

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities
MASTER PLAN

2015 - 2030



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PROJECT TEAM



ELECTED OFFICIALS

2015 Board of County Commissioners

District 1: Debbie O'Malley, Member
District 2: Art De La Cruz, Vice Chair
District 3: Maggie Hart Stebbins, Chair
District 4: Lonnie C. Talbert, Member
District 5: Wayne A. Johnson, Member



BERNALILLO COUNTY

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Tom Zdunek
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Companies look at many factors prior to selecting a location to operate their business. Quality of life is as important as the quality of a school system in attracting a competent workforce. When a company chooses to locate its business operations in Bernalillo County, our citizens get the benefit of expanded employment opportunities, an expanded tax base, and a new corporate partner to assist in the provision of services directly affecting our community.

Bernalillo County's mission is to be an effective steward of County resources and a partner in building a high quality of life for County residents, communities and businesses. As individual citizens, our sense of well-being in our community depends on whether we feel the needs that are the core to our sense of quality of life are being met - do we feel safe, can we get to where we need to, do we have the infrastructure we need, and do we have spaces to play and recreate?



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Vince C. Murphy

Deputy County Manager
for Community Services

What is quality of life? Its definition is as varied as our population. For some it means having a job and affordable health care. For others it means good roads and clean water. For many it means having parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities. What we do know, is that our County residents deserve all of these services.

The County has embarked upon a master planning effort with respect to parks, recreation and open space facilities in order to help guide decisions by the County Board of

Commissioners. The community's input has been most valuable to the Board and County staff. Without it, we would be planning in a vacuum.

Once this plan is in place, we will begin to work with other federal, state, and local partners to fund the projects identified in the plan. Most importantly, we will be coming back to you to enlist your support in helping us continue to create an outstanding quality of life for ourselves, our neighbors, our visitors, and our corporate partners.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities Master Plan (Plan) marks the path forward for Bernalillo County to develop parks, recreation and open space facilities during the next 15 years. The Plan is an update to the Parks Open Space and Trails (POST) Plan adopted by the Bernalillo County Commission in 2003. The County has undertaken approximately 75% of all the projects proposed in the POST Plan and has a nationally recognized award-winning open space program, which County voters overwhelmingly chose to continue supporting by approving a mill levy in the fall of 2014.

The Plan proposes building on the success of the POST Plan through “re-creating recreation.” This means broadening the parks and recreation mission to encompass community health, cultural heritage, and economic development, or, altogether, quality of life! The Plan also broadens the area covered by the POST Plan beyond the unincorporated communities to include incorporated areas where the County has significant investments. The Plan consists of policies and recommendations for improvements to facilities that will increase the quality of life of residents in all parts of the County.

The Parks and Recreation Department kicked-off the planning effort in the fall of 2013 with workshops at Paradise Hills Community Center and Westside Community Center. Since that time, County staff has held over 40 public meetings and workshops in various geographic areas, which are referred to as Neighborhood Community Areas (NCA). The result of this process was the development of a series of supporting plan documents by NCA in the fall 2014 and winter of 2015. The NCA planning studies were summarized and further developed into a draft of the Plan in the spring of 2015. The draft was refined through feedback from commissioners, staff and key stakeholder agencies. In May 2015, the County published a draft of the Plan with proposed policies and capital projects on the County website for the public to review and comment.

Key findings of the planning process include the following:

- The County has been very successful at developing and programming open space properties. All but one open space property is currently open to the public with programming at various times during the year. The County’s residents recently overwhelmingly voted (73% approval) for the 2014

Open Space Mill Levy which will provide a funding stream to support further acquisition, development, programming and maintenance of open space properties. Using the policies and goals of the Plan, the County will be undertaking a community- and map-based study to help prioritize properties for future possible acquisition and/or conservation easements.

- The County has been very successful at developing and maintaining existing neighborhood and community parks, including green spaces associated with community centers and little league facilities. Existing funding streams will ensure that these facilities continue to be maintained.
- The County will need to continue to modernize and grow capacity at its community centers. These



North Valley Little League Grand Opening

centers are the hubs of several communities, and have an important potential role in increasing access to health resources and County services in those communities as “whole life” centers. Physical and structural constraints in several centers also limit capacity and current programming potential. Large capital costs for improvements to meet future needs, as well as address deferred maintenance issues, will require a significant investment by the County.

- Senior-oriented facilities are in most cases under-utilized. They could be cross-programmed, enhanced and physically linked as satellite facilities to relieve capacity issues at larger community facilities and at the same time provide greater opportunity for multi-generational programming.
- The County will need to focus on further developing its aquatics system. Only one new aquatics facility has been added by Bernalillo County or the City of Albuquerque since 2000. Aging infrastructure at key facilities in the County system has required additional near-term funding and planning efforts.

There is a growing need for more indoor pool space and more specialized aquatic facilities, such as therapeutic pools. Meanwhile, the cost for constructing and operating these facilities is very high and continues to increase, which will require the consideration of a broader spectrum of funding strategies and partnerships with other agencies.

The planning process shaped several policy initiatives. These are outlined in the document in the form of goals and policies -- subject to appropriateness at a specific facility and availability of funding -- and include the following:

- Development of facilities to provide greater access to community health resources.
- Further development of open space properties to support resource-based recreation, environmental education and local agriculture.
- Development of public-private partnerships to assist in the delivery of programming at parks and recreation facilities.



Day of the Dead Marigold Parade on Isleta Boulevard

- Increased opportunities for celebration and preservation of cultural heritage through public art and community events.
- Increased cross-programming and multi-use of facilities.
- Increased financial sustainability of facilities by increasing revenues and addressing operational costs.
- Increased environmental sustainability of facilities through reducing the overall use of energy, water and other resources.
- Service standards to guide future capital project development in the County and the development plans for future master planned communities in the unincorporated areas of the County.
- Acquisition criteria for open space and parks.
- Development of intergovernmental partnerships to develop regional state-of-the-art facilities for aquatics and other recreational activities.

The key outcome of the Plan is a list of prioritized (high, medium or low) capital projects to be funded, planned, designed and constructed in the future. The list of proposed projects was developed specifically to implement the policies outlined in the plan. However, all future development of parks, recreation and open space facilities will be contingent upon funding and subject to the approval of the Bernalillo County Commission.

Public meetings by Commission District are scheduled for June 2015, with the intention of obtaining feedback on the relative priority of capital projects. Based on that feedback, County staff will develop a final draft of the Plan including policies, capital improvement schedule and fiscal analysis, and post it to the web in summer of 2015. The Plan is scheduled to be presented for approval and action by the Bernalillo County Commission in August 2015.



Durand Open Space Grand Opening

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1. RE-CREATING RECREATION

- How do we continue to increase the quality of life of our residents?
- How do we provide the opportunity for members of our community to make healthier choices and thereby reduce the direct and indirect costs of community health?
- How do we continue to increase environmental awareness and the environmental resiliency of our communities in the arid landscape where we live?
- How do we attract employers to move to Bernalillo County?
- How do we create more economic opportunities for small businesses?
- How do we embrace and build on our rich cultural heritage and creative assets?

The 2015 Bernalillo County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities Master Plan (Plan) provides important responses to these questions. The Plan provides a roadmap for facility development by the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department over the next 15 years. Like its predecessors—the 1995 Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the 2003 Parks Open Space and Trail Plan (POST Plan)—the Plan

focuses on both preserving and enhancing existing resources, and developing new County-managed facilities for the enjoyment of all Bernalillo County residents.

The POST Plan has been highly successful. The County has completed 75% of all the projects proposed, including 83% of high-priority and 67% of the medium-priority projects. The County has opened to the public all but one of the open spaces acquired with previous mill levy funds.

The Plan is an update to the POST Plan that builds on and broadens the policies in the POST Plan. The POST Plan expanded on its predecessor to include policy goals and capital projects associated with open space. The Plan expands the vision and mission of the Parks and Recreation Department to embrace quality of life. The intent of the Plan is to propose improvements to the existing system of parks, recreation and open space facilities that enhance the **quality of life** for all County residents, visitors and businesses. For the purposes of the Plan, quality of life is a function of **community health, economic development** and **cultural heritage**, as shown in **Figure 1.1**.

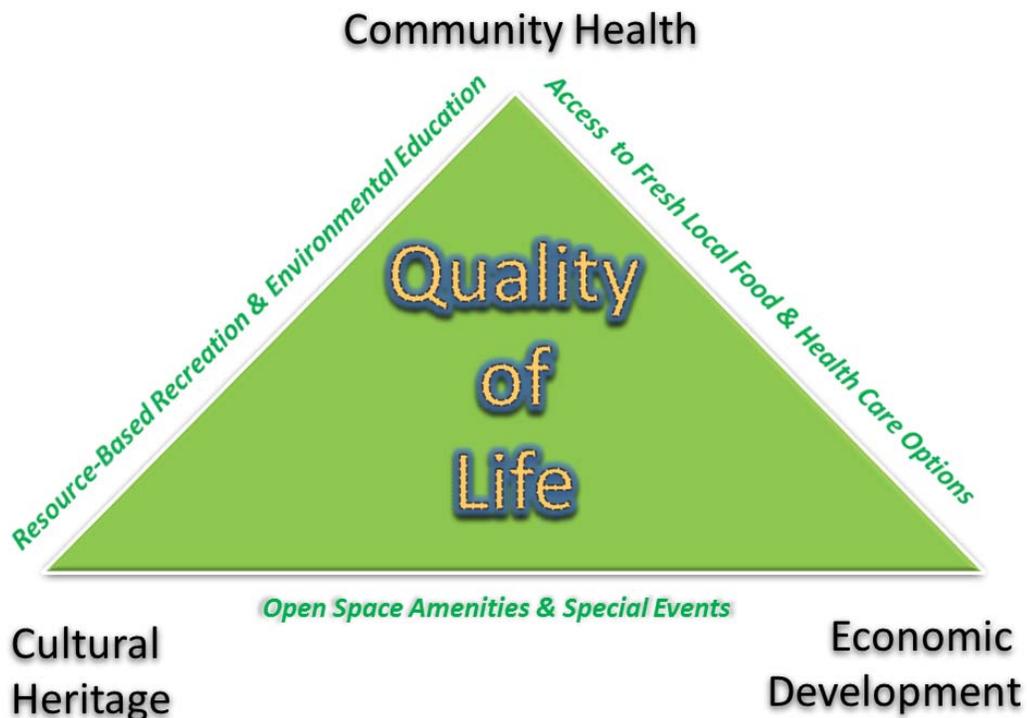


Figure 1.1: The Quality of Life Triangle

Community Health: People function within environments that affect their health positively and negatively. Personal and County public health costs are sky-rocketing in large part because of the lifestyle choices people make. People can only make healthy choices if their environment offers healthy options. Within the field of public health it is commonly accepted that a person's zip code is a powerful predictor of their health status: a person who lives in an area that has access to more open space, pedestrian facilities, better schools, fresh food and health care options, for example, is likely to be in better health. The goal of the Plan is to ensure that the healthy choice is the easy choice for residents in every area of the County. For example, residents could take a walk on an Prescription (Rx) Trail or eat fresh vegetables grown at a nearby County open space. They could also take a heart-healthy cooking class or attend a group counselling session at a community center with "whole life" functions (Whole Life Center). Healthy options means there are trails and bikeways to provide alternatives to motorized transportation to get to and from community centers, open spaces, parks, senior facilities, schools, retail areas and neighborhoods.

"No child left inside!" and "Recreate or incarcerate!" are slogans that speak to the importance of open space and recreation programming in improving community health. Resource-based recreation and environmental education promote community health by providing opportunities to participate in and learn healthy outdoor activities, such as backyard gardening and nature hikes.

Economic Development: Businesses locate where there is a potential to grow, i.e. new markets and business opportunities; or where there are desirable geographical attributes and amenities. Health, education and recreation programming at Whole Life Center and agricultural open spaces could provide incubator opportunities for small businesses and not-for-profits. Open space properties such as Bachechi, Carlito Springs and Gutierrez-Hubbell House are amenities that contribute to quality of life for existing and prospective members of our community, and attract visitors. Economic development ultimately means more economic opportunities, tourism, jobs and money in the local economy. And that in turn means more gross receipts and property tax revenues for the County to support existing and future initiatives.

Cultural Heritage: A sense of place is important to a community's and an individual's sense of well-being and

identity. Community engagement, community health and local business are all supported by a strong sense of place. Cultural heritage is the key to a strong sense of place and includes traditional and public art, landmarks, historic buildings and districts, community events, parks, open spaces and cultural corridors. Through protecting and enhancing cultural heritage on our open spaces and local main streets, people become more invested in and committed to the place where they live. Similarly, providing access to educational programming at open spaces such as Bachechi, Gutierrez-Hubbell House and Carlito Springs encourages a deeper connection between people and their environment and cultural landscapes.

Quality of Life and the "Whole Life" Center: Because of the emphasis on quality of life, the Plan takes more of an inside-out approach than the POST Plan, which had as its primary focus development of parks, open spaces and trails. The Plan focuses on developing "whole life" functions at the county's community centers, so that they may grow into full service hubs for the neighborhoods they serve. With capital investment, these new and improved centers will have the potential to go beyond recreation and after-school programs to foster programmatic and physical connections between community centers and open spaces, parks, aquatics facilities, senior facilities, community schools, health resources and other County services (see **Figures 1.2 & 1.3**). For example, when you came in for a fitness class, you could get your blood pressure and sugar levels tested and sign up for an upcoming backyard farming class.

The increase in amount and diversity of spaces that are a part of a Whole Life Center will provide more opportunities for third-party use in order to diversify programming, and increase revenues by providing niche opportunities for small businesses and not-for-profits. Examples range from tai chi and yoga classes to cooking classes and a variety of health resources. The investment needed to support the shift to Whole Life Centers will also help address a backlog of deferred maintenance issues and long overdue facility needs at some of the community centers thereby reducing some ongoing maintenance costs. For example, several aging community centers are in need of major renovations in order to fix structural issues and meet current programming demands. Future renovations will add spaces that could be programmed and used by third-party providers.

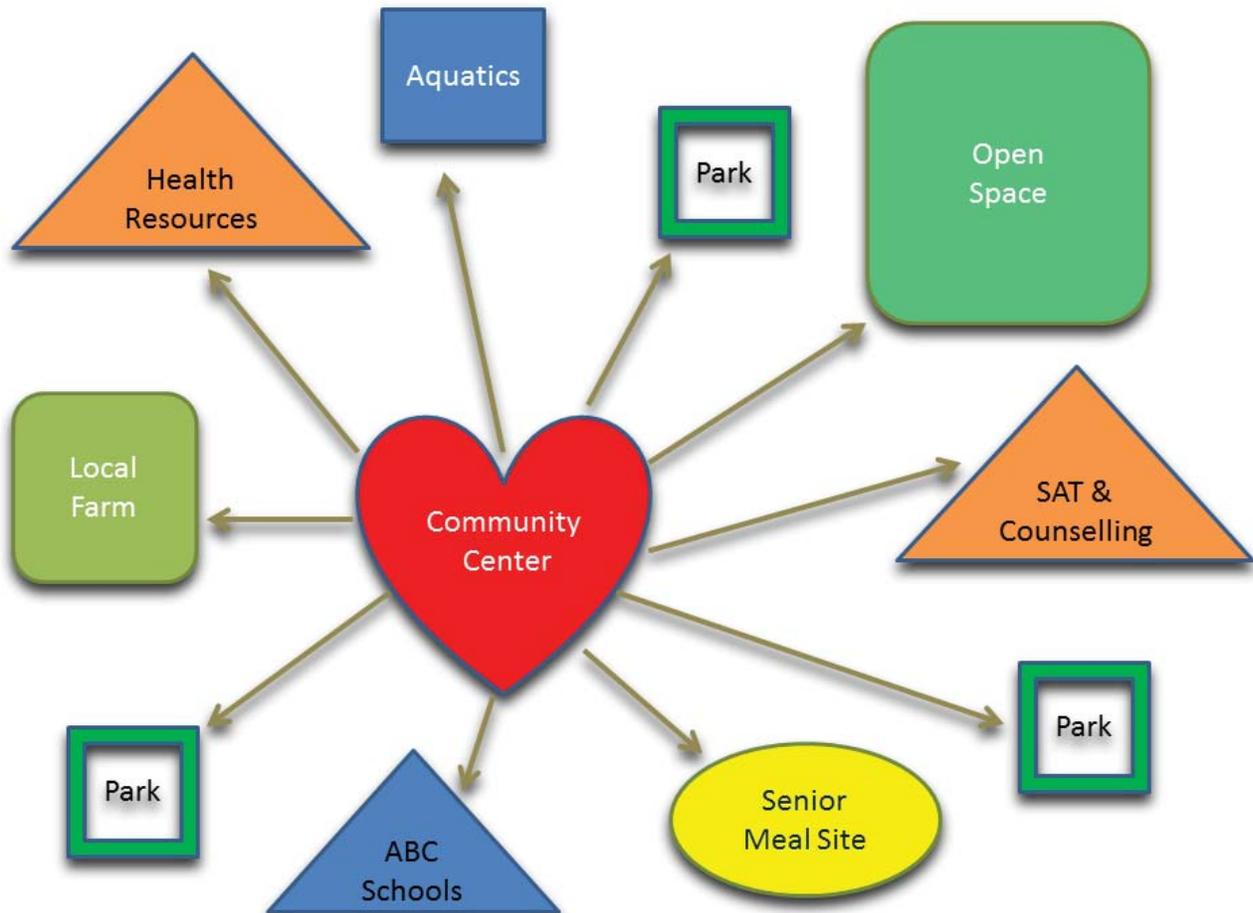


Figure 1.2: The community center at the heart of the system

The structure of the Plan and the planning process reflects this emphasis on the community centers. The Plan was developed by geographical grouping neighborhoods and facilities, known as Neighborhood Community Areas (NCAs), typically with a community center with proposed whole life functions as the hub. For example, the neighborhoods of Atrisco and Armijo comprise the Atrisco-Westside NCA with the Westside Community Center as the hub. The recommendations for a particular NCA and its community center hub vary depending upon the needs of the community in that area.

The Plan looks at the needs of the entire county with a particular focus on NCAs where a substantial proportion of the land is not a part of an incorporated municipality or where there is a significant investment by the County in existing facilities. The planning process took into consideration the facilities and future planned projects of the City and other institutional stakeholders, as well as population growth and community health factors in developing and prioritizing recommendations.

Re-creating Recreation: The POST Plan contained a vision statement for open space, that stated the following:

Bernalillo County Open Space will become a dynamic network of properties with important natural or cultural resources managed to benefit people, plants and wildlife by protecting and enhancing view sheds, water resources, wildlife habitat, cultural/historic sites, and prime agricultural land; and providing resource-based recreation and environmental education.

The following Vision Statement for the Plan, developed and refined during the planning process, builds on and broadens that vision statement to include other parks and recreation facilities and goals:

Re-creating our recreational and open space facilities to become places and pathways to improve community health, promote cultural heritage, and facilitate economic development, thereby increasing quality of life for all our community members.

from Recreation Center to “Whole Life” Center

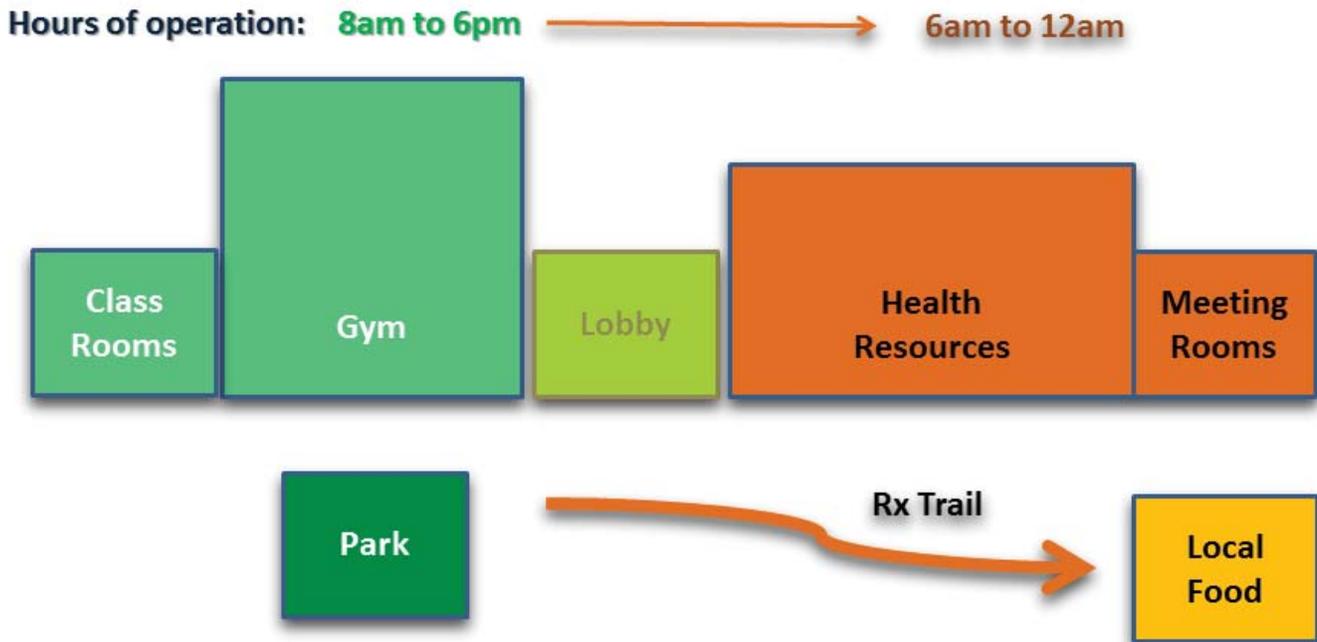


Figure 1.3: Evolution of a community center to a “whole life” center

With this vision as a guide, the Plan combines existing planning directives, community input, proposed policies, and an analysis of future growth and needs into a plan for future facility improvements. The Plan identifies and provides for the following:

- Facility improvements to stabilize, preserve, and enhance function of existing parks, recreation and open space facilities.
- Facility improvements where there is an identified gap between existing community programming needs and the ability of the existing facilities to meet those needs.
- Facility improvements to implement new policies of community health and local agriculture.
- Facility improvements to meet the quality of life needs of our evolving community, including:
 - ◊ multi-generational programming and use – same facility, more flexibility
 - ◊ cross-programming of facilities to increase efficiency and diversity – e.g. community center programs that utilize nearby open spaces, parks and schools

- ◊ environmental sustainability – promoting best practices such as water harvesting and energy efficiency/co-generation
- ◊ fiscal sustainability -- increasing revenues and limiting increases to operational costs through inter-agency collaboration and public-private partnerships
- Phased delivery of facility improvements based on priority and projected availability of capital funds (See Section 6).

The Plan is only the first step in developing the proposed facility improvements (see **Figure 1.4**). The County will seek and then allocate funding to higher priority projects. There is a range of funding sources, each with different processes and parameters associated with them.

The recently passed Bernalillo County 2014 Open Space Mill Levy will provide an annual funding stream for the County’s open space system, including acquisition and development of properties, as well as ongoing maintenance and programming. The ballot language provides policy guidance as to how these funds may be used. It reads as follows:

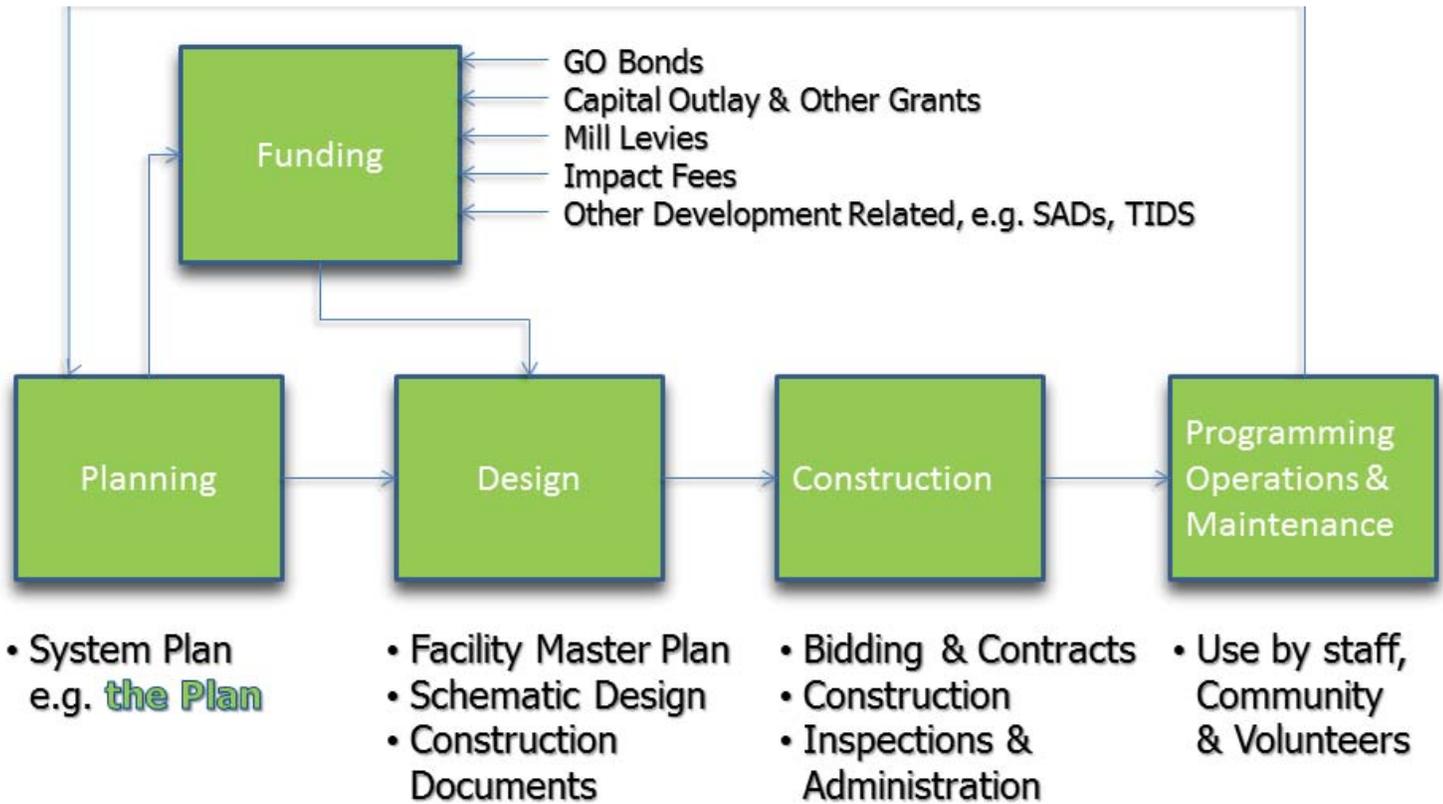


Figure 1.4: The capital project process

To establish a 0.20 mill levy for 15 years for the purposes of acquiring, improving, operating and maintaining natural areas, open spaces and cultural, historic and nature education sites within the county to protect drinking water sources, wildlife habitat, and agricultural land, including along the Rio Grande, and to allow children and families to get outdoors in nature.

General Obligation Bonds are the largest source of capital funding for non-open space projects. They require voter approval and are issued biennially. Impact fees represent a small portion of the capital budgets typically for parks projects and are generated in the development process based on the potential impact of a new development project on existing parks and recreation facilities in a given area. New Mexico State Capital Outlay Grants are the last major source of current capital funds for specific parks and recreation projects with support from State legislators and approval of the Governor. Most projects will require aggregation over time of funding from a variety of sources.

Once funded, these projects will then go into design development resulting in a set of construction documents, a final opinion of probable cost and a Request for Bid (RFB) for construction services. Upon construction, the facility will go into programming by County staff, partner providers and volunteers and use by members of the community, collectively, the "Users." The Users in turn will provide feedback to the design of future facility improvements. However, all future development of parks, recreation and open space facilities will be contingent upon funding and subject to the approval of the Bernalillo County Commission.

The Plan is the first step in securing the future of the county parks, recreation and open space system. The Plan is structured as follows:

Section 1. Introduction: Re-creating Recreation

This section lays out the planning vision, as well as the key questions addressed by the Plan.

Section 2. Community Planning Framework & Process

This section outlines the planning and policy context

for the Plan, including a brief description of the accomplishments under the POST Plan and a summary of the public process.

Section 3. Goals & Policies

This section lays out the goals and policies for the County's parks, recreation and open space system and any implementation steps.

Section 4. Analysis & Needs Assessment

This section summarizes the existing conditions of the County's parks, recreation and open space system, and includes an analysis of service.

Section 5. Neighborhood Community Area Planning Summaries

This section has a summary of findings and specific recommended capital improvements for each of the nine Neighborhood Community Areas (NCAs) in the County, based on the planning study completed for the facilities in that NCA.

Section 6. Phased Priority Capital Improvement Plan

This section provides a phased capital improvement plan in five-year increments with an analysis of the fiscal impact for projects proposed during the first five years of the Plan.

Glossary

The Glossary contains definitions of terms of art and acronyms that may not be familiar to all readers.

Technical Appendix

The Appendix contains supporting documentation in the form of the nine neighborhood community planning studies, the Aquatics Study, the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation ADA Audit as well as copies of surveys and tabulated results.



2. COMMUNITY PLANNING FRAMEWORK & PROCESS

The planning process for the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities Master Plan (Plan) began in 2013 with two planning studies focusing on key regional facilities and aquatics facilities. As with all County planning efforts, there was a robust community process with meetings in all five Commission districts (See **Figure 2.1**) and input from a number of other institutional and municipal stakeholders. The first public meetings were held in the fall of 2013 for the Paradise Hills and Atrisco-Westside Neighborhood Community Areas (NCA) and continued through the end of 2014 with the North Valley NCA. The adopted plan will be implemented through additions to the County Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP) and various administrative actions.

PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Plan is a Rank II facility system plan under the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan framework adopted by both the City of Albuquerque (City) and Bernalillo County (see **Figure 2.2**).

Rank I plans are City/County-wide in scope and provide comprehensive policy guidance for future land use and development as well as infrastructure to support the existing and future quality of life. Rank II plans are either

a comprehensive plan for a sub-area or facility system plan for a particular system of public infrastructure, such as parks and open space. Rank III plans are typically Sector or Corridor Plans, which provide modifications to the regulatory structure for development in a particular area as well as the infrastructure to support that development.

Figure 2.2 is a diagram of the County planning framework with the various plans adopted by the County. The following plans have provided a foundation and policy background for the development of the Plan:

The Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan (Rank I Plan adopted in 1975, updated 1988 and 2002) outlines criteria for new park and open space facilities and emphasizes the need to create a network of parks, open space and trails throughout the City and County. The 2003 Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan (POST Plan) provides a lengthy summary of all the policies in the Comprehensive Plan relevant to the County’s parks, recreation and open space programming and facility planning. The following areas are emphasized for the purpose of the Plan:

- Preservation of open space areas with significant environmental and cultural value identified in the

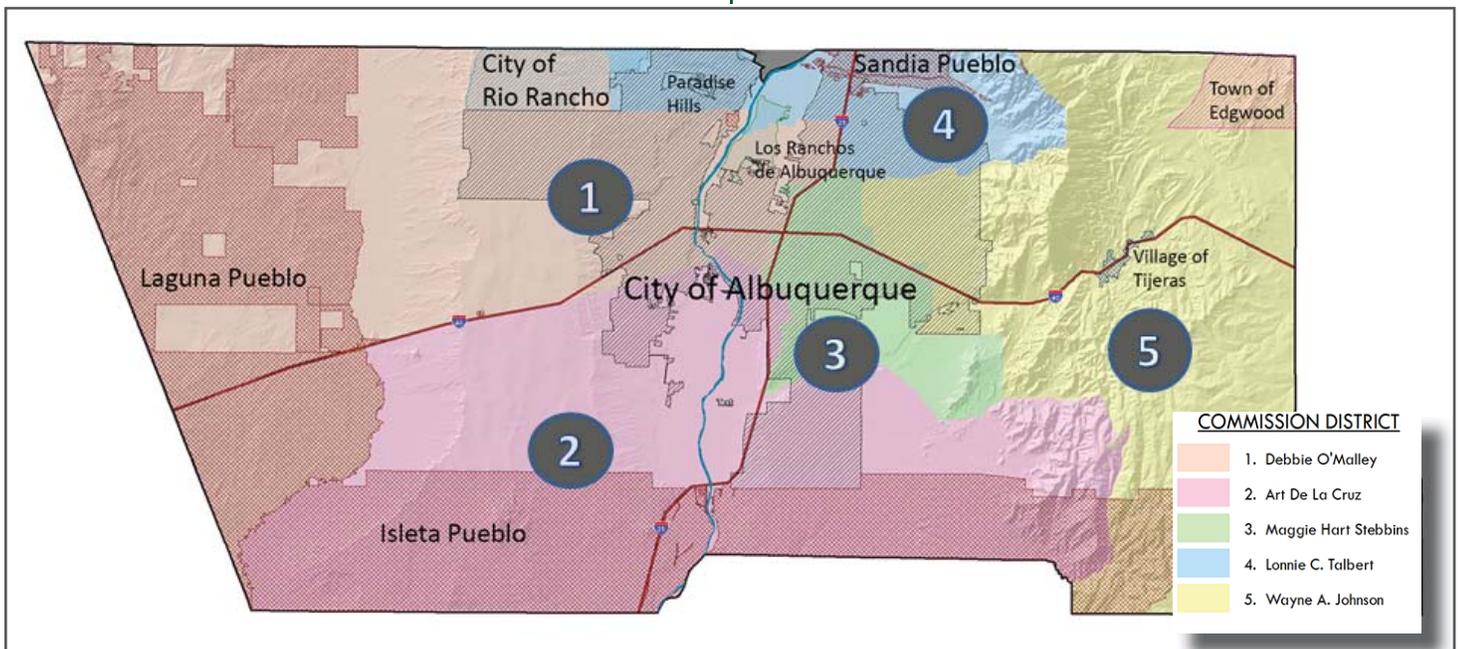


Figure 2.1: Commission Districts & Other Jurisdictions



Figure 2.2: Bernalillo County Planning Framework

Comprehensive Plan (Major Public Open Space) is the cornerstone of a network of parks, recreation, open space and trails. Important future acquisitions in areas of the unincorporated County could include the Ceja/West Mesa escarpment, the Puerco escarpment and agricultural lands along the Rio Grande Valley State Park that simultaneously buffer and provide access to the bosque. **Figure 2.3** is a map of Major Public Open Space.

- Open space areas and trails should continue to be developed along arroyos and irrigation ditches in partnership with Albuquerque Metropolitan Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD), respectively.
- In more rural areas such as the North Valley and the South Valley, land that is suitable for agriculture is to be maintained in agricultural production and discouraged from non-agricultural development through public and private preservation efforts in order to maintain the traditional settlement patterns and uses that are the basis for the rural character.

A thorough update to the Comprehensive Plan commenced in January 2015. The update will involve

changes to existing policies and new policies since the last update, which occurred in 2002 to incorporate the centers and corridors concepts and policies. The current update may impact the planning framework shown above in **Figure 2.2**, in particular the role of Area and Sector Plans.

The Bernalillo County Strategic Plan (Adopted in 2013, but not ranked) states the mission for the County as follows:

The mission of Bernalillo County is to be an effective steward of County resources and a partner in building a high quality of life for County residents, communities and businesses.

The Strategic Plan outlines the key strategies of leveraging the delivery of public services through partnerships and expanding awareness and the delivery of those services through effective interactive communication. It also provides a framework for continuous improvement of delivery in various areas of government service, including proposed desired results and performance measures.

Open Space Classifications in Bernalillo County

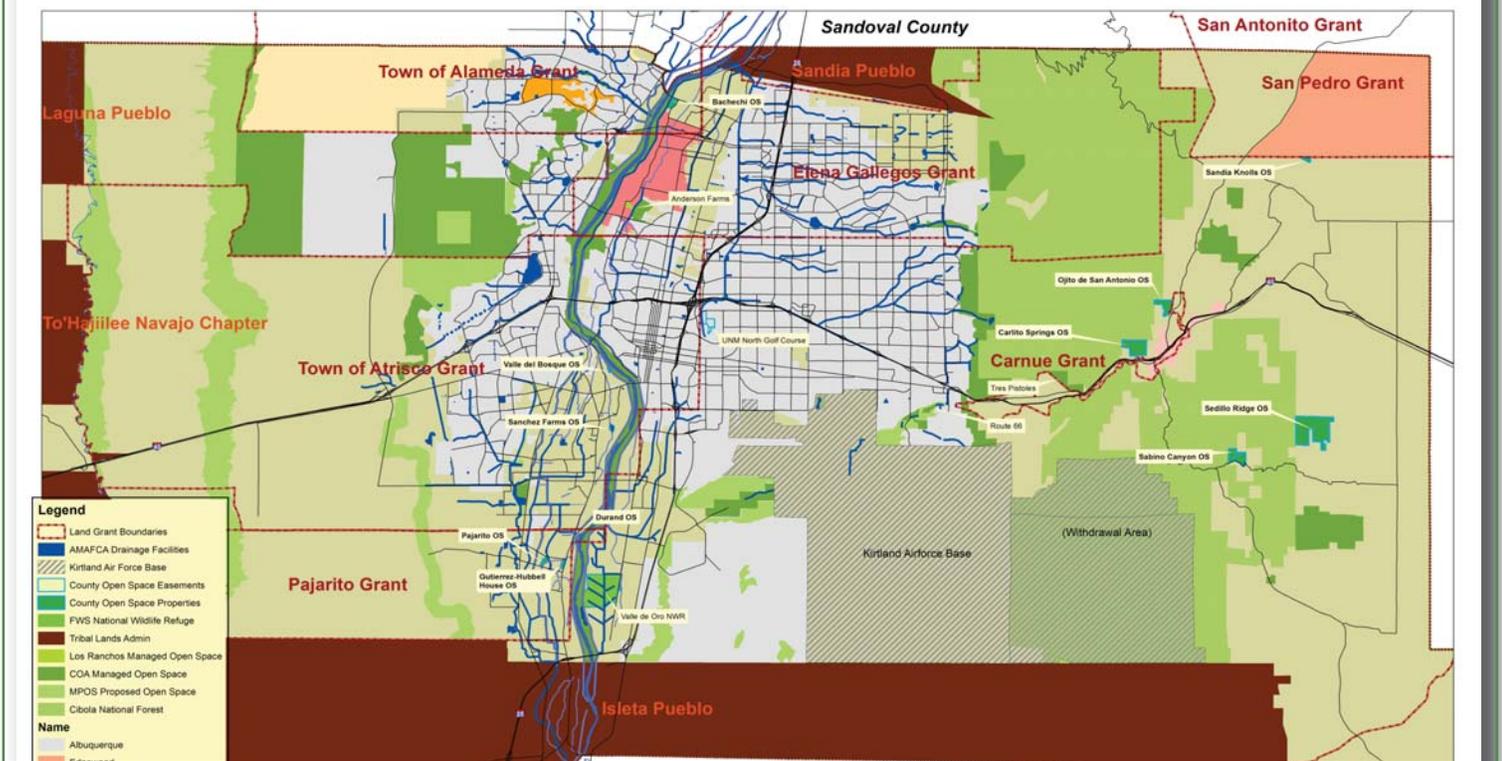


Figure 2.3: Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Major Public Open Space Network (with County facilities and Land Grants added)

Parks and Recreation falls under community health services, for which the desired result is “A community that is physically healthy and active, and has access to cultural amenities.” There are two performance measures that directly involve parks and Recreation: 1) park and open space acres per 1,000 residents and 2) recreational and cultural program attendance. The Plan responds to, and through implementation, will positively impact the acres-per-resident performance measure.

Major Public Open Space Facility Plan (MPOS Plan) (Rank II Facility Plan adopted 1998-1999) has several policies that guide the acquisition, development and management of open spaces in the County, including the following:

- Proposed open space properties shall not be acquired for Major Public Open Space (MPOS) unless they meet at least one of the Comprehensive Plan goals for public open space, the land serves an MPOS type and clearly serves the purposes of the assigned type and public access.
- Properties shall be prioritized for acquisition as public open space by the degree to which the property aids in fulfilling the Comprehensive Plan

goals and sub-area goals, is contiguous to existing open space, is accessible by various modes of mobility and fulfills the goals of its proposed open space type.

- All public open space properties shall have resource management plans.

Figure 2.3 is a map of Major Public Open Space. This map is likely to be updated as part of the Comprehensive Plan update previously described. Since the update of this map, the County has acquired some of the Mesa del Sol escarpment area in the form of a long term lease and helped fund the acquisition of the Valle de Oro National Urban Wildlife Refuge. Proposals for development of the southwest mesa may result in conveyance of the sand dunes and ceja areas as part of a development agreement.

The Parks Open Space and Trails (POST) Plan (Rank II Plan adopted in 2003) provided for capital projects and improvements to facilities, as well as policy goals and objectives for the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department. Under the POST Plan, the County completed 83% of the high-priority projects and nearly 70% of the medium-priority projects. All but one

open space has had considerable facility development and is now open to the public.

Key highlights of the POST Plan include the following:

- **Open Space:** Open space development of Bachechi, Carlito Springs (Phase I), Durand, Gutierrez-Hubbell House, Ojito de San Antonio, Pajarito, Sabino Canyon, Sanchez Farm, Sedillo Ridge, and Valle del Bosque Open Spaces.
- **Parks:** New construction, renovations and upgrades at a number of community and neighborhood parks, including W.L. Jackson Park, Rio Bravo Park, Paradise Hills Park, Westside Park, Altamont Little League, Atrisco Little League, South Valley Little League, etc.
- **Community Centers:** Development of the South Valley Multi-Purpose Center, completion of the Vista Grande Community Center gymnasium and minor additions and upgrades to a number of community centers, including Parky’s Pals renovations and fitness centers.
- **Aquatics:** Rio Grande Pool renovation, Raymond G. Sanchez splash park renovation, Los Padillas Pool construction and other aquatics upgrades at various facilities.

The POST Plan was very successful with respect to neighborhood parks, community scale parks and open space properties, with 32 parks facilities and all open spaces being improved. The successful open space development effort was supported by the voter-approved Mill Levy that was in effect 1996-2006. Parks and playground redevelopment was supported by biennial funding from the County’s voter-approved General Obligation Bonds. The Plan was less successful with respect to development of regional facilities, aquatics facilities and community centers, because improvements to these facilities typically require substantial capital investments.

Several projects that are priorities in the Plan were high priority projects under the POST Plan, including the proposed Whole Life Center renovations to Paradise Hills, Westside, and Los Vecinos Community Centers, and regional sports-plex development at the Tom Tenorio and the Swede Scholer (Mesa del Sol) facilities.

Bernalillo County Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Action Plan (Rank II Facility Plan adopted 2012) has several findings and recommendations that will guide development of pedestrian and bike facilities in the

unincorporated areas of the County, including the following:

- Existing facilities in the unincorporated County include 30 miles of trails, 21 miles of bike lanes and 56 miles of sidewalk. Approximately three percent of County residents walk or bike to work.
- Multi-use trail system needs include rehabilitating existing trails and completing a number of trail gaps.
- A number of chronic diseases are attributable to the lack of physical activity, especially among children. Safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities can help address health issues. There are neighborhoods in the county with high incidence of diabetes, heart disease child obesity and other chronic disease, which could benefit from access to more trails and bikeways.
- Having complete streets in the county means that adequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities as part of all new roadway projects. Higher speed collector and arterial streets are of paramount concern. Sidewalks should be a minimum of 5 ft. wide with a 5 ft. buffer. Bike lanes are to be a minimum of 6 ft. wide. Multi-use trails are to be a minimum of 10 ft. wide.
- When retrofitting existing roadways to include pedestrian facilities, the character and function of the roadway should be considered, including whether it is in an urban or rural environment, available rights-of-way, adjoining land use, roadway classification, traffic volume, speed, drainage, and other factors.

The plan identifies more than 65 pedestrian and bicyclist facility improvement projects totaling \$18.1 million in projects not funded in the **Mid-Region Council of Governments 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan** (2035 MTP). The 2035 MTP, which is referenced in this plan, is currently being updated and provides a long-range plan for pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the mid-Region of the State of New Mexico. The 2035 MTP’s objectives include ensuring there are adequate bike and pedestrian facilities to provide options for non-motorized commuting, safe routes to schools and connections to key community facilities. The 2040 MTP has recently been completed and is slated for adoption in 2015.

Other Rank II plans adopted by the County, including the **Trails and Bikeways Facility Plan** (1993), which is currently being updated by the City of Albuquerque, the

Facility Plan for Arroyos (1986) and the **East Mountain Trails Plan** (2005) provided guidance for the Plan, including the following:

- Development of multi-purpose trails along key roadway and arroyo corridors to link key County facilities, such as the North 14 trail, Arenal Drain multi-purpose trail and a series of connecting trails in the North Albuquerque Acres area along drainage corridors.

County Area, Sector and Corridor Plans, including the **East Mountain Area Plan**, the **North Valley Area Plan**, the **Southwest Area Plan**, the **East 66 Corridor Plan**, the **North 14 Corridor Plan**, the **West Central Corridor Plan**, **Isleta Boulevard Corridor Plan**, and the **Bridge Corridor Redevelopment Plan** also provide guidance in areas for acquisition and development of parks and recreation properties and further development of linkages between them, including the following as summarized below:

- Preservation and development of trail corridors along ditches with crossings at major roads as a way to preserve traditional rural rights-of-way and create linkages between the County and and/or other public facilities.
- Preservation and enhancement of rural character through the following:
 - ◊ preserving agricultural lands through conservation easements, fee acquisition and transfer of developments rights.
 - ◊ supporting continued agricultural use (on County agricultural properties and easement holdings).
 - ◊ supporting development that preserves and enhances character of traditional village centers (through appropriate development of County properties in these areas) adhering to lighting and development regulations and standards

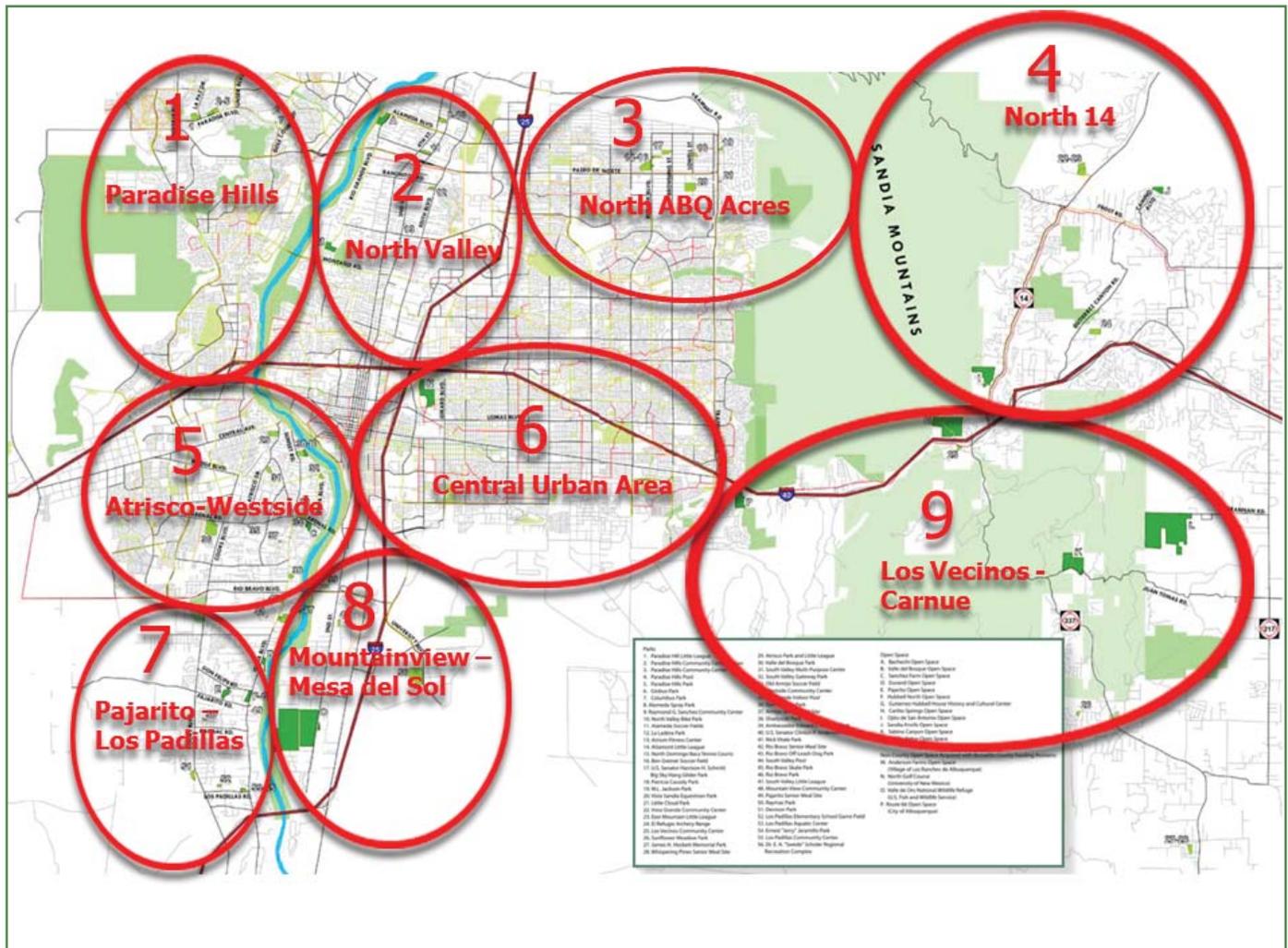


Figure 2.4: NCA Planning Areas

intended to preserve rural character (on County properties).

COMMUNITY PROCESS

The community process for the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities Master Plan (Plan) began in the fall of 2013 with the initial input meetings and workshops for the Paradise Hills and Atrisco-Westside Neighborhood Community Areas (NCAs). The first meeting for the Aquatics Planning Study was also held in 2013 at the Rio Grande Pool prior to its closure due to renovation work. Those meetings were followed by more than 30 other meetings over the next year in various NCAs (see **Figure 2.5**)

Public input meetings, which also included a community survey, were concluded by the end of 2014. An initial draft of the Plan developed in February 2015 was reviewed by a County technical team from various departments and by key external agency representatives. In May 2015, a draft of the Plan was completed and posted to the County website for review. The draft Plan is being presented at public meetings in June 2015 to further refine key policies and determine relative priority of various proposed capital improvement projects. Based on the feedback, a final draft of the Plan will be developed in the summer of 2015 and presented to the Commission in August of 2015. Once adopted, the plan will be implemented through additions to the County ICIP resulting in the funding of priority projects over time and various Administrative Resolutions and

other actions to put goals and policies into action. However, all future development of parks, recreation and open space facilities will be contingent upon funding and subject to the approval of the Bernalillo County Commission. **Figure 2.5** is a diagram of the planning process.

Community Input: The community planning process evaluated and planned for the future of the County system of parks, recreation and open space facilities in groups based on their geographic location, which are called Neighborhood Community Areas (NCAs). For each of the nine NCA, a master planning study was completed. For some of the NCAs, there were major facility issues to be addressed involving a community center or other major property, so the process included a community workshop over two days.

In total there were 36 meetings over the course of 15 months (with the number of meetings for a given NCA): in parentheses):

- Paradise Hills (4) – Three-day workshop & final community meeting
- North Valley (9) – Two day workshop, final community meeting and six sub-area meetings
- North Albuquerque Acres (1) – public meeting
- North Highway 14 (1) – public meeting
- Central Urban Area (1) – public meeting



Figure 2.5: The overall planning process.

- Los Vecinos-Carnue (5) – Two-day workshop, final community meeting and two sub-area meetings
- Atrisco-Westside (4) – Two-day workshop and two follow-up meetings
- Mountainview-Mesa del Sol (2) – Two community meetings
- Pajarito-Los Padillas (4) – Two-day workshop and two community meetings

Five additional meetings were held as a part of the Aquatics Planning Study, because these facilities had never been addressed comprehensively. Over 300 people attended various meetings.

As part of these community meetings, the overall planning process and a working policy framework was presented, and input and feedback was sought from community members. Out of these community planning processes, a planning study was developed for each NCA. Several of the NCA planning studies focused on Whole Life Center renovations to community centers. However, each NCA had different issues and resulted in different findings and recommendations. These planning studies include the following sections:

- Introduction
- Current Conditions
- Community Process summary
- Recommendations
- Cost Summary

The community process and the final master plan concepts and costs for each NCA are documented in these plan documents. From these plans, a four- to six-page summary was distilled as Section 5 of the Plan. The Aquatics and NCA Planning Studies are supporting documents for the Plan. They may be found in the Technical Appendix, which is a separate volume that may be downloaded at www.berncogov.

As part of the community process for the Neighborhood Community Area Planning Studies, a survey was provided to the participants and users prior to, during, and after the community meetings. Approximately 250 surveys were completed by members of the community. A copy of the survey and a summary of the results may be found in the Technical Appendix.

The following were key findings at the beginning of the NCA process that informed the remainder of the process:

- The main facilities used by those surveyed were walking/hiking/biking trails, nature trails, community centers, playgrounds and aquatics facilities, typically with a frequency of greater than once a month.
- Most respondents (73%) felt that there is already enough green space in various forms in their community.
- The types of programming desired by respondents was highest for farming and gardening, fitness



Public meeting during the Paradise Hills Workshop

and exercise, aquatics, nature, music, and health and wellness. And they wanted to see more programming for teens, young children, seniors and adults, generally.

- The respondents felt that the most important parks and recreation projects to fund (in order of importance) are improvements to existing facilities (life centers, etc.), open space, trails, farms and gardens, and swimming pools.

Community Feedback: After all the public input was synthesized into a working plan, community meetings are planned for June 2015 by Commission district to get feedback on a working draft of the Plan, including the proposed policies and capital projects, and to solicit response from the community as to which projects are most important. Prior to the meetings, a draft version of the Plan was published on the internet at the County website. The format for the meeting includes a presentation of the draft plan, with a particular focus on new policies and projects proposed for that district, followed by a Q&A session and exercise to provide feedback on the relative priority of various types of projects.

There is also a survey available to participants at the meeting and on-line for those who are unable to make it to the district meetings. This survey will be focused primarily on testing key policies and determining the relative importance of and funding strategies for the larger, more expensive facilities. A copy of this survey and a summary of the results may also be found in the Technical Appendix.

Bernalillo County Commission Hearing: After the district meetings, the feedback from the community and the surveys will be synthesized and incorporated into a final draft for hearing and action by the Bernalillo County Commission in late summer 2015.



Community members and kids participating during a community workshop



3. PLANNING GOALS & POLICIES

The following policies and goals have been developed during the planning process to guide future decisions with respect to the parks, recreation and open space system.

GENERAL POLICIES

1. *Accessibility*

As required by law, parks, recreation and open space facilities shall be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

- Existing facilities shall be brought into compliance based on the phased plan as outlined in the 2014 Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Access Audit and Transition Plan, a summary of which is included in the Technical Appendix.
- All new design and construction shall be in full ADA compliance.
- The Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department (Parks & Recreation) will train staff in ADA compliance and ensure that staff has tools and training necessary to audit and monitor facilities for compliance.
- Parks & Recreation and the Bernalillo County Public Works Departments (Fleet and Facilities Management) shall coordinate with one another to identify, prioritize, fund and address any existing deficiencies.

2. *Multi-generational Use*

Parks and recreation facilities will be planned, designed and programmed for use by all age groups. The county Parks and Recreation Department will work with the Department of Health and Social Services, where appropriate, to increase opportunities for programming and other facility uses at senior meal sites owned by the County.

3. *Public-Private Partnership*

Public-private partnerships will be developed by Parks & Recreation with appropriate parties to deliver services for parks, recreation and open space facilities in the following instances:

- Where the County does not have the expertise to deliver the service, or
- Where the County has insufficient capacity to deliver the services, and it would take extensive time and/or resources to secure the capacity necessary to deliver the service.

- Third party delivery of services must be in compliance with the anti-donation clause of the NM State Constitution and any regulations issued pursuant to this clause by the Department of Finance Administration or NM Attorney General's Office.

4. *Facility Use Agreements with Third Parties*

Third-party uses of parks, recreation and open space facilities will have a facility use agreement in place prior to use and all the requirements under that agreement must be met by the user for that use prior to using facility.

5. *Park and Open Space Security*

Parks & Recreation will work with the Bernalillo County Sherriff's Department, neighborhood associations, and stakeholders to continue to develop Park Watch and SiteWatch programs to promote and enhance security of existing and future parks and open space facilities.

6. *Safe Trail Design*

Parks & Recreation will work with County Public Works to design and construct safe trails on its facilities and as separate facilities as outlined in the **Bernalillo County Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Action Plan**, including where appropriate trail lighting.

7. *Memorials & Donation Program*

Parks & Recreation will have a memorial donation program, which enables members of the community to donate funds for the purchase of trees, rocks and/or benches in memory of someone or an event. These memorial donations shall be planned and placed where the Parks & Recreation deems most appropriate based on functional and maintenance concerns. The memorial program will have a standard procedure and template for memorial plaques, and will eventually be available online. All memorials other than benches and trees in parks and open space facilities must go through the formal process outlined in the Administrative Resolution on Memorials.

7. *Multi-use of Facilities*

Where appropriate and cost-effective, parks, recreation and open space facilities will be multi-use. Many such facilities already exist in the County inventory, such as Sanchez Farm Open Space, Valle del Bosque Park and the Old Armijo Soccer Field, which are all drainage facilities as well. Existing drainage facilities owned by the County or the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) and other County-owned

properties should be considered for co-location of new facilities.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level-of-service and facility standards have been incorporated into the Plan for the purpose of giving clarity and priority to future acquisition and development of parks, recreation and open space facilities. These standards are outlined in Section 4, and are an updated version of the standards in the previous Parks Open Space and Trails Plan (POST Plan), which in turn, were originally adapted from standards from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA).

1. Application of Standards

These standards will be used to guide capital project planning by the county in the various NCAs as follows:

- In unincorporated areas where the County is primarily responsible for meeting the needs of the community, gaps in level-of-service will guide future planning efforts and the prioritizing projects for County funding.
- In incorporated areas such as those governed by the City of Albuquerque (City), the County will support

these standards through joint planning and pursuit of grant funding from various sources.

2. Application of Standards to Development Projects

All proposed development project master plan applications to the County must provide a system plan for parks, recreation and open space that provides for a network of facilities consistent with these level of service standards and other existing plans for that area, as well as a fiscal analysis that shows that these facilities will be provided at no net expense to the county.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Community health will require efforts in multiple areas of the County system to increase access to healthier options throughout the community. In certain areas, such as open space programming, the Parks & Recreation is already providing fitness classes, and there are several park and open space facilities that already have Prescription (Rx) Trails.

1. Community Centers

Where appropriate and resources are available, the County will develop facilities, resources and features in its community centers to support community health, including:



Community centers are key to implementing community health initiatives.

- Increased access to health resources, including health promotion and health screening programming to connect community members to healthcare providers in the community.
- Extended hours for many community centers' meeting spaces to better accommodate community members' work schedules.
- Increased diversity and number of classes to be offered to teens and adults in classrooms, fitness centers, gyms, kitchens and neighboring parks to support chronic disease prevention and substance abuse prevention.
- Mental and behavioral health support groups and group counseling.
- Rx Trails in surrounding landscapes.

2. *Open Spaces*

Where appropriate and resources are available, the County will continue to develop facilities and environmental education programming in its open space and parks system to support community health, including:

- More Rx Trails.
- More outdoor environmental education classes that promote healthy lifestyles, including outdoor recreation, gardening/farming and awareness of the natural environment.
- More opportunities for local food production on County lands -- from traditional farming and greenhouses/hoop houses to raised bed community gardens.

3. *Partnerships*

Wherever possible, the County will partner with the County Cooperative Extension, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC), and other health-care not-for-profits to staff new facilities and support programming in the new facilities.

4. *Outreach*

The County will support an outreach effort to community members, health professionals and local not-for-profits, and public safety organizations in order to promote community health and the County resources available to support community health related activities, facilities and services.



Community health fair in the International District.

5. Implementation:

- Develop and adopt local community health strategic plan.
- Create a steering committee to assist in the development of the County’s community health initiatives within parks and recreation facilities, that includes key community health stakeholder groups, including the Bernalillo County Health Council, NM Chronic Disease, UNMHSC, the International District Community Health Coalition and other local community health organizations.
- Develop leasing strategy for third-party community health programming providers in County facilities.

COMMUNITY-BASED AGRICULTURE

The County is currently developing a programmatic vision for its agricultural initiative, “Cultivating Bernalillo County.” The intention for the program is to promote a locally-based food and agricultural system on suitable county-owned Open Space properties, and other properties under an agricultural

conservation easement, in order to advance Bernalillo County’s quality-of-life goals related to community health, economic development and cultural heritage. Education, community partnerships and public policy recommendations are the means by which the program will be implemented, and include the following:

1. Support local food production and preserve agricultural heritage.

- Increase year-round food production.
- Research and implement best management practices for natural resource use and conservation.
- Secure sufficient water rights for crop irrigation.
- Where appropriate and resources are available support protection of or undertake acquisition of agricultural properties that are well-suited for local food production.
- Explore the use of conservation easements on privately-owned agricultural lands to incentivize the protection and cultivation of agricultural land while still under private ownership.



Farmers from the Organic Acres de Valle del Sur Cooperative working at the Gutierrez-Hubbell House Open Space.

2. *Establish a conservation easement strategy for agricultural properties in Bernalillo County.*

- Promote the use of conservation easements on privately-owned agricultural lands to incentivize the protection and cultivation of agricultural land while still under private ownership.
- Identify and coordinate with suitable land trusts in New Mexico to hold conservation easements as part of public education.
- Update the Greenprint mapping study commissioned by the City in 2005 to identify prime agricultural lands. The Greenprint would use the policies, criteria and priorities outlined in the Plan as a starting point for evaluating and prioritizing lands for acquisition or preservation through a conservation easement.
- Develop standards for implementation of conservation easements.

3. *Create a more robust agricultural economy within the county.*

- Develop and propose policy recommendations to the County Commission and/or State Legislature that will support the local agricultural economy.
- Work in collaboration with a diverse group of public and private stakeholders to develop a long-term agricultural leasing program on appropriate open space properties.
- Educate the community about the importance of growing and buying local food in support of sustainable farming practices and increased food security.

4. *Establish and/or support growers' education centers to provide educational outreach and technical support programs to local growers.*

- Support mentoring and/or training programs that encourage new growers (e.g., youth, veterans and the incarcerated).
- Facilitate access to equipment and tools for smaller-scale growing operations.
- Collaborate to identify and develop technical supports for expanded food production, processing, packaging and distribution (i.e., food hub).

5. *Promote local food and farming systems through development of an agritourism strategy.*

- Develop a media campaign highlighting the County's agricultural open spaces, locally grown food, value-added products, and locally-owned food processors and retail/wholesale outlets.
- Create a page on the County's website that provides links to local agritourism opportunities and businesses.

6. *Increase access to healthy, local produce in underserved communities within the county with a mobile farmers' market.*

- Provide underserved communities in the County with better fresh food options and educational opportunities to promote healthier lifestyle choices.
- Offer nutritional education and healthy food preparation demonstrations/tastings in conjunction with the mobile farmers' market, i.e. the "Veggie Van."
- Offer nutritional food preparation demonstrations in conjunction with mobile farmers' market deliveries.

7. *Adopt an Administrative Resolution for County support of community-based agriculture.*

- Based on voter approval of a 15-year Open Space Mill Levy in November 2014 and the successful implementation of an expanded agricultural program as outlined above, the development and adoption of an Administrative Resolution in support of these strategies may be proposed.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND PUBLIC ART

Cultural heritage and public art are vital to community health, enhancing the quality of life of Bernalillo County residents and visitor experiences.

The Cultural Services section of the Parks and Recreation Department is dedicated to the ongoing celebration of the arts and marketing the County's cultural resources to a diverse audience. Cultural Services promotes and programs high-quality, free events, educational opportunities, exhibitions, performances and celebrations.

Public art is located within open space, parks, pools and County buildings. Artworks inspire curiosity, encourage contemplation, facilitate dialogue, foster community engagement and create a sense of place.

Implementation:

- Create opportunities for partnerships with governmental agencies, non-profits and other organizations to further develop culture, art and historical programming and exhibits.
- Work with the creative business sector to develop projects that promote local culture and art.
- Promote events and quality-of-life initiatives to meet the cultural needs of our diverse community.
- Install public art at County parks and open space facilities as funding allows.

FACILITY AND LAND ACQUISITION FOR PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

Because of the limited amounts of capital funds and increased long-term operations and maintenance costs, new acquisitions will be evaluated and prioritized as follows:

1. Base line Criteria: The following acquisition criteria have been developed for lands to be acquired for open space or recreation purposes and/or with recreation and open space funding resources:

- The property has been identified in an existing master plan, sector plan or planning study for acquisition; or
- The property has identified cultural, agricultural, environmental and/or recreational landscape value that can be promoted through resource-based recreation and environmental education, and the property is larger than 5 acres; or
- The property is greater than a half acre and is contiguous to an existing park, recreation or open space facility of the county, other incorporated municipality within the county, other governmental entity (e.g. City of Albuquerque, US Forest Service, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, NM State Land Office) or private land trust.

2. Prioritization: Acquisitions will be prioritized based on the existence of any of the following conditions:

- Implementation of an existing facility master plan, including this Plan, the Major Public Open Space Plan, and/or a Sector or Corridor Plan;
- Existing agricultural uses / prime farmland; and,
- Adjacency to an existing public park, recreation or open space facility.



Public art mural at Rio Grande Pool.

3. Types: Acquisition of the property may take the form of acquisition in fee, long-term lease, or in the case of open space, a conservation easement.

4. Due Diligence: All acquisitions must go through the due diligence process for acquisition of the property by the County as set-forth in Administrative Instruction for Property Acquisition (AI IP#01).

5. Implementation:

- Adopt an Administrative Instruction for acquisitions of open space and park lands, or amend AI IP#01 referenced above to include these policies, and define standards for conservation easements.
- Update the Greenprint mapping study commissioned by the City in 2005 to identify priority open space lands. The Greenprint would use the policies, criteria and priorities developed in the Plan as a starting point for evaluating and prioritizing lands for future acquisition or preservation through a conservation easement.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Parks and recreation facilities will be increasingly environmentally sustainable as further defined and

outlined below:

1. Sustainability Metrics: The Parks and Recreation Department will have the following environmental sustainability metrics:

- A base line and measures for overall water use for parks and open space facilities (other than agricultural open spaces and aquatics facilities) which will be established and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- A base lines and measures for reducing overall energy usage and carbon footprint for ongoing operations of the Parks and Recreation system through conservation and efficiency measures and off-sets, e.g. through the planting of additional trees at parks and open spaces, adding solar panels for co-generation of energy at community centers and large parking areas, etc.
- A base line and measures for increasing quality wildlife habitat in the Parks and Recreation system.

2. Sustainable Design: Design of new facilities or renovations to facilities, where appropriate, will include sustainable features, such as water harvesting



Valle de Oro Wildlife National Urban Wildlife Refuge, which the county supported the acquisition of by providing \$5 Million.

strategies, energy reduction and co-generation features and passive heating and cooling strategies.

3. Implementation: Undertake a “Green Bernie” - Parks, Recreation and Open Space Sustainability Study to finalize metrics, develop strategies to meet metrics and simplified audit processes for evaluating metrics.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Parks and recreation facilities will be fiscally sound and increasingly self-sustaining as further defined and outlined below.

1. Fiscal Support: No new facility will be constructed unless there is a commitment by the County to meeting the financial needs for sustaining the facility in the form of line item increases to budgets and personnel based the fiscal analysis for the new facility.

2. Complete Projects: No new facility construction projection will be undertaken unless the project or a discrete phase thereof can be fully funded by available funds.

3. Revenue Goals: The Parks and Recreation Department will develop goals and strategies for revenue generation. The objective of these strategies is to off-set a minimum amount of operations and maintenance costs of facilities through revenue generation. For facilities, such as little league facilities that are used or operated a majority of the time by a third-party user, the objective is to off-set all of the operations and maintenance costs with revenues.

4. Revenues could take the following forms:

- Lease agreements
- Fees for facility rental, memberships, classes and programming
- Grants
- Special mill levies
- In-kind contributions of volunteer time calculated based on a standard rate determined from time-to-time by the State of New Mexico.

4. Implementation:

- Undertake revenue and fee structure studies for parks and recreation programming, and separately for open space.
- Where appropriate, develop standard Facility Usage and Lease Agreements to meet the various needs of the different facilities in the County’s system.

R

EGIONAL FACILITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Planning, design & funding: The County will work with other institutional entities (e.g. City of Albuquerque, Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA), Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), University of New Mexico (UNM), Central New Mexico College (CNM), Albuquerque Metropolitan Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA), and New Mexico Game and Fish Department (NMGF), user groups and private stakeholders to identify, locate, plan and fund the construction of a series regional facilities, including but not limited to regional aquatics center, waterpark, velodrome, softball sports megaplex and an off-road motorized vehicle park.

2. Support for operations & maintenance: The County will work with institutional entities, user groups and private stakeholders to develop economic and fiscal impact analyses to identify the full cost of the project and potential for revenue generation over time with the goal of reducing the impact to the County’s general fund.

- The County will work with institutional entities, user groups and private stakeholders to develop a plan for financing regional facilities.
- The County will work with institutional entities, user groups and private stakeholders to identify and contract with a private contractor for operate and maintain any regional facility.

3. Implementation:

- Establish a working consortium of institutional stakeholders, private user groups and community stakeholders to develop ideas and plans for regional recreational facilities.
- Undertake a planning and follow-up economic feasibility study for the regional facilities identified.



4. ANALYSIS & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS AND GROWTH

Bernalillo County encompasses 1,166 square miles in central New Mexico and is the most populated of the State’s 33 counties. With a total population of 650,619 in 2010, Bernalillo County has approximately one-third of New Mexico’s of 1,819,046 residents. Unincorporated Bernalillo County includes portions of the South Valley, North Valley, Northeast Heights, West Mesa, and East Mountains. These areas are home to 17%, or approximately 108,000 of the County’s population.

The general distribution of population is highest in the City of Albuquerque (City), which is also the location of the highest densities, as shown in **Figure 4.1**. Within the unincorporated areas, the highest proportion of the population is in the South Valley, which includes the Atrisco-Westside, Pajarito-Los Padillas and Mountainview-Mesa del Sol Neighborhood Community Areas (NCAs).

Bernalillo County is comprised of 26 census tracts. Population data regarding total counts, age, and race/ethnicity from the years 2000 and 2010 were calculated at the census tract level. Data Analysis Subzones, (DASZs) used by the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) to make population projections.

Population Growth: Bernalillo County continues to grow faster than the national average, although is slower than Sandoval County and Dona Ana County. Between 2000 and 2010, the County population grew nearly 150,000 to just over 650,000 (US Census, 2000 and 2010) (See **Figure 4.2**). According to growth projections by MRCOG, this population is expected to grow another 100,000 county-wide by 2030, with approximately half of that population growth happening in areas outside the City. **Figure 4.3** is map showing the areas of greatest projected population growth.

The area of highest growth has been the West Side in the vicinity of Paradise Hills Neighborhood Community Area (NCA). Other projected high growth areas include Mesa del Sol (Mountainview-Mesa del Sol NCA), the Southeast Heights and the East Mountains (North 14 NCA). The planned developments of Ventana Ranch, Volcano Heights, Quail Ranch and Estrella, as well as the proposed Santolina Master Plan area are all likely to continue to drive significant growth on the West Side. Through the development review process, the County must ensure that adequate facilities are planned for in those high growth areas, and that the capital and operational costs will be economically sustained by the development proposed for those areas. The County will also need to ensure that regional facilities and open space are dedicated for these areas as part of the development process.

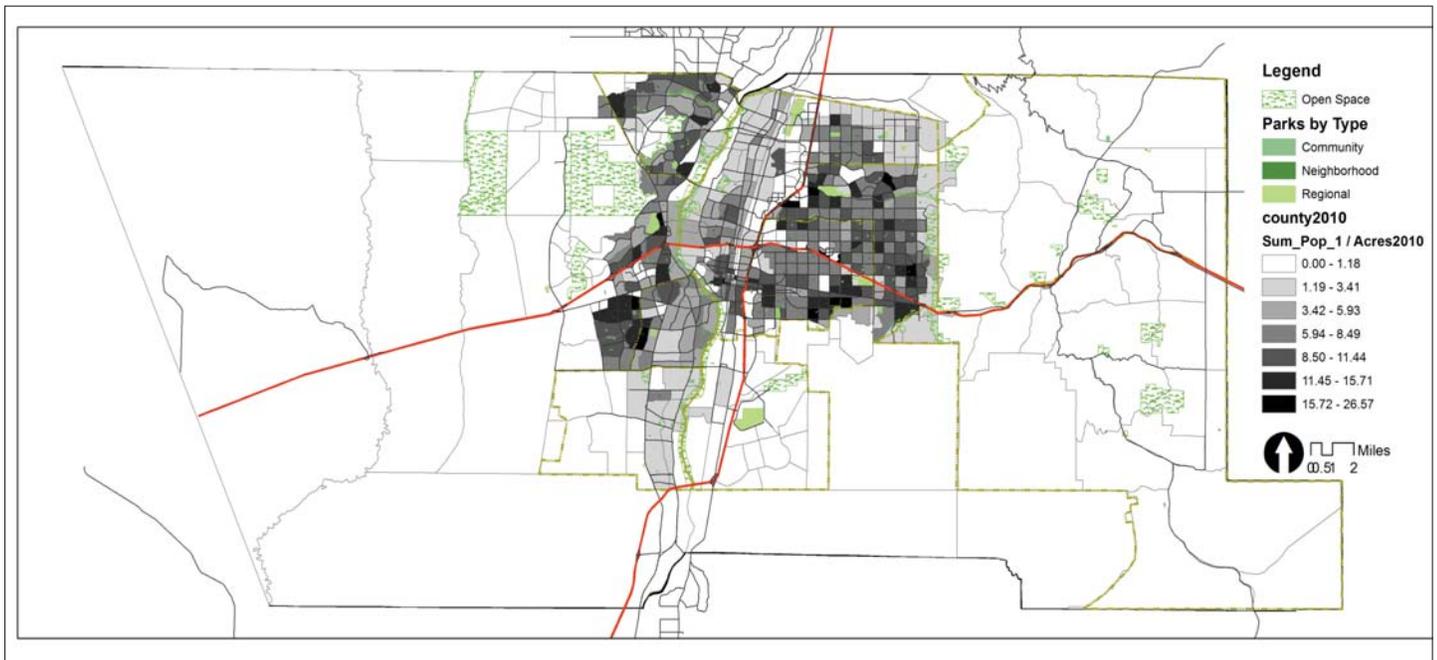


Figure 4.1: Bernalillo County 2010 Population Density

Age of Population: Unincorporated Bernalillo County is predominantly composed of working-age adults, at 60% of the population. The youth population is twice as large as the senior population: 28% of the population is high school age or younger, while only 12% of the population is over 65 (US Census, 2010). The proportion of the population over 65, however, is growing. This would indicate that at this point in time there is a greater need for facilities and programming that serve the youth population than those that serve the senior population. However, given national and local trends with the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, there will be increasing needs for seniors.

Race and Ethnicity: According to 2010 Census data, 38% of the population in the unincorporated portion of Bernalillo County is white, while 52% of the population identifies as being of Hispanic/Latino ethnic descent. Native Americans compose just over five percent of the population, and two percent are Black/African American. People of Asian descent comprise just under two percent of the study area population. Less than one percent of the population identify as either an “other race” and/or two or more races. **Figure 4.4** shows the demographic break-down of the 2010 population.



Figure 4.2: Bernalillo County Population Growth, 2000-2010



Figure 4.3: Bernalillo County Projected Population Growth, 2010-2030

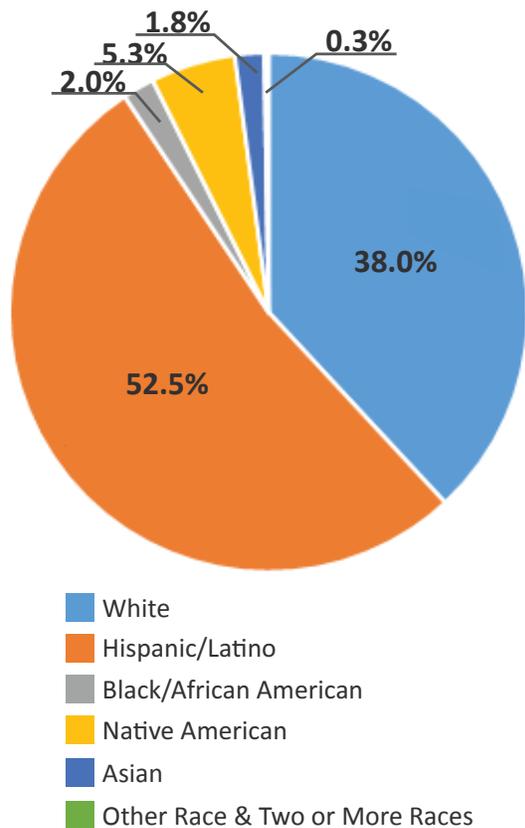


Figure 4.4: Bernalillo County Race and Ethnic Composition

Household Composition	Number	Percent
Average Household Size	2.78	N/A
Total Households	38,694	100%
Non-Family Households	10,275	26.6%
Family Households	28,419	73.4%
with Related Children Under 18	14,077	36.4%
Single Female Householder Families	4,785	12.3%
with Related Children Under 18	3,078	7.9%

Figure 4.5: Unincorporated Bernalillo County Household Composition

Source: US Census 2010

Household Characteristics: There are 38,694 total households in the unincorporated County, with an average household size of 2.78 persons. There are more family households than non-family households at 73.4% and 26.6% of the total, respectively. Within the family households, nearly half live with related children under 18 years of age. This group comprises 36.4% of the total population. In addition, nearly 16% of children in the unincorporated County live in homes headed by a single female, potentially compounding the need for services. **Figure 4.5** gives important characteristics of households in Bernalillo County.

EXISTING FACILITIES AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A needs assessment analysis identifies residential population areas that are underserved by existing facilities. Two types of needs assessment techniques are applied in the Plan: level-of-service analysis and service area analysis. The measures for these analyses are based on national standards from the National Recreation and Parks Association as modified by local conditions.

The following types of facilities and their definitions have been developed for the Plan:

- **Parks and Open Space Land:** The acreage of all facilities, including undeveloped open space, managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- **Open Space:** Typically 10 acres and larger with important natural and cultural resources that are managed to benefit people, plants, and wildlife through protecting and enhancing viewsheds, water resources, wildlife habitat, cultural/historical sites, and prime agriculture land that provide opportunities for resource-based recreation and environmental education.
- **Developed Park Land:** The acreage of facilities that have been developed for active and passive use by members of the community.
- **Regional Park:** Typically 10 acres and larger with social areas, large turf areas for regulation sports play, a developed trail system and significant or unique recreation facilities within the County system.
- **Community Park:** Typically smaller than 10 acres with playground and developed social areas, turf areas that may be used for non-regulation sports play, trail facilities.

- **Neighborhood Park:** Typically 1 to 5 acres with playground and developed social areas.
- **Community Center:** A building or group of buildings (30,000-60,000 sq. feet) that typically includes flexible classrooms/ meeting room space(s), multi-purpose/game room, gym, fitness center, playground, arts and crafts room, health resource room, kitchen, lobby, staff offices and storage.
- **Aquatics Facility:** A water-based recreation facility such as a splash park, recreation pool, a competition pool, indoor pool, therapeutic pool.
- **Fully-Inclusive Playground:** A playground with specialized play areas and equipment for children with a range of physical and mental disabilities.

Currently, the County maintains 1065 acres of park land and 982 acres of open space. Approximately half of the open space is undeveloped. The County is also involved in supporting and providing limited programming on an additional 700 acres, for which it holds conservation easements. The County has seven community centers and as of 2015, five senior meal sites, which are proposed by the Plan to be consolidated and/or become satellite facilities to the larger centers. There are five aquatics facilities – one indoor pool, three outdoor pools and one splash park. The County has only one fully inclusive playground, and has financially supported the development of a second at the City’s Loma Linda Community Center.

Level-of-Service Analysis: Level of service and facility standards have been developed for and incorporated into this Plan for the purposes of giving clarity and priority to future acquisition and development of parks, recreation and open space facilities, and to provide standards for development review of master planned communities. These standards are based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards as adapted to local conditions. They also update the standards in the Parks Open Space and Trails Plan (POST Plan), and incorporate the objective from the county’s strategic plan for parks and open space land. The standards are as follows:

- Parks and Open Space** – 10 acres/1000 people
- Developed Park Land** – 5 acres/1000 people
- Open Space** – 20 acres/1000 people
- Regional Park** – 3 acres/1000 people
- Community Park** – 2 acres/1000 people
- Neighborhood Park** – 1 acre/1000 people
- Community Center** – 1/15,000 people
- Aquatics Facility** – 1/15,000 people
- Fully Inclusive Playground** – 1/50,000 people

These standards are being implemented by the County in unincorporated areas where Bernalillo County is primarily responsible for meeting the needs of the community. In incorporated areas, such as the City of Albuquerque, the county will support the implementation of these standards.

Figure 4.6 is a two-part chart that portrays how well the County, as a whole (including the City), the unincorporated county, and the various NCAs are meeting the level-of-service standards outlined above in 2015 and 2030 respectively. Level-of-service analysis compares the total population of an area to the total number of acres or facilities in that area to arrive at a ratio, e.g. acres to population, and then compares that ratio to the level-of-standard for the particular facility. If this ratio is greater than or equal to the level-of-service standard, then it is being met. If the ratio is less than the level of service standard, then it is not being met. In both charts, the orange areas indicate a gap in the level of service that is 20% or greater. The red areas on the 2030 portion of the chart indicate a gap in the level of service that will increase by an additional 20% by 2030. These areas are especially important to consider for facility expansion or development of new facilities.

In summary, the County as a whole, the unincorporated areas of the County, and the majority of NCAs are doing very well in meeting the level-of-service standards for the categories of total parks and open space land, developed parks and open space. The largest gaps are with respect to aquatics facilities and inclusive playgrounds. In terms of community parks and community centers, the County and the unincorporated areas are close to meeting the prescribed level of service. Although the County is also close to meeting level-of-service standard for aquatics facilities in the unincorporated areas, this category is generally not being met with the exception being the Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA. Similarly, only the North Valley NCA is meeting the level-of-service standard for inclusive playgrounds. Lower numbers of neighborhood parks in the unincorporated areas, especially Los Vecinos-Carnue, North 14, Pajarito-Los Padillas and North Albuquerque Acres NCAs can be explained by the fact that there are large amounts of open space in these areas and therefore, there is less need for neighborhood parks. This was confirmed by public input in those areas.

By 2030 many of the gaps in level-of-service are projected to increase. These gaps are especially significant in areas of greater population growth such as the West Side (Paradise Hills NCA) and the East

		Total Parks	Developed	Open Space	Regional	Community	Neighborhood	Community	Aquatics	Inclusive									
		Open Space	Park Land	Open Space	Parks	Parks	Parks	Centers	Facilities	Playgrounds									
Total	Total	Aces	Aces	Aces	Aces	Aces	Aces	Center	Aqua-	Facility									
Pop. 2010	Aces	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 15,000	per 15,000	per 15,000									
Pop. 2010	Aces	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 15,000	per 15,000	per 15,000									
Community Area																			
Total County	650,619	34,567	53	3,893	6	30,674	47	2,211	3.4	1,210	1.9	471	0.7	35	0.8	20	0.5	2	0.2
Unincorporated County	108,000	2,047	19	1,065	10	982	9	793	7.3	219	2.0	56	0.5	7	1.0	5	0.7	1	0.5
Paradise Hills	52,540	928	18	148	3	780	15	-	-	99	1.9	49	0.9	1	0.3	1	0.3	-	-
North Valley	49,989	1,527	31	507	10	1,020	20	375	7.5	93	1.9	39	0.8	3	0.9	2	0.6	1	1.0
North ABQ Acres	36,842	911	25	261	7	650	18	138	3.7	89	2.4	34	0.9	1	0.4	1	0.4	-	-
North 14	12,101	3,520	291	50	4	3,470	287	19	1.6	30	2.5	1	0.1	1	1.2	-	-	-	-
Central Core Area	122,933	772	6	622	5	150	1	333	2.7	191	1.6	98	0.8	9	1.1	5	0.6	1	0.4
Atrisco-Westside	48,076	668	14	148	3	520	11	51	1.1	74	1.5	23	0.5	3	0.9	1	0.3	-	-
Los Vecinos - Carnue	13,562	2,477	183	27	2	2,450	181	-	-	16	1.2	11	0.8	1	1.1	-	-	-	-
Pajarito-Los Padillas	18,994	797	42	67	4	730	38	10	0.5	38	2.0	19	1.0	1	0.8	2	1.6	-	-
Mountainview-Mesa del Sol	4,899	2,349	479	639	130	1,710	349	630	128.6	5	1.0	4	0.8	1	3.1	-	-	-	-
Benavillo County Level-of-Service Goal		10	5	20	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

		Total Parks	Developed	Open Space	Regional	Community	Neighborhood	Community	Aquatics	Inclusive									
		Open Space	Park Land	Open Space	Parks	Parks	Parks	Centers	Facilities	Playgrounds									
Total Proj.	Total	Aces	Aces	Aces	Aces	Aces	Aces	Center	Aqua-	Facility									
Pop. 2030	Aces	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 15,000	per 15,000	per 15,000									
Pop. 2030	Aces	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 1000	per 15,000	per 15,000	per 15,000									
Community Area																			
Total County	758,178	34,567	46	3,893	5	30,674	40	2,211	2.9	1,210	1.6	471	0.6	35	0.7	20	0.4	2	0.1
Unincorporated County	140,000	2,047	15	1,065	8	982	7	793	5.7	219	1.6	56	0.4	7	0.8	5	0.5	1	0.4
Paradise Hills /Westside	66,081	928	14	148	2	780	12	-	-	99	1.5	49	0.7	1	0.2	1	0.2	-	-
North Valley	52,465	1,527	29	507	10	1,020	19	375	7.1	93	1.8	39	0.7	3	0.9	2	0.6	1	1.0
North ABQ Acres	39,150	911	23	261	7	650	17	138	3.5	89	2.3	34	0.9	1	0.4	1	0.4	-	-
North 14 / San Antonio	19,565	3,520	180	50	3	3,470	177	19	1.0	30	1.5	1	0.1	1	0.8	-	-	-	-
Central Core Area	117,080	772	7	622	5	150	1	333	2.8	191	1.6	98	0.8	9	1.2	5	0.6	1	0.4
Armijo-Westside	45,418	668	15	148	3	520	11	51	1.1	74	1.6	23	0.5	3	1.0	1	0.3	-	-
Carnuel-Los Vecinos	17,296	2,477	143	27	2	2,450	142	-	-	16	0.9	11	0.6	1	0.9	-	-	-	-
Pajarito-Los Padillas	21,838	797	36	67	3	730	33	10	0.5	38	1.7	19	0.9	1	0.7	2	1.4	-	-
Mountainview-Mesa del Sol	38,920	2,349	60	639	16	1,710	44	630	16.2	5	0.1	4	0.1	1	0.4	-	-	-	-
Benavillo County Level-of-Service Goal		10	5	20	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Figure 4.6: Level of Service Standards for 2015 and 2030

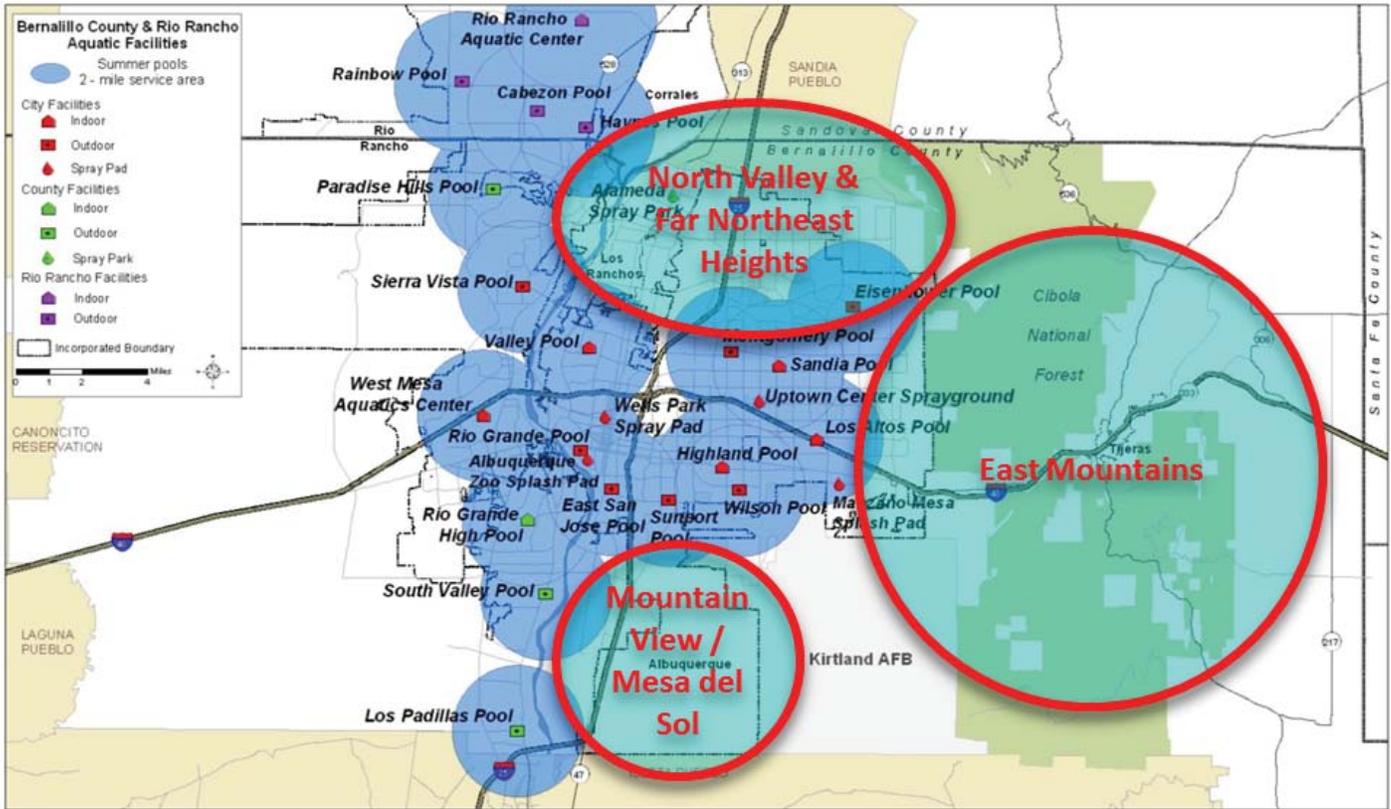


Figure 4.7: Gaps in swimming pool service

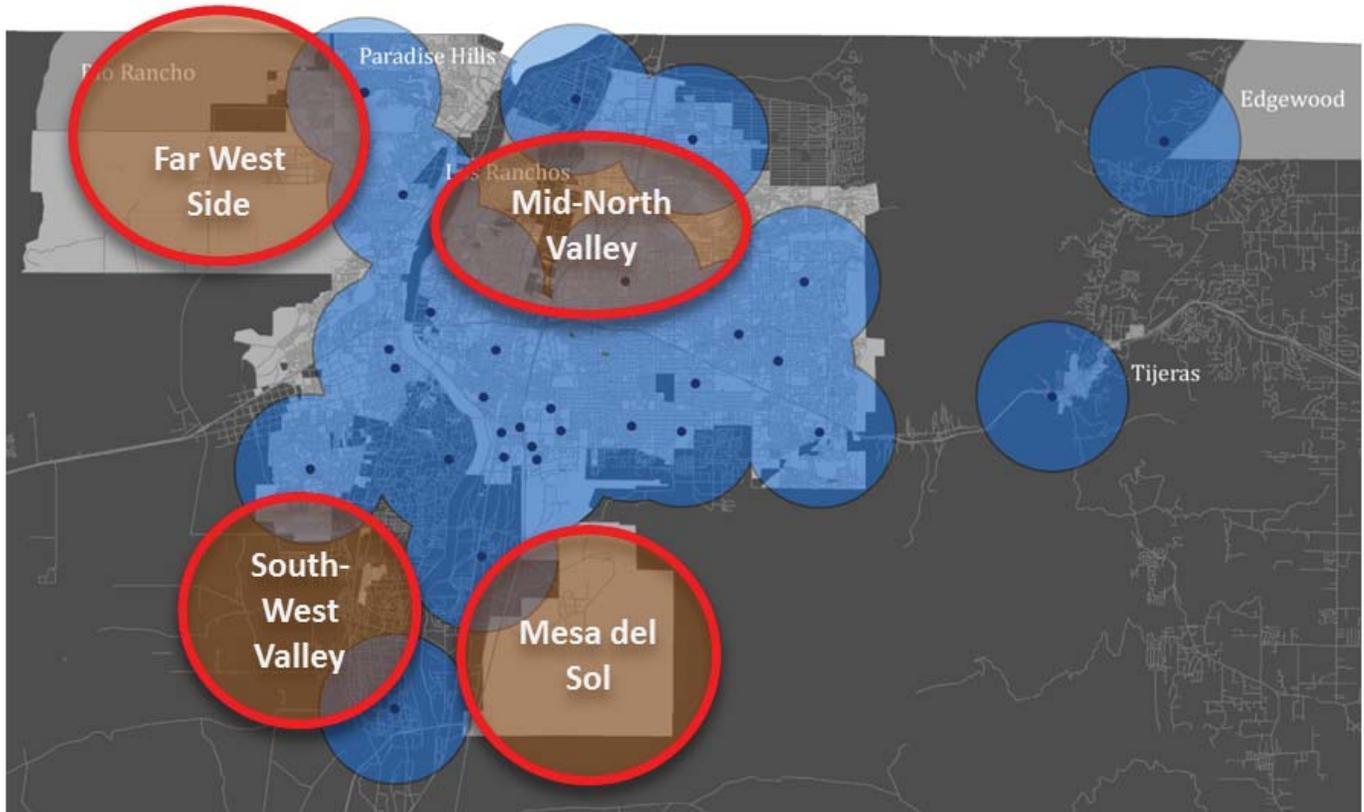


Figure 4.8: Gaps in community center service

Mountians. Some of these gaps should be met through the development process, which will result in impact fees and land dedications. Neighborhood parks, for example, are often provided by the developer, because they serve the residential neighborhoods that are in the process of being built out. For rural and reserve areas master planned under the Planned Community Criteria, the required master plan will include a phased plan for providing parks, recreation and open space facilities that meets the level-of-service standards and a commitment to provide those facilities at no net-expense (capital or operations and maintenance) to the County.

Key findings with regard to the County meeting the level-of-service goals in the different NCA's are as follows:

- Paradise Hills is the most challenged of any of the NCAs and does not meet all but one of the level-of-service standards. This is due to the pace of growth has outstripped the ability of the City to provide parks and recreation facilities in this area. The gap is projected to increase dramatically in five of nine categories by 2030. The County will have to work with the City to identify opportunities to remedy these shortfalls through acquisition and development of undeveloped lands and increasing the scale of existing facilities such as Paradise Hills Community Center.
- North Valley NCA has one of the two fully-inclusive playgrounds in the county, but it is in need of an additional community center and pool. This is confirmed by the maps in **Figure 4.7** and **4.8**, which show a gap in the service area coverage of both pools and community centers in the North Valley. By 2030, the area is projected to be also lacking in neighborhood parks.
- North Albuquerque Acres is also lacking in both pools and community centers. This gap is illustrated in the same maps. In the past the community has not been supportive of development of these types of facilities in the unincorporated area. The City's new North Domingo Baca Community Center and the adjacent proposed aquatics facility will start to address the community's need for these facilities. This was confirmed by the community input.
- North 14 and Los Vecinos NCAs are lacking in both developed parks and aquatics facilities. However, the current water supply and infrastructure cannot support a swimming pool, and the community there is less interested in parks as compared to

open space. The community did express interest in expanding existing community center sites to provide additional park spaces and facilities and in the developing of some limited park like amenities where appropriate at County and City open space facilities.

- The Central Urban Area has sufficient community centers, pools and inclusive playgrounds, but it is lacking in open space and regional park facilities. The UNM North Golf Course was a key first step in dealing with these gaps, but further efforts will be difficult because the area is largely built-out. Redevelopment of the State Fair Grounds and future base closures or realignment could provide opportunities to meet these gaps in level-of-service.
- With respect to the South Valley NCAs, open space and community center coverage is ample, although the majority of the County open spaces in that area are agricultural. Atrisco-Westside is underserved with respect to developed park land and all types of parks and aquatics facilities. Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA is over-served with respect to aquatic facilities, but has no regional facilities. Mountainview-Mesa del Sol is over-served with respect of regional facilities, but has no aquatics facility.

These facility needs and their context are more specifically described in the NCA chapters of Section 5.

Service Area Analysis: Specific facility types were the subject of a service area analysis, in order to better understand the spatial distribution of those facilities. Community members expressed concerns about travel times to get access to community centers and swimming pools. Based on an old NRPA standard, a two mile radius was used in both cases.

Figures 4.7 and **4.8** show the spatial coverage of community centers and swimming pools, respectively. The community centers map shows gaps on the far northwest in the area of the Volcano Heights and Ventana Ranch developments, the mid-North Valley, the southwest/Pajarito Mesa area of the South Valley, and Mesa del Sol. The City has indicated that it will plan for a facility in the northwest area within the next 10 years, but in the near term, the County's Paradise Hills facility will continue to serve an enormous population. Gyms are an important feature of every community center and are in high demand. This is particularly true in the Northern portion of County, and especially the Northwest. The County has had to negotiate use

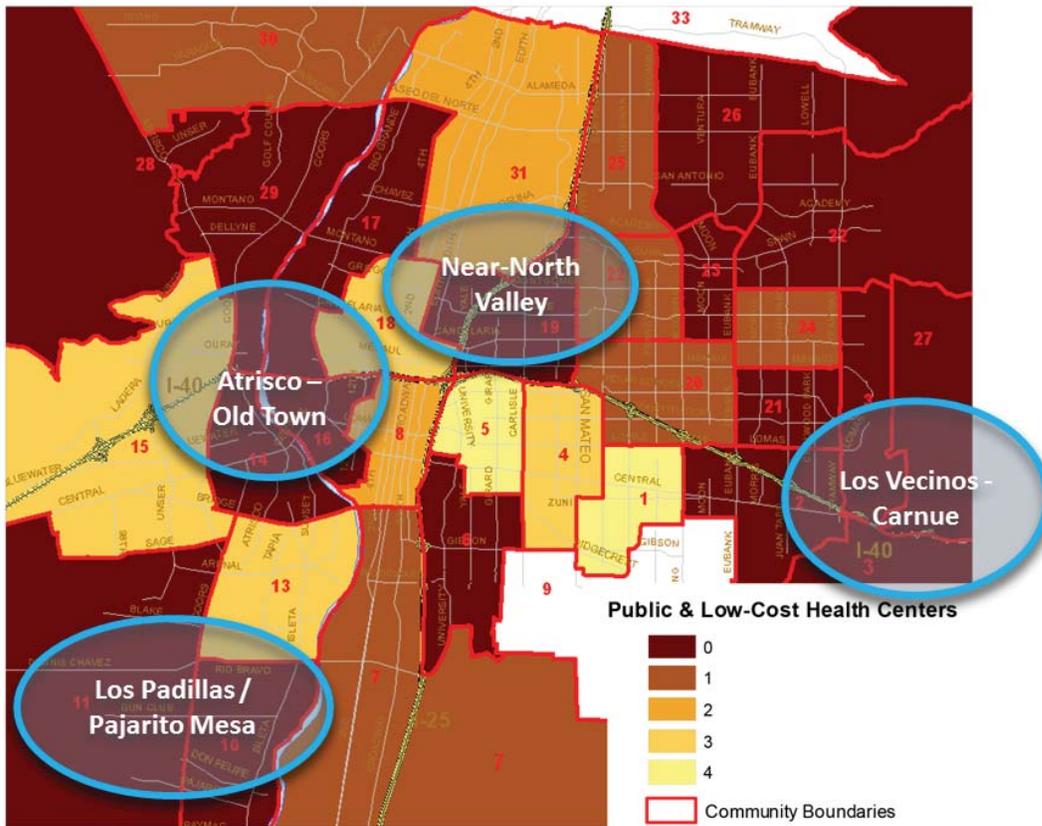


Figure 4.9: Gaps in health facility service

agreements with APS to for gymspace just for game-play and is still not meeting demand. Additional gyms will be needed throughout the County, but especially in the northern area. Similiarly, the north end of the County will need additional playing fields.

With respect to swimming pools, there is a gap in service in the North Valley and Northeast Heights, in the Mountainview-Mesa del Sol area, and there is a major gap in the East Mountains. The area of coverage of swimming pools roughly corresponds with development patterns in the region up through the early 1990’s. Only one new pool location has been brought on-line and three pools have been taken out of service in the ensuing years because of the enormous expense of building and maintaining pools. Pools in the East Mountains are not feasible at this time due to limits to water quantity and water system capacity. A public swimming facility could only be considered if and when the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority extends a water line to Tijeras. In the interim, there is the possibility of building a splash park, which with sound water conservation and re-use practices could be sustained by the Village of Tijeras water system. The possible loss of the South Valley pool (which as of the date of the Plan is closed), would create

another gap, unless the County built a new aquatics facility there or in the neighboring Mountainview-Mesa del Sol NCA.

Community Health Analysis: A group of community health organizations have collaborated on a series of community health assessments for the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County area. **Figure 4.9** shows the relative number of low-cost health clinics. Other maps show fresh food and health care deserts in the South Valley and the International District, and show preponderances of community health indicators in Mountainview, the Mid-North Valley, Downtown, Atrisco and the Internaitonal District. County facilities could potentially play a role in alleviating these situations by providing access to fresh food and health resources in those areas. This map and others mapping other criteria were used by the Albuquerque Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Team to identify vulnerable communities from a community health standpoint. The goal of the latter study is to identify and fund projects to increase opportunities for exercise and access to health care in the South Valley (Atrisco-Westside NCA and Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA) and the International District (Central Urban NCA).



5. NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY AREA PLANNING SUMMARIES

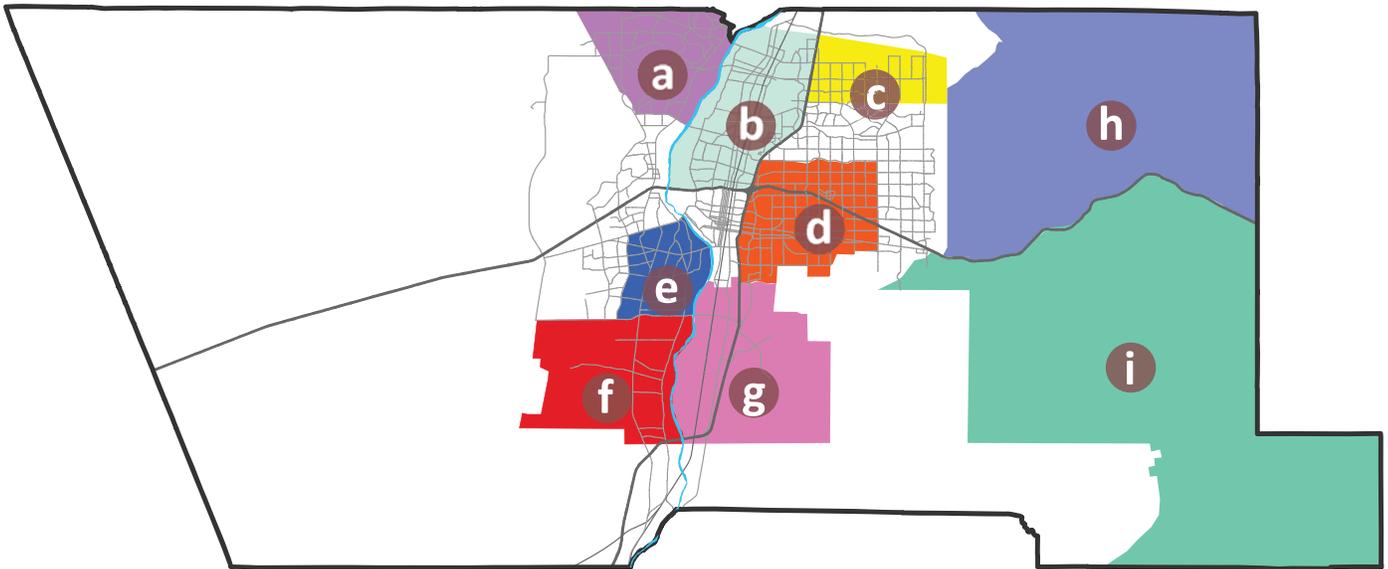


Figure 5.1: Neighborhood Community Area Locations

The Neighborhood Community Areas (NCAs) are geographical areas in Bernalillo County that include several neighborhoods that typically have common social and physical characteristics, and a shared sense of community identity. They include the following:

a. PARADISE HILLS

The Paradise Hills NCA is a rapidly-growing and largely suburban residential area in the northwest quadrant of the County straddling the edge of the volcanic escarpment, and features a cluster of County facilities around the Paradise Hills Community Center.

b. NORTH VALLEY

The North Valley NCA is an older part of the County along the east side of the Rio Grande that features both urban and rural areas, a wide range of land uses, including historic acequias and agriculture. The area has the County's award winning Bachechi Open Space and first fully-inclusive playground at La Ladera Park

c. NORTH ALBUQUERQUE ACRES

The North Albuquerque Acres NCA is the most affluent NCA with highest median age, and features low density suburban residential neighborhoods and easy access to open spaces along arroyos and in the foothills, such as Vista Sandia Equestrian Park.

d. CENTRAL URBAN

The Central Urban NCA is located entirely within the City of Albuquerque and features a very diverse population living in a wide range of older, denser neighborhoods including those in the University area and the International District. County investments in the area include the UNM North Golf Course and the ID Story Garden Plaza and mobility improvements.

e. ATRISCO-WESTSIDE

The Atrisco-Westside NCA is located in the northern-most part of the South Valley, and is characterized by dense urban neighborhoods next to agricultural lands, and is host to the Dia de los Muertos Marigold Parade which ends at the County's Westside Community Center.

f. PAJARITO-LOS PADILLAS

The Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA encompasses the South Valley south of Rio Bravo, and is rural and agricultural in character. This area is viewed by the County as a potential location for future agro-tourism anchored by the Gutierrez-Hubbell House.

g. MOUNTAINVIEW-MESA DEL SOL

The Mesa del Sol-Mountainview NCA includes the unincorporated east side of the South Valley and the new development at Mesa del Sol. It is characterized by the close proximity of industrial uses to residential uses and features the largest agricultural tracts in the County including the new urban national wildlife refuge.

h. NORTH HIGHWAY 14

The North 14 NCA encompasses the East Mountains communities north of I-40, is sparsely-populated and primarily rural in character, and features the County's Carlito Springs and Ojito de San Antonio Open Spaces.

i. LOS VECINOS-CARNUE

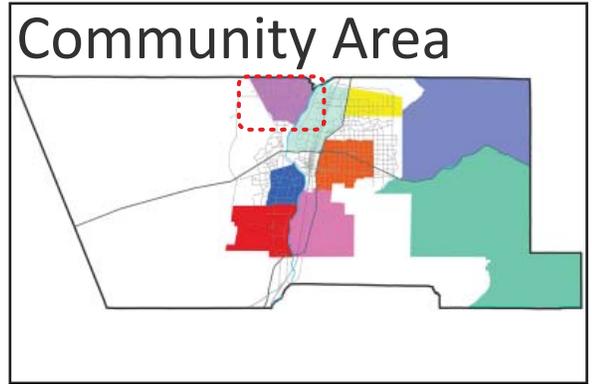
The Los Vecinos-Carnue NCA is home to the diverse East Mountains communities south of I-40 from Carnue to Chililli with low density suburban amenity development in between. This area is served by the County's Los Vecinos Community Center and a variety of County, City and Forest Service managed open space facilities on and around Cedro Peak.

5a. PARADISE HILLS Neighborhood Community Area



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The Paradise Hills Neighborhood Community Area (NCA) is bounded by the Bernalillo County boundary to the north, the Rio Grande to the east, Montano to the south, and Atrisco/Unser to the west. Remnants of the volcanic escarpment that was common throughout this part of the West Side can be found as basalt outcroppings on-site. Paradise Hills NCA is in County Commission District 4.
- Because of the recent pace of residential development on the West Side, primarily in the City of Albuquerque (City), the Paradise Hills NCA is underserved with respect to almost every type of facility other than neighborhood parks.
- The county investment in this area is centered on the Paradise Hills Community Center (PHCC), which is the heart of a cluster of Bernalillo County recreation facilities that includes Paradise Hills Park, Pool, Senior Annex, and the recently renovated Paradise Hills Little League.
- The core of the community process was a three-day community workshop held onsite at the PHCC, that from the start, highlighted mobility, accessibility and capacity issues affecting the center and pool. There was also considerable input from the senior community for expansion of the annex to accommodate more programming and the addition of a therapeutic pool as part of the aquatics facility.
- The community center, pool and senior annex currently serves an area with between 45,000 and 50,000 people (more than twice any other center in the County) and will, in the future, serve close to 90,000 people, most of whom reside in the City. All of its programs are over-subscribed, and the City has no plans for a new center, pool or senior facility west of the Rio Grande and north of I-40.
- The center and the pool are one of only two community centers and pools north of I-40 and west of the river. The next nearest senior facility and pool facility is in Rio Rancho. There are only two gyms available for programming in the same area, and currently the majority of indoor basketball teams come from this area.
- There are major issues with respect to accessibility, mobility connections, parking and pedestrian connections for the group of facilities anchored by PHCC, which will be exacerbated by any increase in the size and programming of existing facilities. There are also major pedestrian safety and connectivity issues with respect to the James Monroe Middle School and Sunset View Elementary School on the south side of Paradise Hills Boulevard, and the center and the neighborhood.
- As a result of the pace of development, only the overall greenspace acreage and neighborhood park level-of-service standards are currently being met. Meanwhile, the vast majority of the undeveloped land in this service area is within the incorporated city limits. Other than what can be accommodated at the Paradise Hills



Paradise Hills Senior Annex

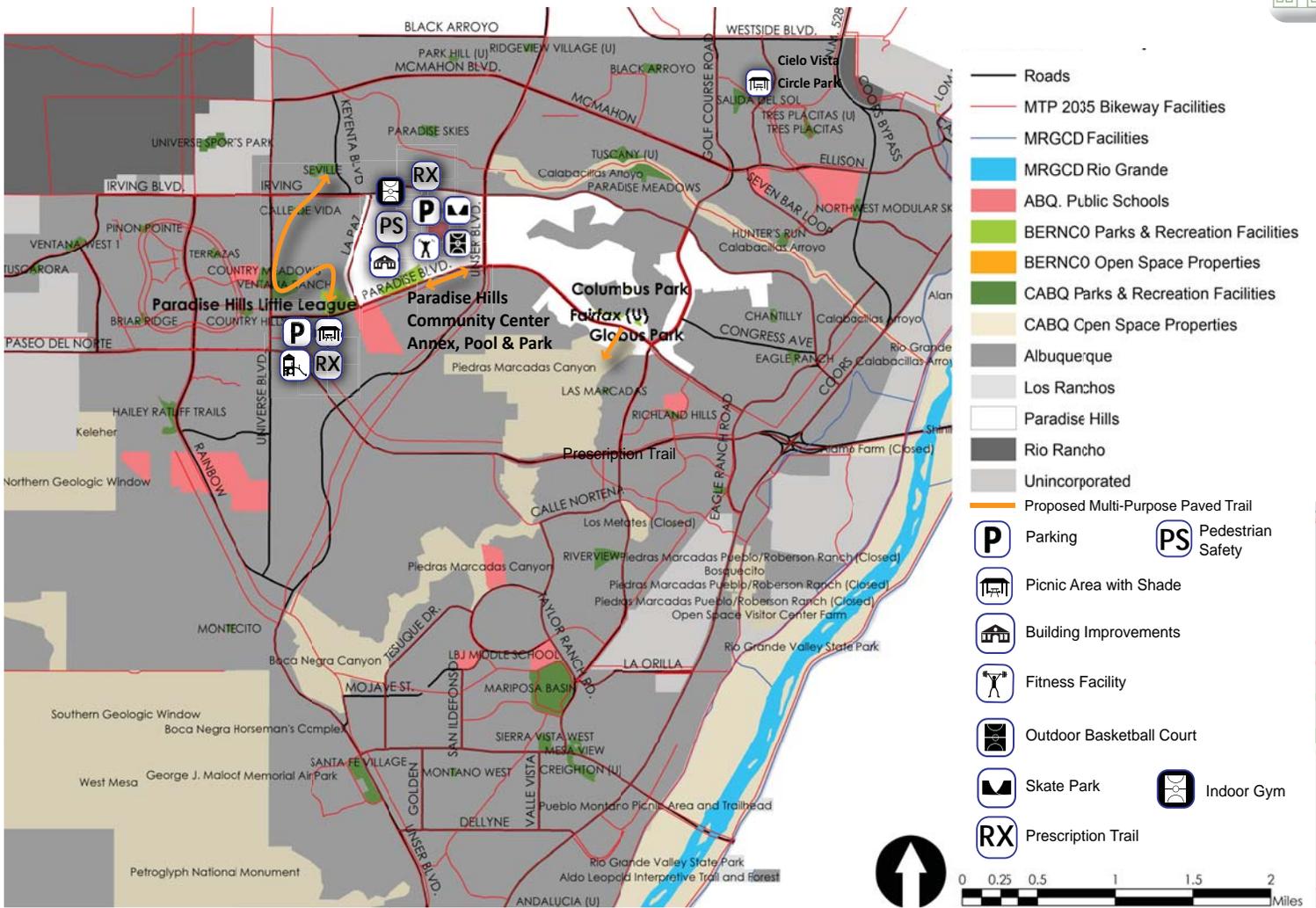


Paradise Hills Gym



Paradise Hills Children Input Session

EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES



site, meeting the level-of-service deficits will have to be undertaken by the City. The county can coordinate with the City and support the City’s efforts to secure legislative appropriations to develop additional facilities.

- Paradise Hills Park is one of the older facilities in the county system, and although there were recent irrigation and playground upgrades, to function optimally, the facility would have to have an updated skate park, additional parking, lighting and a band shell/stage for outdoor performances. The Park is also a drainage basin, which must accommodate existing flows, even if changes to the perimeter or interior are proposed to accommodate more parking and addition of new structures.
- With the the help of funding from the State and the City, the County recently added two fields and additional parking to Paradise Hills Little League park. This project is an important precedent for future facility improvements in the Paradise Hills NCA. The core area between the fields and the north parking are in need of upgrades to meet ADA standards and reduce wind born dust and ongoing erosion issues.
- Other county facilities in the area include Fairfax, Cielo Vista, Columbus and Globus parks. Fairfax and Cielo Vista parks are not developed, and in the future could potentially serve as dog or pocket parks. Cielo Vista Neighborhood Associaiton has requested that the neighborhood park be developed, though its small size and location precludes many park features.
- The following is a list of county facilities in the Paradise Hills NCA:
 - ◇ Paradise Hills Community Center, Pool, Annex & Park
 - ◇ Paradise Hills Little League Park
 - ◇ Paradise Hills Boulevard Trail
 - ◇ Columbus & Globus Neighborhood Parks
 - ◇ Fairfax & Cielo Vista Parks (undeveloped)

PARADISE HILLS NCA (continued)

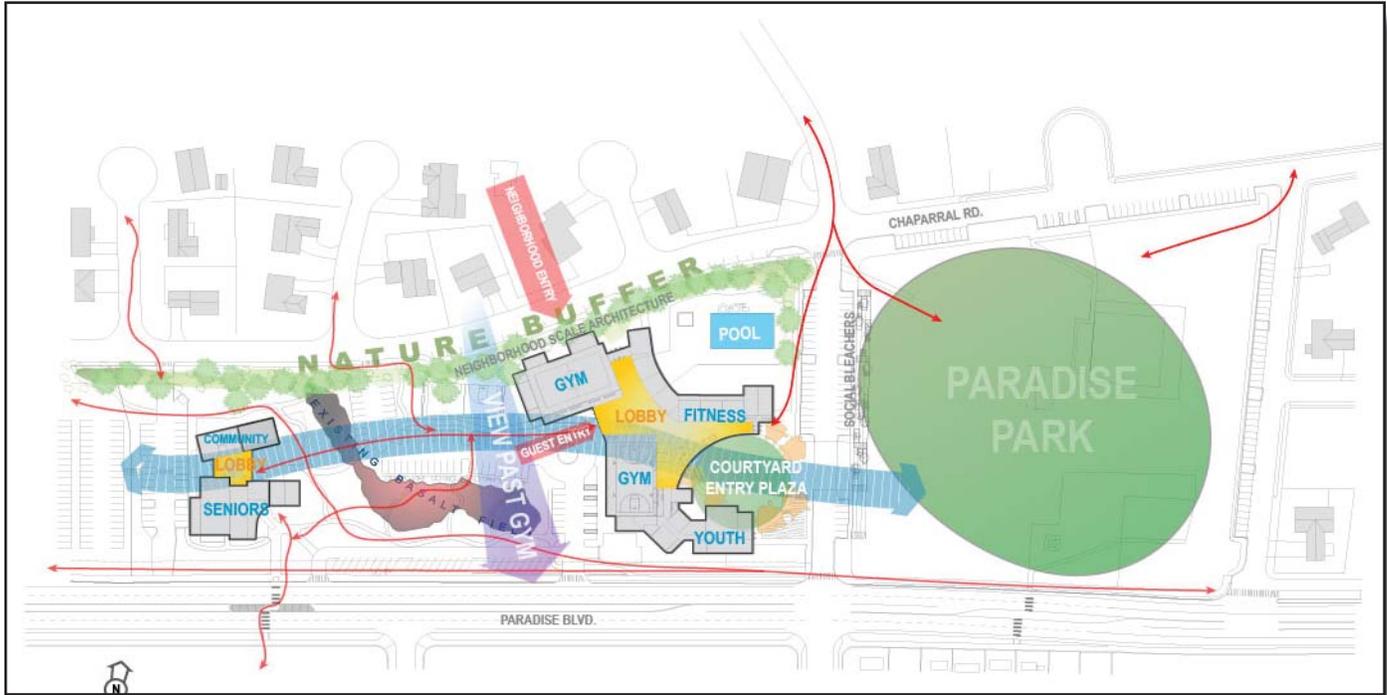


Figure 5a.1: Paradise Hills NCA Conceptual Plan



Figure 5a.2: Paradise Hills Community Center Conceptual Physical Model

RECOMMENDATIONS



The list of proposed facilities is designed to meet the needs of the West Side, which is the fastest growing area in Bernalillo County. The plans for the new facilities are rooted in a sense of place with future site development embracing the remaining swath of basalt field and a new, dynamic courtyard that opens to a beautiful view of the Sandias. The following are key recommendations for the new facilities:

- **Paradise Hills Building Expansion:** Approximately 38,030 total square feet (sf) of new program is proposed to be added over several phases to the existing 15,000 sf center and 5,700 sf annex.
 - ◊ **New Indoor Program Elements:** The addition to the center is proposed to include a second gymnasium, fitness space with changing / locker rooms for dual use with the pool, flexible community meeting rooms, a large lobby and a demonstration kitchen.
 - ◊ **Annex Expansion:** The annex expansion is proposed to include a community meeting room, instructional kitchen, and senior game rooms. The Annex can operate as a stand-alone facility, or integrate with the whole campus.
 - ◊ **Parking:** 287 new parking spaces are to be added over several phases for a total of 312 (including 116 spaces added around Paradise Park, 25 existing Annex spaces, and 60 leased from the adjacent church west of the Annex). These spaces will be required for the 38,000 sf addition.
 - ◊ **Mobility & Pedestrian Safety:** Initial phases of redevelopment will focus on mobility, parking and pedestrian safety, so that future expansion of the center and elimination of parking on the east side of the building can be accommodated. A speed table and herringbone parking are proposed for Park Lane NW to slow traffic, increase safety for kids crossing from the center to the park and increase available parking. There will be extensive coordination with the County Public Works Department concerning the proposed reconfiguration of Park Lane and parking along the perimeter of Paradise Hills Park, and with APS and the City concerning crossings for Paradise Hills Boulevard and a proposed signal at the La Paz intersection. Traffic and drainage studies that build on earlier efforts by the City and County will be needed.
 - ◊ **The Pool:** Because of limited County resources, the aquatics needs of the other existing County facilities and NCAs and the fact that other aquatic facilities on the West Side have recently been renovated and or added (e.g. West Mesa Pool, Rio Rancho Aquatics Center, etc.), renovating the Paradise Hills pool into an indoor pool was deemed less important than other proposed improvements for this area, and so it has not been included in the Plan. The County will invest in ADA improvements as part implementing plans for the center as a whole, improving connections between pool, the center and parking. The center's new lobby, fitness center and changing area/locker room will also serve the pool.
- **Primary Outdoor Spaces and Landscape Improvements:** Will include a half-acre courtyard that opens to the Sandias, a native Basalt field and hill, community garden, outdoor sport courts, band shell, educational xeric landscape throughout community center/annex campus, plaza connection to Paradise Hills Park, and 'the bleachers' gathering area along the west edge of the park. Changes to the park will be necessary to accommodate the bleachers, parking along the western edge, a proposed band shell and a proposed upgrade to the existing skate park. Extensive coordination with County Public Works will be necessary to ensure that the improvements do not impair its function as drainage basin.
- **Trails:** Over 2000 linear feet (lf) of new trails are proposed to weave across the site and in and out of the Community Center. The goal is to build on the existing pedestrian facilities to provide increased connectivity from the Little League through the annex and center sites to Paradise Hills Park on the east, from the campus to the neighborhood and schools, and from the whole campus into the larger network of trails and recreational facilities

PARADISE HILLS NCA (continued)

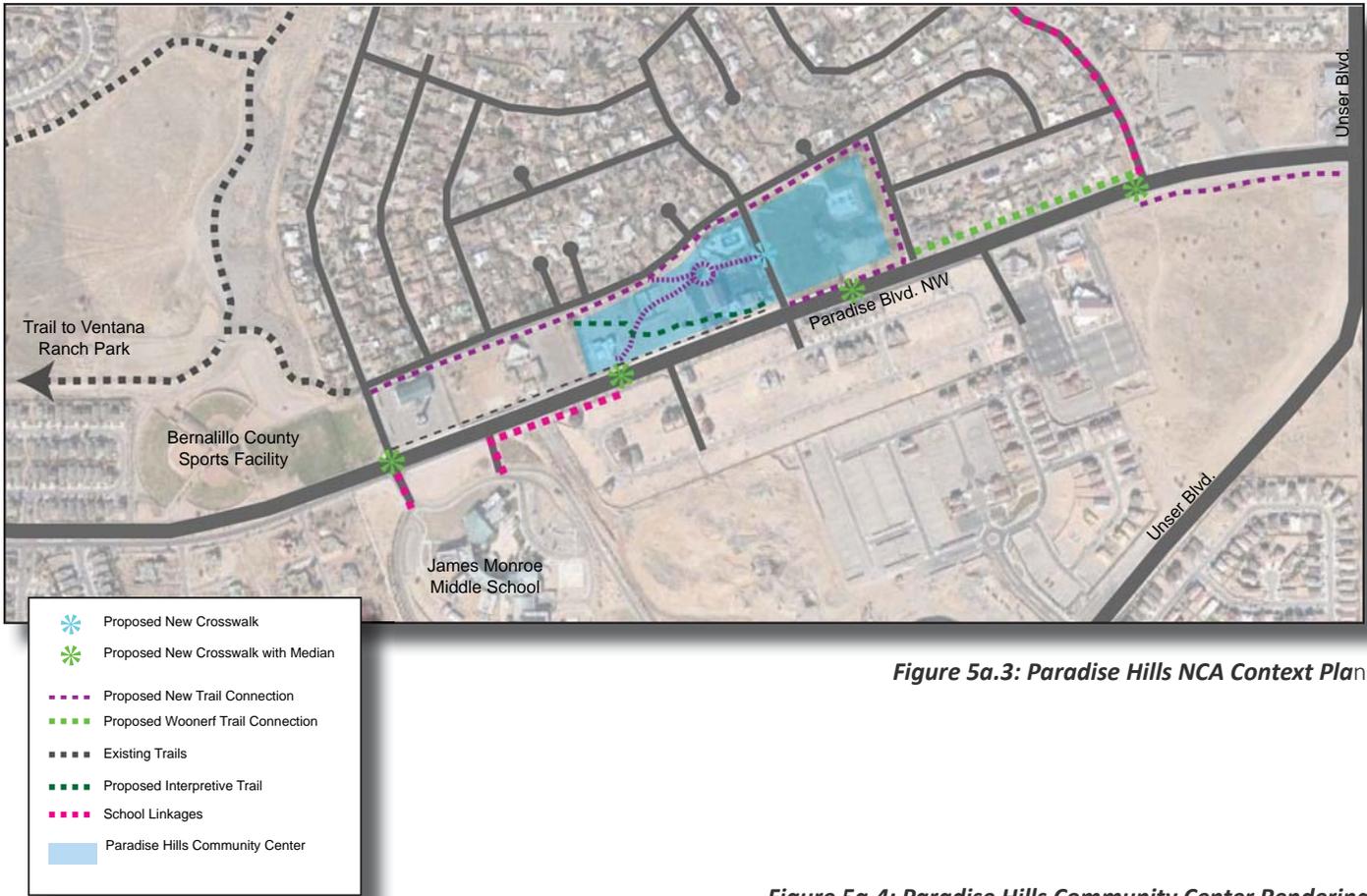


Figure 5a.3: Paradise Hills NCA Context Plan

Figure 5a.4: Paradise Hills Community Center Rendering





CIP LIST

such as the City’s Ventana Ranch Park and the Paradise Hills multi-purpose paved bike trail system to the east.

Additional connections are also proposed from the Paradise Hills Boulevard Trail to Paradise Hills Park and to the City’s Piedras Marcadas Open Space.

- Paradise Hills Little League:** With funding from the State and the City, the County recently renovated the Little League park to add two new fields and structured parking on the east side of the site. Initial discussions have begun with the Little League regarding a master plan for some additional future improvements to the north parking area, the core area between the fields, and the “mound” on the south of the site. Improvements being proposed include a play structure, additional paved accessible areas, a shade structure, paved footings for bleachers and score box areas and ancillary landscaping. These improvements will be designed and constructed as additional state capital outlay funds are made available.
- Cielo Vista Circle Park:** Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association has requested that the County owned, but undeveloped, Cielo Vista Circle Park become a xeric pocket-scale neighborhood park with a shade structure, fencing for dogs and tree plantings for additional shade and protection.
- Fairfax Park:** Fairfax Park, which is also undeveloped, is envisioned to eventually become a dog park for the area.
- Other Facilities:** Limited or no improvements will be needed to other County facilities in the NCA such as Globus and Columbus Parks in the area, other than those mandated by periodic irrigation and playground audits.

Project	Capital Cost	O & M Cost	Level of Priority
Center Circulation, Accessibility & Parking			
Traffic Warrant study & traffic light at La Paz & Paradise Blvd	\$ 275,000		
Parking around Paradise Park, pedestrian crossing plaza from Center to Park, Park bleachers & new landscaping at Park	\$ 275,000		
New bandshell structure in Park	\$ 350,000		
New advanced level skate park in Park	\$ 300,000		
Connect PHCC trails to Bernco & offsite trails	\$ 100,000		
	\$ 1,300,000		
Basalt Hill Parking			
Central parking areas through site from Paradise to Chaparral	\$ 175,000		
Landscaping through central area incl. along parking & basalt area	\$ 200,000		
Drainage improvements	\$ 60,000		
Outdoor basketball courts & landscaping	\$ 115,000		
	\$ 550,000		
PHCC Addition			
Lobby, admin, classrooms, fitness, lockers, racquetball (24,000 sf)	\$ 5,500,000		
Courtyard landscape	\$ 50,000		
	\$ 5,550,000		
Addition Gym			
New gymnasium & support spaces	\$ 2,200,000		
Landscaping at entry & gym (12,000 sf)	\$ 50,000		
	\$ 2,250,000		
Annex Addition			
Annex building additions	\$ 1,800,000		
PHCC Renovation			
Original building upgrade (8,000 sf)	\$ 3,000,000		
Neighborhood Park Development			
Cielo Vista Circle Park	\$ 75,000		
Fairfax Dog Park	\$ 75,000		
	\$ 150,000		
Little League Park Development			
ADA paved entry areas, north parking lot, play structure, shade structure & landscaping.	\$ 200,000		
	TOTAL \$ 14,800,000		

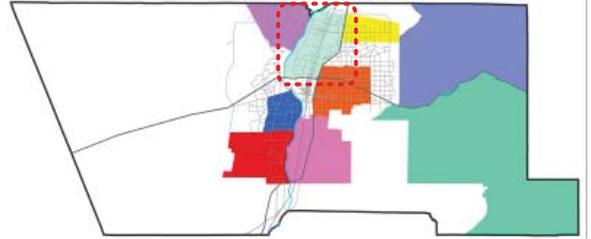
***All costs are estimated as of the completion of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, and are subject to change over time and as the project proceeds to construction. All projects are subject to availability of funds and Bernalillo County Commission approval.**

5b. NORTH VALLEY Neighborhood Community Area



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- North Valley NCA is bounded by the Rio Grande in the west, I-25 in the east, I-40 in the south, and Sandia Pueblo in the north. It is the most complex NCA-- it spans two County Commission districts, with large areas in the City of Albuquerque (City) and the Village of Los Ranchos (Village), and has a diversity neighborhoods and land uses.
- The North Valley NCA has some of the most urban areas and rural areas in the unincorporated part of the County, with heavy industrial uses flanking the rail line along the southern portion of 2nd Street and Edith Boulevard and a range of residential densities in other areas. Some agricultural uses remain in the north and east.
- The neighborhoods along the southern portion of 2nd and Edith tend to have a greater proportion of Hispanic residents and have lower median income than areas closer to the river. Although there continues to be infill development in this part of the County, substantial growth is unlikely during the term of this Plan.
- Overall, this NCA is well served with respect to total developed park land, open space and larger park facilities, which is primarily due to the bosque and the balloon fiesta park being included in the NCA. It is also host to a fully inclusive playground at La Ladera Park. By the numbers, the NCA is well-served by community centers, but they are clustered at the very southwest (Los Duranes, Los Griegos and Valle del Norte Community Centers) and northeast corners (Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center, which includes a Senior Meal Site), and Los Griegos is focused exclusively on health and senior services. As a result, there is need for a facility in the mid-valley. Because there is only one pool at Valley High School and a spray park at Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center, the mid-valley also has a need of an additional aquatics facility. There is also a need for more neighborhood and community scale parks.
- Community input focused on the development of “whole life center” facilities (Whole Life Center) in the mid-valley area, at Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center and the 4-H site. A number of community members were also interested in additional turf grass areas in the upper valley area and more trail connections and neighborhood parks in the mid and lower valley areas. The City’s new Vista del Norte Park on Osuna will meet some of those needs.
- Although the County supported the acquisition of the Anderson Field Open Space by the Village, the North Valley NCA currently has no County owned agricultural open space lands. There has been consistent support by the community in this area to preserve remaining agricultural lands, and to increase capacity of existing lands to support local food production. Land acquisition opportunities for larger sites that would be needed for agricultural uses or needed recreational facilities are limited, and should be taken advantage when opportunities present themselves.



North Valley Little League Opening Day

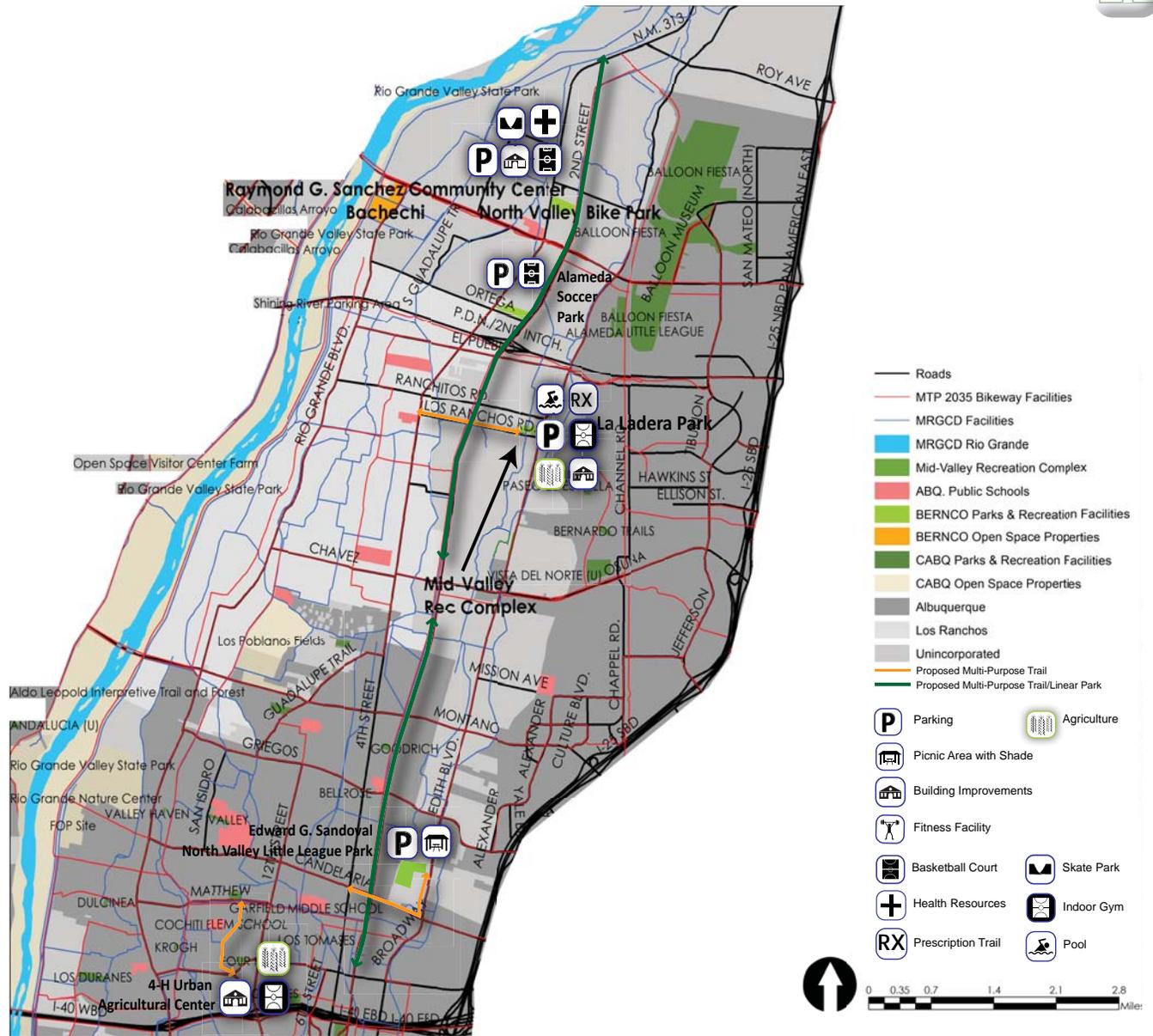


North Valley Acequia



La Ladera Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES



- The 2nd Street NW corridor along the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) right-of-way is a potential linear connection between facilities in the North Valley NCA with spur trails eastward to county recreation facilities on Edith and westward to City facilities and the bosque. Depending on resources and location there may be opportunities for pocket park facilities along the corridor and additional connecting ditch trails along MRGCD laterals where neighborhoods are supportive of such development.
- County facilities in the area include the following:
 - ◊ Bachechi Open Space
 - ◊ Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center (including a baseball field, soccer field, spray park and BMX track)
 - ◊ Alameda Multi-purpose Trail
 - ◊ Alameda Soccer Field
 - ◊ La Ladera Park
 - ◊ North Valley Little League
 - ◊ The 4-H Site
 - ◊ North Valley Library
 - ◊ First Choice Community Health Center

North Valley NCA (continued)

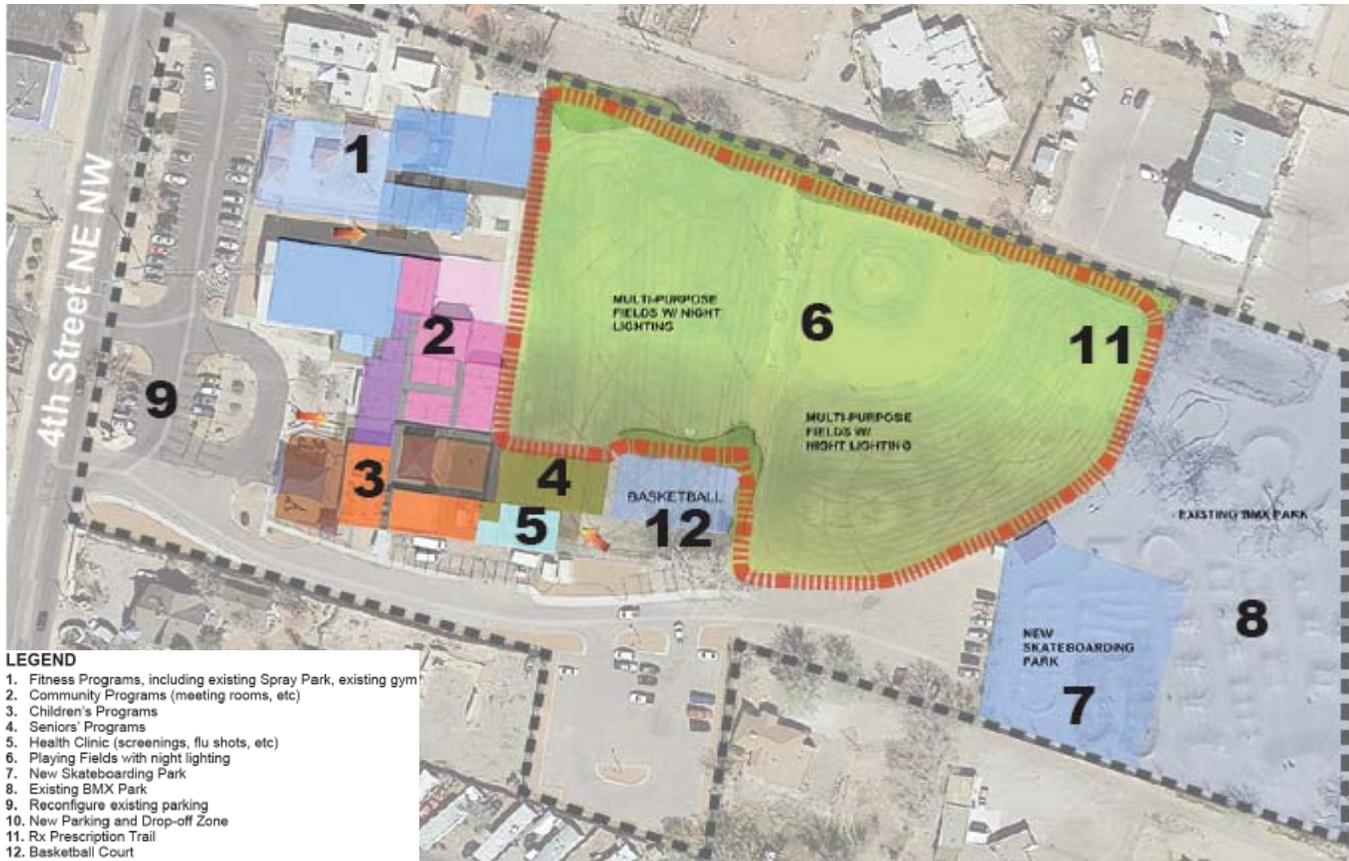


Figure 5b1: Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center Conceptual Plan



Figure 5b2: La Ladera Park Conceptual Plan



RECOMMENDATIONS



The primary recommendations for the North Valley NCA are to invest in facilities that meet needs for residents of the whole valley and strengthen connections between neighborhoods in the northern and southern portions of the Valley.

Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center: At Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center, Whole Life Center renovations are proposed, including separate spaces to meet the programming needs of seniors (without impacting the rest of the center's programming) and health screening and resources. Other renovations would include a fitness center addition and renovations to the lobby/core area and parking/access. Improvements are also proposed to the neighboring recreation facilities, including a new skate park, changes to turf areas and fencing to provide more flexibility in the use of the current ball field, a Prescription (Rx) Trail with a connection to the future 2nd Street Trail and a separate water system connection to the less expensive ABCWUA non-potable water line on Alameda for landscape irrigation.

4H Site: Whole Life Center-oriented renovations are also proposed for the 4-H building and Site. Based on building architectural evaluations, the existing 4H building needs significant improvements in order to meet the needs of the County Cooperative Extension Service (Extension) and 4-H programs. These needs include a functional teaching kitchen, gym, fitness, classroom spaces and outdoor spaces programmed for urban agriculture and environmental education. These renovations, which may include demolition and renovation of significant parts of the building, will result in a facility with fully programmable spaces to complement the existing facilities in the County Cooperative Extension Services building, nearby City facilities and the proposed Whole Life Center facility in the mid-valley.

La Ladera Park & Mid-Valley Recreation Complex: The County recently completed its first fully-inclusive playground at La Ladera Park. In 2015, the County will be completing acquisition of the parking lot that was a part of the church. Other plans for the eastern portion of the site include developing a fully ADA accessible perimeter Rx Trail and an accessible Zip-Line feature. The County is also evaluating the possibility of placing some of the proposed Whole Life Center facilities on the undeveloped west side La Ladera park. Originally, a large turf area was proposed for this area, but the City's development of turf areas at the new Vista del Norte Park just to the east on Osuna Boulevard has relieved some of this need. Two alternatives are being explored: 1) a satellite center to the Raymond G. Sanchez CC, which could include a pool, a fitness center, a gym, flexible meeting/classroom space and/or senior facility; and 2) a satellite center to the 4-H Site with a small building with offices, class room and rest facilities, hoop houses to grow vegetables and an arena for horse, livestock and rodeo classes and competitions.

The 2nd Street NW Trail: The 2nd Street NW Trail is a project being led by the County Public Works Division, which is proposed to run along the MRGCD's Alameda Drain. It will include a paved multi-purpose and a soft-surface trail running along either side of the drain, and depending on the availability of resources, pocket park elements- such as benches, shade structures, picnic areas, and community garden spaces- close to key intersections. From the 2nd Street NW Trail, there would be linking bike lanes and/or paved multi-purpose trail spurs to facilities such as the Mid-Valley Recreation Complex, the North Valley Little League, and La Ladera Park.

North Valley Little League Site: The County recently completed Phase 1 construction of the Edward G. Sandoval North Valley Little League project with four new fields and a parking lot. Scoping for Phase 2 design is underway, which will include a concession stand, shade structure, field lighting and landscaping. Thereafter, the county will seek to acquire adjacent land necessary to complete Phase 2, which includes another Junior field, an ADA challenger field, and supporting parking.

Bachechi Open Space: The Bachechi Open Space recently completed a multi-million dollar suite of improvements to support resource-based recreation and environmental education in the North Valley, including the award-winning Education Building and landscape. The County intends to further refine and implement plans for some of the sub-areas of the Open Space, including a 15 year management plan for the arboretum and wildlife habitat enhancements for the pollinator garden and other areas. The County also has plans at Bachechi to develop an Integrated Pest Management and Weed Management Plans, and continue to integrate citizen science in land health initiatives.

Other Facilities: Alameda Soccer Complex and the Alameda Trail are largely complete, and plans are being implemented to complete the renovation of the Alameda medians as funding from the State becomes available. These facilities and other completed facilities will continue to be audited and evaluated periodically to determine where upgrades to existing play structures and irrigation systems are necessary.

North Valley NCA (continued)

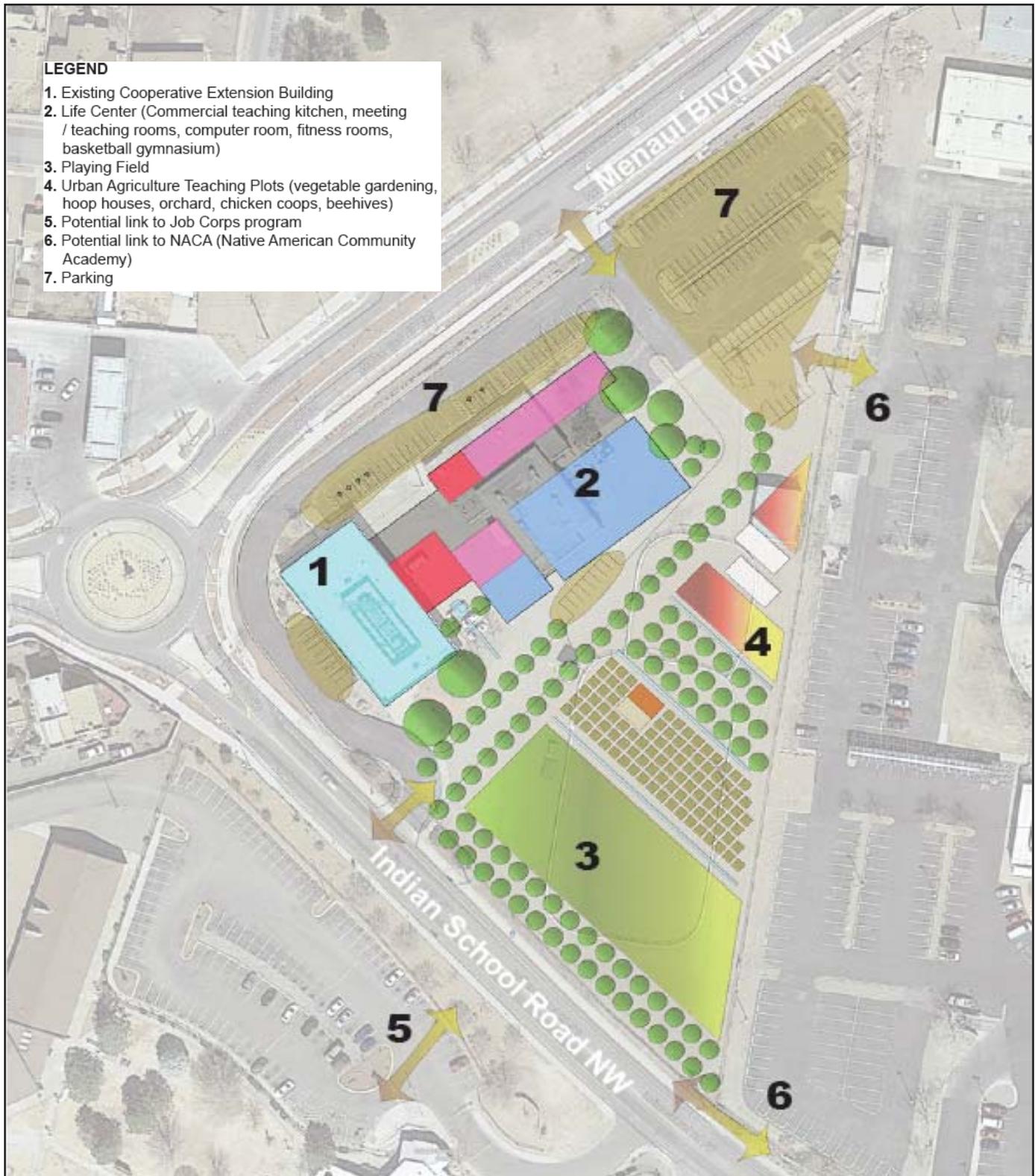


Figure 5b3: 4-H Site Renovation

\$ CIP LIST

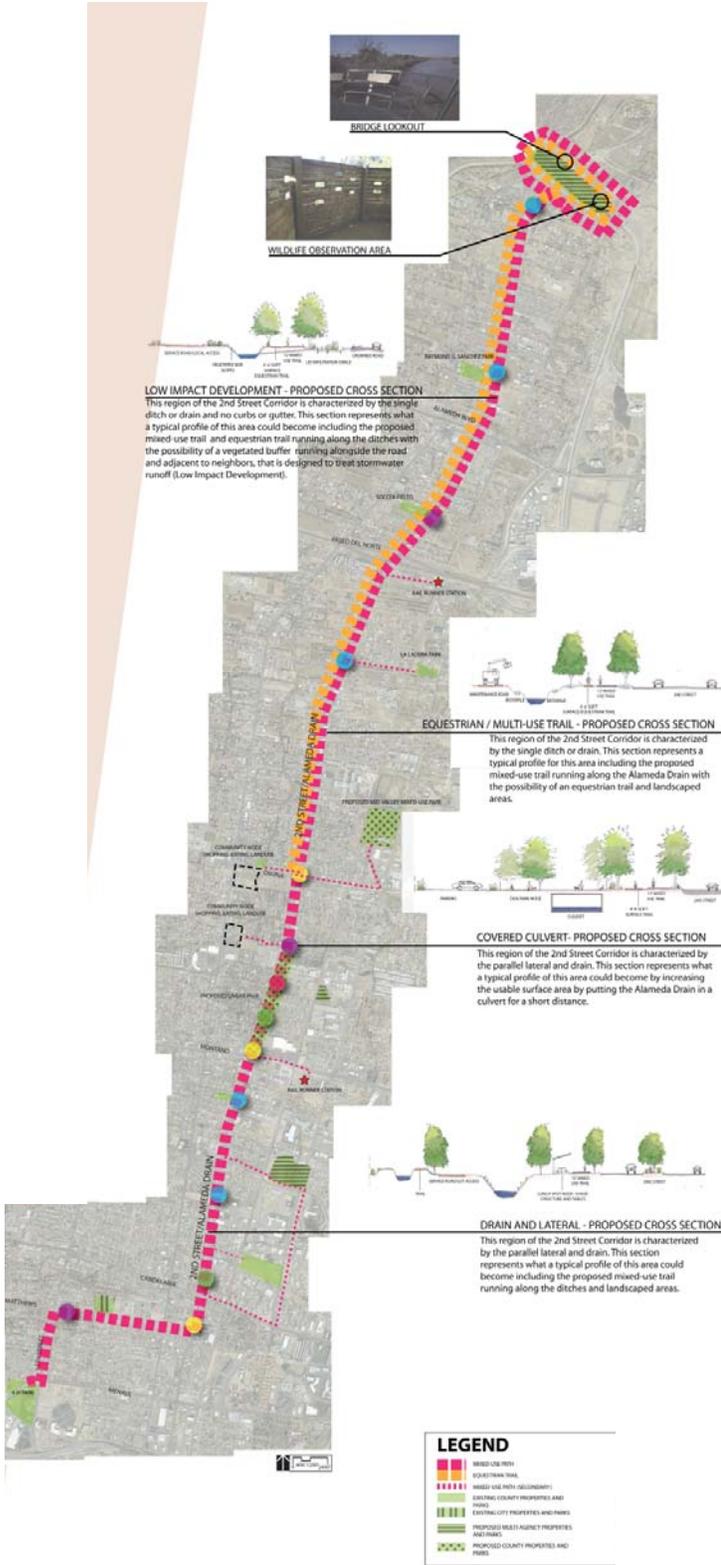


Figure 5b4: 2nd Street NW Corridor Concepts

Project	Total Cost	O & M Cost	Level of Priority
Raymond G. Sanchez Life Center Improvements			
Sitework (move court, irrigation redo, rx trail, re-work parking east side, re-trurf ball field)	\$ 850,000		
Building Renovation & Addition with new Lobby, Clinic & Senior Facility	\$ 5,000,000		
Additional Building with fitness center & locker rooms	\$ 2,100,000		
Skate Park (as part of bike area)	\$ 1,500,000		
Landscaping & ADA Parking Improvements	\$ 300,000		
	\$ 9,750,000		
La Ladera Park			
ADA Rx Trail	\$ 120,000		
Land acquisition of Church Plaza for Parking	\$ 90,000		
Soft Surface Trail along ditch	\$ 30,000		
New West Side Parking Area	\$ 60,000		
Shade Structure & Picnic Amenities	\$ 50,000		
	\$ 350,000		
Mid-Valley Satellite Center Features			
Corrals & Arena, Parking, Equestrian support facilities	\$ 200,000		
Hoop houses, water rights, irrigation system, farming support facilities	\$ 300,000		
Office & Education Building Space	\$ 1,000,000		
Gym, Fitness Center & Flexible Meeting Space	\$ 2,500,000		
Landscaping, Access & Parking Improvements	\$ 500,000		
Swimming Pool	\$ 3,500,000		
	\$ 8,000,000		
4-H Life Center			
Sitework & Demolition & Clean-up	\$ 300,000		
New Building Construction - Phase I (Classrooms, meeting rooms & Kitchen)	\$ 2,500,000		
Outdoor classrooms, community gardens, hoop houses	\$ 300,000		
New Building Construction - Phase II (Gym & support spaces)	\$ 1,800,000		
Landscaping, Rx Trail & ADA Parking Improvements	\$ 300,000		
	\$ 5,200,000		
Bachechi Open Space			
Pollinator Garden Habitat	\$ 100,000		
Arboretum Implementation	\$ 50,000		
Sensory Garden / Management Plans	\$ 50,000		
	\$ 200,000		
2nd Street Greenway			
Paved MP trail along 2nd Street - phase I	\$ 7,500,000		
Paved MP trail along 2nd Street - phase II	\$ 7,500,000		
Pocket park facilities & landscaping	\$ 1,000,000		
	\$ 16,000,000		
TOTAL	\$ 39,500,000		

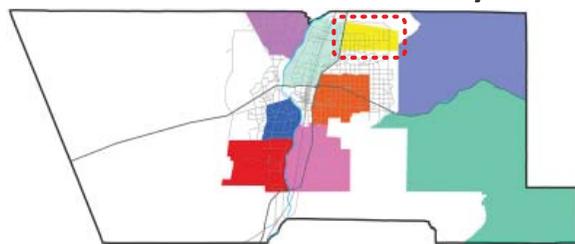
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5c. NORTH ALBUQUERQUE ACRES Neighborhood Community Area



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Bounded by Sandia Pueblo to the north, San Antonio Drive on the south, Interstate 25 to the west and the foothills to the east, North Albuquerque Acres NCA is located entirely within County Commission District 4, with a mix of incorporated City of Albuquerque land in the southwest portion of the NCA and unincorporated Bernalillo County to the northeast.
- The North Albuquerque Acres NCA is the most affluent NCA in the Plan. It has a low population density and a lesser need for youth programming than other NCAs. This area grew rapidly over the last two decades, and future growth is expected to be more modest.
- In the community meetings, it became clear that residents were generally happy with the level of service being provided by the County. As one community member said, "We think the County is doing a good job." In keeping with past input in this area, the general consensus was that the less development is better -- whether it is parks, residential or commercial development.
- The County is meeting or exceeding level-of-service targets in the North Albuquerque Acres NCA with developed park land and open space. Open space and recreational trail facilities are prevalent in the area, particularly with the nearby City-managed Elena Gallegos Open Space and USFS-managed Cibola National Forest. Residents strongly value these amenities.
- Since 2003, the County has completed a series of neighborhood parks, including W.L. Jackson Park and Pat Cassidy Park. In addition, the recreational facilities along the North Domingo Baca Dam area, which the County leases from the Albuquerque Metropolitan Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA), have been improved significantly, with the addition of Ben Greiner Soccer Fields, North Domingo Baca Tennis Courts and a series of expansions and improvements to the Altamont Little League facilities. A playground was also added to the Vista Sandia Equestrian Park. Because of these developments and the breadth and uniqueness of some of the facilities, the County now considers these facilities collectively as a regional facility.
- Community centers in the North Albuquerque Acres NCA are not currently meeting level-of-service targets, and this will begin to change with the completion of the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center by the City of Albuquerque in upcoming years. The center, with its fitness center and multi-purpose rooms, has satisfied the limited desire of residents in the NCA for a community center facility in the past. The City is also proposing the construction of an aquatics facility at the center, which is responding to a long-stated concern by the community.



Altamont Little League Park

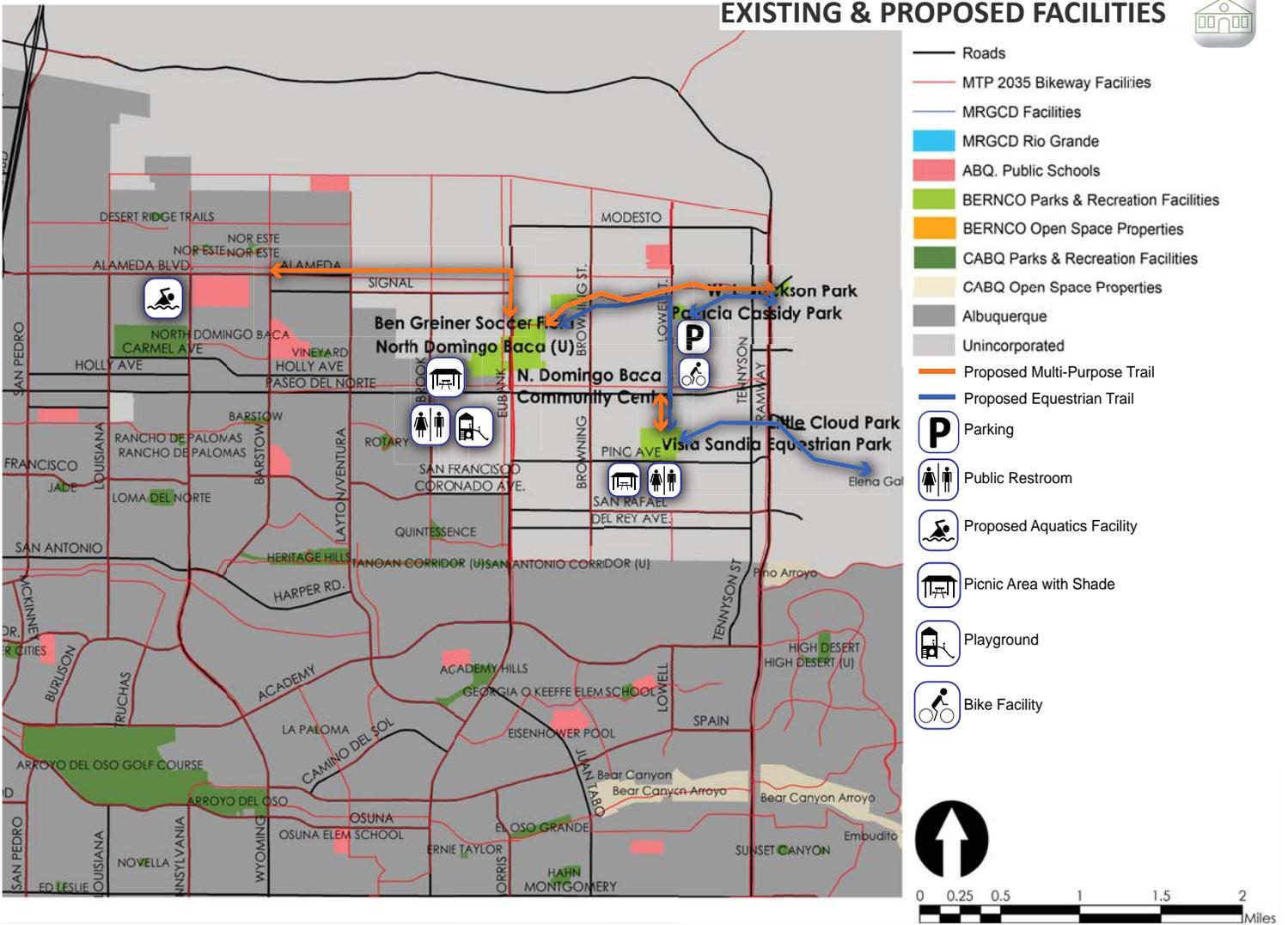


Pat Cassidy Park



Vista Sandia Equestrian Park

EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES



- The primary corridors in the North Albuquerque Acres NCA are well served for bicycles and pedestrians, and nearby open space opportunities in the Sandia Foothills. The multi-use trail along Tramway is well used by cyclists, joggers and walkers alike.
- Security at the County facilities is a major concern. The County is currently in the planning stages of a Park-Watch Program, which will involve neighborhood organizations, the County and the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) to develop a more coordinated approach to security at County facilities.
- County facilities in the area include the following:
 - ◊ Altamont Little League Park
 - ◊ Schmitt Hang Gliding Park
 - ◊ Ben Greiner Soccer Fields
 - ◊ Vista Sandia Equestrian Park
 - ◊ North Domingo Baca Tennis Facility
 - ◊ W.L. Jackson Park
 - ◊ Pat Cassidy Park

North Albuquerque Acres NCA (continued)

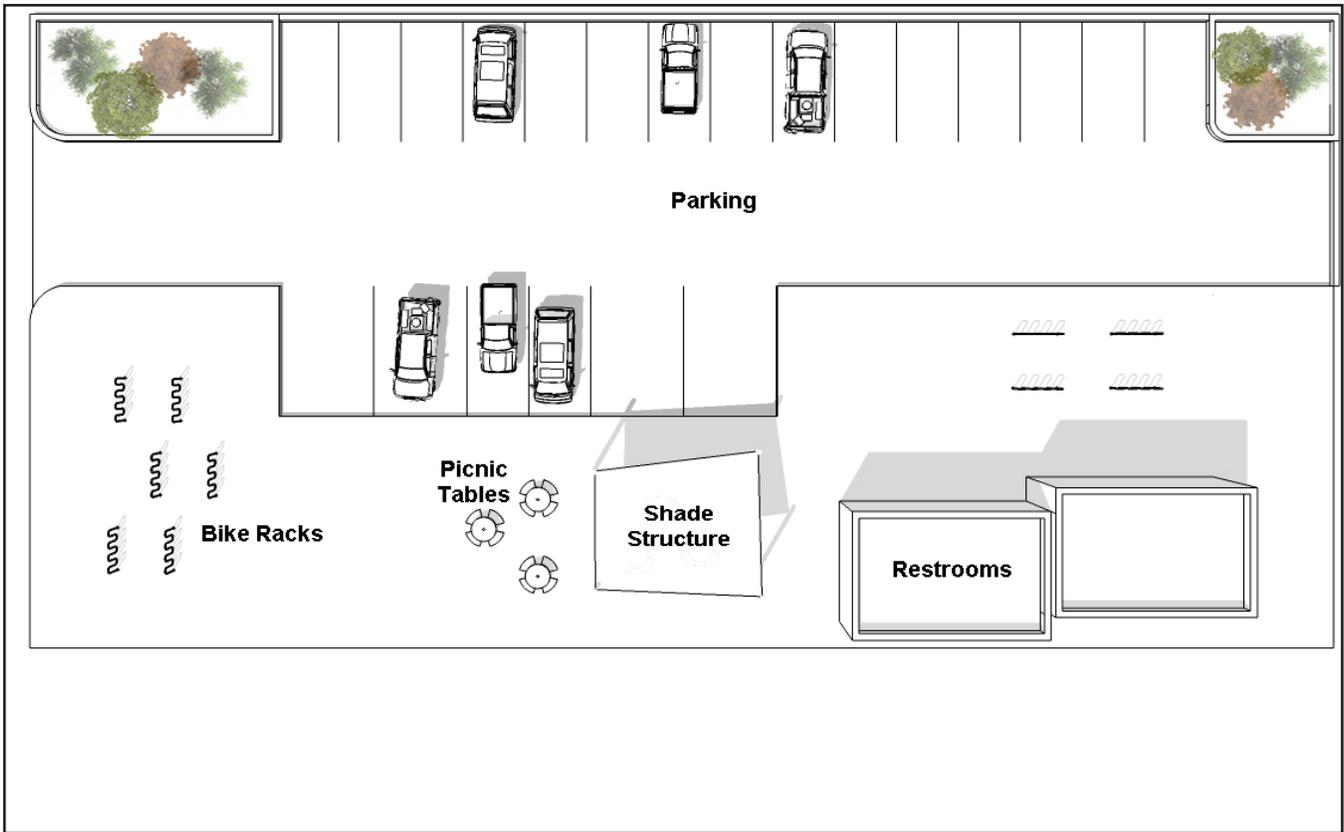


Figure 5c1: Proposed Bike Launch Site Conceptual Plan

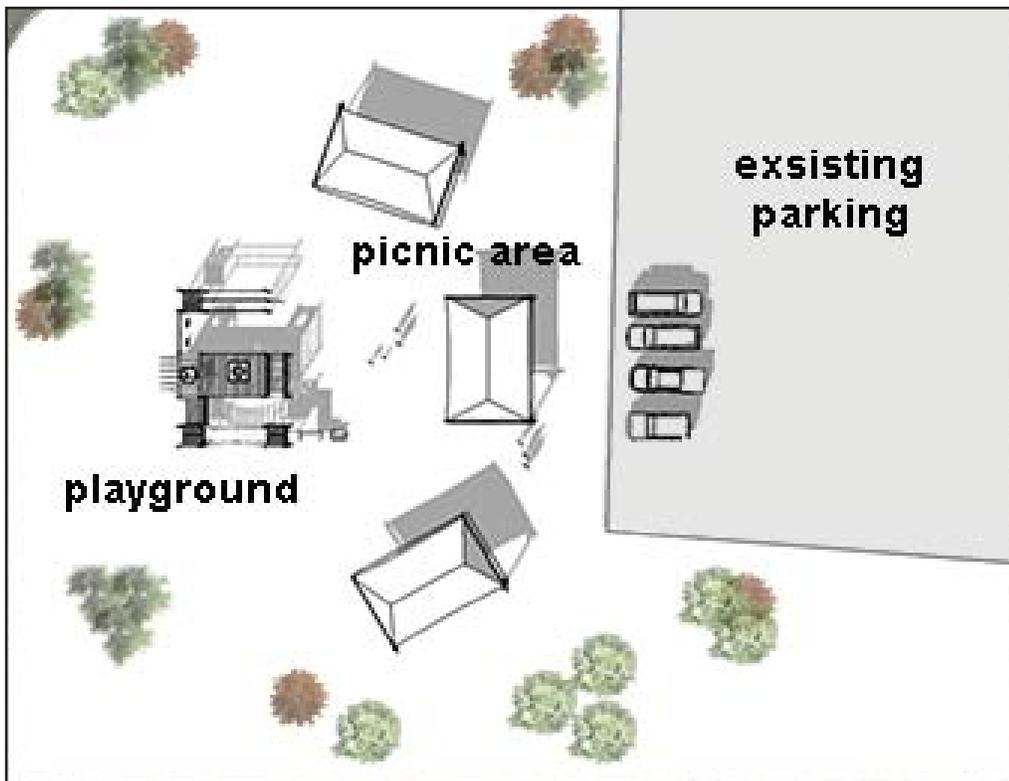


Figure 5c2: Proposed Gateway park Conceptual Plan



RECOMMENDATIONS

North Albuquerque Acres Gateway Park: The proposed North Albuquerque Acres Gateway Park would be a small park located on county land on the northeast corner of Paseo del Norte and Eubank Boulevard across the street from the Sibrava Sheriff Substation. This facility will address the area’s lack of a fully-inclusive playground and would feature shade structures, picnic areas, and specialized play areas and equipment for children with physical and mental disabilities.

North Albuquerque Acres Multi-Purpose Trail: The proposed North Albuquerque Acres Multi-Purpose Trail will complete multi-purpose paved trails proposed in the Mid-Region Council of Governments 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2035 MTP) and the County’s Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Action Plan (PDASAP) and provide improved pedestrian and bicycle access to parks, schools, and the facilities at the City’s North Domingo Baca Community center. It would also provide a continuous facility connection along Alameda Boulevard through the County’s facilities up to Tramway. The portion of the facility from Ben Greiner Soccer Fields all the way to W.L. Jackson Park will include an soft-surface trail for equestrians. Collaboration with the City and AMAFCA will be key completing this facility.

Bike Launch Site: The Gateway Bike Launch would be located in close proximity to the Gateway Parquette on the southwest corner of Paseo del Norte and Eubank or potentially as part of W.L. Jackson Park. This proposed facility would serve as a launch point for bicyclists to connect to the existing Paseo del Norte, Tramway and the North Albuquerque Acres multi-purpose trails. The facility would feature bicycle racks, public restrooms, shaded seating areas, bike repair areas and parking.

Equestrian Facility Upgrades and Trail Connection: The proposed equestrian improvements and soft-surface trail connections to nearby arroyos, open spaces and other recreation facilities would enable the Vista Sandia Equestrian Park to function as an equestrian hub for the County. Facility improvements would include an arena, additional parking, trail development, shade structures and rest facilities. The trail alignment would require drainage, roadway and in some instances private easements to achieve, and the construction of a new soft-surface facility along Lowell Boulevard and various drainage facilities. All parts of this project will require close collaboration with AMAFCA and the neighborhood associations in this area.

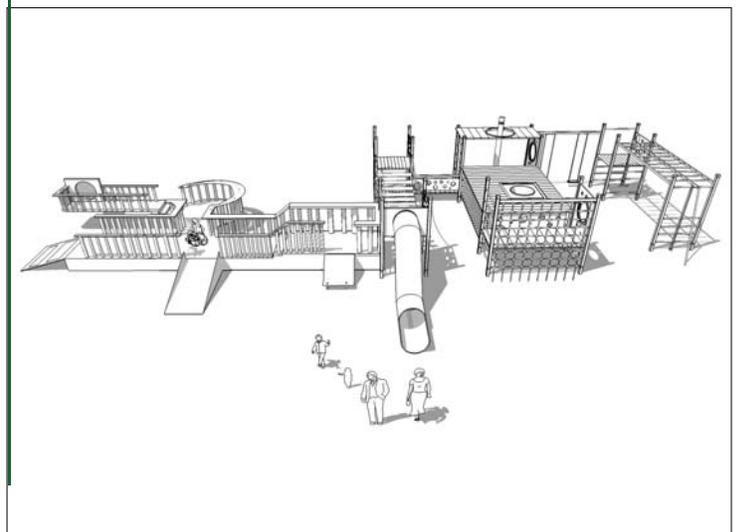


CIP LIST

Project	Total Cost	O & M Cost	Level of Priority
NAA Gateway Park			
Park Design	\$ 40,000		
Park landscaping, shade structure & picnic area	\$ 100,000		
Inclusive Playground	\$ 250,000		
Parking Lot & Trail	\$ 110,000		
	\$ 500,000		
Bike Launch Facility			
Land Acquisition	\$ 100,000		
Parking Lot	\$ 50,000		
Shade Structure, Benches & Landscaping	\$ 50,000		
Rest Facilities	\$ 150,000		
Soft Surface Trail along Arroyo	\$ 25,000		
	\$ 375,000		
North Albuquerque Acres Trail			
Soft Surface Trail	\$ 150,000		
MP Paved Trail	\$ 750,000		
	\$ 900,000		
Soft Surface Trail stabilization along Arroyos			
Soft Surface Trail stabilization along Arroyos	\$ 75,000		
Arena	\$ 50,000		
Parking Improvements	\$ 50,000		
Shade Structure, Benches & Landscaping	\$ 50,000		
Rest Facilities	\$ 150,000		
	\$ 375,000		
TOTAL	\$ 2,150,000		

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Figure 5c3: Gateway Park Playground Rendering



5d. CENTRAL URBAN Neighborhood Community Area

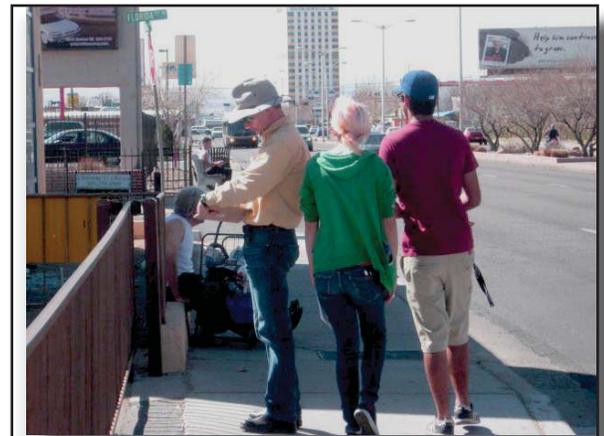


SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Central Urban NCA is bounded by Comanche to the north, Gibson to the south, Interstate 25 to the west, and Eubank to the east. It is located predominantly in County Commission District 3, and it is the most urban and densely populated of all of the NCAs.
- The Central Urban Area NCA contains a wide range of neighborhoods, with more affluent areas such as Nob Hill and portions of the Northeast Heights, as well as very low income areas such as the International District and the airport area neighborhoods, which are designated pockets of poverty and food deserts.
- Unlike most other NCAs in the Plan, future population growth is expected to be negligible.
- There are few open space amenities due to the urban setting. It also includes the Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) campus and the University of New Mexico (UNM) Main, North and South campuses.
- Community members at various public meetings expressed interested in more pedestrian friendly routes, enhanced security and completion of the Story Garden project in the International District (ID), as well as continued improvements to the UNM North Golf Course (North Course).
- The Central Urban Area NCA is served almost exclusively by City parks and recreation facilities, other than the UNM North Golf Course, which is supported by the county. The county also has significant investments in a range of public health facilities including the Stanford Health Resources Center, UNM Hospital, Wellesley Health Clinic and the Metropolitan Assessment and Treatment Services Center (MATS). The County is peripherally involved in cultural history projects in the International District, including the proposed Story Garden.
- The Central Urban NCA is well served by the existing bicycle facilities with many major streets having either a dedicated bicycle lane or a bicycle route or boulevard designation. However, there are few multi-use trails suitable for both cyclists and pedestrians, particularly in the southern part of the service area.
- The Central Urban NCA is largely well-served by parks, aquatics facilities and community centers.
- The following is a list of county-supported facilities in the NCA:
 - ◊ UNM North Golf Course (in collaboration with UNM)
 - ◊ Metropolitan Assessment & Treatment Services (MATS)
 - ◊ Stanford Health Resources Center
 - ◊ Wellesley Health Clinic
 - ◊ Hiland Theater
 - ◊ UNM Hospital



UNM North Golf Course View

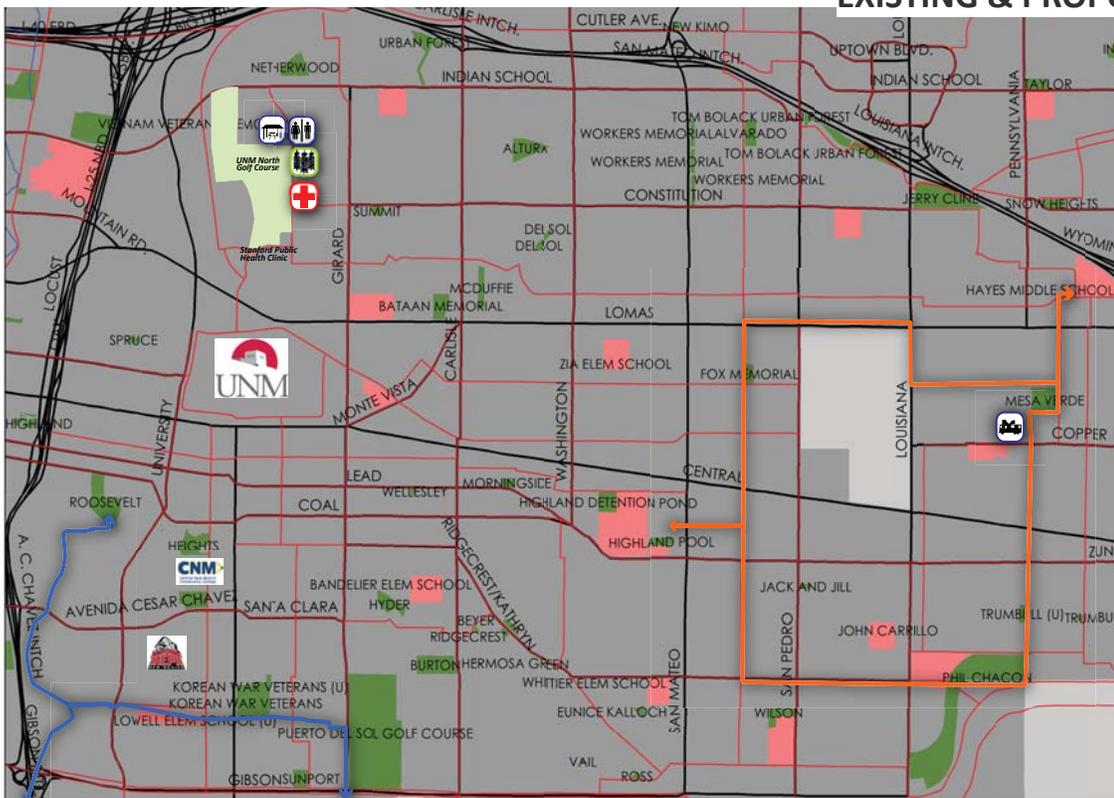


Community Assessment of a Segment of the ID Trail



Fun run at the UNM North Golf Course

EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES



- Roads
- MTP 2035 Bikeway Facilities
- MRGCD Facilities
- MRGCD Rio Grande
- ABQ. Public Schools
- BERNCO Parks & Recreation Facilities
- BERNCO Open Space Properties
- CABQ Parks & Recreation Facilities
- CABQ Open Space Properties
- Albuquerque
- Unincorporated
- Proposed International Trail (Sidewalk)
- Proposed Multi-Purpose Paved Trail
- Picnic Area with Shade
- Public Restrooms
- Community Agriculture
- Proposed Mobile Community Center
- Community Health Resources



RECOMMENDATIONS

UNM North Golf Course Improvements: In 2012, Bernalillo County entered into an agreement with the University of New Mexico to preserve the golf course as open space. The golf course was the final WPA project completed in New Mexico and the first racially integrated golf course in the Southwest. At one time it was a 36-hole championship course. Although only nine holes remain, it is heavily used not only by golfers from all over the County, but also long distance runners, joggers, dog-walkers and birdwatchers. Based on informal estimates, it may be the most heavily used open space in the county.

As part of the agreement, the County provided \$1.5 million to UNM to undertake long overdue irrigation system replacement, to create a landscaped perimeter trail for use by the community and to maintain and replace trees on the course, all of which constituted Phase 1. In the spring of 2013, the University hired a landscape architect to conduct a community process and develop an overall master plan and design plans for Phase 1. Construction documents were put out to bid in November 2013 and construction was completed in April 2014. As a result of this investment, the golf course has reduced its water use by approximately one-third, and the community has a well-defined landscaped trail to use.

Phase 2 of the master plan includes development of a number of other sustainable and restorative features. The largest of these is the construction of a pipeline to facilitate the re-use of cooling water from the UNM’s chiller plant. Other items in Phase 2 include design and construction of the Lobo Community Farm, rehabilitation of the John Gaw Meem rest area structure, restoration of native grassland and pollinator planting areas between the fairways and landscape enhancements along the trail, including additional tree replacements, gateway elements and interpretive signage. As part of Phase 2, the County plans to undertake a Cultural Landscape Inventory and Report to create a framework for supporting future preservation efforts and to update the existing master plan.

North Diversion Channell Bike Underpass: Close to the UNM Golf Course, a bike underpass is proposed for the North Diversion Channel Trail so that cyclists can go underneath Indian School Boulevard.

Central Urban NCA (continued)



Figure 5d1: Mobile Community Center Conceptual Rendering



Figure 5d2: South Diversion Channel Trail Conceptual Rendering



RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

International District Community Trail: In 2009, Bernalillo County Public Works, in coordination with City of Albuquerque Department of Municipal Development, prepared a scoping report for implementing an International Trail located along roadways in Albuquerque’s International District to provide better pedestrian and bicycle connections from surrounding neighborhoods to public facilities, cultural attractions and other destinations located throughout the International District. The trail alignment connects with the Bicycle Boulevard located on Silver Avenue. Implementing the International District Trail is envisioned to replace deteriorating sidewalks, make major ADA upgrades and improve street lighting.

Mobile Community Center: The International District is particularly underserved by current City of Albuquerque parks, recreational facilities and community center. One idea to address this shortcoming is with a mobile Life Center, or “Rec n’ Roll” bus, that would transport recreational equipment such as basketball hoops and a climbing wall to underutilized parks or at the Story Garden sites in order to provide temporary community center facilities and programming in underserved areas where there isn’t the space or financial resources to establish an entirely new community center. This mobile unit would include 2-3 buses or vans that could transport equipment, provide clinic facilities and possibly fresh produce. (See Figure 5e.5). The Rec n’ Roll would operate at scheduled times in order to provide regular service to community members at a fraction of the public investment cost of traditional community center service.

South Diversion Channel Trail: The proposed South Diversion Channel Multi-Purpose Trail is a paved multi-purpose trail located along the South Diversion Channel. Because the proposed trail is located along a drainage facility, this project would be a collaborative effort between the County and AMAFCA. The trail would provide improved pedestrian and bicycle access from surrounding neighborhoods and schools, such as Lowell Elementary, to the City of Albuquerque’s Roosevelt Park and Loma Linda Community Center. The trail would also connect to destinations such as UNM’s Puerto del Sol Golf Course and sports arenas, Isotopes Park, Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) and proposed trails in the Mountain View/Mesa del Sol NCA. Bernalillo County will be a partner in the development of the trail network by collaborating with AMAFCA and the City to identify the trail’s alignment and secure funding to construct the trail and associated improvements. The trail will connect to the 50 mile loop that the City is undertaking.



CIP LIST

Project	Total Cost	O & M Cost	Level of Priority
Phase 2 & 3 North Golf Course Projects			
Phase 2: Chiller Blow Down Pipeline	\$ 500,000		
Phase 2: Lobo Farm & Gaw Meem Structure Restoration	\$ 120,000		
Phase 2: Rough area Grassland Restoration	\$ 120,000		
Phase 2: Add'l trail landscaping, tree planting, shade structure & signage	\$ 60,000		
Phase 3: Cultural Landscape District & MP Update	\$ 50,000		
Phase 3: Water Quality Improvements/Slope Stabilization	\$ 200,000		
	\$ 1,050,000		
Indian School/North Diversion Bike Underpass			
ID Trail	\$ 500,000		
	\$ 500,000		
Stanford Health Resources Center			
Building Improvements	\$ 1,500,000		
Site Improvements	\$ 300,000		
	\$ 1,800,000		
International District Projects			
Story Garden/Plaza	\$ 150,000		
ID Trail	\$ 300,000		
	\$ 450,000		
South Diversion Channel Trail			
South Diversion Channel Trail Phase I (Rio Bravo - Gibson)	\$ 1,875,000		
South Diversion Channel Trail Phase I (Gibson-Rosevelt Park/CNM)	\$ 1,125,000		
South Diversion Channel Trail Phase I (Gibson- Loma Linda)	\$ 1,500,000		
	\$ 4,500,000		
Mobile Community Center			
Mobile Community Center 1 - Park & Recreation	\$ 150,000		
Mobile Community Center 2 - Clinic & Meeting Rooms	\$ 100,000		
	\$ 250,000		
TOTAL	\$ 8,550,000		

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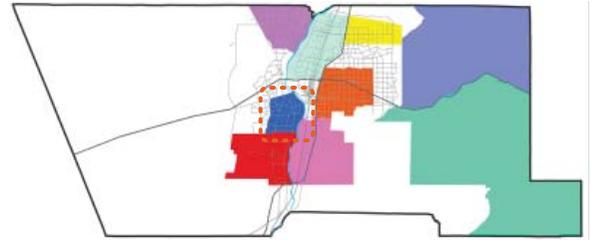
Stanford Health Resources Center: The Stanford Health Resources Center, formerly the Stanford Health Clinic, is envisioned to be the location for visioning, developing, demonstrating and contracting for the various programming and services that will be the core of the health resource portion of the whole life center functions at the County’s community centers. The current building needs significant renovation in order to support the County staff in that effort and to house third-party health organizations and businesses assisting in the development and/or delivery of various community health programs. The improvements envision the building to be a model of environmental sustainability with a two-story building that has passive and active solar energy collection, water harvesting and storage facilities, community gardens and other urban farming elements.

5e. ATRISCO-WESTSIDE Neighborhood Community Area



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The Atrisco-Westside NCA is located entirely in County Commission District 2, and is bounded by Central Avenue to the north, the Rio Grande to the east, Rio Bravo Boulevard to the south and Unser Boulevard to the west.
- The Atrisco-Westside NCA has more densely populated lower income areas around Central Avenue and Coors Boulevard, and is more rural and agricultural along Isleta Boulevard.
- The Atrisco-Westside NCA has been identified as a “food desert” by the USDA and is a target area for the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant.
- The Atrisco-Westside NCA is primarily served by Westside Community Center (WSCC), which provides programs for the nearby Rio Grande High School, Ernie Pyle Middle School and Kit Carson Elementary School. This facility is the County’s oldest center and is overextended and as a result, is in need of expansion and renovations. The South Valley Multi-purpose Center (SVMPC) is also in this area. It serves the area to the south and west of the NCA, and has, until recently, focused more on senior programming.
- WSCC is the host site for the annual South Valley Pride Day and Day of the Dead/Marigold Parade, as well as a number of other special events each year. Parking and space for vendors is perennially an issue at these events.
- The ball field and the special programs building have major issues that need to be addressed for them to function optimally or be removed and replaced with facilities that are more supportive of the current and future programming of the center.
- The community process for this NCA started with a three-day workshop followed by a series of community feedback meetings at WSCC. The input focused largely on the needs for expansion of this facility. Three options were developed and refined into a single plan that had widespread support. Community members also expressed concern about the transition of this area from rural to urban and this ultimately impacted the design of the building and other recommendations in the plan.
- Sanchez Farm is an important open space and agricultural asset in the Atrisco-Westside NCA. It could, however, better serve the youth population of the service area by strengthening the connection between this site and WSCC.
- Pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian connections in the Atrisco-Westside NCA are limited to the bicycle lane along Isleta Blvd. and the informal trail network along the acequias and in the bosque. There is need for connections between facilities such as Westside and the SVMPC and Tom Tenorio Park. The extensive acequia system



WSCC Opening ca. early 1970's

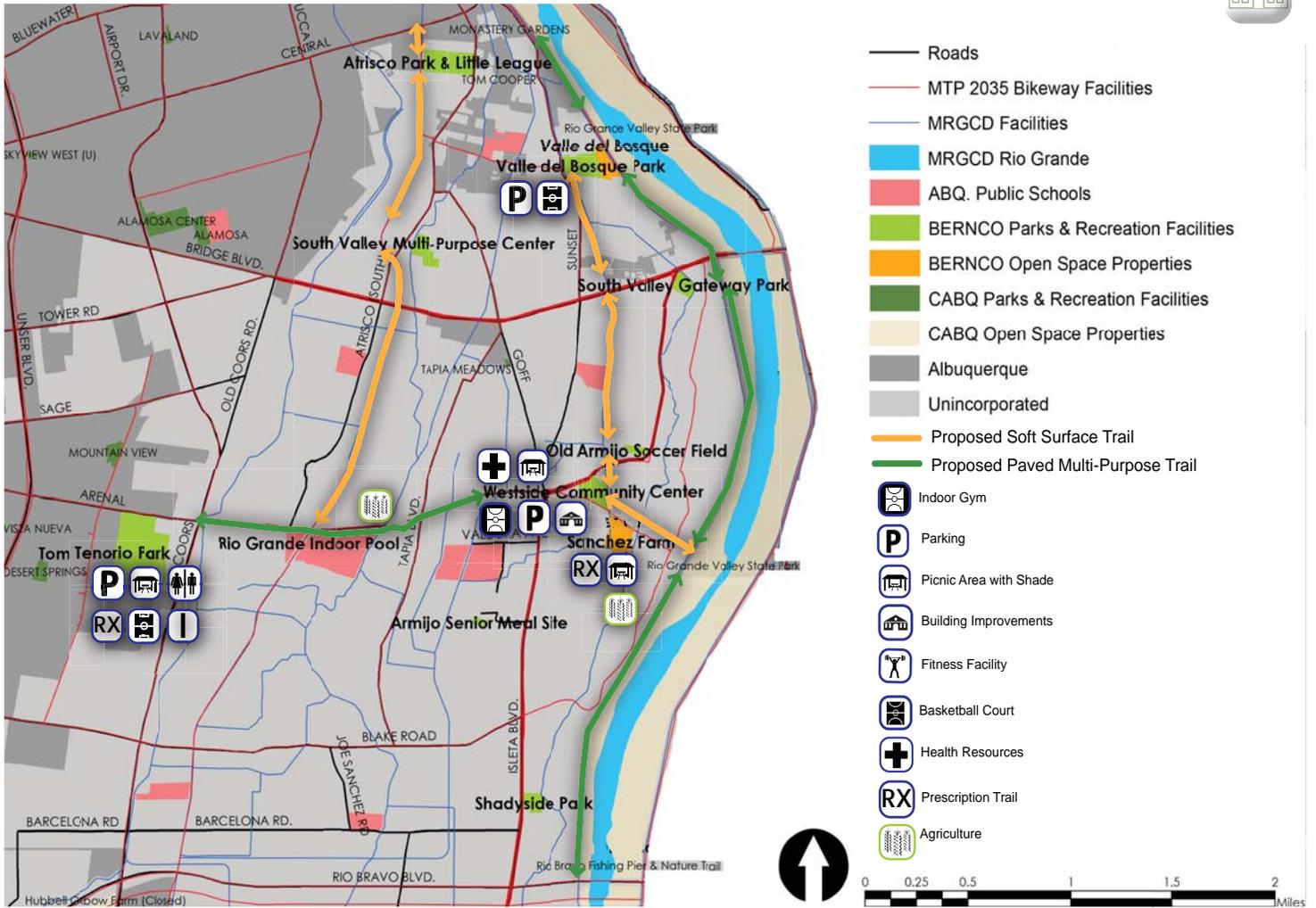


Westside Community Center



Diagram of Community Input for WSCC

EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES



represents a huge opportunity for additional north-south connections and preservation of the rural character in this area.

- Land acquisition for potential agricultural open space properties is highly important in the Atrisco-Westside NCA for preserving the rural character of this part of the South Valley and for the potential for educational and local food production uses.
- Tom Tenorio Park is a regional facility that has yet to be developed to meet it’s full potential, with nearly half of the 65 acre parcel remaining undeveloped. The irrigation system and the drainage system of this site will have to be reworked as part of any major development efforts of the remaining portion of this facility.
- In the last decade, the County has invested a considerable amount in this NCA in neighborhood parks, the Isleta Boulevard streetscape, the South Valley Multi-purpose Center and most recently, Rio Grande Pool. These facilities will require ongoing maintenance and periodic upgrades mandated by playground and irrigation audits, but not require significant capital investment.
- The following is a list of facilities in the Atrisco-Westside NCAs:

◇ Westside Community Center, Westside Park	◇ Tom Tenorio Park
◇ South Valley Multi-purpose Center	◇ Valle del Bosque Park & Open Space
◇ Armijo Senior Meal-site	◇ Sanchez Farm Open Space
◇ Atrisco Little League Park	◇ Clinton P. Anderson Open Space Park
◇ South Valley Gateway Park	◇ Shadyside Park
◇ Old Armijo Soccer Field	

ATRISCO-WESTSIDE NCA (continued)



Figure 5e1: Westside Community Center Conceptual Plan



Rendering of the Addition from the Parking Lot on Arenal. 54

RECOMMENDATIONS

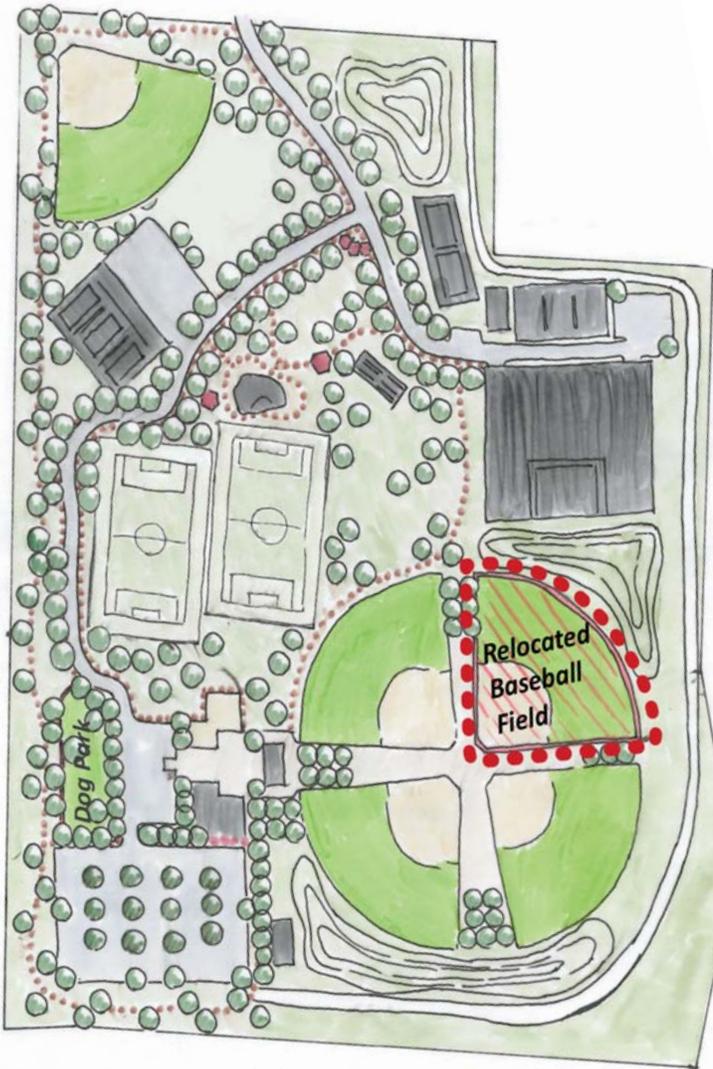


Figure 5e3: Conceptual Plan for Tom Tenorio Park



Figure 5e4: Crossing to Sanchez Farm Conceptual Plan

Recommendations for the Atrisco-Westside NCA primarily address the renovations and site improvements at the Westside Community Center (WSCC), but they also include proposed smaller improvements at other facilities as well.

Westside Community Center: Recommended improvements to WSCC to be completed in four phases, and include the following (see **Figure 5e1**):

- **Phased Building Expansion:** Over 32,500 sf of new space will be added to the center by the final phase, including a new fitness center, meeting room space, health resource area and a full gym. This expansion will support additional programming for fitness activities and health classes, and enable the center to function as a Whole Life Center.
- **Parking:** Additional parking areas will be added to the Center, including 72 permanent parking spaces, and a flexible overflow parking area/field that can accommodate up to an additional 80 vehicles. As part of the parking lot project, the old Special Programs Building will be removed and in conjunction with County Public Works (Goff Drainage Project), drainage ponds will be reconfigured to provide more park area and create swales that connect via a new pipe to Sanchez Farm drainage basin.
- **Site Improvements:** The WSCC Outdoor Basketball Court has already been rebuilt and relocated, and other site improvements will include the construction of an outdoor stage, a small garden area, two large shade structures, two tree groves and a new playground.
- **Trails:** The current Prescription (Rx) Trail that loops Westside Park will be extended, connecting WSCC to nearby Sanchez Farm Open Space.

Arenal Road Paved Multi-purpose Trail: This path would provide a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists to connect to WSCC from nearby schools and from Tom Tenorio Park.

Atrisco Lateral Pedestrian, Equestrian, and Bicycle Path: A soft surface trail is proposed for this facility connecting through the Atrisco and Armijo neighborhood areas from Central Avenue to Rio Bravo Boulevard. Permission from MRGCD would be needed to use this ditch trail for recreational activities.

ATRISCO-WESTSIDE NCA (continued)

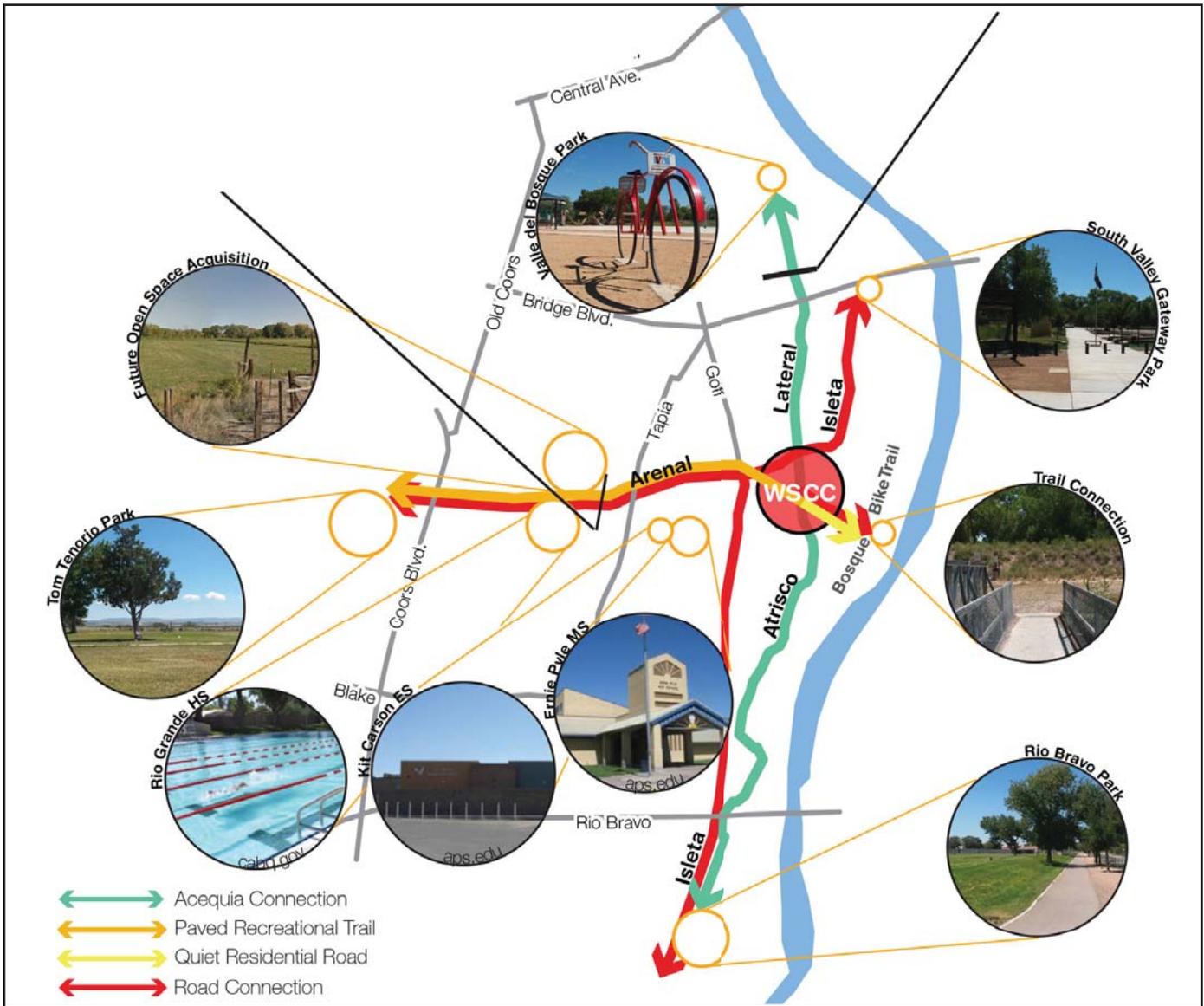


Figure 5e5: Atrisco-Westside NCA Regional Connections Planning Diagram



Rendering of Front of Existing Center with Addition



RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)



CIP LIST

Sanchez Farm: The Plan for this facility is to complete the existing site plan, which included a shade structure, outdoor amphitheater/class room area, and additional agricultural and interpretive elements. In the near term, a compacted crusher fines Rx Trail will be constructed around the facility that connects via a raised crossing at the Atrisco Ditch crossing of Arenal to the enhanced Westside Rx Trail.

South Valley Bosque Trail: A paved multi-purpose trail is proposed from Bridge Boulevard all the way to the Louise bridge crossing near the Hubbell House. This trail was discussed originally in the Bosque Action Plan from the 1990’s, and would provide the west side of the River a recreation trail comparable to the paseo del bosque.

Tom Tenorio Park Improvements: Several improvements are recommended for Tom Tenorio Park to enable it to function as a regional tournament complex. Initial improvements will include moving the field from WSCC and undertaking irrigation system improvements. Other improvements shown in Figure 5e3 include reconfiguration of softball fields to form a pin-wheel, two large grass areas for football and/or soccer, a new large scale dog park with grass and naturalistic areas (to replace the one at Rio Bravo) and new parking in several areas to provide easy access to the fields. In the future, this facility could be considered for a satellite community center and meal site and/or aquatics facility to serve the growth in this area of the South Valley.

Acquisition of Suitable Agricultural Properties: Efforts need to be made to preserve remaining agricultural land in this part of the South Valley. Acquisition of agricultural properties along Arenal Boulevard would create an opportunity to work with Rio Grande High School and charter schools in the vicinity to integrate environmental education and community agricultural with open space conservation. Preservation of these properties could take the form of conservation easement.

Vecinos del Bosque Park and Open Space. A recent drainage project resulted in several trail and open space amenity improvements including the construction of ephemeral wetlands in the drainage ponds at the east end of this facility. The park portion of the facility needs to have the remaining fields and parking area completed so that it can be used for league softball and small tournament play.

Project	Capital Cost	O & M Cost	Level of Priority
Site Improvements at WSCC			
Site Drainage, Parking & Lanscaping	\$ 300,000		
Park improvements & memorial backstop	\$ 100,000		
Construct new shade structure	\$ 80,000		
Pedestrian Crossing to Sanchez farms	\$ 45,000		
Outdoor Stage & Stage door on back of center	\$ 75,000		
	\$ 600,000		
Fitness and Health Center Addition to WSCC			
New Health and Fitness Center & Lobby	\$ 2,730,000		
Demolition of Special Programs Building	\$ 20,000		
Site Development & Parking	\$ 350,000		
	\$ 3,100,000		
Multi-purpose Center Addition to WSCC			
New Conference & Multi-Purpose Center	\$ 1,870,000		
Site Development & Parking	\$ 80,000		
	\$ 1,950,000		
New Gym Addition to WSCC			
Construction of New Gymnasium	\$ 1,900,000		
Recreational Trail along Acequia	\$ 50,000		
Site Development & additional Parking	\$ 50,000		
	\$ 2,000,000		
Sanchez Farm Improvements			
Rx Trail Extension from WSCC	\$ 75,000		
Shade / Classroom Structure / ampitheater	\$ 75,000		
	\$ 150,000		
Arenal Corridor Improvements			
Agricultural Property Acquisition	\$ 1,700,000		
Water rights Acquisition	\$ 500,000		
Arenal Paved MP Trail and Crossings	\$ 1,000,000		
Soft-surface trail	\$ 150,000		
	\$ 3,350,000		
Tom Tenorio Improvements			
Relocation of Ball field from WSCC	\$ 200,000		
Field reconfiguration & irrigation upgrade	\$ 400,000		
Relocation of Dog Park from Rio Bravo	\$ 100,000		
2 x Soccer fields	\$ 300,000		
Service Roadway and Parking	\$ 300,000		
RX Trail	\$ 200,000		
	\$ 1,500,000		
South Valley Multi-Purpose Center			
Therapeutic Pool	\$ 1,500,000		
	\$ 1,500,000		
Vecinos del Bosque			
3x additional ball fields	\$ 600,000		
Parking improvements	\$ 150,000		
	\$ 750,000		
Total	\$ 14,900,000		

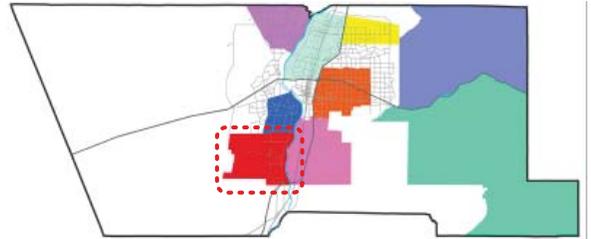
**All costs are estimated as of the completion of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, and are subject to change over time and as the project proceeds to construction. All projects are subject to availability of funds and Bernalillo County Commission approval.*

5f. PAJARITO-LOS PADILLAS Neighborhood Community Area



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA is bounded by Rio Bravo to the north, Isleta Pueblo to the south, the Rio Grande to the east, and census boundaries on Pajarito Mesa to the west. The NCA is located entirely in County Commission District 2, in the far South Valley, and it is known for its historic agricultural properties.
- Because of the rural character, the historic village centers and the amount of area still in agricultural production, the Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA is has potentially the greatest capacity of any NCAs for supporting agro-tourism and promoting year-round local food production.
- The Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA has wide-range of facilities from the South Valley Pool and Rio Bravo Skate Park to unique facilities such as Denison Park and the Gutierrez-Hubbell House History and Cultural Center (Gutierrez-Hubbell House).
- The County has made significant investment in open space in the NCA over the last decade with the purchase and development of the Gutierrez-Hubbell House properties (including the Hubbell North and Don Felipe properties), Pajarito and Durand Open Spaces. The Hubbell House has a museum and space for meetings, weddings, workshops, retreats and classes, including history and agriculture programming such as the Backyard Farming Series, and the Local Food Festival and Field Day.
- This NCA is meeting level-of-service goals with respect to overall parkland and open space, as well as community centers and senior facilities. The NCA is over served with aquatics facilities because it is the only NCA with two county-owned and operated pools.
- The County has contracted with the Hubbell House Alliance (HHA) to provide programming and caretaking services at the Hubbell House property. The HHA has internally identified several needs for the site, including a future building expansion to establish a meeting room with a commercial kitchen and a wall along Isleta Boulevard to provide a sound buffer and visual continuity along the eastern edge of long property.
- The Pajarito Senior Meal Site Located just south of Hubbell House on Isleta Blvd is a converted church, which was part of the traditional Pajarito Village Center. The site is currently only serves an average of three seniors per day. This facility contains a commercial kitchen and a large meeting space, which could help meet the need for a teaching kitchen and local food hub for this portion of the South Valley and support larger events at the Hubbell House.
- Rio Bravo Park is located in the northern portion of the Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA and is part of a suite of facilities, including South Valley Pool, South Valley Little League Park, South Valley Tennis



Los Padillas Aquatics Center

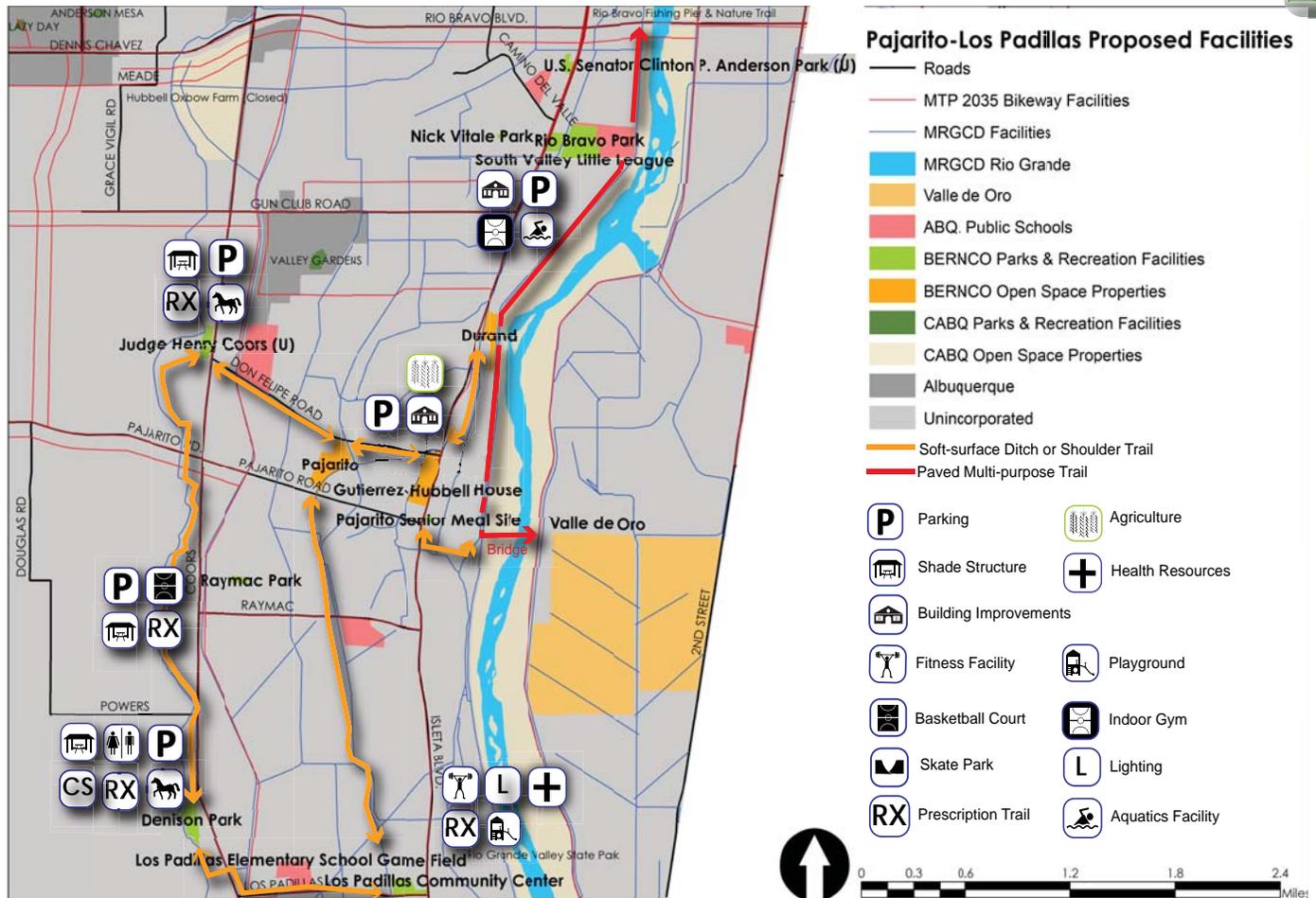


Farming at the Gutierrez-Hubbell House



Pajarito Open Space

EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES



Courts, Rio Bravo Skate Park and the Rio Bravo Off-Leash Dog Park.

- ◊ The parking, circulation and drainage systems are not integrated among the various facilities need to be addressed with master-planned renovations. Parking issues at the Rio Bravo site are a major problem when there are multiple events.
- ◊ According to the community and staff, the dog park is not used, and there is a need for green space and shade.
- ◊ The Senior Meal Site is only used for three hours a day and could be used for other programming at other times.
- ◊ The pool is the oldest in the County’s aquatics program had to be closed before the end of 2014 due to mechanical issues. The bath house at the facility will also require wholesale replacement.
- Los Padillas Community Center is down in the southern portion of the NCA with a small center building, a soccer field and the Los Padillas Pool nearby. The former dental clinic is not operational, and costs are very high for any other use compared to the costs demolition and construction of a new building.
- Denison Polo Park is a rodeo facility that has the potential to be more of regional destination. However, it is in disrepair and will require a number of renovations, including a new concession stand, bleachers, and crow’s nest.
- Nearly all sites are connected by the acequias, and this connection could be further strengthened by establishing a formal trail network to serve pedestrians and equestrians.
- County facilities in the area include the following:
 - ◊ Rio Bravo Park and related facilities (South Valley Little League, Rio Bravo Tennis Courts, South Valley Pool, Rio Bravo Senior Meal Site, Rio Bravo Off-leash Dog Park and Rio Bravo Skate Park)
 - ◊ Los Padillas Community Center & Los Padillas Pool
 - ◊ Gutierrez-Hubbell House History and Cultural Center
 - ◊ Pajarito Open Space
 - ◊ Pajarito Meal Site
 - ◊ Durand Open Space
 - ◊ Denison Polo Rodeo Grounds
 - ◊ Judge Henry Coors Park
 - ◊ Raymac Park

PAJARITO-LOS PADILLAS NCA (continued)

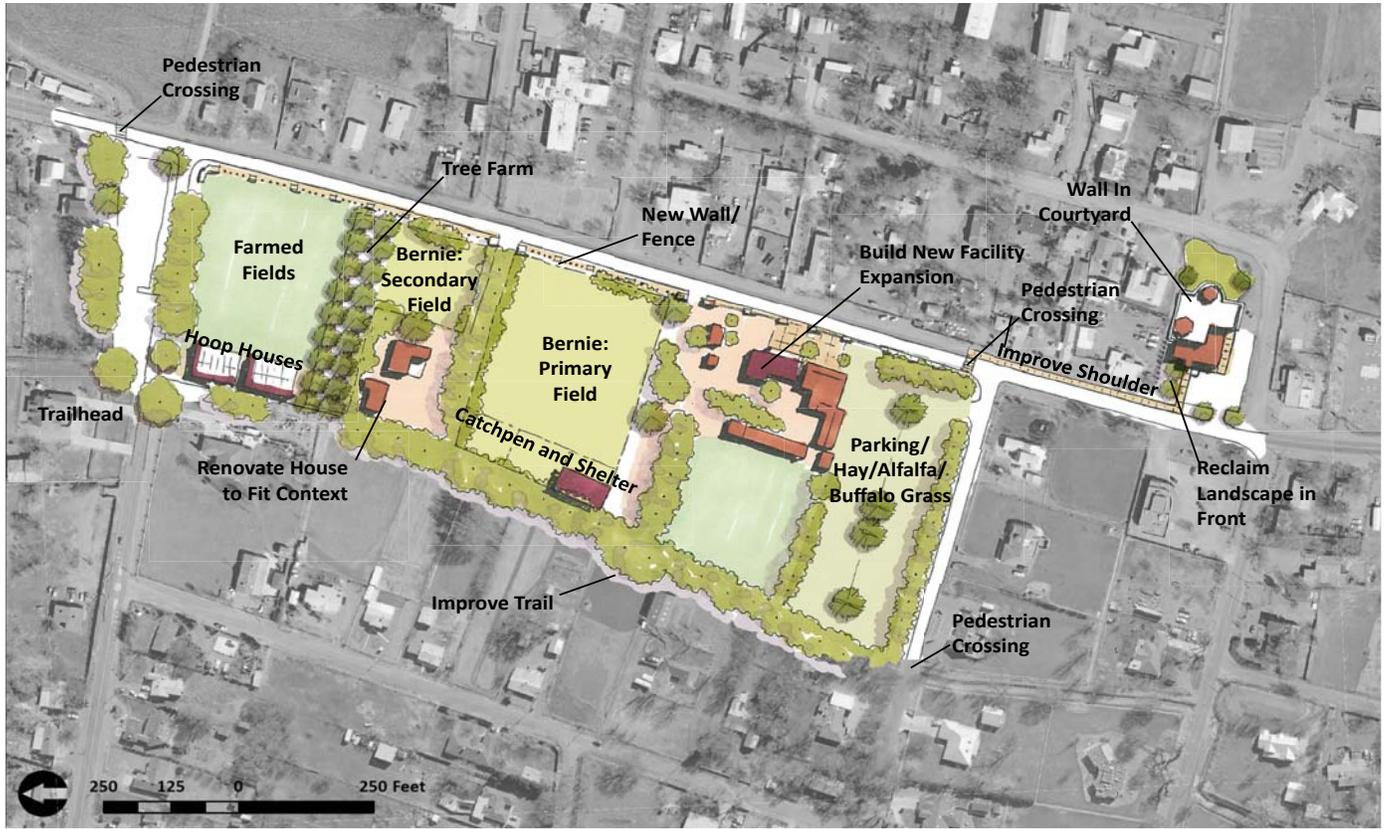


Figure 5f1: Conceptual Plan for the Pajarito Village Center including the Gutierrez-Hubbell House History & Cultural Center



Figure 5f2: Denison Polo Park Conceptual Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS



Gutierrez-Hubbell House & Traditional Pajarito Village Center: A number of improvements are proposed to County facilities that will help further define the traditional Pajarito Village Center with the Gutierrez-Hubbell House as the anchor in order to further support agro-tourism goals for the NCA. These improvements will be consistent with the Isleta Corridor Plan and include a fence/wall along Isleta Boulevard to act as a sound barrier and provide visual cohesion to the property and trail segments and crossings to connect the Don Felipe property at the north end all the way to the Pajarito Senior Meal Site. Other improvements to specific properties include the following:

- **Gutierrez-Hubbell House Property:** In recent years, the County has developed this property into a full-fledged museum and demonstration project for the use of traditional materials and building techniques. Very recently, a shade structure and site elements were added to the property. Key future improvements center on a building expansion on a historic footprint to provide additional space for educational events, storage and a kitchen.
- **Hubbell North Property:** Irrigation upgrades, a tree farm and additional hoop houses to support the County's agricultural goals are proposed in the near term for this location. This site has been identified as a potential location for Bernie, the New Mexico Dahl Sheep which acts as the County mascot, and fencing and shelter will need to be constructed to house these animals in the secondary field in front of the Hubbell North house. The house is proposed for renovation and renaming to be more in keeping with the historic Pajarito Village context with wrap-around portal and plastering. Renovations would also include reconfiguring the floorplan to support offices for Open Space collaborators and potentially Americorps Environmental Corps Volunteers who will assist with County Open Space programming and land management activities.
- **Don Felipe Property and Trail Connections to Durand and Pajarito Open Spaces:** The latest addition to the County Open Space portfolio is the Don Felipe property across Don Felipe road from the Hubbell North property. Plans include development of a native landscaped formal parking area to serve as trail head to give community access to the Hubbell trails after-hours and for a proposed a soft surface ditch trail connection to Durand Open Space along the Los Padillas Lateral and a soft surface shoulder trail along Don Felipe to Pajarito Open space.
- **Pajarito Senior Meal Site:** The County proposes converting this site into the gateway for agro-tourism destinations in the NCA. The site would include informational space about historic and current local agricultural practice and spaces for a seed exchange and a growers market. The existing kitchen is planned to be upgraded for commercial use and teaching, and to provide support for events at the Gutierrez-Hubbell House. Meal



PAJARITO-LOS PADILLAS NCA (continued)



Figure 5f3: Conceptual Plan for Los Padillas Community Center and Neighboring Facilities

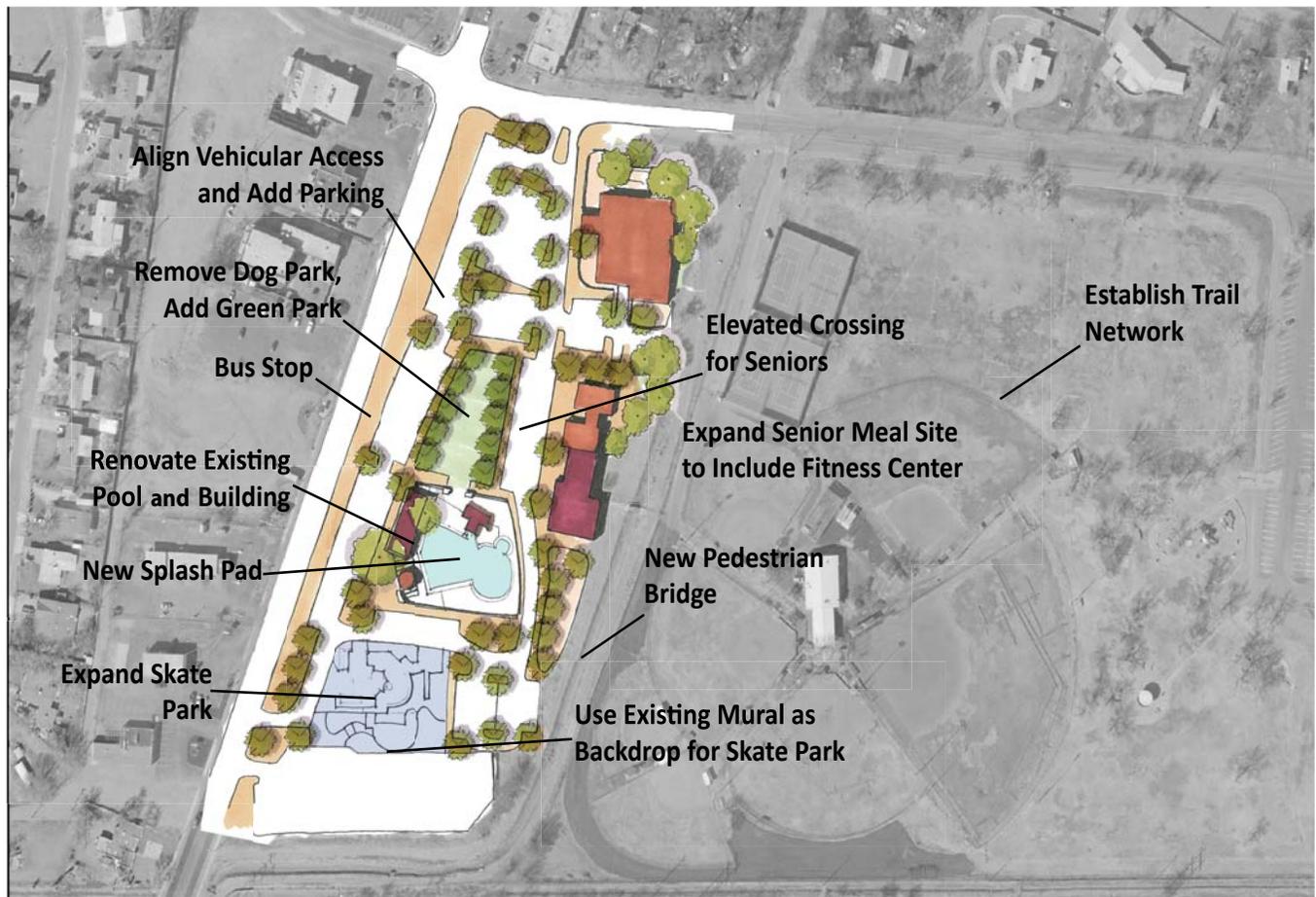


Figure 5f4: Conceptual Plan for Rio Bravo Facilities



RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

services for the seniors accessing the site will be relocated to the nearby Rio Bravo Senior Meal Site.

Denison Park: The County would like to expand programming and usage of this facility, particularly with its partners 4H and County Cooperative Extension. As a result there are significant deferred maintenance and ADA issues that will need to be addressed. Proposed improvements include a new concession stand with bathrooms, replacement of existing bleachers and the crow’s nest, ADA accessible paving and reorienting the main entrance of the site from the side to the center with better signage. Trails are proposed for the AMAFCA drainage pond above the park and to connect the park to Los Padillas Road and Judge Henry Coors Park along the South Valley Lateral.

Los Padillas Community Center: The County proposes replacement of the defunct Dental Clinic building with a new building that would add Whole Life Center functionality, including health resources room, a new fitness room and exercise class studio. Other recommendations include installing lighting throughout the parking lot, a playground for older children and an Rx Trail that would weave down into and through the impromptu wetlands that have filled in the drainage pond. The Los Padillas pool was up until recently the newest facility in the county inventory, and is not in need of major improvements for the projected future. A shoulder trail and crossings is proposed along Los Padillas Road to Coors Boulevard to accommodate pedestrians and equestrians.

Rio Bravo Park and related facilities: The group of facilities at Rio Bravo Park together have the capacity of being a regional facility. However, circulation, parking and drainage systems throughout need to be reconfigured in order for the facilities reach their full potential. Recommendations for specific facilities include expanding the Rio Bravo Senior Meal Site building into a satellite center facility to serve Special Programs and Senior programs with a fitness center, exercise studio and completing an Rx Trail loop, moving the Rio Grande Off-Leash Dog Park to Tom Tenorio Park, and expanding the Rio Bravo Skate Park. The County is also exploring options for renovating and enhancing the South Valley Aquatics Facility including a splash pad, replacement of the existing pool and/or adding a therapeutic pool.

Other Facilities: Renovations are proposed to Raymac Park to provide for a full neighborhood Park in this area with an updated playground and a large shade structure, an Rx perimeter trail and other improvements. At Henry Coors Park, undeveloped land is proposed to be improved as a naturalistic park with an Rx trail, shade structure, picnic area and parking area with space for equestrian access



CIP LIST

Project	Total Cost	Cost	Priority
Pajarito Village / Gutierrez-Hubbell House			
Bernie Corral	\$ 100,000		
Tree Farm	\$ 60,000		
North Parking Lot and Fencing	\$ 40,000		
Soft Surface trail from Pajarito to Hubbell OS	\$ 150,000		
Soft Surface MP trail on ditch and levee connecting Hubbell OS to Durand OS	\$ 350,000		
Paved MP trail from Rio Bravo Blvd to Louise Road	\$ 650,000		
Historic Building Addition	\$ 800,000		
New wall-fence along Isleta Blvd	\$ 120,000		
Don Felipe Parking Improvements	\$ 60,000		
Shoulder & ditch trail improvements	\$ 120,000		
Pajarito Meal Site improvements	\$ 500,000		
	\$ 2,950,000		
Los Padillas Community Center			
Site Lighting	\$ 50,000		
Playground	\$ 75,000		
Rx Trail	\$ 100,000		
Parking reconfiguration	\$ 80,000		
Demolition of old Dental clinic	\$ 80,000		
Future Health and Fitness building Addition	\$ 1,400,000		
Site expansion-reclaim	\$ 180,000		
Los Padillas Road shoulder Trail	\$ 50,000		
	\$ 2,015,000		
Dennison Park and Rodeo Grounds			
Corral & Arena Improvements	\$ 50,000		
Concession Stand & bathrooms	\$ 150,000		
HC Parking and Concrete Walkway	\$ 100,000		
New Crow's nest	\$ 40,000		
New Bleachers	\$ 75,000		
Additional Shade over horse stalls	\$ 10,000		
General fencing & trail development	\$ 200,000		
	\$ 625,000		
Rio Bravo Visitor's Center			
Pocket Park	\$ 200,000		
Splash Pad Park	\$ 750,000		
Replace changing area, Rest Facility & Shade Structure for Splash Park	\$ 650,000		
Replacement Pool or therapeutic pool	\$ 2,000,000		
Gym, Fitness Center & Locker Room	\$ 1,500,000		
Parking, Lighting & Drainage Reconfiguration	\$ 400,000		
Rx Trail around Parking	\$ 150,000		
Rx Trail in Rio Bravo Park	\$ 300,000		
Paved MP Trail connection to Bosque trail	\$ 150,000		
	\$ 6,100,000		
Total	\$ 11,690,000		

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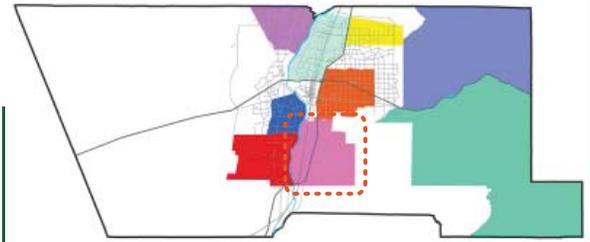
to connect to the neighboring ditch trail. Additional soft surface trails are proposed along the Isleta Drain and in the bosque. As noted above, a multi-purpose paved trail is proposed for the levee from the Louise Road access bridge north to Bridge Boulevard, which would also include improved connections to Rio Bravo Park, Durand Open Space and potentially in the future across the river to the Valle de Oro Urban National Wildlife Refuge.

5g. MOUNTAINVIEW-MESA DEL SOL Neighborhood Community Area



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The Mountainview-Mesa del Sol NCA stretches from Sunport Boulevard and Woodward Boulevard in the north to the Pueblo of Isleta in the south, and from the Rio Grande River Bosque to the Kirtland Air Force Base. It is in Commission District 2.
- The Mountainview-Mesa del Sol NCA has sharply contrasting land uses and living conditions within its boundaries, ranging from the heaviest of industrial uses to the largest tracts of land remaining in cultivation.
- The County played a key role in the acquisition and planning of the Valle de Oro National Urban Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) over the last 4 years. The County has been a key partner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Planning the refuge. It is one of the two newest open space resources in the County.
- In tandem with the Refuge and the community, the County has been seeking funding for major improvements to the 2nd Street SW corridor, which is the primary access to the Refuge, including a paved multi-purpose trail.
- Because of the Refuge, the neighboring bosque and the regional park at Mesa del Sol, this NCA has the highest concentration of parks and open space land per capita of any NCA in the County. However, there are a limited number of neighborhood parks in close proximity to residential areas.
- The Mountainview Community Center is the key gathering place for resident in the NCA. Given the history of public health issues, there is a need for a public health resources at the center.
- The community process for this NCA has included a series of public meetings as part of the planning of the Refuge and the 2nd Street SW corridor, including a series of meetings facilitated by the UNM School of Architecture and Planning’s Design Planning Assistance Center. Through this process, the community expressed interest in a community garden and more shade at the Center, an additional neighborhood park along 2nd Street SW trail and the development of the bosque paved trail down to the refuge along with the 2nd Street SW trail.
- Various stakeholders in the larger community of recreation stakeholders have expressed interest in further development of the Dr. E. A. “Swede” Scholer Regional Recreational Complex to include a wide range of facilities including additional soccer and football fields, velodrome, a sportsplex and even a regional aquatics facility.
- The following is a list of existing facilities in the Mountainview-Mesa del Sol NCA:
 - o Mountain View Community Center
 - o Valle de Oro National Urban Wildlife Refuge
 - o Dr. E. A. “Swede” Scholer Regional Recreational Complex
 - o Ambassador Romero Park



Aperture Center at Mesa del Sol



Valle de Oro National Urban Wildlife Refuge



Mountain View Community Center

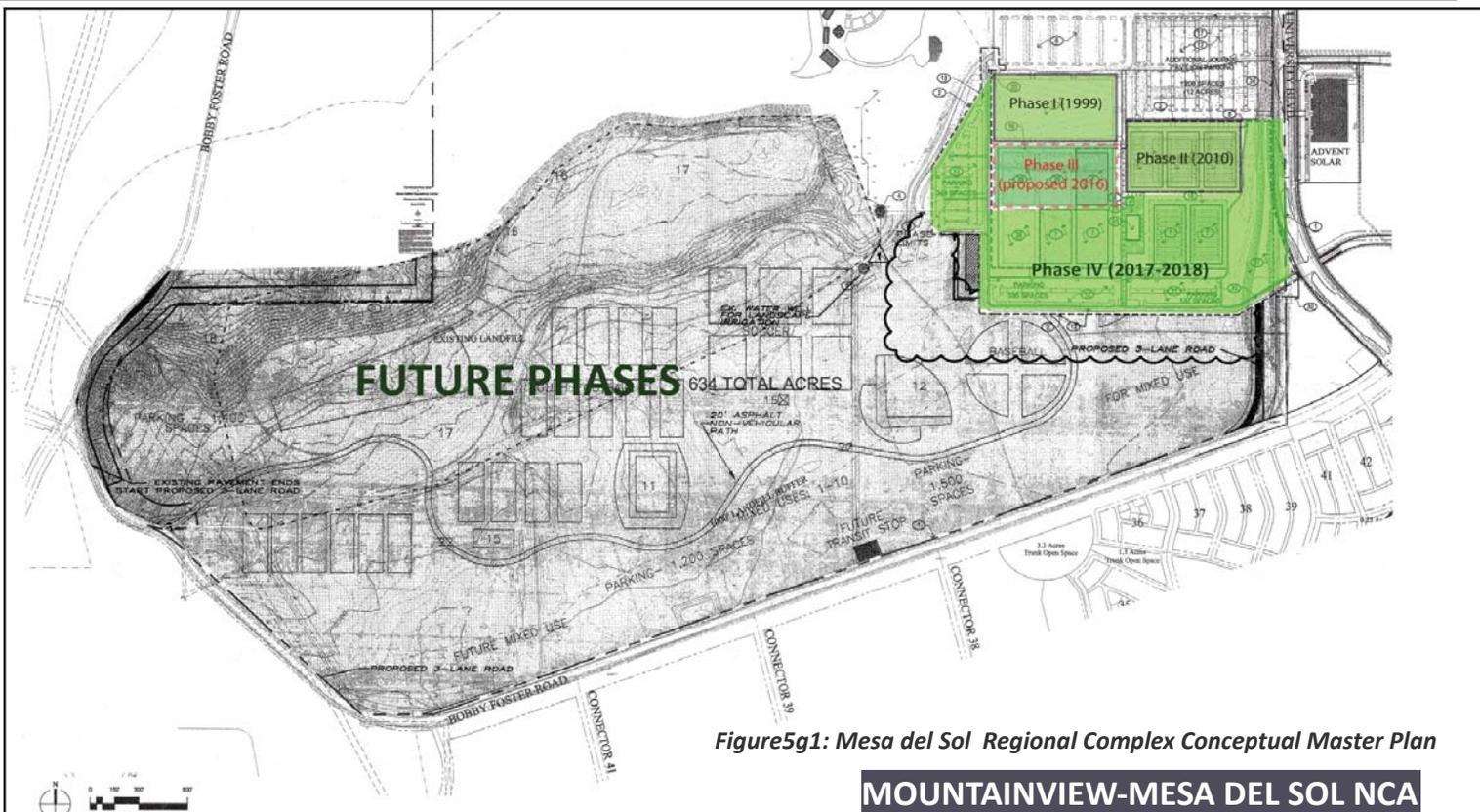
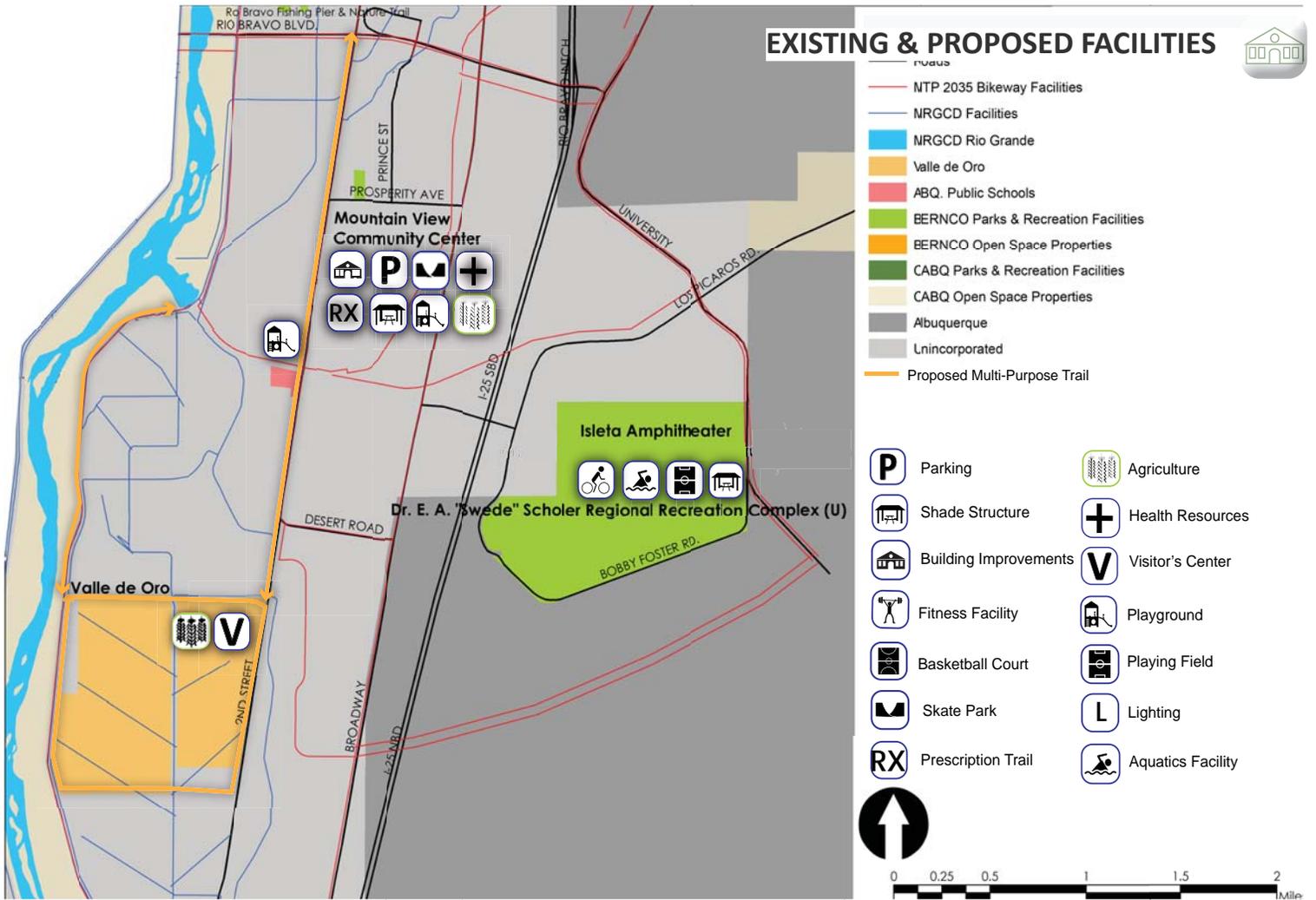


Figure 5g1: Mesa del Sol Regional Complex Conceptual Master Plan

MOUNTAINVIEW NCA (continued)



Figure5g2: MVCC Improvements Conceptual Master Plan



RECOMMENDATIONS

Mountain View Community Center: Based on the feedback received from community members and input from County staff, the following recommendations were developed for the Mountainview Community Center (MVCC) (**Figure 5g2**):

- A renovation and addition to the MVCC could provide for a separate Parky’s Pals space and two-story lobby at the south end of the complex with a meeting room and offices on the second floor. This would enable other spaces and offices to be re-programmed for community health resources and classrooms.
- Renovation of the turf area and the trail will enable it to function as an Rx Trail with shade and benches.
- With assistance from the Valle de Oro National Urban Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) the center has as embarked on a community gardens project to the west of the building.
- The addition of a large shade structure, a playground for older kids and a skate park would greatly enhance the function of this facility for teens and tweens.
- Parking could be supplemented and structured better around the site with perpendicular parking off of Williams Street and ADA, service and staff parking behind the building.

2nd Street SW Neighborhood Park: The development of a small neighborhood park midway between the Community Center and the Mountainview Elementary School. This improvement will require the acquisition of a small parcel of land along 2nd Street SW.

Refuge and Mobility Connections: The county will continue to work with the Refuge and may support other projects on the Refuge, including farming, public art, and joint programming with County Open Space. The following mobility projects will provide key connections:

- Extension of the existing Paseo del Bosque Trail south to the Refuge.
- The addition of a pedestrian and equestrian bridge across the Rio Grande within close proximity to the Refuge.
- Continued development of the 2nd Street SW Corridor Trail.
- Continued development of the perimeter trail around the refuge with neighborhood access points.



CIP LIST

Project	Total Cost	O & M Cost	Level of Priority
Mountainview Life Center Improvements			
Sitework (field renovation, irrigation parking, Rx trail, shade structure and landscaping)	\$ 150,000		
Building Addition or Annex with new Lobby, Clinic & Senior Facility	\$ 1,500,000		
Shade structure & skatepark	\$ 750,000		
Community Gardens	\$ 20,000		
	\$ 2,420,000		
Neighborhood Park			
Land acquisition	\$ 75,000		
ADA Rx Trail	\$ 75,000		
Playground	\$ 75,000		
Site-work, parking & shade structure	\$ 75,000		
small skate Park	\$ 600,000		
	\$ 900,000		
Suede Scholer / Mesa del Sol			
Turf fields	\$ 1,600,000		
Cricket pitches	\$ 50,000		
Drainage modificatons	\$ 450,000		
Concession stand, storage and additional parking	\$ 300,000		
Velodrome & Bike support facilities	\$ 150,000		
Mesa del sol mountain bike trail network	\$ 50,000		
Irrigation upgrade & hook-up to non-potable source	\$ 400,000		
	\$ 3,000,000		
Valle de Oro (USFWS)			
Agricultural infrastructure	\$ 150,000		
Milk Barn Art Center Development	\$ 250,000		
	\$ 400,000		
2nd Street Greenway (USFWS, USDOT & NPS)			
Paved MP trail along 2nd Street - phase I (Refuge to Rio Bravo)	\$ 10,000,000		
Paved MP trail along 2nd Street - phase II (Rio Bravo to Woodward)	\$ 2,500,000		
Pocket park facilities & landscaping	\$ 500,000		
	\$ 13,000,000		
TOTAL	\$ 21,300,000		

***All costs are estimated as of the completion of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, and are subject to change over time and as the project proceeds to construction. All projects are subject to availability of funds and Bernalillo County Commission approval.**

Swede Scholer Regional Recreation Complex: The County proposes to continue development of regional potential of this facility per the adopted master plans (see **Figure 5g1** above) including the following:

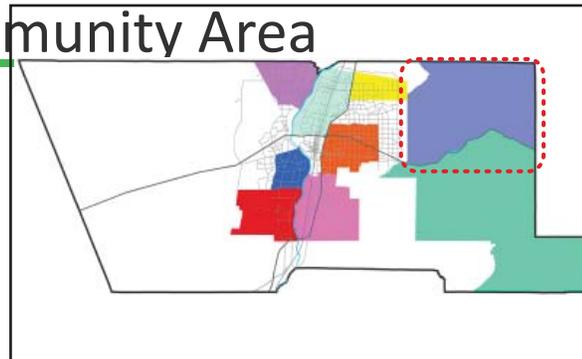
- **Playing Fields** -- Additional playing field space for football, soccer and possibly cricket.
- **Bike Facilities**-- A velodrome, paved multi-purpose trails and mountain bike trails along the escarpment portion of the site.
- **Other Regional Facilities** --The county will explore developing a tournament softball complex and other regional sports facilities.

5h. NORTH 14 Neighborhood Community Area



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- North 14 NCA is a large, sparsely populated service area, bounded on the north and east by the Bernalillo County line, on the south by I-40, and on the west by the eastern edge of the Albuquerque municipal boundary, with significant areas of open space managed by the County, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), New Mexico State Land Office (SLO), and the City of Albuquerque (City). The North 14 NCA is in Commission District 5.
- The NCA is very rural and mountainous in character-- Cedar Crest , San Antonito, and the neighborhood of Sandia Knolls, are examples of some of the smaller rural communities in the North 14 NCA. Most of County’s facilities are open spaces and there are no neighborhood parks in the area.
- The County has made significant investments in open space in this area, including the acquisition of Carlito Springs (Carlito Springs) and Ojito de San Antonio Open Spaces (Ojito), and the assisting in the City’s acquisition of Tres Pistoles and Route 66 Open Spaces. Development of Ojito is largely complete.
- A program for development of Carlito OS is in the process of being implemented with the property planned to be fully open and functional by 2020. The nature trail and lower parking area were completed in 2014, along with improvements to the spring box. A series of stakeholder meetings were held during the first half of 2015 to develop programming for the main house and cabins.
- The Vista Grande Community Center is the second newest center in the County’s portfolio. Other than some trail connections, limited improvements to the center and further development of neighboring outdoor spaces the center is functional for current and proposed programming.
- In various meetings, the community expressed interest in various trail connections, including completing the North 14 trail to East Mountain Elementary school, a Gutierrez Canyon/San Antonito Trail that would connect the El Refugio Archery Park, a USFS powerline Trail across the eastern edge of the Sandias, and the Carnue-Tijeras Regional Trail Network. These trails would improve access to and connections between existing open space and recreation facilities.
- The community was less interested in traditional neighborhood park development, but did express interest in shade structures and picnic areas where appropriate at Open Space facilities such as Ojito, Carlito Springs and Sandia Knolls.
- The following is a list of facilities in the North 14 NCA:
 - ◊ Vista Grande Community Center
 - ◊ East Mountain Little League Park
 - ◊ El Refugio Archery Park
 - ◊ Sandia Knolls Open Space (undeveloped)
 - ◊ Carlito Springs Open Space
 - ◊ Ojito de San Antonio Open Space



The pools at Carlito Springs Open Space

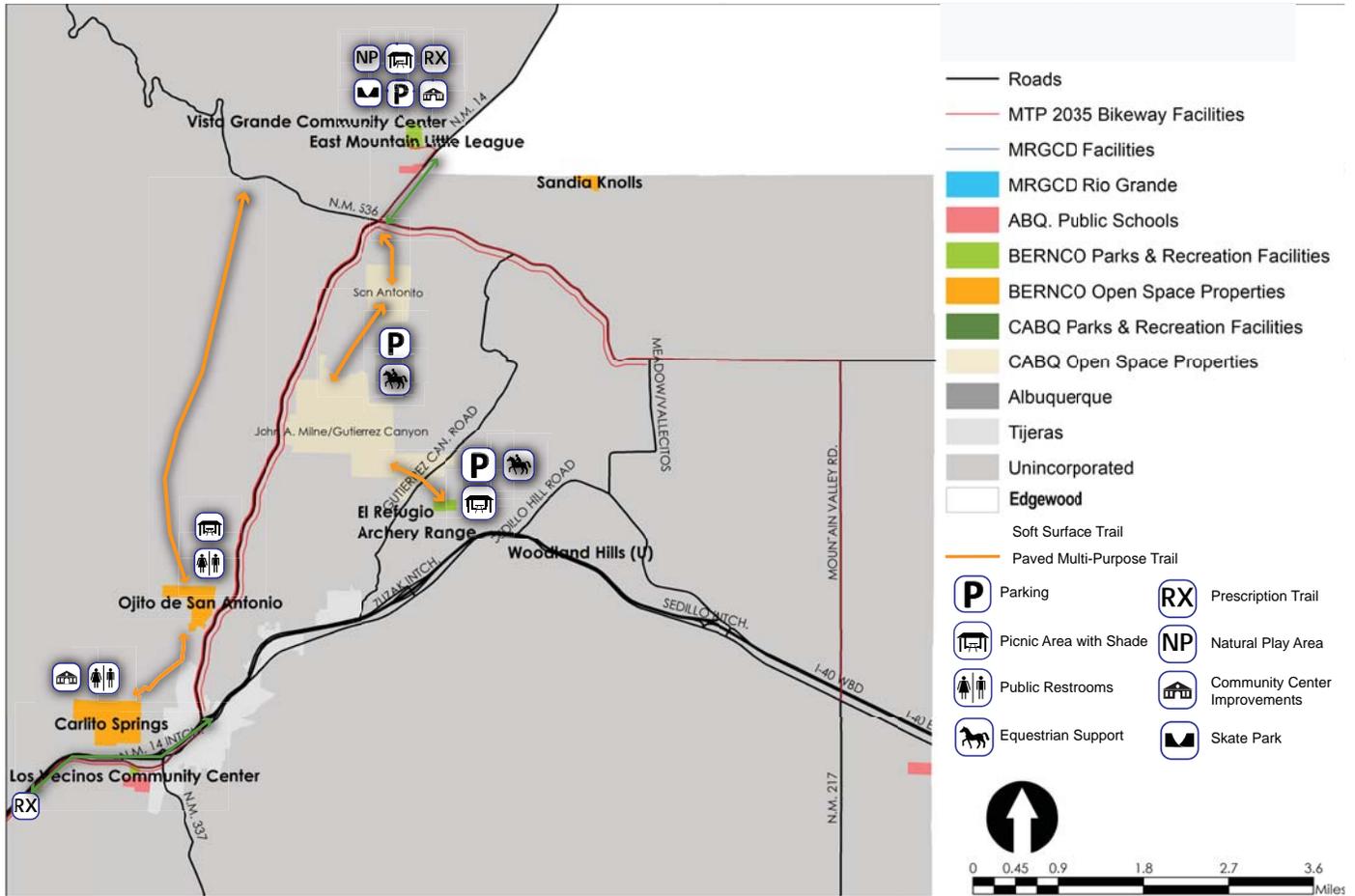


The View from Carlito Springs



Vista Grande Community Center

EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES



North 14 Powerline Trail: The proposed powerline Trail would be a collaborative effort between the County and the USFS. The proposed trail would be located along a powerline easement that passes through the base of the Sandia Mountains and would create trail connections and access points from Ojito de San Antonio Open Space and the National Forest trails to existing neighborhoods along North 14. The proposed trail will also potentially provide a spur and crossing to the City’s John Milne/Gutierrez Canyon Open Space located east of the highway. The County will play a critical role in the development of this trail by collaborating with the USFS and trail organizations to identify the trail’s alignment and potential funding sources.

Carnue-Tijeras Regional Trail Network: Located within both the North 14 NCA and Los Vecinos-Carnue NCA, the proposed Carnue-Tijeras Regional Trail Network will increase pedestrian and bicycle circulation at the community scale and provide regional trail connections throughout the East Mountains. The proposed network will also serve to improve pedestrian/ bicycle access to community facilities managed by the Village of Tijeras, Albuquerque Public Schools, and the County. A key link will be formalizing an informal trail from Carlito Springs to Ojito through the National Forest. The County will play a critical role in the development of the trail network by collaborating with the Cañon de Carnue Land Grant, the Village of Tijeras, the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and other agencies to identify the alignments for various proposed trails and potential funding sources.

Proposed Gutierrez Canyon/San Antonito Trail: The proposed Gutierrez Canyon/San Antonio Trail would improve hiking and equestrian connections and trailhead amenities between John Milne/ Gutierrez Canyon Open Space, San Antonito Open Spaces, and the County’s El Refugio Archery Park. The County will play a critical role in the development of this trail by collaborating with the City and other public agencies to identify a trail alignment and potential funding sources.

NORTH 14 NCA (continued)

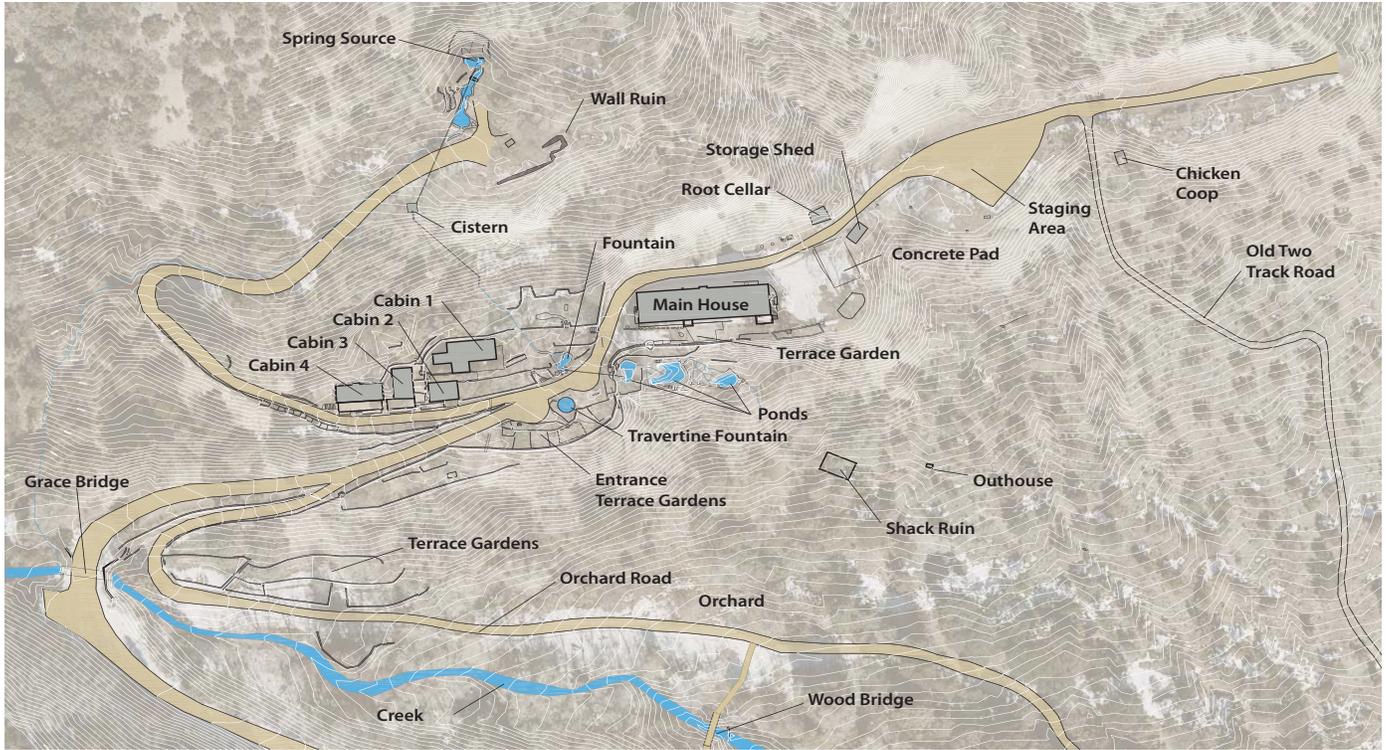


Figure 5h1: Carlito Springs Master Plan

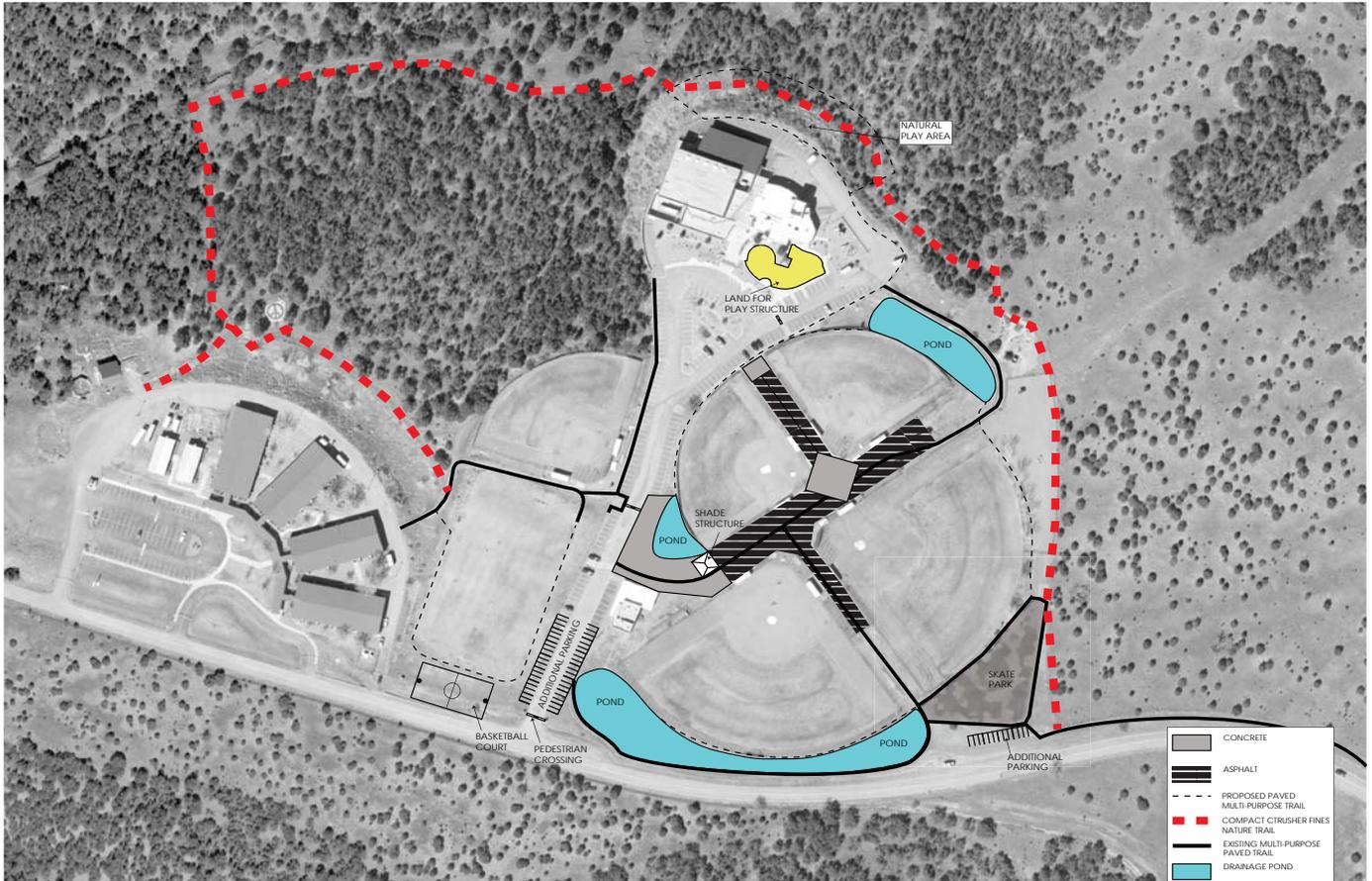


Figure 5h2: Vista Grande & East Mountain Little League Park



RECOMMENDATIONS (cont'd)

Carlito Springs Open Space Improvements:

The county will continue to develop the Carlito Springs Open Space according to the 2012 Cultural Landscape Report and Master Plan. Building on the improvements completed in 2014, the county is using State Capital Outlay funds to design water system improvements and rehabilitation of the main house and cabins. Programming and space needs are being explored for an intergovernmental research center, retreat/rehab center, and Americorps Environmental Corps barracks for volunteers working within the county open space program. Part of the effort will be to determine appropriate site strategies and locations for ADA access to the historic main house, including an accessible picnic area. Site landscaping plans will focus on rehabilitation of the historic pools, planting beds and orchards, as well as appropriate weed and integrated pest management, a forest management plan and wildlife habitat restoration. Future programming at Carlito Springs will include citizen science in land health monitoring, youth education programs and local volunteer efforts such as SiteWatch and the Carlito Springs Volunteer Cohort.

Vista Grande Complex Upgrades: Vista Grande Community Center is the newest of the county’s community centers, and as a result is not in need of significant renovation. At this time, the center is in need of many small upgrades, such as a commercial teaching kitchen, restroom improvements to include locker rooms and showers, a fully-inclusive playground and additional storage. Other proposed amenities would be geared toward middle school and high school students- such as basketball courts, a natural play area, a walking/running track and a skate park. The County is proposing some additional paving and shade structures at for the East Mountain Little League facility, and a multi-purpose trail/loop to connect the community center, the East Mountain Charter High School, the East Mountain Little League facilities and other proposed recreational facilities to the existing multi-purpose trail located along La Madera Road.

El Refugio Archery Center Improvements:

Recommendations for the Archery Center include developing a gateway feature with improved signage, landscaping and a new gate, improvements to the parking area and the addition of a shade structure and picnic area. The County is working with the El Refugio operator to increase opportunities for programming and use by the county and its partners.



CIP LIST

Project	Total Cost	O & M Cost	Level of Priority
Carlito Springs Open Space Development			
Design & Engineering	\$ 200,000		
Water System Improvements	\$ 250,000		
Main House Improvements	\$ 750,000		
Lanscaping, Access & ADA Parking Improvements	\$ 300,000		
Cabin Improvements	\$ 750,000		
	\$ 2,250,000		
Vista Grande Complex Improvements			
Formalize & compact Rx trail around back side of community center connecting to school and La Madera Road	\$ 150,000		
Soft Surface spur Trails from main paved trail	\$ 120,000		
Natural Play Area, interpretive signage, benches & landscaping	\$ 50,000		
Fully Inclusive Playgrouond	\$ 250,000		
Basketball / Tennis Court	\$ 130,000		
Building Improvements/upgrades	\$ 200,000		
	\$ 900,000		
Carlito - Ojito Trail (USFS)			
Soft Surface Trail Connections to Existing Forest Service Tail	\$ 30,000		
Shade Structure & Picnic Benches @ Ojito	\$ 15,000		
Trail-Head Modifications	\$ 20,000		
	\$ 65,000		
USFS Powerline Trail			
Soft Surface Trail along Powerline Corridor	\$ 30,000		
Trail- head & parking	\$ 140,000		
	\$ 170,000		
El Refugio Archery Center Upgrades			
Gateway with signage, landscaping, gate & minor parking improvements	\$ 20,000		
Shade Structure & Picnic Area	\$ 20,000		
	\$ 40,000		
North 14 - Gutierrez Canyon - Route 66 Trail System			
ROW acquisition	\$ 150,000		
Alignment Study & Plan	\$ 50,000		
North 14 Paved MP Trail	\$ 250,000		
Gateway with signage, landscaping, gate & minor parking improvements	\$ 50,000		
Soft Surface Trails	\$ 180,000		
	\$ 680,000		
TOTAL	\$ 4,145,000		

****All costs are estimated as of the completion of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, and are subject to change over time and as the project proceeds to construction. All projects are subject to availability of funds and Bernalillo County Commission approval.***

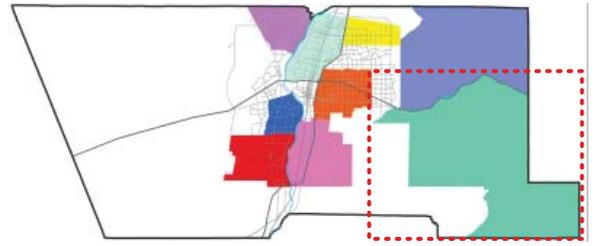
Ojito de San Antonio Open Space Improvements: The county recently completed a round of improvements to this open space including orchard and well-head restoration, trail system, fuel thinning and parking. During the community input process, residents identified public restrooms and a shade structure with picnic facilities as desirable additions to the Ojito de San Antonio Open Space. These facilities will be evaluated for future implementation.

5i. LOS VECINOS-CARNUE Neighborhood Community Area



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Los Vecinos-Carnue NCA, bounded on the south and east by the county boundary, on the north by Interstate 40, and following census tract boundaries to the west, is a large, sparsely-populated but growing area of the unincorporated county. This NCA is in Commission District 5 and also includes the Village of Tijeras.
- The county is meeting service goals with respect to the categories of overall parks and open space acreage, community centers and senior facilities. The lack of developed park land versus open space reflects the character and desires of the residents in this rural area.
- Los Vecinos Community Center (LVCC) serves the largest area and second largest population of any center in the County. It is the second-oldest community center in the county, and it has major structural and site issues.
- Situated in the eastern portion of Tijeras Canyon, a group of facilities clustered around Los Vecinos Community Center -- including A. Montoya Elementary School, Roosevelt Elementary School, the Tijeras Senior Center and the Tijeras Library -- function as community hub for recreation and education. These functions could be developed further to include community health.
- A two-day public charrette process was held for the LVCC. There were also four additional meetings at which the community could provide input on not only the LVCC, but also other facilities in the NCA. The feedback focused on improving the LVCC and adding an aquatics facility.
- As with other community centers in Bernalillo County, there are considerable mobility and accessibility issues at Los Vecinos Community Center which will need to be addressed, such as the crossings from the center to existing Village of Tijeras facilities on the north side of NM 333 and to APS facilities south of the arroyo. The arroyo itself provides an opportunity to connect Carlito Springs Open Space to the center and further southeast to the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station.
- The Tijeras Arroyo is County-owned up to the point where it forks just south and west of the LVCC. There is currently a multi-party effort underway to restore the Tijeras Arroyo led by the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation Service.
- Sedillo Ridge is the only open space that has yet to be developed. Equestrian advocates have made several requests for a trailhead and a basic trail system.
- The following is a list of county Facilities in the NCA:
 - ◊ Los Vecinos Community Center
 - ◊ Whispering Pines Senior Meal Site & Hocket Park
 - ◊ Sunflower Park
 - ◊ Sabino Canyon Open Space
 - ◊ Sedillo Ridge Open Space



Los Vecinos Game Field with View of the Sandias

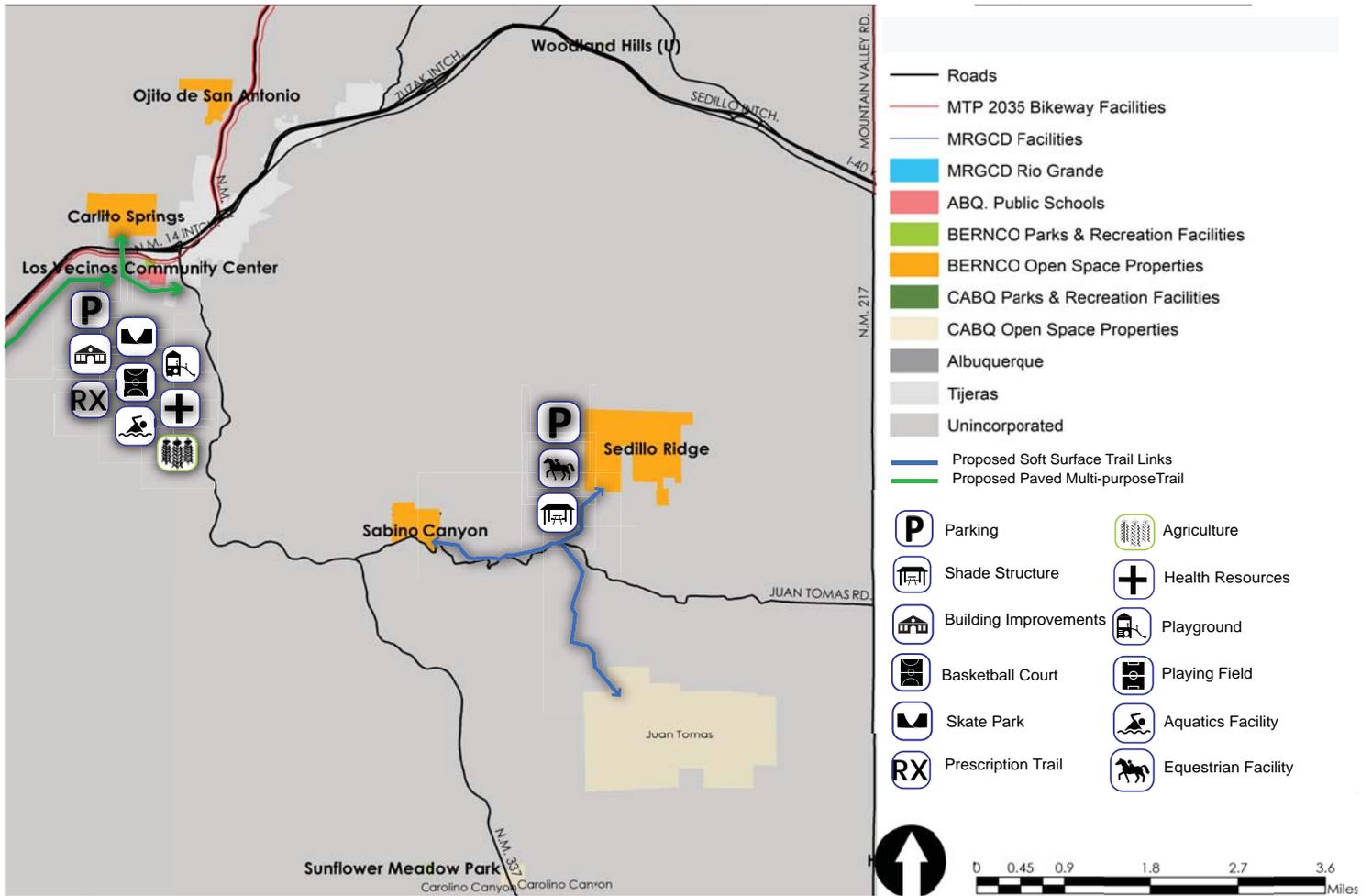


Proposed Carnue-Tijeras Los Vecinos Open Space



Los Vecinos Community Center

EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES



RECOMMENDATIONS

Sedillo Ridge Open Space Improvements: The County has nearterm plans to make improvements to Sedillo Ridge so that it can be open to the public such as a trail head with parking that will support equestrians, a shade structure and picnic area. The County will be working with user groups to update the Sedillo Ridge Management Plan to explore different uses and management options. Pending further development, the county will complete fuel thinning activities and undertake fencing of the property in certain locations to limit undesirable off-road vehicle access.

Carnue-Tijeras Regional Trail Network: Located within both the North 14 NCA and Los Vecinos-Carnue NCA, the proposed Carnue-Tijeras Regional Trail Network is further described above in the North 14 NCA. The LVCC will be a key trail head and destination point of that network. The alignment is further described in the East Mountain Trails and Bikeways Master Plan and the 2014 UNM Carnue Trail Planning Study. There may be opportunities to link part of this project to extension of a water line east into the canyon. The Land Grant has been consulted on the project, and further discussion will be necessary prior to undertaking the project. Portions of any alignment outside of NMDOT right-of-way will require an extensive planning process.

Sabino Canyon/Sedillo Ridge/Juan Tomas Multi-Purpose Trail: Where appropriate, and without compromising existing resources, a soft surface trail is proposed to connect existing social trails, open space trails and unpaved roadways in the Cedro Peak area and further integrate the existing USFS trail system. This would increased hiking, mountain biking and potentially equestrian connectivity between Sabino Canyon, Sedillo Ridge, and Juan Tomas Open Spaces. The County will play a primary role in the development of the trail by collaborating with other public agencies to identify the trail alignments and potential sources of funding.

LOS VECINOS-CARNUE NCA (continued)

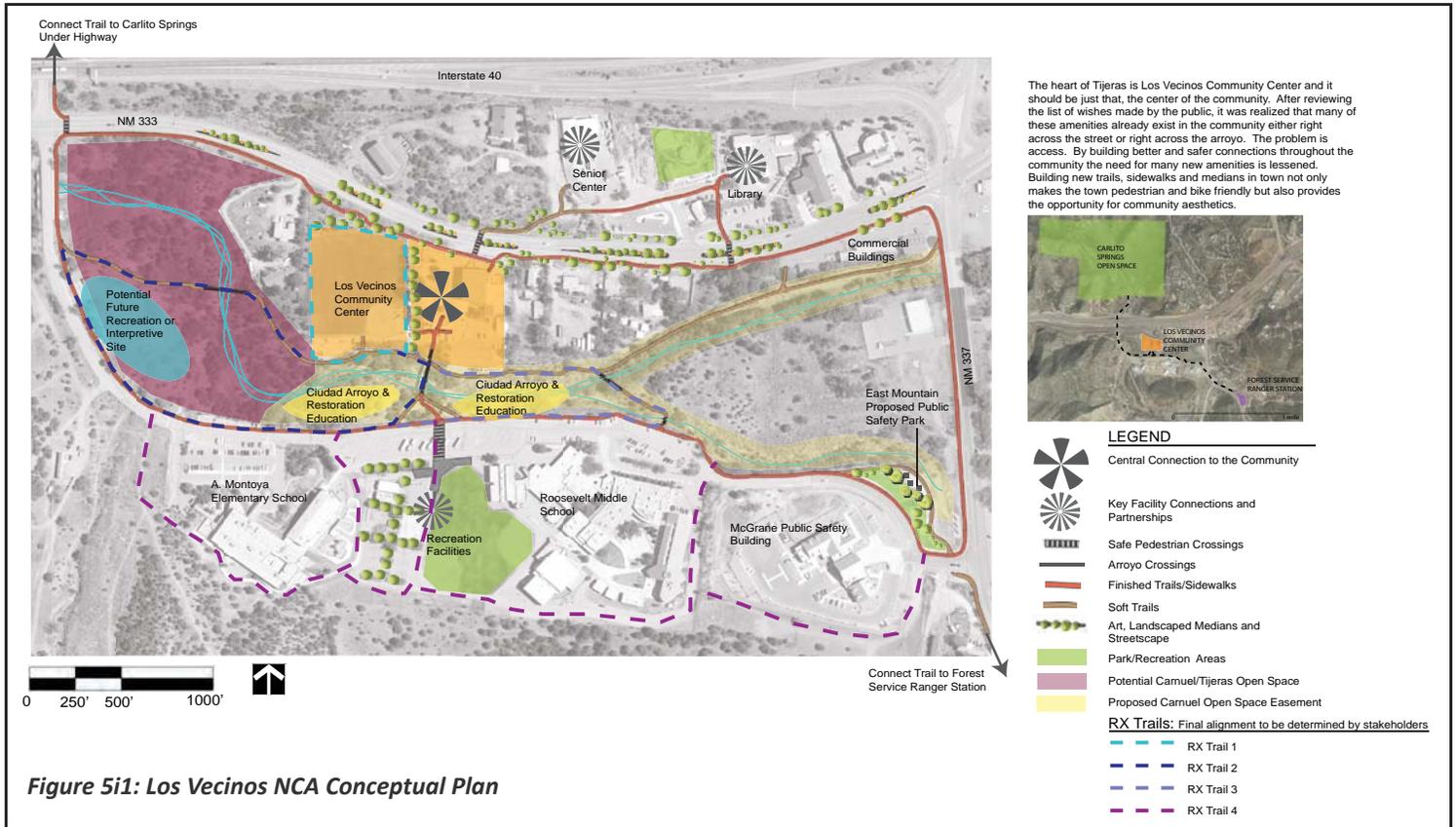


Figure 5i.1: Los Vecinos NCA Conceptual Plan



Figure 5i.2: Los Vecinos Community Center Conceptual Plan



RECOMMENDATIONS (cont'd)

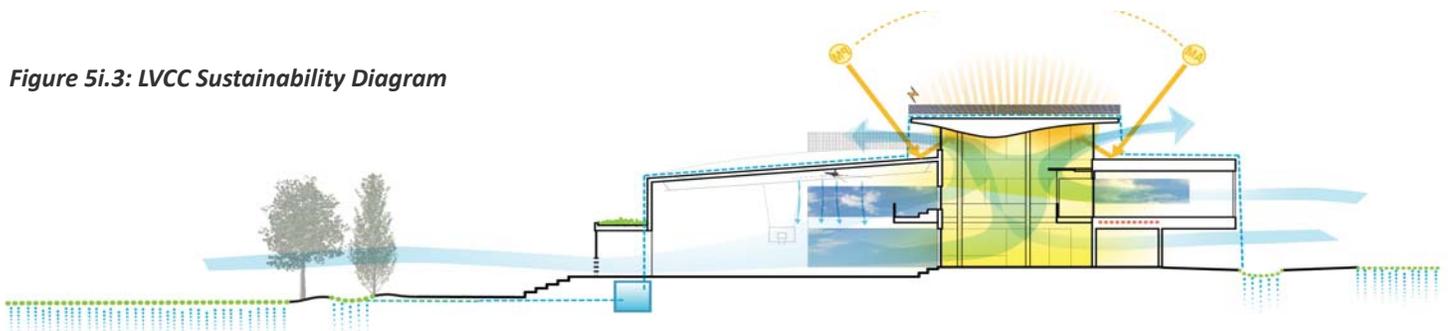
Los Vecinos Open Space & Mobility Connections: The Tijeras Arroyo from Public School Road to where the it forks south and west is proposed to be a future open space. This land is currently owned by the county and a portion of it along the banks of the arroyo is being restored by the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation Service. In tandem with pedestrian facilities along Public School Road, this new open space would provide opportunities for trail connections to Carlito Springs, the McGrane Public Safety Center, the Sandia Ranger Station, and perhaps to Carnue-Tijeras trail eastward through the canyon.

Los Vecinos Site Improvements: The community center is in critical need of renovation and land expansion to accommodate its programmatic needs. The program for the sites includes a new playground, a splash pad, new basketball court, updated skate park, drainage improvements and much-needed additional parking and ADA improvements. An Rx Trail loop is proposed to connect the center to all these site amenities. Additional land acquisition to the east is a necessary first step to accomodate additional parking before construction of the splash park and the center addition can begin.

- **Los Vecinos Life Center Building Improvements:** A series of building improvements are proposed to remedy existing structural and programmatic issues with the current configuration of the center and to enable the center to function as a Whole Life Center. The improvements will be a significant renovation of the existing building, with the older portions being demolished and reconstructed with a second story added to provide opportunities for better lighting, more sustainable building heating and cooling systems and views of the Sandias. The new building will have a new game room, a health resources area, an actual lobby and a flexible multi-purpose meeting room space.

Other Facilities: The County will complete renovations to Sunflower Park and will look at potential future uses and programming for the Whispering Pines Senior Meal Site and Hocket Park as a potential satellite center for LVCC.

Figure 5i.3: LVCC Sustainability Diagram



CIP LIST

Project	Capital Cost	O & M Cost	Level of Priority
Los Vecinos Life Center Improvements			
Sitework (move court, rx trail, parking redo, playground, field grading/drainag, etc.)	\$ 750,000		
Land acquisition	\$ 250,000		
Splash Park & Additional Parking	\$ 850,000		
Building Renovation & Addition	\$ 4,300,000		
Lanscaping, Access & ADA Parking Improvements	\$ 300,000		
Gym Improvements	\$ 600,000		
	\$ 7,050,000		
Los Vecions OS & Trails			
Soft Surface Trails in new OS	\$ 60,000		
MP Paved Trail & crossings from Carlito Springs entrance to USFS Ranger Station along Public School Road	\$ 500,000		
Natural Play Area, interpretive signage, benches & landscaping	\$ 50,000		
Restoration work	\$ 130,000		
Educational Site Building & training site	\$ 200,000		
	\$ 940,000		
Sedillo Ridge Open Space			
Soft Surface Trail Connections to Existing Forest Service Tail	\$ 60,000		
Parking Area & Equestrian turn around area	\$ 75,000		
Shade Structure & Picnic Benches	\$ 35,000		
Trail-Head Modifications	\$ 10,000		
	\$ 180,000		
Sunflower Park			
Park Renovations	\$ 35,000		
	\$ 35,000		
Sabino Canyon/Sedillo Ridge/Juan Tomas Trail			
Soft surface MP Trail	\$ 180,000		
Trail-head Modifications & interpretive signage	\$ 20,000		
	\$ 200,000		
Carnue- Los Vecinos - Carlito Trail			
Paved MP trail along 66 and possible other areas as determined by Land Grant	\$ 1,500,000		
Soft Surface MP spur trails	\$ 240,000		
	\$ 1,740,000		
TOTAL	\$ 10,145,000		

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6. PHASED PRIORITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



Figure 6.1:

Forthcoming after Commission District meetings and Interagency review.

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GLOSSARY

ABCWUA: Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority is the agency that provides water and sewer infrastructure and services to the incorporated City of Albuquerque and other specific, unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County.

AMAFCA: Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority is the agency that provides storm drainage infrastructure to all areas of Bernalillo County, in conjunction with Bernalillo County Public Works Division, the City of Albuquerque Municipal Development Department, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

APS: Albuquerque Public Schools is the public school district in Bernalillo County.

Amenity: A feature found at a facility which is not critical to its function, but enhances either convenience or enjoyment for the user. Examples include but are not limited to benches, trees, lights, signage, and fencing.

BCPR: Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department is the agency that manages recreational facilities in much of the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County.

BCPW: Bernalillo County Public Works Division is the agency that manages road and storm drainage facilities in much of the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County.

Capital project: A project or equipment valued at over \$5,000 and a life span of greater than ten years.

Capital outlay: Funding from the New Mexico State Legislature to a local government for the design and/or construction of a specific capital project.

CIP: Capital Improvement Plan that Bernalillo County updates in even numbered years. The CIP is the basis for the General Obligation bond questions that voters either approve or reject every other year.

Conservation easement: A type of voluntary land protection and conservation agreement between a landowner and a land trust that contains certain restrictions on the subdivision, development, and use on a landowner's property in order to protect significant resources such as productive agricultural land, ground and surface water, wildlife habitat, scenic views, cultural and historic sites, or recreational lands. Conservation easements are negative easements because prohibit or limit activities or rights of the main property owner. Easements can be tailored to the specific features of the land and the long-term conservation and usage objectives of the property owner.

Facility: A facility is all or any portion of a publicly owned building, trail, structure, park or land with some level of improvement.

Fee acquisition: The acquiring through purchase or other conveyance of full ownership of or title to a property, including the right to develop and convey the property.

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP): that Bernalillo County updates annually and provides to the State of New Mexico. A project's placement on the ICIP is one requirement for that project to receive capital outlay funding from the State of New Mexico Legislature. The ICIP is based on the County's CIP.

Level-of-Service: The ratio of the number of facilities or size of particular facility to the population that the facility or group of facilities is serving, which translates to the burden of use on that facility.

Leverage: The use of one committed funding source to help obtain other, supplemental funding from another source.

GLOSSARY (continued)

MPOS or Major Public Open Space (MPOS): Open space identified in the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan to be acquired and remain maintained as open space.

Master Plan: A plan for the future of a facility or system of facilities that shows the approximate alignment or layout of the planned features and the projected cost for constructing the features.

MRCOG: Mid Region Council of Governments is the local Regional Planning Organization that is the conduit for federal transportation funds awarded to the State of New Mexico for multi-modal transportation projects that are funded on a competitive basis.

MRGCD: Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District is the local irrigation agency that supplies surface water for agricultural uses in the middle Rio Grande valley.

NCA: Neighborhood Community Area, which is a geographic area comprised of a number of neighborhoods with similar social and environmental characteristics, and a shared sense of community identity for the purposes of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

Open Space: A dynamic network of properties with important natural and cultural resources managed to benefit people, plants, and wildlife by protecting and enhancing view sheds, water resources, wildlife habitat, cultural/historical sites, and prime agriculture land; and providing resource-based recreation and environmental education.

Park Open Space and Trails (POST) Plan: A conceptual plan intended to integrate the planning and development of park, open space, and trails facilities. The POST plan was Bernalillo County's master plan for recreational facilities from 2003 until 2015.

Prescription (Rx) Trail: Prescription trail identifies walking and wheelchair rolling routes that are both safe and accessible to patients and families to promote healthy lifestyles. To make sure that people engage in appropriate levels of physical activity, healthcare providers assess their patients for readiness to start or maintain a walking program and then write tailored prescriptions based on their current physical condition. Walking programs can contribute to the treatment and prevention of a number of chronic conditions such as diabetes, depression and high blood pressure.

REACH: Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health

SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

UNMHSC: University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

Whole Life Center: A community center with community health programming and uses added to existing recreational uses.



TECHNICAL APPENDIX

Forthcoming as part of on-line version of document after Commission District meetings and Interagency review.

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