majority of characteristics tested (13) were rated negatively by respondents, including:**
  - The lowest ratio being the amount of hike and bike trails in the city (22%-68%, 0.3:1),
  - having hike and bike trails conveniently located for people in your area (22%-66%, 0.3:1), and
  - number of parks in the city (34%-62%, 0.5:1).

- **Location and number of facilities appeared to be of concern to residents**.

- For example, statements related to location were low - ranked 16th (parks conveniently located), 18th (athletic fields conveniently located), 21st (hike and bike located), and 15th (recreation centers conveniently trails conveniently located).
- **The statements relating to number of facilities** were very low - ranked 19th (parks), 17th (athletic fields), 20th (amount of hike and bike trails), and 14th (recreation centers).
- **Twelve of the 21 statements were rated fair or poor by a majority of respondents.** The highest number of aspects rated positively by a majority of subsector participants was 10, in the Lower Valley. Elsewhere, the aspects were seven in the East, three in the Northeast, and one in both the Northwest and Central.

- For example, percentages varied twenty percent or more for the following items:
- parks conveniently located for people in all areas (51% in Lower Valley, to only 18% in the Northwest),
- quality of recreation centers (56% in East, to only 27% in the Northwest),
- number of parks (51% in Lower Valley, to only 20% in the Northwest).

For nearly every aspect, the gap in positive ratings between residents in the Northwest and elsewhere was significant.

- **Word of mouth (73%), *The El Paso Times* (72%), radio (62%), and signs (51%) were where residents got information about recreational activities in El Paso.** Nearly one-half of the sample also utilized the city brochures/flyers (45%) and the city cable channel (44%). Conversely, the sources least likely to be utilized were the City of El Paso internet home page (26%) and the Parks and Recreation office (28%).

Assessing Future Needs

Residents of El Paso were asked to indicate which types of park and recreation facilities were most lacking in their part of the city. The most frequently mentioned facilities are shown in the table on this page.

TOP TEN OVERALL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THE CITY IS LACKING (BY SUBSECTOR)

RESPONSE	OVERALL
Parks	28%
Pools/aquatic facilities	12%
Recreation center/gym/teen center	10%
Multi-use trails	8%
Athletic fields/sports complex	8%
Playgrounds	7%
Miscellaneous	6%
Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	5%
Restrooms/lights/benches	3%
Senior center/community center	3%

RESPONSE	NW
Parks	36%
Athletic fields/sports complex	14%
Pools/aquatic facilities	11%
Multi-use trails	9%
Recreation center/gym/teen center	4%
Playgrounds	4%
Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	4%
Restrooms/lights/benches	4%
Tennis courts	3%
Golf course/disc golf course	3%

RESPONSE	CENTRAL
Parks	21%
Recreation center/gym/teen center	16%
Pools/aquatic facilities	15%
Multi-use trails	8%
Athletic fields/sports complex	7%
Playgrounds	6%
Senior center/community center	5%
Golf course/disc golf course	4%
Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	3%
Restrooms/lights/benches	2%

RESPONSE	NE
Parks	19%
Recreation center/gym/teen center	11%
Playgrounds	11%
Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	11%
Pools/aquatic facilities	10%
Restrooms/lights/benches	6%
Amusement park/arcade/theater	6%
Athletic fields/sports complex	5%
Multi-use trails	3%
Basketball courts/indoor basketball	3%

RESPONSE	EAST
Parks	34%
Pools/aquatic facilities	13%
Recreation center/gym/teen center	4%
Multi-use trails	13%
Athletic fields/sports complex	8%
Playgrounds	6%
Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	4%
Restrooms/lights/benches	0%
Senior center/community center	3%
Amusement park/arcade/theater	2%

RESPONSE	LOWER VALLEY
Parks	35%
Pools/aquatic facilities	10%
Recreation center/gym/teen center	10%
Multi-use trails	6%
Playgrounds	6%
Restrooms/lights/benches	6%
Athletic fields/sports complex	4%
Senior center/community center	4%
Nature areas/shade/grassy areas	4%
Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	2%

OVERALL SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	SUPPORT RATIO
Shaded areas in parks	31.7:1
Jogging/biking trails	23.8:1
Playgrounds	18.6:1
Lighting for parks for evening use	15.2:1
Courts for basketball or tennis	10.0:1
Nature areas or nature viewing facilities	09.9:1
Open space/natural areas	09.9:1
Athletic fields/sports complexes for softball, baseball, soccer and football	09.8:1
Additional recreation centers throughout the city	09.8:1
Indoor pools	07.9:1
Rental picnic/reunion pavilions	07.1:1
Large festival grounds for city-wide special events	06.3:1
Amphitheater	04.3:1
Additional skateboard parks	03.8:1
Dog parks	02.6:1

Support for Additional Recreation Facilities

Shaded areas in parks (95%-3%, 31.7:1), **jogging/biking trails** (95%-4%, 23.8:1), **playgrounds** (93%-4%, 18.6:1), **lighting for parks for evening use** (91%-6%, 15.2:1), and **courts for basketball or tennis** (90%-9%, 10.0:1) were the facility construction items that earned the broadest consensus for city development.

- **Lowest overall support -** At the other end of the attitude spectrum were three construction prospects that drew the lowest support ratings from residents: dog parks (69%-27%, 2.6:1), additional skateboard parks (76%-20%, 3.8:1), and an amphitheater (78%-18%, 4.3:1).
- **Highest level of strong support** - The items residents were most passionate (strongly support) about the city developing were shaded areas in parks (39%), lighting for parks for evening use and jogging/biking trails (both 36%), athletic fields/sports complexes (34%), and indoor pools (32%), and playgrounds (31%).
- **Northwest** - Residents in the Northwest prioritized athletic fields/sports complexes first (25%), and by a significant percentage when compared to other parts of the city (13%-18%). After the athletic fields, residents there rated playgrounds (12%) and jogging/biking trails and open space/natural areas (both 11%).
- **Central Planning Area** - Comparatively, the order in the Central region was jogging/biking trails (14%), athletic fields/sports complexes and indoor pools (both 13%), and then additional recreation centers (11%).
- **The Northeast** was the only other subsector that prioritized athletic fields/sports complexes first (18%), and then jogging/biking trails (15%), playgrounds (11%), and open space/nature areas (10%).
- **In the East**, residents prioritized jogging/biking trails (17%) and playgrounds (16%) as more important than athletic fields/sports complexes (15%).
- **In the Lower Valley**, playgrounds (18%) placed ahead of athletic fields/sport complexes (14%) and indoor pools (12%) as being most important to develop.

- **Provide affordable recreation opportunities for all residents of El Paso,** especially those who may not be able to afford them (96%-3%, 32.0:1) was the action statement that scored the highest ratio of important to unimportant ratings in terms of the city directing future park department priorities.
- **Second highest rated action -** Respondents also rated it extremely important for the city to renovate and add to existing parks in the city (93%-5%, 18.6:1),
- **Offer small neighborhood parks close to where you live (92%-7%, 13.1:1), and**
- **Develop major trails for transportation and recreation in each sector of the city (90%-7%, 12.9:1).**

IMPORTANCE OF FUTURE PARK DEPARTMENT ACTIONS BY SUBSECTOR

ACTION	NW
Offer small neighborhood parks close to where you live	94%
Provide affordable recreation opportunities for all residents of El Paso, especially those who may not be able to afford them.	94%
Renovate and add to existing parks in the city	91%
Develop major trails for transportation and recreation in each sector of the city	90%
Acquire land for future park needs	89%
Build large regional parks with a wide variety of facilities	88%
Develop parks with more water-efficient and natural looking landscapes	85%
Provide green parks even if water is expensive	67%
Provide fewer parks but with improved facilities	52%
Develop or acquire a large, centrally located park for El Paso	44%

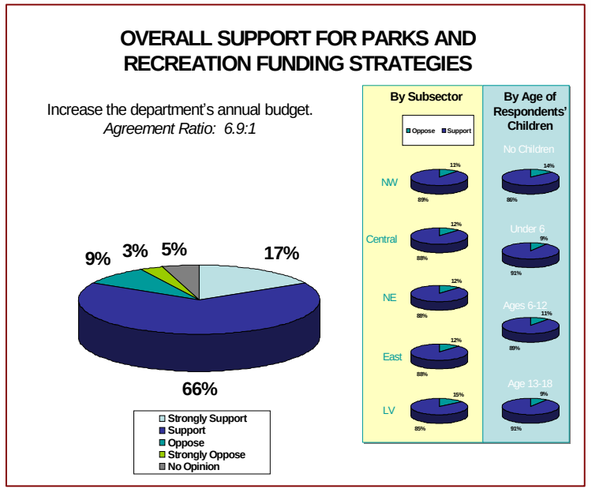
ACTION	NE
Provide affordable recreation opportunities for all residents of El Paso, especially those who may not be able to afford them.	95%
Renovate and add to existing parks in the city	90%
Offer small neighborhood parks close to where you live	89%
Develop major trails for transportation and recreation in each sector of the city	84%
Develop parks with more water-efficient and natural looking landscapes	83%
Acquire land for future park needs	82%
Build large regional parks with a wide variety of facilities	79%
Provide green parks even if water is expensive	72%
Provide fewer parks but with improved facilities	67%
Develop or acquire a large, centrally located park for El Paso	53%

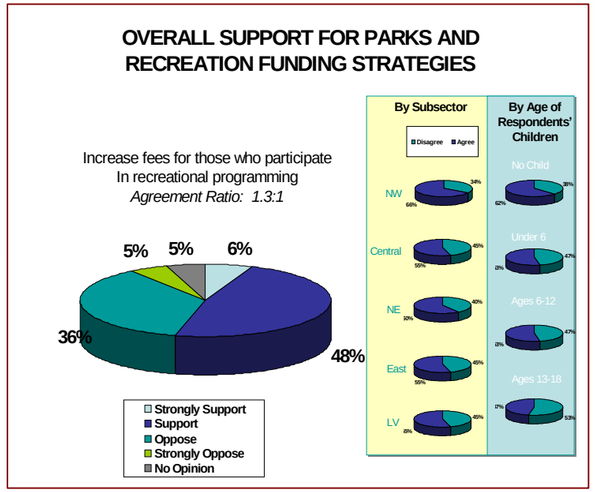
ACTION	LOWER VALLEY
Build large regional parks with a wide variety of facilities	98%
Provide affordable recreation opportunities for all residents of El Paso, especially those who may not be able to afford them.	98%
Renovate and add to existing parks in the city	98%
Offer small neighborhood parks close to where you live	95%
Develop major trails for transportation and recreation in each sector of the city	93%
Develop parks with more water-efficient and natural looking landscapes	92%
Acquire land for future park needs	91%
Provide fewer parks but with improved facilities	76%
Develop or acquire a large, centrally located park for El Paso	72%
Provide green parks even if water is expensive	71%

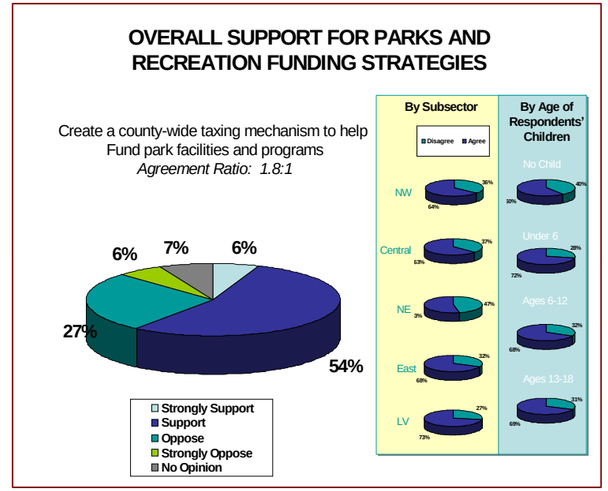
ACTION	CENTRAL
Provide affordable recreation opportunities for all residents of El Paso, especially those who may not be able to afford them.	95%
Renovate and add to existing parks in the city	93%
Offer small neighborhood parks close to where you live	91%
Develop major trails for transportation and recreation in each sector of the city	90%
Develop parks with more water-efficient and natural looking landscapes	88%
Acquire land for future park needs	87%
Build large regional parks with a wide variety of facilities	86%
Provide green parks even if water is expensive	66%
Develop or acquire a large, centrally located park for El Paso	66%
Provide fewer parks but with improved facilities	55%

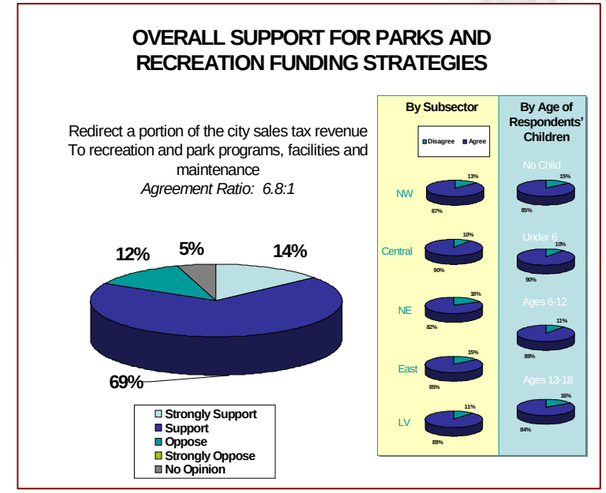
ACTION	EAST
Provide affordable recreation opportunities for all residents of El Paso, especially those who may not be able to afford them.	95%
Renovate and add to existing parks in the city	94%
Offer small neighborhood parks close to where you live	92%
Develop parks with more water-efficient and natural looking landscapes	90%
Develop major trails for transportation and recreation in each sector of the city	90%
Acquire land for future park needs	88%
Build large regional parks with a wide variety of facilities	81%
Provide green parks even if water is expensive	76%
Provide fewer parks but with improved facilities	54%
Develop or acquire a large, centrally located park for El Paso	52%

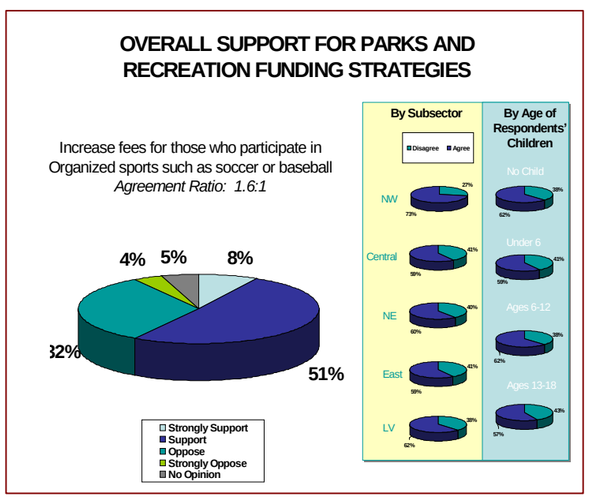
When asked about strategies to fund parks and recreation facilities, citizens selected from several broad options. Responses are shown in the charts on this page.

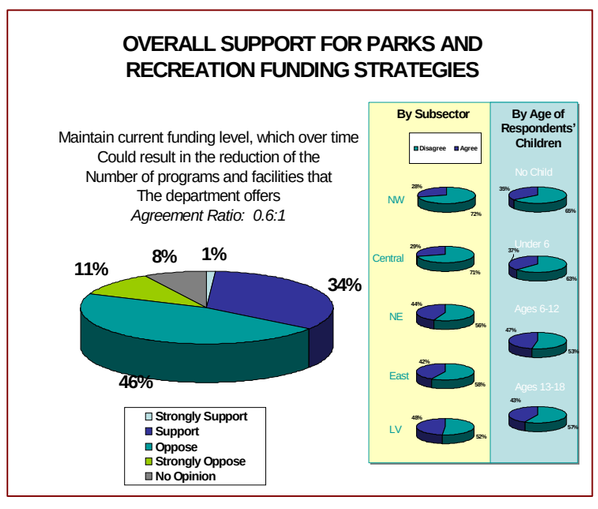


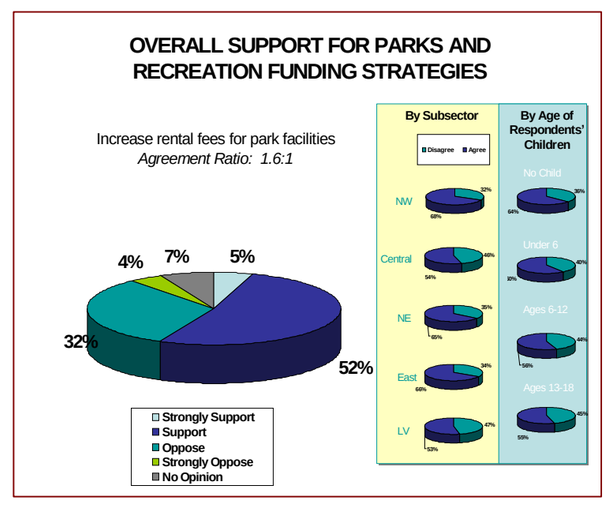










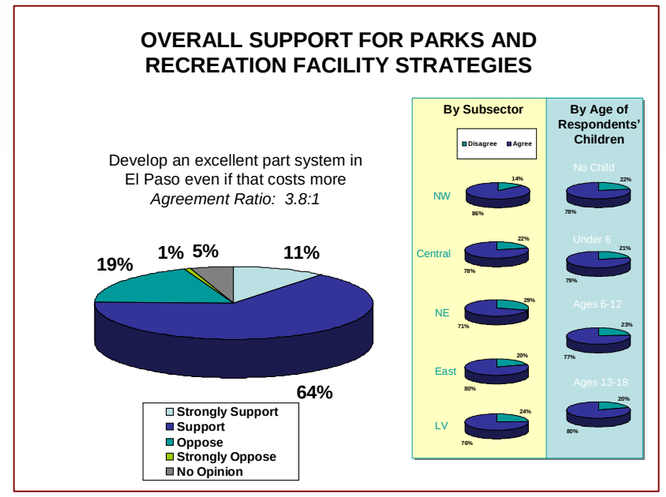


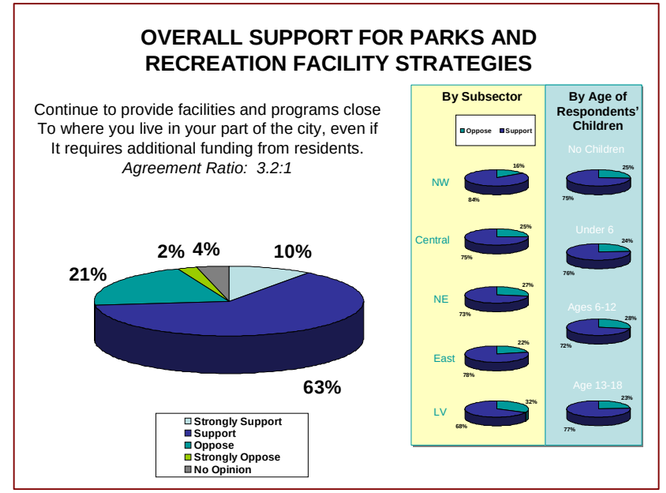
Support for Increased Funding for the Parks and Recreation Department (to increase the amount of funding available to the Parks and Recreation Department in order for it to meet the needs of its growing population):

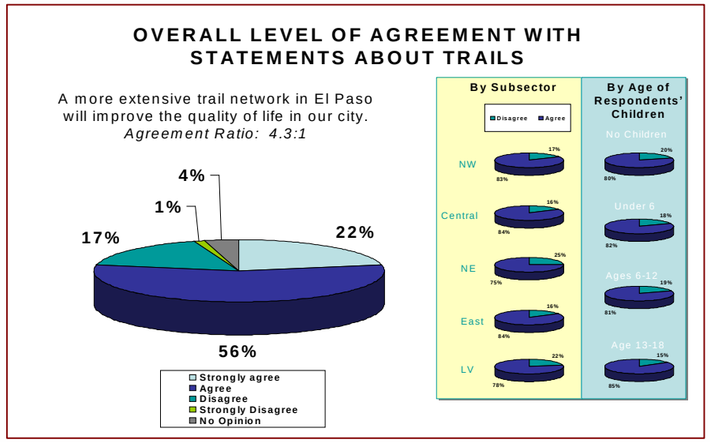
- Increase the department's annual budget (83%-12%, 6.9:1) and
- redirect a portion of the city sales tax revenue to recreation and park programs, facilities and maintenance (82%-12%, 6.8:1)
- Develop an excellent park system in El Paso even if that costs more (76%, 20%, 3.8:1) was the most popularly supported strategy to meet the needs of current as well as future residents.
- The strategy of continuing to provide facilities and programs close to where you live in your part of the city, even if it requires additional funding from residents was supported by 73% of the respondents (73%-23%, 3.2:1).
- Providing larger but fewer facilities and programs that are further from where you live but are more cost-effective (49%-48%, 1.0:1) was as likely to be supported as to be opposed.

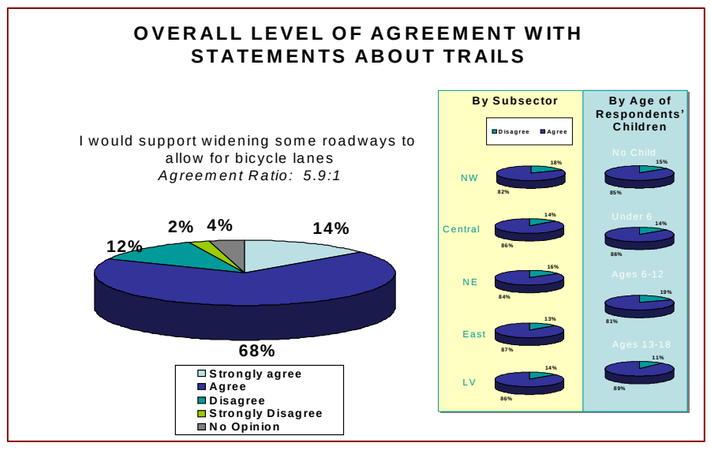
Support for Acquiring and Operating County Park Facilities such as Ascarate:

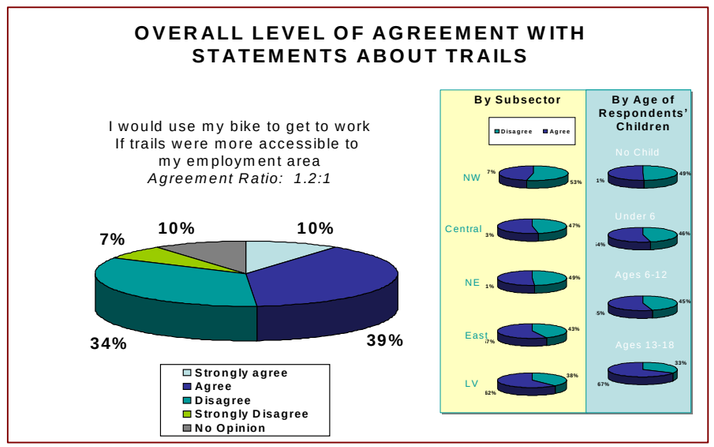
- Better than two of every three residents (69%) support (57%) or strongly support (12%) the city acquiring and operating county park facilities such as Ascarate Park, even if it required additional city funding.
- Comparatively, one in four opposed, either in general (19%) or intensely (5%). The remaining 7% of the sample had no opinion on this issue, which led to a support ratio of nearly three to one (2.9:1).











Support for trail and bicycle facilities

- **"I would support widening some roadways to allow for bicycle lanes" (82%-14%, 5.9:1) and "a more extensive trail network in El Paso will improve the quality of life in our city," (78%-18%, 4.3:1) were the most popular trail-related statements, according to the ratio of agree to disagree ratings.**
- **Respondents were also agreeable to the items "I would like trails in El Paso to connect to nearby schools" (68%-25%, 2.7:1) and "I would use my bike to get to work if trails were more accessible to my employment area" (49%-41%, 1.2:1), although support for the last item was limited. Most residents disagreed that they would move to a different neighborhood in El Paso if it had better trails for recreation and getting to work (27%-68%, 0.4:1), although some were enticed by the proposition.**
- Respondents were most enthusiastic when it came to commenting on the statement that a more extensive trail network in El Paso will improve the quality of life in the city (22%) than supporting widening some roadways to allow for bicycle lanes (14%). The other two popularly supported statements each generated strong agreement ratings of 10%, while only 5% were enthusiastic about moving to a different neighborhood.
- Four of the five statements generated different levels of agreement based on geography. For example, residents from the Lower Valley sub sector were most likely to agree to move to a different neighborhood in El Paso if it had better trails for recreation and getting to work (37%, to 23% in the East) and to use their bike to get to work if trails were more accessible to their employment area (58%, to 39% in Northwest). In fact, the Northwest subset was the only region to disagree with this particular statement rather than agree (44%-39%).
- Linking trails to connect to nearby schools was also more popular in the Lower Valley (76%) than anywhere else, especially the Central zone (63%).

III. Community Meetings to Gather Input

Community meetings are also an important way of assessing public opinion, and they create an opportunity for citizens to directly voice their feedback. A public meeting was conducted in each of the five major planning areas to gain citizen feedback. Meeting locations and dates were as follows:

Northeast Planning Sector	*October 6, 2005*
Lower Valley Planning Sector	*October 7, 2005*
Eastside Planning Sector	*October 11, 2005*
Central Planning Sector	*October 12, 2005*
Westside Planning Sector	October 13, 2005

Key points from the public meetings that have been considered as part of this planning process are as follows:

1. DO YOU LIVE IN THE _____ PLANNING AREA?

Total Responses 139
Live in area - YES 84%
NO 16%

2. WHAT DO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY LIKE TO DO IN PARKS?

Walk or run

NE	39	81%
LV	17	65%
ES	19	68%
C	15	94%
WS	41	85%
AVERAGE		79%

Use playgrounds

NE	18	37%
LV	7	27%
ES	14	50%
C	5	31%
WS	27	56%
AVERAGE		40%

Enjoy being outside

NE	33	69%
LV	18	69%
ES	13	46%
C	14	88%
WS	36	75%
AVERAGE		69%

Other

NE	1	2%
LV	0	0%
ES	0	0%
C	0	0%
WS	1	2%

Play sports such as basketball or tennis

NE	17	35%
LV	8	31%
ES	12	43%
C	4	19%
WS	16	33%
AVERAGE		32%

Play sports such as soccer, baseball or softball

NE	20	42%
LV	11	42%
ES	15	54%
C	2	19%
WS	18	38%
AVERAGE		39%

Picnic with friends or family

NE	14	56%
LV	15	58%
ES	12	43%
C	9	19%
WS	22	49%
AVERAGE		45%

Attend recreation activities such as classes

NE	**21**	44%
LV	9	35%
ES	11	39%
C	5	31%
WS	17	35%
AVERAGE		37%

Swim

NE	24	50%
LV	11	42%
ES	14	50%
C	5	31%
WS	22	49%
AVERAGE		44%

Visit large natural areas

NE	22	46%
LV	7	27%
ES	8	29%
C	12	75%
WS	26	54%
AVERAGE		46%

RANK BY SECTOR OF THE CITY – FAVORITE ACTIVITIES IN PARKS IN EL PASO

LOWER VALLEY PLANNING SECTOR

Enjoy being outside	**69%**	**1**
Walk or run	**65%**	**2**
Picnic with family/friends	**58%**	**3**
Swim	**42%**	**4**
Play Sports such as soccer baseball or softball	**42%**	**4**
Attend recreation activities	35%	5
Play Sports such as basketball or tennis	31%	6
Visit natural areas	27%	7
Use playgrounds	27%	7
Other	0%	8

EAST SIDE PLANNING SECTOR

Walk or run	**68%**	**1**
Play Sports such as soccer baseball or softball	**54%**	**2**
Use playgrounds	**50%**	**3**
Swim	**50%**	**3**
Enjoy being outside	**46%**	**4**
Picnic with family or friends	43%	5
Play Sports such as basketball or tennis	43%	5
Attend recreation activities	39%	6
Visit natural areas	29%	7
Other	0%	8

WESTSIDE PLANNING SECTOR

Walk or run	**85%**	**1**
Enjoy being outside	**75%**	**2**
Use playgrounds	**56%**	**3**
Visit natural areas	**54%**	**4**
Picnic with family /friends	**49%**	**5**
Swim	**49%**	**5**
Play Sports such as soccer baseball or softball	38%	6
Attend recreation activities	35%	7
Play Sports such as basketball or tennis	33%	8
Other	2%	9

NORTHEAST PLANNING SECTOR

Walk or run	**81%**	**1**
Enjoy being outside	**69%**	**2**
Picnic with family or friends	**56%**	**3**
Swim	**50%**	**4**
Visit natural areas	**46%**	**5**
Attend recreation activities	44%	6
Play Sports such as soccer baseball or softball	42%	7
Use playgrounds	37%	8
Play Sports such as basketball or tennis	35%	9
Other	2%	10

CENTRAL PLANNING SECTOR

Walk or run	**94%**	**1**
Enjoy being outside	**88%**	**2**
Visit natural areas	**75%**	**3**
Swim	**31%**	**4**
Attend recreation activities	**31%**	**4**
Use playgrounds	**31%**	**4**
Picnic with family or friends	19%	5
Play Sports such as soccer baseball or softball	19%	5
Play Sports such as basketball or tennis	19%	5
Other	0%	6

AVERAGE RANKING OF ACTIVITIES

Walk or run	**79%**	**1**
Enjoy being outside	**69%**	**2**
Visit natural areas	**46%**	**3**
Picnic with family/ friends	**45%**	**4**
Swim	**42%**	**5**
Use playgrounds	**40%**	**6**
Play Sports such as soccer baseball or softball	**39%**	**7**
Attend recreation activities	**37%**	**8**
Play Sports such as basketball or tennis	**32%**	**9**
Other	**1%**	**10**

3. PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS RANKING THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS AS IMPORTANT OR VERY IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS

	North East	Lower Valley	Eastside	Central	Westside	Average
Preserve Some Nature Areas & Arroyos	15% (2)	74% (1)	3% (4 T)	15% (2)	21% (1)	**26% (2)**
Large Community Parks	8% (5 T)	0%	3% (4 T)	4% (5 T)	14% (3 T)	6% (7)
Small Neighborhood Parks	10% (3)	68% (3 T)	14% (2)	12% (3)	3% (6)	21% (4)
Athletic Facilities	8% (5 T)	68% (3 T)	8% (3)	4% (5 T)	2% (7)	18% (6)
Recreation Centers	40% (1)	71% (2 T)	25% (1)	8% (4)	14% (3 T)	**32% (1)**
Trails For Walking And Biking	10% (4)	71% (2 T)	3% (4 T)	19% (1)	5% (5)	**22% (3)**
Aquatic (Swimming) Facilities	5% (6)	68% (3 T)	0%	4% (5 T)	17% (2)	19% (5)

4. PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS RANKING THE ONE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT COMPONENT TO PROVIDE OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS

	North East	Lower Valley	Eastside	Central	Westside	Average
Preserve Some Nature Areas & Arroyos	79% (5)	48% (5)	44% (5)	35% (4 T)	51% (4 T)	51% (4 T)
Large Community Parks	86% (2)	42% (6)	45% (4)	30% (6 T)	51% (4 T)	51% (4 T)
Small Neighborhood Parks	84% (3)	52% (4)	47% (3 T)	35% (4 T)	58% (2)	**55% (3 T)**
Athletic Facilities	90% (1)	61% (2)	58% (1)	30% (6 T)	50% (5 T)	**58% (2)**
Recreation Centers	71% (8)	64% (1)	53% (2)	34% (5)	51% (4 T)	**55% (3 T)**
Trails For Walking And Biking	83% (4)	58% (3)	47% (3 T)	46% (1)	71% (1)	**61% (1)**
Aquatic (Swimming) Facilities	76% (6)	35% (7)	39% (6 T)	39% (2)	52% (3)	48% (5)
Provide More Recreation Programs	73% (7)	32% (8)	39% (6 T)	38% (3)	50% (5 T)	46% (6)

5. WHAT PARK FACILITIES ARE MOST NEEDED WHERE YOU LIVE?

NORTHEAST PLANNING SECTOR

- Needs a sports complex that would offer soccer fields, softball/baseball fields, skateboard facilities
- Need to maintain what they already have improved
- Need more restrooms
- Need more aquatic facilities with competition lanes
- **Noland Richardson Community Center needs a swimming pool**
- More bike trails and lanes; a trail system that would run through all of El Paso benefiting joggers and walkers as well as bikers.
- A mountain biking ability course to practice biking over rock vertical inclines and declines, a teeter totter, riding over a balance beam, hopping levels, and trails on elevated 1 to 2 foot boards with changing surfaces. Possibly a biking trail connecting all of the rec. centers in El Paso so that restrooms, water, and break areas are easily accessed as well as Sun Metro bus routes (a cycletarium). Rec. equipment for adults such as low and mid-level obstacle challenge courses, zero level water play areas, outdoor climbing walls, non-traditional playgrounds, non-traditional aquatic facilities.
- **Sherman Park** needs the whole enchilada. In its present form, the park is very small. We need expansion, and there is plenty of land out there.
- Need small parks with walk/bike paths around them. Not just grass to curb, but covered picnic tables and open grass as well as paths.
- **Central Northeast** needs indoor full facility like the one on Viscount street near Cielo Vista.
- Have more program activities for children to keep them off the street
- Need more rec. centers throughout the city.
- More walking areas
- Se nesesitan parques y caminos mejores para que la gente pueda caminar sin peligros que te los molesten
- All need more lights
- More athletic facilities throughout
- **Pocket Parks** get that list of lots owned by the City, conservation of east Side Mountains…
- **Chuck Heinrich Park;** would like to see a ramp or stairs to get to the top of the dam at both ends. The top of the dam is an excellent walking trail, but dangerous to climb. Also need picnic facilities, shelters, with tables and grills and a swimming pool
- Handicap equipment for a handicap accessible park and a fence that separates the desert from the parks
- Private schools need equal access to park facilities and fair rates.
- Add decorative street lights, gardens
- Need better parking and sanitary facilities in various parks. Trash is a major problem.
- More park entrances
- Would like to see the city help build a roof for Desert Downs BMX on the grounds at the Trans Mountain Optimist Club. BMX is a sport at the 2008 Olympics – Rob Doss '05-'06 president of the Trans Mountain Optimist Club.

LOWER VALLEY PLANNING SECTOR

- Rio Bosque Wetlands park needs reliable water supply and safe routes to school
- More Rec. Centers, Gyms with volleyball and basketball for private and civic groups, and swimming pools
- More open space, jogging and biking areas, playground for children
- More ball fields
- Give private organization access to park recreation centers and athletic facilities
- **Big issues with park access** – they need more entrances and exits to parks throughout;
- **More trash cans throughout**; less fancy covered jungle gym type play areas… get back to basics
- Better **park maintenance** throughout the year, especially in the early spring. Better irrigation for grass
- More picnic facilities throughout
- More green space

CENTRAL PLANNING SECTOR

- Walking and dog park areas (fenced in)
- **Memorial Park** – add bathrooms, music programs and other community programs. Add gazebo or band stand in parks. Add walking trails. Add Rec. facilities.
- Nature parks
- Add neighborhood parks with benches and walking paths.
- Use the storm drains
- Connecting trail system
- Need more trees, and develop parks in place of demolished/condemned buildings
- Senior Center
- Rec. Center to keep kids out of trouble, Skate boarding areas, basketball and tennis courts with lights.
- Swings and shaded areas
- Covered playground areas and picnic
- More bathroom facilities
- Operable drinking fountains

EASTSIDE PLANNING SECTOR

- Paved walking paths
- Athletic fields
- Shaded picnic areas
- Playgrounds for little kids
- **Football fields with lights** (too many soccer and baseball fields, but no football!)
- Need lights (parents have to use their own lights from their vehicles for the boys to practice)
- Extend the walking trails around the entire parks
- Better law enforcement presence
- Larger swimming facilities and playgrounds with swings
- Trails for biking and walking
- Athletic facilities with tennis courts, skateboard courts, swings, bigger playground, lights that work at all time.
- More morning programs available
- Large complex with sports/athletic fields
- The monopolizing by the public schools is a dangerous precedence
- Facilities for private organizations
- Rec Centers
- Trees, smart green like Madeline Park
- Dog walking area
- Picnic tables and benches
- Programs that support local artistic talent; singers, actors etc… by providing facilities (buildings)
- Add a central location where info and maps of trails/parks are
- Need more safety
- Pavilions for family gatherings
- **Trawood Park:** Recently re-done but no lights! Trawood street is a freeway… many cars through that area. We need speed bumps or school zone lights to restrict the speed limit for safety.
- **Limerick Street** has a big open field like a park but no equipment or facilities.
- **Sam Snead**: Somewhat updated danger zone – children crossing after loose balls and cars zooming through.
- More parking with lights

WESTSIDE PLANNING SECTOR

- Bike lanes and paths
- More nature parks with grass, trees; preserve wildlife
- Bike and trail system
- **Lighted sports park with soccer, baseball, football, tennis and running track.**
- **Year-round swimming facilities with diving well, 50-meter pool, and rec. pool to accommodate swimming teams in the area;** including locker rooms, showers and electrical outlets. **Leo Cancellare Pool is the only pool on the Westside of town and over crowded**
- Rec. Centers
- **Golden Hills and Houston Park areas**: Rec./Community Center
- **Renovate Houston Park and Tom Lea Park** and add an Arroyo Trail right below Tom Lea Park.
- Add horse trails
- **Paul Harvey Park** needs long range planning and in the short term control of sprinkling system drainage into the streets to the west of the park. Severe slopes on the lawn area along the west side cause water to run off before it has time to soak into the soil for healthy growth of grass. The tennis courts are in extremely bad shape; they need to be completely redone. There needs to be a separate basket ball court or at least a half-court. A retaining wall along the west and south perimeters of the park is solely needed to help retain sprinkling water on the lawn surfaces. A walking track around the perimeter (not already sidewalk) would be good. Additional picnic pavilions are needed. Never ever short change Paul Harvey Park again as was done following the 2000 bond issue. We never got what we voted for in 2000.
- **Ponsford Park** is in need of some tables for picnic areas. Apparently, a relocation of irrigation system lines to prevent spraying the streets on the south, west and north sides. Include a walking track around the perimeter of the park.
- **Park areas for seniors and teens**
- **Thorn Park** – add a walking trail and senior center and add swings
- A dog park
- **Chihuahuita Park -** Need park benches, a walkway for walking around the park
- More bathrooms
- Salon Comonitanio
- Open Space
- **Resler and Transmoutain –** Need more lights
- **Rim Road Area (79902)** – need public athletic facilities, tennis court, basketball court, and swimming pool

6. HOW DO YOU THINK EL PASO SHOULD PAY TO PROVIDE BETTER PARK FACILITIES AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

	North East	Lower Valley	Eastside	Central	Westside	Average
A LITTLE MORE IN TAXES	46%	46%	32%	63%	58%	49%
MORE AND HIGHER FEES FOR PROGRAMS OR USE	35%	31%	32%	44%	40%	36%
WOULD NOT PAY MORE	15%	11%	19%	6%	6%	11%

PLEASE ADD ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS THAT YOU MAY BELOW.

NORTHEAST PLANNING SECTOR

- Don't mind paying a few as long as there are improvements.
- Would like to see more joint-venture projects for construction and use of facilities with school districts, with EPCC, with UTEP. If possible, take over County facilities where they are still in salvageable condition.
- Need a large community park to accommodate the neighborhood growth, and provide a healthy place for the kids and the parents.
- Make some parks available from June through October only.
- Provide parks and rec. centers for lower income areas first
- Develop drainage basin into a "**Big Ole" park** so that people from **Parkland high school** to **Sherman Park** and the local trailer parks along **Dyer Street** can share it. Eventually **Sean Haggerty Drive** will be opened up to connect **McCombs and Dyer Street**. This will allow people from these areas access to **"The Basin Park**"
- Open limited areas of morning to allow mothers with small children to come in to an open area to teach and play games, and limit use of court mandated community service in parks with our children for safety issues.
- The **Community Garden** located in the Northeast should be placed under total control of the park by the Rec. Department.
- El Paso spends a lot of money in Lotto. Why or does this city benefit from the profits? I know that the schools get some (not enough) what about the City itself. We need to get some type of profit from the TX Lotto. The State of Colorado has many centers for families in each community. They have swimming, gym, ball courts, weights all year long with small fees for families
- Rent out the areas for dances and use the proceeds to improve and add facilities
- Keep the karate classes
- Senior citizen Garden should be placed under control of parks and recreation. I am a member of the Garden and enjoy the freedom we have there.
- Build a building for parties for public to reserve

LOWER VALLEY PLANNING SECTOR

- Community is being restricted - open facilities that schools have but rest of community is limited in using them; only schools can access
- Private schools, churches, and civic organizations are being pushed aside to allow public schools usage of private schools' facilities. There should be equal access and equal fees for anyone using the facilities because we are all taxpayers and these rec. centers are supported by our tax dollars. The inequality of usage and fees borders on discrimination.
- Rio Bosque needs water to recreate the way the valley was; people used to fish, picnic, even boat on the river; there were forests of cottonwood trees, now nothing…
- How can the children enjoy the parks when the whole lower valley is infested with mosquitos. If the city would cover the ditches and convert them into parks that would be the solution. It would convert an eye sore into a beautiful path.
- My organization has been pushed aside in use of Eastwood Rec. Center because of an agreement made with YISD after we had already reserved use. This concerns me greatly in regards to future decisions and direction – I am afraid of being excluded by powers of governmental department partnerships.
- A merging of all public parks and rec. centers with the public schools would limit access to private organizations such as private schools, churches and civic organizations.
- Need unilateral access to public facilities; the master plan for the blending all parks and rec. centers with local public schools won't work well for private entities to have the same access we have had in the past. Public schools would dominate and absorb all available

spaces. Public schools have their own tax funding for such facilities.

- Need better efficient control of lights, water, and better supervision of park employees.
- Establish an equitable facility management plan that performs to serve the community (people) not schools systems exclusively. Fair access to parks for all without discrimination
- Optimize existing facilities
- **Clardy Fox** Area needs a recreational park area and needs to be included in the park development project.
- Consider training teenagers to assist in safety & security, not unlike lifeguards - maybe eagle scouts…
- Need sidewalks to get to parks
- Have more programs like local bands performing in parks.
- Make a water park similar to St Louis'. It had a very large pool, river rafting, water ways, kid pools, and a lot of other entertainment. A very small town had built this park. They charge a fee to enter and had concession stands inside. It paid for itself and kept a lot of kids out of trouble during the summer.
- Would like some skating rinks, we use to have one at Washington park years ago. It kept a lot of kids busy.
- Have a ticket office where kids pay a fee ($15-20); the ticket office would issue a card like a gift card (no money allowed inside the facilities or park) the kids could play and eat from the concession by using the card, that would minimize dope dealers and crime inside facilities/parks. Also provide a channel that the parents can view the kids at the park from home…

EASTSIDE PLANNING SECTOR

- Better use of ponding areas, such as skate parks.
- Football is being neglected… Kids are playing football on soccer fields under no lights! Kids lives are being jeopardized by being in dangerous situations. The gang element has taken over Marty Robbins and we have to put a stop to this! Currently, you can smell they smoke marijuana in the parks; There is lots of theft including cars, and they race in the parking lots.
- Need better security to keep the bad elements away or to curtail it. Need park police to help keep the park secured, better protected, and cleaner.
- Need more shade, trees, lights by the paths that work
- Build rec. centers at the same time as housing is built.
- Don't raise fees, use the smaller private schools and organizations to supplement park maintenance through usage fees. The public schools do not benefit park system.
- **Discrimination**: Partnerships should not be entered into, giving preference to groups or organizations which are already taxpayer supported. E.G. public schools should not have preference for facility use for athletics when they already have them. There has been close to $1 billion in school bonds forced on the taxpayers in the very recent past. All that money is being used for new facilities and renovations – let them use their own! The use of City facilities by Religious or non-religious organizations should not be a factor in deciding who uses them, but all are equals and should be treated as such, without any discrimination. Let the tourists pay for the taxes.
- Bike, motor cross, rollerblading and skateboarding facilities could be a great draw of revenue for our city.
- Balanced fees and taxes are only necessary to provide service not to raise revenues for the City.
- John Lyons, friends of Karl Wyler, a City recognized neighborhood association would like to participate with the City and Parks and Rec. in redevelopment of the Karl Wyler landfill located on Cheryl Ladd Court.
- A better website with information system would increase participation from the community, schools, and the rec. centers themselves, allowing for more monies to be collected.
- Publish ads in the "Diario de El Paso" news paper.
- **Zanagoza, Joe Bathe/Montana** areas are growing fast with children no more than 11 years old.

CENTRAL PLANNING SECTOR

- The parks deserve more money
- If we need more park space, don't pave over portions of parks like they did at Ponder Park, taking away greenscape to replace it with xerescape. People should live 10 minutes from any parks. There should be walking paths through neighborhoods to reach these parks
- Rio Bosque Wetlands Park needs water
- Urban forestry program is desperately needed to address overgrown trees/reforestation of public areas.
- Add art in our parks, more sculptures
- Need more picnic tables and trees in the parks
- Working lights at night
- More playground equipment
- More trash cans
- Add swings in all parks
- School grounds, are not accessible in our area. The gates are locked, gyms in schools are not lent out because of school cut backs. Need more cyclist, joggers, walker's paths to get people off the roads.
- Make more parks like Newman and Memorial parks
- Make more and better use of McKelligan Canyon

WESTSIDE PLANNING SECTOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- This is the last chance El Paso has to protect and incorporate natural areas (arroyos, river habitat) into park systems.
- Provide safe hike and bike trails with lights
- Change impact fees to developers and require them to dedicate land for the trails so that all can be connected. Do not accept park dedication fees instead of requiring developers to donate land for parks – as it is now, a development with 75 homes is not required to donate even 1 acre for a park within the development where children can play. We must find a way to have connecting trails systems for people riding horses, bicycles, and walking and find watching connecting all areas of the upper valley and the Rio Grande.
- Park maintenance needs to be better coordinated, work better with park partners like Frank Manning to coordinate watering, money, trash pickup etc…
- Need better security, lighting, shade over playgrounds and sports fields
- Encourage neighborhood associations to get involved with their parks
- There is a vacant lot **near Sandoval Housing projects** which would be just right for a swimming pool or rec. center. It belongs to the City already. Also it is the most kid populated area in the Westside area.
- **Roberts Neighborhood** has many residents in a small area and we have not had quality of life improvements…
- **Lighting and Shade is necessary everywhere for older citizens to be able to walk in this heat**
- Palm trees don't provide any shade, please plant trees native to the area
- Have a Rec Center
- Have a better marketing plan and work on infrastructure

IV. Final Draft Recommendation Meetings

Three meetings to review the final recommendations were held on July 18, 19, and 31 of 2006 to allow for additional citizen input. Comments included:

- Request for additional attention to competitive swimming facilities
- Request to consider acquiring land downtown for a new plaza and senior recreation facilities at Stanton and Arizona.
- Request to include lands adjacent to Keystone Heritage Park as part of the plan
- Request to include trail opportunities along the Montoya Drain in west El Paso.

These comments have been incorporated into the final plan recommendations.

CHAPTER 5:

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARKS AND REGIONAL FACILITIES

Chapter Contents

I. Neighborhood Parks and Mini Parks
II. Community Parks Needs
III. Regional Parks Needs

Loretto Lincoln, Houston, Doniphan, Los Milagros, and Chuck Heinrich Parks, as pictured on this page, show the great variety of neighborhood parks in El Paso.

I. Neighborhood Parks (including Mini Parks

As previously noted, neighborhood parks provide the foundation for recreation in the El Paso Park system. Since mini parks meet the same needs, they are included in this section with Neighborhood parks.

Key Desirable Characteristics of Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks should be accessible to residents who live within a one-half mile radius of the park. *As a goal of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, neighborhood park facilities should be located within a minimum half-mile radius from the residents that will use those facilities. In the future, a quarter-mile service area radius should be a goal of the system*.

Neighborhood parks are generally located away from major arterial streets and provide easy access for the users that surround it. Ideally, they provide facilities and recreation space for the entire family, but are within easy walking or bicycling distance. *A neighborhood park should be accessible without having to cross any major arterial streets.*

The size of a neighborhood park may vary considerably due to physical locations around the park. *An ideal size for neighborhood parks in El Paso should be around two to five acres.* Parks may range in size from a minimum of two acres to a maximum of 10 acres.

Distribution of Mini and Neighborhood Parks in El Paso

The map on the following page illustrates the location and service areas of neighborhood parks in the city. The circles illustrate a general service area of one-half mile, but this area is smaller in some case where existing neighborhood parks are near major arterial roads.

Other parks, such as community parks and linear parks, where located near neighborhoods, can also provide neighborhood park service. These parks are considered when identifying gaps in neighborhood park service.

Existing Neighborhood Park Context

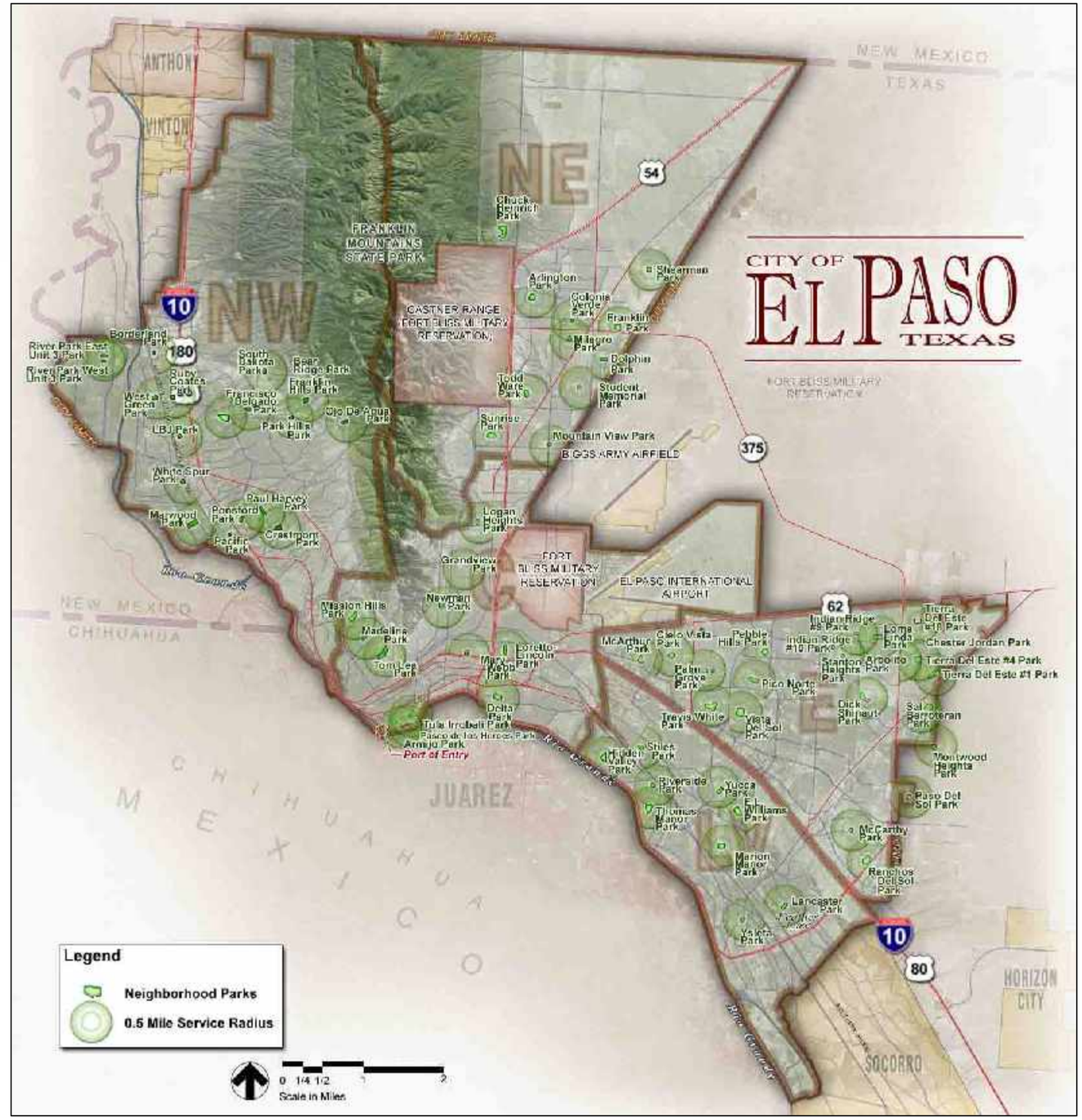
El Paso has a young and active population. It is also a city that is geographically long and linear, resulting in an even greater need for parks that are within each neighborhood or

cluster of neighborhoods.

El Paso has many elementary and middle schools that could provide additional close in park facilities, but security and vandalism concerns in the past have lead to most school play areas being walled off from the neighborhoods around them.

Recent improvements to many of the existing neighborhood parks in the city have greatly improved the quality of those parks.

There has been less of an emphasis on smaller parks within neighborhood over the past two decades. Even with the adoption of a parkland dedication ordinance in the late 1980's, many areas that have been developed over the past two decades have done so without much in the way of new parks. As a result, large areas of the city have few parks that are within or near their neighborhoods.



Existing Neighborhood Parks in El Paso

Existing Level of Service – Neighborhood Parks

The existing level of service for neighborhood parks is shown in the table below. Citywide, the current level of service is just over one acre for every 1,000 residents. In three of the five major planning areas, the level of service is under 50% of the desired amount of neighborhood park land.

Target Level of Service – Neighborhood Parks

To serve an ideal population of no more than 2,000 to 4,000 residents, a target level of service of two to three acres of neighborhood parks for every 1,000 residents has been established.

More importantly, the fundamental goal of the city over the next five to ten years is providing close access to neighborhood parks in all parts of the city.

Neighborhood Needs in Each Planning Area

Neighborhood park needs are discussed on the following pages.

Park Category	Existing Park Acres	2000		Estimated Population 2006		Percentage of Target L.O.S.	Projected Population 2016		Percentage of Target L.O.S.	Projected Population 2020		Percentage of Target L.O.S.
		Population	L.O.S.	Population	L.O.S.		Population	L.O.S.		Population	L.O.S.	
Mini Parks							**0.25**	**Acres per 1000 residents**				
Central	10.39	74,026	0.14	120,049	0.08		125,132	0.08				Combined
East	5.27	154,554	0.03	197,463	0.03		217,281	0.02				with Neighbor-
Mission Valley	3.90	104,956	0.04	101,450	0.04		111,194	0.04				hood Parks
Northeast	2.50	114,121	0.02	91,349	0.03		118,796	0.02				
Northwest	18.04	115,634	0.16	105,555	0.18		165,864	0.11				
Hueco				**12,287**								
Fort Bliss				**6,663**								
Citywide	**40.10**	**563,300**	**0.071**	**604,156**	**0.066**		**692,400**	**0.058**		**767,750**	**0.052**	
Neighborhood Parks							**2.00**	**Acres per 1000 residents**				
Central	34.53	74,026	**0.47**	120,049	0.28	**14%**	125,132	0.28	**22%**			
East	136.93	154,554	**0.89**	197,463	0.77	39%	217,281	0.63	32%			
Mission Valley	68.72	104,956	0.65	101,450	0.64	**32%**	111,194	0.62	31%			
Northeast	60.20	114,121	**0.53**	91,349	0.62	**31%**	118,796	0.51	**25%**			
Northwest	136.61	115,634	1.18	105,555	1.39	69%	165,864	0.82	41%			
Citywide	**436.99**	**563,300**	**0.776**	**604,156**	**0.723**	**36%**	**692,400**	**0.631**	**32%**	**767,750**	**0.569**	**28%**

The Northeast Planning area currently has 12 neighborhood parks and 1 mini park. **The current level of service is approximately ½ acre for every 1,000 residents.** Parks are generally well located and adequately sized. The close proximity of the Franklin Mountains serves as a spectacular backdrop for parks in the area.

Summary of Neighborhood Parks in the Northeast Planning Area

NORTHEAST PLANNING SECTOR										
Park Name and Size										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys
Wellington Chew		2	4430 Maxwell Ave.	NE	1	Neighborhood	3.00	2.60		Auto
Dolphin		2	5900 Marlin Dr.	NE	2	Neighborhood	4.00	4.00		Auto
Logan		2	5500 Byron St.	NE	2	Neighborhood	2.7ad8	2.28		Auto
Shearman	Tiger Eye	2	5820 Tiger Eye Dr.	NE	2	Neighborhood	4.00	1.82		Auto
Sunrise		2	3800 Sunrise Ave.	NE	2	Neighborhood	8.00	7.78		Auto
Arlington		2	10350 Pasadena Cir.	NE	4	Neighborhood	7.84	7.64		Auto
Colonia Verde		2	5452 Ketchikan St.	NE	4	Neighborhood	2.06	2.06		Auto
Franklin		2	6050 Quail Ave.	NE	4	Neighborhood	10.00	9.88		Auto
Milagro		2	5310 Annette Ave.	NE	4	Neighborhood	2.78	2.78		Auto
Mountain View		1	8400 Diana Dr.	NE	4	Neighborhood	5.95	5.75		Auto
Student Memorial		2	9425 Vicksburg Dr.	NE	4	Neighborhood	2.29	2.29		Auto
Todd Ware	Site "O"	1	4600 Stahala Dr.	NE	8	Neighborhood	7.50	7.50		Auto
Acreage and Facility Totals							60.20	56.38		
Neighborhood Park Level of Service in the Central District										
Year 2006					0.53	Acres per 1000 residents				
Year 2016					0.36	Acres per 1000 residents				

Northeast Area - Neighborhood Parks

Existing Condition

- The current population is approaching 100,000 residents, but significant growth is expected in the next five years as Fort Bliss is expanded.
- The area has 60 acres of neighborhood parks.

Current Land Needs

- For the current population, a total of at least 200 acres of neighborhood and mini parks are desired.
- **The current deficit of neighborhood parks is over 140 acres**.
- **The current acreage is only 25% of the minimum target goal**.

Future Land Needs

- The area is projected to have over 120,000 residents by the year 2016.
- The neighborhood park needs for 120,000 residents in the year 2016 are approximately 240 to 360 acres of neighborhood parks.
- **The neighborhood land deficit by the year 2016 will be 180 to 300+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**

Distribution Issues – Areas with poor or no neighborhood service include:

- Distribution of parks throughout the area is better than in other parts of the city.
- New developments north of Highway 54 should continue to focus on providing a balanced distribution of neighborhood parks.
- Areas east of Loop 375 and south of Edgemere – significant parks are planned for this area, but must be followed through and completed.

Potential Solutions

- The area has 17 elementary schools. The open play areas of these schools total over 60 acres, and would help to increase the amount of available play area in the city (could add 60 acres of park lands). Middle school lands may be used if appropriate.
- Drainage canals in this area could be used to link parks together.

Areas where future neighborhood parks will be needed in the Northeast Planning Area

EAST PLANNING SECTOR

Park Name and Size										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water System
Arbolito		2		E	3	Neighborhood	1.41			Auto
Indian Ridge 10		2	3332 Pendelton	E	3	Neighborhood	2.00	2.00		Auto
Tierra Del Este #18	Proposed	2	12333 Tierra Volcan Ave	E	3	Neighborhood	3.095			
Chester Jordan	Hambrick	1	Nolan Richardson	E	5	Neighborhood	10.00	10.00		Auto
Cielo Vista		1	9030 Cosmos Ave.	E	5	Neighborhood	6.60	5.30		Manual
Dick Shinaut	Saul Kleinfeld	1	11701 Rufus Brijalba	E	5	Neighborhood	14.50	14.00		Auto
McCarthy Park		2	1170 John Phelan Dr.	E	5	Neighborhood	2.25			Auto
Montwood Heights	1259 Windermere	1	Flora Alba	E	5	Neighborhood	5.00	0.00		None
Palm Grove		2	10001 Sumatra St.	E	5	Neighborhood	5.59	5.59		Auto
Paseo Del Sol	Annexed		Joe Battle and Vista Del Sol	E	5	Neighborhood	7.13	6.28		None
Ranchos Del Sol	4.25 + 10 acres	1	1100 Ted Houghton Dr.	E	5	Neighborhood	14.25			None
Sal Berroteran	Sun Ridge	1	2171 Sun Country Dr.	E	5	Neighborhood	10.00	10.00		Auto
Stanton Heights		2	11520 Edward James	E	5	Neighborhood	2.00	2.00		Auto
Loma Linda Park		2	11600 Bell Tower Dr.	E	6	Neighborhood	2.00	2.00		Auto
Mcarthur		2	738 Gerald	E	6	Neighborhood	6.00	1.00		Manual
Pebble Hills		1	3200 Fierro Dr.	E	6	Neighborhood	9.70	9.00		Auto
Pico Norte		1	10655 Pico Norte Rd.	E	6	Neighborhood	11.00	11.00		Auto
Travis White		2	1700 Wedgewood Dr.	E	6	Neighborhood	14.40	14.40		Auto
Tierra Del Este #4		1	Tierra Este	E	7	Neighborhood	10.00	10.00		Auto
Acreage and Facility Totals							**136.93**	**102.57**		
Neighborhood Park Level of Service in the Central District										
Year 2006					**0.89**	**Acres per 1000 residents**				
Year 2016					**0.83**	**Acres per 1000 residents**				

Summary of Neighborhood Parks in the East Side Planning Area

East Side Neighborhood Parks

Existing Condition

- The current population is approaching 180,000 residents
- Area only has 137 acres to serve a population approaching 180,000 residents.

Current Land Needs

- For the current population, a total of at least 360 acres of neighborhood and mini parks are desired.
- **The current deficit of neighborhood parks is over 220 acres**.
- A very high rate of growth, coupled with very little park development has left this area with the most significant neighborhood park deficit in the city.

Future Land Needs

- The area is projected to have over 220,000 residents by the year 2016.
- The neighborhood park needs for that population are 440 to 660 acres of park or open play area.
- **The neighborhood land deficit by the year 2016 will be 300 to 520+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**

Distribution Issues – Areas with poor or no neighborhood service include:

- Area between Lee Trevino Drive and Saul Kleinfeld Drive – up to five neighborhood parks are needed in this area
- Area between Edgemere and Montana, east of Loop 375
- Areas east of Loop 375 and south of Edgemere – significant parks are planned for this area, but must be followed through and completed.

Potential Solutions

- The area has a total of 20 elementary schools and 10 middle schools. The open play areas of these schools total over 100 acres, and would dramatically increase the amount of land available for nearby park usage. (can add up to 100 acres of play area)
- Detention basins – three to four detention basins should be identified and converted into small parks. (can add up to 20 acres in the developed portions of the planning area.

Park zones in the East Side Planning Area with most critical neighborhood facility deficiencies.

The Mission Valley planning area has nine neighborhood park sites and four pocket parks, for a total of 73 acres of small parks. These parks serve a population of 101,450 residents, with a service ratio of 0.65 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Most neighborhood parks in the area are large. However, their service areas are too large, resulting in large portions of the area that are much more than one-half mile away from a park site.

While growth in this planning area is slower and more stable than other parts of the city, the level of service is still only 33% of the target level set by the Master Plan.

Summary of Neighborhood Parks in the Mission Valley Planning Area

MISSION VALLEY PLANNING SECTOR

Park Name and Size										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys
Lomaland		1	715 Lomita Dr.	LV	3	Neighborhood	10.90	9.80		Auto
Marian Manor		1	8343 Clifford Ct.	LV	3	Neighborhood	9.10	8.50		Auto
William, E.L.	Lafayette		752 Lafayette Dr.	LV	4	Neighborhood	6.00	1.50		Auto
Ysleta		2	9068 Socorro Rd.	LV	4	Neighborhood	3.60	2.00		Auto
Thomas Manor		2	7901 Knights Dr.	LV	6	Neighborhood	12.20	9.20		Manual
Hidden Valley	Cowboy	1	200 Coconut Tree Ln.	LV	7	Neighborhood	10.00	9.00		Auto
Lancaster		2	701 Brandywine Rd.	LV	7	Neighborhood	5.62	3.00		Auto
Riverside		2	7600 Alameda Ave.	LV	7	Neighborhood	4.30	4.10		Auto
Stiles		2	7325 Stiles Dr.	LV	7	Neighborhood	7.00	6.70		Auto
Acreage and Facility Totals							68.72	53.80		
Neighborhood Park Level of Service in the Central District										
Year 2006					0.65	Acres per 1000 residents				
Year 2016					0.41	Acres per 1000 residents				

Mission Valley Neighborhood Parks

Existing Condition

- The current population is approaching 101,450 residents
- Area only has 137 acres to serve a population approaching 101,450 residents.

Current Land Needs

- For the current population, a total of at least 360 acres of neighborhood and mini parks are desired.
- **The current deficit of neighborhood parks is over 220 acres**.
- A very high rate of growth, coupled with very little park development has left this area with the most significant neighborhood park deficit in the city.

Future Land Needs

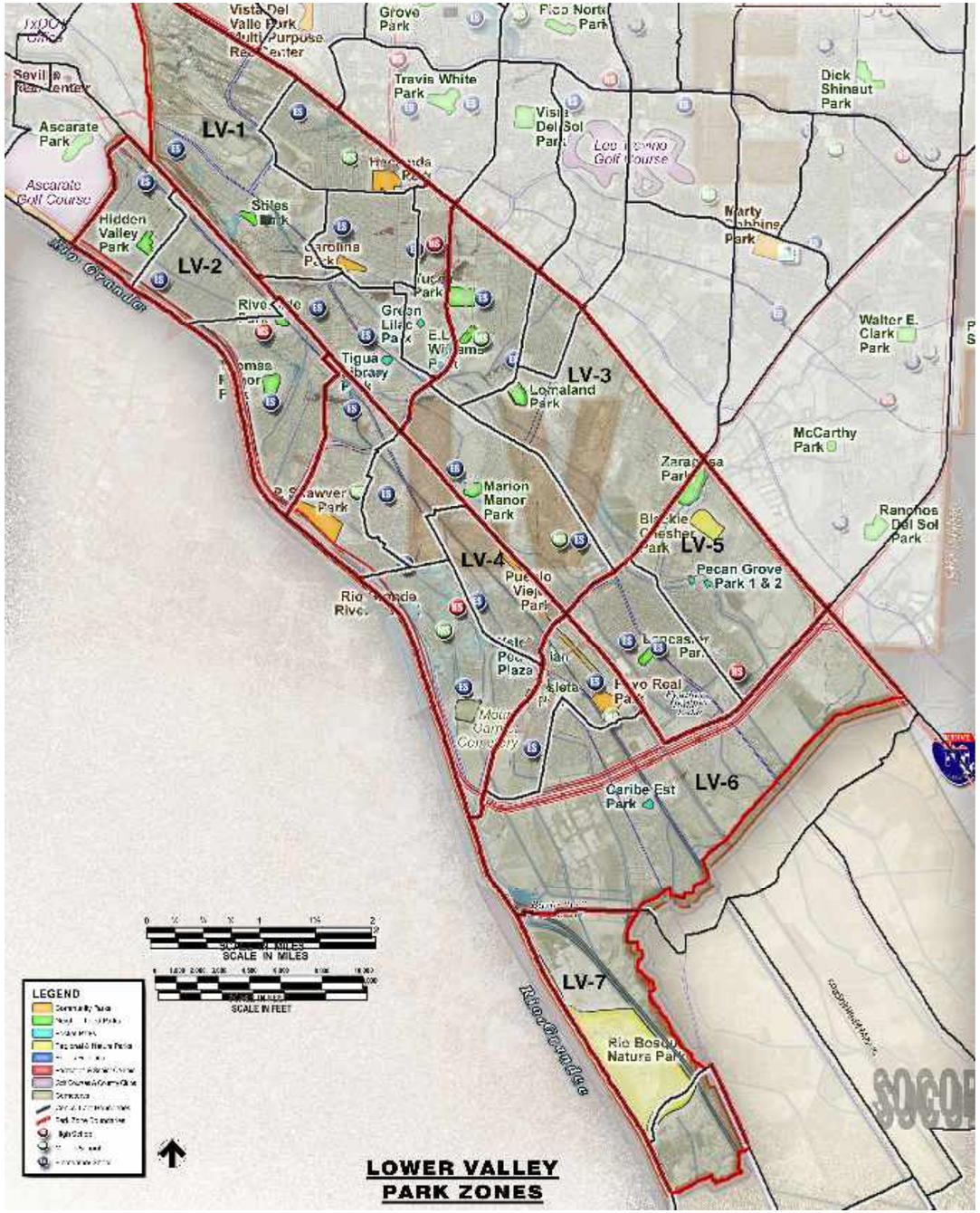
- The area is projected to have over 109,117 residents by the year 2016
- The neighborhood park needs for that population are 440 to 660 acres of park or open play area.
- **The neighborhood land deficit by the year 2016 will be 300 to 520+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**

Distribution Issues – Areas with poor or no neighborhood service include:

- Area between Lee Trevino Drive and Saul Kleinfeld Drive – up to five neighborhood parks are needed in this area
- Area between Edgemere and Montana, east of Loop 375
- Areas east of Loop 375 and south of Edgemere – significant parks are planned for this area, but must be followed through and completed.

Potential Solutions

- The area has a total of 20 elementary schools and 10 middle schools. The open play areas of these schools total over 100 acres, and would dramatically increase the amount of land available for nearby park usage. (can add up to 100 acres of play area)
- Detention basins – three to four detention basins should be identified and converted into small parks. (can add up to 20 acres in the developed portions of the planning area.



Summary of Neighborhood Parks in the Mission Valley Planning Area

Central Area Neighborhood Parks

Park Name and Size										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys
De Vargas		2	643 De Vargas Dr.	C	2	Neighborhood	2.08	2.08		Auto
Loretto - Lincoln		1	4500 E. Yandell Dr.	C	2	Neighborhood	4.24	4.10		Auto
Paseo De Los Heroes		2	601 E. Eighth St.	C	5	Neighborhood	2.00	1.20		Auto
Tula Irrobali	Alamo	2	601 S. Park St.	C	5	Neighborhood	2.00	1.75		Auto
Armijo Park	Marcos B . Armijo	2	710 E. Seventh Ave.	C	8	Neighborhood	4.80	1.54		Auto
Delta		1	4321 Delta Dr.	C	8	Neighborhood	12.36	9.00		Auto
Mary Webb		1	3401 E. Missouri Ave.	C	8	Neighborhood	2.05	1.72		Auto
Newman		2	2212 Alabama St.	C	8	Neighborhood	5.00	5.00		Auto
Acreage and Facility Totals							**34.53**	**26.39**		
Neighborhood Park Level of Service in the Central District										
Year 2006					**0.29**	**Acres per 1000 residents**				
Year 2016					**0.28**	**Acres per 1000 residents**				

The Central Planning area is growing at a slower rate than the remainder of the city, but is also in a position of significant need when it comes to parks. But a re-birth of the area is also happening, pushed in part by the promise of significant downtown revitalization efforts. There remains a critical need for smaller, close-in parks in this planning zone. The current ratio of neighborhood and mini parks to population is just over 0.29 acres for every 1,000 residents, or under 15% of the citywide goal. As the area's population increases over the next decade, the ratio will decrease to 0.28 acres per 1,000, which is only 14% of the target level of service.

For this area, which has a higher density than other parts of the city, the focus should primarily be on close in service. Ease of walking is greater in the central area, and therefore the emphasis can be on a greater number of smaller parks that are very close to every neighborhood.

Private and governmental redevelopment projects in the area should be designed to include a balance of both larger and smaller parks.

Central Area Neighborhood Parks

Existing Condition

- The current population is stabilizing and will probably increase slightly over the next decade. Unlike other zones, both quantity and the distribution of park space is an issue.
- The current population is approximately 121,000 residents.

Current Land Needs

- For the current population, a total of at least 250 acres of neighborhood and mini parks are desired.
- **The current deficit of neighborhood parks is almost 215 acres**.
- **The areas only has only 15% of the citywide goal**.

Future Land Needs

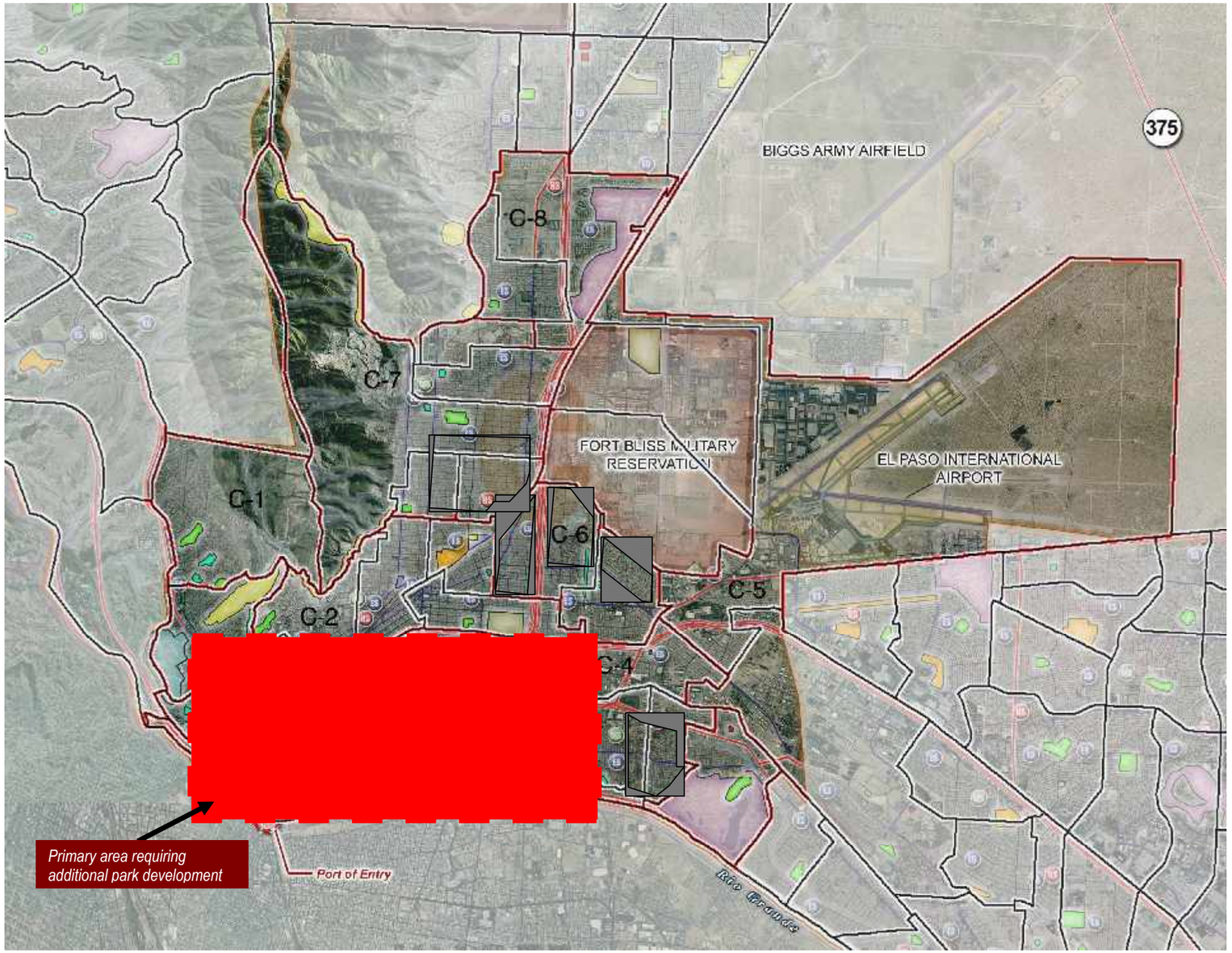
- The neighborhood park needs for the year 2016 will be 260 acres of park or open play area.
- **The neighborhood land deficit by the year 2016 will be over 200+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**
- **A minimum of at least 100 new acres of neighborhood parks should be established as a goal over the next decade.**

Distribution Issues – Areas with poor or no neighborhood service include:

- The neighborhood east of Hwy 54 and north of IH 10 lacks at least two small neighborhood parks.
- The areas north and south of Grandview Park lack adequate neighborhood park service.

Potential Solutions

- Focus in this area should be on providing smaller parks in closer proximity to the neighborhoods in the area.
- The target goal for this area will remain the citywide goal.
- Redevelopment in the area should always include adding small park spaces.



Key areas where additional neighborhood parks are needed in the Central Planning area.

The Northwest is growing rapidly, in part because of the availability of land for development. The area has 19 neighborhood and 15 mini parks, giving it more small parks than any other region of the city. But the high ratio of small parks leaves the area with a significant land deficiency and poor distribution of parks.

NORTHWEST PLANNING SECTOR

Park Name and Size										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys
Crestmont		2	515 Chermont Dr.	NW	1	Neighborhood	7.00	7.00		Auto
Francisco Delgado	Falcon Hills	2	7020 Imperial Ridge Dr.	NW	1	Neighborhood	4.50	4.00		Auto
Franklin Hills		2	Franklin Hills & High Ridge	NW	1	Neighborhood	5.00	1.00	4.00	Auto
Madeline		1	900 E. Baltimore Dr.	NW	1	Neighborhood	4.55	4.50		Auto
Mission Hills		1	3800 O'Keefe Dr.	NW	1	Neighborhood	10.80	10.75		Auto
Paul Harvey		2	6220 Belton Rd.	NW	1	Neighborhood	8.07	8.00		Auto
Ponsford, H.T.	Ponsford	2	6201 Marcena St.	NW	1	Neighborhood	4.85	4.80		Manual
River Park West Unit 3		2	720 Esmeralda	NW	1	Neighborhood	3.31	3.31		Auto
Ruby Coates	Proposed	2	Coates	NW	1	Neighborhood	3.20	3.20		Auto
South Dakota Pk.	6805 Dakota Rd	1	6811 Dakota Ridge Dr.	NW	1	Neighborhood	3.63	3.63		None
Thorn		2	5260 Mace St.	NW	1	Neighborhood	3.45	3.40		Auto
Three Hills	Redd Rd. #23	2	Redd Rd. / Thorn Ave.	NW	1	Neighborhood	14.10	10.00		None
Bear Ridge	Franklyn Hills		Bear Ridge	NW	3	Neighborhood	20.00			None
Arroyo			700 E. Robinson Ave.	NW	8	Neighborhood	5.00	00.00	55.00	None
Lambka, Irwin J	Cloudview	1	6600 Cloudview Dr.	NW	8	Neighborhood	13.20	12.86		Manual
Marwood		1	4325 River Bend Dr.	NW	8	Neighborhood	12.50	12.15		Auto
Pacific		2	3905 Hidden Way	NW	8	Neighborhood	2.00	1.85		Auto
Park Hills	Ojo De Aqua	2	1001 Calle Parque	NW	8	Neighborhood	3.45	1.50		Auto
Tom Lea (Lower)	Brown Street Pk.	2	1203 Schuster Ave.	NW	8	Neighborhood	8.00	3.00		Manual
Acreage and Facility Totals							**136.61**	**94.95**		
Neighborhood Park Level of Service in the Central District										
Year 2006					**1.18**	**Acres per 1000 residents**				
Year 2016					**0.82**	**Acres per 1000 residents**				

Northwest Planning Area Neighborhood Parks

Existing Condition

- The Northwest will continue to grow rapidly over the next decade, and long term will have much of the future population of the city.
- The current population is approximately 105,555 residents.
- The area has 154 acres of mini and neighborhood parks.

Current Land Needs

- For the current population, a total of at least 232 acres of neighborhood and mini parks are desired.
- **The current deficit of neighborhood parks is approximately 76 acres**.
- **The areas only has 66% of the minimum citywide target level of service**.

Future Land Needs

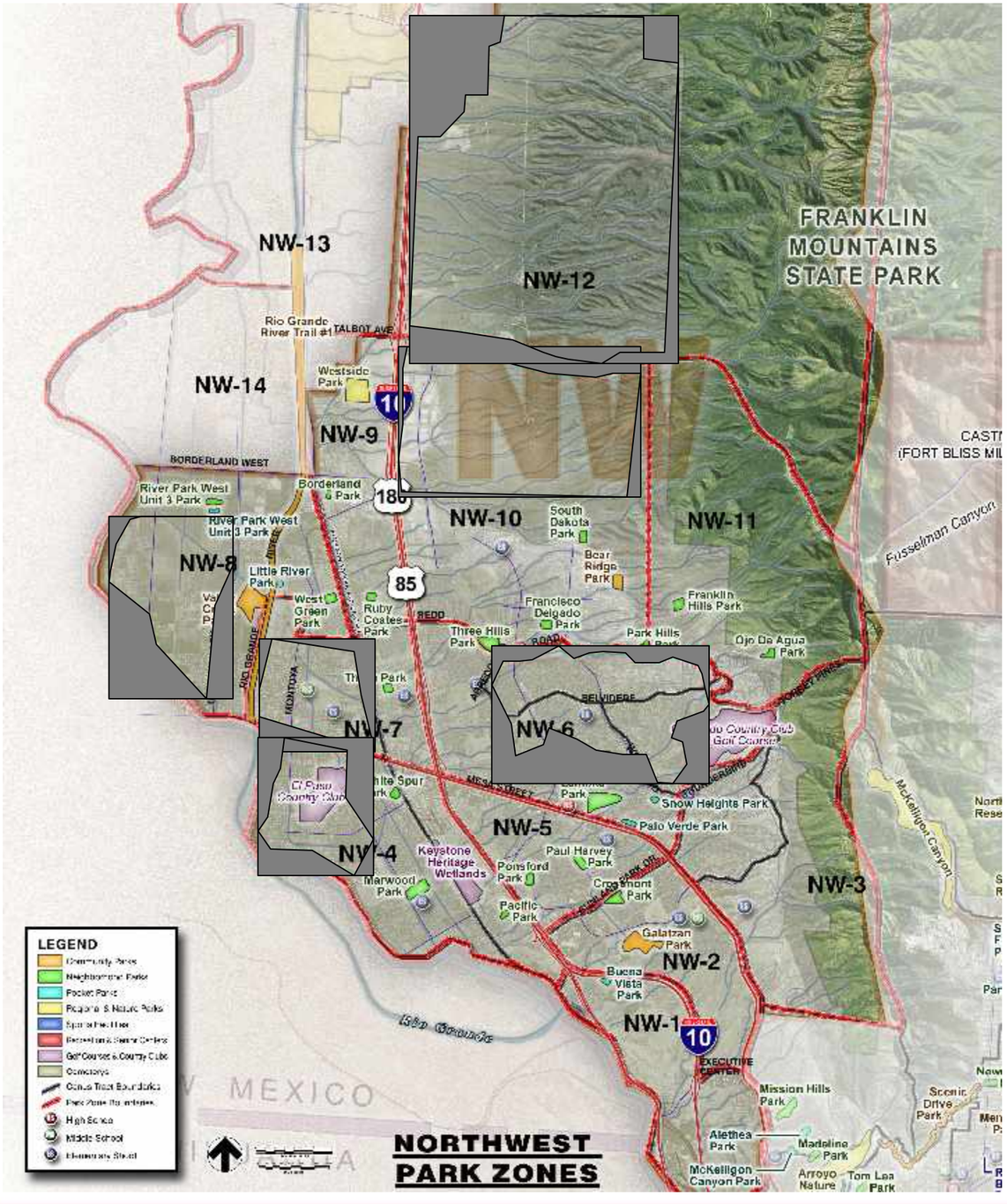
- The projected population by the year 2016 is 148,332.
- The neighborhood park needs for the year 2016 will be 330 acres of park or open play area.
- **The neighborhood land deficit by the year 2016 will be over 170+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**

Distribution Issues – Areas with poor or no neighborhood service include:

- The most significant deficiencies in the area occur west of IH 10 and the Rio Grande river.
- The area between Mesa, High Ridge to the north, and Resler to the west has a significant lack of small parks.

Potential Solutions

- New development west of IH 10 and north of Helen of Troy must provide significant neighborhood park service.
- New schools in the area can defray some of the land needs.
- Parks should be placed adjacent to open space corridors for linkage.



Key areas with neighborhood park service needs in the Northwest Planning area

Neighborhood Park Priorities and Summary of Key Recommendations

Based on the areas by area needs, the key small park needs are shown on the following page. Projected costs include allowances for land and development, as well as an administrative and design factor.

Neighborhood Park Priority Recommendations

Priority	Action	Park Zone	Projected New Acres	Acquisition Potential Cost Range		Development Potential Cost Range		Rationale for Need
Short Term Actions – The Plan for Today				**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	
1	**Identify and develop three to four school / park sites in the east side between Saul Kleinfeld and Lee Trevino Drive. (land contributed as part of previously developed schools)**	E-3, E-4, E-5, and E-6	12	$0	$0	$1,250,000	$1,750,000	No small park service in fully developed neighborhoods
2	**Redevelop Tula Irrobali Park**	C-3	0	$0	$0	$400,000	$750,000	Critical park for this area, heavily used
3	**Create five neighborhood parks in the Central Area in Park Zones C-3 and C-4 (land donated as part of development or acquired).**	C-3, C-4	10	$0	$2,000,000	$1,000,000	$3,000,000	Lowest park to population ratio in city at 0.35 per 1,000
4	**Identify and develop a neighborhood park in Zone C-6**	C-6		$100,000	$250,000	$350,000	$500,000	No current park service in the area
5	**Identify and develop three school park sites in Mission Valley Park Zones LV-3 and LV-4**	LV-3, LV-4		$0	$0	$500,000	$1,000,000	No park service in these areas.
6	**Identify site and develop one to two neighborhood parks in Mission Valley Park Zone LV-2.**	LV-2	6	$100,000	$250,000	$400,000	$1,000,000	No nearby park service in these areas
7	**Identify site and develop a small park in Zone NW-6. This may be a school park if feasible.**	NW-6	3	$0	$200,000	$250,000	$500,000	Fully developed area with no small park service. Other larger parks a mile away.
8	**Identify and develop small park sites in Park Zones NW-4 and NW-8 on the west side**	NW-4, NW-8		$100,000	$250,000	$400,000	$1,000,000	No close in park service, area is lower density but is expected to increase in density
9	**Re-develop Thorn Park**	NW-7	0	$0	$0	$300,000	$500,000	Significant nearby population, park facilities are older and underdeveloped
Estimated Total - Short Term			**31**	**$300,000**	**$2,950,000**	**$4,850,000**	**$10,000,000**	
Longer Term Actions – The Plan for A Bright Future								
10	**Assist with neighborhood parks in far east area as development occurs. Land acquired through dedication. Ten new parks projected through 2016**	E-7, E-8	40	$0	$0	$2,500,000	$3,000,000	Development already beginning, addresses need earlier on than previously done on the east side. City cost is to supplement development construction
11	**Convert Chelsea Pool site into neighborhood park. Include spray ground feature. Construct new pool at other location nearby.**	C-6	0	$0	$0	$400,000	$750,000	Provides much needed park facilities if pool is closed.
12	**Assist with neighborhood parks in far west area as development occurs. Land acquired through dedication. Eight new parks projected through 2016**	NW-11, NW-12, NW-13	30	$0	$0	$2,000,000	$2,400,000	Development already beginning, addresses need earlier. City cost is to supplement development construction
13	**Assist with development of neighborhood parks in northeast area as development occurs. Land acquired through dedication. Six new parks projected through year 2016**	NE-7, NE-8	20	$0	$0	$1,500,000	$1,800,000	Development already beginning, addresses need as population and need grows. City cost is to supplement development construction
Estimated Total - Long Term			**90**	**$0**	**$0**	**$6,400,000**	**$7,950,000**	

II. Community Parks Needs

Community Parks represent the most active component of the outdoor park system. In essence, community parks are where most residents will go to for everyday activities, such as sports practices and games, pickup play on large open fields, and to use indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities.

Key Desirable Characteristics of Community Parks

Community parks are usually reached by automobiles, although residents adjacent to the park and trail users may walk or bicycle to it. A variety of recreational facilities are provided, including in some cases, lighted playing fields for organized sports, hike/bike trails and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other park users. Memorial Park is an ideal example of a well located community park with a variety of facilities.

Size - The typical community park should be large enough so it can provide a variety of facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas. The park should also have room for expansion, as new facilities are required. A typical community park varies in size from 10 acres to over 50 acres.

Community parks are located adjacent to major thoroughfares to provide easy access from different parts of the city. Because of the potential for noise and bright lights at night, community parks should be buffered from adjacent residential areas.

Existing Community Park Context

El Paso currently has 27 community parks, with a total of 853 acres. The East Side has the highest number of community parks, with seven, but five of those parks are 20 acres in size or smaller, resulting in a lower level of service. West and Central El Paso only have four community parks each.

Many of El Paso's community parks are in the 10 to 20 acre range, which is small for the high number of residents that use these parks.

Existing Level of Service – Community Parks

The existing level of service for community parks is shown in the table below. **Citywide, the current level of service is just over 1.41 acres for every 1,000 residents.** In four out of the five major planning areas, the level of service is less than 1.5 acres per 1,000, and represents only 33% of the desired amount of community park land.

The lack of community park lands results in overuse of the existing parks. The lack of land also means that all available space in each park needs to be used for facilities of some sort, leaving very little in open, unorganized park space. Album and Memorial Parks are the only two larger community parks that have some unutilized park space.

Target Level of Service – Community Parks

A target level of 4 acres of community parks for every 1,000 residents is recommended by this plan. This level provides adequate space for active sports and activities, and allows portions of each park to recuperate after periods of intense use. Citywide, El Paso is at 33% of the recommended target goal.

Distribution of Community Parks in El Paso

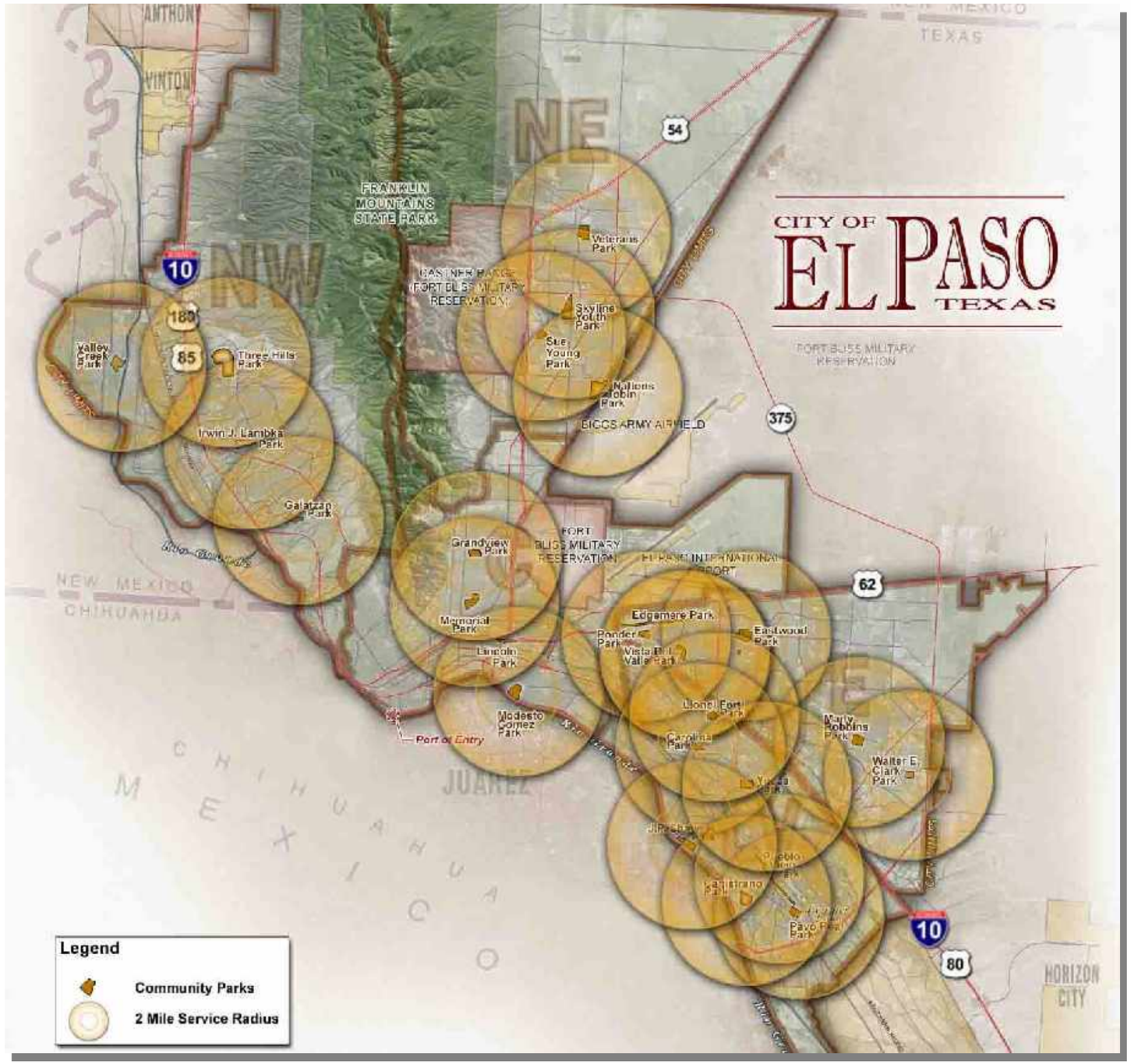
The map on the following page illustrates the location and service areas of community parks in the city. The circles illustrate a general service radius of 2 miles.

Key Community Needs in Each Planning Area

Area by area community park needs are discussed on the following pages.

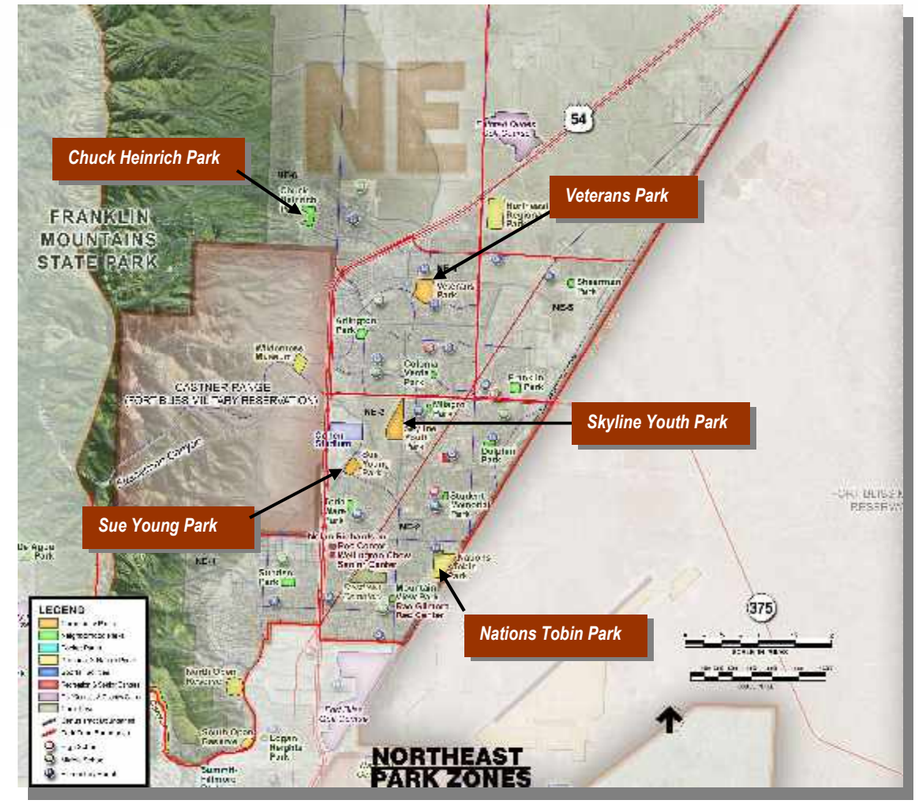
Galatzan Park has a variety of facilities, ranging from including soccer fields, trails, picnic areas, a recreation center, pool and spectacular views.

	Existing Park Acres	2000		Estimated Population 2006		Percent of Target L.O.S.	Estimated Population 2016		Percent of Target L.O.S.	Projected Population 2020	
		Population	Acres per 1000 residents	Population	Acres per 1000 residents		Population	Acres per 1000 residents		Population	Acres per 1000 residents
Central	113.19	123,858	**0.91**	120,049	**0.94**	23%	125,132	**0.90**	23%	-	-
East	173.02	153,194	**1.12**	197,463	**0.88**	24%	240,584	**0.72**	18%	-	-
Mission Valley	151.46	100,001	**1.47**	101,450	**1.49**	35%	109,117	**1.39**	35%	-	-
Northeast	302.60	92,761	**3.26**	91,349	**3.31**	78%	115,128	**2.63**	66%	-	-
Northwest	112.40	90,848	**1.24**	105,555	**1.06**	29%	148,332	**0.76**	19%	-	-
Fort Bliss				6,663	**NA**	NA	8,854	**NA**	NA	-	-
Hueco				12,287	**0**	0	15,923	**0**	0	-	-
Citywide	**852.67**	**563,662**	**1.514**	**634,816**	**1.411**	**35%**	**765,085**	**1.11**	**28%**	**767,750**	**1.111**



Community Parks Service Areas For all Planning Areas

NORTHEAST PLANNING SECTOR										
Park Name and Size										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys
Nations Tobin		1	8831 Railroad Dr.	NE	2	Community	44.00	42.30		Auto
Skyline Youth		1	5050 Yvette Ave.	NE	4	Community	172.00	24.90	147.10	Auto
Sue Young		1	9730 Diana Dr.	NE	4	Community	25.20	24.70		Auto
Veterans		1	5301 Salem Dr.	NE	4	Community	44.00	41.00		Auto
Chuck Heinrich		2	11055 Loma Del Norte Dr.	NE	4	Community	17.40	17.40		Auto
Acreage and Facility Totals							302.60	150.30		
Community Park Level of Service in the Central District										
Year 2006					3.11	Acres per 1000 residents				
Year 2016					2.63	Acres per 1000 residents				



Northeast Area Community Parks

The northeast area has five community parks with a combined 302 acres. The level of service is 2.65 acres for every 1,000 residents, which is by far the highest in the city, but does include 150 acres of Skyline Youth Park that are not developed and that more aptly should be considered open space. Chuck Heinrich Park, at 17 acres is the smallest community park, and in reality is closer to a neighborhood park than the other four parks.

The five parks are also well dispersed in the area that they serve, and each has its own character and range of facilities. Veterans Park is a perfect prototype for community parks throughout the city – it has a multitude of facilities, is centered in the area that it serves, and is easily accessed from several routes. The park is well maintained and only lacks additional shade structures to increase summertime use.

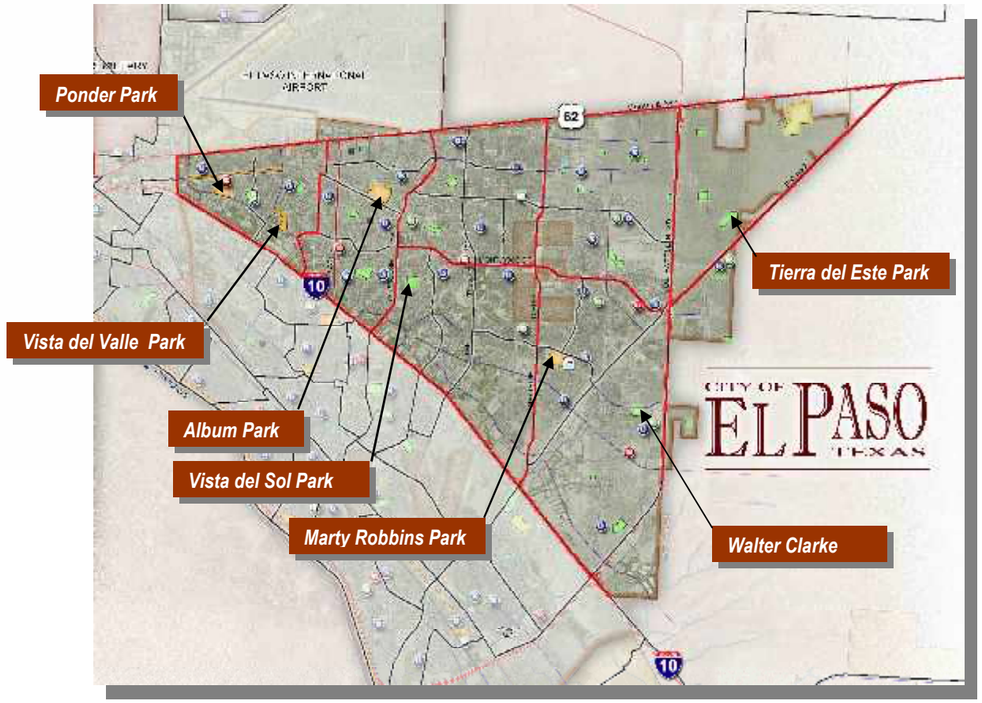
Northeast Community Parks

Current Land Needs

- For the current population, a total of at 460 acres of larger parks are desired.
- Combined with the Northeast Regional Park, the area still lacks 50 acres to meet the needs of the current population.

Future Land Needs

- The area is projected to have over 115,128 residents by the year 2016.
- **The community park land deficit by the year 2016 will be 120+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**



East Side Community Parks

Current Land Needs

- For the current population, a total of at 700 acres of larger parks are desired.
- The area only has 173 acres, resulting in a deficit of over 500 acres.
- The area does have two of the best community parks in the city, in Album Park and Marty Robbins Park.

Future Land Needs

- With a population of over 240,584 by the year 2016, the target level of service is over 860 acres.
- **The community park land deficit by the year 2016 will be over 680+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**
- **This deficit is the most critical community park need in the city.**

East Side Area Community Parks

The East Side has a very large population served by very few large parks. Marty Robbins and Album Parks serve the central part of the area, but the fast growing far eastern sector of the city has no large developed parks. The level of service is under 1 acre for every 1,000 residents, which is the second poorest level of service in the city.

The city does have a 90 acre tract of land reserved for a regional park on the far east side of the city, but development of that park is still several years out. A minimum of two additional large parks should be planned for the area in the future, and additional land for other medium to small sized community parks should be acquired in the near future as development occurs.

EAST PLANNING SECTOR										
Park Name and Size										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys
Ponder		1	7500 Burgess Dr.	E	3	Community	23.10	21.75		Auto
Vista Del Valle		1	1288 Hawkins Blvd.	E	3	Community	22.13	16.00		Auto
Eastwood	Album	1	3110 Parkwood St.	E	5	Community	47.04	40.00		Auto
Tierra Del Este #1		1	12515 Tierra Norte	E	5	Community	17.25	5.00		Auto
Marty Robbins		1	11600 Vista Del Sol Dr.	E	6	Community	31.00	30.00		Auto
Walter Clarke		1	1519 Bob Hope Dr.	E	6	Community	16.50	16.00		Auto
Vista Del Sol		1	1900 Trawood Dr.	E	7	Community	16.00	15.50		Auto
Acreage and Facility Totals							173.02	144.25		
Community Park Level of Service in the Central District										
Year 2006					0.98	Acres per 1000 residents				
Year 2016					0.80	Acres per 1000 residents				

Lower Valley Community Parks

The Lower Valley also has seven community parks, with a total park acreage of 151 acres. The parks range in size from Shawver, at 41 acres to Carolina Park, at just over 10 acres in size. Blackie Chesser Park, also located in this planning area, is classified as a regional park but provides community park service as well.

The level of service is just over 1.4 acre for every 1,000 residents, and is third best in the city behind the central and northeast sectors. However, the long linear configuration of this planning area results in long travel distances to parks in the area.

The acquisition and redevelopment of Ascarate Park could provide significant additional regional parkland for the area. Expansion of Yucca Park could also provide addional parkland for the area.

Yucca Park is completely developed, but could be expanded by acquiring adjacent property. Shawver and Pavo Real Parks could be further developed to add more varied features.

LOWER VALLEY PLANNING SECTOR										
Park Name and Size										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys
Carolina		1	563 N. Carolina Dr.	LV	3	Community	10.56	5.60		Auto
Lionel Forti	Hacienda	1	7735 Phoenix Ave.	LV	3	Community	23.40	20.90		Auto
Capistrano		1	8700 Padilla Dr.	LV	6	Community	18.00	15.00		Auto
Pavo Real		1	9301 Alameda Ave.	LV	6	Community	20.00	17.00		Auto
Pueblo Viejo		2	Roseway Dr. E. to Presa Pl.	LV	6	Community	22.00	17.00		Auto
Shawver, J.P.		1	8100 Independence	LV	7	Community	40.90	37.60		Auto
Yucca		1	7975 Williamette Ave.	LV	7	Community	16.60	15.10		Auto
Acreage and Facility Totals							151.46	128.20		
Community Park Level of Service in the Central District										
Year 2006					1.49	Acres per 1000 residents				
Year 2016					1.39	Acres per 1000 residents				

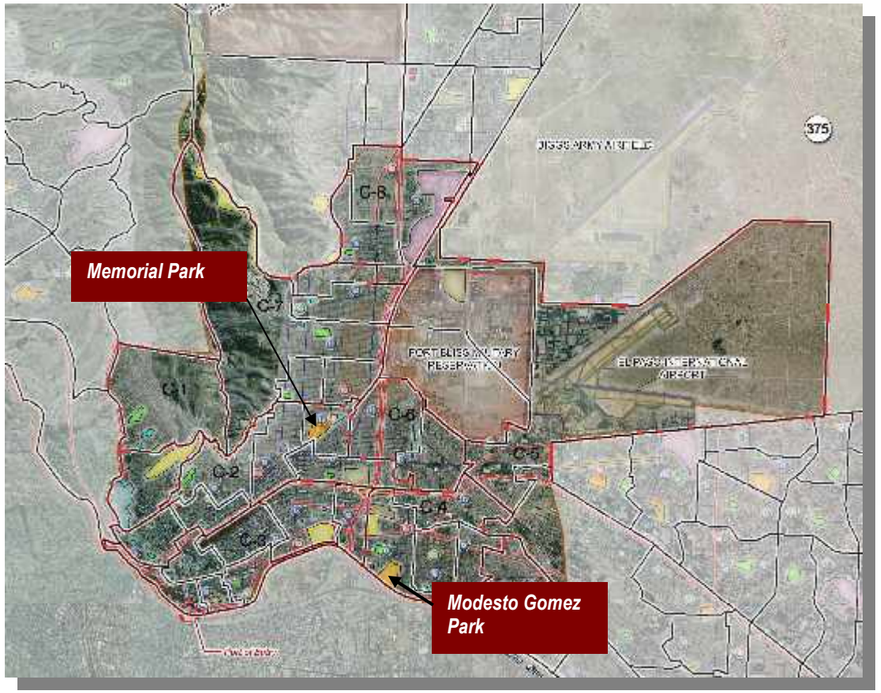
Lower Valley Community Parks

Current Land Needs

- For the current population, approximately 400 acres of larger parks are needed.
- The area only has 151 acres, resulting in a deficit of at least 250 acres.

Future Land Needs

- Area needs will grow slightly by the year 2016 resulting in a need for 440 acres
- **The community park land deficit by the year 2016 will be over 290+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**
- **Community park needs in this area may be addressed by adding two to three 20 to 25 acre parks.**



Central Area Community Parks

Current Land Needs

- For the current population, approximately 400 acres of larger parks are needed.
- The area only has 113 acres, resulting in a deficit of at least 270 acres.

Future Land Needs

- Area needs will grow slightly by the year 2016 resulting in a need for 440 acres
- **The community park land deficit by the year 2016 will be over 300+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**

Central Area Community Parks

The Central area has four community parks, with a total park acreage under 115 acres. The downtown area has little immediate access to large parks, and only Memorial Park and Modesto Gomez Parks are true community parks serving the area. Chamizal Park's grounds do provide some green space near the core city, but the park has few traditional recreational amenities. The corresponding level of service for the Central area is the second lowest of any of the planning areas in the city.

Furthermore, there is little available land for additional parks in the Central planning area. Unused industrial lands may be the most promising source of additional space in the area. Parks in the Central area are shown on this page.

CENTRAL PLANNING SECTOR										
Park Name and Size										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	Address	Area	District	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys
Grandview		1	3100 Jefferson Ave.	C	2	Community	15.00	12.10		Auto
Memorial		1	1701 Copia St.	C	2	Community	43.00	32.38		Auto
Lincoln		2	4001 Durazno Ave.	C	3	Community	23.00	10.20		Auto
Modesto Gomez		2	4600 Edna Ave.	C	8	Community	32.19	20.50		Auto
Acreage and Facility Totals							113.19	75.18		
Community Park Level of Service in the Central District										
Year 2006					0.94	Acres per 1000 residents				
Year 2016					0.90	Acres per 1000 residents				

Northwest Community Parks

The Northwest of El Paso has the third lowest community park service level in the entire city. The population of over 105,555 residents is served by a total of 112 acres of community parks. Included in that acreage are two parks which are just now being developed, the Westside Sports Complex and the Three Hills Community Park.

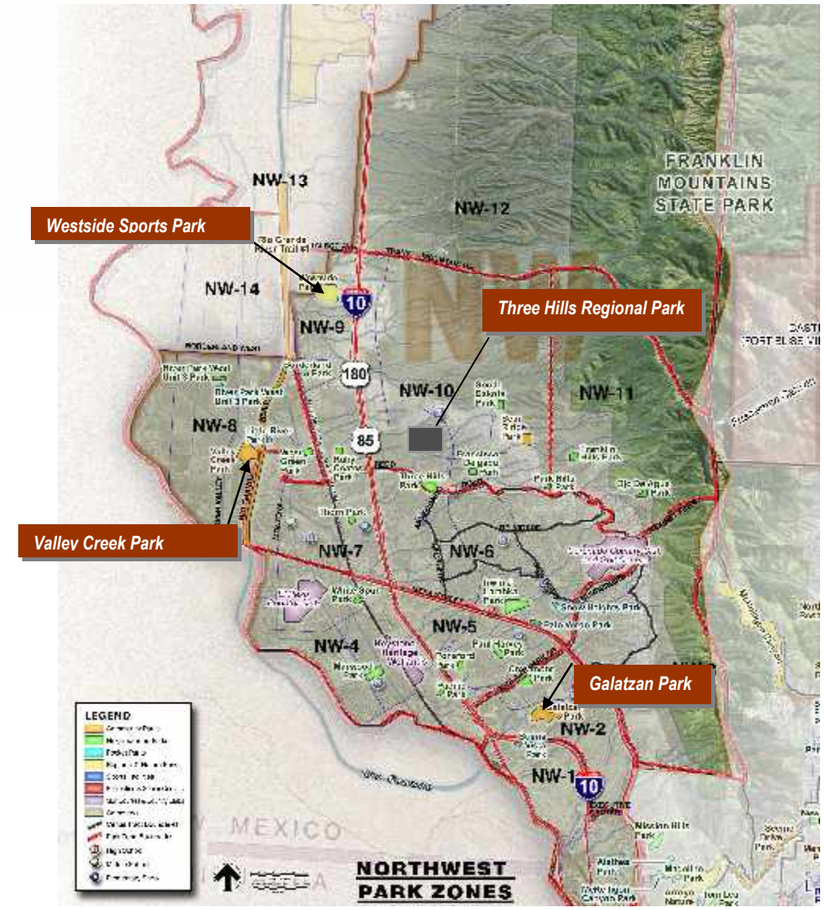
The current service level is approximately 1.06 acres per 1,000 residents. This service level will get significantly worse over the next ten years as the area population almost doubles, and if no new parklands are added, will result in a service level that is just 17% of the target goal. Significant new parkland acquisition is needed in this area.

The Three Hills Park Complex, currently under construction, will result in a very well located and planned facility that serves much of the area.

Galatzan Park can be expanded into the adjacent natural areas to provide additional picnicking, trail and athletic facilities. The fragile nature of area wetlands and open arroyo should be respected as part of any expansion.

NORTHWEST PLANNING SECTOR

Park Name and Size										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Watering System
Valley Creek Park		1	651 Gomez Rd.	NW	1	Community	36.00	5.00		Auto
Three Hills Park		1	Redd Road	NW	1	Community	20.00	15.00		Auto
Westside Park (to be developed by 2007)		1	At Community College	NW	1	Community	35.00	20.00		Auto
Galatzan Park	Skyview	1	650 Wallenberg Dr.	NW	8	Community	21.40	8.00		Auto
Acreage and Facility Totals							**112.40**	**48.00**		
Community Park Level of Service in the Central District										
Year 2006					**1.06**	**Acres per 1000 residents**				
Year 2016					**0.76**	**Acres per 1000 residents**				



Northwest Community Parks

Current Land Needs

- For the current population, approximately 350 acres of larger parks are needed.
- The area only has 112 acres, including two new parks that will be available in 2007. The current land deficit is 250 acres.

Future Land Needs

- Area needs will grow significant by 2016 resulting in a need for over 520 acres
- **The community park land deficit by the year 2016 will be over 400+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**
- Community park needs in this area may be addressed through new regional parks in undeveloped portions of the area.

Community Park Priorities and Summary of Key Recommendations

Based on the areas by the specific area needs, the community park priorities are shown below. Projected costs include allowances for land and development, as well as an administrative and design factor.

Many of the existing community parks are well placed in the communities that they serve, and should be expanded as a first choice before acquiring land, and developing new

Community Park Priority Recommendations

Priority	Action	Park Zone	Projected New Acres	Acquisition Potential Cost Range		Development Potential Cost Range		Rationale for Need
Short Term Actions – The Plan for Today				**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	
1(a)	**Acquire land for two condensed community parks in the Central area. Consider abandoned industrial or mining lands.**	All central area	40	$500,000	$5,000,000	$5,000,000	$10,000,000	Critical park needs in this area. Consider underutilized railroad or mining lands in the area, as well as water facility properties if accessible to the public.
1(b)	**Expand facilities into available lands around Galatzan Park.**	NW-2, NW-3, NW-5	10	$0	$0	$1,250,000	$1,750,000	Heavily used park, major facility serving a large population around the park
2	**Acquire land and develop a new community park in the east area west of Loop 375 and north of Montwood. Consider detention area if feasible**	E-5	30	$0	$2,500,000	$400,000	$750,000	No major community parks in this part of the city, very poor level of service in heavily populated area.
3	**Expand Yucca Park by acquiring available property near the park.**	LV-3, LV-4	10	$0	$1,000,000	$500,000	$1,000,000	Heavily used and popular park, explore availability of land for expansion.
4	**Complete development of the second phase of the Three Hills Regional Park**	NW-9	20	$0	$0	$2,000,000	$3,500,000	Adds much needed community park facilities and park land to fast growing area
5	**Improve access to Valley Creek Park and complete development of the park**	NW-8	10	$0	$0	$1,000,000	$2,000,000	Only community park west of IH 10, poor access limits current use of the park
6	**Expand Pavo Real Park as feasible, and add features to the park**	LV-5, LV-6	10	$0	$500,000	$1,500,000	$1,000,000	Popular park, well placed for the area that it serves.
7	**a) Fully develop Tierra del Este Com. Park – b) Acquire land for second com. pk. east of Loop 375**	E-7	0	$100,000	$450,000	$400,000	$1,000,000	Adds community park service in fast growing area
8	**Acquire land for future community park north of Trans Mountain and east of IH 10**	NW-10	75	$0	$200,000	$250,000	$500,000	Fully developed area with no small park service. Other larger parks a mile away.
9	**Expand and redevelop Marwood Park and convert to community park with adjacent school property**	NW-4,	0	$0	$250,000	$1,500,000	$2,000,000	No close in park service, area is lower density but is expected to increase in density
10	**Expand Blackie Chesser Park if feasible to other adjacent city owned lands to the south of the park**	LV-5	0	$0	$750,000	$1,500,000	$2,500,000	Significant nearby population, park facilities are older and underdeveloped
11	**Acquire and re-develop Ascarate Park (this action is discussed under regional parks)**	All Central, All LV	0	$0	$0	$0	$0	Key central location makes this park an attractive location for facilities
12	**Acquire land for three new community parks north of Hwy. 54 in the northern NE planning area – Minimum of 30 acres. each (hold for future development)**	NE–8	90	$0	$0	$0	$0	Reserve lands that are in semi-public ownership. Development may be more than ten years in the future.
Estimated Total - Short Term - Plan for Today			**255**	**$600,000**	**$10,645,000**	**$15,300,000**	**$26,000,000**	

community parks.

Where service is poor or non-existent, land and new development should occur as the next best option.

Other Community Park Actions

Create attractive entrances and boulevards leading up to community parks in the city. Extend the influence of the park outward beyond its boundaries with landscaping and signs to celebrate and announce the park location.

Where feasible and if appropriate, acquire land around existing heavily used community parks for land banking purposes.

Community Park Priority Recommendations

Priority	Action	Park Zone	Projected New Acres	Acquisition Potential Cost Range		Development Potential Cost Range		Rationale for Need
Medium to Long Term Actions-Plan for A Bright Future								
13	**Acquire land and develop two additional community parks in the far east edge of the city as development occurs.**	E-8	50	$0	$500,000	$2,500,000	$3,000,000	Development already beginning, addresses need earlier on than previously done on the east side. City cost is to supplement development construction
14	**Convert Modesto Gomez Park into a more natural park with fewer athletic facilities. Acquire land to improve view and access to the park. Consider land trade with adjacent users if feasible.**	C-4	5	$100,000	$500,000	$750,000	$1,500,000	Addresses poor soils in the park, but maintains the park area as an important asset for the Central area which has few large parks.
15	**Develop initial phases of a large community/regional park near Trans Mountain to serve the far upper Northwest planning area.**	NW-11, NW-12, NW-13,	0	$0	$0	$2,000,000	$5,000,000	Addresses need in area that is already significantly deficient and facing high population growth. Acquisition of multiple arroyo and desert landscape areas may provide the opportunity for a unique desert-like park for West El Paso.
Estimated Total - Long Term Plan for A Bright Future			**55**	**$100,000**	**$1,000,000**	**$6,750,000**	**$9,500,000**	

El Paso County's Ascarate Park has many of the characteristics of a regional park

III. Regional Parks Needs

El Paso has few regional parks because of prior difficulties in acquiring land. Large regional parks, if well distributed throughout the city, can become the center of major activities for each planning area. Their size allows for more efficient maintenance operations, and also should provide room for expansion as the population of the area grows.

Key Desirable Characteristics of Regional Parks

True regional parks are typically the largest parks in the municipal system. Examples in Texas include McKenzie Park in Lubbock, Zilker Park in Austin, Brackenridge and McAllister Parks in San Antonio, and Hermann Park in Houston. Each of these parks is at least 350 acres in size, and many are closer to 500 acres. All have a wealth of facilities as well as undeveloped natural areas.

Regional parks are also known as metropolitan parks, since they strive to become a regional or citywide center of activity. Consider the many activities and events, as well as everyday events that happen in Zilker Park in Austin. The true metropolitan park becomes synonymous with its community.

Size – For El Paso, regional parks should increase from a typical size of 100 acres to a minimum of 250 acres. Development of regional parks in El Paso should be more compact to ease watering needs, but should still reserve land for future unforeseen facilities that will be needed by a rapidly expanding population.

Regional parks must be located adjacent to major thoroughfares to provide easy access from many parts of the city. Because of the potential for traffic, noise and bright lights at night, regional parks should be buffered from adjacent residential areas. Most importantly, regional parks are very often the center of activities for visitors to the city, so they must be attractive and well maintained.

Existing Regional Park Context in El Paso

The City of El Paso currently only has two developed regional parks, and both of these are small by regional park standards. Blackie Chesser, in the Mission Valley has 55 acres, and the Northeast Regional Park in the Northeast Planning area includes 58 acres. Other parks that are classified as regional parks include Washington, which is now largely consumed by the El Paso Zoo, Nations Tobin, which is really a large community park, and the new Westside or Three Hills Park, which is also a large community park.

A 90 acre undeveloped tract is owned by the city on the East Side, and when developed would become the first real regional park in the city.

Ascarate Park, owned and operated by El Paso County, is the city's real regional park at over 300 acres. However, the park is in a state of disrepair, and no longer has the types of attractions that would bring residents from all over the city to the park.

Chamizal National Monument, operated by the National Parks Service, is a large museum, performance and grassy amphitheater located in Central El Paso.

Distribution of Regional Parks in El Paso

The map on the following page illustrates the location and service areas of regional parks in the city. The circles illustrate a general service radius ranging from 2 to 4 miles.

Existing Level of Service – Regional Parks

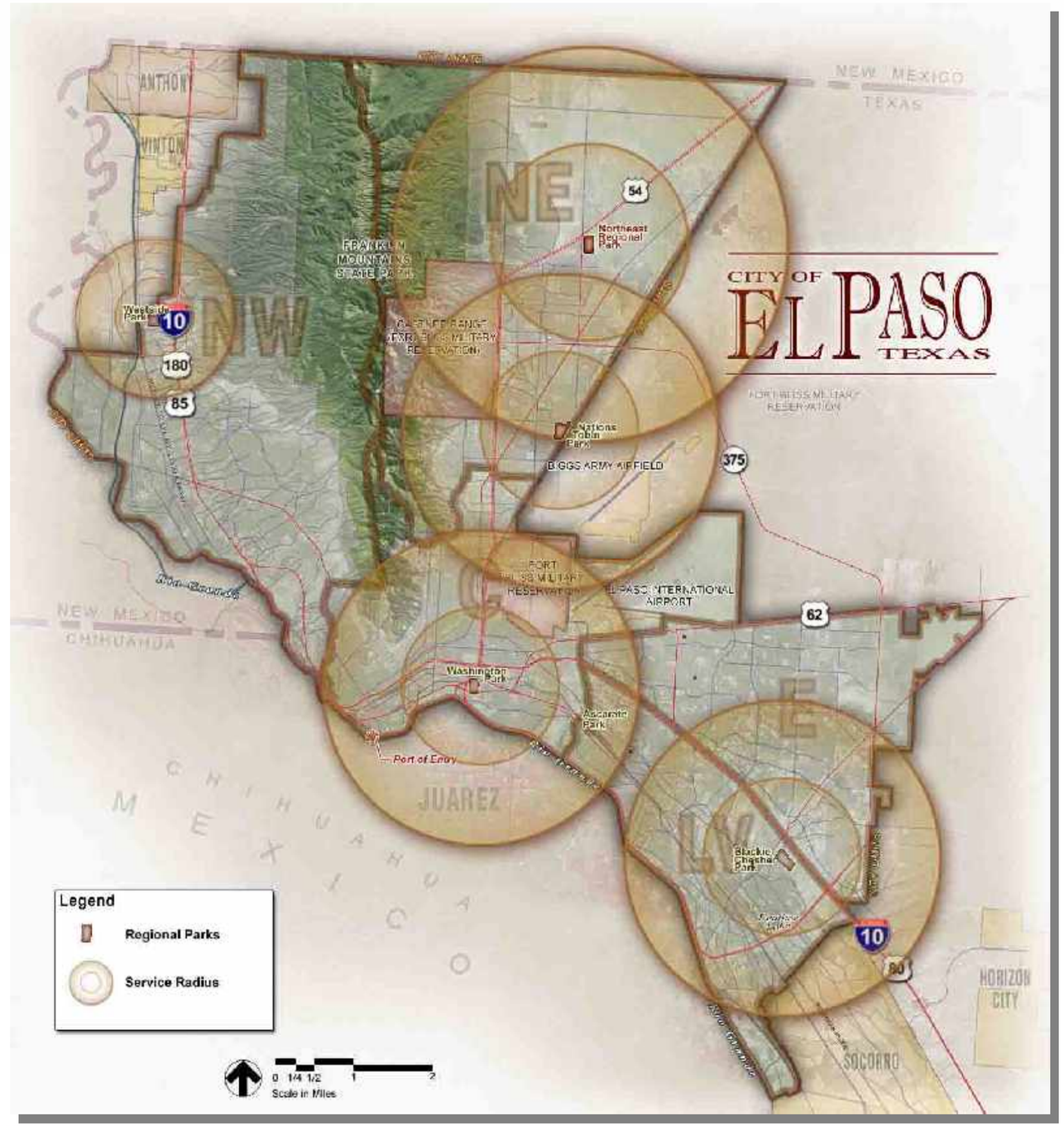
The existing level of service for regional parks is shown in the table on the following page. Citywide, the current level of service is just over **0.6 acres for every 1,000 residents**. In four out of the five major planning areas, the level of service is less than 1 acre per 1,000. The citywide total is only 28%, of the desired amount of regional park land.

Proposed Target Level of Service – Regional Parks

Providing a significant increase in the amount of regional park lands is the single highest priority of this master plan. Major deficiencies in neighborhood and community park lands exist, but will be difficult and highly expensive to address. New very large regional parks, consisting of at least one in every planning area and one to two citywide "metropolitan" parks are recommended to provide reliever park space.

To meet this goal and the future parkland needs of the city, a target level of 2 acres of regional park lands for every 1,000 residents is recommended by this plan.

Regional Park service areas in El Paso.



Regional Parks

	Existing Park Acres	Year 2000	Acres per 1000 residents	Year 2006	Acres per 1000 residents	Percent of Target L.O.S.	Year 2016	Acres per 1000 residents	Percent of Target L.O.S.	Year 2020	Acres per 1,000 residents
Central	15.00	123,858	**0.48**	120,094	**0.12**	25%	125,132	**0.48**	38%		
East (note - park shown is undeveloped)	92.00	153,194	**0.60**	197,463	**0.47**	26%	240,584	**0.38**	21%		
Mission Valley	70.40	103,001	**0.68**	101,450	**0.69**	**33%**	109,117	**0.65**	32%		
Northeast	100.00	92,761	**1.08**	91,349	**1.09**	**51%**	115,128	**0.87**	42%		
Northwest	35.00	90,848	**0.39**	105,555	**0.33**	18%	148,332	**0.24**	11%		
Fort Bliss				6,663			8,854				
Hueco				12,287			15,923				
Citywide	**312.40**	**563,662**	**0.55**	**634,861**	**0.49**	**25%**	**765,085**	**2.62**	26%	**976,238**	**0.366**

Regional Park Priorities and Summary of Key Recommendations

Based on the areas by area needs, community park priorities are shown below. Projected costs include allowances for land and development, as well as an administrative and design factor.

Regional Park Priority Recommendations

Priority	Action	Park Zone	Projected New Acres	Acquisition Potential Cost Range		Development Potential Cost Range		Rationale for Need
Short Term Actions – The Plan for Today				**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	
1	**Develop East Side Regional Park (initial phase). Consider acquiring area lands to expand the park if feasible. Consider joint venture with adjacent YWCA lands and other privately owned lands in the area.**	E-5, E-6, E-7, E-8	90	$0	$0	$4,000,000	$7,000,000	Very few large parks in this area, land is available in an area with rapid population growth. Development of a significant portion of the park is recommended. Recreation center and aquatic facilities are also recommended for this site, with costs shown in other sections.
2	**Study feasibility of developing Keystone retention areas and other lands as a major regional park. Combine with existing natural features to create a true regional destination park for the west side.**	NW-1 to NW-7	60	$0	$2,500,000	$2,500,000	$5,000,000	Consider acquisition of supplemental lands to increase size. Ensure fit with adjacent existing wetlands and arroyo areas. Improve access and signage from IH 10. Costs shown are for initial phase, may be followed by additional phases.
3	**Expansion of Northeast Regional Park – add floodplain lands to the park for ball fields, trails, and other amenities that can be built in flood prone areas.**	NE-4 to NE- 8	100	$0	$0	$1,500,000	$3,000,000	Land available to add to park, cost shown are for an initial phase only.
4	**Acquire and re-develop Ascarate Park as a Regional and Metropolitan park for El Paso**	Citywide	300	$0	$0	$10,000,000	$20,000,000	Potential transfer from El Paso County, and should consider additional County operational support. Redevelopment cost range shown is for order of magnitude purposes only, and will require additional study. Some portions of the park may be privatized, but overall control should remain with the City.
Estimated Total - Short Term - Plan for Today			**265**	**$0**	**$2,500,000**	**$18,000,000**	**$35,000,000**	

Regional Park Priority Recommendations

Priority	Action	Park Zone	Projected New Acres	Acquisition Potential Cost Range		Development Potential Cost Range (initial phase only)		Rationale for Need
Medium to Long Term Actions-Plan for A Bright Future								
5	**Acquire and develop a far Northwest regional park north of Trans Mountain. Note that land acquisition and preservation should be an immediate priority.**	Far Northwest	150 to 300+	$0	$2,500,000	$2,500,000	$5,000,000 (initial phase)	Development already beginning, addresses need earlier on than previously done on the east side. City cost is to supplement development construction
6	**Continue development of the Eastside Regional Park.**	Eastside	0	$100,000	$500,000	$2,000,000	$4,000,000	Addresses poor soils in the park, but maintains the park area as an important asset for the Central area which has few large parks.
7	**Continue development of the Northeast Regional Park**	Northeast	0	$0	$0	$2,500,000	$5,000,000	Expansion of facilities in flood prone area, development of other park infrastructure
8	**Acquire additional land for a long range regional park for the far East and Mission Valley portions of the city.**	East Side, Mission Valley	200	$0	$2,500,000	$2,000,000	$5,000,000	Acquire land for long range parks as the area grows. Growth patterns in the area should be considered to place park for most use in the future. Can be combined with open space needs.
Estimated Total - Long Term Plan for A Bright Future			**350 to 500**	**$100,000**	**$5,500,000**	**$9,000,000**	**$19,000,000**	

Ascarate Park

Ascarate Park has been the largest in-town park in El Paso for many years. The recent re-location of the Western Playland Amusement Park out of Ascarate in 2006 leaves the park without a major attraction, and the cost of operating and maintaining the park has become a significant burden for El Paso County. The opportunity for the City of El Paso to take over operation of the park from the County may be available in the immediate future.

The park is well located and accessible for much of El Paso, and has the size to accommodate many regional recreational uses. The lake in the park is a rare and unique feature in dry El Paso, and the golf course is readily accessible and serviceable as a municipal course.

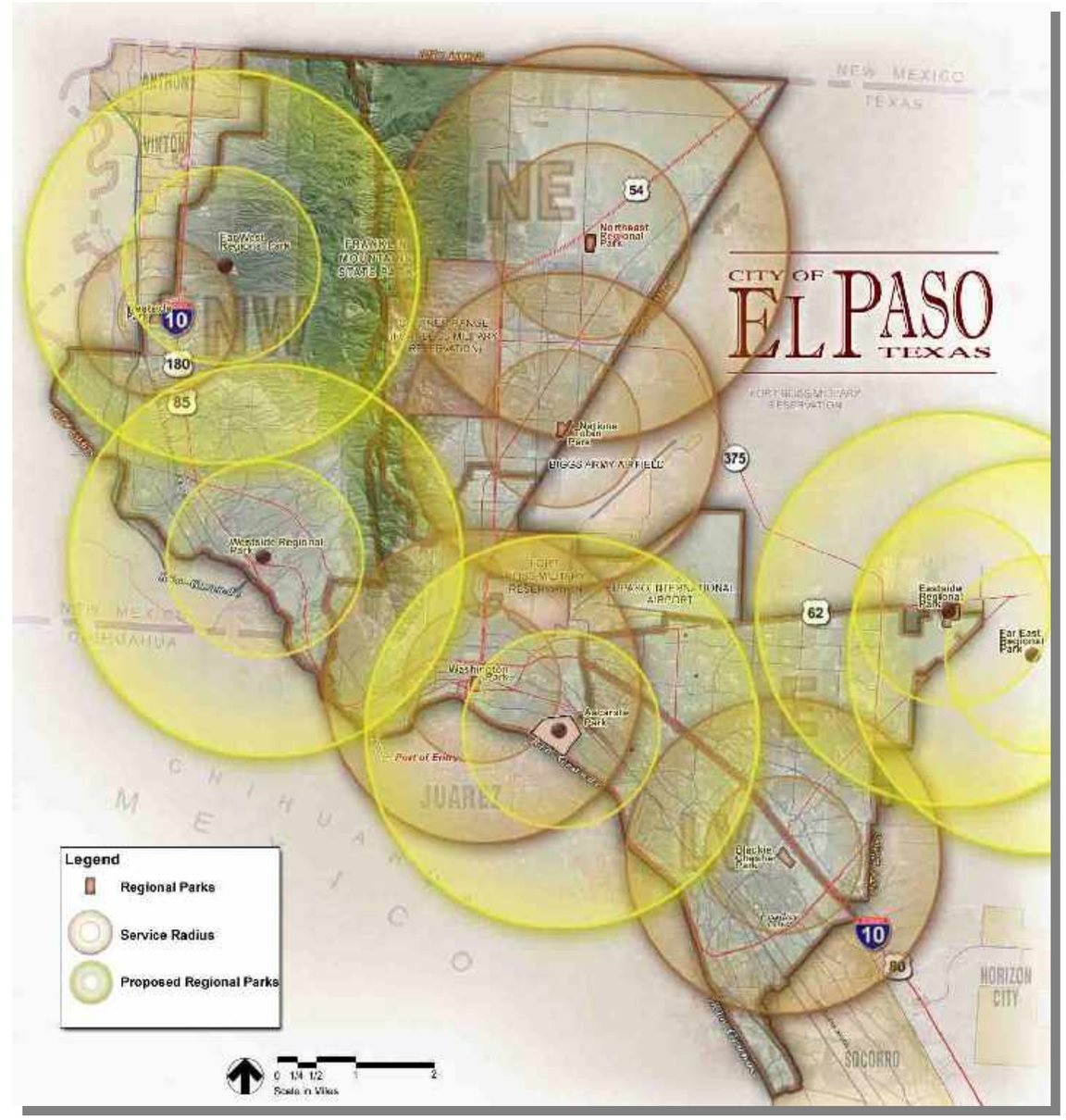
The park does have major infrastructure challenges. Lack of adequate watering and overuse has left many of the ball fields in poor condition. Road and parking infrastructure has not been improved, and the existing pool has leaks that will

Ascarate Park may be one of the few opportunities for revenue generation in the local parks system, but will require a significant up-front investment. Allowing the park's revenue potential to be allocated to private sources should be discouraged until other alternatives have been explored.

require repair. Lake water quality must be improved and aeration added, and the golf course and clubhouse should be upgraded.

The suggestion has been made to turn the entire park over to private entities to restore it and operate the park for profit. Such a strategy has the benefit that the city or county would not have to provide much or possibly even any revenue for renovations in the park. However, the city may loose significant opportunities for much needed positive revenue generation. Establishing the park as an enterprise zone should also be considered, with some portions of it developed by private sources, and other portions remaining as public access areas.

A business plan is recommended immediately to investigate the costs and revenue potential associated with the park. The estimated cost of this study is $25,000. As a follow-up, a conditional analysis and master plan that considers a full program of both public and private sector recreational uses for the park is recommended prior to taking any action regarding the park.



Proposed Regional Park service with recommended actions in place.

CHAPTER 6:

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATION CENTERS AND SENIOR CENTERS

Chapter Contents

I. Recreation Center Needs
II. Senior Centers

Halff Associates, Inc.
ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • SCIENTISTS • PLANNERS • SURVEYORS

August 21, 2006

Norman Merrifield, PhD., Director
El Paso Parks and Recreation Department
Two Civic Center Plaza, 6th Floor
El Paso, Texas 79901-1196

Reference: Final Report, El Paso Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Dear Dr. Merrifield:

Halff Associates Inc. is pleased to submit the final Parks and Recreation Master Plan for El Paso. This report seeks to capture the many observations and findings developed as part of the park planning process, and to match those to the dreams and expectations of the citizens of El Paso. The plan's recommendations encompass the many varied aspects of a large park system such as El Paso's, from facilities, operations, athletics, and aquatics to management, funding and other key governance issues. This plan chooses to be bold in what it recommends, but by doing so only seeks to provide what is wanted by the citizens of El Paso.

As in any comprehensive analysis, this document contains many recommendations. These recommendations include "A Plan for Today," with actions that address immediate needs. The plan also includes longer term actions, entitled "Towards a Bright Future." These actions are visionary and will guide the city towards the creation of a premier park system.

We deeply appreciate the opportunity to have worked with you, your staff, and the citizens of El Paso, and look forward to El Paso's bright future.

Sincerely,

HALFF ASSOCIATES, INC.

Jim Carrillo, A.S.L.A., A.I.C.P.
Vice President, Director of Planning

JC/hv

I. Recreation Center Needs

Recreation centers are the focus of much of the day to day activity in El Paso, and provide a diverse range of activities in all parts of the city. El Paso began constructing the current facilities in the 1950's, and continues to add new centers, with three added so far in this decade.

The city has nineteen recreation centers, including the Three Hills Center which is now under construction. The city also has nine separate senior centers which are discussed in a subsequent section of this master plan.

Key Desirable Characteristics of Recreation Centers

In today's environment, recreation centers are expected to provide a location for both spontaneous activities, such as a quick game of pinball, as well as facilities for organized sports such as basketball, volleyball, and racquetball. For many, the fitness equipment and classes in a recreation center are its most important offering. For others, classes and the opportunity to participate in events such as dances are the most important component of a center.

Recreation centers should become a key part of the community that surrounds them, responding to the specific needs and expectations of those residents. A prominent location is most favored so as to invite residents to use the facility.

The older model of many smaller centers has given way to the current model of larger centers that are accessed by car and provide a much wider range of activities and events than previous centers two decades ago. The center of the past was commonly around 10,000 square feet in size, while centers in many cities today approach 60,000 to 80,000 square feet.

The center of today is also designed for flexibility. Its larger gym spaces can be subdivided, as can its classrooms and dance rooms. With the increasing interest in fitness, cardiovascular equipment rooms that were once 1,000 square feet in size are now three to five times that size. Indoor running tracks are popular, especially in very hot climates such as El Paso. And in the last five to ten years, many new centers are now combined with indoor swimming pools for additional recreation possibilities under one roof.

The center of today is also designed with staff efficiency in mind, so that one or two staff members at the entrance can more effectively control admission and police the facility.

Finally, today's centers rarely offer free programming. In many cities, memberships range from $20 to $40 per month for an individual and twice as much for a family of four. Even so, the typical center can be expected to return only 50 to 70% of its operational cost in self-generated revenue.

A Review of Existing Recreation Centers in El Paso

El Paso currently has nineteen Recreation Centers, with a total of 396,000 square feet of enclosed space. The Central planning area has the most centers with 7, followed by the Northeast area with four. Both the Northwest and the Mission Valley planning areas only have two centers.

On a per capita basis, El Paso has approximately 0.63 square feet of center for every resident of the city. Other cities have established a goal of closer to 1 square foot of space for every resident.

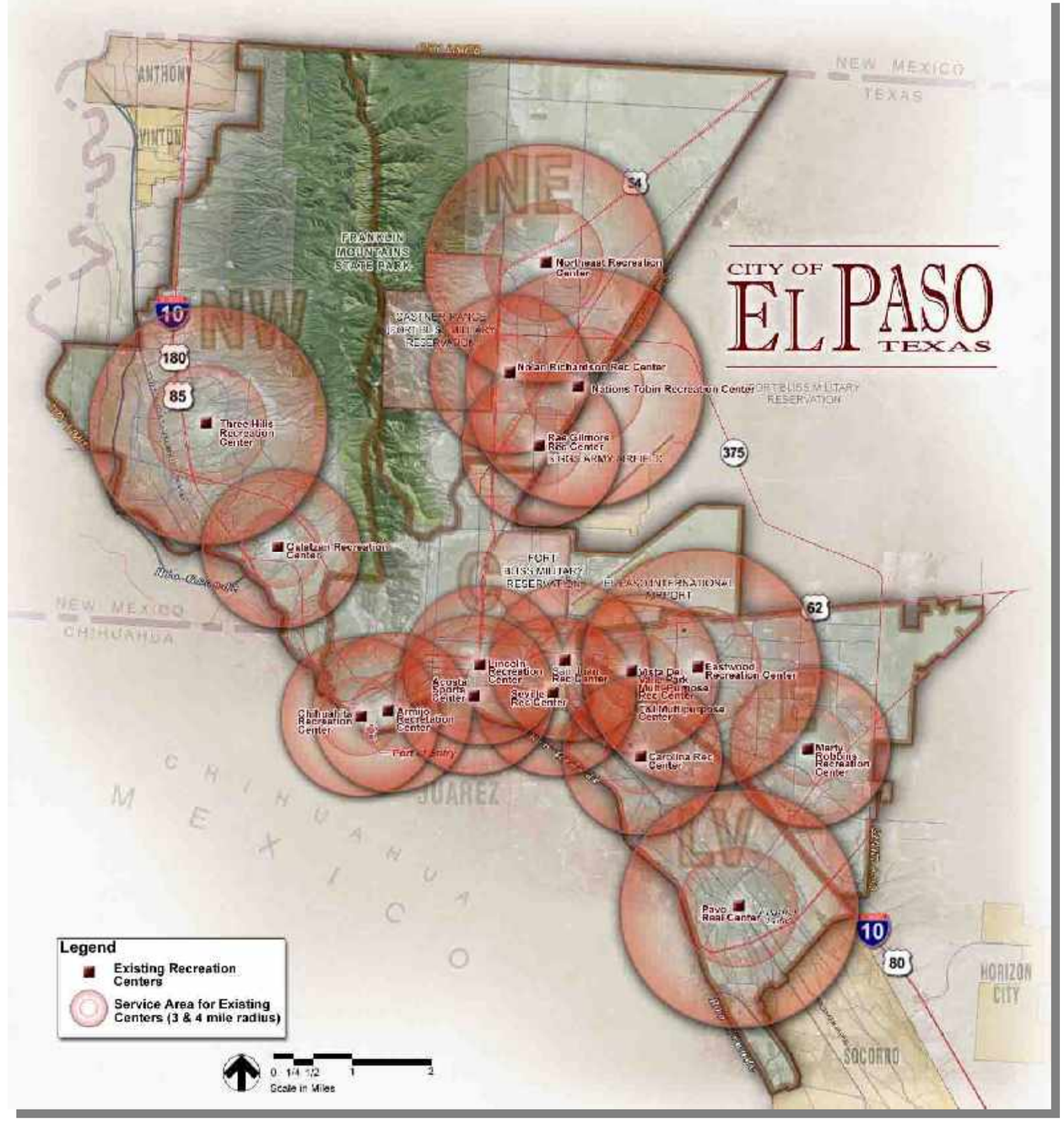
Eleven of the eighteen centers in the city are older than 25 years. Three centers, including Eastwood, Marty Robbins and the Three Hills Center, which is under construction, are new.

The average size of all centers is 22,000 square feet, which is small by today's standards. Eight of the 18 centers are less than 20,000 square feet in size, and four are less than 8,000 square feet in size and qualify more as community center buildings.

A review of the centers in each planning area follows.

Recreation Centers in El Paso

LOCATION	District	ADDRESS	BLDG DATE	SQ. FEET	VALUE	REHAB Date	Facility Maint. Cost
RECREATION CENTERS							
Acosta Sports Center.	8	4321 Delta	1960	21,361	$2,600,000	1989, 1998	$89,289
Marcos B. Armijo Center.	8	710 E. Seventh	1968	43,652	$3,273,900	1993	$182,465
Carolina Center.	3	563 N. Carolina	1978	30,200	$3,265,000	2000	$126,236
Chihauahuita Center	8	417 Charles	1980	2,880	$216,000		$12,038
Eastwood	5	3001 Parkwood	2004	25,910	$3,400,000		$108,304
Galatzan (Westside)	8	650 Wallenberg	1979	28,000	$3,000,000		$117,040
Leona Ford Washington (Missouri)	8	3400 Missouri	1953	8,000	$600,000	1997	$33,440
Lincoln Arts Center.	3	4001 Durazno	1977	21,342	$1,600,650		$89,210
Marty Robbins	6	11600 Vista Del Sol	2004	20,000	$3,000,000		$83,600
Multipurpose	3	9031 Viscount	1984	27,000	$2,200,000	2003	$112,860
Nations Tobin	3	8831 Railroad	1959	13,910	$1,043,250	1994	$58,144
Nations Tobin Skate Facility	3	8831 Railroad	2003	31,900	$2,200,000		$133,342
Nolan Richardson	2	4635 Maxwell	2000	15,000	$2,700,000		$62,700
Northeast Recreation Center	4	5301 Salem	1977	28,000	$3,100,000		$117,040
Pavo Real Center	6	100 Presa Pl.	1978	29,000	$3,200,000	1998	$121,220
Rae Gilmore	2	8501 Diana	1984	5,158	$600,000	1999	$21,560
Sambrano/Seville	3	6700 Sambrano	1981	7,480	$1,000,000	2002	$31,266
San Juan Center	3	5628 Webster	1998	18,200	$2,000,000		$76,076
Westside Regional - future	1	High Ridge	2006	19,000			$79,420



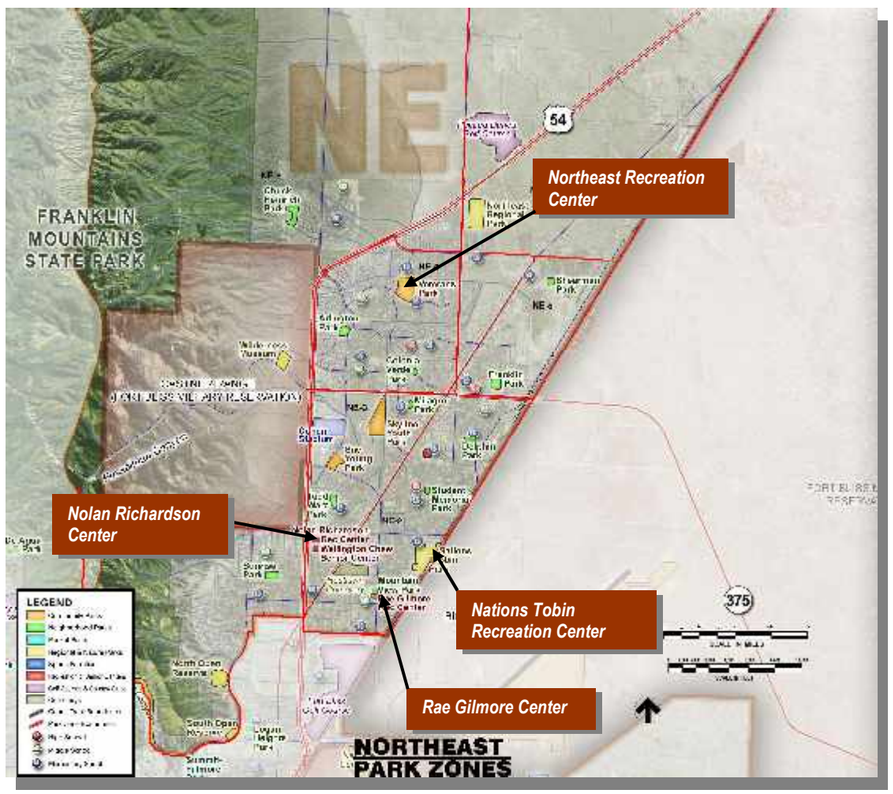
Recreation Center distribution throughout El Paso

Northeast Area Recreation Centers

The northeast area has four recreation centers with a combined size of 93,968 square feet. On a per capita basis, the Northeast area has approximately 0.98 square feet of indoor recreation space for every resident; this ratio is higher than the citywide average.

A summary of the four centers in the area is shown in the table on this page. The location of the four centers are shown in the map on this page. A review of each center follows. An analysis of the operational characteristics of the recreation centers is contained in Chapter 10.

Recreation Centers in the Northeast Planning Area			
Nations Tobin Recreation Center	8831 Railroad Dr.	NE	4
Nolan Richardson Center	4435 Maxwell	NE	2
Northeast Recreation Center	5301 Salem Dr.	NE	8
Rae Gilmore Center	8501 Diana	NE	5



Northeast Recreation (Veterans) Center

Year Built: 1977

Size: 25,000 square feet

Location: In Veterans Park in the far Northeast Area

Year Last Renovated: 2006 (minor improvements)

Key Facilities and Characteristics: Veterans Center recently reopened after an interior renovation. The facility has a new fitness center, gym and open play area. Day care areas in the center were also renovated, with the installation of bathrooms that are adapted to younger users. Day care and summer camps are offered at the center. The center is very well located within the community that it serves and is easily accessible. With significant room to grow around it, this site can be further expanded to serve a large area, and should be one of the major centers in the northeast planning area.

Expansion should include an additional gym, additional meeting and classroom space, and a new general recreation room. The estimated cost for the additions to this center are $1,500,000 to $3,000,000 and could add up to 15,000 square feet to the building. As use increases, day care should be phased out of this center unless it does not interfere with the recreation mission of the center.

Nations Tobin Recreation and Skate Center

Year Built: 1959 (Center); 2003 (Skate Center

Size: 13,910 square feet (Center)
21,900 (Skate Center)

Location: 8831 Railroad Drive

Year Last Renovated: 1999 (minor improvements)

Key Facilities and Characteristics: In 2003 most of the facility was converted into the city's skating center. The center has one large skating arena, and an adjacent smaller gym has been converted into a rink for in-line hockey and indoor soccer.

The center's location is easily accessed from most parts of the northeast planning area. The center's skating facilities are unique, and given that the infrastructure is already in place, should be maintained and promoted as a unique venue in El Paso. However, more typical recreation center facilities should be added adjaecent to the existing center to provide fitness and indoor basketball for this area of El Paso. Essentially, the floorplan for Eastwood Center should be added in the parking area in front of the existing center.

The estimated cost for the additions to this center are $5,000,000.

Priority Level: High

Rae Gilmore Center

Year Built: 1984

Size: 5,158 square feet

Location: 8501 Diana Drive – Park Zone NE-1

Year Last Renovated: 1999 (minor improvements)

Key Facilities and Characteristics: This center is one of the smallest in the city, and includes a weight room and open play room for games. The facility also has one room for classes and events. Some of its programming is targeted towards seniors, and the facility is also used by the Boys and Girls Club for summer programming. The center has 3,756 square feet of programable space, and operates with two staff members.

This center is within a mile from Nations Tobin Center, and consideration could be given to consolidating its operations with an expanded Nations Tobin Center at some point. Center operations could be turned over to other non-profit entities as an option.

No major expansion of this facility is recommended.

Priority Level: Medium Term, consider turning over to non-city operator.

Nolan Richardson Center

Year Built: 2000

Size: 15,000 square feet

Location: 4435 Maxwell – Park Zone NE-3

Year Last Renovated: None

Key Facilities and Characteristics: The center includes a gym, day care facilities, a fitness center and rooms for karate and aerobics.

This center is also located within a mile and ½ from Nations Tobin Center. However, it serves a population on both sides of Highway 54, and should remain as a viable center. It is located adjacent to Wellington Chew Park and Senior Center, and has very little room for expansion.

Day care offerings at this center are also extensive, and are driven by both demand and by the desire to generate revenue. Additional recreational programming at this center should be considered, even at the expense of daycare.

In the long term future, consideration should be given to building one larger multi-purpose center that combines both recreation and senior activities into one larger building. The potential staff efficiencies and multi-generational exposure could prove to be very cost effective. No immediate expansion of this facility is recommended.

Priority Level: Medium Term

East Side Recreation Centers

The northeast area has three recreation centers with a combined size of 72,910 square feet. On a per capita basis, the East Planning area has approximately 0.37 square feet of indoor space for every resident; this ratio is significantly lower than the citywide average, and is critically low.

Recreation Centers		
Eastwood Recreation Center		3110 Parkwood St.
Marty Robbins Recreation Center		11600 Vista Del Sol Dr.
Multi Purpose Center		9031 Viscount

The far eastern area of the city is is almost 8 miles away from the by Marty Robbins Center. The construction of a new center to serve the far east side of the city should be the next center that the city builds.

A summary of the three centers in the area is shown in the table on this page. The location of the three centers are shown in the map on this page. Two of the centers are just over a year old, and are the best two centers in the city.

Multi-Purpose Center

Year Built: 1984

Size: 27,000 square feet

Location: Vista del Sol Park, Park Zone E-1

Year Last Renovated: 2003

Key Facilities and Characteristics: The Multi-Purpose Center was designed as a versatile meeting and gallery type center, with several classrooms and a large banquet/event room. The center also has a gym basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer play. The center's unusual architecture is distinctive and announces its intention to serve as both a recreation and cultural center. Outdoor patios also provide additional spaces around the building.

No additional expansion of this facility is currently recommended.

Priority Level: Medium Term (next ten years) for interior renovations.

Eastwood Recreation Center

Year Built: 2004

Size: 25,000 square feet

Location: 3001 Parkwood Park Zone E-2

Key Facilities and Characteristics: The Center opened in late 2004 and is the most modern and comprehensive center in the city. At 25,000 square feet, the center is small by current standards, and is already experiencing overcrowding. The center is well designed, with a distinctive look that is memorable and that sets the Center apart.

The two gyms are well conceived. Where the center is lacking is in classroom and event space, and in hall and entrance space. The aerobic and cardio equipment areas are small and could easily be doubled in size to meet demand.

The Center is very well located, and is an excellent prototype for other centers, as long as additional space is added. The Master Plan recommends that an additional 10,000 square feet be added to this center within the next decade to address demand in the area.

The estimated cost for the expansion of this center ranges from $1,500,000 to $2,500,000.

Priority Level: Medium (in next five to ten years)

Marty Robbins Recreation Center

Year Built: 2004

Size: 20,000 square feet

Location: 11600 Vista del Sol – Park Zone E-6

Key Facilities and Characteristics: This center is a companion to the Eastwood Center, but budget limitations precluded the construction of a second gym. This has limited the programming ability of the center; the gym should be added as soon as funding is available.

This center is very well placed in a large park, and has adequate room for future expansion. Marty Robbins Center serves a huge surrounding population, and is already showing signs of overcrowding in only one year of operations.

Given its strategic location, expansion of the center will be a high priority over the next few years. A new gym and additional classrooms, entrance area and fitness areas should be added within the next five years. The estimated cost range for expansion of the center is between $2,000,000 and $3,000,000.

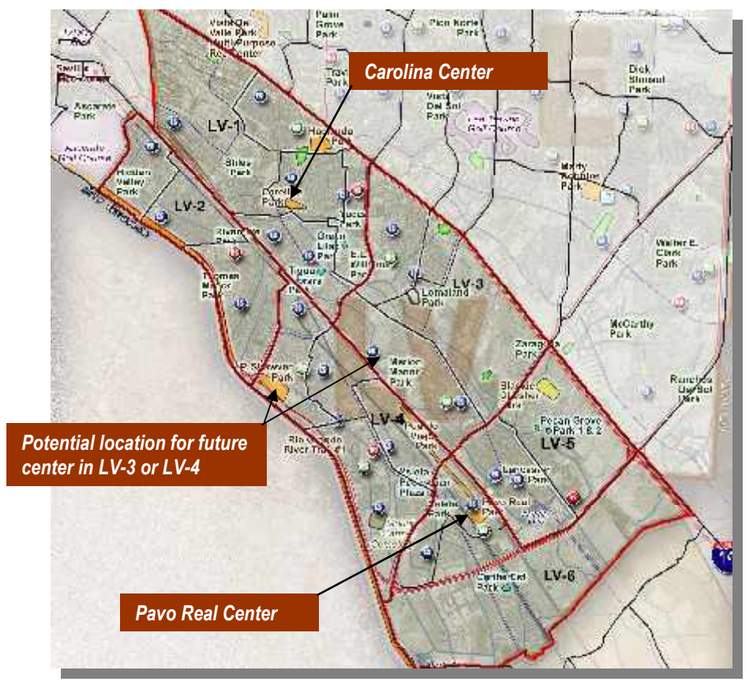
Priority Level: High Priority – Add second gym, add 10,000 square feet to the center.

Mission Valley Recreation Centers

The Mission Valley only has two recreation centers, with a total size of 59,200 square feet. The per capital amount of space is 0.55 square feet per resident of the area.

Both centers were renovated within the last decade, and both are generally well located. At just under 30,000 square feet each, the two centers were large when constructed but show signs of evercrowding. A third center should be considered for this area as a high priority.

Mission Valley Recreation Centers	
Carolina Recreation Center	563 N. Carolina Dr.
Pavo Real Recreation Center	100 Presa Place



A summary of the two centers in the area is shown in the tables on this page. The location of the two centers is shown in the map on this page.

Carolina Center

Year Built: 1978

Size: 30,000 square feet

Location: Carolina Park, Park Zone LV-1

Year Last Renovated: 2000

Key Facilities and Characteristics: Carolina is very similar to Pavo Real Center, and lacks adequate entrance control space. The building appears to be sound, but is in need of interior updating.

The center should be expanded to provide a better control space at the front of the building, additional cardiovascular and classroom space. Additional interior updating is recommended. Space for expansion is very limited in the park around the center. The projected cost range for expansion is between $2,500,000 and $3,500,000.

Priority Level: Medium Term (next ten years) for expansion and interior renovations.

Pavo Real Center

Year Built: 1978

Size: 29,000 square feet

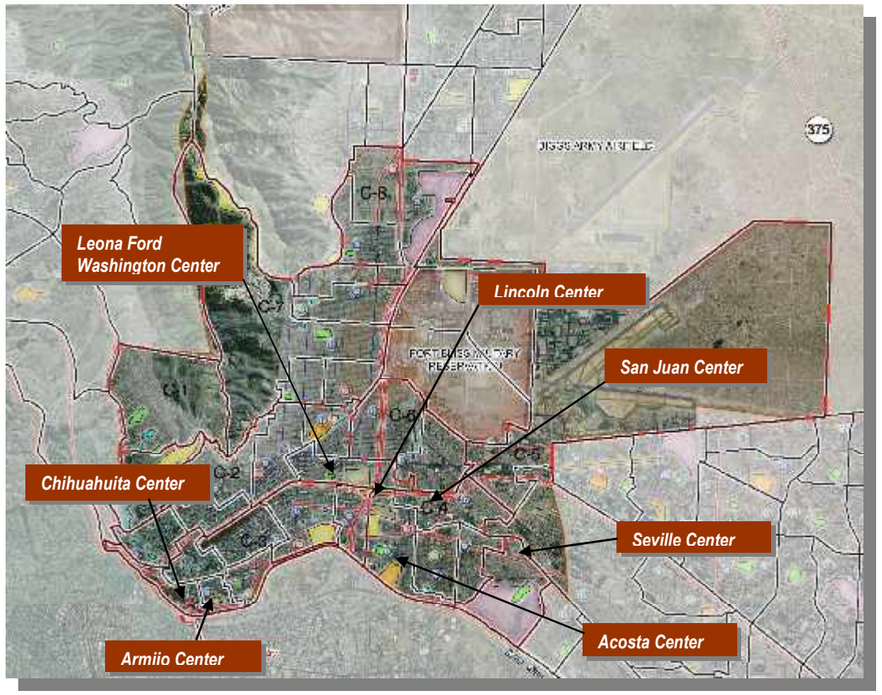
Location: Pavo Real Park, Park Zone LV-6

Year Last Renovated: 1998

Key Facilities and Characteristics: Pavo Real is an older style recreation center that was renovated almost 8 years ago. The center lacks a main entrance area, and is somewhat small for the population that it serves. The center is well located in Pavo Real Park, and is clustered near a branch library.

The center should be expanded to provide a better control space at the front of the building, additional cardiovascular and classroom space. Additional interior updating is recommended. Space for expansion is available in the park around the center. The projected cost range for expansion is between $2,500,000 and $4,000,000.

Priority Level: Medium Term (next ten years) for expansion and interior renovations.



Recreation Centers				
Acosta Sports Center	Delta Rec	4321 Delta Dr.	C	8
Lincoln Center		4001 Durazno Ave.	C	3
San Juan Rec Center		701 N. Glenwood	C	3
Seville Rec Center		6700 Sambrano Ave.	C	3
Armijo Center		710 E. Seventh Ave.	C	8
Chihuahuita Rec Center		439 Charles Rd.	C	8
Leona Ford Washington Rec Center	Missouri Rec Center	3400 Missouri	C	8

Central Area Recreation Centers

The Central planning area has seven centers, which is the most in the city. However, three of the the seven centers are under 10,000 square feet in size, and one, the Chihuahuita Center, is less than 3,000 square feet. The current ratio of centers to population is approximately one square foot for every resident of the area, which matches the ultimated target goal for the city. Over the next decade, the population of the central area is expected to increase slowing, maintaining the demand for facilities in the area.

Centers are well distributed throughout the Central planning area, but the location of Chihuahuita, San Juan and Seville Centers within neighborhoods makes these centers less accessible and reduces their potential service area. Lincoln Center is located at the intersection of two major freeways, and while the buildings remain usable, redevelopment in such a tenuous location is not recommended.

The area north of IH 10 between Downtown El Paso and Scenic Drive, and extending north to Grandview Park has no centers.

Chihuahuita Community Center

Year Built: 1980

Size: 2,880 square feet

Location: Central El Paso, Park Zone C-3

Year Last Renovated: none

Key Facilities and Characteristics: Chihuahuita Center is the smallest community building in the El Paso system, and it serves a small but historically important community on the western side of downtown El Paso. The center is basic in nature, and requires extensive interior renovations and general building upgrades. The Center currently focuses on after school and senior programs.

Consideration should be given as to whether the role of this center could be better performed through the Armijo Center. If deemed to remain vital, the building should be renovated as a high priority over the next five years.

Priority Level: High Priority (next five years) for replacements and upgrades as needed.

Acosta Sports Center

Year Built: 1960

Size: 21,361 square feet

Location: Central El Paso, Park Zone C-4

Year Last Renovated: 1989, 1998

Key Facilities and Characteristics: The Acosta Sports Center's main focus is on gym space, and it is used as the primary location for indoor soccer. The Center is over 40 years old, and has been renovated twice, the last time including a new outside appearance. The center is well located and has adequate parking except for major events.

Additional replacement and renovation efforts should be programmed for the building within the next decade. Ultimate replacement should be considered in the long term future.

Priority Level: Low Priority (next ten years) for replacements and upgrades as needed.

Leona Ford Center Center

Year Built: 1953

Size: 8,000 square feet

Location: Central El Paso, Park Zone C-2

Year Last Renovated: 1997

Key Facilities and Characteristics: This center is historically significant in that it has served the African American population of El Paso since the 1950's. The center has a gym, fitness equipment and rooms for exercise and dance classes.

The building is approaching the end of its useful lifespan, and consideration should be given to developing a replacement building over the next decade.

Priority Level: Medium TermPriority (next ten years) for replacement of the building.

Seville/Sambrano Center

Year Built: 1981

Size: 7,480 square feet

Location: Central El Paso, Park Zone C-4

Year Last Renovated: 2002

Key Facilities and Characteristics: The Seville Center is located in the middle of a residential neighborhood and is difficult to find. The Center completely consumes its site, and has no space for expansion. As a rule of thumb, this placement model should not be used in the future.

No immediate major renovations to this center are programmed for the next decade.

Priority Level: Low Priority (next ten years) for minor replacements and upgrades as needed.

San Juan Center Center

Year Built: 1998

Size: 18,200 square feet

Location: Central El Paso, Park Zone C-4

Year Last Renovated: 2000

Key Facilities and Characteristics: The San Juan Center is located near IH 10 and Paisano Drive East. The population of the area has been decreasing over the past decade as residents move to other parts of the city and industrial and distribution related uses move in. The Center is also somewhat removed from major roadways, making access more difficult. Spaces within the center are difficult to configure. An expansion in 2007 to add useful classroom and fitness space will be completed in 2007. The expansion can occur on the west side of the building, and could add 3,000 to 5,000 square feet to the center.

Longer term, consideration should be given to consolidating this center and the Seville Center into one new center with a better location.

Priority Level: Medium Priority (next ten years) for expansion if demand grows.

Lincoln Center

Year Built: 1977

Size: 21,342 square feet

Location: Central El Paso, Park Zone C-3, C-4

Year Last Renovated: No major renovations

Key Facilities and Characteristics: Lincoln Center serves as offices for divisions of the parks department, and also provides spaces for cultural events for the parks department. The site is the location of a former school, but is now dominated by freeway overpasses that circle the building. The geographic location in the middle of the city is excellent, but the physical location adjacent to major freeways results in high noise levels and severely restricts the ability to modify the building. With increased attention to homeland security issues, it is doubtful as to whether a new building so close to major freeway overpasses would be permitted.

The master plan recommends that a new location for Lincoln Center be identified over the next five years. A similar central geographic location is recommended. Placement as the centerpiece of a future "central" park for El Paso could be one alternative. In the interim, no major renovations to the Lincoln Center building are recommended, other than to keep the center operating for the next few years. The new center should have a multiple purposes, including cultural uses, recreation uses and as main offices for the El Paso Parks and Recreation Department.

The estimated cost of replacing Lincoln Center, without land acquisition costs, ranges from $6,000,000 to $10,000,000.

Priority Level: High Priority (next ten years) for replacement of the Center.

Armijo Center

Year Built: 1968

Size: 43,652 square feet

Location: Central El Paso, Park Zone C-3

Year Last Renovated: 1993 –Pool Renovations in 2003/2004

Key Facilities and Characteristics: The Armijo Center is one of the older centers in the system, and was last updated in 1993. The center includes an indoor leisure and lap pool with slides and fountain amenities. Armijo Center faces a new challenge as a federal government funded recreation center opens less than a quarter mile away in new nearby subsidized housing, and the impact of this new recreation facility should be evaluated over the next few years before changes to the Armijo Center take place. Demographics around the center are evolving as the population in central El Paso gradually decreases and as downtown El Paso is redeveloped. The Center should also begin to mold itself to respond to younger and more affluent downtown residents in the future. The Center is well situated next to a branch library, but has little space for expansion.

The interior of the center is dated and in needed of renovation and reconfiguration. Revenue in recent years has come from rental of facilities and of space within the center to other non-profit entities, and renovation should take this into consideration. The center is appoaching 40 years of age, and demolition of the older areas of the building and replacement with a more modern configuration while maintaining the pool should be considered. The street in front of the center could be converted into a plaza and provide space for the reconfiguration of the center.

The projected cost of replacing the older portion of the center may range from $3,000,000 for renovation to $6,000,000 for redevelopment of the older portion of the building.

Priority Level: High Priority (next ten years) for interior modifications or redevelopment.

Northwest Planning Area Recreation Centers

The West Side of El Paso has one major recreation center and one center under construction which will open in 2007. The two centers will have a combined area of 47,000 square feet. The per capita level of service for the current 100,000 +/- population is approximately 0.47 square feet per resident. By the year 2016, with a population of over 165,000, that ratio will have decreased to a very low 0.28 square feet per resident. Both center serve a very large geographic area, but are well located for those populations.

Galatzan Center is heavily utilized, and the new Three Hills Center should also have high rates of use. Both centers are small for the population they serve, and the master plan recommends that both centers be expanded in the immediate future to provide better service. The new Three Hills Center should be increased by 10,000 to 20,000 square feet within the next decade.

Galatzan Center

Year Built: 1979

Size: 28,000 square feet

Location: West El Paso in Galatzan Park, Park Zone NW-2

Year Last Renovated: No major renovations

Key Facilities and Characteristics: Galatzan Center has a beautiful location with the Franklin Mountains as a backdrop and overlooking a natural area. The center is easily accessed from Mesa Street and Sunland Park Drive. Parking is somewhat limited and shared with the adjacent pool.

The interior configuration is dated and needs updating to provide better flow in the center. The size of the building should be significnatly increased to fulfill the proposed role as a "super center" for the area. An expansion up to 45,000 square feet is proposed.

The estimated cost of updating and expanding the Galatzan Center, without land acquisition costs, ranges from $3,000,000 to $6,000,000. To provide for additional parking and expansion space, the acquisition of nearby lands may be necessary.

Priority Level: High Priority (next five years) for expansion of the Center.

Recreation Center Priorities and Summary of Key Recommendations

Recreation Center priorities are shown below. Projected costs include allowances for land and development, as well as an administrative and design factor.

Most of the existing Recreation Centers are well placed in the communities that they serve, and should be expanded as a first choice before developing new centers. However, some centers have limited service areas or are in older buildings, and from a long term perspective should be consolidated with other centers.

Other Recreation Center Actions

Designate one or two "super-centers" in each planning area. These centers, whether new or expansions of existing centers, would be sized to serve a large area with a driving

Recreation Center Priority Recommendations

Priority	Action	Park Zone	New Square Feet	Land Acquisition Potential Cost Range		Development Potential Cost Range		Rationale for Need
Short Term Actions – The Plan for Today				**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	
1	**Develop new far East Side Recreation "super center". Program the building for 45,000 sf +, and plan for adjacent aquatics facility**	East Side	45,000+/-	$0	$0	$7,500,000	$10,000,000	Cost shown excludes aquatics component. Plan for future expansion. Fast growing area population makes this building a very high priority.
2	**Expand the Galatzan Center to create a west side "super center". Expansion calls for up to 20,000+ additional square feet. Land acquisition may be necessary for room for expansion.**	West Side	20,000+/-	$0	$500,000	$2,500,000	$4,000,000	Needed to increase level of service in the very fast growing Northwest area.
3	**Expansion of Marty Robbins Center – Add second gym, additional classroom and fitness facilities – Adds 10,000 square feet.**	E-4, E-6	10,000+/-	$0	$0	$1,500,000	$3,000,000	Builds space that was deleted due to budget constraints.
4	**Develop new center for Central El Paso, and Replacement for Lincoln Center –Locate new site and develop new cultural, office and recreation center. Consider County owned land at Stanton and Arizona.**	Central	50,000+/-	$0	$1,000,000	$5,000,000	$10,000,000	Resolves use of older building. Once building is relocated, site should be converted into park or landscape space if feasible.
5	**Expansion of Veterans Center.**	NE-5 to NE-8	15,000+/-	$0	$0	$2,000,000	$3,000,000	Provides indoor facilities for population growth in the northeast planning area.
6	**Expand Pavo Real Center for conversion into "super center" for the Mission Valley**	LV-5, LV-6	15,000+/-	$0	$0	$2,500,000	$3,000,000	
7	**Renovate Chihuahuita Community Center.**	C-2	0	$0	$0	$250,000	$500,000	Improves older building in historical area.
8	**Develop recreation center features adjacent to skate facilities at Nations Tobin Center**	NE-1 to NE-4	20,000+	$0	$0	$3,000,000	$4,000,000	Provides indoor recreation for north central El Paso, and increases the variety of facilities at this center.
9	**Renovate or re-build Leona Ford Washington Center**	C-2, C-6	0	$0	$0	$1,000,000	$2,000,000	Older center with historic significance, will require additional renovation or replacement over next decade.
Estimated Total - Short Term - Plan for Today			**175,000**	**$0**	**$1,500,000**	**$17,500,000**	**$37,500,000**	

radius of four to five miles. This recommendation is made to increase operational efficiency and to get as much use as possible in each center. While smaller centers serving more discreet neighborhoods would be ideal, the annual budgetary impact would be too great to continue this trend.

Potential "super centers" include Pavo Real in the Mission Valley, the new far East Side Center, Veterans and Nations Tobin Centers in the Northeast, Galatzan, and Three Hills Centers on the Westside, and a redeveloped Lincoln Center in the Central Planning area.

Smaller centers adjacent to schools should be considered in the future. Where appropriate, centers can be located as a public adjunct to school sites. This allows for sharing of the cost of building and operating the center. However, the future emphasis should be on larger, more efficient centers, and not on smaller, neighborhood based facilities.

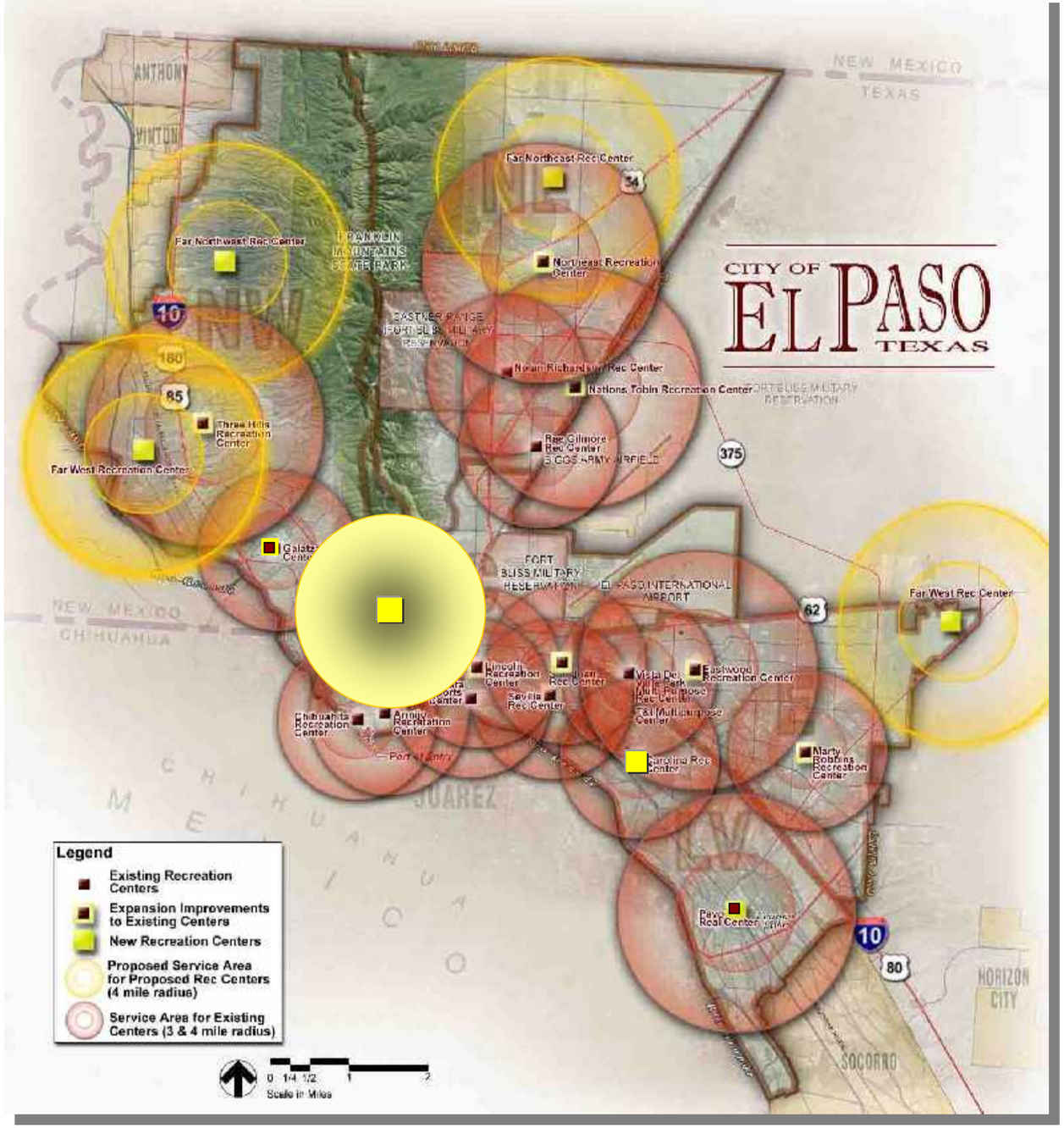
Build recreation and pool facilities together, instead of near each other. Building and staff efficiencies may be possible by sharing some parking, mechanical, office, and even locker room spaces. Recent models, such as the Marty Robbins Center and Pool buildings located a quarter mile from each other mandate that each building have its own staff, parking and even signs.

Plan for possible future expansion – Design each center so that future expansion is readily feasible. Expansion, rather than construction of new centers, is the probable trend of the future.

Combine Recreation and Senior Center functions in the future – Where feasible for greater staff efficiency, incorporate senior facilities into a wing of new or renovated recreation centers to increase the versatility of the centers.

Recreation Center Priority Recommendations

Priority	Action	Park Zone	New Square Feet	Land Acquisition Potential Cost Range		Development Potential Cost Range		Rationale for Need
Medium to Long Term Actions-Plan for A Bright Future								
10	**Develop school/community center facility to serve far west El Paso. Should include gym and classroom spaces. Develop in conjunction with EPISD**	NW-7, NW-8	15,000+/-	$0	$0	$2,500,000	$3,500,000	Addresses need for facilities in far west area of the city.
11	**Renovation and expansion of Armijo Center**	C-2, C-3	30,000 +/-	$0	$0	$5,000,000	$7,500,000	Renovates downtown center and reconfigures it as downtown area is transformed.
12	**Expansion of Three Hills Center.**	NW-9, NW-10	20,000+/-	$0	$500,000	$2,500,000	$3,000,000	Addresses pent up demand in the area.
13	**Combine San Juan and Seville Centers into one new center**	C-4	5	$100,000	$500,000	$750,000	$1,500,000	Long range, and should be based on demand around both centers
14	**Develop far northwest regional "super center". Plan for combination center and aquatics facilities. Development not probable for next decade.**	NW-11, NW-12, NW-13,	0	$0	$0	$2,000,000	$5,000,000	Long term action, addresses need in area that is already significantly deficient and facing high population growth
Estimated Total - Long Term Plan for A Bright Future			**55**	**$100,000**	**$1,000,000**	**$12,750,000**	**$20,500,000**	



Proposed long range recreation center development in El Paso

II. Senior Centers

El Paso has nine senior centers with a total size of 106,400 square feet. Four of the oldest centers were built in the late 1970's, and the most recent center, Washington, was developed in 2000.

The distribution of Senior Centers throughout the city is shown on the following page. In general, centers have been built in more established parts of the city with higher ratios of older residents. High growth areas of El Paso where new development is occurring currently do not have Senior Centers.

Trends in Facilities for Senior Citizens

Senior Centers provide a vital function for older residents of El Paso. They provide locations for recreation, nutrition and lunch programs, and offer social events such as Bingo and dances. Services provided at these centers tend to be subsidized by the City.

Senior Centers currently operate during 21% of their available capacity, mostly since senior services are offered during morning and early afternoon timeframes. Attendance during the last fiscal year was close to 400,000, for an average of 44,400 per center.

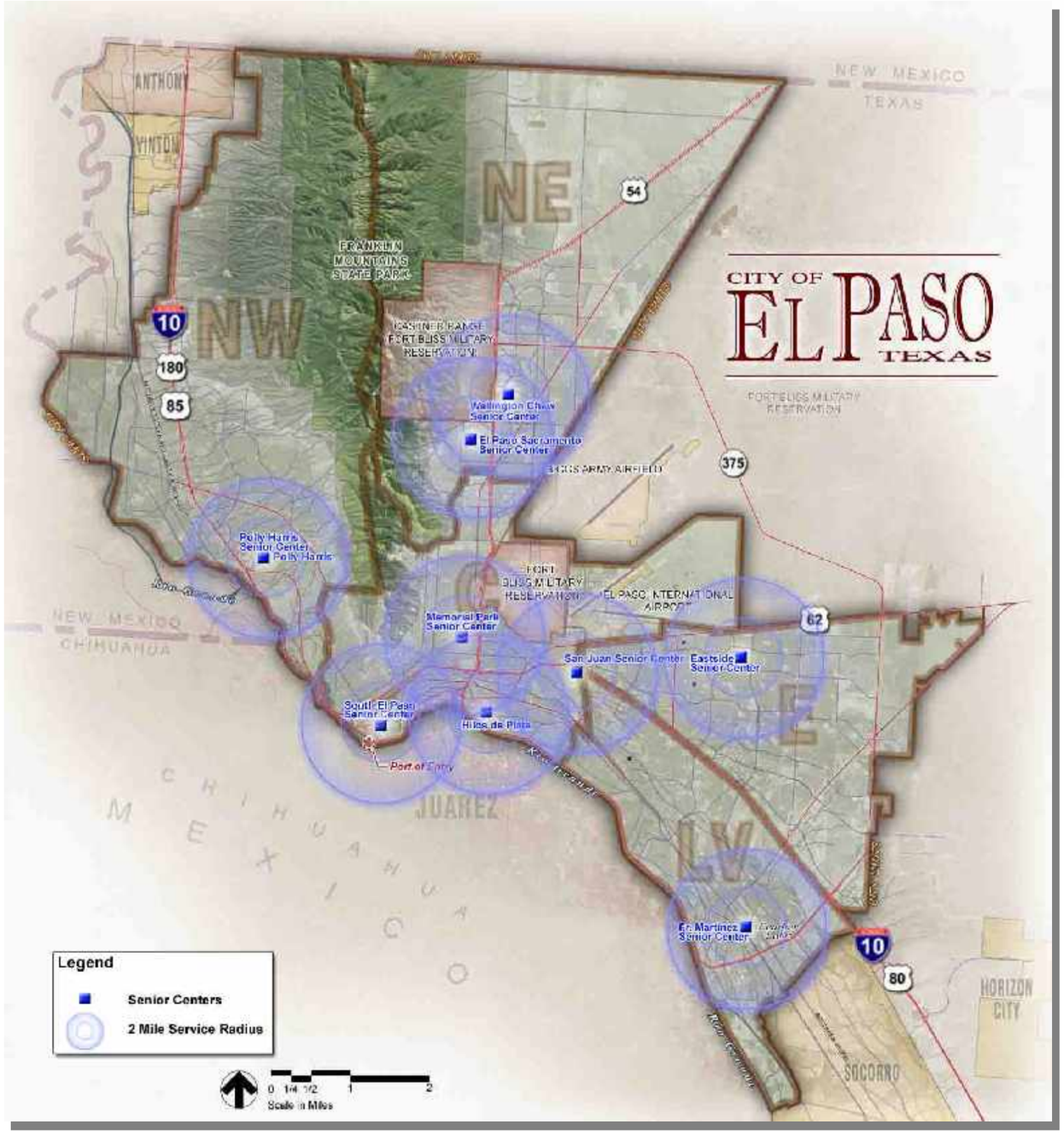
Usage of free standing Senior Centers is anticipated to decline over the next 10 to 20 years as seniors increasingly remain active well into their 80's. The next generation of seniors is expected to want to interact with younger users of a center so as to be surrounded by vigor and activity.

As the next generation of recreation centers is built in El Paso, facilities primarily reserved for senior citizens should be incorporated into the new and renovated recreation centers.

From a citywide standpoint, the preference will be to not add new free-standing and totally separate senior centers.

Senior Centers in El Paso

LOCATIONS	District	ADDRESSES	BLDG DATE	SQ. FEET	VALUE	REHAB Date	Facility Maintenance Cost
Eastside	5	3200 Fierro	1987	8,500	$1,500,000		$35,530
Memorial Park	2	1800 Byron	1977	12,000	$2,000,000	1990	$50,160
Pavo Real (Father Martinez)	6	9311 Alameda	1999	8,000	$1,500,000	1999	$33,440
Polly Harris	8	650 Wallenberg	1989	8,000	$800,000		$33,440
Sacramento	2	3134 Jefferson	1991	9,818	$736,350		$41,039
San Juan	3	700 N. Glenwood	1979	8,648	$648,600		$36,149
South El Paso	8	600 S. Ochoa	1979	14,112	$2,500,000	1990	$58,988
Washington (Hilos de Plata)	8	4451 Delta Dr	2004	25,000	$3,000,000		$104,500
Wellington Chew	2	4430 Maxwell	1978	12,322	$2,000,000		$51,506
Total Size				106,400 s.f.			



Existing Senior Centers and service areas in El Paso.

Recommendations for Existing Senior Centers in El Paso

Recommendations for each of the existing senior facilities in El Paso are shown below.

Senior Center Priority Recommendations

Priority	Action	Park Zone	New Square Feet	Acquisition Potential Cost Range		Development Potential Cost Range		Rationale for Need
Short Term Actions – The Plan for Today				**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	
1	**San Juan Center – Consider converting into flexible space that can be used by both seniors and adjacent recreation center. Requires interior renovation**	Central Area	0	$0	$0	$600,000	$1,0000,000	Major service area, few improvements since center was initially built.
2	**Wellington Chew Center – Interior renovation**	Northeast Area	0	$0	$0	$1,000,000	$1,200,000	Major service area, few improvements since center was initially built.
3	**South El Paso Center – Interior renovation**	Central Area	0	$0	$0	$1,250,000	$1,500,000	Major service area, few improvements since center was initially built.
4	**Memorial Center – Interior renovation, entrance improvements**	Central Area	0	$0	$0	$1,000,000	$1,200,000	Major service area, few improvements since center was initially built.
Estimated Total - Short Term - Plan for Today			**0**	**$0**	**$2,500,000**	**$3,800,000**	**$4,900,000**	
Longer Term Actions – Plan for A Bright Future								
5	**Father Martinez Center (Pavo Real) – Minor upgrades and renovation as needed**	Mission Valley	0	$0	$0	$400,000	$800,000	Evaluate over next five years.
6	**Eastside Senior Center – Minor upgrades and renovation as needed**	East	0	$0	$0	$400,000	$800,000	Evaluate over next five years.
7	**Polly Harris Center – Minor upgrades and renovation as needed**	Northwest	0	$0	$0	$400,000	$800,000	Evaluate over next five years.
8	**Sacramento Center – Minor upgrades and renovation as needed**	Northeast	0	$0	$0	$500,000	$1,000,000	Evaluate over next five years.
Estimated Total – Long Term Plan for A Bright Future			**265**	**$0**	**$2,500,000**	**$1,700,000**	**$3,400,000**	

CHAPTER 7:

AQUATICS FACILITIES

Chapter Contents

I. Introduction – Key Desirable Characteristics of Today's Pools
II. A Review of Existing Pools in El Paso
III. Aquatic Facility Priorities and Summary of Key Recommendations

Aquatic Facility Needs

I. Introduction

El Paso has a well developed system of pools. Given the dry desert heat, aquatic facilities would be expected to be an extremely popular recreation feature. The system includes nine indoor pools and five outdoor pools. Citywide, the system includes one pool to serve every 42,000 residents. By the year 2016, that ratio will fall to one city pool for every 46,000 residents.

INDOOR POOLS							
Pool Name	District	Address	Yr. Built	Size of Bldg.	Estimated Value	Yr. Last Renovated	Value of Last Renovation
Armijo	8	911 Ochoa	2001	33,834	$4,800,000		$141,426
Hawkins	3	1500 Hawkins	1981	12,756	$2,200,000	1997	$53,320
Leo Cancellare	8	650 Wallenberg	1976	10,450	$2,000,000		$43,681
Marty Robins	6	11600 Vista Del Sol	1992-2005	12,605	$2,000,000		$52,688
Memorial	2	3251 Copper	2005	13,000	$2,500,000	1980, 2006	$54,340
Multipurpose	3	9031 Viscount	1984	4,009	$300,675		$16,757
Shawver	7	8100 Independence	1992	13,163	$2,000,000		$55,021
Veterans	4	5301 Salem	1977	11,799	$2,000,000	2003	$49,319
Washington	8	4451 Delta Dr	2004	9,000	$1,500,000		$37,620

OUTDOOR POOLS							
Pool Name	District	Address	Yr. Built	Size of Bldg.	Estimated Value	Yr. Last Renovated	Value of Last Renovation
Hacienda	3	1225 Giles	1960	2,496	$600,000		$10,433
Nations Tobin	3	8831 Railroad	1960	2,496	$800,000	2003	$10,433
Pavo Real	6	110 Presa Pl.	1974	3,552	$1,800,000	1980	$14,847
Grandview	2	3100 Jefferson	1977	3,300	$600,000	2005	$13,794
Chelsea	2	819 Chelsea	1956	2,031	$600,000		$8,489

The City of El Paso is the primary provider of aquatic facilities for the area, including area public schools and private swimming clubs. El Paso County provides one pool at Ascarate Park.

All of the outdoor pools are at least 25 years old, while only two of the indoor pools are that old. The trend toward indoor pools started with the enclosure of outdoor pools in the early 1980's.

Key Desirable Characteristics of Today's Pools

As in all other aspects of recreation, aquatic facilities are rapidly evolving and changing. The advent of pure leisure pools began in earnest in the 1990's with simple water slides and mushroom spray features. Today's pools are a far cry from the simple rectangular shape of the past, with an emphasis on the entertainment value and the experience.

Pools have distinct user groups:

- **Swimming for fitness** – Lap swimming is a popular exercise, especially among older adults.
- **Competitive swimming** – Requires lanes and specific pool depths.
- **Leisure pools and water playgrounds** – To add to the entertainment factor, pools with zero depth entry zones, lazy rivers and interactive water play features are often added to pools. Long slides with significant drops are also added.

Indoor enclosed pools were thought to be a solution to combat the high temperatures in the summer time and to extend pool use into the summer months. However, two cases point to a flaws in this thinking.

- In Odessa, new family entertainment pools have not been as successful as originally planned. These centers, while including extensive outdoor play features, are not covered,

and the high summer temperatures, similar to El Paso, result in declines in attendance after July 4th. With simple tensile shade covers, those centers might be more successful.

- In El Paso, staff reports that winter pool usage declines significantly in some indoor pools. Pool users are simply not used to swimming in the winter months, and the number of users swimming for fitness may not be high enough to justify the cost of keeping all of the pools open.

Pools in El Paso

The tables on the following pages document the existing pools in El Paso. The city's pools are all generally simple rectangular pools, some of which have been enclosed over time. Even more recent pool renovation efforts, such as Marty Robbins Pool maintained a simple rectangular shape as part of an extensive renovation effort that repaired the pool enclosure. Armijo Pool, located in the Central area near downtown El Paso, is the one pool that most closely resembles today's leisure pool prototype.

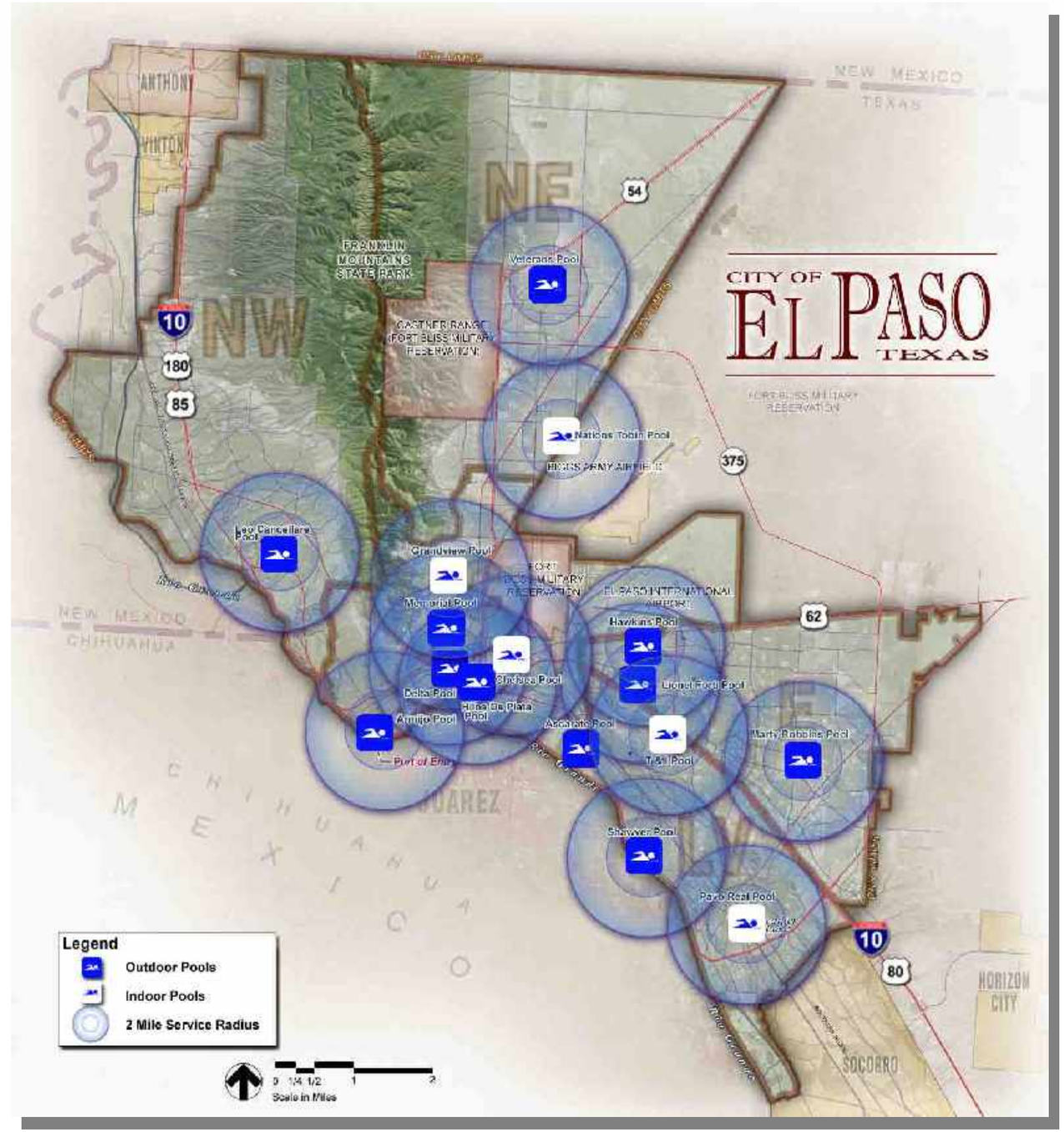
Distribution of Pools in the City

Pools in El Paso follow the traditional neighborhood model, both in their locations as well as well as in their distribution throughout the city. The distribution of pools is shown on the following pages.

In a similar manner to recreation centers, the need for greater entertainment value in aquatic facilities, as well as the ever increasing cost of operating and maintaining pools has lead to most cities transitioning to a system of fewer and larger pools.

II. A Review of Existing Pools in El Paso

A review of each existing pool in El Paso follows.



Northeast Area Pools

The northeast area has two pools, the Nations Tobin outdoor pool and the indoor pool at Veterans Park. With a population of over 115,000 residents, the area has one pool for every 57,000 residents. This ratio is only 74% of the citywide average.

Nations Tobin Outdoor Pool

Year Built: 1960

Location: In Nations Tobin Park in the center of the Northeast Area

Year Last Renovated: 2003

Key Characteristics: The pool is over 40 years old, and even with recent renovations isbeginnining to showits age. The pool is relatively small, and has only one amenity feature.

Recommendations for this pool: Within the next ten years, consider removing the exisitng pool and developing an aquatic center in this area.

Priority Level: Medium Term (next ten years)

Northeast Recreation (Veterans) Indoor Pool

Year Built: 1977

Location: In Veterans Park in the far Northeast Area

Year Last Renovated: 2003

Key Characteristics: The pool is a simple rectangle configuration, and even with recent renovations is now close to 30 years old. The pool has no amenity features and limited deck area. The skylight roof features give the pool a light and airy feeling. Locker rooms are somewhat dated.

Recommendations for this pool: Continue to operate for the next decade, but with only minor repairs to keep functioning. Plan for eventual replacement of this pool with a full aquatics center that serves the far northeast area of the city.

Priority Level: Medium Term (next ten years)

East Side Pools

The northeast area has two pools, both of which are indoor pools. With a population of over 177,000 residents, the area has one pool for every 88,500 residents. This ratio is only 45% of the citywide average.

Hawkins Pool

Year Built: 1981

Location: In Nations Tobin Park in the center of the Northeast Area

Year Last Renovated: 1997

Key Characteristics: The pool is 25 years old with a plain, rectangle design. The pool has limited deck space and no amenity features.

Recommendations for this pool: Continue to operate, but monitor condition.

Priority Level: Medium Term (next ten years)

Marty Robbins Pool

Year Built: 1992

Location: In Marty Robbins Park

Year Last Renovated: 2005

Key Characteristics: The pool is a simple enclosed rectangle configuration. Locker room renovations somewhat improved the interior configuration, but the entry area is still unattractive. Party areas were added on the perimeter.

Recommendations for this pool: No changes over the next decade.

Priority Level: Low (because of recent renovations)

Mission Valley Pools

The Mission Valley area has three pools, two outdoor, and one indoor. With a population of over 106,000 residents, the area has one pool for every 35,000 residents. This ratio is above the citywide average.

Lionel Forti Pool

Year Built: 1960

Location: In Hacienda (Lionel Forti) Park

Year Last Renovated:

Key Characteristics: This outdoor pool is approaching 50 years of age, and should be replaced over the next decade.

Recommendations for this pool: Continue to operate, replace within 10 years

Priority Level: Medium Term (next ten years)

Pavo Real Pool

Year Built: 1974

Location: Pavo Real Park

Year Last Renovated: 1980 and 2006/2007

Key Characteristics: The pool is a rectangular 50 yard pool with a diving area. The pool serves a major portion of the Mission Valley area. As part of current renovation plans, consideration should be given to converting this pool into an aquatic center for the entire Mission Valley planning area.

Recommendations for this pool: Convert to Aquatic Center and enclose or cover with sun shade.

Priority Level: High

Central Area Pools

The central area has five pools, three of which are indoor pools. With a population of over 124,000 residents, the area has one pool for every 25,000 residents. This ratio is 164% of the citywide average.

Armijo Pool

Year Built: 2001

Location: In south downtown El Paso

Year Last Renovated:

Key Characteristics: The Armijo Pool is an excellent prototype for other indoor pools in the city. The pool has party areas, amenity features, and is airy and sunny with large glass walls. The pool is larger than other indoor pools, and the higher ceiling height also contributes to the pool environment.

Recommendations for this pool: No major changes required.

Priority Level: Low

Memorial Pool

Year Built: 1980

Location: In Memorial Park

Year Last Renovated: 2006 (Complete rebuild)

Key Characteristics: The pool was completely rebuilt and reopened in 2006.

Recommendations for this pool: No changes over the next decade.

Priority Level: Medium (Because Of Recent Renovations) - Convert to Leisure Pool in the near future. Replace existing pool which is now over 30 years old.

Three Hills Pool

Year Built: 2007 (proposed)

Location: In Three Hills Park

Year Last Renovated:

Key Characteristics: The proposed pool will be part of the new Three Hills Center. Given that this pool is not yet constructed, immmediate consideration should be given to developing this facility as the city's first outdoor aquatic center. Indoor winter use can still occur at Leo Cancellare Pool, which the covered outdoor pool can be a major attraction for the area. The estimated cost of a large aquatic center pool is $4,000,000 to $6,000,000.

Recommendations for this pool: Construct aquatic center pool immediately.

Priority Level: Low

Galatzan Pool

Year Built: 1976

Location: In Galatzan Park

Year Last Renovated: 2005

Key Characteristics: The pool recently received minor renovations. The pool consists of the traditional enclosed rectangle, and lacks amenity features.

Recommendations for this pool: No major changes over the next decade.

Priority Level: Medium – Replace pool with new leisure pool and swim center

Northwest Area Pools

The northwest planning area currently only has one pool, Galatzan, and one new pool that is proposed for the Three Hills park site for the more than 100,000 residents of the area. With both pools in place the ratio of pools to population is one pool for every 50,000 residents, or 80% of the citywide average (only when the second pool is built).

III. Aquatic Facilities Priorities and Summary of Key Recommendations

Aquatic facility priorities are shown below. Projected costs include allowances for land and development, as well as an administrative/design factor. Other recommendations include:

Operate indoor pools on a more limited winter schedule. Consider operating only three to four indoor pools during the winter months, primarily for fitness purposes. The cost of keeping pool water clean and at optimum temperature is high, even if the pool itself is not open. Select one pool in every one to two planning areas to remain open.

Develop pool "super-aquatic centers" – Develop one major aquatic center in each planning area that includes extensive slides, zero entry areas and an interactive playground feature. Develop these centers over the next decade, opening one every two to three years as feasible.

Aquatic Facility Priority Recommendations

Priority	Action	Park Zone	New Square Feet	Land Acquisition Potential Cost Range		Development Potential Cost Range		Rationale for Need
Short Term Actions – The Plan for Today				**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	**Low Cost Range**	**High Cost Range**	
1	**Close Chelsea Pool, and convert site to spray grounds and neighborhood park site**	Northwest		$0	$0	$400,000	$750,000	Cost shown excludes aquatics component. Plan for future expansion. Fast growing area population makes this building a very high priority.
2	**Develop new aquatic center for far east El Paso on the 90 acre regional park site**	Central		$0	$0	$3,000,000	$5,000,000	Needed to increase level of service in the very fast growing Northwest area.
3	**Develop Aquatic Center on Three Hills Park site – convert plans for simple pool into full aquatic center design**	Mission Valley		$0	$0	$3,000,000	$5,000,000	Builds space that was deleted due to budget constraints.
4	**Develop and enclose aquatic center at Pavo Real Pool**	Central		$0	$0	$3,000,000	$5,000,000	Resolves use of older building. Once building is relocated, site should be converted into park or landscape space if feasible.
5	**Demolish and develop aquatic center at Leo Cancillare (Galatzan)**	Northwest				$3,000,000	$5,000,000	
Estimated Total - Short Term - Plan for Today				**$0**	**$0**	**$12,400,000**	**$20,750,000**	

Close older pools instead of renovating them – In recent years, some pools that should have been closed have been instead targeted for renovations. Pool closure is a very difficult community issue, but aging infrastructure and the need to keep up with more stringent health standards will require tough decisions in the next few years. The closure of Chelsea Pool should be the first test of this recommendation. The pool should be replaced by a larger leisure pool that serves Central El Paso.

Build recreation and pool facilities together, instead of near each other. As discussed in recreation center section, explore greater building efficiencies by building pools and recreation centers side by side or even in a common building.

Plan for possible future expansion – Design each pool so that new features can be added over time.

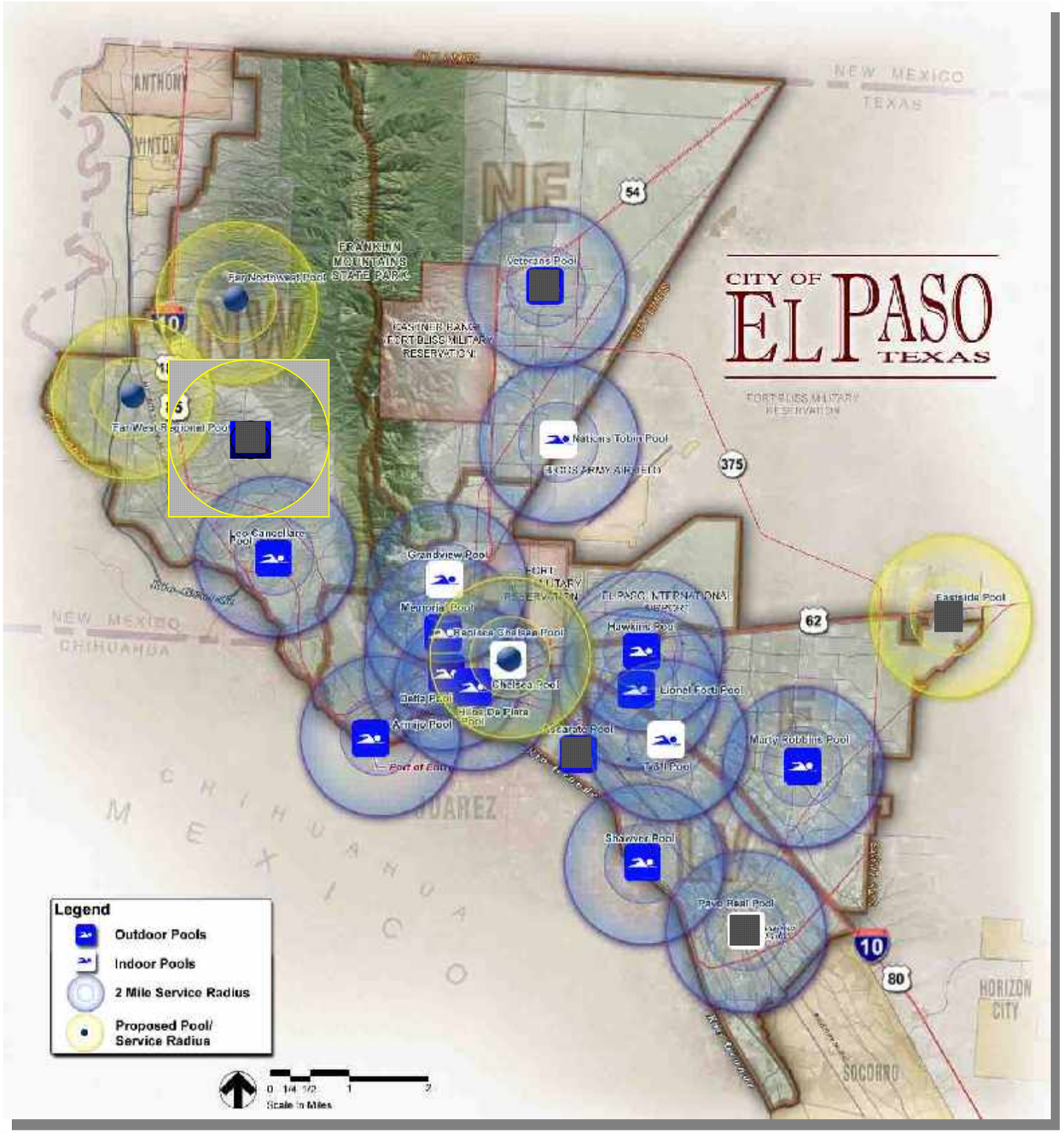
Competitive Swim Facilities – El Paso has no true competitive swimming facilities. Instead, enclosed pools such as the facilities at Memorial or Shawver are used for meets. Deck space in these facilities is not adequate for large numbers of spectators, creating potentially awkward conditions during events.

Giving the multiple school districts in the area and the popularity of swimming both for fitness and competitively, El Paso should pursue the construction of at least one premier swimming complex. This facility should be geared for practice with multiple lanes, as well as sized for both metric and yard dimensions. The facility should be enclosed to allow winter use. This center should only be built as a cooperative venture between most if not all of the school districts in the area in partnership with the City of El Paso and El Paso County. UTEP could also be considered as a partner.

Leisure pool in Odessa Texas, including both fitness lanes and leisure components such as slides.

Aquatic Facility Priority Recommendations

Priority	Action	Park Zone	New Square Feet	Land Acquisition Potential Cost Range		Development Potential Cost Range		Rationale for Need
Medium to Long Term Actions - Plan for A Bright Future								
6	**Close Nations Tobin Pool and convert to Aquatic Center for the Northeast Planning Area**	Northwest		$0	$0	$3,000,000	$5,000,000	Addresses need for facilities in far northeast area of the city.
7	**Develop major water recreation center and competitive pool at Ascarate Park or at other location in the city. Develop partnerships with local school districts to joint venture construction and operation of this facility.**	Citywide		$0	$0	$8,000,000	$15,000,000	Consider feasibility of citywide feature. May be private partnership to develop and operate facility
Estimated Total - Long Term Plan for A Bright Future			**0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$11,000,000**	**$20,000,000**	



Proposed pools actions over the next decade

The pool might also serve as a facility for the Pan American Games, should El Paso decide to pursue that event in the future. The partnership with the school districts, the Community College and UTEP should especially extend to the annual operation of the pool facility. Potential locations include Ascarate Park, lands adjacent to Cohen Stadium, and near Central El Paso.

CHAPTER 8:

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAILS IN EL PASO

Chapter Contents

I. Trail Issues and Needs
II. Open Space Issues and Needs

I. Trail Issues and Needs

For a city of its size, El Paso has few in-town trail corridors. The two better trails in the city are on the west side of the city along the Rio Grande corridor and the Pat O'Rourke Memorial Trail along Resler Drive.

Goals of a Trail System for El Paso

- Plan a system that can be developed in increments by many different entities, but that ultimately will interconnect into a citywide network.
- Increase the level of understanding of the importance and value of trails and greenways, and to encourage the stewardship of natural and cultural resources.
- Provide a framework for coordinated development of trails throughout the city.
- Enhance the quality of life for citizens of El Paso by providing additional recreational facilities.
- Provide access to trail corridors for all parts of the city and all residents of El Paso.
- Create and enhance a strong sense of identity for El Paso as the trail system is developed.
- Provide access to as many community facilities, such as schools, civic facilities, retail and employment establishments as is possible.

Key Desirable Characteristics of Trails

The Pat O'Rourke Trail corridor exemplifies the benefits that trails provide in a city. The trail not only provides an extremely popular place for walking and exercising, but also has become a key social gathering place. The trail beautifies an otherwise ordinary corridor with nothing more than landscaping and an asphalt ribbon.

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Distribution of Trails in El Paso

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Trail Priorities and Summary of Key Recommendations

Based on the areas by area needs, community park priorities are shown on the following page. Projected costs include allowances for land and development, as well as an administrative and design factor.

Trail Opportunities

Coordinate with the IBWC (International Boundary Water Commission) and the El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 for use of Northeast and North/South laterals adjacent to the Rio Grande and irrigation corridors to develop a series of interconnecting trails.

Potential Trail Development Actions

Action	Size	Potential Cost	Priority Level
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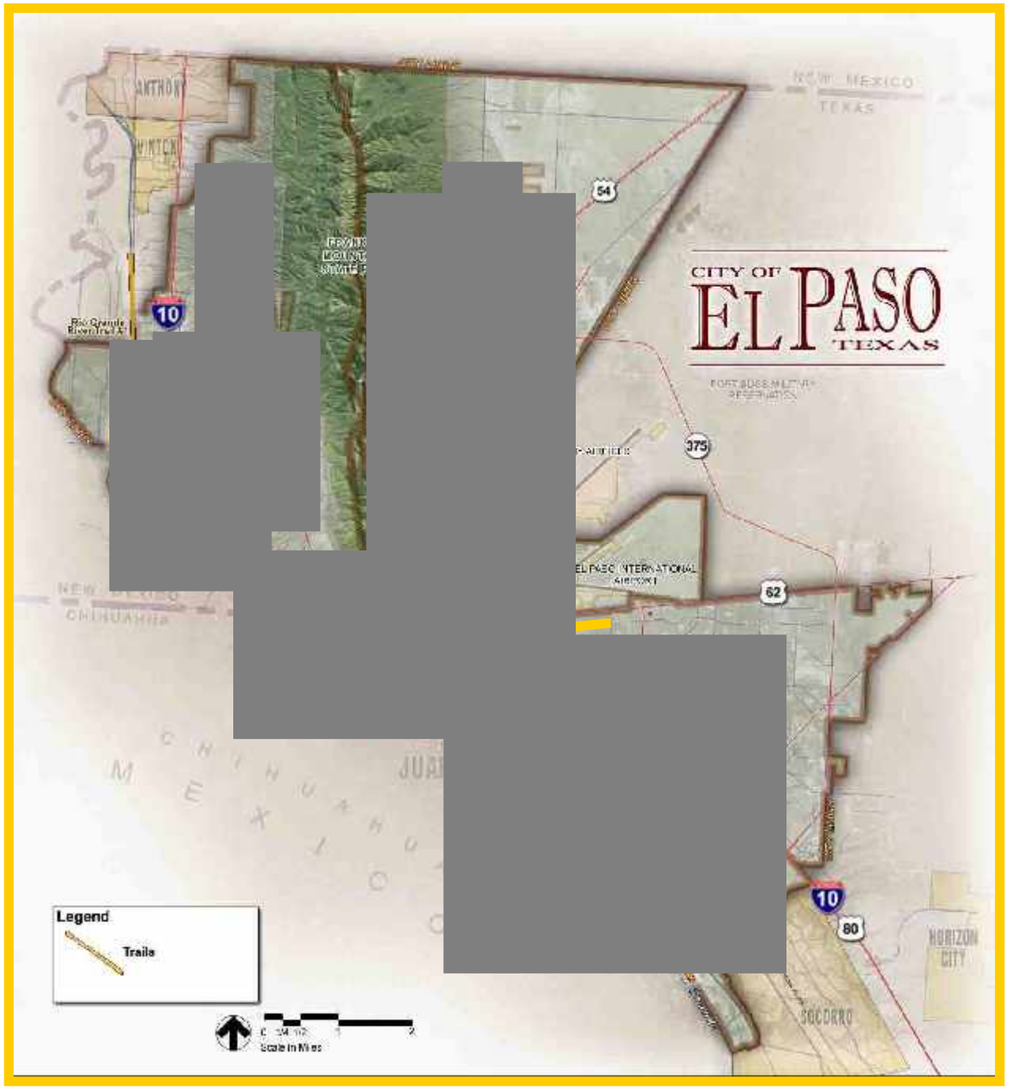

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A detailed review of open space needs and opportunities in El Paso will be added as an addendum to this plan, but the Master Plan provides an overview of where the city is today.

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One only has to drive through much of the city to understand why additional open space is so badly needed. Most cities have the benefit of rivers, creeks or other frequent natural features that provide a temporary relief from the city around them. These slivers of undeveloped lands without buildings break up the pattern of buildings, and are very much valued as a city matures and grows. Think of New York City without Central Park, or Miami without its beaches and bays, or Denver without the Platte River.

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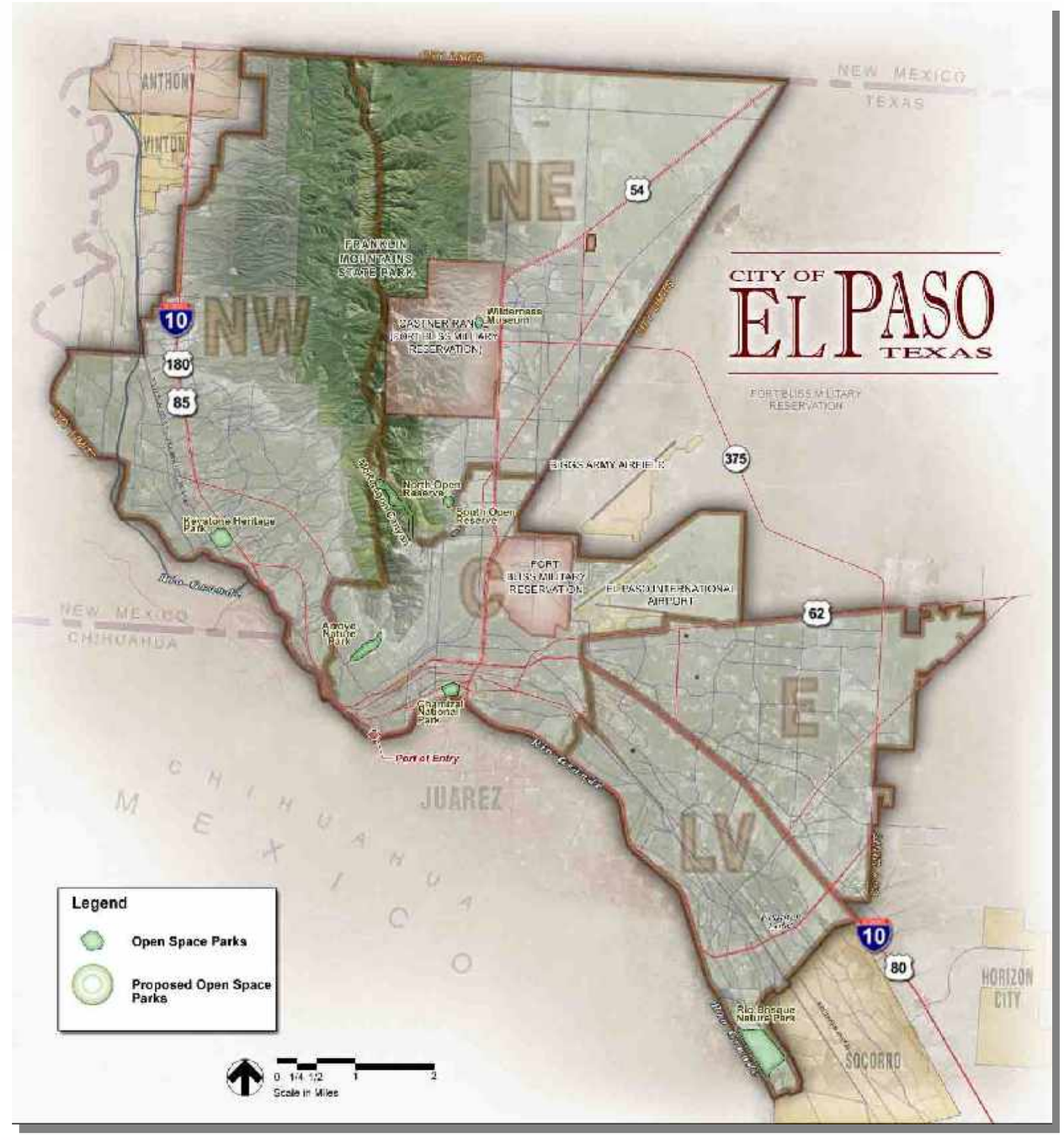

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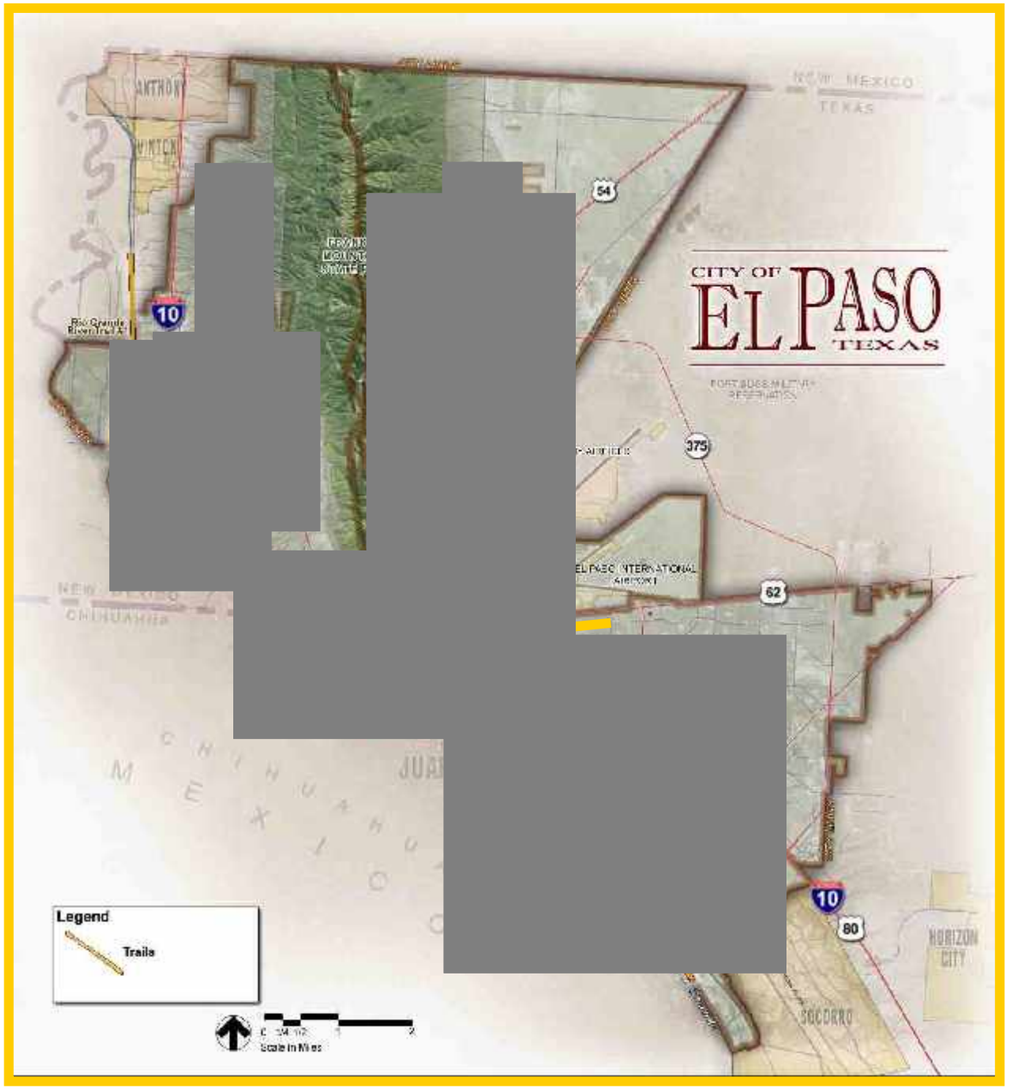

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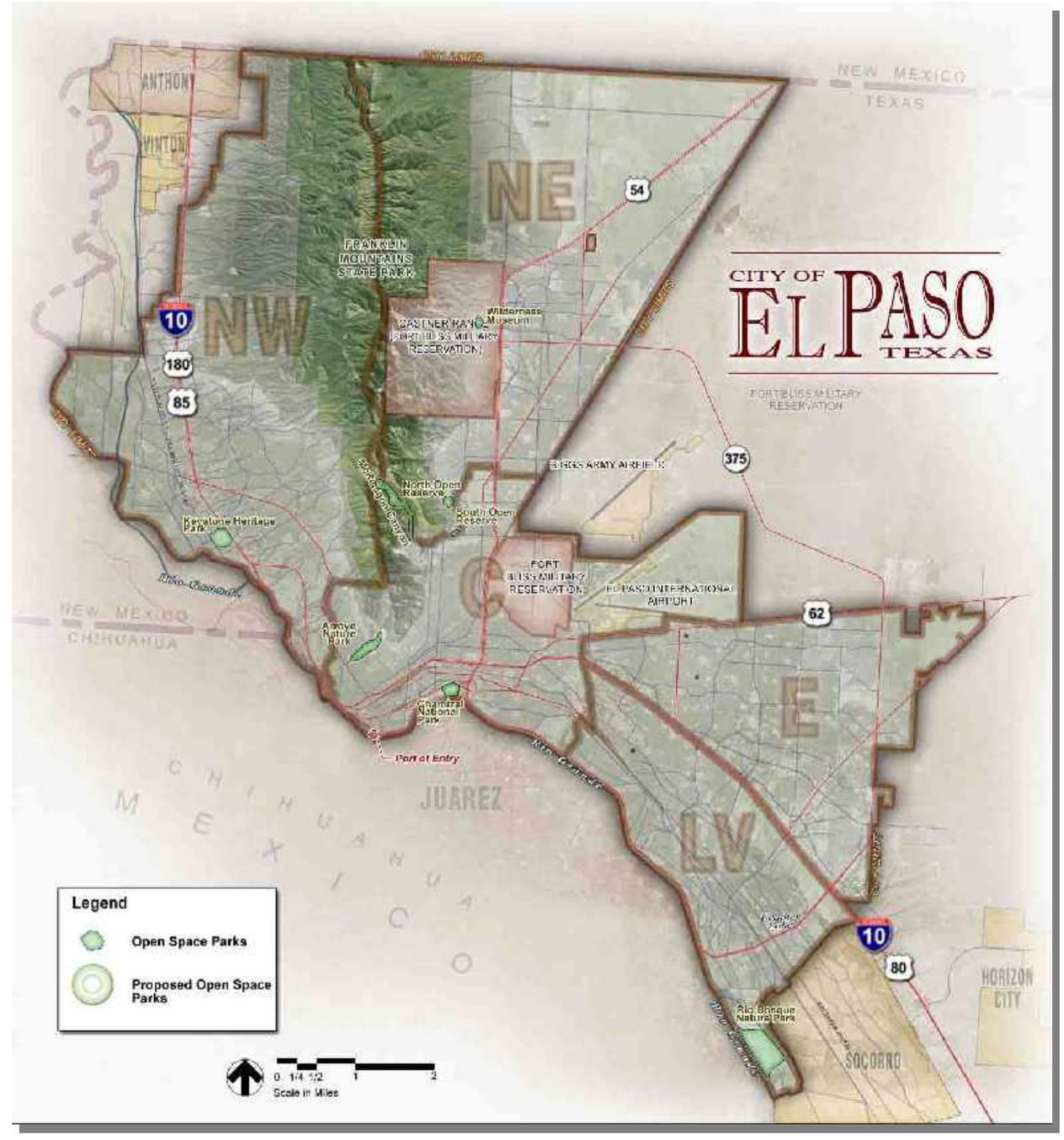

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CHAPTER 9:

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Chapter Contents

I. Introduction – The Role of Parks and Recreation in El Paso's Bright Future
II. The Evolving and Ever Changing Roles of Public Parks and Recreation
III. Recreation Programs and Services
IV. The Overall Purpose and Direction for Recreation
V. Range of Recreation Services
VI. Programming Pricing

I. The Role of Parks and Recreation in El Paso's Bright Future

Since the inception of public parks in America over 100 years ago, the role, and value of public parks and its related services reflect the ongoing change and evolution of our nation and its times. In today's world with increased mobility for companies and people, parks, and recreation assumes a new and more critical role in the future of a community - that of "viability and livability".

The economic "viability" of a community is dependent upon an area's "livability" or how desirable a community is as a place for people to live, work, learn, and play. Today's knowledgeable workers are most interested in living in an area where there is appreciation for the natural environment along with easy access to those natural resources; planned and spontaneous social and entertainment opportunities play a close second. These preferences are not lost on the companies that seek to attract, employ, and retain the best and brightest knowledge workers.

Another aspect contributing to the economic viability of a community is the ability to attract and retain retirees. States in the southern region of the United States are currently involved in high stakes marketing campaign as they compete to bring retirees with the positive cash flow they represent into the fold of their states and communities. Again, the role of public parks and recreation as providing quality of life opportunities is part of the competitive edge package.

The relationship between community viability and its livability extends into other areas as well. <u>One such critical area for the future reflects the educational levels and overall health and well-being of a community's youth</u>. The role that public parks and recreation can play in the informal learning and support for young people in a community is critical for enhancing the access to and successful completion of formal education.

The number of young adults in the United States who are "at risk" of not making a successful adult transition is a serious challenge to the viability of our nation's communities. When you couple this risk with school attendance and drop-out rates, the economic impact continues to grow.

The role that parks and recreation is playing currently in areas, neighborhoods, and for individuals across the country designed to address the many challenges and opportunities, reflects the shift from parks and recreation's perception as an amenity or nice thing to have to an essential or necessity of today's world.

Current examples from the Federal and State Levels include such things as the financial support being provided for development of trails as alternative methods of transportation, the reclamation of brownfields, and heavy

Therefore, the Master Plan recommends that the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department, in its quest for a Bright Future, reposition its role, programming, and services in a way that more closely reflects the concerns and issues of life in the early 21st century particularly as it relates to the unique needs of El Paso.

<u>This shift most closely corresponds to the "From Amenity to Essential " approach that supports and enhances community viability and overall well-being of its residents.</u>

emphasis upon access to parks and recreation programming as antidotes to obesity and health care costs.

Examples from Urban and Municipalities across the country include the large number of economic development projects in Southern states other than Florida to attract retirees as a source of continued economic impact. Many cities are attempting to reposition their access to natural and open spaces as well as entertainment and recreational options as a way to attract the "creative class" to their areas. In leading the nation, communities such as Phoenix and Indianapolis have repositioned the services of their departments to support important community issues such as youth and health. Clearly, park facilities and recreation programs are an asset that can help to create and contribute to a Bright Future for El Paso.

II The Evolving and Ever-Changing Roles of Public Parks and Recreation

A review of the evolving and ever-changing roles of public parks and recreation throughout its 100+ year history includes the following:

1. Early 1900s - Social Support for Community Well-being

Developed as a Response to Shift from Agricultural to Industrial Era of the United States coupled with increased Immigration

Program and Services:

- the beginning of playgrounds for children to overcome the dangers of playing in the streets with no adult supervision
- designation of open, green space as places for people to gather to counter-balance close living quarters.

2. Depression Era - Strong, Government Support

Developed as a response to the serious challenges and conditions associated with this time in our history

Programs and Services:

- Federal work programs such as the WPA and the Conservation Corp provided employment and dignity for Americans resulting in the construction of trails, parks, pools, gymnasiums, skating rinks, etc.

3. Post World War II - Boom Time Era:

Parks and Recreation Everywhere and for Everybody was in response to the post war prosperity, the baby boom, and birth of the suburbs.

Programs and Services:

- A myriad of leisure opportunities grew in all sectors of society including the birth of Little League, the opening of Disneyland, family vacations, country clubs, etc.

4. Onset of the 1980s - Pay for Play

This period reflected the passage of Proposition 13 in California that soon spread throughout the country

Programs and Services:

- A market-oriented approach consumed public parks and recreation as the actual survival of some departments and the perceived success of others related to the ability to generate revenue.

5. End of the 20th and Beginning of 21st Century - From Amenity to Essential

Government at all levels began to focus on how the basic services and amenities offered by parks and recreation contributed to the economic viability of communities and the health and well-being of its citizens.

Programs and Services:

- Adoption and/or adaptation of urbanism, livable communities, health and wellness movement, focus upon children and aging adults.

III. Recreation Programs and Services

Recreation programs and services serve a dual purpose in the life of a community. The array of such recreation and leisure offerings contributes to a perceived quality of life in an area while the delivery for such programs and services creates opportunities for people to grow, develop, and thrive as individuals and contributing members of the community.

The types of activities and programs provided by a department need to reflect the needs of the community while simultaneously supporting the overall viability of the community. This is especially true for a city such as El Paso that is a unique entity in its own right.

This section will encompass the following recommendations related to recreation programming:

- Overall Purpose and Directions for Recreation in El Paso
- Identification of a Continuum of Recreation Services
- Policy and Pricing Recommendations related to the Continuum

A set of additional recommendations will be made related to the best use of existing human resources to direct and support the recreation programming.

IV. Overall Purpose and Direction for Recreation

Recreation as a public service is responsible for contributing to the overall viability and well-being of that community by addressing issues and challenges that are particularly important of critical in that city. Base upon the demographics and subsequent needs of the City of El Paso, it is recommended that recreation programs support the following need areas:

- Youth Development and Successful Adult Transition
- Physical Health and Well-being
- Informal and Lifelong Learning

Those recommendations reflect some specific demographics of the City including:

- El Paso is a city that has a larger percentage of persons under the age of 18 than does the State of Texas or the rest of the country. So the success of young people living in El Paso will play a substantial role in El Paso's Bright Future.
- Over 70% of households in El Paso are households where a language other than English is spoken; this percentage is far greater than that for the State of Texas or the rest of the United States with percentages of 31% and 18% respectively.

- A relationship between lifetime earnings and education level is fairly well established so it will behoove the City of El Paso to use educational attainment as a strategy for decreasing the percentage of households living below the poverty level.

The United States as a whole is currently challenged with a new phenomenon currently labeled as "successful adult transition." Society as we know it is being influenced by a growing number of young people who are not able to support themselves financially or emotionally, or take care of a family. This trend, identified by the Annie E. Casey Foundation through its KIDS COUNT tracking system, suggests that there are four million young adults who are "disconnected" and having a tough transition to successful adulthood.

Specific descriptors of this group include:

- One in six young adults ages, 18 through 24, are not working, have no degree beyond high school, and are not enrolled in school
- The percentage of these "disconnected" youth is approximately 15% of the total age group
- Over the past 3 years, there has been a 19% increase; an additional 700,000 youth becoming "disconnected" and facing a tough transition to successful adulthood.
- Most of the disconnected young adults come from poverty backgrounds
- The disconnected young adults are disproportionately of minority backgrounds
- The defining experiences common to many of these young adults include: teens in foster care, teens involved with juvenile justice, teens with children of their own, and teens that did not finish high school.

Over 22% of the people in El Paso live below the poverty line, a substantial percentage of young people in El Paso are within this at risk group.

The economic impact of adults who do not complete high school or those who do not continue their education comes with an economic price to be paid by both the individuals and the communities within which those individual reside. The percentage of adults ages 25 and over with a high school education is 69% of the population in El Paso where percentages of 76% and 80% reflect similar levels in Texas and the United States respectively.

According to government figures, the earning power of individuals with less than a high school education (and even of high school graduates) has fallen continually over the last several decades. In 1971, male dropouts working full-time earned $35,087 (in 2002 dollars). By 2002, this figure had fallen 35 percent, to $23,903.

While the aforementioned statistics reflect the values and risks associated with lack of education and success for our youth and some of the economic impacts related to those risks, there is an additional economic factor that also relates to the focus of recreation programs and services in El Paso: health and well-being of its residents.

- Recent projections from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services projected that within a decade it is likely that $1 out of every $5 spent in the United States would go for health care pushing the total spending on health care from its current $16.2% to 20% of the economy by 2016.
- Obesity, particularly among young people, is at near epidemic levels in the United States and that obesity is likely to become a significant threat to both quality of life and economic funding in communities. The Centers for Disease Control indicate that One of every 3 children born in the United States in 2000 will develop diabetes in his or her lifetime. The rate is higher for African-American and Hispanic babies who have a 50% chance of developing diabetes in his or her lifetime.

  The quality of life erodes due to loss of limbs, blindness, kidney failure, are only one part of this picture. According to additional information from the Centers for Disease Control, the estimated cost for treating diabetes in 2002 was $132 billion; that is the equivalent of $1 out of every $10 spent on health care. The cost of health care for people with diabetes averaged $13,243 in contrast to health care costs of $2,560 for people without diabetes.

Lack of leisure-time physical activity and improper nutritional knowledge and habits are related to the increase in obesity and subsequent onset of diabetes.

V. Range of Recreation Services

While there are a variety of programs and services provided by the department as well as opportunities afforded the citizens of El Paso, such programs and services are scheduled and delivered in a manner that fails to address the benefits accrued to the community, the individual, or both by the programs and services. It is common practice to develop and deliver programs based upon “the greater good” of a community. Keeping the principle of the “greater good” in mind, park and recreation offerings can be segmented into the following four categories:

- Public Access: areas, facilities, and open space acquired by tax dollars result in less restrictive access to such physical resources.

- Core Services Those activities, services, and/or programs that address issues of importance to the current and future viability and well-being of the community

- Quality of Life Services: Activities, services, and programs that enhance the overall well-being and quality of life of the individuals involved and/or participating in the specific activity

- Highly Specialized/Individualized: Activities, services, and programs that represent one-on-one or small group involvement in highly advanced or specialized nature of a recreation or leisure activity or the restricted use by a particular group of a public area or facility.

Using this "greater community good" philosophy as a basis, well-maintained and safe parks, fields, trails, and community centers that are accessible to citizens during regular usage hours would constitute public access. Swim lessons for children as well as recreational physical activity for youth would be offered as part of instructional and recreational services, those activities that address individual health and the overall well-being of the community. Programs such as competitive leagues and self-improvement classes are just a few examples of programs falling within the quality of life category. Any use of facilities or areas restricted to a pre-determined group such as facility rentals or competitive sports leagues would fall into the last category as would highly specialized and/or individualized programming such as use of a personal trainer or scuba diving lessons.

The categorization and identification of all programs and services offered as recreation in this manner would significantly support the development and enforcement of programming policies including such areas as priority of usage and pricing for programs.

Using a recognized programming approach consisting of needs assessment, objectives, construction, delivery, and evaluation, begin by identifying the important and critical needs for various segments of the population based upon age and geography and move the process forward from there (See Staff Development reference cited later in this section).

VI. Programming Pricing

The pricing issue related to recreation programming in this department is primarily based upon revenue generation with attention not being given to pricing alternatives and policies. The types of questions most often being asked include who we charge, what programs we charge for, and how do we determine prices for various levels and types of services. Currently, there is not a framework for establishing pricing policies for various levels and types of programming. Fees and charges are often assessed to department's programs and facilities by other department programs and facilities.

Benefits-Based Programming Continuum

Public Access to Public Facilities	Core Services - Community Issues	Quality of Life within the Community	Highly Specialized and Individualized
Examples:			
Parks, Athletic Fields, and Centers that are safe and accessible	Swim Lessons	Swim Team	Scuba Diving
	Recreational and Physical Activity	Adult Art Classes	Facility Rentals
	After-school and Summer Programs		
	Instructional Recreational Leagues	Competitive NFP league	Independent Leagues

Many programming decisions and choices appear to be made on the basis of revenue that can be generated. The culture of this department as it relates to determining which programs are to be offered and the pricing of those programs has primarily been determined and driven by those programs and services that can generate the most revenue for the department.

Revenue generation is an accepted and expected role of public parks and recreation departments throughout the country, but those pricing and programming decisions are based upon the various categories of services being offered within a community.

How then do departments assign a fee or charge to various programs and services?

There are a number of pricing practices that can be used for this purpose including:

- **Market-driven Pricing:** establishing a fee for a program or service based upon what the market will bear and/or the demand for a particular program or service
- **Cost-recovery Pricing:** establishing fees upon the basis of the percentage of program or service costs that the departments deems appropriate to recover; could vary from 0 to 100%+.
- **Symbolic Pricing**: relatively low fees assessed to programs as a mechanism for either accounting for participation levels or ensuring interest of would-be participants.
- **Entrepreneurial Pricing:** establishing fees that cover all direct, indirect, and associated costs of the program or service and generate revenue above and beyond costs that can be used for other purposes, i.e. underwriting the cost of other programs or services, paying for the major renovations of the facility generating the revenue, etc.
- **Benefit-based Pricing**: fees and charges for programs and services based on the extent of public vs. private benefits; this approach could accommodate programs, facilities, and services that support and serve the overall community viability and well being as well as those services that provide highly specialized, individual derived benefits to the participants.

As mentioned earlier there are a variety of pricing methodologies being used within the department. Examples include:

- Specific programs are offered or not offered based solely upon the willingness of people to pay for the program; classes held at the centers would reflect this marketing-driven approach.
- For some youth and senior citizen programming there is a minimal feel being assessed for programs reflecting symbolic payment pricing.

- Cost recovery pricing is being used when the aquatic division within the department charges other departmental program for use of its facilities
- At this juncture, the department does not treat field or facility rentals by a specific group as a highly specialized or individualized service that could fall within the profit generation approach:

It is being strongly recommended that the Department assume a benefits-based pricing strategy that would be addressed in two steps.

1. Each program, facility, or service offered by the department is reviewed to determine its place along the benefit-based pricing continuum.
2. The Department creates a policy that determines types of costs related to each benefit category ranging from covering cost to full cost recovery plus additional revenues.

Benefit-Based Pricing Possibilities

Public Access	No Fee (based upon limited amenities or Cost of collecting and accounting for fee) Symbolic Pricing (small fee charged)
Core Services	Symbolic Pricing (small fee charged) Partial Cost Recovery
Quality of Life	Cost Recovery or Market Driven
Highly Specialized/ Highly Individualized	Market Driven Entrepreneurial

CHAPTER 10:

ATHLETIC FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Chapter Contents

I. Introduction
II. Major Organized Sports Needs
III. General Operational Issues

Athletic Facilities and Operations

I. Introduction

Perhaps no other issue creates as much controversy in a park system as its quantity and perceived quality of athletic facilities. Competition for limited resources is always fierce, and participants in every type of organized sport would like to have the best possible competitive facilities.

Organized sports are among the most important activities provided or supported by a parks system. Sports teach teamwork, personal sacrifice for the greater good of many, and allow us to satisfy our competitive natures in a friendly way. Almost no other activity contributes as much to the development of character in our youth today.

El Paso has a very young population, and as such should have an enormous demand for athletic programs. However, with its limited resources, the City is instead a secondary provider of athletics, allowing private sources to organize and promote leagues for various sports. Essentially, the role of the City Parks system is to provide the facilities for use by the organizers of the various leagues. While this provides fiscal relief, it does not always insure adequate access for all. Private organized leagues tend to stress competition rather than the recreation value of sports.

From an operational standpoint, El Paso's field maintenance staff operate in a harsh environment. Staff deal with the lack of rainfall, poor soil conditions, heavy overuse of fields, and the constant demand for top notch facilities. Given all of this, city staff actually do an excellent job with the resources that they have. But participation by a much broader cross section of the population could probably be significantly higher if additional facilities and resources were available to city staff.

II. Major Organized Sports Needs

The current supply of athletic facilities is shown on the tables on the following pages. Key findings are as follows.

The majority of baseball fields are lighted for evening use. However, many fields have older wooden poles that should be replaced.

Soccer fields tend not to be lighted. In fact, only 10% of the soccer fields have lights for nighttime use.

Few clusters of multiple fields exist throughout the city. Many fields have been added in smaller parks with limited space for fields.

The ratio of athletic facilities is relatively low

Baseball

Existing Supply of Fields

- The city only has six parks with three or more baseball fields together. Much of the supply in the city, especially in the Central and Mission Valley planning areas is in one or two field clusters. These provide excellent neighborhood access, but are somewhat inefficient for leagues with multiple teams.
- The majority of baseball fields in El Paso are lighted, allowing for extended use into the cooler evenings.
- The Central and the Eastside Planning areas have the fewest number of fields per capita. The Central area has only 10 fields, and the entire Eastside with almost 200,000 residents only has 11 fields.
- Until the new Westside Sports Complex is completed, West El Paso only has access to 6 fields. The new complex should significantly improve the availability of fields in the area, but major deficiencies will still occur west of the Rio Grande River towards the New Mexico border.

Recommendations for Baseball

- A four to five field complex is needed to serve the central and near west side.
- A three field complex is needed to serve the upper central and northeast planning areas.
- A five field complex is recommended for far east El Paso in the new regional park.
- An additional two fields should be located at Yucca Park if the park is expanded.
- A three field complex, or two two-field pairs are needed in the Central area.
- These 18 fields will bring the total city supply to just under one field for every 10,000 residents by the year 2016. While less than perfect, this supply should be adequate.
- Additional fields should be added in the future in the far northwest and far northeast areas of the city.

The tables on the following pages note the location of existing baseball facilities in the city.

Multi-field baseball facilities in El Paso (bold indicates 3 fields or more)

Baseball

SPORTS FACILITIES - BASEBALL

PARK	Alternative Name	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Water Sys	Baseball Fields (not lighted)	Baseball Fields (lighted)	Comments
Central											
Alta Vista Baseball Field		3501 Morenci Rd.	C	8	Baseball Field	1.50	1.00	Auto	0	1	
Roger Brown Ballfield		1200 Alabama Ave.	C	2	Baseball Field	1.00	1.00	Auto	0	1	
Memorial		1701 Copia St.	C	2	Community	43.00	32.38	Auto	0	1	
Washington		200 Washington St.	C	3	Community	60.00	15.00	Auto	0	1	
Grandview		3100 Jefferson Ave.	C	2	Neighborhood	15.00	12.10	Auto	0	1	
Tula Irrobali	Alamo	601 S. Park St.	C	8	Neighborhood	2.00	1.75	Auto	0	1	
Delta	WW II Veterans Co. E	4321 Delta Dr.	C	3	Community	12.36	9.00	Auto	0	2	
Modesto Gomez		4600 Edna Ave.	C	3	Community	32.19	20.50	Auto	0	0	
Subtotal									0	8	
Level of Service - 2006	Population	120,049			1 field for every	15,006	residents		Percent of Target LOS		47%
Level of Service - 2016	Population	125,132			1 field for every	15,642	residents		Percent of Target LOS		45%
Eastside											
Vista Del Sol		1900 Trawood Dr.	E	7	Neighborhood	16.00	15.50	Auto	0	1	
Ponder		7500 Burgess Dr.	E	3	Community	23.10	21.75	Manual	1	2	
Eastwood	Album	3110 Parkwood St.	E	5	Regional	47.04	40.00	Auto	0	3	
Marty Robbins		11600 Vista Del Sol Dr.	E	6	Community	31.00	30.00	Auto	0	4	
Subtotal									1	10	
Level of Service - 2006	Population	197,463			1 field for every	17,951	residents		Percent of Target LOS		39%
Level of Service - 2016	Population	240,584			1 field for every	21,871	residents		Percent of Target LOS		32%

Baseball (con't)

Mission Valley											
Lancaster		701 Brandywine Rd.	LV	6	Neighborhood	5.62	3.00	Auto	1	0	
Thomas Manor		7901 Knights Dr.	LV	7	Neighborhood	12.20	9.20	Manual	1	0	
Shawver, J.P.	Shawver	8100 Independence	LV	7	Regional	40.90	37.60	Auto	2	0	
Pavo Real		9301 Alameda Ave.	LV	6	Community	20.00	17.00	Auto	0	1	
Zaragoza	Ysleta Cut-Off	1100 N. Zaragoza Rd.	LV	6	Community	17.40	17.40	Manual	0	1	
Hacienda		7735 Phoenix Ave.	LV	7	Neighborhood	23.40	20.90	Auto	0	1	
Hidden Valley	Cowboy	200 Coconut Tree Ln.	LV	3	Neighborhood	10.00	9.00	Manual	0	1	
Yucca		7975 Williamette Ave.	LV	7	Neighborhood	16.60	15.10	Auto	0	1	
William, E.L.	Lafayette	752 Lafayette Dr.	LV	7	Neighborhood	6.00	1.50	Manual	0	2	Non city facility
Capistrano		8700 Padilla Dr.	LV	6	Community	18.00	15.00	Auto	0	3	
Blackie Chesher	5-Plex	9144 Escobar Dr.	LV	6	Regional	34.00	53.00	Auto	0	0	Fields used for softball
Subtotal									4	10	
Level of Service - 2006	Population	101,450			1 field for every	7,246	residents		Percent of Target LOS		97%
Level of Service - 2016	Population	109,117			1 field for every	7,794	residents		Percent of Target LOS		90%

Northeast											
Sue Young	Civic Leaders (site N)	9730 Diana Dr.	NE	4	Community	25.20	24.70	Auto	2	0	
Franklin		6050 Quail Ave.	NE	4	Neighborhood	10.00	9.88	Auto	0	1	
Skyline Youth	Site "M" & "P"	5050 Yvette Ave.	NE	4	Community	172.00	24.90	Auto	0	2	
Nations Tobin		8831 Railroad Dr.	NE	2	Community	44.00	42.30	Auto	0	3	
Veterans		5301 Salem Dr.	NE	4	Regional	44.00	41.00	Auto	3	2	
Subtotal									5	8	
Level of Service - 2006	Population	91,349			1 field for every	7,027	residents		Percent of Target LOS		100%
Level of Service - 2016	Population	115,128			1 field for every	8,856	residents		Percent of Target LOS		79%

Baseball (con't)

Northwest											
Marwood		4325 River Bend Dr.	NW	8	Neighborhood	12.50	12.15	manual	0	1	
Lambka, Irwin J.	Cloudview	6600 Cloudview Dr.	NW	1	Community	13.20	12.86	Manual	0	4	
Westside Sports Complex			NW	1	Sports Complex				8	0	Fields available in 2007 - 2008
Subtotal									8	5	
Level of Service - 2006	Population	105555			1 field for every	8,120	residents		Percent of Target LOS		86%
Level of Service - 2016	Population	148332			1 field for every	11,410	residents		Percent of Target LOS		61%
									Lighted	Not Lighted	
Citywide Total Number of Fields									18	41	Total = 59 Fields
Level of Service - 2006	Population	634,500			1 field for every	10,754	residents				
Level of Service - 2016	Population	765,000			1 field for every	12,966	residents				

LIGHTED
NOT LIGHTED

Soccer

Existing Supply of Fields

El Paso has over 110 soccer fields, if the 28 new fields proposed as part of the new Soccer Complex at Fort Bliss and the Westside Sports Complex are included. However, only 10% of the current fields in the city are lighted for nighttime use, eliminating an immediate way to stretch the field supply in the city. The existing level of service, including the new fields, is approximately one field for every 5,500 residents. This level of service is better than average for a city the size of El Paso. Even with no additional fields beyond the proposed complexes, the supply remains at a little over one field for every 6,300 residents by the year 2016. Immediate needs are related more to distribution and quantity in and field quality than overall quantity.

Distribution of fields is good in the Northeast and Eastern planning areas, but is considerably worse in the Central and the far West Planning areas. The Central area only has five current fields, while the Northwest has 10 fields. Both areas will benefit from the new soccer complexes that are opening in the next one to two years, but the problem in the Central District remains more critical. Given the difficulty of acquiring land in the Central area, agreements with the area school districts to use school playing fields, as well as increasing the supply at Ascarate may be the most immediate solution. Ultimately, a four to six field complex in the Central area is required.

Apart from the two new complexes, other parts of the city lack large multi-field complexes with more than four fields. Sue Young, Veterans, Shawver, Blackie Chesser and Chester Jordan are the only parks with more than three fields each.

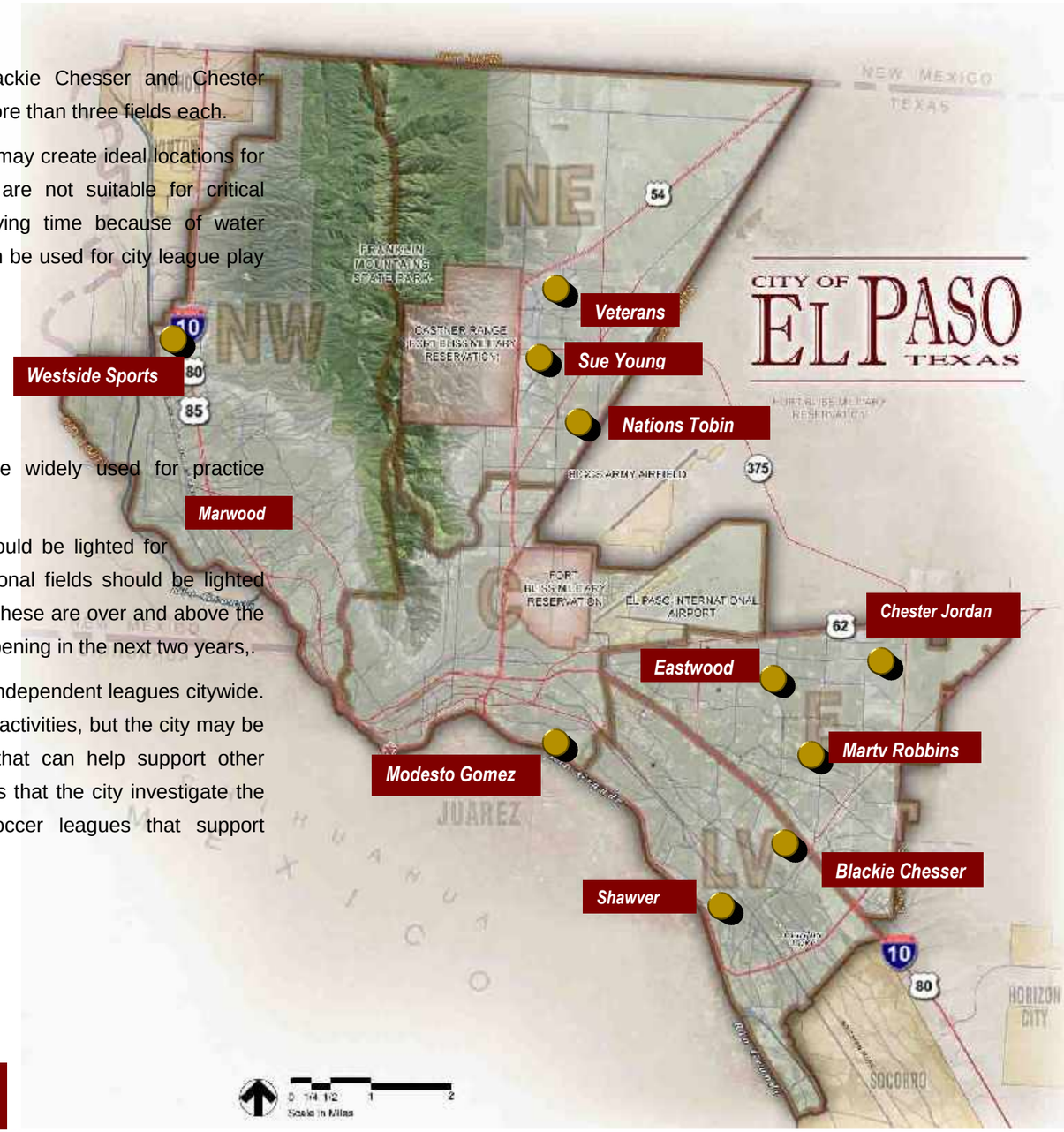
Larger drainage detention areas may create ideal locations for additional fields. While these are not suitable for critical league play where loss of playing time because of water storage in the detention, they can be used for city league play for younger players.

Recommendations for Soccer

Detention areas should also be widely used for practice facilities for soccer.

Soccer fields at major parks should be lighted for evening use. At least 20 additional fields should be lighted over the next five to ten years. These are over and above the fields in the new parks that are opening in the next two years,.

Currently, soccer is provided by independent leagues citywide. This frees staff to focus on other activities, but the city may be loosing a revenue opportunity that can help support other activities. This plan recommends that the city investigate the possibility of beginning city soccer leagues that support younger age groups.



Major soccer facilities in El Paso

Soccer

SOCCER FIELDS

PARK	Alternative Name	Level	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural areas (acres)	Water Sys	Soccer Field (Not Lighted)	Soccer Field (Lighted)	Comments
Central												
Mary Webb		1	C	8	Neighborhood	2.05	1.72		Auto		1	
Memorial		1	C		Community					1		
Modesto Gomez		2	C	8	Community	32.19	20.50		Auto	2	1	
Fort Bliss Soccer (planned)		1	C		Sports Complex	100.00	80.00			8	2	
Facility Total										11	4	
Level of Service - 2006	Population				121,049		1 field for every	8,070	residents	Percent of Target LOS		62%
Level of Service - 2015	Population				125,132		1 field for every	8,342	residents	Percent of Target LOS		60%
Eastside												
Cielo Vista		1	E	5	Neighborhood	6.60	5.30		Manual	1		
Palm Grove		2	E	5	Neighborhood	5.59	5.59		Auto	1		
Vista Del Sol		1	E	7	Community	16.00	15.50		Auto	2		
Marty Robbins	855-4147	1	E	6	Community	31.00	30.00		Auto	3		
Dick Shinaut	Saul Kleinfeld	1	E	5	Neighborhood	14.50	14.00		Auto	3		
Eastwood	Album	1	E	2	Regional	47.04	40.00		Auto	2		2 additional fields used for football
Vista Del Valle		1	E	3	Community	22.13	16.00		Auto	6		
Walter Clarke		1	E	6	Community	16.50	16.00		Auto	6		
Chester Jordan	Hambrick	1	E	5	Neighborhood	10.00	10.00		Auto	7		
Pico Norte		1	E	6	Neighborhood	11.00	11.00		Auto	1	1	
Sal Berroteran	SUN RIDGE	1	E	5	Neighborhood	10.00	10.00		Auto	1	1	
Facility Total										33	2	
Level of Service - 2006	Population				197,463		1 field for every	5,642	residents	Percent of Target LOS		89%
Level of Service - 2015	Population				240,584		1 field for every	6,874	residents	Percent of Target LOS		73%

Soccer (con't)

Mission Valley													
Lancaster		2	LV	7	Neighborhood	5.62	3.00		Auto	1			
Lomaland		1	LV	3	Neighborhood	10.90	9.80		auto	1			
Marian Manor		1	LV	3	Neighborhood	9.10	8.50		auto	0			2 fields available, used for football
Stiles		2	LV	7	Neighborhood	7.00	6.70		Auto	1			
Thomas Manor		2	LV	6	Neighborhood	12.20	9.20		Manual	1			
Pavo Real		1	LV	6	Community	20.00	17.00		Auto	3			
Shawver, J.P.	Shawver	1	LV	7	Community	40.90	37.60		Auto	4			
Blackie Chesher	5-Plex	1	LV	2	Regional	66.00	64.00		Auto	3	1		
Facility Total										14	1		
Level of Service - 2006	Population				101,450		1 field for every	6,763	residents	Percent of Target LOS			74%
Level of Service - 2015	Population				109,117		1 field for every	7,274	residents	Percent of Target LOS			69%

Northeast													
Mountain View		1	NE	4	Neighborhood	5.95	5.75		Auto	1			
Todd Ware	Site "O"	1	NE	8	Neighborhood	7.50	7.50		Auto	2			
Nations Tobin		1	NE	2	Community	44.00	42.30		Auto	3			
Skyline Youth	Site "M" & "P"	1	NE	4	Community	172.00	24.90	147.10	Auto	3			
Franklin		2	NE	4	Neighborhood	10.00	9.88		Auto	3			
Veterans		1	NE	4	Community	44.00	41.00		Auto	4			
Sue Young		1	NE	4	Community	25.20	24.70		Auto	6			
Fort Bliss Soccer (planned)		1	C		Sports Complex	100.00	80.00			8	2		
Facility Total										30	2		
Level of Service - 2006	Population				91,349		1 field for every	2,855	residents	Percent of Target LOS			175%
Level of Service - 2015	Population				115,128		1 field for every	3,598	residents	Percent of Target LOS			139%

Soccer (con't)

Northwest												
Crestmont		2	NW	1	Neighborhood	7.00	7.00		Auto	1		
Marwood		1	NW	8	Neighborhood	12.50	12.15		Auto	1		
Mission Hills		1	NW	1	Neighborhood	10.80	10.75		Auto	1		
Thorn		2	NW	1	Neighborhood	3.45	3.40		Auto	1		Field primarily used for rugby
Valley Creek Park		1	NW	1	Community	36.00	5.00		Auto	2		
Galatzan Park	Westside Park	1	NW	8	Community	21.40	8.00		Auto	3	1	
Westside Sports Complex			NW	8	Sports Complex	30.00	26.00		Auto	8	2	Available 2007-2008
Facility Total										17	3	
Level of Service - 2006	Population				105,555		1 field for every	5,278	residents	Percent of Target LOS		95%
Level of Service - 2015	Population				148,332		1 field for every	7,417	residents	Percent of Target LOS		67%
Citywide Total Number of Fields										105	12	117
Level of Service - 2006	Population				634,500		1 field for every	5,423	residents	Percent of Target LOS		92%
Level of Service - 2015	Population				767,000		1 field for every	6,556	residents	Percent of Target LOS		76%

Non-Lighted Fields	90%
Lighted Fields	10%

Softball

Existing Supply of Fields

El Paso has a total of 50 potential softball fields, but only 16 to 18 fields are used for softball on a regular basis (including new fields at Three Hills Regional Park. Also included in that total are four new fields that are under construction at the Northeast Regional Park. All are lighted for evening play. Major facilities include the complex at Blackie Chesser, which is considered to be at a tournament quality level, and the new complex at Northeast Regional Park. Fields are lacking in the Northwest area as well as the Central area. The two fields at Modesto Gomez are built on a closed landfill, resulting in a very poor playing surface.

Key recommendations for softball include:

1. Consider permanently removing the fields at Modesto Gomez and replacing them at a new three field complex in the Central area. The location for such a complex would have to be identified.
2. Develop a three field complex to serve the west side. New facilities planned for the Three Hills Regional Park can address the immediate west side needs.
3. Work with local school districts to insure that facilities for girls softball play are available.
4. Work with El Paso County to ensure that the El Paso Sports Complex remains open and in high quality condition.

Major Locations for Softball Facilities in El Paso)

Softball

SPORTS FACILITIES - SOFTBALL

PARK	Alternative Name	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Water Sys	Softball Fields (not lighted)	Softball Fields (lighted)	Comments
Central											
Alta Vista Baseball Field		3501 Morenci Rd.	C	8	Baseball Field	1.50	1.00	Auto	0	0	
Roger Brown Ballfield		1200 Alabama Ave.	C	2	Baseball Field	1.00	1.00	Auto	0	1	
Memorial		1701 Copia St.	C	2	Community	43.00	32.38	Auto	0	1	
Washington		200 Washington St.	C	3	Community	60.00	15.00	Auto	0	1	
Grandview		3100 Jefferson Ave.	C	2	Neighborhood	15.00	12.10	Auto	0	0	
Tula Irrobali	Alamo	601 S. Park St.	C	8	Neighborhood	2.00	1.75	Auto	0	0	
Delta	WW II Veterans Co. E	4321 Delta Dr.	C	3	Community	12.36	9.00	Auto	0	2	
Modesto Gomez		4600 Edna Ave.	C	3	Community	32.19	20.50	Auto	0	2	
Subtotal									0	7	
Level of Service - 2006	Population	120,049			1 field for every	17,150	residents		Percent of Target LOS		58%
Level of Service - 2015	Population	125,132			1 field for every	17,876	residents		Percent of Target LOS		56%
Eastside											
Vista Del Sol		1900 Trawood Dr.	E	7	Neighborhood	16.00	15.50	Auto	0	1	
Ponder		7500 Burgess Dr.	E	3	Community	23.10	21.75	Manual	1	2	
Eastwood	Album	3110 Parkwood St.	E	5	Regional	47.04	40.00	Auto	0	3	
Marty Robbins		11600 Vista Del Sol Dr.	E	6	Community	31.00	30.00	Auto	0	4	
Subtotal									1	10	
Level of Service - 2006	Population	197,463			1 field for every	17,951	residents		Percent of Target LOS		56%
Level of Service - 2015	Population	24,084			1 field for every	2,189	residents		Percent of Target LOS		457%

Softball (con't)

Lower Valley											
Lancaster		701 Brandywine Rd.	LV	6	Neighborhood	5.62	3.00	Auto	1	0	
Thomas Manor		7901 Knights Dr.	LV	7	Neighborhood	12.20	9.20	Manual	1	0	
Shawver, J.P.	Shawver	8100 Independence	LV	7	Regional	40.90	37.60	Auto	2	0	
Pavo Real		9301 Alameda Ave.	LV	6	Community	20.00	17.00	Auto	0	1	
Zaragoza	Ysleta Cut-Off	1100 N. Zaragozo Rd.	LV	6	Community	17.40	17.40	Manual	0	1	
Hacienda		7735 Phoenix Ave.	LV	7	Neighborhood	23.40	20.90	Auto	0	1	
Hidden Valley	Cowboy	200 Coconut Tree Ln.	LV	3	Neighborhood	10.00	9.00	Manual	0	1	
Yucca		7975 Williamette Ave.	LV	7	Neighborhood	16.60	15.10	Auto	0	1	
William, E.L.	Lafayette	752 Lafayette Dr.	LV	7	Neighborhood	6.00	1.50	Manual	0	2	Non city facility
Capistrano		8700 Padilla Dr.	LV	6	Community	18.00	15.00	Auto	0	3	
Blackie Chesher	5-Plex	9144 Escobar Dr.	LV	6	Regional	34.00	53.00	Auto	0	5	Fields used for softball
Subtotal									4	15	
Level of Service - 2006	Population	101,450			1 field for every	5,339	residents		Percent of Target LOS		187%
Level of Service - 2015	Population	109,117			1 field for every	5,743	residents		Percent of Target LOS		174%

Northeast											
Sue Young	Civic Leaders (site N)	9730 Diana Dr.	NE	4	Community	25.20	24.70	Auto	0	0	
Franklin		6050 Quail Ave.	NE	4	Neighborhood	10.00	9.88	Auto	0	0	
Skyline Youth	Site "M" & "P"	5050 Yvette Ave.	NE	4	Community	172.00	24.90	Auto	0	2	
Nations Tobin		8831 Railroad Dr.	NE	2	Community	44.00	42.30	Auto	0	3	
Veterans		5301 Salem Dr.	NE	4	Regional	44.00	41.00	Auto	3	2	
Northeast Regional Park		9144 Escobar Dr.	LV	6	Regional	34.00	53.00	Auto	0	4	Fields used for softball
Subtotal									3	7	
Level of Service - 2006	Population	97,448			1 field for every	9,745	residents		Percent of Target LOS		103%
Level of Service - 2015	Population	115,128			1 field for every	11,513	residents		Percent of Target LOS		87%

Softball (con't)

Northwest											
Marwood		4325 River Bend Dr.	NW	8	Neighborhood	12.50	12.15	manual	0	0	
Lambka, Irwin J.	Cloudview	6600 Cloudview Dr.	NW	1	Community	13.20	12.86	Manual	0	1	
Westside Sports Complex			NW	1	Sports Complex				2	0	Fields available in 2007 - 2008
Subtotal									2	1	
Level of Service - 2006	Population	105,555			1 field for every	35,185	residents		Percent of Target LOS		28%
Level of Service - 2015	Population	148,332			1 field for every	49,444	residents		Percent of Target LOS		20%

									Not Lighted	Lighted	
Citywide Total Number of Fields									10	40	Total = 67 Fields
Level of Service - 2006	Population	634,500			1 field for every	12,690	residents				
Level of Service - 2015	Population	765,000			1 field for every	15,300	residents				

LIGHTED
NOT LIGHTED

Football

Football is currently played at 12 fields located throughout the city. Nations Tobin has three available fields, while Marwood, Album, Marion Manor and Yucca each have two fields.

Additional football fields should be provided in regional parks, such as the planned Eastside Regional Park and the expansion of the Northeast Regional Park. Two additional football fields are needed on the west side and in the central area.

III. Other General Operational Issues facing Athletics

Inadequate number of facilities – the trend towards building athletic complexes is helping to resolve the inadequate field supply, and also helps to consolidate play at regional facilities. The city should maintain a balance between facilities for neighborhood play, which are generally targeted at younger age groups, and regional facilities which are intended for adult and more advanced play.

The great distances in El Paso require that regional facilities in each planning are be constructed for each major sport. This has already started with construction of the Northeast Regional Park and the Westside Sports Complex, and should continue over the next ten years.

Inadequate staff for field setup – Chapter 11 discusses staff needs. Currently a crew of only three staff members is expected to prepare over 50 fields throughout the city for play on a daily or weekly basis. The sheer distances involved make this a daunting and highly inefficient task. The move to increase field maintenance staff is critical and should be accomplished in the next one to two years.

City leagues vs. privately run Independent leagues – independent leagues provide many of the sports opportunities throughout the city, especially in soccer. The city must ensure that adequate playing opportunities are being provided citywide, and that youth have access to sports if they so desire. Scholarship opportunities should be provided so that all youth in El Paso have can play if they so desire. Close-in facilities also can ease parent concerns over transportation concerns.

Lack of first class regional facilities – in some parts of the city first class athletic facilities are lacking. The central area in particular needs access to a new sports complex that provides softball, baseball and soccer/football fields. A location for such a facility needs to be identified.

Cost recovery for non-city leagues – currently, independent leagues are only charged $5 per season for the use of city fields. This amount was recently increased from $2 per player, but is still extremely low and does not begin to recover the real cost of preparing and maintaining fields. The city should continue to raise this amount and educate

Plan for future facilities with both field and parking expansion capabilities. Facilities such as the Westside Sports Complex are limited by the lack of expansion space.

independent league players and leaders on the real cost of providing recreation fields.

Consider providing city organized league play for recreational purposes – currently, independent leagues provide playing opportunities for some softball, baseball and all soccer play in the city. The city should consider expanding city provided league play if it can generate a positive revenue flow. This will also provide additional play opportunities for city youth that may not currently be available.

Revenue from Vending Opportunities – vending can provide significant revenue opportunities at sports complexes. The city should establish policies that restrict outside vending opportunities, with the understanding that revenue raised from on-site vending should be used only for park related expenditures.

Tracking Software – prior recommendations to begin using tracking software must be followed through, so that staff can more readily organize leagues and track usage. Staff training to use the new software must be a high priority.

Athletics Management Staff – Senior professional staff are needed to organize and manage athletics so that growth and better access can occur in El Paso. Current staff are overwhelmed by having to organize, manage, prepare and oversee facilities with an extremely limited number of staff.

Good concession and bathroom facilities can increase revenue and reinforce the notion that El Paso is providing first class athletic facilities..

CHAPTER 11:

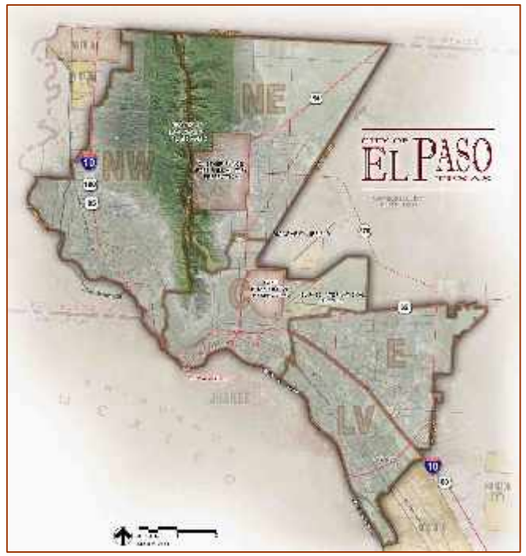
GOVERNANCE – *A PLAN FOR SUCCESS*

Chapter Contents

I. Review and Analysis of Park and Recreation Department Functions
II. Governance Recommendations
III. Land Management Issues, Strategies and Recommendations
IV. Park Zones

Towards A Bright Future

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan
For El Paso, Texas
2006-2016



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Halff Associates
ENGINEERS · ARCHITECTS · SCIENTISTS · PLANNERS · SURVEYORS

In association with CEHP Inc./Leisure Lifestyles Inc./Raymond Turco and Associates Inc.

The review of governance issues as part of the master planning process is intended to ensure that the City has sufficient resources to carry out the existing workload and properly operate and maintain any new facilities and lands that the City may make a fiduciary commitment to sustaining in the future.

Introduction - Governance

The El Paso Park and Recreation Master Plan is intended to identify the type, extent of, cost, and priority for the rehabilitation of existing parklands and facilities or the development of new open space, parklands and facilities that will be needed to meet future needs.

Governance of an excellent park system includes managing, operating and funding many diverse aspects of the system, from lands and facilities to staff and organized events such as league play.

Governance is a key component of the Master Plan, in that it recommends improvements to the system to help accomplish the goals set forth in the plan. The Governance portion of this Plan consists of the following:

I. Review and Analysis of the Park and Recreation Department Functions:

A. Land Management
- Parks Maintenance
- Facilities Maintenance
- Capital Projects

B. Recreation Services
- Aquatics
- Senior Centers
- Recreation Centers

C. Administration
- Parks Management
- Administration
- Extension Services
- Sports Program

II. Review and analysis of:

A. Organizational Structure,

B. Domain

C. Governing Process

III. Governance Recommendations

The recommendations of this section are discussed on the following pages.

I. Review and Analysis of Park and Recreation Department Functions

A. Land Management

Land Management consists of three functions:

1. Park maintenance
2. Facilities maintenance
3. Capital projects.

1. Parks Maintenance

There are five land management areas responsible for maintaining the parks. In total they have 69 full time employees that are augmented by another 28 seasonal workers during the year. The table also includes the athletic field maintenance requirements and the 3 assigned staff.

Note that Table 1A indicates a workload for field preparation of almost 21 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) per year when only 3 are assigned plus between 5 and 10 seasonal staff annually. The land management crews usually make up the difference leaving other tasks undone.

Field preparation has a significant workload impact.

TABLE 1A - CURRENT ESTIMATED ANNUAL WORKLOAD – PARK MAINTENANCE

Operational Unit: Land management

Task	Units In Inventory	Units of Measure	Service Level	Annual Frequency	Total Annual Units	Staff hrs./Unit of Work	Staff-Hrs per Year	FTE's per Year
FACILITIES								
Diamonds	56	Field	6/wk	240	13440	1.5	20160	9.692
Rectangular/Soccer	92	Field	6/Wk	192	17664	1.5	26496	12.738
Football	22	Field	5/Wk	14	308	1	308	0.148
Tennis Courts	40	Court	1/2 wks	26	1040	0.5	520	0.250
Basketball Courts	59	Court	1/2 wks	26	1534	0.5	767	0.369
Handball Courts	7	Court	1/2 wks	26	182	0.5	91	0.044
Sand Volleyball	11	Court	1/wk	36	396	1	396	0.190
Playgrounds	105	1000 Sq. Ft.	1/Mo	12	1260	2	2520	1.212
Trails/Paths	13.84	Miles	1/2 wk	26	359.84	0.5	180	0.087
Picnic Tables/Sets	321	Sets	Annual	1	321	2	642	0.309
Shelters	10	Bldg.	1/wk	78	780	2	1560	0.750
Skate Park	8		1/wk	52	416	4	1664	0.800
Dog Parks	1		1/wk	26	26	4	104	0.050
BMX tracks	2		2/Yr	4	8	4	32	0.015
Restrooms	12	Bldg,	Daily	52	624	1	624	0.300
SUB-TOTAL							**56,064**	**27**

Park and Field Maintenance - It may not seem that preparing an infield for a field is time consuming, but when you have to prepare 56 per day for 240 days per year, you are preparing 13,440 infields per year. Even at one and one half hours per field a significant amount of time is consumed.

Another significant factor is the amount of time it takes to get between fields throughout the City. Travel time becomes a major cost for the Land Management Crews.

A review of staff needs indicates a workload for field preparation of almost 21 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) per year when only 3 are assigned plus between 5 and 10 seasonal staff annually. The land management crews usually make up the difference leaving other tasks undone.

Turf Maintenance - This set of tasks shows the amount of staff time involved in keeping El Paso grass "Green." 1027 acres of parks are in turf, and all but 14 acres are irrigated. This requires a turf care program and significant amounts of irrigation. The standard for the Bermuda turf grasses is 40 inches of water per year. Therefore, what the fields do not receive in rain they will need in irrigation. There are thousands of meters and sprinkler heads and several miles of irrigation piping that is subject to malfunction, breaks, and vandalism. To check these systems and repair them each week requires almost 20 staff members a majority of the time in a year.

Table 1B – Land Management Annual Workload – Turf Maintenance and Irrigation (2005)

Task	Units In Inventory	Units of Measure	Service Level	Annual Frequency	Total Annual Units	Staff hrs./ Unit of Work	Staff-Hrs per Year	FTE's per Year
TURF								
Turf Care	1027	Acre	3/Mo	36	36972	0.25	9243	4.444
Tree care	5816	Tree	1/4Yrs	0.25	1454	0.5	727	0.350
Weed Control	1027	Acres	4/Yr	4	4108	1	4108	1.975
SUBTOTAL							**14078**	**6.768**
IRRIGATION					0		0	0.000
Manual Systems	17.3	Acres	3/Wk	78	1349.4	3	4048	1.946
Automatic Systems	996	Acres	1/Wk	36	35856	1	35856	17.238
Drip systems	1500	Emitters	1/4 yrs	0.25	375	1	375	0.180
Weather Stations	3	Unit	1/3 Mos	4	12	1	12	0.006
Booster Pumps	14	Pump	1/4 Mos	3	42	1	42	0.020
Manual Tree Watering	150	Tree	1/wk	50		1	0	0.000
Hand watering	1	Tree	1/2 Wks	26	26	1	26	0.013
Programming controllers	67	Controllers	1/Mo	12	804	0.5	402	0.193
SUBTOTAL							**40761**	**19.60**
UNIQUE PARKS								
Rose Garden	1	Garden	1/Wk	45	45	32	1440	0.692
Keystone	1	Events	biannual	2	2	8	16	0.008
Rio Bosque	1	Events	biannual	2	2	8	16	0.008
Cohen Center	1	Irrigation	annual	1	1	4	4	0.002
SUB-TOTAL							**1476**	**.710**

Park Mowing and Trash Pickup - Despite the fact that the City contracts with the private sector to pick up trash and to mow the parks, the staff still needs to do some of this work. In addition the Land Managers are responsible for ensuring that the contract requirements are satisfactorily met. Vandalism is also frequent and demands staff time away from scheduled and planned work, as shown in Table 1C below.

Table 1C – Land Management Annual Workload – Trash Pickup and Mowing (2005)

Task	Units In Inventory	Units of Measure	Service Level	Annual Frequency	Total Annual Units	Staff hrs./Unit of Work	Staff-Hrs per Year	FTE's per Year
GENERAL								
Trash Pick up	1027	Acres	4/wk	200	205400	Contract		
Trash Cans	312	Can	4/wk	200	62400	Contract		
Contractors: Mowing/Trash Insp.	1027	Acres	1/wk	50	51350	0.1	5135	2.469
Vandalism	1	Incident	5/wk	260	260	8	2080	1.000
Veh/Equip PM	77	Piece	.25 daily	260	20020	0.25	5005	2.406
SUB-TOTAL							**12220**	**5.875**
SPECIAL								
In-House Construction	1	Projects	10/Yr	10	10	20	200	0.096
Special Requests/Support	1	Requests	4/Mo	48	48	4	192	0.092
Sports Field Renovation	26	Field	4/month	1	48	24	1152	0.554
Janitorial	3	Corrals	3/wk	52	156	2	312	0.150
Inspections -Plan Review	13	Projects	1/wk	50	650	1.5	975	0.469
SUB-TOTAL							**2831**	**1.361**

Table 1D – Land Management Annual Workload – Special Events

Task	Units In Inventory	Units of Measure	Service Level	Annual Frequency	Total Annual Units	Staff hrs./Unit of Work	Staff-Hrs per Year	FTE's per Year
SPECIAL EVENTS								
Christmas Tree Lighting & Parade	1	Event	Annual	1	1	450	450	0.216
Art In The Park 2 Per Year	1	Event	Bi-annual	2	2	80	160	0.077
Dia De Los Ninos	1	Event	Annual	1	1	480	480	0.231
Tournaments	1	Event	Annual	10	10	60	600	0.288
World Hispanic	1	Event	Annual	1	1	64	64	0.031
Park Rentals	5	Facility	Weekly +	59	295	8	2360	1.135
SUB-TOTAL							**4114**	**1.978**
STAFF TIME								
Vacation	69	Staff	8 hrs/pay Pd	26	1794	8	14,352	6.900
Sick Leave	69	Staff	4 hrs/pay pd	13	897	8	7,176	3.450
Paid Holiday	69	Staff	8 hrs/day	8	552	8	4,416	2.123
Birthday Holiday	69	Staff	8 hrs/day	1	69	8	552	0.265
Military Reserves	1	Staff	8 hrs/day	20	20	8	160	0.077
Workmen's Compensation	10	Staff	8 hrs/day	6	60	8	480	0.231
LWOP	10	Staff	4 hrs/day	6	60	4	240	0.115
Travel	69	Staff	Daily	260	17940	1.25	22,425	10.781
Over Time	69	Staff			0		-	0.000
Stand By	5	Areas	1/wk	52	260	4.5	1,170	0.563
DDC	69	Staff	1/3 yrs.	0.33	22.77	8	182	0.088
Turf Care Class	69	Staff	4/yr	4	276	16	4,416	2.123
Tree Care Class	69	Staff	1/yr	1	69	8	552	0.265
TDA CEUs	27	Staff	14	1	27	8	216	0.104
Safety	69	Staff	1/mo	12	828	0.5	414	0.199
Irrig. CEU	13	hours	2/yr	2	26	16	416	0.200
Orientation	5	class	1/yr	1	5	8	40	0.019
Backflow CEU	5	class	1/yr	1	5	8	40	0.019
SUB-TOTAL							**57247**	**27.523**
TOTAL							**188791**	**90.765**
AVAILABLE STAFF								**81.6**
STAFF REQUIREMENT								**9.2**

Among the special tasks that the Land Management Crews perform are sports field renovations, construction inspections, and plan reviews. Special events are not a significant cost of time for the Land Management Crews although they spend a fair amount of time cleaning up the rental sites after they are used.

A much more significant time factor is found in the area of required Staff time. Although the amount of time for vacation, sick leave, and holidays may seem jarring, they are normal for this type of operation as is the training that is required annually. Of greater concern is the staff time for travel, which exceeds an hour and fifteen minutes per person per day throughout the year.

The end result counting full time and seasonal staff is that the Land Management Division is short over 9 FTE's as of the end of 2005. The consultants cannot unequivocally say that the positions should be full time. A monthly analysis of the workload data above would indicate the need for full time versus part time or seasonal staff.

Tables 1A through 1D - NOTES

1. "Available," Includes full time staff of 69; 28 part-time staff at 720 hours each per year, and 3 sports field groundskeepers that form the sports unit.

2. "Additional Staff Need," represents the requirement for the existing workload. Calculation of the workload for new facilities will indicate the maintenance staffing requirements for new facilities.

3. The workload calculations are predicated from interviews with staff, observation of the maintenance practices and the use of industry, or generally accepted maintenance standards. As the initial workload calculation the numbers are soft, but if anything they are probably underestimates.

General Findings Related to Land Management

1. Park Soils

In a system that relies on the dedication of lands for Parks it is not surprising that the park soils are not among the best for developing and maintaining turf. In many parts of the Nation the soils in a city would not change so drastically from one type to another and have such varied maintenance requirements. El Paso has saline, sandy, unconsolidated clay, Calechi and more normal soils that have differing requirements for nutrients and irrigation. For example, the saline soils cannot take the reuse water because it has a higher saline content and will kill off the turf grasses. At least one park site in the city is built on a closed landfill, resulting in very poor field conditions.

2. Turf

The turf for the parks is all the same with the same requirements despite the amount of traffic. Some variation can be used to reduce the per acre cost of maintenance by varying the types of turf grasses and seeking opportunities for more native species and landscapes. The turf grass for an athletic field can be different than the turf grass for a one-acre park. There are other varieties of turfs that are more drought resistant. It is important that each park site be given individual consideration for its turf care program.

3. Land Management Districts

Travel time is too high for the crews that are now averaging an hour and fifteen minutes per person per day. A redistribution of parks and facility maintenance responsibility is warranted to reduce the staff time. This is especially true given the new facilities that will be on line within the next year.

4. Position Grades

- **Land Managers are currently graded at GS 22.** This grade and its corresponding salary levels is inconsistent with the number of staff supervised, the risk of the job and the need for critical decisions regarding millions of dollars of parks, facilities and equipment.
- **There is no position that allows staff advancement and promotion to the Land Manager's position**. At least one position per area should be regarded to be eligible with training to compete for the Land Manager position.

The City of El Paso has benefited significantly from the dedication and pride of workmanship demonstrated by the Land Management crews. Parks in El Paso consistently have an excellent appearance, which is the result of much behind the scenes hard work.

Facilities Maintenance

The Facilities Maintenance Unit is comprised of staff assigned to the various trades needed to maintain the large and small park facilities as well as the structures commonly found in the parks. This is not an insignificant task. Many of the major buildings are old and subject to corrective repairs and cyclical maintenance needs. The 18 recreation centers in El Paso collectively average 25 years of age.

Table 2A – Land Management Annual Workload – Special Events

LOCATIONS	District	ADDRESSES	BLDG DATE	SQ. FEET	VALUE	REHAB Date	Facility Maint Cost
RECREATION CENTERS							
Acosta Sports Center.	8	4321 Delta	1960	21,361	$2,600,000	1989, 1998	$89,289
Marcos B. Armijo Cntr.	8	710 E. Seventh	1968	43,652	$3,273,900	1993	$182,465
Carolina Cntr.	3	563 N. Carolina	1978	30,200	$3,265,000	2000	$126,236
Chihauahuita	8	417 Charles	1980	2,880	$216,000		$12,038
Eastwood --	5	3001 Parkwood	2004	25,910	$3,400,000		$108,304
Galatzan, Morris A. (Westside)	8	650 Wallenberg	1979	28,000	$3,000,000		$117,040
Leona Ford Washington (Missouri)	8	3400 Missouri	1953	8,000	$600,000	1997	$33,440
Lincoln Arts Cntr.	3	4001 Durazno	1977	21,342	$1,600,650		$89,210
Marty Robbins	6	11600 Vista Del Sol	2004	20,000	$3,000,000		$83,600
Multipurpose	3	9031 Viscount	1984	27,000	$2,200,000	2003	$112,860
Nations Tobin	3	8831 Railroad	1959	13,910	$1,043,250	1994	$58,144
Nations Tobin Skate Facility	3	8831 Railroad	2003	31,900	$2,200,000		$133,342
Nolan Richardson	2	4635 Maxwell	2000	15,000	$2,700,000		$62,700
Northeast	4	5301 Salem	1977	28,000	$3,100,000		$117,040
Pavo Real	6	100 Presa Pl.	1978	29,000	$3,200,000	1998	$121,220
Rae Gilmore	2	8501 Diana	1984	5,158	$600,000	1999	$21,560
Sambrano/Seville	3	6700 Sambrano	1981	7,480	$1,000,000	2002	$31,266
San Juan	3	5628 Webster	1998	18,200	$2,000,000		$76,076
Westside Regional - future	1	High Ridge	2005	19,000			$79,420

Table 2B – Facilities Maintenance – Major Buildings							
LOCATIONS	District	ADDRESSES	BLDG DATE	SQ. FEET	VALUE	REHAB Date	Facility Maint Cost
SENIOR CENTERS:							
Eastside	5	3200 Fierro	1987	8,500	$1,500,000		$35,530
Memorial Park	2	1800 Byron	1977	12,000	$2,000,000	1990	$50,160
Pavo Real (Father Martinez)	6	9311 Alameda	1999	8,000	$1,500,000	1999	$33,440
Polly Harris	8	650 Wallenberg	1989	8,000	$800,000		$33,440
Sacramento	2	3134 Jefferson	1991	9,818	$736,350		$41,039
San Juan	3	700 N. Glenwood	1979	8,648	$648,600		$36,149
South El Paso	8	600 S. Ochoa	1979	14,112	$2,500,000	1990	$58,988
Washington	8	4451 Delta Dr	2004	25,000	$3,000,000		$104,500
Wellington Chew	2	4430 Maxwell	1978	12,322	$2,000,000		$51,506
INDOOR POOLS							
Armijo	8	911 Ochoa	2001	33,834	$4,800,000		$141,426
Hawkins	3	1500 Hawkins	1981	12,756	$2,200,000	1997	$53,320
Leo Cancellare	8	650 Wallenberg	1976	10,450	$2,000,000		$43,681
Marty Robins	6	11600 Vista Del Sol	1992-2005	12,605	$2,000,000		$52,688
Memorial	2	3251 Copper	2005	13,000	$2,500,000	1980	$54,340
Multipurpose	3	9031 Viscount	1984	4,009	$300,675		$16,757
Shawver	7	8100 Independence	1992	13,163	$2,000,000		$55,021
Veterans	4	5301 Salem	1977	11,799	$2,000,000	2003	$49,319
Washington	8	4451 Delta Dr	2004	9,000	$1,500,000		$37,620
OUTDOOR POOLS							
Hacienda	3	1225 Giles	1960	2,496	$600,000		$10,433
Nations Tobin	3	8831 Railroad	1960	2,496	$800,000	2003	$10,433
Pavo Real	6	110 Presa Pl.	1974	3,552	$1,800,000	1980	$14,847
Grandview	2	3100 Jefferson	1977	3,300	$600,000		$13,794
Chelsea	2	819 Chelsea	1956	2,031	$600,000		$8,489

The nine Senior Centers are much newer as a group. Similarly the indoor pools are newer than the outdoor pools, which are all more than 30 year-old with Chelsea Outdoor Pool being 50 years old this year. All of these facilities combined are at or approaching the point where they will be the most costly to maintain. Cyclical replacements will hopefully precede costly equipment failures.

Table 2C – Facilities Maintenance – Major Buildings (Con't)							
LOCATIONS	District	ADDRESSES	BLDG DATE	SQ. FEET	VALUE	REHAB Date	Facility Maint Cost
SHELTERS/PUB. RENTALS:							
Arilington	4	4715 Junction	1968	3,222	$241,650		$13,468
Grandview	2	3200 Jefferson	1977	1,900	$142,500		$7,942
Hacienda	3	1225 Giles	1966	2,660	$199,500		$11,119
Logan Heights Park Reserve	2	5500 Byron St.		300	$10,000		$1,254
Marwood Park	8	4325 Riverbend	1966	2,660	$199,500	1968	$11,119
Memorial Park Reserve	2	3100 Copper		200	$15,000		$836
Sunrise	2	3800 Sunrise	1967	2,688	$201,600	1968	$11,236
Thomas Manor	7	7901 Knights	1965	1,900	$142,500		$7,942

The Shelters and Public Rental spaces are also maintained by the Facilities Maintenance Crews, as shown in Table 2C above. Efforts are made to emphasize preventive maintenance for all facilities. The Facilities crews also take care of fences, concession stands and appliances, athletic field and court lighting as well as parking lot and trail lighting and all of the drinking fountains. The workload indicators for the Facilities Maintenance crews are too extensive to include in the document, but will be available on the companion CD Data Base that will be a part of the Master Plan.

Table 3 below shows that the Facilities Management Division is in need of almost ten (9.68) individual staff people. The need is fairly evenly distributed, but seems most acute in the heating and cooling, painting, and plumbing areas. The painting requirement may be met with a redistribution of the work, better equipment or even seasonal help. The heating and cooling requirement (H & C) in Table 3 will probably need additional staff as will plumbing, especially since the facilities will be particularly in need of these services in the near-term.

The only anomaly in the Facilities Management workload is the Christmas Lighting Event that occurs between November and January of each year. The Facilities management crews put up all the lights for the City. The set up and takedown as well as ongoing maintenance during the period requires 2,760 hours of staff time every year. This does not include the Land management staff time for helping with the lighting or cleaning up after the parade.

Table 3 – Facilities Management Staff Workload and Requirements											
STAFFING	CARPENTER	ELECTRICAL	H & C	LOCKSMITH	PLUMBING	PAINT	POOLS	ROOFING	MECHANICAL	WELDING	TOTALS
Hrs Needed	12,585	14196	22867	2663.6	10988	11888	11085	3767	5741	5468	101,249
FTE's Needed	6.05	6.825	10.99	1.28	5.28	5.72	5.33	1.81	2.76	2.63	49
FTE's Available	5	6	9	1	4	4	5	1	2	2	39
FTE's + or -	-1.05	-0.825	-1.99	-0.28	-1.28	-1.72	-0.33	-0.81	-0.76	-0.63	-9.68

General Findings Related to Facilities Management

1. Lack of Management Systems

The facilities Management operation is run in an efficient manner. Unfortunately they do not have the systems in place to be effective. A management system can create cost and work histories or otherwise identify the most critical maintenance issues associated with cyclical replacement of equipment. This can create a major saving of funds.

2. Lack of Analysis

What data is collected and stored is essentially not available, because the staff has neither the time nor the full capability to properly analyze the data.

3. Christmas Lighting

This activity takes too much staff time. Alternatives should be considered.

4. Capital Projects

The Capital Projects Unit currently has three staff and they are augmented by involvement from both the Land Management and Facilities Management Divisions. The Unit is responsible for tracking and administering all parkland dedications, and shepherding new development and rehabilitation projects through the Engineering Department and Purchasing in order to get the projects to bid.

Anecdotal comments indicate that this system does not work well. The scope of this study did not allow the consultants to work flow the process, which needs to be done to determine the actual issues and constraints. Most effective capital park development processes in other jurisdictions around the country assign the park system the initial responsibility and only perform an engineering review (by a P.E.) if it is required by law. No workload data was developed for the Capital Unit.

5. Lack of an Annual Capital Replacement Budget

There is no annual capital replacement budget allocation in place that will allow for the development of a life cycle maintenance program. As a result sometimes minor capital replacement cannot be effected quickly or even at all, leading to major capital failures or depreciation. Currently the only way to resolve capital failures is to wait for the next bond cycle. This usually results in total replacement, rather than a more cost effective replacement of only the component that was broken.

Such a capital replacement budget was initially suggested for the 2006-2007 department budget, but was removed as paring down of the overall city budget resulted. It is strongly recommended that such a budget be instituted as soon as possible, not as a luxury but as a matter of dire necessity.

The estimated value of all capital improvements operated by the Parks Department is estimated to exceed over $250,000,000. But no funding for replacements or repairs of critical systems or components is available on an annual basis. This can result in continued deterioration of key park and recreation buildings and facilities.

Older buildings and pools in the system require the ability to quickly repair or replace building components.

B. Recreation Services

Recreation Services has a long and somewhat convoluted history in El Paso. In the late 1970's El Paso made an unprecedented move by not opening a completed facility due to lack of funding for staff. Although a controversial move, the issue resulted in an undocumented agreement that the City would provide funding for facilities and for basic staff but all programming would be on 100% recovery basis. Over the ensuing years this mandate has had certain benefits and certain liabilities. Among the benefits has been an entrepreneurial spirit and neighborhood involvement that is a highly desirable element in the community building movement. El Paso unintentionally led the staff to that position.

Unfortunately, the focus on revenue meant that basic core learn-to programs had to break even and were often not offered in order to program a more lucrative revenue program. This process violates four of the core principles of recreation programming.

1. People like to do what they do well.
2. The experience of mastering a challenge has a positive effect on one's mental and physical health and well-being.
3. The opportunity for participant success can be enhanced through appropriate application of skill development levels and competition against skilled peers.
4. People should be challenged to try new activities and experiences.

One of the outcomes of the revenue emphasis is that programming to introduce children to a wide variety of activities is not offered because it isn't lucrative. Yet it is perhaps one of the most important opportunities a child can have – the opportunity to find an activity that the child enjoys and performs well. A positive direction early in life can help buffer the trials and tribulations of growing up.

For better or worse the revenue requirement has shaped the facilities, programs and services that are offered today. The following pages present a picture of the facilities, their costs, and the revenues as well as the results of the program offerings. These tables are not always complete, lacking some data from some sites and some data from all sites (water, electric, gas, other utilities). However, they are detailed enough to begin to show the primary issues that need to be addressed. Follow-up data collection and analysis will have significant benefits.

Tables 4, 5, and 6 on the next few pages show the 2006 Adopted budget Indicators for the Recreation Centers coupled with the 2005 actual attendance and program workload results.

Table 4 shows the WORKLOAD INDICATORS or the data points that describe what services and programs are offered and how much is possible. These include:

Actual Hours of Operation per Week indicates the hours that the facilities are open for an average week. Note that Galatzan and Rae Gilmore have lower operating hours than the other Recreation centers. In general the Senior Centers are advertised as open 40 hours per week but have other activities that use the centers.

Capacity Hours per Week indicates the number of programmable spaces for each facility and the hours they are available for the week. Thus, Carolina Center has 11 spaces and a working capacity of 852.5 hours if all spaces were utilized during the week. Not all of the spaces are created equal, and they have differing capacities. The Sq. Ft. of spaces provides a sense of scale showing the different sizes of the centers.

Table 4 - Recreation Services Workload Indicators (2006 Adopted Budget Data)

Workload Indicators	Actual Hours of Operation per week	Capacity Hours per Week	Sq. Ft. of Program spaces	Number of Special Events	Number of Summer Camps	Sports Leagues	Classes	Instruction Attendance	Full Time Staffing
RECREATION CENTERS									
Acosta Sports Center.									
Marcos B. Armijo Cntr.			24,254	12	1	6	6	50	3
Carolina Cntr.	73.5	852.5	15,887	4	1	10	51	621	5
Chihuahuita			1,384	15	1	0	1	0	1
Eastwood --	102	930	22,781	8	2	8	17	600	5
Galatzan, Morris A. (Westside)	52	416	14,308	12	2	6	5	197	4
Leona Ford Washington (Missouri)			5,961	2	1	3	4	86	2
Lincoln Arts Cntr.									
Marty Robbins	90	630	9,362	3	1	4	32	741	6
Multipurpose	91	644	17,750	5	1	5	14	112	5
Nations Tobin			22,382	2	1	12	12	150	4
Nolan Richardson	112	672	12,952	3	2	6	5	250	4
Northeast				5	1	3	6	185	
Pavo Real	110	1748	17,098	1	3	10	9	156	5
Rae Gilmore	39	68	3,756	0	1	0	3	0	2
Sambrano/Seville	101	591	10,056	2	0	6	20	150	4
San Juan	68	198	2,560	12	1	3	2	0	3
Rec Center Sub-Total	**838.5**	**6749.5**	**180491**	**86**	**19**	**82**	**187**	**3298**	**53**

The columns such as special Events, Summer Camps, Sports Leagues, and Classes reflect annual numbers.

Generally speaking the Workload Indicators set the base for determining performance and productivity. In and of themselves the numbers have no specific meaning in terms of performance.

Table 4 (con't) - Recreation Services Workload Indicators (2006 Adopted Budget Data)

Workload Indicators	Actual Hours of Operation per week	Capacity Hours per Week	Sq. Ft. of Program spaces	Number of Special Events	Number of Summer Camps	Sports Leagues	Classes	Instruction Attendance	Full Time Staffing
SENIOR CENTERS:									
Eastside	64	441	5,683	4	0	0	16	154	3
Memorial Park	80	360	5,635	20	0	4	7	6	2
Pavo Real (Father Martinez)	47	247	8,874	69	0	0	16	20	2
Polly Harris	63	328	5,425	24	0	0	11	16	1
Sacramento	52	244	5,744	8	1	3	18	80	2
San Juan	54	102	5,734	1	0	0	5	150	1
South El Paso			13,126	14	0	0	39	110	2
Hilos de Plata			12,481	36	0	0	9	200	2
Wellington Chew	64	272	9,321	12	1	0	38	60	3
Senior Center Sub-Total	**424**	**1994**	**72023**	**188**	**2**	**7**	**159**	**796**	18
Total for Centers	**1262.5**	**8743.5**	**252514**	**274**	**21**	**89**	**346**	**4094**	**71**

Performance Indicators

The PERFORMANCE INDICATORS document the actual use, cost, time, revenue or other qualities that act upon the baseline established in the workload Indicators. For example, the **Average Weekly Hours of Use** show the actual use as compared to the capacity use shown in the workload indicators. Other performance indicators represent participation, expenditures or revenues by category. The consultant specifically selected these factors for this analysis, but another set of indicators could be selected to analyze the programs offered, such as aquatics.

Table 5A - Recreation Services Performance Indicators (2006 Adopted Budget Data)

Performance Indicators	Average Weekly Hours of Use	Total Expenditures	Operating Revenues	Total Revenue	Event Fees	Summer Camp Participants	Sports League Fees	Instruction Fees	Full Time Staffing	Overall Attendance
RECREATION CENTERS										
Acosta Sports Center.		$375,823	$291,000	$375,823	$5,000		$285,000	$500		
Marcos B. Armijo Cntr.		$68,633	$20,333	$68,333	$6,000	325	$7,000	$3,800	3	39,450
Carolina Cntr.	380	$76,632	$81,672	$97,972	$1,775	150	$27,600	$33,000	5	65,794
Chihauahuita		$2,550	$300	$2,550	$50	30	$100	$-	1	12,530
Eastwood --	816	$180,437	$107,807	$180,437	$3,500	240	$22,807	$32,000	5	156,890
Galatzan, Morris A. (Westside)	255	$265,813	$222,139	$264,813	$-	300	$23,500	$28,239	4	62,932
Leona Ford Washington		$63,947	$11,700	$38,300	$-	66	$6,500	$4,700	2	24,263
Lincoln Arts Cntr.		$6,050	$(50)	$6,050	$-		$-	$-		-
Marty Robbins	354	$133,778	$110,178	$133,778	$-	8	$46,500	$54,278	6	19,484
Multipurpose	436	$114,362	$60,862	$114,362	$-	120	$26,500	$29,462	5	28,053
Nations Tobin		$52,100	$31,900	$52,100	$-	75	$32,000	$-	4	30,137
Nolan Richardson	404	$90,900	$74,400	$90,900	$500	150	$20,000	$14,500	4	11,385
Northeast		$294,750	$238,650	$294,750	$-	130	$20,500	$9,500		21,851
Pavo Real	555	$160,500	$121,900	$160,500	$2,000	115	$28,000	$12,000	5	17,981
Rae Gilmore	55	$44,050	$2,300	$44,050	$-	75	$-	$750	2	3,975
Sambrano/Seville	209	$66,004	$41,900	$66,004	$2,000	0	$17,500	$22,500	4	9,530
San Juan	96	$209,587	$18,677	$48,087	$5,000	55	$8,000	$5,777	3	**37565**
Rec Center Sub-Total	**3560**	**$2,205,916**	**$1,435,668**	**$2,038,809**	**$25,825**	**1839**	**$571,507**	**$251,006**	**53**	**541,820**

Table 5B - Recreation Services Performance Indicators (2006 Adopted Budget Data)

Performance Indicators	Average Weekly Hours of Use	Total Expenditures	Operating Revenues	Total Revenue	Event Fees	Summer Camp Participants	Sports League Fees	Instruction Fees	Full Time Staffing	Overall Attendance
SENIOR CENTERS:							0			-
Eastside	434	$60,984	$29,850	$60,984	$-	0	$-	$23,250	3	29,690
Memorial Park	275	$47,900	$17,900	$47,900	$9,000	0	$-	$3,000	2	26,006
Pavo Real (Father Martinez)	127	$34,380	$19,030	$34,380	$6,860	0	$-	$6,770	2	65,020
Polly Harris	148	$36,408	$6,412	$36,408	$3,532	0	$-	$1,980	1	65,016
Sacramento	199	$29,825	$75	$29,825	$75	116	$-	$100	2	57,396
San Juan	86	$26,680	$1,250	$26,680	$1,350	0	$-	$-	1	14,710
South El Paso		$26,905	$15,390	$26,905	$6,940	0	$-	$-	2	28,918
Hilos de Plata		$39,236	$7,356	$39,236	$1,696	0	$-	$5,760	2	58,701
Wellington Chew	207	$28,800	$4,400	$28,800	$600	65	$-	$3,600	3	52,125
Senior Center Sub-Total	**1476**	**$331,118**	**$101,663**	**$331,118**	**$30,053**	**181**	**$-**	**$44,460**	**18**	**397582**
Total for Centers	**5036**	**$2,537,034**	**$1,537,331**	**$2,369,927**	**$55,878**	**2020**	**$571,507**	**$295,466**	**71**	**939,402**

As with the Workload Indicators, the Performance Indicators do not tell us a lot about what is taking place at the Centers. They do supply a sense of scale as the various centers have differing levels of funding and weekly hours of use. These will all come together in the Productivity Indicators.

The PRODUCTIVITY INDICATORS set up differently than the two prior sets of Indicators. Table 6A, beginning on the following page, contains columns that reflect use and cost of the facility. The columns in Table 6B reflect use and revenues. Note: Not all of the Productivity Indicators are supported by the data contained in Tables 4 and 5. The complete tables of analysis will be provided in the Appendices or in the CD Data base.

The analysis in Table 6A is a process of seeking variation. Eastwood and Galatzan show a very high rate of usage per hour. Yet Galatzan has an average cost per user and above average cost per Sq. ft., and it has a cost per hour of use that is three time as high as most facilities. It also has the highest Revenue to Expenditure Ratio. Without further investigation it cannot be determined whether the data indicates a positive or a negative in terms of productivity. The presence of the Daycare Center is most likely the influencing characteristic.

Table 6A - Recreation Services Productivity Indicators (2006 Adopted Budget Data)						
Productivity Indicators	**Average Use per hour**	**Operating Capacity Utilization**	**Cost per Hour**	**Cost per user**	**Cost per Sq. Ft.**	**Revenue to Expenditure Ratio**
RECREATION CENTERS						
Acosta Sports Center.						80.8%
Marcos B. Armijo Cntr.				$6.36	$10.35	27.2%
Carolina Cntr.	17.2	44.6%	$53.08	$3.08	$12.77	48.3%
Chihauahuita				$1.16	$10.54	17.5%
Eastwood --	29.6	87.7%	$54.44	$1.84	$12.67	62.5%
Galatzan, Morris A. (Westside)	23.3	61.3%	$141.59	$6.08	$26.76	69.2%
Leona Ford Washington (Missouri)				$4.01	$16.34	39.3%
Lincoln Arts Cntr.						6.4%
Marty Robbins	4.2	56.2%	$46.45	$11.16	$23.22	61.5%
Multipurpose	5.9	67.7%	$48.02	$8.10	$12.80	50.3%
Nations Tobin				$8.08	$10.88	21.4%
Nolan Richardson	2.0	60.1%	$26.37	$13.49	$11.86	59.2%
Northeast				$13.49		
Pavo Real	3.1	31.8%	$49.25	$15.67	$16.48	57.0%
Rae Gilmore	2.0	80.9%	$32.35	$16.51	$17.47	67.1%
Sambrano/Seville	1.8	35.4%	$18.52	$10.21	$9.67	67.9%
San Juan	10.6	48.5%	$80.79	$7.60	$111.59	16.8%
Rec Center Sub-Total	**12.4**	**52.7%**	**$84.05**	**$6.76**	**$20.30**	**47.6%**
SENIOR CENTERS:						
Eastside	8.9	98.4%	$29.00	$3.25	$16.98	63.2%
Memorial Park	6.3	76.4%	$23.57	$3.77	$17.40	48.8%
Pavo Real (Father Martinez)	26.6	51.4%	$27.75	$1.04	$7.64	50.7%
Polly Harris	19.8	45.1%	$21.32	$1.07	$12.88	52.1%
Sacramento	21.2	81.6%	$26.21	$1.23	$12.34	42.1%
San Juan	5.2	84.3%	$22.37	$4.27	$10.96	42.5%
South El Paso				$2.97	$6.54	31.3%
Hilos de Plata				$2.45	$11.52	27.3%
Wellington Chew	15.7	76.1%	$24.13	$1.54	$8.62	35.9%
Senior Center Sub-Total	**18.0**	**74.0%**	**$35.19**	**$1.95**	**$10.77**	**42.7%**
Totals for Centers	**14.3**	**57.6%**	**$67.64**	**$4.73**	**$17.59**	**46.7%**

Table 6B - Recreation Services Productivity Indicators (2006 Adopted Budget Data)

Productivity Indicators	Revenue per Program Sq. Ft.	Revenue per hour	Revenue per user	Revenue per Special Event	Participants per Summer Camp	Revenue per Sports League	Revenue per Class Participant	Rents and Leases As % of Total Rev	Other Rev as % of Total Rev
RECREATION CENTERS									
Acosta Sports Center.								6.7%	3.8%
Marcos B. Armijo Cntr.	$2.82		$1.73	$500.00	325	$1,167	$76.00	48.3%	22.0%
Carolina Cntr.	$6.17	$8.61	$1.49	$443.75	150	$2,760	$53.14	6.1%	10.2%
Chihauahuita	$1.84		$0.20	$3.33	30			41.2%	39.2%
Eastwood --	$7.92	$6.87	$1.15	$437.50	240	$2,851	$53.33	34.6%	2.8%
Galatzan, Morris A. (Westside)	$18.51	$7.65	$4.21	$-	300	$3,917	$143.35	6.4%	9.5%
Leona Ford Washington (Missouri)	$6.43		$1.58	$-	66	$2,167	$54.65	39.2%	26.1%
Lincoln Arts Cntr.								24.8%	66.1%
Marty Robbins	$14.29	$3.25	$6.87	$-	8	$11,625	$73.25	15.0%	0.0%
Multipurpose	$6.44	$7.45	$4.08	$-	120	$5,300	$263.05	38.0%	4.4%
Nations Tobin	$2.33		$1.73	$-	75	$2,667	$-	9.6%	9.6%
Nolan Richardson	$7.02	$3.76	$7.98	$166.67	150	$3,333	$58.00	16.5%	0.0%
Northeast				$-	130	$6,833	$51.35	2.0%	17.0%
Pavo Rea	$9.39	$5.25	$8.93	$2,000.00	115	$2,800	$76.92	18.7%	3.1%
Rae Gilmore	$11.73	$2.76	$11.08		75			54.5%	36.2%
Sambrano/Seville	$6.56	$2.82	$6.93	$1,000.00	0	$2,917	$150.00	15.2%	19.7%
San Juan	$18.78	$4.30	$1.28	$416.67	55	$2,667		31.2%	21.4%
Rec Center Sub-Total	**$11.30**	**$7.44**	**$3.22**	**$300.29**	**1839**	**$6,970**	**$76.11**	16.2%	9.3%

Key Findings for Recreation Services

1. Data Collection and Analysis

The Recreation Services Division does not have a systematic method for collecting, tabulating, and analyzing operational and program data that is important to an effective revenue generation system. The data provided in the above tables is soft, at best.

2. Business Management

The Recreation Services department has no automated or manual Recreation Business Management System

3. Expenditures

The Division needs access to the amount and cost of utilities data to obtain a complete picture of the cost of operations.

4. Revenue Sources

Sports League, Childcare, and Facility Rentals and Leases exceed the Instruction of classes and programs as a source of revenue. This may have a deleterious affect on the use and support of the facilities. It appears that the majority of facility use is for quasi –public or private uses.

5. Additional Data Needs

Attendance data is missing to establish the scale of the services and programs and the rentals attendance at facilities.

6. Operating Procedures

The operating procedures and policies are inconsistent.

7. Staff Training and Development

The current staff has some significant skills and abilities to address the challenges and issues in their neighborhoods and at their centers. These qualities are particularly fine tuned to the current operation. Changes to enhance the recreation benefits to the citizens will require some additional training and structural realignments. Consideration should be given to the time and cost of developing the employee skills to successfully address the new challenges.

8. Aquatics

The Aquatics program and related facilities needs further study.

Table 6.B (Con't) - Recreation Services Productivity Indicators (2006 Adopted Budget Data)

Productivity Indicators	Revenue per Program Sq. Ft.	Revenue per hour	Revenue per user	Revenue per Special Event	Participants per Summer Camp	Revenue per Sports League	Revenue per Class Participant	Rents and Leases As % of Total Rev	Other Rev as % of Total Rev
SENIOR CENTERS						$-			
Eastside	$10.73	$2.70	$2.05	$-	0	$-	$150.97	31.2%	8.2%
Memorial Park	$8.50	$2.77	$1.84	$450.00	0	$-	$500.00	33.4%	20.9%
Pavo Real (Father Martinez	$3.87	$7.16	$0.53	$99.42	0	$-	$338.50	24.0%	14.5%
Polly Harris	$6.71	$3.18	$0.56	$147.17	0	$-	$123.75	52.1%	27.5%
Sacramento	$5.19	$5.05	$0.52	$9.38	116	$-	$1.25	60.4%	33.5%
San Juan	$4.65	$4.81	$1.81	$1,350.00	0	$-	$-	37.5%	48.7%
South El Paso	$2.05		$0.93	$495.71	0	$-	$-	22.9%	18.6%
Hilos de Plata	$3.14		$0.67	$47.11	0	$-	$28.80	67.2%	12.5%
Wellington Chew	$3.09	$7.81	$0.55	$50.00	65	$-	$60.00	47.2%	17.4%
Senior Center Sub-Total	**$4.60**	**$7.65**	**$0.83**	**$159.86**	**181**	**$-**	**$55.85**	41.2%	20.5%
Totals for Centers	**$9.39**	**$7.21**	**$2.21**	**$203.93**	**2020**	**$6,970**	**$131.96**	19.7%	10.8%

C. Parks and Recreation Administration

The line management responsible for planning, organizing, staffing, directing, and monitoring day to day operations in the Department of Parks and Recreation includes the Director, Assistant Director, Park Operations Manager and the Recreation Services Manager.

The Administrative Analyst is primarily responsible for staff and support functions. A number of staff enable top administrators to carryout their work requirements. These include accountants, administrative assistants, secretaries and clerical workers. In addition to this management core are a Sports Programming Superintendent, and specialists from the Texas Cooperative Extension and Administration.

A review of the Department's summary budget does not reveal any anomalies related to the implementation of services. The ratios of personnel, and operating expenditures are all within accepted parameters. The administration budget does not reflect the collection of revenues so there is no revenue budget summary for the Department. It should be noted that one revenue category, Shelters Administration, is listed under the administration and is a relatively profitable enterprise. The shelters seem to serve a widespread need in the community for places to have community or family gatherings.

Table 7 - FY 2006 Adopted Budget Analysis of Fund Expenditures

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Salaries, Wages and Benefits

Fund	Categories	Total Salary	Part Time Temp	Overtime	Benefits	Total Personnel Costs	Contract Services	Material Supplies	Operating Expenses	Capital Outlay	Totals
01101	**Parks Administration**	408,210	-	10,000	109,705	517,915	156,600	-	-	-	674,515
01101	**Recreation center Administration**	1,802,605	-	-	581,706	2,384,311	72,000	8,000	15,000	-	2,479,311
01101	**Aquatics Administration**	202,482	36,298	-	58,927	261,409	-	-	-	-	261,409
01101	**Facilities Maintenance**	1,444,040	90,704	31,000	519,776	1,963,816	712,500	627,653	10,600	-	3,314,569
01101	**Land Management**	2,303,486	443,292	100,000	761,976	3,065,462	1,112,594	463,637	1,580,468	-	6,222,151
	P & R TOTAL	**6,160,823**	**570,294**	**141,000**	**2,032,090**	**8,192,913**	**2,053694**	**1,099,290**	**1,606,068**	**-**	**12,951,955**

Table 8 - FY 2006 Adopted Budget Analysis of Fund Expenditures									
Categories	Personnel Costs as % of Budget	Contract Services as % of Budget	Materials & Supplies as % of Budget	Operating Expenses as % of Budget	Capital Outlay as % of Budget	Salary as % of Personnel Budget	Part-time as % of Salary	Benefits as % of Personnel Budget	Overtime as a % of Salaries
Parks Administration	76.8%	23.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	78.8%	0.0%	21.2%	2.4%
Recreation center Administration	96.2%	2.9%	0.3%	0.6%	0.0%	75.6%	0.0%	24.4%	0.0%
Aquatics Administration	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	77.5%	17.9%	22.5%	0.0%
Facilities Maintenance	59.2%	21.5%	18.9%	0.3%	0.0%	73.5%	6.3%	26.5%	2.1%
Land Management	60.0%	0.0%	9.1%	30.9%	0.0%	75.1%	19.2%	24.9%	4.3%
P & R AVERAGE	69.2%	7.9%	9.3%	13.6%	0.0%	75.2%	9.3%	24.8%	2.3%

Within the context of the current operations this structure and these positions make operational sense. The key is that the current methods of doing business are no longer viable and in some cases are counterproductive to the needs in the near and long-term future. The Department has operated for many years in a survival mode. The entire culture of the existing organization has been to seek individual successes, emphasize revenue generating opportunities, and to utilize whatever was available.

Table 9 - Organization Transition	
From:	**To:**
Positioned to Survive	**Positioned to Thrive**
Individual Initiative	Team Initiative
Job right	Right Job
Staff Certifications	Staff Skills Development
Revenue Driven	Community Benefit
Limited Funding Sources	Diverse Funding Sources
Responsible	Accountable
Cost Efficiency	Cost Effectiveness
Crisis Management	Maintenance Management
Capital Rehabilitations	Planned New Development

To have the type of park and recreation system that El Paso needs as it grows into the future, the Department must make a number of transitions. The new challenges include the following transitions shown in Table 9.

Organization Transition and General Findings

A. Individual to Team Initiative

Generally speaking, the Department needs to formalize and document its operating procedures so they are either consistent between sites or the variation between sites is defined, explained and accepted. The same is true for the Department policies. The policies seem to be unwritten in many cases, and can lead to public confusion, negative official reaction and staff frustration. Everybody needs to be on the same page.

B. Job Right to Right Job

Staff capability is another significant issue. In fact the organizational structure is an issue that reflects the staff capability problems. The consultants are not suggesting that the staff is not performing their duties in a competent manner, nor are we suggesting they lack motivation, dedication and commitment. The staff makes extensive efforts to do the job right, and they seek job efficiency and focus on the tasks they have always done within the system. The problem arises from the fact that the tasks performed in the past are not always those that are needed today and tomorrow. In short, the staff is not doing the right jobs and has not been trained in the skills, knowledge and abilities to recognize and perform the new jobs required.

C. Staff Certification to Staff Skills Development

Staff training has focused on obtaining and maintaining certification for employees. While certifications are important they do not represent a staff training and development program. To maintain professional viability staff needs exposure to new operational practices, program ideas, marketing methods, management techniques and a variety of other mental stimulations. A training and development program, which is discussed in more detail in other parts of this report, needs to systematically identify the skill sets lacking to perform the current job and compete for the next higher position.

D. Revenue Driven to Community Benefit

The City's emphasis on revenue for program opportunities led to the emphasis on revenue in the operation of buildings and the programs offered. The transition needs to take the facilities, programs and services back to a position of seeking community benefit. All citizens of El Paso should have equal opportunities to benefit from the parks and recreation system regardless of ability to pay. The Benefits-Based Programming Continuum identifies: (1) Public Access; (2) Core; (3) Quality of Life; and Highly Specialized/Individualized as categories in the Continuum.

At present the Department focuses on the Highly Specialized/Individualized services to the detriment of the core

and quality of life categories. Facilities are accessible, although in many cases the accessibility is limited by the rental of facilities, and revenue programs, which take priority and limited staff time to keep the facilities open. The transition needs to be made to accessible facilities that are programmed with core and quality of life programs and services and that focus on a high rate of capacity utilization in a full family program atmosphere which emphasizes active experiential opportunities, skill development and recreation for youth, and health/wellness, life skills and social recreation for adults.

E. Limited Funding Sources to Diverse Funding Sources

The Department has carried out its past budgetary mandates utilizing the tax funding appropriated by the City Council, the revenues generated by facility rentals, sports programs and various classes, and grant funds obtained through various state and federal resources. However, this same approach will not work in the future if the system is to contribute to the City's economic and cultural vitality. The City is financially constrained in any budgetary effort to contribute significantly more funds to the Department. The grants are disappearing, as federal and state dollars are not being distributed to municipal jurisdictions as in the past. The Department has reached the limit for revenue generation under the current strategy. The emphasis should be on establishing diverse funding that includes the possibility of dedicated funds, revenue facilities, and more comprehensive revenue strategies that take into consideration the need to benefit the community.

F. Responsible to Accountable

The Department is held responsible for implementation of budgets, capital projects, purchasing, and revenue generation initiatives. In many cases, however, they cannot be held accountable because they are not integrally involved in the processes leading to authorization to proceed. The classic example is capital projects for which the department is held responsible. They lack the ability to control the design and construction bidding processes and occasionally are left with improperly built or equipped facilities. The result is frequently a multi-million dollar facility that has half of the life expectancy intended.

G. Cost Efficiency to Cost Effectiveness

By focusing on doing the job right the department has been able to define the criteria for measuring success. This has been exacerbated by the fact that inadequate databases are kept for both recreation and maintenance functions. The Department needs to transition to measuring performance through cost effectiveness. Appropriate methods of collecting and documenting workload, performance and productivity are needed to empower staff to meet operational goals and objectives.

H. Crisis Management to Maintenance Management

The Department is stretched to the maximum on maintenance of facilities and lands. As noted in the land management analysis there are a number of issues that impact the staff's ability to do all the work needed. The real world impact is that staff is frequently forced to leave scheduled work to address

maintenance crises. On some occasions the crisis is citizen generated as in the case of vandalism or calls to the elected official's offices. In other cases it is a malfunction of a part or piece of equipment that did not receive adequate preventive maintenance due to other crises. The Department needs to upgrade their management systems to reflect the significant inventory they are maintaining.

I. Capital Rehabilitations to Planned New Development

In recent years the Department has been rehabilitating existing facilities whether they have reached the end of their viability or not. The Department needs to strongly consider the value returned on upgrading an old facility versus the cost of a completely new facility. Frequently the cost of renovation and rehabilitation are significantly higher than the cost of building new. In addition, the uses and configuration of the older facility may not be suitable to today's needs. In the past those questions might not have been answered if, indeed they were ever asked. In the future the feasibility and viability of every facility should be examined to ensure informed decision-making.

II. Governance Recommendations

The governance recommendations section of this plan represents the consultant's opinion of the strategies and actions that represent best practices within the field of Parks and Recreation. Best practices need to be adjusted to reflect the conditions that actually exist. The consultants have adjusted the practices as needed. Criteria for adjustment include physical and economic realities. Where appropriate the consultants provide a sequence of actions to achieve the goal. The recommendations are in a hierarchal rather than a priority order. We start at the top of the organization and descend.

A. Mission, Image and Domain Issues and Recommendations

Mission

Issue: ***The Mission of the El Paso Parks and Recreation Department is:***

> ***To develop, preserve, and maintain quality open space and indoor facilities,***
> ***and provide opportunities for structured and unstructured***
> ***recreational and leisure-time activities for all citizens of El Paso.***

Recommendation A.1 Mission - ***The mission answers the basic question, "What business are we in?" It is too passive and needs to be reconsidered in light of current activities, such as Day-Care and private uses that conflict with the mission but generate revenue.***

Image/Vision

Issue: ***The vision statement for the Department is the "Fun Experts."***

Recommendation A.2 Vision - The current vision statement is in short, "The Fun Experts." This statement marginalizes the significant economic, social and physical benefit and impacts that Parks and Recreation provides to the Community. An alternative might be "Parks and Recreation Contributing to El Paso's Bright Future."

Domain

Issue: ***The domain is the City boundaries of El Paso.***

Recommendations A.3 Domain - The city should strongly consider some type of agreement with the County for the Department to provide park and recreation services. At present county residents who do not pay city taxes use the facilities and programs. The county has shown an inclination to turn over such facilities as Ascarate to the City. This and other county sites represent significant opportunities for increasing the recreational opportunities to the citizens of El Paso.

B. The Governing Process Issues and Recommendations

The governing framework for the Department does not have a stable foundation from which to operate. This is basically a result of a lack of clear direction from the City over the past 25 years; an evolutionary structure that has been created by unpredictable funding and operational requirements; and unstable departmental leadership subject to frequent turnover.

Capital and Operational Direction

Issue: Until recently when the City Council took action on park dedication ordinances and Arroyo/open space policies most of the City's direction and priority for the park system lacked Council cohesion and intent. Direction frequently was filtered through the budget process, which had its own set of constraints, and did not necessarily raise key Departmental issues to the level of council consideration.

Recommendation B.1 Capital and Operational Direction – The City Council, through the auspices of this Comprehensive Plan, should establish priorities and achievable goals for the Parks and Recreation Department for at least the next five years. These priorities and goals can then be monitored on an annual basis to ensure that the Department is carrying out the collective will of the Council. It is through this mechanism that the council exercises its greatest control over the Park and Recreation functions and ensures that the results are consistent with Council goals for the City.

Organizational Structure

Issue: The Department's organizational structure is configured to respond to staff capabilities and personalities. (See Page 27)

Recommendation B.2. Organization Structure – The Department has two basic line functions, (1) Land and Facilities Management and (2) Recreation Program and Service Operations. Primary existing staff functions are Administrative Services. Additional positions/functions needed at the management level include:

Management Analyst – capable of administering automated operational and maintenance systems, designing the performance databases and collecting, tabulating and analyzing the databases to produce reports and provide for informed decision-making. The person must truly be an analyst.

Public Information Officer – the Department needs effective control and consistent quality of product for marketing, promoting and publicizing the opportunities provided by the department.

Other positions will be recommended in the section on the line operations

Policies

Issue: Internal Department policies are not always written and officially approved.

Recommendation B.3 Policies – The consultants are not making a recommendation as to how policies are adopted or by which entity (department Board or Council). We are recommending that the policy areas be identified, perhaps as objectives, with subsequent policy statements documented and adopted as appropriate.

Procedures

Issue: Internal Department procedures vary considerably from site to site, creating confusion and unnecessary disputes.

Recommendation B.4 Procedures – As with the Policies the department needs to develop related operational procedures that enable the dispersed staff to give clear responses and advice to citizens posing questions about a variety of subjects. In addition the procedures need to be developed for the facilities and how they are to be operated so citizens can count on all facilities having similar hours etc. Below is an Example of a clear procedure for fees and charges.

Sample Policy from the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Fees and Charges

Pricing Guidelines

1. Families: each person pays the Child rate.
   - To reduce the financial impact on small families and encourage more family participation. Adult(s) must be accompanied by a Child to receive the Family Rate.

2. Flexi passes: allow you unlimited admission to Park Board fitness centers, and indoor and outdoor pools, and they are available for adults, youth, and seniors.

3. Strip or multiple admission tickets: up to 25% off applicable single rates for 10/20.
   - Incentives to increase use of facilities

4. Priority times: higher/lower rates may be charged at specific times of day or week.
   - To distribute use and available times.

5. Leisure Access Cards: are available to Vancouver residents with limited income. Entitles card holder to free swimming and skating and 50% reduction of basic programs and services.
   - To encourage participation and to assist financially where appropriate.

6. Those persons with disabilities who are in need of assistance to participate are entitled to bring an attendant free of charge if required.
   - To enable persons with disabilities to participate in any recreational activity.

7. Exclusive use: specific age categories or groups may be given prearranged special use of facilities upon request.
   - To distribute usage over available times and provide for special tournaments and group activities.

8. Reduced fee sessions: specific low cost public sessions at rinks and pools.
   - To enable all citizens to use these facilities at reduced rates during designated times.

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Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Issue: The Park and Recreation Advisory Board is not utilized to full advantage of the department, the citizens or the elected officials.

Recommendation B. 5. Park and Recreation Advisory Board – The Park and recreation advisory Board needs to be reconfigured to be an effective liaison among the Citizens, Department and Council on park and recreation issues policies, procedures and disputes. To be effective, the Advisory Board needs to revise their Bylaws to reduce the number of Board Members to 9 (one from each District and one Mayoral appointment). If the County becomes part of the operation then the number could expand to 11, but it should not exceed that number. Note: if desired, alternates can be appointed to the board so that all parties are represented at each meeting.

The board should also be responsible for preparing and researching policies that come to the Council for approval and for reviewing the procedures and regulations for Departmental implementation of Council priorities. By giving the Board a more meaningful advisory responsibility and role, Council Members can focus on priority issues rather than minor brush fires.

Operational Funding

Issue: The Department needs a stable source of operational funding to cost effectively expand staff capability and productivity. This will increase the value citizens receive for the dollars they willingly invest in the recreational opportunities.

Recommendation B.6. Operational Funding - The City Council needs to reassess the commitment made in the early 1980's to provide for maintenance of the facilities and the operational capacity to keep the facilities available. At this point in time, the funding for maintenance of both parks and facilities is not adequate to maintain the facilities to a sustainable standard.

In addition, funding is inadequate to keep the facilities open the expected amount of time. The council also needs to consider that the revenue requirement for programs has effectively eliminated what most communities considered to be public access or core courses. The need for funding over the next five years can be summarized as follows:

Current Budget

$18.0 million dollars status quo, (at 634,500 Population cost is $28.00 per capita)

Current Requirement 2006-07, (To maintain status quo)

$22.6 million dollars ($2.8 million for Recreation Center Services; $1.8 million for land management operations)

(at an estimated 634,500 population cost would be $36.00 per capita, including both fund allocations and revenue).

Future Requirement 2011-12 - will need operating fund of **$27.7 million dollars** ($40.00 per capita assuming 692,000 population)

These amounts accommodate operation of the new facilities and little more. Yet even maintaining the status quo assumes that best practices are implemented. Many of these recommendations are included in the Recreation Services or Park Management recommendation.

So the primary issue becomes how do you fund the needed dollars? There is a mix of possible solutions that can collectively meet the dollar needs. They include:

Fiduciary Responsibility

The parklands and facilities that the City Council has approved over the years constitutes a contract with the citizens that the tax money used to fund these assets entails a commitment to properly maintain them. It is also assumed that the funding will be available to make the parks and facilities available for use.

In reality there is also an implied responsibility to provide all citizens with equal access to the facilities and to core programs that enable the visitors to use the facilities. If this is not the understanding of the present Council then the issue needs to be examined before moving ahead.

1. Build revenue-producing facilities with capital dollars that enhance recreation opportunities. Ideas include create golf courses; Ascarate with festival grounds, design water park and other features; provide shelters and rentals of reserve spots for large gatherings; internalize the sports program under city control and rent facilities for availability; increase access to recreation facilities with better hours; the naming policy and others.

2. Identify suitable tax sources that could be tapped to provide for maintenance of facilities. Examples include tourism taxes, Real estate transfer charges

3. Of utmost importance is a commitment from the City to provide a stable source of funding. This could be a commitment to raise the tax funds to a given point, support the funding of revenue facilities with revenues returning to the Departments enterprise fund and an increase in revenues generated primarily through expanded involvement rather than increased fees and charges. The consultants recommend a minimum increase in the dollars per capita of $3.00 per year or $38.00 per person by FY 2011-12. The survey indicates that the public would support the increase and the remainder of the need could be created by revenue enhancements.

The Creation of a Park District as a Potential Funding and Governance Mechanism

The premier park systems in North America tend to be park districts. Under this mechanism, the district is self funding and mostly self governing, with oversight from both its own board and the higher authority of the local governmental jurisdiction (in this case the City Council of El Paso). A few examples of excellent park districts include:

- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – over 140 parks, 6,400 acres of parks and lakes serving 400,000 residents of the area. Annual budget of $49 million, of which $35 million comes from property taxes.
- Chicago Park District – serving the Chicago area with an annual budget of over $239 million.
- Hayword California Recreation and Park District – largest recreation district in California, serving 250,000 area residents with a $26 million annual budget.

In El Paso, such a district would encompass the entire county and would assume the role of providing facilities for the entire county. The district would have to be created by special legislation from the Texas State Legislature. Board members could be appointed by the City Council and County Commissioners. The district would levy a property tax to gain revenue, and would also operate facilities. It is intended that taxes raised by both the City of El Paso and El Paso County for park operations would be reduced and replaced by the district levy.

Why would El Paso want to consider such a district? Funding for the parks system would be much more dependable, and would not be subject to the typical priority order that most cities have, in which by necessity parks are considered a lower priority.

El Paso should consider the steps needed to create such a district, and prepare financial and legislative reviews to determine if a park district is appropriate.

Potential Funding Sources

Bond Funds – property tax supported, possible every 4 to 8 years in El Paso. For the significant amounts anticipated by this plan, a total of three bond packages are desired.
Public Service Board – potential donation or low cost sale of valuable recreation lands, especially arroyos.
El Paso County – potential participant in some cases with the City to develop or renovate facilities.
School Districts – potential donation or low cost sale of lands. Also potential participant in development in some cases.
Grants – multiple grant sources – the city should aggressively pursue state and federal grants for parks, trails and recreation centers. City should establish a goal of raising up to $5,000,000 in grants over the next five years.
Special legislative appropriations – could be passed by Legislature.
Developer funds through Parkland Dedication Ordinance – potential source of some revenue for park development.
Donations – land or construction dollar donations.

Capital Improvements Funding

Issue: It is estimated that major improvements for the plan for Today, including land acquisition and physical improvements, will total between $100 and $120 million. This investment, when coupled with the recent bond expenditures from 2000 and 2004, will result in significant across the board physical improvements to the parks system, and will provide basic facilities for the 100,000+ new residents that El Paso will have over the next decade.

The Visionary Components in the Plan for Tomorrow are estimated cost an additional $100 million. These items include actions such as the refurbishment and enhancement of Ascarate Park, the acquisition of major open space, and the creation of a new downtown Central Park.

Recommendation B.7 – Potential Sources of Funding
The funding sources table on this page illustrates the potential sources of revenue for capital improvements. While this is simply a scenario, it points to multiple sources of revenue that can be brought to play to create a better park system. Where other potential partners are shown, it should be noted that each would have to be a willing participant and would have to accrue significant benefits to help fund the parks system.

Alternative Fund and Foundation Funding

As a result of this master planning process, the City of El Paso is in the process of modifying its Parks Foundation to create additional sources of revenue for the department. One source can come from selected naming rights contributions. These funds, which are carefully generated, can be used to name rooms, individual items, or even entire centers for an appropriate amount. The funds can actually be used to create an endowment for that particular facility, providing some eventual relief from the lack of funding for capital renovations or improvements.

The El Paso Parks Foundation would serve as the principle recipient of donations, but is also expected to become more aggressive over the next few years in its search for donations.

Parkland Dedication Ordinance Modifications

Recent changes to the parkland dedication requirements of the city increased the amount of parkland to be dedicated. Those changes also increased the fee in lieu of land, and instituted higher standards for minimum levels of development. Additional changes to the ordinance should be put in place to provide for a more consistent level of parks in new developments. These additional changes include the following points.

Adopt the new park zones recommended by this plan. The new zones follow major streets or physical barriers, and represent boundaries that are more accurate. These zones also allow population to be tracked as the city grows, so that service levels in each zone can be checked and adjusted as needed.

Timeframe for spending fees accrued through the parkland ordinance - Increase the time limitation for expenditure of fees generated by the dedication ordinance from three years to a minimum of five years. The current three years is too short a period of time for consolidation of property, planning, design and construction of the improvements. If bond funds are used to supplement the dedication fees, funding cycles may be even further apart, making a change to seven years more useful. It should be noted that most communities allow up to ten years for expenditure of funds before reverting back to the original contributor.

Combine ponds and parks where feasible - Encourage the combination of ponds and parks together, but only if sufficient lands are left dry for every day park usage. Any change that moves the city away from walled ponding areas to assets that are more useful and attractive should be encouraged. The 50% reduction in the amount of parkland required can be maintained in the ordinance, but only if a corresponding amount of usable area above the lip of the detention pond is provided. In other words, every pond had a rim and edge area that is not needed for drainage. By combining the park space that is required with the pond rim area, the resulting lands should be at least equal to the required amount of parkland

Require that the Director of Parks be responsible for determining how to allocate fees accrued through the ordinance – the ordinance should be revised to mandate that the Parks Director have the responsibility to recommend how park fees shall be used to meet parkland needs within each zone. The recommendations shall be brought forth to the City Council for ultimate approval.

Preservation of Open Space – establish up to a 50% credit in the amount of park lands required if valuable open space lands that exist on the property are preserved. These should not include drainage corridors that are already required to be preserved, but instead could grant credits for arroyo fringe areas, larger than necessary areas at the bottom of channels, and unique desert environment tracts.

Park/Pond in another community (prior to establishment of turf)

Modify other development standards - Modify other development standards to require that detention ponds have flatter side slopes, access to the bottom for use as practice fields, and the preservation or establishment of native vegetation and trees along the rim and service areas of the ponds. Excessively deep ponds to preserve land area should be restricted.

Encourage ponds to be more natural in appearance - Establish parkland development fee credits if detention ponds are configured to look more natural and become assets to the communities around them. At the current fees of approximately $1,000 per lot, the credit could be substantial, but only should be granted if the ponding area is truly accessible, attractive and becomes a real park-like space.

Establish a threshold for land dedication requirements for small multi-family developments - Development of six units or less are typically built as infill development, and are highly desirable in the older parts of the city. Waiving of parkland fees for these smaller developments can serve as an incentive. For anything over six units, the development will impact park service levels in the area and should contribute to addressing those area needs.

Location of Park lands within new developments – adjust the language of the ordinance to require that new park sites be located so that they are easily accessed from all parts of the development that they will serve. Require that a minimum of at least two sides of the park and at least 50% of its perimeter area be adjacent to public streets. This will ensure that parks are visible and accessible.

Require that calculations for the amount of park dedicated not include the right of way of adjacent streets. Currently, park land calculations are taken from the back of curb of adjacent streets – this land area is part of the street and should not be calculated as part of the park. In effect, this small clause can reduce the effective area of a small park considerably, further restricting its recreational value to the community around it.

Disallow credit for reduction in parkland if a school park is created – the amount of parkland to be dedicated is small enough, and El Paso's deficiencies large enough that all lands are needed. However, consider a fee credit if adjacent to a school property, where the true cost of development may be reduced by School District participation.

C. Land Management Issues, Strategies and Recommendations

C.1 Staffing and Structure

Issue: There is no real issue related to organizational structure and the Land Management function except for the addition of the athletic field maintenance crews. There are position grade and succession issues. For example:

- Land Managers are currently graded at GS 22. This grade and its corresponding salary levels is inconsistent with the number of staff supervised, the risk of the job, and the need for critical decisions regarding millions of dollars of parks, facilities and equipment.
- There is no position that allows staff advancement and promotion to the Land Manager's position.

Recommendation C.1. Staffing and Structure – The recommendations include:

- The Land Mangers should be graded at least equal to the PM 74 positions that run the Recreation and Senior Centers. The responsibilities are significantly greater.
- At least one position per Land Management Area should re-graded to be eligible, with training, to compete for the Land Manager position, (perhaps a GS 17 position would be appropriate).
- The Land Management areas should have full responsibility for maintaining the athletic fields in each area. This will require the addition of one groundskeeper position and two seasonal staff per Area.
- Current workload calculations indicate that there is a need for over 90 FTE's in the Land Management Areas. With new facilities being included this will probably increase to 96 FTE's. Currently the staffing level is at nearly 82 FTE's when all seasonal hours are counted. These staffing levels are consistent with the ICMA median of 8.25 staff per 100 developed acres which would require 90.75 FTE's.

C.2. Land Management Areas

Issue: Travel time is too high for the crews that are now averaging 75 minutes per person per day. A redistribution of parks and facility maintenance responsibility is warranted to reduce the staff time. This is especially true given the new facilities that will be on line within the next year.

Recommendation C.2 Land Management Areas – Given the current staff travel time, the pending expansion of facilities and the inclusion of the athletic field daily maintenance responsibilities the Land Management Areas should be expanded from the current five areas to eight areas. Expansion will require the addition of some equipment and finding maintenance corrals, but the excess travel is costing over $100,000.00 a year in lost productivity. The travel time should not exceed 45 minutes per person per day.

C.3. Park Soils

Issue: In a system that relies on the dedication of lands for Parks it is not surprising that the park soils are not among the best for developing and maintaining turf. In many parts of the Nation the soils in a city would not change so drastically from

one type to another and have such varied maintenance requirements. El Paso has saline, sandy, unconsolidated clay, Calechi and more normal soils that have differing requirements for nutrients and irrigation. For example, the saline soils cannot take the reuse water because it has a higher saline content and will kill off the turf grasses

Recommendation C.3 Park Soils – Have every park site tested for its soil composition and develop a maintenance program that includes grass, fertilizer, pesticides or other additives according to each parks particular needs.

C.4. Turf

Issue: The turf for the parks is all the same with the same requirements despite the amount of traffic. Some variation can be used to reduce the per acre cost of maintenance by varying the types of turf grasses and seeking opportunities for more native species and landscapes. The turf grass for an athletic field can be different than the turf grass for a one-acre park. There are varieties that are more drought resistant. It is important that each park site be given individual consideration for it turf care program.

Recommendation C.4 Turf – As part of the soils analysis, identify the turf best suited for the soil and intended use (general use versus athletic field). Identify the various requirements as indicated in C.3. Also look at each site relative to the need for cultivated plants versus native species or low maintenance xeriscapes.

C.5. Contracted Services

Issue: The question most frequently asked about the contracted mowing and trash pickup services is “Can staff do the same work cheaper and more effectively.”

Recommendation C.5 Contracted Services – At the present time given the numbers available the mowing crews are performing the work at half of the cost for the staff to do the work. It would be helpful if the contractors were required to specify their tasks, the time taken to perform them and the cost allocation for the services.

D. Facilities Management Issues, Strategies and Recommendations

D.1. Staffing and Structure

Issue: The Facilities Management Division is in need of almost ten (9.68) individual staff people.

Recommendation D.1 Staffing and Structure – the consultants believe the need is most acute in the Heating and Cooling, Painting and Plumbing areas. The painting requirement may be met with a redistribution of the work, better equipment or even seasonal help. The Heating and Cooling Requirement will probably need additional staff as will plumbing, especially since the facilities will be particularly in need of these services in the near-term. Additional staff should wait until the maintenance management system can verify those requirements.

D.2. Management Systems

Issue: The facilities Management operation is run in an efficient manner. Unfortunately they do not have the systems in place be effective.

Recommendation D.2 Management Systems – The Facilities Management Unit should procure an off-the-shelf facilities and equipment management automated system. This can be done in concert with the recreation management automated system. A management system can create cost and work histories or otherwise identify the most critical maintenance issues associated with cyclical replacement of equipment. This can create a major saving of funds.

D.3. Data Analysis

Issue: What data is collected and stored is essentially not available, because the staff has neither the time nor the full capability to properly analyze the data.

Recommendation D.3 Data Analysis – The Division needs a management analyst to collect, tabulate, and analyze the data for the system. This position can be subordinate to the Management Analyst needed in Headquarters.

D.4. Christmas Lights

Issue: This activity takes too much staff time. The set up and takedown as well as ongoing maintenance during the period requires 2760 hours of staff time every year. This event costs over $55,000.00 of staff time that could be spent maintaining facilities.

Recommendation D.4 Christmas Lights – Consider contracting the Christmas lights or re-thinking the scope of the event.

E. Capital Projects Issues, Strategies and Recommendations

E.1. Development Process

Issue: The capital projects unit is facing too many projects, conflicting priorities, and constraints from the development process. Anecdotal evidence implies that the City is not receiving value for its projects due to problems in this process.

Recommendation E.1 Development Process – Conduct a workflow analysis on these projects to determine if and where bottlenecks may be occurring as well as where conflicts are arising between contractors, inspectors and staff.

F. Recreation Services Issues, Strategies and Recommendations

F.1. Staffing and Structure

Issue: There is a need for a significant increase in programming of spaces at the Recreation and Senior Centers. There is concurrently a need to establish staff expertise in recreational programming topics and resources within the community. Lastly there is a need to make a center to neighborhood connection in some areas.

Recommendations F.1 Staffing and Structure – The future requirements for public Access and core programming as well as continued expansion of revenue generating programs will necessitate staff leaving behind the current product approach and adopting the market approach. Essentially it means that staff will need to know their neighborhood interests well to build a package of programs that will fill the centers. This will require two sets of change. First, the facilities will need to be open to the public at least, 100 hours per week but need not be operated by the highest grades. These operations will be a separate unit under the supervision of a couple of PM level Staff. Second, the PM grades will be reassigned to a programming Unit with two responsibilities One group will develop expertise in recreation program areas and the second group will develop implementation and evaluation expertise so they can identify the appropriate instructors for each type of programs and focus on keeping the centers busy with program opportunities. The chart on page 39 provides a better description of the structural layout. This action may require some lower level positions for covering the centers for the desired hours.

F.2. Automated Recreation Management

Issue: The Recreation Services Division does not have a systematic method for collecting, tabulating and analyzing operational and program data that is important to an effective revenue generation system. It also lacks some of the centralized processes such as registration, scheduling, point of sale control, inventory control and cash handling controls.

Recommendation F.2 Automated Recreation Management – The recreation services division should procure one of the off the shelf recreation management systems that provides these services. There is no need to try and institutionalize the present business processes they do not work that well. The new system can instantaneously offer a more effective operational method.

F.3. Data Needs

Issue: The Division needs access to the amount and cost of utilities data to obtain a complete picture of the cost of operations.

Attendance data is missing that will establish the scale of the services and programs and the rentals attendance at facilities.

Recommendation F.3 Data Needs – The department needs to sit down with budgeting and finance to determine how they can get basic operational information regarding the detailed operating costs for each facility including all utilities. In addition the revenue accounting system needs to tabulate by specific revenue sources that can be tied back to specific attendance records. Lastly, the attendance numbers for each facility and programmable spaces within the facility are crucial to optimizing revenues.

F.4. Revenue Sources

Issues: Sports League, Childcare, and Facility Rentals and Leases exceed the Instruction of classes and programs as a source of revenue. This may have a deleterious affect on the use and support of the facilities. It appears that the majority of facility use is for quasi –public or private uses.

Recommendation F.4 Revenue Sources – There is a tendency when faced with the idea of generating more revenue for staff to think in terms of raising fees and charges to obtain the revenue. However, the key is not to raise prices but increase the number of patrons. First it is easier to get one new person than it is to get the same patron to come more frequently. Second, the recreation value increases by reaching more people. Thus the rentals and lease may be easier to get but they are not necessarily an advantage to your operation. The focus needs to be on programming. Programming at the public Access and core program stages should be offered for free or a nominal charge. These programs introduce customers to new activities so they can become interested in different hobbies and, they can learn the needed skills and eventually become a regularly paying customer in your program offerings – hopefully throughout life. This recommendation is consistent with the restructuring of the Recreation Services Division.

F.5. Staff Training and Development

Issue: The current staff has some significant skills and abilities to address the challenges and issues in their neighborhoods and at their centers. These qualities are particularly fine tuned to the current operation. Changes to enhance the recreation benefits to the citizens will require some additional training and structural realignments. Consideration should be given to the time and cost of developing the employee skills to successfully address the new challenges.

Recommendation F. 5 Staff Training and Development – The Department needs to systematically identify the skills, knowledge and abilities (SKA) of staff to determine the type and amount of training the staff will need to perform their duties (including new duties) at satisfactory levels (this may also require defining the criterion for each job). The second phase is to develop training so the employee is prepared to advance.

F.6. Aquatics

Issue: The Aquatics program and related facilities need further study beyond the scope of this planning process.

Recommendation F.6. Aquatics – As soon as feasible the Department should hire an aquatics consultant to review the entire operation of the aquatics program and facilities.

Recommendation B.2.A Organization Structure – The Department has two basic line functions, (1) Parks and Facilities Management and (2) Recreation Program and Service Operations. Primary existing staff functions are Administrative Services. Additional positions/functions needed at the management level include:

Department Administration Organizational Changes

Assistant Director – As the Department begins to re-hydrate after its long period of subsisting on minimal resources, the requirements for the job in both parks and recreation will require a deputy position. The Director will of necessity be focused on working outside the Department.

Management Analyst – The Department needs staff capable of administering automated operational and maintenance systems, designing the performance databases and collecting, tabulating and analyzing the databases to produce reports and provide for informed decision-making. The person must truly be an analyst.

Public Information Officer – The Department needs effective control and consistent quality of product for marketing, promoting and publicizing the opportunities provided by the department.

Extension Service Positions – It is hoped that the Extension Service employees can provide the expertise needed in (1) turf, soils and irrigation; (2) Recreation Programming and Marketing: and (3) staff training and development. If this is not possible additional expert staff may be needed. The use of expert staff such as provided by the Extension Service can reduce the need for line employees to have those SKA's and subsequently reduces staff costs.

Parks Management Organization Changes

Organizational changes for the Parks Management Division include:

1. Add three (3) new management areas to cover the land management duties and reduce travel time. It is anticipated that the development of the three new areas will require some additional equipment.

2. Staffing requirements will also increase with new facilities coming on line and a current deficit of employees. General estimates are that each land management area will need to add one full-time and two seasonal employees.

3. For efficiency the athletic field maintenance responsibility should be assigned to the land manager in each area

4. In Facilities Management, 3 employees will be needed to meet building maintenance requirements. A greater need is currently indicated but allocation should wait until the automated maintenance management system is operating and can verify the need.

Recreation Services Organization Changes

Rationale

It will be helpful to the reviewers to restate the rationale for these changes.

- The current focus is on building operations.
- The buildings are not always open to the public during normally expected hours; nor are the hours of operation consistent from center to center.
- Why and how do the senior centers providing 33.6% of all accessible hours, 25.3% of full time staffing, 13.1% of total costs, 13.8% of total revenues, and 28.5% of usable program space in its nine (9) centers account for 42.3% of all reported visitation?
- Revenues are more focused on uses rather than programming.
- The programming focus is on Product (staff generated) rather than Market (customer generated)
- Training for staff needs to be focused.
- Upper grade staff should be planning and organizing programs rather than operating buildings

Note: The scope of this contract does not allow for the type of in-depth analysis needed for the aquatics program due to the complex mix of programs and facilities. Therefore the Aquatic Program is kept as a separate function until such time as an analysis can be made of the operations and requirements.

General Realignment Concept

Recreation Programming

- PM 75/74/71 and select Recreation Leader positions would move to program categories shown in the organization chart.
- Selection could be by seniority or interviews for the positions.
- Each program category would be responsible for developing a hierarchy of programs for all the centers including possibly senior centers (Categories other than the Plus 50 programs).
- Each program category would develop a group of contract instructors to run the programs
- Logistics of scheduling will be made possible by obtaining Management software that has a scheduling function.
- Program categories will be expected to develop market surveys to find out what classes might interest potential customers.

Facility Operations

- One PM 74 and possibly two PM 71's would be assigned to Center operations.
- Each appropriate center would have a GS 17 responsible for the site, and Recreation Leaders to assist with operating requirements.
- Functions include opening/closing; room set up for programs; front desk operation including registration services (on the registration component of the automated management system); supervising open use times; providing interim custodial services (between contract custodial services).

- Generally the staff at each center will be responsible for ensuring a clean attractive facility that has equipment in good operating order and a friendly and knowledgeable staff to serve the customers.
- In the future service with the Facility Operations Unit should be a perquisite for moving onto the programming Unit.
- Times and spaces determined by Program staff to be available for long-term rentals should be bid as a procurement action. Value is being exchanged.
- The function of athletic field maintenance will be transferred to the land management area crews. Each area should have a dedicated field preparation crew.

Summary of Key Governance Findings

1. Adequate funding must be provided to maintain and operate facilities that are available.
2. The mission of Parks and Recreation facilities should be to provide services for the citizens of El Paso, and not to generate funding to make up for budget inadequacies.
3. Funding should be distributed and allocated on an equitable basis citywide, based on need. Funding needs should be weighed based on both district and citywide priorities, not on more arbitrary citizen requests without adequate determination of need.
4. The Parks Advisory Board should take on a stronger policy role, as authorized by the City Council. The City Council should recognize the value of the Advisory Board as a sounding board for park and recreation system decisions, The Advisory Board should be allowed to truly advise the Council; therefore key department decisions regarding major park system components should be reviewed and approved by the Parks Board.
5. Beginning with the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the department budget should include a capital expenditures line item to adequately fund the ongoing maintenance needs of the system. This is especially critical given the age of many of the park and building facilities in the city. This is not a capital replacement fund, but rather intended to address key maintenance needs in a timely fashion so as to extend the useful lifespan of city assets.
6. This amount should begin at an amount equal to 1% of the total value of the Parks and Recreation system infrastructure. If overall department park and building assets are valued at $200,000,000, then the annual capital expenditures budget should total approximately $2,000,000.
7. An immediate policy change for Recreation facilities is recommended, so that recreation centers can offer programs and facilities that provide the most benefit to the citizens of El Paso. The Entrepreneurial system should be adjusted for all recreation centers beginning with the 2006-2007 budget year.
8. Land Management staff recommendations should be implemented immediately by adjusting grades and by providing additional staff as recommended in this section.

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IV. Park Zones

Reconfigured park zones are proposed as part of this master plan. These zones replace the current one mile grid that has been used over the past ten years. The new zones follow the boundaries of the five larger planning areas, but divide each planning zone into smaller numbered zones that match census tract boundaries. In most cases each new park zone incorporates two to three census tracts.

Park zones use major roadways or other physical boundaries as dividing lines between zones. Population data for each park zone is included in the appendices. Park zones will be most critical when evaluating the need for neighborhood parks and parkland dedication requirements.

Park zones for each of the planning areas are shown on the following pages.

Northeast Planning Area

The Northeast Planning Area is designated to have seven park zones. Zones NE – 6 and 7, north of Highway 54, may be subdivided into smaller zones as development intensifies in the area.

Proposed Park Zones for the Northeast Planning Area

Far East Planning Area

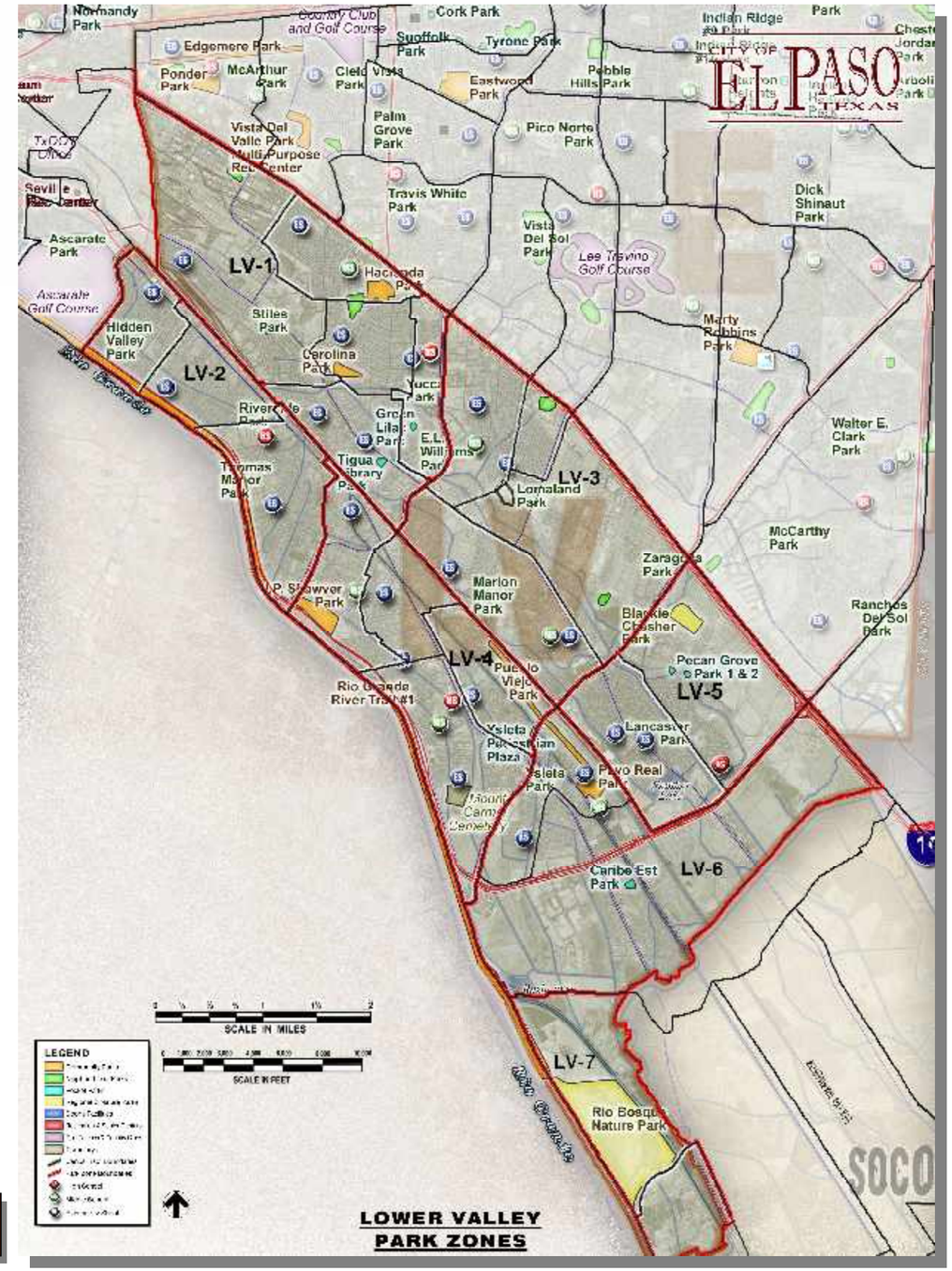
The far East Planning Area is designated to have nine park zones. Zones E -9 may expand into additional zones as growth continues to the east.

The Hueco Zone should be created as soon as development begins to occur north Montana Boulevard.

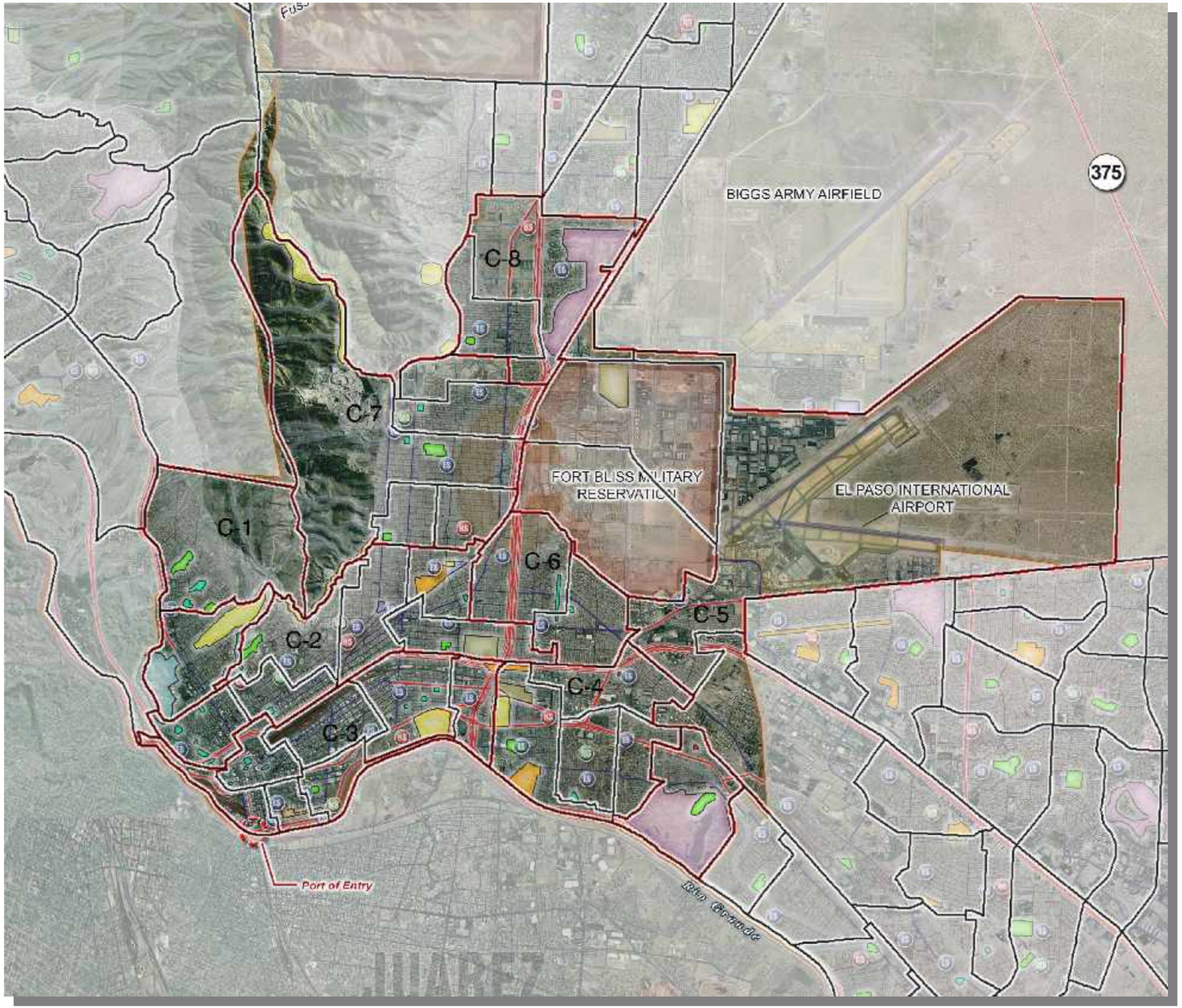
Proposed Park Zones for the East Planning Area

Mission Valley Planning Area

The Mission Valley Planning Area is designated to have six park zones. No additional expansion of this area is anticipated in the future.



Proposed Park Zones for the Mission Valley Planning Area



Central Planning Area

The Central Planning Area is designated to have eight park zones. Because this area is essentially fully developed, no additional park zones are anticipated to be needed in this area.

Proposed Park Zones for the Central Planning Area

Northwest Planning Area

The West Planning Area is designated to have thirteen park zones. The less rigid major street characteristics of the area as well as the division created by the Rio Grande River create the need for additional zones. Zone NW - 12 may need to be subdivided as additional growth occurs in the area.

Proposed Park Zones for the Northwest Planning Zone

CHAPTER 12:

SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter Contents

I. Summary of Needs and Recommendations by Planning Area
II. Summary of Funding Requirements
III. Summary of Recreation Programming Issues and Needs
IV. Summary of Operational Issues
V. A Plan for a Bright Future

Citywide – El Paso - Summary of Key Needs and Recommendations

As a whole, issues facing the Parks System are both facility related and systematic changes that need to be addressed. Park facilities have not kept up with the growth of the city over the past two decades, and only in the last five years are new facilities begin developed to meet that demand. In particular, neighborhood and community parks in fast growing parts of the city have not been provided, in part due to loopholes in the parkland dedication and advanced park planning areas. Open space has not been much of a front burner issue, and valuable areas of open space that could have been acquired in a less expensive manner may now be gone or much more costly.

Funding for the system has been very low, and the continued reliance on self generated revenue, while a good idea in principle, has forced the system to ignore core programs that benefit a high number of people and focus instead on activities that generate revenue. New park management staff has provided professional guidance for the system, and internal staff can bolster their local experience with additional training in parks and recreation strategies that have been adopted nationwide.

Key Overall Needs

1. Neighborhood park service is very poor throughout the city
2. Community parks are well distributed, but tend to be smaller than in most other communities.
3. The city lacks true regional parks, which would be comparable to Ascarate Park in size and the variety of facilities that are provided.
4. Pools in the city, while many have been updated.
5. The area has few actual in town open space preserves, although many opportunities exist.
6. The city has a very significant lack of trails.
7. Area recreation centers are well placed, but are very small, and many are neighborhood based and not able to serve large populations.
8. Linkage opportunities throughout the city exist but have not been utilized.
9. Land for future parks has not yet been formally designated. Land in the growing area north of Hwy. 54, although discussed and shown on maps, has not been permanently designated and reserved.
10. The system does not have ready access to data on usage and facility maintenance. Much of this data is not currently tracked by up to date management software.
11. Land management crews have huge distances to cover, and cannot adequately maintain all of the parks in the system. New parks are being added without corresponding increases in manpower to maintain them.
12. Parks have significant levels of turf, which require high levels of irrigation. Selected areas in parks should be converted to desert landscapes.
13. The area lacks links to the Franklin Mountains. These should be developed in concert with Texas Parks and Wildlife.
14. The system lacks facilities that can generate revenue, such as golf courses, festival grounds, or even concession stands in many of the athletic parks.
15. The El Paso County parks system has significant parks that can help to address some of the key needs in the city. The City of El Paso and El Paso County should work together to revitalize those parks that are within the city limits. If appropriate, the city should consider assuming management of those parks. A business plan study is recommended prior to taking that step.

Summary of Key Master Plan Recommendations

Key recommendations for the entire city as well as each planning area are summarized in this chapter, and correspond to the recommendations for each facility category discussed earlier in the document. Recommendations for each area are prioritized based on the findings of the master plan.

General recommendations that address operational and recreation programming issues are as follows.

Summary of Key Operations Findings

Land Management

1. Travel time is too high for the crews that are now averaging an hour and fifteen minutes per person per day. A redistribution of parks and facility maintenance responsibility is warranted to reduce the staff time. This is especially true given the new facilities that will be on line within the next year.
2. The Land Management Division is short over 9 FTE's. The system should ultimately transition to eight maintenance districts to cut down on travel time and to handle new parks now coming on line. A division that specifically addresses athletic facilities should be established, and may be separate or may be linked to each of the maintenance areas.

Facilities Management

1. Institute use of a facilities management system to create cost and work histories or otherwise identify the most critical maintenance issues associated with cyclical replacement of equipment. This can create a major saving of funds. What data is collected and stored is essentially not available, because the staff has neither the time nor the full capability to properly analyze the data.
2. The Capital Projects Unit currently has three staff and they are augmented by involvement from both the Land Management and Facilities Management Divisions. The Unit is responsible for tracking and administering all parkland dedications, and shepherding new development and rehabilitation projects through the Engineering Department and Purchasing in order to get the projects to bid. This system does not work well. Convert to what most other systems use. Most effective capital park development processes in other jurisdictions around the country assign the park system the initial responsibility and only perform an engineering review (by a P.E.) if it is required by law.

Summary of Recreation Programming Findings

1. The Recreation Services Division does not have a systematic method for collecting, tabulating, and analyzing operational and program data that is important to an effective revenue generation system. The data provided in the above tables is soft, at best.
2. The Recreation Services department has no automated or manual Recreation Business Management System
3. The Division needs access to the amount and cost of utilities data to obtain a complete picture of the cost of operations.
4. Sports League, Childcare, and Facility Rentals and Leases exceed the Instruction of classes and programs as a

source of revenue. This may have a deleterious affect on the use and support of the facilities. It appears that the majority of facility use is for quasi –public or private uses.

5. Attendance data is missing to establish the scale of the services and programs and the rentals attendance at facilities.
6. The operating procedures and policies are inconsistent, especially as they relate to hours of operation and staffing.
7. The current staff has some significant skills and abilities to address the challenges and issues in their neighborhoods and at their centers. These qualities are particularly fine tuned to the current operation. Changes to enhance the recreation benefits to the citizens will require some additional training and structural realignments. Consideration should be given to the time and cost of developing the employee skills to successfully address the new challenges.

Aquatics

1. The Aquatics program and related facilities needs further study. A review of the system and facilities is recommended in the near future.

Summary of Key Funding Recommendations

1. The Department needs a stable source of operational funding. At this point in time, the funding for maintenance of both parks and facilities is not adequate to maintain the facilities to a sustainable standard. In addition, funding is inadequate to keep the facilities open the expected amount of time. The council also needs to consider that the revenue requirement for programs has effectively eliminated what most communities considered to be public access or core courses.

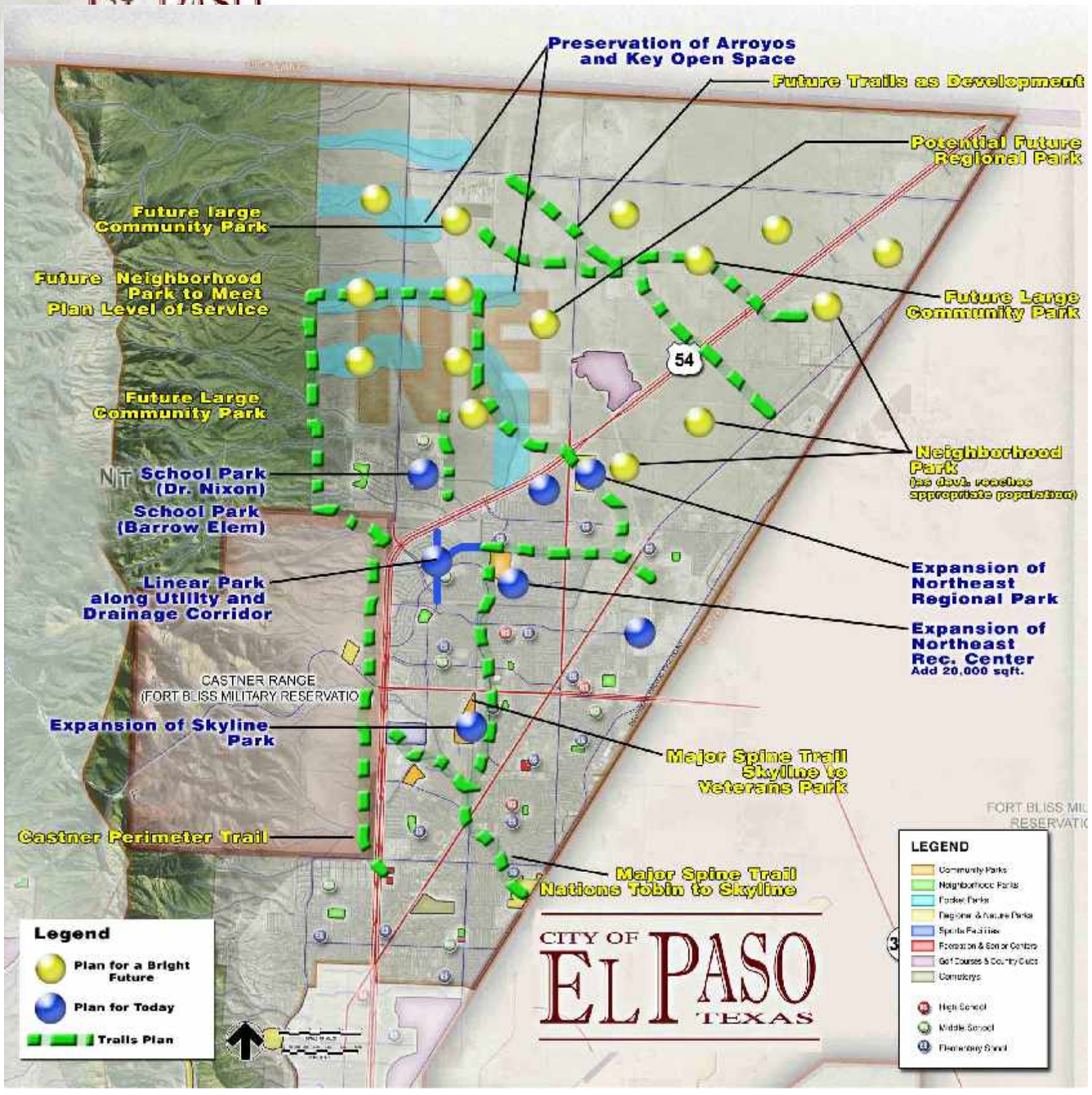
Current Requirement 2006-07, (To maintain status quo) **$22.6 million dollars** ($2.8 million for Recreation Center Services; $1.8 million for land management operations) (at an estimated 634,000 population cost would be $36.00 per capita).

Future Requirement 2011-12 Will need operating fund of **$27.7 million dollars** (38.00 per capita assuming 765,000)

2. Build revenue-producing facilities with capital dollars that enhance recreation opportunities. Ideas include create golf courses; Ascarate with festival grounds, design water park and other features; provide shelters and rentals of reserve spots for large gatherings; internalize the sports program under city control and rent facilities for availability; increase access to recreation facilities with better hours; institute a new naming policy and others.
3. Identify other suitable tax sources that could be tapped to provide for maintenance of facilities. Examples include tourism taxes and real estate transfer charges.
4. Aggressively consider a move to a Park District system to provide a more stable and larger pool of funding for the parks system.

Summary of Key Governance Findings

1. Adequate funding must be provided to maintain and operate facilities that are available.
2. The mission of Parks and Recreation facilities should be to provide services for the citizens of El Paso, and not to generate funding to make up for budget inadequacies.
3. Funding should be distributed and allocated on an equitable basis citywide, based on need. Funding needs should be weighed based on both district and citywide priorities, not on more arbitrary citizen requests without adequate determination of need.
4. The Parks Advisory Board should take on a stronger policy role, as authorized by the City Council. The City Council should recognize the value of the Advisory Board as a sounding board for park and recreation system decisions, The Advisory Board should be allowed to truly advise the Council; therefore key department decisions regarding major park system components should be reviewed and approved by the Parks Board.
5. Beginning with the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the department budget should include a capital expenditures line item to adequately fund the ongoing maintenance needs of the system. This is especially critical given the age of many of the park and building facilities in the city. This is not a capital replacement fund, but rather intended to address key maintenance needs in a timely fashion so as to extend the useful lifespan of city assets.
6. This amount should begin at an amount equal to 1% of the total value of the Parks and Recreation system infrastructure. If overall department park and building assets are valued at $200,000,000, then the annual capital expenditures budget should total approximately $2,000,000.
7. An immediate policy change for Recreation facilities is recommended, so that recreation centers can offer programs and facilities that provide the most benefit to the citizens of El Paso. The Entrepreneurial system should be adjusted for all recreation centers beginning with the 2006-2007 budget year.
8. Land Management staff recommendations should be implemented immediately by adjusting grades and by providing additional staff as recommended in this section.



Northeast El Paso - Summary of Key Needs and Recommendations

The Northeast planning area has a greater amount of parks than any other part of the city, but only because of the new Northeast Regional Park and the presence of other larger community parks such as Sue Young and Skyline Youth Park.

Key Overall Needs (in order of priority for this planning area):

1. The area has no major trails, although many opportunities for trails exist in the area.
2. The area lacks a major leisure pool facility. Area pools are conventional and have difficulty attracting users.
3. The area has few actual open space preserves, although many opportunities exist.
4. The area lacks a major indoor recreation center. Area centers are smaller and lack major amenities.
5. Land for future parks has not yet been formally designated. Land in the growing area north of Hwy. 54, although discussed and shown on maps, has not been permanently designated and reserved.
6. The area lacks additional close in neighborhood parks (although it has more than other parts of the city).
7. The area lacks links to the Franklin Mountains.

Key Recommendations for this area

Immediate

1. Develop a minimum three to four miles of trails over the next five years. Use power line and drainage corridors. Develop these corridors as linear parks.
2. Permanently preserve open space lands in the area, including Public Service Board lands, the Castner Range, and major drainage ponding areas. Designate as open space along with other uses. Provide access points to the Franklin Mountains.
3. Develop a major leisure pool in the area over the next ten years. Consider a location in Veterans Park to serve both existing and new parts of the area.
4. Enhance the pool at Nations Tobin.
5. Develop enhanced indoor recreation facilities at Nations Tobin and Veterans Parks.
6. Provide additional recreation facilities in neighborhood parks.

Medium and Longer Term

7. Develop additional trails in the area.
8. Develop school parks and additional neighborhood parks to meet growing demand.
9. Add athletic facilities at the Northeast Regional Park and at Skyline Youth.
10. Enhance area holding ponds to make them more attractive and to serve as open space.
11. Develop a new far northeast Recreation Center.

Northeast El Paso

Key Facility Needs (in order of priority for this planning area):

1. Trails and trail access facilities
2. Acquisition of park lands
3. Shade shelters in parks
4. Picnicking facilities in parks
5. Open play areas in parks
6. Leisure pool
7. Expanded recreation center
8. Preservation of key open space assets
9. Athletic facilities
10. Desert landscapes in parks

East El Paso - Summary of Key Needs and Recommendations

The East planning area has fewer parks than any other area, with the exception of the Central planning area. The area Distribution issues are critical, with large portions of the area having poor immediate access to open space or parks. The area continues to grow very quickly, and will need extensive land acquisition and facility development actions in the immediate future.

Key Overall Needs (in order of priority for this planning area):

1. The area has no developed regional park.
2. The area lacks a significant number of neighborhood parks, especially in the area between Yarborough and Loop 375.
3. The area lacks large community parks with a variety of facilities in them.
4. The area has no major trails, and opportunities for trails are not as readily available as in other parts of the city.
5. The far East area lacks a major recreation center east of Loop 375.
6. The area lacks a major leisure pool facility. Area pools are conventional and have difficulty attracting users.
7. The area lacks baseball fields, especially in the far east part of the area.
8. The area has almost no open space preserves. Opportunities exist only farther to the east where development has not yet occurred.

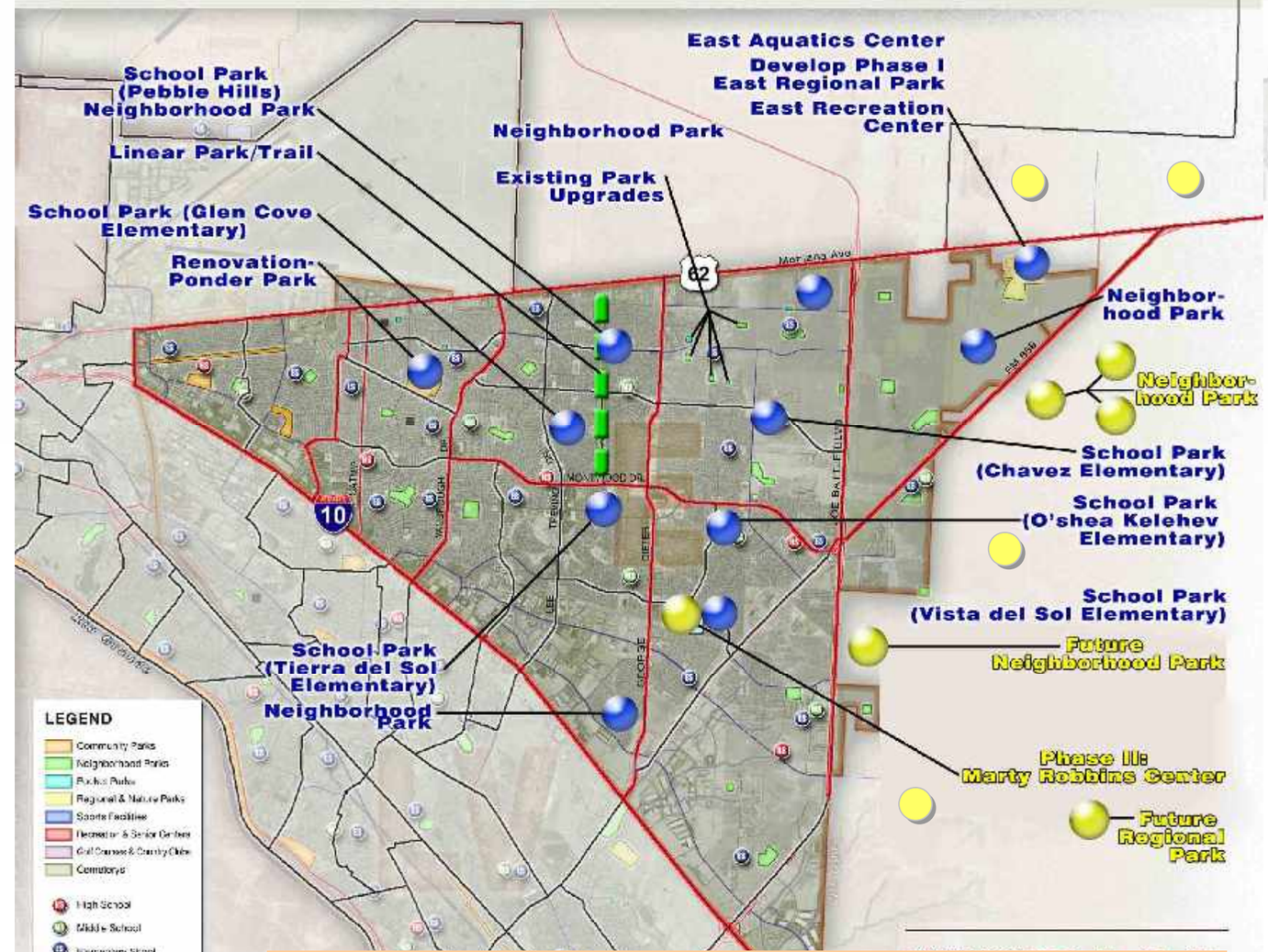
Key Recommendations for this area

Immediate

1. Develop three to four new school parks in the area to immediately address close in park needs in areas that have no access to parks.
2. Emphasize the continued development of neighborhood parks, primarily by developers, as new residential growth occurs. As many as ten new neighborhood parks may be needed over the next five years.
3. Develop the initial phase(s) of the East Regional Park. Consider acquiring land to increase the size of that park. Plan as a "regional" sized center to serve a very large population.
4. Develop a minimum three to four miles of trails over the next five years. Use power line and drainage corridors. Some trail corridors may be along boulevards. Develop all of the trail corridors as linear parks.
5. Convert two to three ponding areas into small neighborhood parks or extensions of existing parks as shown.
6. Acquire land for additional neighborhood and community parks from developers and through purchase.
7. Permanently preserve open space lands in the area, primarily east of Loop 375. Work with property owners to gain dedication of drainage areas and aquifer recharge areas.
8. Develop a major leisure pool in the area over the next ten years. Consider a location in the new East Regional Park to serve both existing and new parts of the area.
9. Complete the second phase expansion of the Marty Robbins Recreation Center.
10. Develop two new large community parks in the area.

Medium and Longer Term

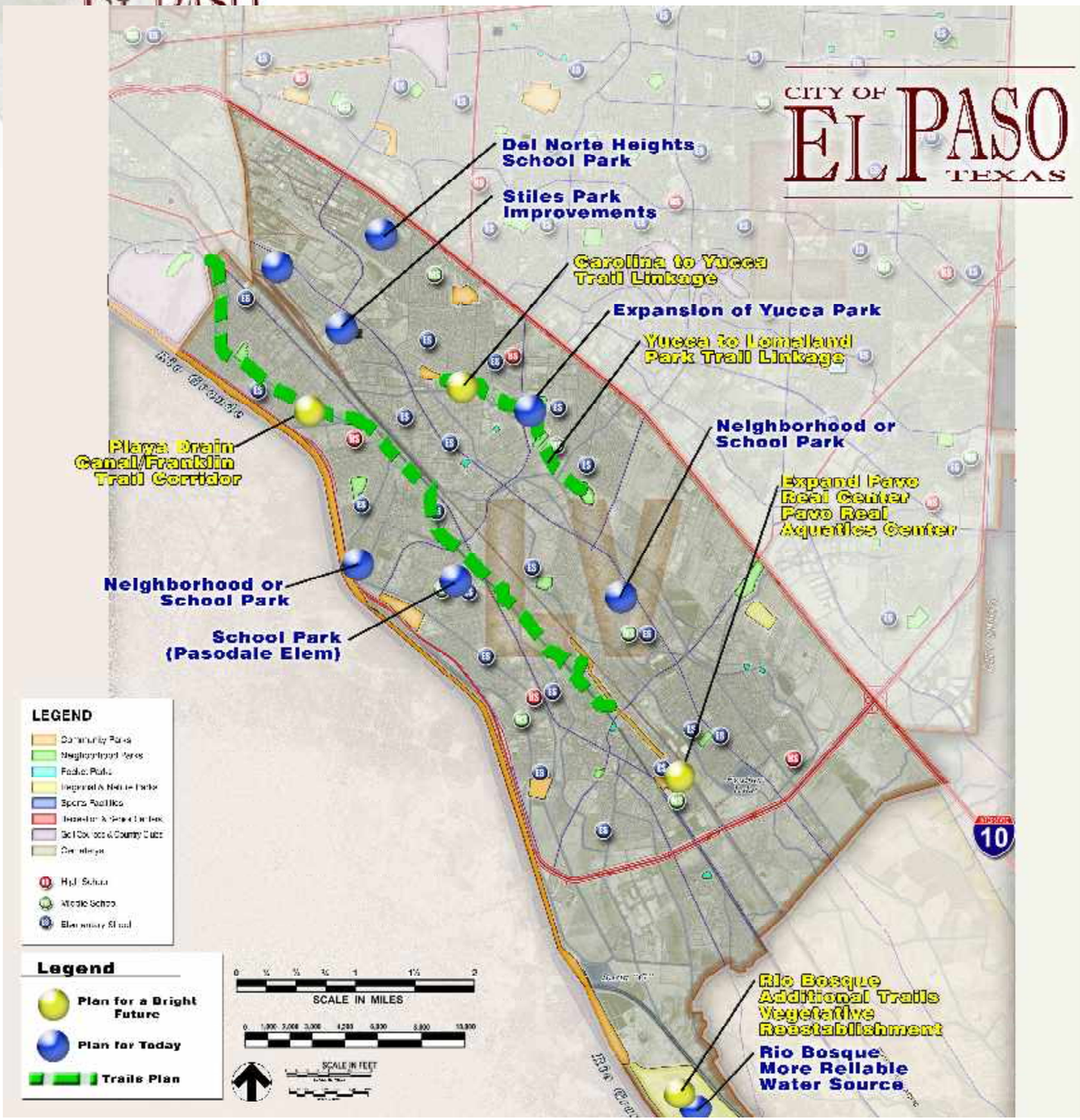
11. Build a new super regional recreation center at the far Eastside Regional Park.
12. Develop additional trails in the area, up to at least four additional miles by 2020.
13. Continue to develop neighborhood and community parks as growth occurs, working towards the target levels of service established by this plan.
14. Preserve open space lands in the far eastern areas of the county in anticipation of eventual growth to that area.



East El Paso

Key Facility Needs (in order of priority for this planning area):

1. Acquisition of park lands
2. Trails and trail access facilities
3. Playgrounds
4. Athletic facilities
5. Open play areas in parks
6. Leisure pool
7. Recreation center (far east)
8. Preservation of key open space assets
9. Picnicking facilities in parks
10. Shade areas in parks



Mission Valley - Summary of Key Needs and Recommendations

Growth in the Mission Valley area is more moderate, allowing the city to get closer to target levels of service for the area. Emphasis in this area needs to be on linear parks and trails along drainage and irrigation canals, providing additional neighborhood parks in underserved areas, and preserving vestiges of the rural agricultural heritage of the area even as full development occurs.

Key Overall Needs (in order of priority for this planning area):

1. Five neighborhoods in the area lack nearby small parks.
2. The area lacks trails.
3. Existing drainage canals and pond in the area are used as linear corridors but have no park amenities or features to improve safety.
4. Smaller community parks in the area are over-utilized and need to be expanded.
5. The area lacks a large recreation center, requiring that one of the existing centers be expanded. Area centers are smaller and are aging.
6. While there are portions of the area that are not yet developed, the area lacks significant in-town open space reserves. Remnant agricultural areas are disappearing quickly, and some need to be preserved immediately.
7. Beyond the Rio Bosque Park, the area lacks links to the Rio Grande River corridor.

Key Recommendations for this area

Immediate

1. Develop two linear parks in the area adjacent to drainage canals. Include trails and beautification features.
2. Develop an additional two miles of trails for the area, some along linear parks discussed in item 8 above.
3. Enhance the Pavo Real Pool by enclosing it or covering it with shade, and provide additional amenities for the pool.
4. Acquire land adjacent to both Lionel Forti (ponding area) and Yucca Park, and expand both parks.
5. Develop two to three school parks in the area to provide service in underserved neighborhoods.
6. Expand two of the recreation centers in the area, including Pavo Real and Carolina to provide enhanced services and facilities.
7. Expand Pavo Real Park to make it a regional park for the area.
8. Work with El Paso County to improve Ascarate Park.

Medium and Longer Term

9. Expand Blackie Chesser Park to encompass nearby undeveloped lands.
10. Over this plan's life, develop the Rio Grande Trail corridor from Ascarate to Rio Bosque.
11. Expand Shawver Park by adding on adjacent drainage areas and undeveloped properties.
12. Replace the Lionel Forti Pool.

Mission Valley - Key Facility Needs (in order of priority for this planning area):

1. Open play areas in parks/linear corridors
2. Trails and trail access facilities
3. Lighted soccer fields
4. Athletic facilities
5. Shade areas in parks
6. Improvements to area open space
7. Recreation center expansion
8. Preservation of key open space assets
9. Picnicking facilities in parks
10. Access to river corridor

Central El Paso - Summary of Key Needs and Recommendations

The Central planning area has fewer parks than other areas of the city. Parks in this area tend to be smaller but receive a very high amount of use. In almost every type of facility category, the Central area has major deficiencies.

Key Overall Needs (in order of priority for this planning area):

1. The area lacks major community parks and the variety of facilities that large parks provide.
2. The northern part of the area lacks a major indoor recreation center.
3. The area lacks additional close in neighborhood parks, and has a very low ratio of small parks for the population that is served.
4. The area lacks trails.
5. The area has few actual open space preserves, although many opportunities exist.
6. Land for future parks has not yet been formally designated. Land in the growing area north of Hwy. 54, although discussed and shown on maps, has not been permanently designated and reserved.

Key Recommendations for this area

Immediate

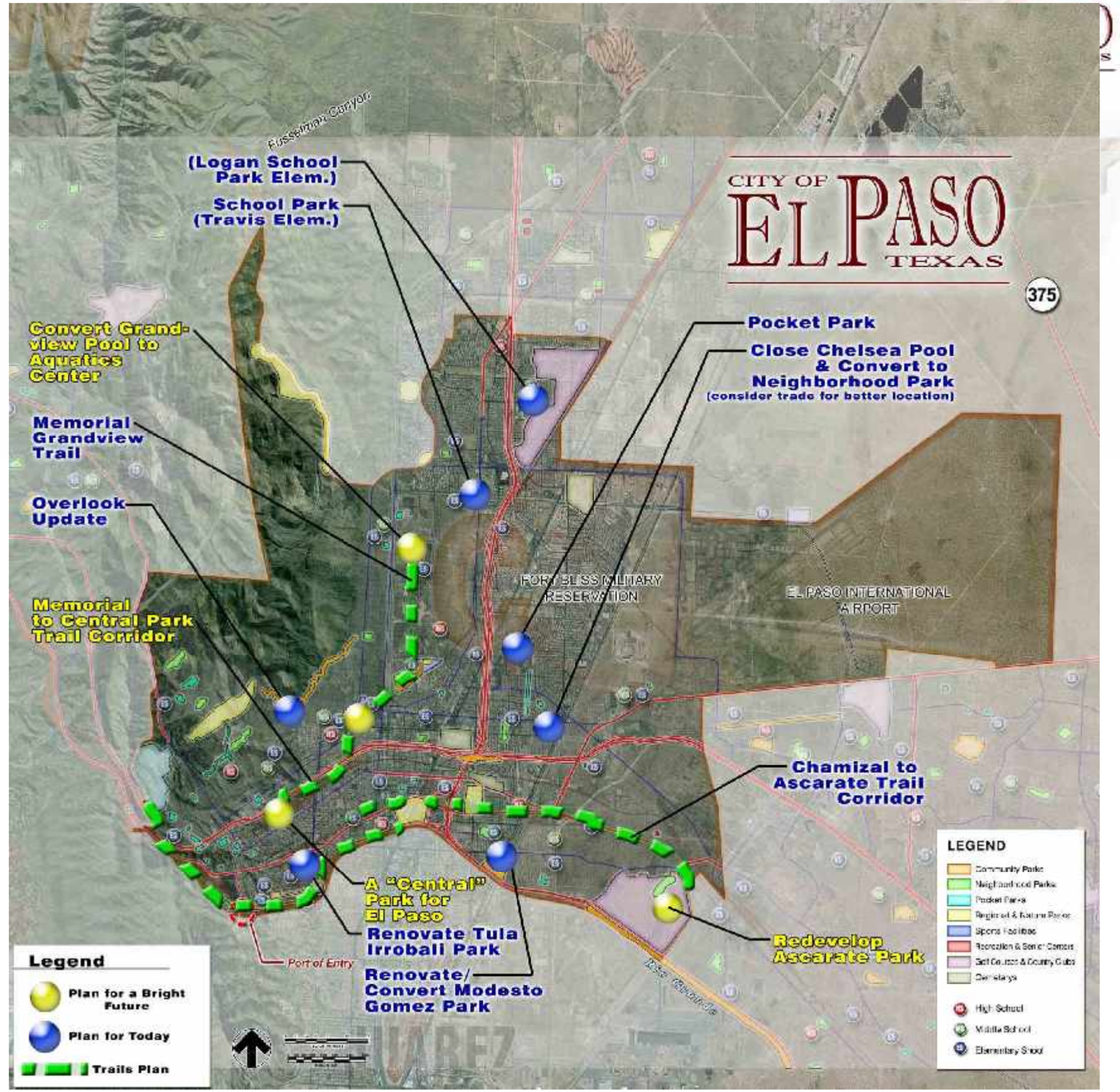
1. Identify and acquire locations for new community parks in the area.
2. Identify and acquire locations for additional neighborhood parks in the area, especially in the area northeast of Hwy. 54 and I.H.10.
3. Develop up to two community parks in the area.
4. Develop up to five new neighborhood parks in the area. These may be school/parks if feasible.
5. Develop new athletic facilities to serve the central area.
6. Permanently preserve open space lands in the area that are the foreground to the Franklin Mountains.
7. Develop a recreation center in the vicinity of Memorial Park. Consider converting and expanding the current Senior Center into both a senior and a multi-purpose recreation center.
8. Convert Modesto Gomez Park to alternative uses once other area athletic facilities become available.
9. Close the Chelsea Pool facility and develop a new pool to serve the area.
10. Develop one to two miles of trails for the area. These may occur in linear parks.

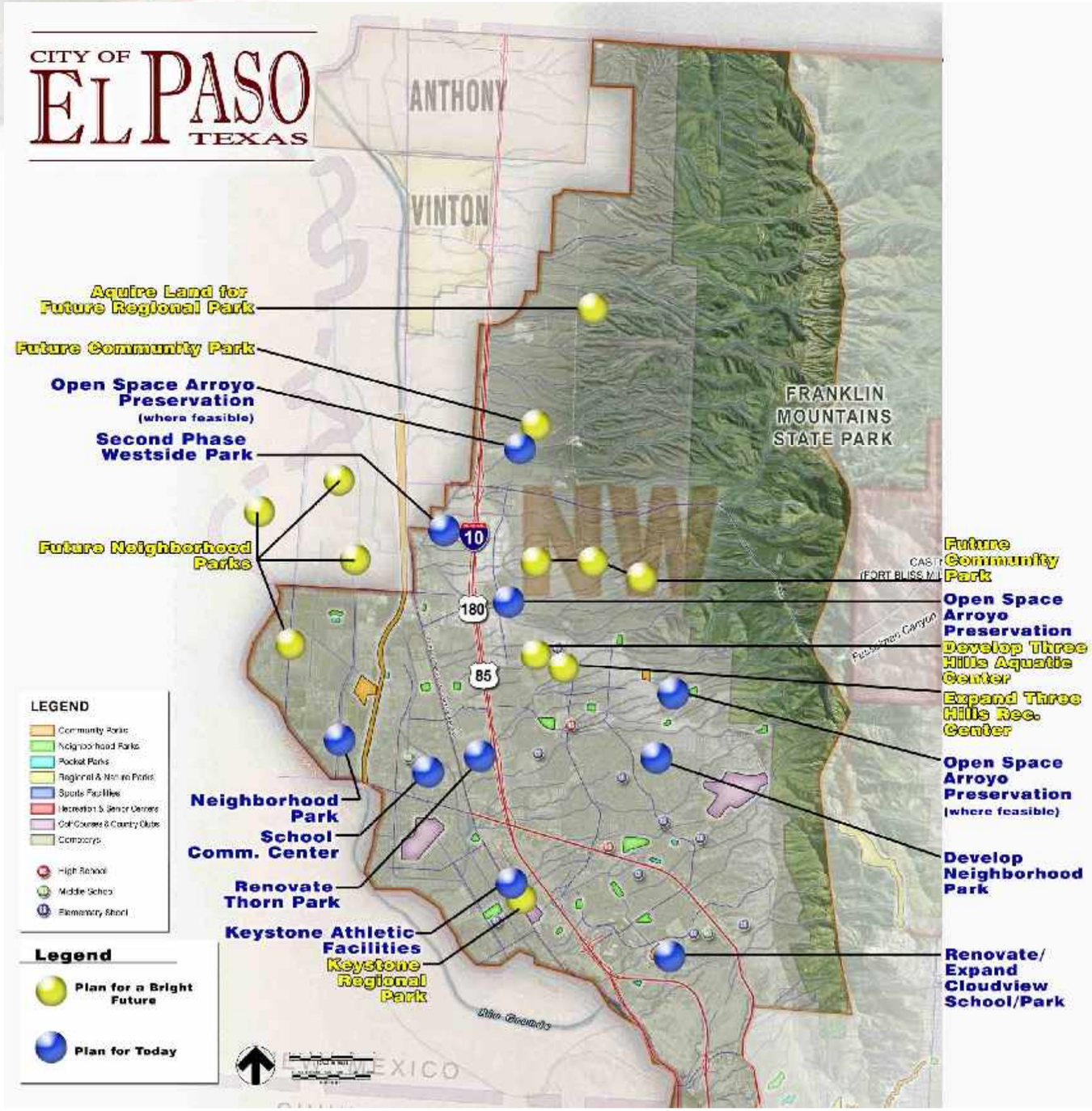
Medium and Longer Term

11. Develop a new "central" park for El Paso in underused industrial or railroad properties.
12. Develop linear parks with trails and neighborhood amenities along the river and border highway corridor.
13. Develop additional downtown plazas as part of downtown redevelopment efforts.
14. Acquire additional open space assets as opportunities arise.
15. Work with El Paso County to improve Ascarate Park and to add facilities to the park.

Central Area - Key Facility Needs (in order of priority for this planning area):

1. Land or sites for new parks
2. Playgrounds in parks
3. Multi-field baseball complex
4. Trail and trail access facilities
5. Shade areas in parks
6. Replacement pool
7. Recreation center in underserved area
8. Preservation of key open space assets
9. Picnicking facilities in parks
10. Access to river corridor





Northwest El Paso - Summary of Key Needs and Recommendations

The Northwest planning area has experienced significant growth over the past few years, and has lagged behind other areas in terms of major facilities. Recent new development will go a long way to address needs in the area, but additional facilities will be needed to meet growing demand.

Key Overall Needs (in order of priority for this planning area):

1. Remaining open space and natural area assets in the Northwest are not currently preserved.
2. The area lacks additional trails that utilize the many opportunities in the area.
3. The area continues to lack major athletic facilities, even with the addition of the Westside Sports Complex and the initial phase of the Three Hills Regional Park.
4. The area lacks linear parks, even though many opportunities for linkage parks exist in the area.
5. The area lacks easily accessed walking links to the Franklin Mountains.
6. The area lacks large indoor recreation centers. Area centers are smaller and lack major amenities.
7. The area west of I.H. 10 lacks both neighborhood and community parks,
8. The area has few actual open space preserves, although many opportunities exist.

Key Recommendations for this area

Immediate

1. Identify and permanently preserve remaining open space assets in West El Paso through acquisition or non-development agreements.
2. Build the new recreation center at Three Hills, and consider expanding that center into a super regional center.
3. Develop athletic facilities in future phases of Three Hills and Westside Sports Complex quickly.
4. Develop a major leisure pool in the area over the next ten years. Consider a location at Three Hills Regional Park.
5. Replace the Leo Cancellare pool with a new leisure and competitive swimming pool facility.
6. Develop a community park west of I.H. 10.
7. Develop two to four miles of trails in the area, including trails along irrigation canals and additional phases of the River Trail to link to UTEP and downtown El Paso.
8. Provide a school based community/recreation center facility west of I.H. 10.
9. Acquire land for a large future regional park for the entire area. Create the park by combining multiple arroyo systems together to develop a unique desert park.
10. Develop up to five infill neighborhood parks/school parks where needed.

Medium and Longer Term

11. Acquire land around Keystone Heritage Park and convert that park into a regional park with an emphasis on nature facilities.
12. Develop up to four miles of additional trails in the area.
13. Master plan and develop initial phase of large regional park.
14. Improve access to lower fringe area of the Mountain preserve area.

Northwest El Paso - Key Facility Needs (priorities for this planning area):

1. Preservation of key open space assets
2. Trail and trail access facilities
3. Athletic facilities
4. Expanded recreation centers
5. Land or sites for new parks
6. Leisure and competitive swimming pool
7. Shade facilities in parks
8. Linear park corridors
9. Nature park facilities
10. Neighborhood park facilities

CITY OF EL PASO TEXAS

Halff Associates 4030 WEST BRAKER LANE, SUITE 450 AUSTIN, TX 78759 tel: 512.252.8184 fax: 512.252.8141 http://www.halff.com

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John Cook - Mayor
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Beto O'Rourke-District 8

City Staff

Joyce A. Wilson, City Manager
Deborah G. Hamlyn, Assistant City Manager

Norman Merrifield, Director of Parks & Recreation
Barry Russell, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Jose Rodriquez, Recreation Services Manager
Richard Garcia, Parks Operation Manager

Parks Advisory Committee

Eileen Karlsruher, Chair

Joel Barrios
Gail Caldwell
Matthew Carroll
Yolanda Cordova
Alice Davis
Daniel Delahaye
Mitchel Doblado
Cherilyn Dorsey
Kelly Duke
Robert A. Gonzales
Jose L. Gutierrez
Olga E. Holquin
Mary Lyerly
Hector Munoz
Carl R. Pataky
Walt Phillips
Henry Stokes
Alma Wilson

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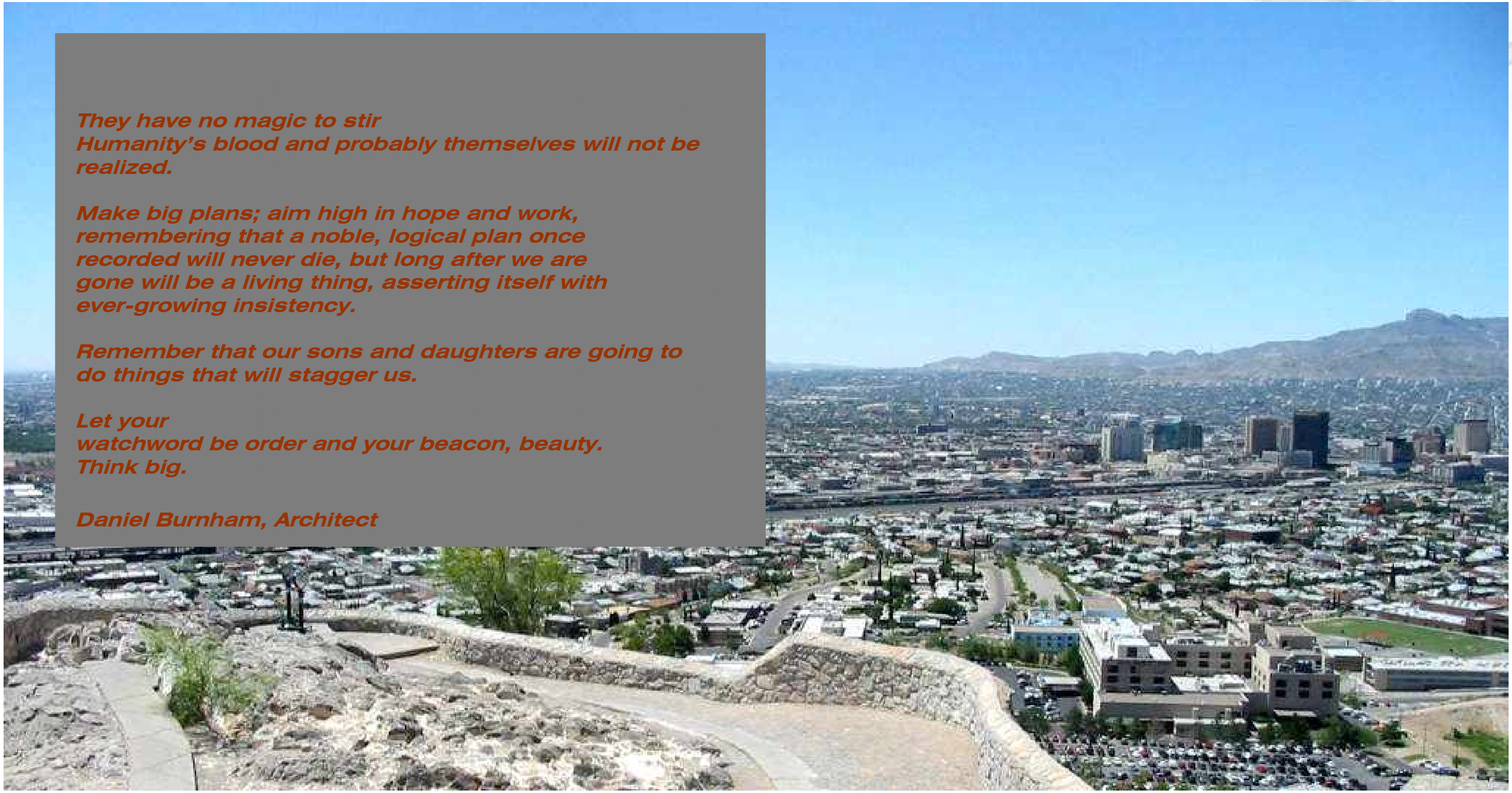

They have no magic to stir
Humanity's blood and probably themselves will not be realized.

Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical plan once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency.

Remember that our sons and daughters are going to do things that will stagger us.

Let your
watchword be order and your beacon, beauty.
Think big.

Daniel Burnham, Architect

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CHAPTER 1:

THE STATE OF PARKS IN EL PASO TODAY

Chapter Contents

I. Introduction – The Importance of Parks
II. The Need for Planning for Parks
III. History of the Parks System in El Paso
IV. The Status of the System Today
V. Guiding Principles of the El Paso Parks System
VI. Report Outline
VII. Process Methodology

"Nature and a tremendously energetic citizenship combine to afford El Paso opportunities for unique development, with possibilities unsurpassed by any other community in America.

"There is no reason why El Paso should not be, and cannot be, a city of striking distinction among cities, a city so attractive for permanent residence and for transient visits as to make a name for itself nationally famous."

George Kessler – The Kessler Plan for El Paso - 1925

I. Introduction – The Importance of Parks

El Paso is entering an exciting period of time in its history. It is coming into its own as a major city within the southwest, and is competing economically now on a global stage. Indeed the future is bright for El Paso.

Quality of life is increasingly becoming an important factor for the nearly 700,000 residents who call the El Paso area home. Quality of life encompasses many areas, including the ability to get good jobs, the ability to get around the city easily, the feeling that the city is a safe place to live in, and the availability of quality homes and neighborhoods in which to live. In all of these areas El Paso is making great strides.

One of the most important aspects of quality of life is the availability of high quality parks and recreation opportunities in the city. Parks and recreation influence every aspect of our lives. They allow us to experience new activities and encourage us to lead healthy lifestyles. Attractive parks and natural areas are often the first place that visitors view in our communities. Parks provide a very visible reminder of the beauty of the land that we choose to live in. Parks are also one of the most visible elements of a city government at work, and can instill a strong sense of pride in the residents of a community. A good park system lets both citizens and visitors know that the leadership of the city is interested in the well being of the citizens.

The Park system especially should impact young El Pasoans, as the experiences of youth will have a direct impact on the intensity with which children become active citizens and contributors to the city in the future.

II. The Need for Planning for a Better Park System in El Paso

A good park system does not occur randomly, but rather requires a series of orderly steps. It responds to the interests of all the citizens it serves, and not just the needs of a select few. El Paso's most recent park planning efforts date back to 1996 and 2004, but not to the degree of self evaluation and long range planning that is truly needed to address the critical needs of the area. Recognizing this, the City Council of El Paso decided to commission a citywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan in early 2005. This report is the result of a year long review of the Parks and Recreation system in the city. This plan addresses both the needs of today and the great opportunities that lie ahead, and **proposes a path to create "a bright future" for the parks system in El Paso**.

III. A History of the Parks System in El Paso.

El Paso's rich history - El Paso is one the most culturally unique areas in the United States, and this is a direct result of the city's long and rich history. Since the time at which North America was first inhabited, the pass between the mountains of northern Mexico and the far southern mountainous reaches of the southwest was known to the Native American inhabitants of the area. Spanish explorers began entering the area more than 400 years ago, and in 1598 Don Juan de Onate is credited with naming the area "El Paso del Norte." In that same year, Onate took formal possession of the territory drained by the "Rio del Norte" (the Rio Grande) and established the beginning of over 200 years of Spanish rule over the Southwest.

Early colonization focused on the south side of the river, and settlements in the area flourished. The historic missions in Ysleta, Socorro and San Elizario were founded, and many of those historic structures can still be seen today. By 1682 five settlements had been formed along the river, - El Paso del Norte, San Lorenzo, Senecu, Ysleta and Socorro. El Paso was an important stop on the Camino Real serving the Santa Fe Trail and much of present day Mexico.

The early Spanish influence and the strong agricultural economy of the area is a direct contributor to the layout and style of the older areas of El Paso. This rich culture and tradition has been lost in the newer areas of the city. In particular, the idea of the "plaza" as the center of social life should continue as a strong feature of new neighborhoods as they are built. The traditional neighborhood park should be developed, and it should become the "plaza" of the homes around it.

Much of the original downtown of El Paso was once part of the Ponce de Leon land grant. El Paso became part of the United States as part of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which set the Rio Grande River as the boundary between the two countries in the area. El Paso County was established in 1850.

Newer settlements in the area resulted from the California gold rush of 1849. These included Frontera, El Molino, Benjamin Franklin Coon's mercantile mill, Magoffinsville, built by James W. Magoffin, and Concordia, built by Hugh Stephenson. The border also moved Ysleta, Socorro and San Elizario to the U.S. side, further reinforcing unique bi-cultural and bi-national character of the area.

One of the most significant events in the city's history was the arrival of the railroads in the early 1880's. By 1890 the population of the city had grown to more than 10,000. Much of the early history of the city is characterized by its reputation as a rough and tumble place where gambling, prostitution, and drinking were predominant. This continued into the early years of the 20th century, and even today that reputation is part of the folklore of the city.

Historic San Jacinto Plaza, the first park in El Paso
Photo from the El Paso Historical Society

The relationship between northern Mexico and El Paso was further cemented with the migration of many Mexican residents to the Juarez - El Paso area during the Mexican Revolution of 1910 to 1920.

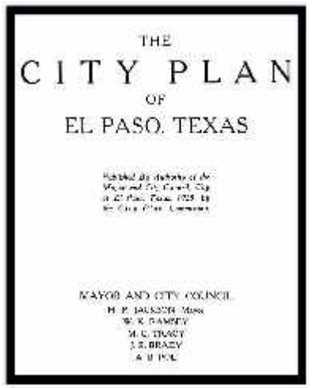
The current city of El Paso was once known as Franklin, and later was named El Paso. For over six decades it was often confused with El Paso del Norte on the Mexican side of the border, until that city was renamed as Ciudad Juarez.

El Paso as a "transfrontier" city - El Paso remains one of the largest "transfrontier" urban regions along the US border. In 1983 it was the largest along the Mexico – US border, and even today is second only to the Tijuana/San Diego area. Lawrence A. Herzog, in a paper on "The Transfrontier Metropolis," notes that transfrontier metropolitan regions typically consist of two or more settlement centers located around an international boundary. Over time these settlements become fused to form a single ecological and functional city/ region. Because the building of cities over the last two centuries has been controlled and managed by nation-states, nations guarded their borders and developed the largest urban concentrations away from the physical edges of a nation. Before 1950, in fact, boundary regions were viewed as buffer zones that helped to protect the nation from invasion by land. Under these conditions, there were few significant cities near national boundaries.

Herzog notes that today, global markets and free trade are the new economic drivers, and property at the edges of nations is attracting investors, businesses, and governments. Industrial parks, highways, rail systems, and airports that once bypassed international frontiers are relocating there. He notes that it is now possible, and is in many cases even preferable, for large cities to be developed along international frontiers.

The Beginning of Parks in El Paso – The original park in El Paso was San Jacinto Plaza, which is included in the 1859 plat of El Paso by Anson Mills. Other downtown plazas followed, and Memorial Park was dedicated in June 1920 on the site of the old Federal Copper smelter as the original large park in the city. Scenic Drive formerly opened later that year.

Early recreation in El Paso included the El Paso Browns, a baseball team formed in 1881 and who played on Sportsman's Field, which was laid out in the Campbell Addition in 1888. The El Paso Sporting and Athletic Club was organized in 1890, and a cycle track association was established by 1879. Other clubs for fencing, tennis, and golf were created in the late 19th century, and the city's first natatorium opened in 1900.


THE
CITY PLAN
OF
EL PASO, TEXAS

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Kessler Plan of 1925 included Memorial Park and Washington Park as key

components of the future growth of the city. In fact the plan noted as one of its goals the following statement "More adequate recreation facilities for adults and children should be provided throughout the city. There is a need for more park spaces, large and small."

The Kessler Plan noted that El Paso had 22 developed parks totaling 97.5 acres in 1925, including Memorial, Washington, Madelyn, and Mundy. The city also had four partially developed parks totaling 313 acres (300 acres for a public golf course) and seven undeveloped parks totaling 175 acres, including the 100-acre site of Charles Davis Park, currently land that is owned by the University of Texas at El Paso. For the plan estimate of 100,000 residents in 1925, the potential ratio of parks to population in 1925 was around 2.9 acres for every 1,000 residents. However, over 66% of that acreage was not yet developed at that time.

Park Related Excerpts from The Plan for El Paso by George Kessler - 1925

"The progressiveness of a city may be measured largely by its parks and recreational facilities, for these are the expression of the aspirations of the community beyond the purely material and obviously necessary things."

"But these have more than esthetic value and have been found to pay real, if indirect, dividends which may be translated into cash. The dividends come in attracting new citizens, in keeping the old citizens and reducing the labor turnover, and in the transient and tourist trade."

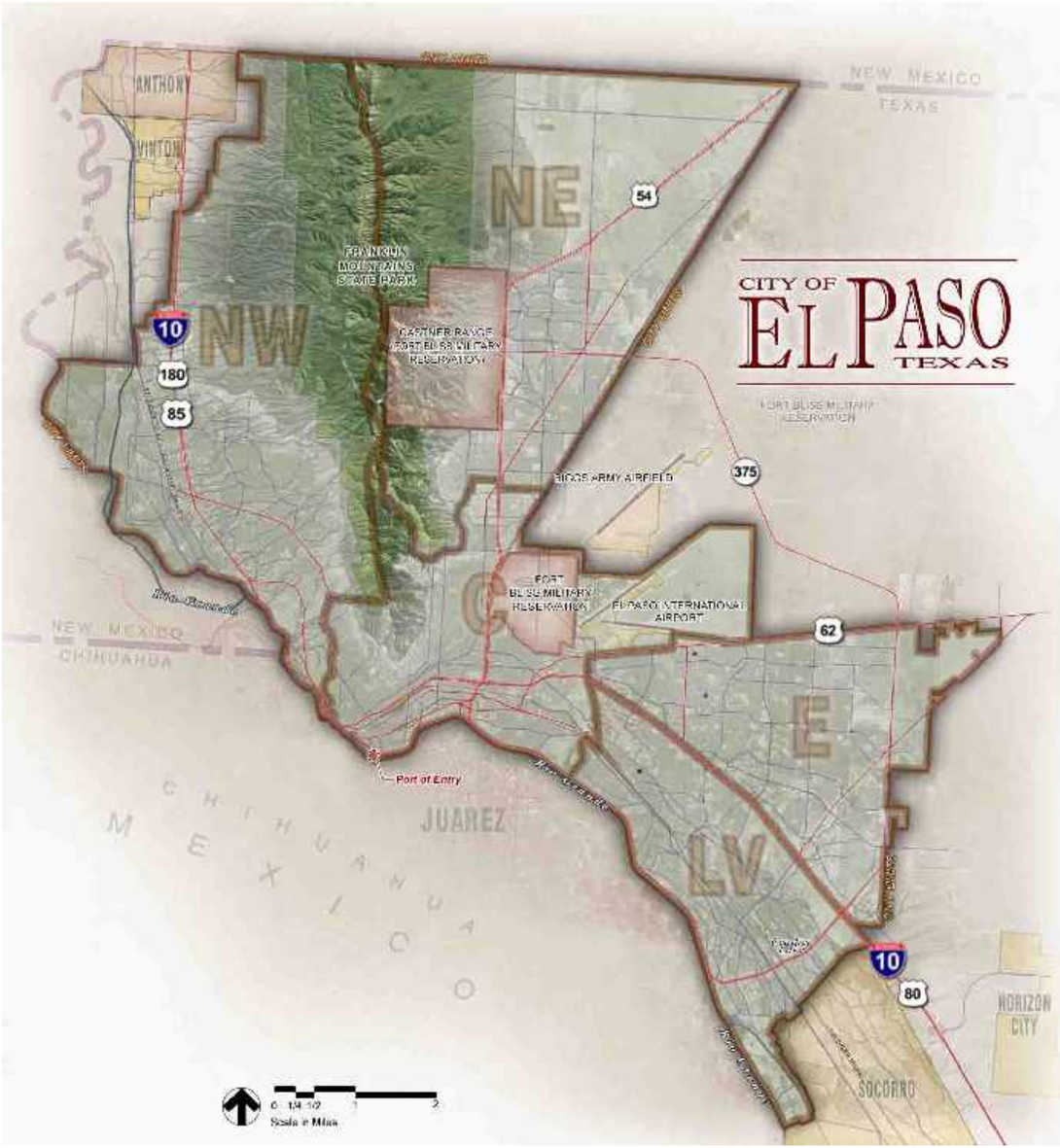
The Plan advocates parkways, saying that "They may entirely transform the outward aspect of a city, from comparative bleakness to happy evidences of comfort and civic care."

"El Paso city is bound to take care of all the large alien population just as if it 'belonged,' and school system, governmental agencies, utilities, and all the appurtenances of urban life must be scaled to accommodate all."

Other large parks in El Paso include the Chamizal Memorial Park, which was created in 1967 by the Chamizal Agreement that verified the boundary and the exact course of the Rio Grande through the city. The park celebrates the strong bicultural connection between the United States and Mexico.

The Franklin Mountain State Park was created in 1979. It is the largest urban park in the United States and features exceptional geologic history and the highest structural point in Texas. El Paso's Public Service Board had a significant role in creating the State Park through the conveyance of more than half of the acreage for the park at a very low cost.

A Golden Age for Parks in El Paso - The 1960's and 1970's might be considered as the golden age of parks in El Paso. During the 1970's in particular, the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Act, the Community Development Block Grant and other federal programs helped fund the development of five recreation centers, two indoor and two outdoor pools, and four of the city's nine senior centers. This explosion of construction more than doubled the major recreation facilities in El Paso, a feat that was not repeated until the recent flurry of development created by the 2000 and 2004 Quality of Life bonds.



But that golden age was short-lived. The rapid expansion of buildings, coupled with the retraction of federal funds and the recessions of the early 1980's resulted in under-funding of the system through the 1980's and the early 1990's. Development during that time period was largely funded through the CDBG program, and did match the rapid population growth of the city. A change in fiscal policy, from a general fund supported system to one that required the department to raise funds to pay for the operations of its facilities, greatly hurt its ability to provide quality services. Over time, a mindset has been established that is geared largely towards revenue generating operations and not towards programming that is most beneficial to the citizens of El Paso.

IV. The Status of the System Today

A remarkable transition began with the passage of the 2000 Quality of Life Bond program that allocated more than $50 million dollars towards park improvements. The vote in favor of the package was overwhelming, and resulted in the approval of an additional $5 million in 2004. Together, this funding has resulted in improvements to over 50% of the parks in the system, along with the construction of major new sports complexes, pools and three indoor recreation centers. In 1995, the system contained approximately 1,097 acres of parklands, including 370 acres of neighborhood parks and 726 acres of community parks. Today, the acreage of the system has almost doubled to over 2,000 acres of developed parks.

However, the system is still significantly under funded, and the per-capita spending on parks is well below almost every other one of the 50 largest cities in the United States. Recreation centers still cannot open for extended periods of time, and they often cannot provide programs that meet the needs of the communities they serve. Sports facilities are heavily used, practice facilities are hard to find, and some areas of the city are enormously underserved.

V. Guiding Principles and Goals of the Parks System

The Excellent Park System, written by Peter Harnik and published by the Trust for Public Lands in 2003, lists seven major measures of an excellent parks system. Those measures are discussed on this page. They are used to develop the fundamental guiding principles of the future parks system of El Paso; those principles will be the foundation for future decisions as this plan is implemented.

1. The Parks System will be Accessible

- **The Parks system will provide adequate parks** - The City will work towards providing parks, trails, and open spaces in an adequate amount in all parts of the city.
- **Facilities will be well distributed to provide equitable access** - Parks will be located so that every citizen of El Paso has close access to a park. In the near future, no one in El Paso will live further than one-half mile from a park, and ideally most residents will be within one-quarter mile from a park, green space or trail access point.
- In newly developing parts of the city, adequate park lands will be allocated from the beginning of development, so that the target levels of service of this plan are met.
- **A balanced parks system will be provided -** A variety of park sizes and facility types are readily available. The Parks system will work towards providing a mix of small and large parks, trails, open spaces, and indoor recreation facilities. The system will work towards meeting parks, trails and open space goals – in other parts of the city, appropriate steps will be initiated to come closer to the facility and service goals of this plan.

2. The System will be Well Funded, and will Actively Pursue Partnership Opportunities

- **The Parks System will be adequately funded** - The Parks system will be funded to a level that corresponds to its importance to the citizens of El Paso. It will be encouraged to flourish.
- **The Parks system will use all available land resources** - Every land resource in the city will be considered for its potential as a park or open space resource since there are too few available open space and suitable park sites. Schools and drainage land should be considered in the overall parks equation of the city.
- **School Parks must be a vital part of the parks system** - Parks adjacent to elementary or secondary school sites must be a vital resource for the citizens of El Paso in the future. The school districts and the City of El Paso must put aside any past differences and actively work together to serve the citizens of El Paso.

Seven Measures of an Excellent Parks System (from "The Excellent City Parks System" by Peter Harnik)

A Clear Expression of Purpose *– a clear purpose for the system must be in place, expressed through a mission statement and goals that define precisely what the system is expected to provide.* ***El Paso's Park system must clearly identify who its target market is, and must continue to push for a return to providing "core services."***

Ongoing Planning and Community Involvement *– the excellent parks system has a plan that it follows and updates periodically. It also involves its residents in the development of the plan and major decisions undertaken by the system.* ***El Paso, through this plan, is clearly committed to both short term and long term planning.***

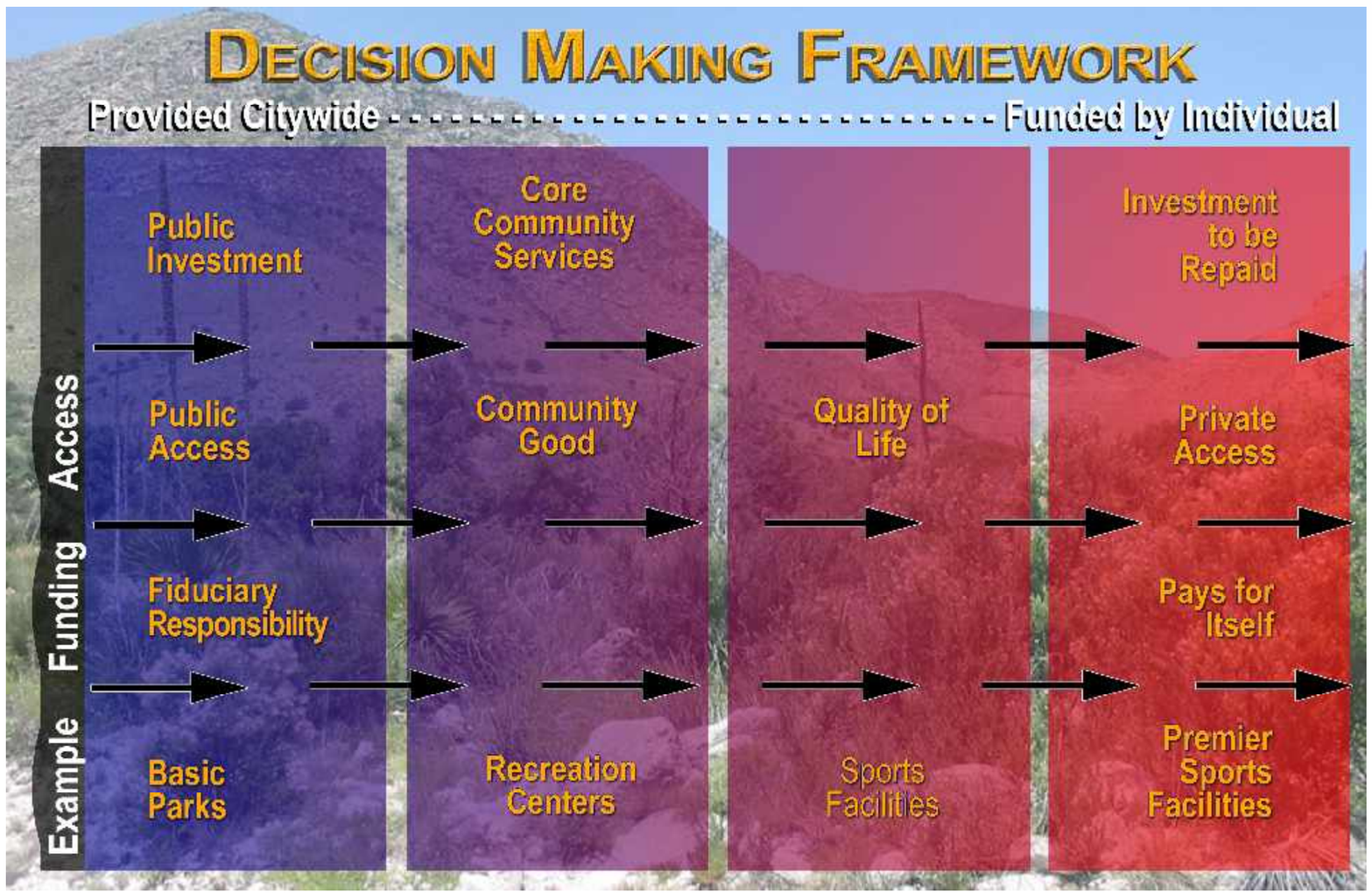
Sufficient Assets in Land, staffing, and equipment to meet the system's goals *– the Parks System must have adequate land, know how much parks it has and where, and have adequate operating funds and "a regular infusion of capital funds for major construction and repairs and land acquisition."* ***El Paso lacks the physical assets of land and facilities as well as adequate fiscal backing. The system is surviving, but cannot thrive without additional resources.***

Equitable access *– parks should be readily accessible, no matter where residents live. Ten minutes on foot in dense areas and 10 minutes apart by bicycle in suburban areas is recommended by the author. Access for persons with different disabilities or for residents that cannot afford the full cost should also be provided.* ***Access in many parts of the city is very good. However, in the older central part of the city, as well as the high growth fringe areas, new facilities are not keeping pace with the growth of the city.***

User satisfaction *– citizens should fully use the park facilities and be satisfied with what they are provided with. Cities should record usership, and should periodically query their residents to determine the level of resident satisfaction.* ***The citizens of El Paso , though ongoing input, appreciate the system they have, but would like to see if continue to expand.***

Safety from physical hazards and crime *– park users should feel safe when they use the facilities anywhere in the city.* ***El Paso is considered a very safe city, and in general citizens feel that their parks are for the most part safe.***

Benefits for the City beyond the boundaries of the parks system *– the excellent parks system clearly provides environmental, economic, health and learning benefits for its residents.* ***El Pasoans have long recognized the great benefits of an excellent park system, and are now calling for the resources to allow the system to flourish.***



3. The System will Identify and Focus First on "Core" Services

- **The Department will focus on providing basic services that serve a significant portion of the population**. These will be measured against five desired outcomes;
  - **Livability of the Community** – provides diverse recreational opportunities and experiences for all citizens of El Paso.
  - **Health** - provides opportunities to improve the health of the youth of El Paso.
  - **Youth** – provides learning and recreational experiences for the youth of El Paso.
  - **Revenue** – provides opportunities for revenue, but only if not at the expense of the other desired outcomes.
  - **Outdoors** – provides opportunities to experience the outdoors in many different ways.

The table on this page illustrates the continuum of services, from basic services that meet the needs of the entire community to services that primarily serve the needs of individuals.

4. Parks in El Paso will be Extraordinary and Timeless

- **The parks of El Paso will express the natural beauty and cultural diversity of El Paso**. The parks should look like they belong in El Paso.
- **Create extraordinary parks -** Resolve to create parks that are unusual and that stand out.

- **Express the Character of El Paso** - The entire park system, with its lands and buildings, should be one of the most visible character creating features of the city.
- **Use materials that fit in -** Develop parks that represent the natural beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert, and that fit in with the scenery of the area.
- **Native materials** - Use materials that are native to the area, and that are already commonly used, such as boulders, native rock, shrubs, and trees.
- **Strong, distinctive appearance for park buildings** - Use architectural features as the focal points of parks. Use strong architectural statements that draw attention to the parks.

5. Parks will be Community Focal Points

- **Parks as focal points of the Community** - Place parks so that they become readily visible focal points of the community around them. Madelyne Park is an excellent example – it is central to the neighborhood around it, and is readily accessible via foot. Encourage the development community to think of parks in this manner, and where necessary, develop ordinances that force that consideration.
- **Think of parks as mini-oasis** - Treat parks as lush areas within the desert environment, but note that only a portion of each park has to have that feeling. The strong juxtaposition of lush and verdant alongside desert-like can create an enormously powerful image.

6. The City will Focus on Connectivity and Linkage

- **Trails and linear parks will equally focus on connectivity and leisure uses** - the trail system will actually link a variety of uses, especially neighborhoods to area schools and parks, to local retail and centers of government, and to indoor recreation.
- **Trails and linear parks will be a vital part of the parks system** - A spine system of linear parks and trails should be extended, so that the goal of one day linking all parts of the city via scenic parkways and linear parks can be achieved.

7. The City will Value and Preserve Open Space

- **Open Spaces -** Make the preservation of open space within the city a high priority in the future. Set a goal of having five times more undeveloped in-city open space within the next 10 to 20 years.
- **Preserve Arroyos** - Preserve arroyos and natural areas as reminders of the original character of the area, and as beautiful scenic areas that will add significant long term value to El Paso.
- **Use drainage as opportunities to "create" open space** - If arroyos do not exist in an area, then use drainage channels as the "greenbelts" of an area. Run roads alongside them and add trees to create linear parkways.

8. Detention and Drainage will be used as a Green Opportunity

- **Treat drainage ponds and detention basins as mini parks or green areas -** Plant vegetation around detention basins to convert them in attractive open space.
- **Avoid deep detention unless critical** - In the future, avoid deep detention basins except on a regional scale. Use natural basins as potential large parks.

9. The System will Focus on Sustainability

- **Treat drainage ponds and detention basins as mini parks or green areas -** Plant vegetation around detention basins to convert them in attractive open space.

10. The System will Focus on Reducing Maintenance

- **Use cost effective maintenance techniques –** Water usage, equipment, and staff allocations will all be designed to promote the most efficient maintenance of park facilities, while maintaining parks in the best manner possible.
- **Design facilities to reduce maintenance –** All park facilities will be designed to reduce the amount of maintenance that they require.

VI. The Parks and Recreation Master Planning Process

The Parks Master Plan is intended to guide City staff and City leaders in determining where and how parks funding should be allocated over the next five to 10 years.

This master plan is the result of a planning process that looks at what facilities and programs currently exist in the city, identifies future needs and expectations, as expressed by the citizens of El Paso, and lays out a plan to address those needs. This plan:

- Analyzes progress made since the previous master plan in 1996, during which many significant new facilities were added;
- Points out deficiencies in the system and recommends alternatives to address and correct those deficiencies;
- Looks at the potential growth of the city over the next 10 years, and assesses where additional facilities will be needed as the city grows and what types of facilities are most needed;
- Guides City staff in acquiring land to meet future park and open space needs;
- Prioritizes key recommendations of the Parks Master Plan to address most significant deficiencies as quickly as possible;
- Is intended to guide City staff and City leaders in determining where and how parks funding should be allocated over the next five to ten years.

The planning process can be expressed by a flow chart as shown on this page. The single most important characteristic of this process is the input of the citizens, elected officials and managers of the City of El Paso. This plan represents the needs, concerns, and dreams of El Pasoans.

The plan looks at the park needs of the city on a sector by sector basis, following the major planning areas that were previously designated by the City of El Paso. The sectors are shown on this page.

Towards A Bright Future

The plan is divided into sections that address existing facilities, and then lays out recommendations for each type of park facility and major programs in the city. For each recommendation, the plan divides recommendations into two categories;

A Plan for Today – The Plan for Today addresses those actions that are immediate and that must be undertaken to renovate or better utilize existing facilities. It also addresses actions that meet the needs of today's population. The Plan for Today continues the process of rejuvenation that started with the 2000 and 2004 Quality of Life Bonds, and turns the clock back on the erosion of the system that has occurred since the 1970's. Plan for Today actions will be noted in blue in this planning document.

Towards A Bright Future – The second part of each set of recommendations addresses longer range, visionary actions that can transform El Paso's parks into a premier system. An example of such an action would be to create a central park for El Paso. Throughout this document, those actions are generally noted in yellow to designate a bright future.

VII. Process Methodology

The Comprehensive Parks Planning Process

Who Will Implement this Plan?

The implementation of The Vision for A Bright Tomorrow will be lead by the City of El Paso and the Parks and Recreation Department. However, everyone in El Paso has a vested interest in improving the parks system in the city – this includes:

- Primary responsibility – the City of El Paso;
- All governmental entities, including the City of El Paso, El Paso County, all area school districts, and other entities such as the Public Service Board;
- In their own way, all departments within the City of El Paso, from Development Services to Planning and even the Police and Fire Departments;
- The business community of El Paso, including property owners, developers, commercial entities and others;
- All citizens of El Paso, no matter which part of the City they live in;
- Residents of El Paso County, since the park system of El Paso is in effect their park system.

The Park Master Plan follows the general guidelines for local park master plans established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). This document also is intended to meet the requirements of the Department of Interior for the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program, and will serve as a Recovery Action Plan document (RAP). This document will be filed with both the Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Department of the Interior, and allows the city to better qualify for grant opportunities as they become available.

Timeframe for the Plan

The plan is formulated to address the time frame from the year 2006 until the year 2016. Per requirements issued by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Parks, Open Space and Trail Master Plan/Recovery Action Plan should be completely updated after a ten year period or before if any major developments occur which significantly alter the recreation needs of the city.

CHAPTER 2:

EL PASO TODAY

Chapter Contents

I. El Paso Today
II. The Geography of El Paso
III. El Paso's Economy and the Impact of Fort Bliss
IV. El Paso's Population
V. Other Key National Trends