Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities

MASTER PLAN

2015 - 2030
BERNALILLO COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 2015–64

ADOPTING THE BERNALILLO COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN
SPACE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AS A RANK 2 FACILITY PLAN

WHEREAS, the County Commission has the authority to adopt plans within Bernalillo
County as authorized by New Mexico Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the need for plans to guide capital development
to improve, expand and enhance County facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Facilities Master Plan (PROS Plan)
is an update of the Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan (POST Plan) and is consistent with
policies in relevant Rank 1 and Rank 2 plans pursuant to the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County
Comprehensive Plan and itself is a Rank 2 plan; and

WHEREAS, the POST Plan was adopted by the County Commission in 2003 which
identified a number of projects, of which 75% were undertaken and are serving County residents,
including the Rio Grande Pool renovation; development of Bachechi, Pajarito, Durand and Ojito
Open Spaces; Gutierrez-Hubbell House renovations and open space development; Vista Grande
and Paradise Hills Community Center improvements; and playground, park and Little League
park upgrades throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the PROS Plan—like the POST Plan—seeks to further integrate a network
of parks, open spaces and trails that are managed by the County as well as other facilities owned
and managed by other local, state and federal agencies; and
WHEREAS, quality of life in the PROS Plan is a function of community health, cultural
heritage and economic development. It builds upon and further integrates a number of other
County quality-of-life initiatives and partnerships in the County. The partnerships include the
Bernalillo County Health Council, International District Healthy Communities Coalition;
Bernalillo County Place Matters, South Valley Economic Development Center and the Bernalillo
County Youth Sports Commission. The initiatives include: Cultivating Bernalillo County and the
cultural heritage development at a number of open space properties, such as the Gutierrez
Hubbell House, Bachechi and Carlito Springs Open Spaces; implementation of appropriate
public art projects at County-owned facilities; and through a variety of special events throughout
the year; and

WHEREAS, the PROS plan strives to balance community input, future operation and
maintenance budgets, health and safety concerns (including ADA compliance), levels of service,
partially funded projects, total capital costs and available land and water resources in
determining projects’ viability and their relative priority for development; and

WHEREAS, the PROS Plan identifies and prioritizes capital projects for the 2015-2030
timeframe for the Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners to review and provide direction;
and is a guide for securing capital funds for project development, including but not limited to the
biennial Bernalillo County General Obligation Bonds, New Mexico State Capital Outlay,
Bernalillo County Open Space Special Mill Levy, Development Impact Fees and other funds or
revenue sources that the Commission may identify and implement to support capital project
development; and

WHEREAS, two rounds of public input and a public opinion survey and a thorough staff
and technical agency review have contributed to the development of the PROS plan;
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners, the
governing body of the County of Bernalillo, that

1. The Bernalillo County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Facilities Master Plan (PROS Plan)
attached hereto and made part hereof, is hereby adopted as a Rank II Plan for facilities
managed by the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department.
2. The PROS Plan goals, objectives and project priorities shall guide the activities of Bernalillo
County Parks and Recreation Department.
3. This PROS Plan and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) adopted in 2014 are the basis for
future CIP funding up to 2030.
4. The PROS Plan including its technical appendices shall serve as the ADA Transition Plan for
County Parks, Recreation and Open Space facilities.

DONE this 27th day of October, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Maggie Hart Stubbins, Chair
Art De La Cruz, Vice Chair
Debbie O’Malley, Member
Lonnie C. Talbert, Member
Wayne A. Johnson, Member

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

County Legal

ATTEST:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
County Clerk
Forward: “Re-creating Recreation”

Quality of life is important to residents in Bernalillo County. Surveys, constituent calls, letters and program participation remind us daily that our parks, recreation and open space facilities contribute significantly to our community and to our quality of life. We are proud of our parks, recreation and open space system, and our Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department (Parks and Recreation) staff is dedicated to ensuring our customers continue to be proud.

Our mission is to provide and operate facilities that meet the needs of our community and enhance the quality of life. “We work when others play,” means maximizing and programming our facilities into the evenings and weekends in order to meet the needs of all the residents of our communities. We need to serve the needs of all ages in the programming at our centers and other facilities—positive and healthy programs for tweens and teens and the growing senior population! However, as evidenced by our research and feedback from our citizens, community centers, pools, parks and open spaces require improvements and additions to meet this demand.

Our community centers will need to change to become “hubs” of their service area, where residents can gain access to the abundant resources and programming provided by the County. Centers will provide positive programs and have direct links to schools, libraries, health clinics, parks and open space facilities through improved trail systems to meet our citizens’ needs. There are also health challenges such as childhood obesity and diabetes facing our communities where we need to make a difference. New Mexico ranks highest in the nation with teenage pregnancy. Substance abuse across all ages is rampant and devastating our families. Poverty levels in parts of our communities are high.

Our large public safety budgets reflect the staggering costs of incarceration. The slogan “Recreate not Incarcerate” rings true for Parks and Recreation. Let us not forget that we continue to serve 97% of the community that is not incarcerated who continue to use our community centers, parks and open spaces daily, even while our budgets continue to decrease. As a result, seeking grants, state funds and partnerships will continue to be important for the future.

As a department, we need to be at the forefront in providing prevention and intervention programs by working with community partners and agencies through use of our community centers, parks, open space and school facilities. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Facilities Master Plan (PROS Plan) is one way we are taking action. The PROS Plan provides the County with a 15-year road map to maintain and enhance our quality of life. Policies and proposed facility improvements will provide residents with important new community health resources, opportunities for economic development and places to celebrate our rich cultural heritage. As part of the PROS planning process, the County has invited residents to more than 40 community meetings and to give their feedback through two separate surveys. This input contributed significantly to the recommendations outlined the PROS Plan.

As Department Director, I pledge to be a steward of our resources to enhance our quality of life and that of generations to come. I invite you to join me!

Sincerely,

Debbie Jo Almager, CPRP
Director, Parks & Recreation Department
PROJECT TEAM

BERNALILLO COUNTY

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Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority:
Jerry Lovato, P.E. Chief Engineer & Brad Bingham, P.E.

Mid-Region Council of Governments:
Kendra Watkins, Chief Demographer

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District:
Mike Hammond, P.E. Chief Engineer, Yasmin Najmi, Planner, Ray Gomez

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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.

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?

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.

Tom Zdunek
County Manager

Vincent C. Murphy
Deputy County Manager for Community Services
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities Master Plan (PROS Plan) marks the path forward for Bernalillo County (County) to develop parks, recreation and open space facilities during the next 15 years. The PROS 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 developed a nationally recognized, award-winning open space program that County voters chose overwhelmingly to support by approving a mill levy in the fall of 2014.

The PROS Plan proposes building on the success of the POST Plan by “re-creating recreation.” To do this, the parks and recreation mission was broadened to encompass community health, cultural heritage and economic development, or, altogether, quality of life! The PROS 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 PROS Plan consists of policies and recommendations for facility improvements that increase the quality of life of residents throughout the County.

The Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department (Parks and Recreation) initiated the planning effort in the fall of 2013 with workshops at Paradise Hills and Westside Community Centers. Since that time, County staff held more than 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 NCA plan documents in the fall of 2014 and winter of 2015. The NCA Planning Studies were summarized and further developed into a draft of the PROS Plan in the spring 2015. The draft was refined through feedback from commissioners, staff and key stakeholder agencies. In May 2015, the County published a draft PROS Plan with proposed policies and capital projects on the County website for public review and comment.

Key findings of the planning process include the following:

- The County has been very successful in the development and programming of open space properties. All but one open space property is currently open to the public with programming at various times during the year. County residents voted (73% approval) for the 2014 Open Space Mill Levy that will provide a funding stream to support further acquisition, development, programming and maintenance of open space properties. Using the policies and goals of the PROS Plan, the County will undertake a community- and map-based study to prioritize properties for future acquisition and/or preservation easements.

- The County is 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 ensure that facility maintenance continues.

- The County needs to modernize and grow community centers capacity. These centers are the hubs for several communities. They have an important, potential role in increasing access to health resources and County services in those neighborhoods.

North Valley Little League Grand Opening
Physical and structural constraints in several community centers currently limit capacity and programming potential. Large capital improvement costs to meet future needs and to address deferred maintenance issues will require significant County investment.

• Senior-oriented facilities are, in most cases, underutilized. They could be cross-programmed, enhanced and physically linked as satellites to relieve capacity issues at larger community facilities and, at the same time, provide greater opportunity for multi-generational programming.

• The County needs to focus on further developing its aquatics system. Only one new aquatics facility has been added by the 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. Furthermore, construction and operation costs for these facilities are very high and continue to increase, which will require the consideration of a broader spectrum of funding strategies and agency partnerships.

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 actions:

• Develop facilities to provide greater access to community health resources

• Increase development of open space properties to support appropriate recreation, environmental education and local agriculture

• Develop public-private partnerships to assist in the delivery of programming at parks and recreation facilities

• Increase opportunities for cultural heritage preservation and celebration through public art and community events

• Develop facilities, events and communication materials that support the further development of

_Bernco Bernie at the UNM North Golf Course_
locales in the County as tourism destinations and as a basis for economic development

- Increase cross-programming and multi-use facilities
- Increase financial sustainability of facilities by increasing revenues and addressing operational costs
- Increase environmental sustainability of facilities by reducing the overall use of energy, water and other resources
- Incorporate service standards to guide future capital project development and plans for future master planned communities in the County’s unincorporated areas
- Identify acquisition criteria for parks and open space
- Develop intergovernmental partnerships to provide regional state-of-the-art facilities for aquatics and other recreational activities

The key outcome of the PROS Plan is a list of prioritized, future capital projects to be funded, planned, designed and constructed. The list of proposed projects was based on community input and developed specifically to implement the policies outlined in the PROS 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 were held in June 2015 with the intention of obtaining feedback from the community on key policies and the relative priority of capital projects. Public feedback was also obtained through an online survey. Based on that feedback, County staff developed a final PROS Plan draft including policies, a prioritized capital improvement schedule and fiscal analysis.

The PROS Plan was presented to the Bernalillo County Commission and adopted on October 27, 2015 with a limited number of floor amendments.
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1. RE-CREATING RECREATION

- How do we increase the quality of life of our residents?
- How do we build the capacity of community members to make healthier choices, thereby reducing the direct and indirect costs of community health?
- How do we increase environmental awareness and improve the environmental resiliency of our communities in an arid landscape?
- 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 (PROS Plan) provides important responses to these questions. The PROS Plan provides a 15-year roadmap for facility development by the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department (Parks and Recreation). Like its predecessors—the 1995 Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the 2003 Parks, Open Space and Trail Plan (POST Plan)—the PROS Plan focuses on preserving and enhancing existing resources, and developing new County-managed facilities for the enjoyment of all County residents.

The POST Plan was very successful. The County completed 75% of all the proposed projects, and all but one of the open spaces acquired with previous mill levy funds are open to the public.

The PROS Plan is an update to the POST Plan that builds on and broadens the policies in the POST Plan. The PROS Plan expands the vision and mission of Parks and Recreation to increase quality-of-life initiatives. The purpose of the PROS 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.

Quality of Life and the “Whole Life” Community Center:
The PROS Plan focuses on developing “whole life” functions at the County’s recreation-oriented centers so that they mature into full community service hubs for the neighborhoods they serve (see Figures 1.1 and...
1.2). With capital investment, these new and improved centers will have the potential to foster programmatic and physical connections to open spaces, parks, aquatics facilities, senior facilities, community schools, health resources and other County services. For example, when you come in for a fitness class, you could get your blood pressure and sugar levels tested and sign up for an upcoming backyard farming class to learn how to grow healthy alternatives!

The increase in amount and diversity of spaces that are a part of a whole-life community center will provide more opportunities 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 community 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.

The PROS Plan structure and the planning process reflect this emphasis on the community centers.

The PROS Plan was developed by geographically grouping neighborhoods and facilities, referred to as Neighborhood Community Areas (NCAs), typically with a community center and whole-life functions as the hub. For example, the Atrisco and Armijo neighborhoods comprise the Atrisco-Westside NCA with the Westside Community Center as its hub. The recommendations for a particular NCA and its community center hub vary depending upon the needs of the community in that area.

For the purposes of the PROS Plan, quality of life is a function of community health, economic development and cultural heritage (see Figure 1.3 on next page).

**Community Health:** People function within environments that affect their health positively or negatively. 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 public health field, it is commonly accepted that a person’s zip code is a powerful predictor of their health status. For example, a person who lives in an area that has access to more open space, pedestrian facilities, better schools, fresh food and health care options is likely to be in better health. The goal of the PROS Plan is to ensure that the healthy choice is the easy choice for residents throughout the County. For example, residents could take a walk on

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**Figure 1.2: From recreation center to a “whole life” community center**
a Prescription (Rx) Trail and eat vegetables grown at a nearby County open space property. They could also take a heart-healthy cooking class or attend a group counseling session at a community center. Healthy options means that 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, employment centers and neighborhoods.

“No child left inside!” and “Recreate not incarcerate!” are slogans that speak to the importance of open space and recreation programming in improving community health. Recreation and environmental education programming promotes community health by providing opportunities to learn about and participate in healthy outdoor activities, such as backyard gardening and nature hikes.

**Economic Development:** Businesses locate where there is 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 community centers and agricultural open spaces could provide incubator opportunities for small businesses and not-for-profit agencies. Open space properties such as Bachechi Open Space, Carlito Springs Open Space and the Gutierrez-Hubbell House are amenities that contribute to quality of life for existing and prospective members of our community—they attract visitors. Economic development creates economic growth through for tourism and job creation. That, in turn, means more gross receipts and property tax revenues for the County to support current 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 a key element of placemaking, and it includes traditional and public art, landmarks, historic buildings and districts, community events, parks, open spaces and cultural corridors. By protecting and enhancing cultural heritage of our open spaces, our farms and acequias as well as 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, the Gutierrez-Hubbell House and Carlito Springs encourages a deeper connection between people, their environment and cultural landscapes.
**Re-creating Recreation:** The following PROS Plan Vision Statement, developed and refined during the planning process, builds on and broadens preceding vision statements to include parks, 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 community members.*

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

- Facility improvements to stabilize, preserve and enhance the function of existing parks, recreation and open space facilities
- Facility improvements where there is an identified gap between existing community programming needs and the capacity of the existing facilities to meet those needs
- Facility improvements to implement new community health and local agriculture policies
- Facility improvements to meet the quality-of-life needs of our evolving community, including:
  - Multi-generational programming and use (i.e., same facility, more flexibility)
  - Cross-programming of facilities to increase efficiency and diversity (e.g., community center programs that utilize nearby parks, open spaces and schools)
  - Environmental sustainability by promoting best practices such as water harvesting and energy efficiency/co-generation
  - Fiscal sustainability by increasing revenues and limiting operational cost increases through inter-agency collaboration and public-private partnerships
- Phased delivery of facility improvements based on priority and projected availability of capital funds

The PROS 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. Consideration of the facilities and future planned projects of the City of Albuquerque (City) and other institutional stakeholders was given during the planning process, as well as population growth and community health factors in developing and prioritizing recommendations.

**Funding and Building PROS Plan Projects:** The PROS Plan is the first step in developing proposed facility improvements (see Figure 1.4). The County will seek and then allocate funding to higher-priority projects, which are identified in Section 6. There is a range of funding sources, each with different processes and parameters.

The 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, as follows:

*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 budget, typically used for park 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 by the Governor. Most projects will require fund aggregation from a variety of sources over time before the project can be started and/or completed.

Once funded, these projects enter the design development phase 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 be programmed by County staff, partner providers and volunteers for use by members of the community.
All future development of parks, recreation and open space facilities will be contingent upon adequate funding and subject to Bernalillo County Commission approval.

**PROS Plan Document Structure:** The remainder of this document is structured as follows:

**Section 2. Community Planning Process**
This section outlines the planning and policy context for the PROS Plan, including a brief description of the accomplishments under the POST Plan and a summary of the public process.

**Section 3. Goals and Policies**
This section includes the goals and policies for the County’s parks, recreation and open space system and required implementation steps.

**Section 4. Analysis and Needs Assessment**
This section summarizes the existing conditions of the County’s parks, recreation and open space system, and it includes a service analysis.

**Section 5. Neighborhood Community Area Summaries**
This section has a summary of findings and specific capital improvement recommendations for each of the nine 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 with an analysis of the fiscal impact for highest priority projects.

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

**Technical Appendix**
The Appendix contains supporting documentation including 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.
The planning process for the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities Master Plan (PROS Plan) began in 2013 with two planning studies focused on key regional and aquatics facilities. As with all Bernalillo County (County) planning efforts, there was an extensive community engagement process with meetings in all five Commission districts, community-wide surveys and input from a number of other institutional and municipal stakeholders, including the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA), the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD ) and the City of Albuquerque (City). The first public meetings were held in the fall of 2013 for the Paradise Hills and Atrisco-Westside Neighborhood Community Areas (NCAs) and continued through the end of 2014 with the North Valley NCA. The adopted PROS Plan will be implemented through additions to the County Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP) and various administrative actions.

**PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The PROS Plan is a Rank II facility system plan under the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan framework adopted by both the City and County (see Figure 2.1).

Rank I plans are City/County-wide in scope, and they 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 a facility 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 and community facilities (e.g., parks, recreation and open space facilities) to support that development. Figure 2.1 is a diagram of the County planning framework with the various plans adopted by the County.

The following policies were summarized from those plans to provide the foundation and policy background for the development of the PROS Plan:

- Preservation of open space areas with significant environmental and cultural value is the cornerstone of a network of parks, recreation, open space and trail facilities.
- Preservation and development of open spaces and trail corridors along acequias, ditches and arroyos.

![Figure 2.1: Bernalillo County Planning Framework](image)
with crossings at major roads is a way to preserve traditional rural rights-of-way and create linkages between the County and other public facilities.

- Preservation and enhancement of rural character by:
  - Preserving agricultural lands through land preservation agreements, fee acquisition and transfer of development rights
  - Supporting continued agricultural use on appropriate County properties and easement holdings
  - Supporting development that preserves and enhances character of traditional rural village centers through appropriate development of County properties in these areas

The Bernalillo County Strategic Plan adopted in 2013 also provides guidance. It states the County’s mission, 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 services including proposed desired results and performance measures. Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department (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.”

A more in-depth discussion of the plans and relevant policies is provided in the Technical Appendix.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

The community process for the PROS 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 for renovation. Those meetings were followed by more than many more meetings over the next year and a half in various NCAs.
Public input meetings, which also included a community survey, were concluded by the end of 2014. An initial draft of the PROS Plan was developed in February 2015 and reviewed by a County technical team from various departments as well as key external agency representatives. In May 2015, a draft of the PROS Plan was completed and posted to the County website for review. The draft PROS Plan was presented at public meetings in June 2015 to further refine key policies and determine capital improvement project priorities. Based on the feedback, a final draft of the PROS Plan was developed in the summer of 2015 and presented to the Bernalillo County Commission in September 2015. Once adopted, the PROS Plan will be implemented through additions to the County’s ICIP list resulting in the funding of priority projects over time and various Administrative Resolutions and other approvals to put goals and policies into action. 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 2.2 is a diagram of the planning process.

Community Input Meetings: The community planning process evaluated and planned for the future of the County’s 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 NCAs, 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 facility, so the process included a two-day community workshop.

In total there were 38 meetings during the 15-month course:

- Paradise Hills (4)–three-day workshop and final community meeting.
- North Valley (10)–two-day workshop, final community meeting and seven sub-area meetings.
- North Albuquerque Acres (1)–community meeting.
- North Highway 14 (1)–community meeting.
- Central Urban Area (1)–community meeting.
- 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 community meetings.
• Mountain View-Mesa del Sol (2)–Two community meetings
• Pajarito-Los Padillas (4)–Two-day workshop and two community meetings
• Aquatics Planning Study (5)–separate meetings were held that focused specifically on those facilities

More than 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 community center renovations. As expected, 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 the PROS Plan. From these plans, a four- to six-page summary is included as Section 5 of the PROS Plan. The Aquatics and NCA Planning Studies are supporting documents for the PROS Plan, and are found in the Technical Appendix.

As part of the NCA Planning Study process, a survey was given to the participants and users prior to, during and after the community meetings. Approximately 300 surveys were completed by community members. A copy of the survey and a summary of the results may be found in the Technical Appendix. Key findings of the survey that informed the remainder of the planning process are shown in the text box below.

Community Feedback—the District Meetings: After all of the public input was synthesized into a working plan, community meetings were held in June 2015 by Commission district to get feedback on the working PROS Plan draft, including the proposed policies and capital projects, and to solicit responses from the community as to which projects are most important. Prior to the meetings, a draft version of the PROS Plan was made available on the internet at the County website. The format for the meetings included a presentation of the draft PROS Plan, with a particular focus on new policies and projects proposed for that district, followed by a Q&A session and an exercise to elicit community feedback on the preferred priority of various projects.

There was also a survey available to participants at the meetings and online for those who are unable to attend the district meetings. This survey was focused primarily

**KEY FINDINGS OF THE FIRST COMMUNITY SURVEY:**

- 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 and exercise, aquatics, nature, music and health and wellness. And they wanted to see more programming for teens, young children, seniors and adults.
- The respondents felt that the most important parks and recreation projects to fund (in order of importance) are improvements to existing center facilities, open space, trails, farms and gardens and swimming pools.
on testing key policies and determining the relative importance of and funding strategies for the larger, more expensive facilities. More than 630 people responded to the survey. A copy of this survey and a summary of the results are included in the Technical Appendix. Key results are summarized in the text box below.

Commissioner Dela Cruz commissioned a separate telephone survey just for quality-of-life concerns in District 2. That survey found strong support for community recreation projects and programming. A copy of that survey and the results can also be found in the Technical Appendix.

**Bernalillo County Commission Hearing:** After the district meetings, community feedback and the survey results were synthesized and incorporated into a final draft for hearing and action by the Bernalillo County Commission in September 2015.

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**KEY FINDINGS OF THE DISTRICT MEETING COMMUNITY SURVEY:**

- **Strong support (>60%)** for incorporation of the new policies of community health and local agriculture into Parks and Recreation facilities.

- **Close to 70%** of respondents supported use of County open space properties for agriculture and a majority of respondents supported use of County community centers to provide community health resources.

- **More than 60%** of respondents supported general obligation bonds, grants and capital outlay for funding future capital improvements, while just over 40% supported additional taxes or mill levies.

- **The top projects in order identified in the survey by the community were a pool for the North Valley, South Valley Pool Replacement, Tom Tenorio Park Improvements, UNM North Golf Course Improvements, Raymond G. Sanchez and Vista Grande Community Center Improvements.**

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_After school program kids hard at work drawing a “whole life” addition to the Paradise Hills Community Center._
3. PLANNING GOALS & POLICIES

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

GENERAL POLICIES

1. Accessibility
As required by Federal law (28 CFR 35.150), 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 and Recreation) will train staff in ADA compliance measures and ensure that staff has the necessary tools and training to audit and monitor facilities for compliance.

• Parks and Recreation and the Bernalillo County Public Works Department (Public Works) shall collaborate 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. Parks and Recreation will work with the County’s Office of Health and Social Services to increase programming opportunities and other facility uses at County-owned senior meal sites.

3. Public-Private Partnership
Public-private partnerships will be developed by Parks and Recreation and appropriate stakeholders 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.

• 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.

• Exclusive, 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 NM Department of Finance Administration or the NM Attorney General’s Office.

4. Facility Use Agreements
Exclusive use of a park, recreation or open space facility requires an executed facility use agreement that covers the lease terms for that facility. All requirements under that agreement must be fully met by the lessee prior to using the facility.

5. Park and Open Space Security
Parks and Recreation will work with the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Department, neighborhood associations and other stakeholders to develop Park Watch and SiteWatch programs in order to promote and enhance Parks and Recreation facility security and to decrease vandalism costs.

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

7. Public Restrooms
Restrooms are currently provided by the County at certain Parks and Recreation facilities during business hours. Parks and Recreation may provide restrooms where there is a lessee responsible for programming and/or there is a concession stand, depending on budget and maintenance demands.

8. Memorials Program
Parks and Recreation will implement a memorial program that enables community members to purchase trees, rocks and/or benches in memoriam. These memorials shall be planned and placed where Parks and Recreation deems most appropriate based on functional and maintenance concerns. The memorial program will have a standard online template for memorial plaques. 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.

9. Multi-Functional Facilities
Where appropriate and when cost-effective, parks, recreation and open space facilities will be multi-functional. Many multi-functional facilities currently exist in the County inventory, such as Sanchez Farm Open Space, Valle del Bosque Park and the Old Armijo Soccer
Field, which are also drainage facilities. Existing drainage facilities owned by the County or the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA), ditch and drain facilities owned by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) and other County-owned properties should be considered for co-location of new facilities, subject to the approval of the respective stakeholder’s board or the facility owner.

10. Land Management Satellite Facilities
Where appropriate and cost-effective, and as funding becomes available, Parks and Recreation will develop satellite stations for Land Management maintenance crews. This will enable maintenance crews to save time and resources by being closer to the facilities they service. It will also reduce congestion and mobilization issues at the current central location. The new satellite stations will be located in each service area and may house staff, large equipment, small machinery, tools and vehicles.

11. Maintenance Service Standard
The level of service goal for Land Management with respect to the facilities it maintains shall be 1 person per 10 acres of developed park land and 1 person per 100 acres of open space.

LEVEL-OF-SERVICE (LOS)
Level-of-service standards are incorporated into the PROS Plan to add clarity and to prioritize future acquisitions 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 the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA).

1. Application of Standards
These standards will be used to guide the County’s capital project planning in the various NCAs, as follows:

- In unincorporated areas where the County is primarily responsible for meeting community needs, gaps in level-of-service standards will guide future planning efforts and project prioritization 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 and master plan

Community centers are key to implementing community health initiatives.
applications to the County must provide a system plan for parks, recreation and open space. The plan must provide: (1) a network of facilities consistent with these level-of-service standards and other existing plans for that area; and, (2) a fiscal analysis that shows that these facilities will be provided at no net expense to the County. No net-expense means that the capital, as well as the operations and maintenance costs of a particular facility, will be offset by revenues and/or economic and fiscal benefits of the development in which the proposed facility is situated.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

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

1. Community Centers
As part of developing expanded functionality at community centers, where appropriate and when adequate resources are available, the County will develop facilities and features to support community health, including:

- Increased access to health resources, including health promotion and health screening, to connect community members to healthcare providers
- Extended hours for community center meeting spaces to accommodate community members’ work schedules
- Increased diversity and number of classes for teens and adults in classrooms, fitness centers, gyms, kitchens and neighboring parks to support chronic disease prevention (such as obesity, Type 2 diabetes and arthritis) and substance abuse prevention
- Mental and behavioral health support groups and group counseling
- Prescription (Rx) Trails (i.e., smooth, relatively flat trails with distance markers where people can readily fulfill walking prescriptions from their healthcare provider)

2. Open Spaces
Where appropriate and when adequate resources are available, the County will continue to develop facilities and environmental education programming throughout its open space and parks system to support community health, including:

*Community health fair in the International District.*
• Additional Prescription (Rx) Trails
• Expanded outdoor environmental education classes that promote healthy lifestyles, including outdoor recreation, gardening/farming and environmental awareness
• Increased opportunities for local food production on County land, including traditional farming, greenhouses/hoop houses and raised-bed community gardens

3. Partnerships
When possible, the County will partner with the NMSU Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC), and other healthcare not-for-profits to staff facilities and support facility programming.

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

5. Implementation
• Develop and adopt a 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, such as: the Bernalillo County Health Council; NM Chronic Disease; UNMHSC; the International District Community Health Coalition; and, other local community health organizations.
• Develop a leasing strategy for exclusive, 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

Farmers from the Organic Acres de Valle del Sur Cooperative working at the Gutierrez-Hubbell House open space.
The intention for the program is to promote a local food and working farm system on suitable County-owned open space properties and other properties under an agricultural land preservation agreement 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, including the following goals:

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 preservation.
   - Secure sufficient water rights for crop irrigation.
   - Where appropriate and when resources are available, support protection of or acquire agricultural properties that are well-suited for local food production.
   - Develop sustainable farming policies and procedures with internal and external stakeholders such as soil health and integrated pest management.

2. **Establish a land preservation strategy for working farms and ranches in Bernalillo County.**
   - Promote the use of land preservation agreements on privately-owned agricultural land to encourage the protection and cultivation of agricultural land.
   - Identify and coordinate with suitable land trusts in New Mexico to facilitate and hold land preservation agreements.
   - Conduct a “Green-print” mapping study to identify prime agricultural lands for preservation (as described below).
   - Develop standards for implementation of a land preservation policy.

3. **Create a more extensive agricultural economy within the County.**
   - Develop and propose policy recommendations to the Bernalillo County Commission (BCC) 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 County 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 small-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 County website page that provides links to local agritourism opportunities and businesses.

6. **Continue to increase access to healthy, local produce in underserved communities within the County with a mobile farmers’ market.**
   - Provide underserved communities in the County with 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 Mobile Market).

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 County residents and the quality of visitors’ experiences. The Tourism
and Cultural Services section of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to promoting tourism in Bernalillo County through the ongoing celebration of the arts and marketing of the County’s cultural resources to a diverse audience. Tourism and Cultural Services promotes and programs high-quality events, educational opportunities, exhibitions, performances and celebrations. In addition, public art is located in open spaces, parks, pools and County buildings. Art inspires curiosity, encourages contemplation, facilitates dialogue, fosters community engagement and creates a sense of place.

**Implementation:**

- Create opportunities for partnerships with governmental agencies, not-for-profits and other organizations to further develop tourism, culture, art, historical programming and exhibits.
- Work with the creative business sector to develop and promote local culture and art and create economic development.
- Promote events and quality-of-life initiatives to meet the diverse cultural needs of the community and to increase tourism.
- 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 limited capital funds and increased operations and maintenance costs, new acquisitions will be evaluated and prioritized as follows:

**1. Baseline Criteria:** The following acquisition criteria have been developed for lands to be acquired as open space or for recreational purposes:

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

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/Public art mural at Rio Grande Pool. ---
2. **Prioritization:** Acquisitions will be prioritized based on the existence of any of the following conditions:

- Adjacency to an existing public park, recreation or open space facility.
- Existing agricultural uses and/or identified as prime farmland.
- Implementation of an existing facility master plan, including the PROS Plan, the Major Public Open Space Plan, and/or a sector or corridor plan.

3. **Types:** Property acquisition may take the form of dedications, acquisitions in fee, long-term leases, or in the case of open space, land preservation agreements (a.k.a., conservation easements).

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

5. **Implementation:**

- Adopt an administrative instruction for park and open space acquisitions, or amend AI IP#01, referenced above, to include these policies and define standards for land preservation agreements.

- Conduct a mapping study to identify priority open space lands. The study would incorporate the policies, criteria and priorities developed in the PROS Plan as a starting point for evaluating and prioritizing lands for future acquisition or preservation.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Parks and Recreation facilities will be environmentally sustainable as defined and outlined below:

1. **Sustainability Metrics:** Parks and Recreation will create the following environmental sustainability metrics:

   - A baseline 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 Parks and Recreation

   - A baseline and measures for reducing overall energy use and carbon footprint for ongoing operations of the Parks and Recreation system through conservation and efficiency measures and offsets, (e.g., planting trees at parks and open spaces, adding solar panels for co-generation of energy at community centers and large parking areas, etc.)

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*Valle de Oro Wildlife National Urban Wildlife Refuge, which the County supported the acquisition of, by providing $5 Million.*
• A baseline and measures for increasing quality wildlife habitat throughout the Parks and Recreation system

2. Sustainable Design: Design of new facilities or renovations to existing facilities, where appropriate, will include sustainable features such as water harvesting strategies, energy reduction, 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 defined and outlined below.

1. Fiscal Support: An operational fiscal analysis will be completed and presented to the BCC along with the request for purchase of land or construction of a new facility. This will provide the BCC with cost information to support the future facility.

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

3. Revenue Goals: Parks and Recreation will develop goals and strategies for revenue generation. The objective of these strategies is to offset a minimum amount of facility operations and maintenance costs through revenue generation. For facilities such as Little League facilities that are used or operated exclusively by a Little League organization for the season, the objective is to offset 100% of the operations and maintenance costs with revenues.

   a. Revenues could take the following forms:
      • Lease agreements
      • Facility rental, membership, class and programming fees
      • Grants
      • Special mill levies
      • Sponsorships

   b. Implementation:
      • Conduct a revenue and fee structure study for parks, recreation and open space programming.
      • Develop standard Facility Usage and Lease Agreements to meet the various needs of the different facilities in the County’s system.

   • Develop an economic feasibility study for identified regional facilities.

REGIONAL FACILITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

2. Support for operations and maintenance: The County will work with institutional entities, user groups and private stakeholders to develop economic and fiscal impact analyses to identify the full project costs (including capital, operations, maintenance and staffing costs) and the potential for revenue generation with the goal of reducing the impact to the County’s general fund. The results of these efforts will be, as follows:
   • A plan for financing regional facilities
   • A contract with a private contractor to 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.
   • Create a not-for-profit organization (501(c)3) to manage and implement a capital development campaign to fund regional facility design and construction and manage an ongoing endowment program for region facilities.
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS AND GROWTH

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

The population distribution is highest in the City of Albuquerque (City), which is also the location of the highest population densities (see Figure 4.1). Within the unincorporated areas, the highest proportion of population is in the South Valley, especially in the Atrisco-Westside Neighborhood Community Area (NCA).

The County is comprised of 26 census tracts. Population data regarding total counts, age and race/ethnicity were calculated at the census tract level and are from 2010 Census because the mid-decade population estimates are not yet available. Population data by Data Analysis Subzones (DASZ) was used by the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) to trend and make population and age cohort projections for 2015-2030.

Population Growth: The County continues to grow faster than the national average; however, it is growing more slowly than either Sandoval and Dona Ana Counties. Between 2000 and 2010, the County population grew nearly 150,000 to just over 650,000 residents (US Census, 2010). According to growth projections by MRCOG, this population is expected to grow by an additional 220,000 county-wide by 2030, with approximately half of that population growth happening.
in areas outside the City. Figure 4.2 is a map showing the areas of greatest projected population growth.

The highest growth are during the last two decades is the West Side in the vicinity of Paradise Hills Neighborhood Community Area (NCA). This area is expected to continue to grow. Other projected high-growth areas include Mesa del Sol (Mountain View-Mesa del Sol NCA), the Southeast Heights and the East Mountains (North 14 NCA). The planned developments of Ventana Ranch, Volcano Heights, Quail Ranch, Estrella and Santolina are also 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 also needs to ensure that adequate land for parks, recreation and open space is dedicated for these areas as part of the development process.

**Age of Population:** The unincorporated area of the County is predominantly composed of working-age adults at 60% of the population. The youth population is twice as large as the senior population with 27% of the population is high school age or younger. Only 12% of the population is 65 and older (US Census, 2010). However, the proportion of the County’s senior population is growing (see Figure 4.3), while the 18-and-under population is predicted to remain relatively constant. This suggests that new facilities and facility renovations should be designed and programmed to be multi-generational.

**Race and Ethnicity:** According to 2010 Census data, 38% of the population in the unincorporated area of the County is white, while 52% of the population identifies as of Hispanic/Latino ethnic descent. Native Americans comprise 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 population. Less than one percent of the population identifies as either “other race” and/or “two or more races.” Figure 4.4 shows the demographic breakdown of the 2010 population.

**Household Characteristics:** There are 38,694 total households in the unincorporated County and 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 shows important household characteristics within the County.

*Figure 4.3: County Population Growth by Age Cohort 2010 to 2030 (Source UNM Geospatial Population Studies Group)*
EXISTING FACILITIES AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

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

**Parks and Open Space Land:** The acreage of all facilities, including undeveloped open space, managed by Parks and Recreation.

**Open Space:** Typically 10 acres and larger with important natural and cultural resources that are managed to benefit people, plants, and wildlife by protecting and enhancing view sheds, water resources, wildlife habitat, cultural/historical sites and prime agriculture land that provide opportunities for resource-based recreation, environmental education and economic opportunity.

**Developed Park Land:** The acreage of facilities developed for active and passive use by community members.

**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 recreational 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 and trail facilities.

**Neighborhood Park:** Typically one to five acres with playground and developed social areas.

**Community Center:** A building or group of buildings (30,000-60,000 sf) 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 recreational facility such as a splash park, recreational pool, competition pool, indoor pool and/or therapeutic pool.

**Fully-Inclusive Playground:** A playground with specialized play areas and equipment for children with a range of physical and mental disabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Composition</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Household Size</td>
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<td>with Related Children Under 18</td>
<td>14,077</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Female Householder Families</td>
<td>4,785</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with Related Children Under 18</td>
<td>3,078</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
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*Figure 4.5: Unincorporated County Household Composition (Source: US Census 2010)*
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 (e.g., Valle de Oro Urban National Wildlife Refuge and UNM North Golf Course) for which it has land preservation agreements. The County has seven community centers and as of 2015, five senior meal sites, which according to the PROS Plan are 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 it has financially supported the development of a second at the City’s Loma Linda Community Center.

**Level-of-Service Analysis:** The PROS Plan Level-of-service and facility standards were developed 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 were based on NRPA guidelines and adapted to local conditions (as recommended by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)). They also update the standards in the Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan (POST Plan), and incorporate the County’s Strategic Plan objective 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 are County-wide standards, and certain facility types facility may serve multiple communities in the County, especially regional parks and fully-inclusive playgrounds. These standards are being implemented by the County in unincorporated areas where the County is primarily responsible for meeting the needs of the community. In incorporated areas, such as the City, the County will support the implementation of these standards.

**Figure 4.6** is a two-part chart that portrays how well the entire County (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-service 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 20% to 50% gap in the level-of-service. The red areas indicate a gap in the level-of-service that is greater than 50%. These areas are especially important to consider for facility expansion or development of new facilities. The gap in level-of-service was used in the process to determine priority of different projects as outlined in Section 6.

In summary, the County as a whole, the unincorporated areas of the County, and the majority of NCAs are doing fairly well in meeting the level-of-service standards for total parks and open space land, developed parks and open space. The largest gaps are 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 standards for aquatics facilities in the unincorporated areas, this category is generally not being met outside of 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 from 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 Mountains. 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 developed. For rural and reserve areas master planned under the County’s Planned Community Criteria, required master plans will include a phased plan for providing parks, recreation and open space facilities that meet the level-of-service standards and a commitment to provide those facilities at “no net-expense” to the
### Figure 4.6: Level-of-Service Standards by NCA for 2015 and 2030

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Benalillo</th>
<th>del Mesa</th>
<th>Pajarito</th>
<th>Westside</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Atrisco</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Hills</th>
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<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Orange cells indicate a 20 to 50% gap in level-of-service. Red cells indicate a greater than 50% gap in level-of-service.
County. No net-expense means that the capital as well as the operations and maintenance costs of a particular facility will be offset by revenues and/or economic and fiscal benefits of the development in which the proposed facility is situated.

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 meets only one of the level-of-service standards. This is due to the fact that the pace of growth has outstripped the ability of the City and County 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 new facilities 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 Figures 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 also be lacking in neighborhood parks.

- North Albuquerque Acres is lacks both pools and community centers. This gap is also portrayed in the Figures 4.7 and 4.8. In the past, however, 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 address the community’s need for these facilities.

- North 14 and Los Vecinos NCAs are lacking in both developed parks and aquatics facilities. The current water supply and infrastructure, however, cannot support a swimming pool, and there is less interest in parks as compared to open space. The community did express interest in the expansion of existing community center sites to provide additional park spaces and facilities and the development of 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 this gap, 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 remedy these level-of-service gaps.

- 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 in developed park land and in all types of parks and aquatics facilities. Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA is overserved with respect to aquatic facilities, and Mountain View-Mesa del Sol NCA is overserved with respect to regional facilities, but it lacks an 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 community centers and swimming pools. Based on an old NRPA standard, a two-mile radius was used in both cases. Spatial gaps were a factor in determining relative priority of future projects as outlined in Section 6.

Figures 4.7 and 4.8 show the spatial coverage of multi-generational centers and swimming pools, respectively. The community centers map envisions the future multi-generational orientation of the recreation system and includes current senior meal sites. The map portrays gaps in the Volcano Heights and Ventana Ranch developments, the mid-North Valley, the southwest mesa area 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 the County, and especially in the northwest. The County negotiated use agreements with APS for gym space for game play, and it is still not meeting demand. Additional gyms are needed throughout the County, especially in the northern area. Similarly, the north end of the County needs additional playing fields.
Figure 4.7: Map of Service Areas and Gaps for Community Centers
Figure 4.8: Map of Service Areas and Gaps for Swimming Pools
With respect to swimming pools, there is a gap in service in the North Valley, Northeast Heights and in the Mountain View-Mesa del Sol area. There is a major gap in the East Mountains. The area of coverage of swimming pools roughly corresponds with development patterns in the region through the early 1990s. Only one new pool location has been built, and three pools were taken out of service in the ensuing years because of the enormous expense to maintain them.

The City is in the process of designing and seeking funding for a competition aquatics facility at their North Domingo Baca site. The City also has a long-term plan for a pool in the northwest beyond Paradise Hills. Pools in the East Mountains are not feasible at this time due to water constraints. A public swimming facility could only be considered if and when the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority extends a water line to Tijeras, or if an inter-governmental agreement could be reached with counties, municipalities and water utilities east of the mountains to support a pool. 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 PROS Plan is closed), would create another gap, but it could also be an opportunity to expand capacity at that site. Both the Mesa del Sol and Santolina Level A Master Plans call for swimming pools as part of the parks and recreation system.

**Community Health Analysis:** A group of community health organizations collaborated on a series of community health assessments for the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County area. Other maps show fresh food and healthcare “deserts” in parts of the South Valley and the International District. A “desert” is an area lacking in key community health resources. Other maps show a preponderance of negative community health indicators in Mountain View, the mid-North Valley, Downtown, Atrisco and the International District. County facilities could play a role in alleviating these situations by providing access to health resources in those areas.

Community health maps such as those described above and 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. **Figure 4.9** is a map of those communities. The goal of the latter study is to identify and fund projects to increase opportunities for exercise and access to healthcare and fresh food in the South Valley (Atrisco-Westside NCA and Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA) and the International District (ID) (Central Urban NCA). The vulnerable community areas were also used to help determine relative priority of various proposed capital projects as outlined in Section 6.
Figure 4.9: Community Health Vulnerable Population Footprint Map Albuquerque Area (Source: www.communitycommons.org)
5. NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY AREA PLANNING SUMMARIES

Neighborhood Community Areas (NCAs) are geographical areas in Bernalillo County (County) that include several neighborhoods with common social and physical characteristics and a shared sense of community identity. They are, as follows:

A. PARADISE HILLS
The Paradise Hills NCA is a rapidly growing and largely suburban residential area in the northwest quadrant of the County that straddles 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 and 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 the highest median age. It features low-density, suburban residential neighborhoods and easy access to the foothills open spaces along arroyos such as Vista Sandia Equestrian Park.

D. CENTRAL URBAN
The Central Urban NCA is located entirely within the City of Albuquerque (City) and features a very diverse population living in a wide range of older, denser neighborhoods including those in the University of New Mexico (UNM) area and the International District (ID). County investments in the area include the UNM North Golf Course enhancements, Lobo Little League and the ID Story Garden Plaza and Heritage Trail.

E. ATRISCO-WESTSIDE
The Atrisco-Westside NCA is located in the northern-most part of the South Valley. It is characterized by dense urban neighborhoods next to agricultural lands surrounding the County’s Westside Community Center.

F. PAJARITO-LOS PADILLAS
The Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA encompasses the area south of Rio Bravo, and it is rural and agricultural in character. This area is viewed by the County as a potential location for future agritourism anchored by the Gutierrez-Hubbell House.

G. MOUNTAIN VIEW-MESA DEL SOL
The Mesa del Sol-Mountain View 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 the largest agricultural tracts in the County, including the Valle de Oro Urban National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge).

H. NORTH HIGHWAY 14
The North 14 NCA encompasses the East Mountain communities north of Interstate 40 (I-40). It is sparsely-populated and rural in character. It 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 Mountain communities south of I-40 from Carnue to Chililli with low-density, suburban amenity development. This area is served by the County’s Los Vecinos Community Center and a variety of County, City and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) managed open space facilities in the Cedro Peak area.

For each NCA there is a summary of findings and the specific projects that were identified in the PROS Plan process.
5A. PARADISE HILLS Neighborhood Community Area

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

• Paradise Hills Neighborhood Community Area (NCA) is bounded by the County 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 onsite. 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), 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 County recreational facilities that includes Paradise Hills Park, Pool, Senior Annex, and the recently renovated Paradise Hills Little League Complex.

• At the core of the community process was a three-day workshop held onsite. From the start, mobility, accessibility and capacity issues affecting the center and pool were highlighted. Also, there was considerable input from the senior community for annex expansion to accommodate more programming and a therapeutic pool, which the County currently does not have adequate resources to manage and operate.

• The community center, pool and senior annex currently serve 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 oversubscribed, 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 recreation league basketball teams come from this area.

• There are major issues with respect to accessibility, parking and pedestrian connections for the group of facilities anchored by the PHCC, which will be exacerbated by any increase in the programming of existing facilities. Also, there are major pedestrian safety and connectivity issues across Paradise Hills Boulevard from the James Monroe Middle School and Sunset View Elementary School on the south side to the PHCC.

• 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 PHCC site,
meeting the level-of-service deficits should 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 needs 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 of the park are proposed to accommodate other upgrades.

- With the help of State and City funding, the County recently added two fields and additional parking to Paradise Hills Little League Complex. This project sets an important precedent for future facility improvements in the Paradise Hills NCA. The core area between the fields and the north parking area need upgrades to meet ADA standards and reduce windborne 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. In the future, they could potentially serve as dog or pocket parks. Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association has requested that the neighborhood park be developed. Its small size and location precludes many park features, however.

- The following is a list of County facilities in the Paradise Hills NCA:
  - Paradise Hills Community Center, Pool, Annex and Park
  - Paradise Hills Little League Park
  - Paradise Hills Boulevard Trail
  - Columbus and Globus Neighborhood Parks
  - Fairfax and Cielo Vista Parks (undeveloped)
Figure 5a1: Paradise Hills Community Center Conceptual Plan and Phasing:

- PHCC Annex Landscape & Parking (Completed Fall 2015)
- PHCC Circulation, Accessibility and Park Improvements
- PHCC Whole Life Addition
- PHCC Basalt Hill and Site Development
- PHCC Second Gym
- PHCC Annex Expansion
- PHCC Original Building Renovation
The list of proposed facilities is designed to meet the needs of West Side residents, which is the fastest growing area in the County. 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 Sandia Mountains. Key recommendations for County facilities in this NCA are, as follows:

1. Paradise Hills Community Center and Park Renovations: Major renovations are proposed to the PHCC, the County’s busiest community center.
   a. **PHCC Circulation, Accessibility, Parking and Park Improvements:** includes parking, mobility, pedestrian safety and ADA access improvements. Initial redevelopment phases will focus on mobility, parking and pedestrian safety, so that future expansion of the PHCC 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 parking. Approximately 300 new parking spaces will be added over several phases for a total of 312 (including 116 spaces added around Paradise Park, 25 existing annex spaces, and 60 spaces leased from the adjacent church west of the annex). These spaces are required for the 38,000 square feet (sf) addition. Park changes are necessary to accommodate bleachers, parking along the western edge of the site, a proposed band shell and a proposed upgrade to the existing skate park. There will be extensive coordination with the County Public Works Department and the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) (together, they have completed a drainage master plan for this facility), concerning the proposed reconfiguration of Park Lane and parking along the perimeter of Paradise Hills Park (to ensure improvements do not impair the park’s function as drainage facility), and with Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) and the City concerning Paradise Hills Boulevard crossings and a proposed signal at the La Paz intersection. Traffic and drainage studies build on earlier joint efforts by the County, AMAFCA and the City.
   b. **PHCC Whole Life Addition** includes the addition of approximately 38,030 sf of new program space to be added to the existing 15,000 sf center and 5,700 sf annex. Proposed center additions 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. Phase 2 will also include the addition of a half-acre courtyard with views of the Sandia Mountains, a native basalt field and hill, community garden, outdoor sport courts, band shell, educational xeric landscape throughout the PHCC campus and a plaza connection to Paradise Hills Park. After design, this phase will likely be broken down into a series of sub-phases to facilitate funding.
   c. **PHCC Basalt Hill Parking and Site Development** will include site work including the parking on “Basalt Hill” drainage improvements, landscaping and outdoor basketball courts.
   d. **PHCC Second Gym** will include a second gym to the west of the existing community center.
   e. **PHCC Annex Expansion** will include an annex expansion, including a community meeting room, instructional kitchen and senior game rooms.
   f. **PHCC Original Building Renovation** will include renovation of the existing PHCC building.

2. Paradise Hills Trails and Pedestrian Improvements: Over 2000 linear feet (lf) of new trails are proposed to weave across Paradise Hills and throughout the community center campus. The goal is to build on the existing pedestrian facilities to provide increased connectivity from the Little League Park, through the annex and center sites to Paradise Hills Park on the east; from the PHCC campus to the neighborhood and schools; and from the PHCC campus into the larger network of trails and recreational facilities such as the City’s Ventana Ranch Park and the Paradise Hills Multi-Purpose Paved Bike Trail system. 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 NCA (continued)

Figure 5a2: Paradise Hills NCA Conceptual Plan Diagram

Figure 5a2: Paradise Hills NCA Context and Pedestrian Connections Plan
3. **Paradise Hills Little League Park:** With funding from the State, the City and the Little League Park, 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 future improvements to the north parking area, the core area between the fields and the “mound” on the south side of the site. Proposed improvements 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.

4. **Cielo Vista Circle Park:** Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association 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. The neighborhood association has agreed to meet some of the ongoing maintenance needs.

5. **Fairfax Dog Park:** Fairfax Park, which is also undeveloped, is envisioned to be a future dog park for the area. It is adjacent to the golf course.

6. **La Cuentista Open Space:** The community expressed interest in the County assisting with the acquisition of open space properties in the Volcano Heights area. The La Cuentista Open Space designated area in the Volcano Heights Sector Plan was one property specifically identified. Such an acquisition would be in partnership with the Petroglyph National Monument and City Open Space Division. It would likely be maintained by the City as part its open space system in this area of the County.

---

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<th>Estimated O &amp; M Cost</th>
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$16,145,000 | $449,420

*All costs are estimated as of the fall of 2015, and are subject to change over time and as projects proceed to construction. Estimated O&M costs include sustainment costs and may include amounts already budgeted by the County for the particular facility. All projects are subject to availability of funds and Bernalillo County Commission approval.*
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

• The North Valley NCA is bounded by the Rio Grande to the west, Interstate 25 to the east, Interstate 40 to the south and Sandia Pueblo to the north. It is the most complex NCA, spanning two County Commission Districts, with large areas in the City and the Village of Los Ranchos (Village) and it has diverse neighborhoods and land uses.

• The North Valley NCA has some of the most urban 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 NW and Edith Boulevard NW, 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 Street and Edith Boulevard tend to have a greater proportion of Hispanic residents and a lower median income than areas closer to the river. Although infill development continues in this part of the County, substantial growth is unlikely during the PROS Plan term.

• 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 inclusion of the bosque and Balloon Fiesta Park in the NCA. It is also host to a fully-inclusive playground at La Ladera Park. By the overall population standard, the NCA is well-served by community centers, but they are clustered at the very southwest (e.g., 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, which is focused exclusively on health and senior services. As a result, there is need for a community center 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, an aquatics facility is needed. There is a need for more neighborhood and community-scale parks, too.

• Community input focused on the development of community centers with “whole-life” facilities in the Mid-Valley, at Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center and at the 4-H site. A number of community members also expressed interest in the need for additional turf grass areas in the Upper-Valley area and more trail connections and neighborhood parks in the Mid- and Lower-Valley areas. Vista del Norte Park on Osuna will meet some of those needs.

• Although the County supported acquisition of the Anderson Field Open Space by the Village, the North Valley NCA currently has no County-owned agricultural open space land. There has been consistent community support in this area to preserve remaining agricultural land, 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 of when opportunities arise.
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 Boulevard 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
- 4-H Site
- North Valley Library
- First Choice Community Health Center
Figure 5b1: Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center Conceptual Plan

Figure 5b2: La Ladera Park Conceptual Plan
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.

1. **North Valley Aquatics Facility:** During the public process—especially the meetings in Districts 1 and 4—there was considerable interest expressed in a North Valley swimming pool. The spatial analysis of pool facilities and level of service analysis for aquatics in the North Valley confirmed this need. Although more people at meetings and in the surveys expressed a desire for a North Valley pool facility than any other proposed facility, there was no consensus on the location. The largest group of respondents indicated a general desire for a pool somewhere in the North Valley. However, many respondents indicated a preference that the pool that was once at Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center be replaced. A smaller group preferred a more Mid-Valley location that has yet to be identified. The City will be adding a new competition pool at its North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center site, which may relieve the need for a North Valley pool to include competition components in addition to recreation uses. An outdoor leisure pool will also have a much lower construction operations and maintenance costs. A planning study will be undertaken that will include a facility site selection process, a cost-benefit analysis and a survey targeted to North Valley residents.

2. **Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center (RGSCC):** At RGSCC, “whole-life” 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 area and parking. Site improvements are also proposed to the neighboring outdoor recreational facilities, including a modifications to the BMX park to provide space for a skate park (not necessarily where shown in diagram), 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. The RGSCC renovations would be completed in three phases: (a) site improvements; (b) community center renovation and addition; and (c) a fitness center addition.

3. **Mid-North Valley Recreation Complex:** The community process and PROS planning analysis identified a need for recreation facilities in the Mid-North Valley. The County has recently acquired a piece of land on Edith Boulevard just north of Osuna and will be evaluating it for the possibility of placing a recreation complex there. Two alternatives are being explored: one, a satellite center to the RGSCC, which could include a pool, fitness center, gym and flexible classroom space; and, two, a satellite center to the 4-H Site with a small office building with classrooms, rest facilities, hoop houses to grow vegetables and an arena for horse, livestock and rodeo classes and competitions.

4. **North Valley 4-H Life Center and Pedestrian Connections:** Renovations are also proposed for the 4-H building and site and connections to it.
   a. **4-H Life Center:** Based on architectural building evaluations, the existing 4-H building needs significant improvement in order to meet the needs of the NMSU Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service (Extension Service) 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 Extension Service’s building, nearby City facilities and the proposed community center in the Mid-North Valley.
   b. **Alameda Drain-4H Site Connections:** Pedestrian improvements, crossings and signage are proposed from the 4-H Site to the Alameda Drain Multi-purpose Trail, which is already in place along nearby Mathew Boulevard.

5. **La Ladera Park:** The County recently completed its first fully-inclusive playground at La Ladera Park. The County will complete acquisition of the parking lot that was a part of the adjacent church. Other plans for the eastern portion of the site include developing an ADA accessible perimeter Prescription (Rx) Trail and an accessible zip-Line feature. On the undeveloped western portion, large turf and parking areas are planned.

6. **Alameda Drain-2nd Street NW Trail:** A multi-purpose trail was proposed for the MRGCD Alameda Drain-2nd Street Corridor. This project is being led by the County’s Public Works Division in collaboration with the MRGCD, AMAFCA and the City. It will include a paved, multi-purpose trail along one side of the drain and, potentially, a soft-surface trail in some sections. Preservation of the vehicular right-of-way and access along the ditch for the MRGCD and other
LEGEND
1. Existing Cooperative Extension Building
2. Life Center (Commercial teaching kitchen, meeting / teaching rooms, computer room, fitness rooms, basketball gymnasium)
3. Playing Field
4. Urban Agriculture Teaching Plots (vegetable gardening, hoop houses, orchard, chicken coops, beehives)
5. Potential link to Job Corps program
6. Potential link to NACA (Native American Community Academy)
7. Parking

Figure 5b3: Conceptual Rendering of 4-H Site & Building Renovations
agency maintenance use will be required. Depending on the availability of resources, pocket-park elements such as benches, landscaped areas, shade structures, picnic areas, community garden spaces and fenced areas for dog park use may be included along the trail corridor in appropriate locations. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the County, MRGCD, AMAFCA and the City, and master planning and design is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2015. A proposed future project would involve supplementing existing east-west trail and bikeway facilities along the corridor with additional bike lanes and/or paved, multi-purpose trail spurs to connect to County facilities such as the Edward G. Sandoval North Valley Little League Park, RGSCC, La Ladera Park and the proposed Mid-Valley Recreation Complex.

7. Greater Gardner Alameda Drain/2nd Street NW Linear Park: Unlike other areas of the County, much of the North Valley has few, if any, neighborhood parks. The idea would be to create a more developed linear park or parks in places along the 2nd Street NW trail corridor. The gateway park, or another area along the corridor could also become the Mid-North Valley’s first dog park.

8. Edward C. Sandoval North Valley Little League Complex Phases 2 and 3: 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. Phase 2 design is underway, which will include a concession stand, shade structure, field lighting and landscaping. Thereafter, the County in collaboration with the Little League will seek to acquire adjacent land necessary to complete Phase 3, which includes a junior field, an ADA challenger field and parking.

9. Bachechi Open Space: A multi-million dollar suite of improvements was completed in 2012 at Bachechi Open Space, 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 to develop integrated pest management and weed management plans and continue to integrate citizen science in land health initiatives.

10. North Valley Open Space Ditch Trails and Agricultural Open Space Preservation: Many members of the North Valley community expressed a desire to preserve the remaining rural character and agricultural capacity of the North Valley.

a. Farmland Preservation: Farmland preservation is proposed through acquisition or preservation agreements for land identified in the based on the GreenPrint Plan described in Section 3 and 6.

*All costs are estimated as of the fall of 2015, and are subject to change over time and as projects proceed to construction. Estimated O&M costs include sustainment costs and may include amounts already budgeted by the County for the particular facility. All projects are subject to availability of funds and Bernalillo County Commission approval.

b. Open Space Ditch Trails: ditch trail development rated highly and will be part of a future planning project with the MRGCD to build on the earlier Ditches to Trails Feasibility Study in order to create an agricultural open space network in the Valley north of Montano Boulevard.

11. Rio Grande Boulevard Neighborhood Park: Community members expressed an interest in the County acquiring and developing a neighborhood park in the western part of the North Valley south of Los Ranchos.

12. Alameda Soccer Complex: The Alameda Soccer Complex and the Alameda Trail are largely complete, and plans are being implemented to improve parking, fencing and lighting.

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$ 36,850,000 $ 1,147,485
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

• Bounded by Sandia Pueblo to the north, San Antonio Drive to the south, Interstate 25 to the west and the foothills to the east, North Albuquerque Acres Neighborhood Community Area (NCA) is located entirely within County Commission District 4, with a mix of incorporated City of Albuquerque (City) land in the southwest portion of the NCA and unincorporated Bernalillo County (County) to the northeast.

• The North Albuquerque Acres NCA is the most affluent NCA in the PROS Plan area. 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 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, the general consensus was that 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 City’s nearby Elena Gallegos Open Space and USFS 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 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. Also, a playground was 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, although this will begin to change with the completion of the City’s North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center. The center, with its fitness room and multi-purpose rooms, has satisfied the limited desire of residents in the NCA for a community center facility. 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.
• 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 heavily used by cyclists, joggers and walkers alike.

• Security at the County facilities is a major concern. The County is currently planning a Park Watch Program, which will be an integrated approach that involves neighborhood organizations, County Parks and Recreation Land Management and the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) to provide a more coordinated response to security issues 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
1. North Albuquerque Acres Gateway Park and Inclusive Playground: The proposed North Albuquerque Acres Gateway Park would be a small park located on County land at the northeast corner of Paseo del Norte and Eubank Boulevards, across the street from the Sibrava Sheriff Substation. This facility will address the NCA’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.

2. Alameda-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). It will provide improved pedestrian and bicycle access to parks, schools and the facilities at the City’s North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center. It would also provide a continuous facility connection along Alameda Boulevard through the County’s facilities up to Tramway Boulevard. The section between Ben Greiner Soccer Fields and W.L. Jackson Park will include a soft-surface trail for equestrians. Collaboration with the City and AMAFCA will be key to completing this facility.

3. Tramway Bike Launch Park: The Tramway Bike Launch would be located in close proximity to the Gateway Parquette on the southwest corner of Paseo del Norte and Eubank Boulevards 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.

4. North Albuquerque Acres Equestrian Facility Upgrades and Trail Improvements: 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 a County equestrian hub. Facility improvements would include an arena, additional parking, trail development, shade structures and rest facilities. Trail connections along Lowell Boulevard and various drainage facilities may require drainage and roadway easements to achieve the construction of a new soft-surface facility. All parts of this project will require close collaboration with AMAFCA and the neighborhood associations in this area.

5. Altamont Little League Park Improvements: A number of improvements are complete and/or in process for existing facilities at the Little League Park, including an upgrade to the well, artificial turf infields and field extensions. For the field east of Eubank Boulevard a more ambitious project is proposed to create a tournament field for both baseball and softball use with bleachers and lights, if approved in the Conditional Use Permit process.

6. North Domingo Baca Gym and Aquatics Facility: During the community process, interest was expressed in supporting the City’s efforts add to the North Domingo Baca site: (a) a gym; and, (b) a swimming pool to. Both facilities are needed in this part of the County.

### CIP LIST

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*All costs are estimated as of the fall of 2015, and are subject to change over time and as projects proceed to construction. Estimated O&M costs include sustainment costs and may include amounts already budgeted by the County for the particular facility. All projects are subject to availability of funds and Bernalillo County Commission approval.*
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

• Central Urban Neighborhood Community Area (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 (ID) and the airport area neighborhoods, which are designated pockets of poverty and food deserts.

• There are few open space amenities due to the urban setting. This NCA also includes the Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) campus, the University of New Mexico (UNM) Main, North and South campuses and the State Fairgrounds. The County can collaborate with these institutions and the City to identify, locate, fund and develop future facilities in this area to remedy this gap.

• Community members at various public meetings expressed interest in more pedestrian friendly routes, enhanced security and completion of the Story Garden project in the International District, 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 North 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
  - Stanford Health Resources Center
  - Wellesley Health Clinic
  - Hiland Theater
  - UNM Hospital
1. UNM North Golf Course Improvements Phases 2 and 3: In 2012, the County entered into an agreement with the UNM to preserve the golf course as open space. The golf course was the final Work Projects Administration (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 used open space in the County.

As part of the agreement, the County provided $1.5 million to UNM to undertake a 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 UNM 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 heating and cooling plant. Other items in Phase 2 include; design and construction of the Lobo Community Farm; rehabilitation of the historic 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 to create a framework for supporting future preservation efforts and to update the existing master plan.

2. North Diversion Channel-Indian School Bike Underpass: Close to the UNM Golf Course, a bike underpass is proposed for the North Diversion Channel Trail so that cyclists can ride underneath Indian School Boulevard.
Central Urban NCA (continued)

**Figure 5d1: Mobile Community Center Conceptual Rendering**

**Figure 5d2: South Diversion Channel Trail Conceptual Rendering**
3. International District Community Heritage Trail (ID Trail) (a) and Story Garden Plaza (b): In 2009, Bernalillo County Public Works, in coordination with the City’s Municipal Development Department, prepared a scoping report for implementing an ID Trail located along roadways in the 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. The ID Trail is envisioned to replace deteriorating sidewalks, complete ADA upgrades and improve street lighting. A node along the ID Trail will house the Story Garden Plaza, which will be developed in tandem with the City, AMAFCA and a number of community health groups working in the International District.

4. Mobile Community Center: The International District is particularly underserved by current City parks, recreational facilities and community centers. One idea to address this shortcoming is with a mobile life center, or “Rec n’ Roll” bus, which would transport recreational equipment such as basketball hoops and a climbing wall to underutilized parks or at the Story Garden Plaza in order to provide temporary programming in underserved areas where there is not the space or financial resources to establish a community center. This mobile unit could include two to three buses or vans that would transport recreation equipment and/or provide clinic facilities. The units would operate at scheduled times in order to provide regular service to community members at a fraction of the cost for traditional community center.

5. South Diversion Channel Trail: The proposed South Diversion Channel Multi-Purpose Trail is a paved, multi-purpose trail located along the South Diversion Channel. If permitted and approved by the AMAFCA board, this trail would provide improved pedestrian and bicycle access from surrounding neighborhoods and schools, such as Lowell Elementary to the City’s Roosevelt Park and Loma Linda Community Center. The trail would also connect to destinations such as UNM’s Championship Golf Course, sports arenas, Isotopes Park, Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) and proposed trails in the Mountain View/Mesa del Sol NCA. The County will work with the City to identify trail alignment and to secure funding to construct the trail and associated improvements. The trail will connect to the 50-mile loop that the City is undertaking.

6. 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

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**RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)**

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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.

7. Lobo Farm & Urban Open Space Development: During the community process, there was considerable interest expressed in the County supporting the protection, formalization and further development of new urban open space areas such as the lobo farm on the barren fairways, vacant lot community gardens and alley-way native plant Prescription (Rx) Trail corridors. The County will work with UNM and the City to complete a planning process to identify areas and strategies for preservation and development. This will help to offset the large need for open space in this area quantified above in the level-of-service analysis.
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The Atrisco-Westside NCA is located entirely in County Commission District 2, and it 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 it 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 nearby Rio Grande High School, Ernie Pyle Middle School and Kit Carson Elementary School. This facility is the County’s oldest center. It is in need of renovation and possible expansion. 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 numerous special events. Parking and space for vendors is a perennial need at these events.

- The ball field and the Special Programs Building have major issues that need to be addressed to functional optimally, or be removed and replaced with facilities that are more supportive of the current and future programming of the WSCC.

- 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 expansion needs for this facility. Three options were developed and refined into a single plan that had widespread support. Community members 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 Open Space 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 if the connection between this site and WSCC is strengthened.

- Pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian connections in the Atrisco-Westside NCA are limited to the bicycle lane along Isleta Boulevard and the informal trail network along the acequias and in the bosque. There is need for connections between facilities such as WSCC and the SVMPC and Tom Tenorio Park. The extensive acequia system represents a huge opportunity for additional north-south connections and preservation of the rural character of 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 education and local food production uses.

• Tom Tenorio Park is a regional facility that has yet to be developed to meet its 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 SVMPC and, most recently, Rio Grande Pool. These facilities will require ongoing maintenance and periodic upgrades mandated by playground and irrigation audits, but they should not require significant capital investment.

• The following is a list of facilities in the Atrisco-Westside NCAs:
  - Westside Community Center, Westside Park
  - South Valley Multi-Purpose Center
  - Armijo Senior Meal-Site
  - Atrisco Little League Park
  - South Valley Gateway Park
  - Old Armijo Soccer Field
  - Tom Tenorio Park
  - Valle del Bosque Park and Open Space
  - Sanchez Farm Open Space
  - Clinton P. Anderson Open Space Park
  - Shadyside Park
RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Westside Community Center: Recommended improvements to WSCC are to be completed in four phases, as follows:

   a. **WSCC Parking, Drainage and Site Improvements:** 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 80 additional vehicles. As part of the parking lot project, the 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 the Sanchez Farm drainage basin. The current Prescription (Rx) Trail that loops around Westside Park will be extended, connecting WSCC to nearby Sanchez Farm Open Space. Other site improvements will include an outdoor stage, a small garden area, two large shade structures, two tree groves and a new playground.

   b. **WSCC Whole Life Addition:** Over 32,500 square feet (sf) of new space will be added to the center by the final phase, including a new lobby, new fitness center, meeting room space and a health resource area. This expansion will support additional fitness activities and health classes, and it would enable WSCC to include whole-life programming.

   c. **WSCC Additional Gym:** An additional gym is also proposed to additional support fitness activities and enable the WSCC to host basketball tournaments with the existing gym and the two recently refurbished outdoor courts.
2. Sanchez Farm Open Space: The goal for this facility is to complete the existing site plan, which includes a shade structure, outdoor amphitheater/classroom area, and additional agricultural and interpretive elements. In the near term, a compacted, crusher fines Prescription (Rx) Trail will be constructed around the facility that connects via a raised crossing at the Armijo Acequia crossing of Arenal to the enhanced Westside Prescription (Rx) Trail. The proposed improvements will also include a pilot ditch project with the MRGCD along the Armijo Acequia from Sanchez Farm to Isleta Boulevard along the back side of the WSCC property. Improvements to the ditch corridor would include native plantings, interpretive signage and development of a soft-surface facility appropriate for pedestrians and maintenance vehicles. Pending a post-occupancy evaluation of this portion of the ditch, additional links will be explored by the County and the MRGCD.

3. South Valley Agricultural Property and Water Rights Acquisition: Efforts to preserve remaining agricultural land in this part of the South Valley are needed. 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 agriculture with open space preservation. Preservation of these properties could take the form of land preservation agreements or full purchase.

4. Arenal Road Paved Multi-Purpose Trail: This path would provide a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists to connect from WSCC and Sanchez Farm past Rio Grande High School to Tom Tenorio Park.

5. 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
Figure 5e5: Atrisco-Westside NCA Regional Connections Planning Diagram
RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

undertaking irrigation system improvements. Other improvements include; the addition of two softball fields; two additional large grass areas for football and/or soccer; a new large-scale dog park with grass and naturalistic areas to serve the high-density residential communities in this area; and, new parking in several areas to provide easy access to the sports 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.

6. South Valley Westside paved Multi-Purpose Bosque Trail: A paved multi-purpose trail is proposed on the west side of the Rio Grande. This would be a collaborative effort with the MRGCD and the City Open Space Division. This trail was proposed originally in the 1990’s Bosque Action Plan. It would provide the west side of the river with a recreational trail comparable to the Paseo del Bosque on the east side. The alignment would be the subject of a separate planning effort and could run as far north as the Atrisco Siphon and as far south as the Louise Road bosque access bridge near the Gutierrez-Hubbell House.

7. Valle del Bosque Park and Open Space Improvements:
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 remaining fields and parking areas need to be completed so that the park can be used for league softball and other recreational use. These improvements would also include a concession stand.

8. Atrisco Valley Little League Park Improvements:
Additional improvements will be made at this facility to create a Prescription (Rx) Trail for this part of the community, shade structure, parking and lighting upgrades.

9. South Valley Multi-Purpose Center Therapeutic Pool:
A therapeutic pool is proposed at this community center.

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$19,495,000 $1,170,075

*All costs are estimated as of the fall of 2015, and are subject to change over time and as projects proceed to construction. Estimated O&M costs include sustainment costs and may include amounts already budgeted by the County for the particular facility. All projects are subject to availability of funds and Bernalillo County Commission approval.*
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 has the greatest capacity of any NCA for supporting agritourism and promoting 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 Polo Park and the Gutierrez-Hubbell House History and Cultural Center (Hubbell House).

• The County has made significant open space investment in the NCA during the last decade with the purchase and development of the 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, history and agricultural programming.

• This NCA is meeting level-of-service goals with respect to overall park land and open space, as well as community centers and senior facilities. The NCA is overserved 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 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 the property.

• The Bernalillo County Visitors and Resource Center located just south of Hubbell House on Isleta Blvd is a converted church, which was also part of the traditional Pajarito Village Center (formerly the Pajarito Senior Meal Site). This facility contains a commercial kitchen and a large meeting space to help meet the need for a teaching kitchen, local food hub and community meeting space for this portion of the South Valley.

• Rio Bravo Park is located in the northern portion of the Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA and includes a suite of facilities, including the South Valley Pool, South Valley Little League Park, South Valley Tennis Courts, Rio Bravo Skate Park and the Rio Bravo Off-Leash Dog Park. The park is co-located with Harrison Middle School.

◊ The parking, circulation and drainage systems are not integrated among the various facilities and 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 Rio Bravo Senior Meal Site is underutilized and could be used for other programming at other times.

◊ The pool is the oldest in the County’s Aquatics Program and had to be closed before the end of 2014 due to mechanical, safety and health issues. The bath house at the facility will require replacement.

• Los Padillas Community Center is in the southern portion of the NCA with a small center building, a soccer field and the Los Padillas Pool. The former dental clinic is not operational, and the costs are very high for adaptive re-use compared to the costs of demolition and new construction.

• Denison Polo Park has the potential to be more of a regional rodeo destination. However, it will require some renovations, including a new concession stand, restroom facilities and a crow’s nest.

• Nearly all sites are connected by the acequias, and this connection could be 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 and Los Padillas Pool

◊ Gutierrez-Hubbell House History and Cultural Center

◊ Pajarito Open Space

◊ Bernalillo County Visitors and Resource Center

◊ 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 and Cultural Center

Figure 5f2: Denison Polo Park Conceptual Plan
The Pajarito-Los Padillas NCA will be the focus for a number of improvements and future planning efforts to further “Cultivating Bernalillo County” and other County strategic initiatives to celebrate the cultural infrastructure and traditional village centers of the South Valley, and to advance agritourism as a local economic development strategy.

1. Bernallillo County Visitors and Resource Center: The County converted the former Pajarito Senior Meal Site into a local food hub and gateway for agritourism destinations in the South Valley. The site would feature informational space about historic and current local agricultural practices, as well as spaces for a seed exchange, a growers’ market and commercial rental use. The existing kitchen will be upgraded for commercial use, and it will be used to teach cooking classes and to provide support for large events at the Hubbell House. Meal services for the seniors accessing the site were relocated to the nearby Rio Bravo Senior Meal Site.

2. South Valley Open Space Ditch Trail Plan and Los Padillas Lateral Open Space Trail: A planning collaboration is proposed among the County, MRGCD, AMAFCA and the City to identify and prioritize a limited number of ditch facilities to be formalized and further developed as ditch corridor open space trails. The primary focus of this area will be the South Valley south of Rio Bravo. As part of the planning project, the County will developing maps and signage to celebrate this rich part of the Valley’s cultural heritage. Along with this planning effort, a pilot open space trail project is proposed to connect Durand Open Space to the Don Felipe property along the MRGCD’s Los Padillas Lateral.

3. Gutierrez-Hubbell House History and Cultural Center and the 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 support agritourism goals for this NCA. They are, as follows:

a. Hubbell-Pajarito Village Center Trail and Sound Wall: 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 formal trail segments and crossings to connect the Don Felipe property at the north end all the way to Louise Road.

b. Gutierrez-Hubbell House Building Addition: 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 addition on the existing historic footprint to provide additional educational, meeting and storage space.

c. 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 the location for “Bernie,” the New Mexico Dahl Sheep, who serves as the County’s mascot. Fencing and a shelter will be constructed to house these animals in the 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, including a wrap-around portal and plastering. Renovations will also include reconfiguring the floorplan to support offices for open space collaborators and, potentially, other agencies who will assist with County open space programming and land management activities.

d. Hubbell-Don Felipe Parking and Trailhead: 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 a trailhead to expand community access to the trails afterhours on the Hubbell Open Space properties and the proposed Los Padillas Open Space Trail.

4. Denison Polo Park: The County would like to expand programming and usage of this facility, particularly with its partners 4-H and the NMSU-Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service. To achieve this, proposed improvements include a new concession stand with bathrooms, replacement of the crow’s nest, ADA-accessible paving, improved signage and reorienting the site’s main entrance. Trails are proposed for the City drainage pond above the park and to connect the park to Los Padillas Road.

5. Los Padillas Community Center: The County proposes several improvements to the Los Padillas Community Center and site, including the replacement of the defunct Dental Clinic Building with a new building that would add whole-life programming to the center, such as a health resources room, a new fitness room, an exercise class studio and a playground for older children. Other recommendations include installing parking lot lighting and a Prescription
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)

(Rx) Trail extension that would lead into, and through, the ephemeral wetlands that filled the drainage pond as a result of storm water runoff.

6. Rio Bravo Village Center: The group of facilities located at the Rio Bravo/Adobe Acres Village Center has the capacity to become a regional recreation facility. This group includes the existing Rio Bravo Senior Meal Site, South Valley Library, Rio Bravo Park, South Valley Little League, South Valley Pool and the Rio Bravo Skate Park. Recommendations for specific facilities include the following:

   a. **Rio Bravo Satellite Center Parking, Pedestrian and Landscaping Improvements:** Improvements are needed to the drainage, parking and circulation systems in order to increase parking capacity and connect the various onsite facilities. Site improvements would include accommodations for food trucks, a Prescription (Rx) Trail, landscaping and shade structures to further integrate the landscape.

   b. **Rio Bravo Satellite Center:** The County is proposing to add on to the Rio Bravo Senior Meal Site building to create a satellite center facility with whole-life programming to serve Teen Special Programs and Senior programs with a fitness center, exercise studio and a new gym that could potentially also be a boxing and/or wrestling facility.

   c. **South Valley Replacement Pool, Bathhouse and Splash Park:** This facility was voted the number one capital project for community members in Commission District 2 and voted second for the entire County. The County proposes to remove the existing pool facility and in successive phases, add a splash park, a new bath house and a new leisure pool. Additional shade structures and appropriate landscaping to serve aquatics users and users of the renovated Rio Bravo Satellite Center are also proposed.

   d. **South Valley Little League and Rio Bravo Park:** A Prescription (Rx) Trail and new sound system are proposed for these facilities. Additional parking and field upgrades, such as field extensions and artificial turf infiels, will be needed in the future.

7. Raymac Park: Renovations are proposed for a full neighborhood park in this area with an updated playground, large shade structure, sand volley ball court, a perimeter Prescription (Rx) perimeter Trail and other improvements.

8. Judge Henry Coors Park: Undeveloped land is proposed to be improved as a naturalistic park with a Prescription (Rx) Trail, shade structure, playground, picnic area and parking area with space for equestrian access to connect to nearby future ditch trails.

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$14,870,000 $829,180

*All costs are estimated as of the fall of 2015, and are subject to change over time and as projects proceed to construction. Estimated O&M costs include sustainment costs and may include amounts already budgeted by the County for the particular facility. All projects are subject to availability of funds and Bernalillo County Commission approval.

9. Rural Road Unpaved Extended Shoulder Trails: An extended shoulder trail and crossings to accommodate pedestrians and equestrians are proposed along: (a) Los Padillas Road to Coors Boulevard and across Coors to Denison Park and Rodeo Grounds; and, (b) Don Felipe Road from the Hubbell-Don Felipe Trailhead to Pajarito Open Space to Judge Henry Coors Park. In the future, these trails will also make connections to potential future open space ditch trails along the Isleta Interior Drain, the Gun Club Lateral, the Los Padillas Interior Drain and/or the Arenal Main Canal.

10. Durand Open Space - Bosque Access Improvements: Improvements to the existing drainage infrastructure at Durand are proposed to enable better equestrian and pedestrian access.
5g. MOUNTAIN VIEW-MESA DEL SOL Neighborhood Community Area

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

• The Mountain View-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 Bosque to the Kirtland Air Force Base. It is in Commission District 2.

• The Mountain View-Mesa del Sol NCA has sharply contrasting land uses and living conditions within its boundaries, ranging from the heavy industrial uses to large tracts of agricultural land.

• The County played a key role in the acquisition and planning of the Valle de Oro National Urban Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The County was a key partner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in master 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 seeks 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 Mountain View Community Center is the key gathering place for residents in the NCA. There is a strong need for public health resources at the center.

• The community process for this NCA 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 expressed interest in further development of the Dr. E. A. “Swede” Scholer Regional Recreational Complex to include a wide range of facilities such as additional soccer and football fields, a velodrome, a sportsplex and even a regional aquatics facility.

• The following is a list of existing facilities in the Mountain View-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
EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES

- Parking
- Shade Structure
- Building Improvements
- Fitness Facility
- Basketball Court
- Skate Park
- Prescription Trail
- Agriculture
- Health Resources
- Visitor’s Center
- Playground
- Playing Field
- Lighting
- Aquatics Facility

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

MOUNTAIN VIEW-MESA DEL SOL NCA
Figure 5g2: MVCC Improvements Conceptual Master Plan
For the Mountain View-Mesa del Sol NCA, the County will continue its efforts to develop the Regional Sports Complex to its fullest potential, support development of the Refuge and mobility connections to it, and develop the Mountain View Community Center as a community resource with whole-life functions.

1. Mountain View Community Center: Based on the feedback received from community members and input from County staff, the following recommendations were developed for the Mountain View Community Center (MVCC):

a. **MVCC Site Improvements:** Renovation of the turf area and the trail will enable it to function as a Prescription (Rx) Trail with shade and benches. With assistance from the Refuge, the center has embarked on a community garden project to the west of the building. Parking will be supplemented and structured around the site with perpendicular parking off of Williams Street and ADA, service and staff parking behind the building.

b. **MVCC Site Amenities:** 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.

c. **MVCC Whole-Life Renovation:** A renovation and addition to the MVCC could provide for a separate pre-school program 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.

2. **2nd Street SW Neighborhood Park:** The development of a small neighborhood park midway between the MVCC and the Mountain View Elementary School is proposed. This improvement will require the acquisition of a small parcel of land along 2nd Street SW.

3. **Valle de Oro Urban National Wildlife Refuge Mobility Connections:** The County will continue to work with the Refuge and other stakeholder organizations to support the implementation of the Refuge Master Plan, including supporting local food and agricultural uses, cultural heritage preservation of the Milking Barn and implementation of a series of mobility projects. They are, as follows:

a. **Valle De Oro Paseo del Bosque Extension:** Extension of the existing Paseo del Bosque Trail south to the Refuge.

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<td>Valle de Oro Paseo del Bosque Extension (USFWS, MRGC, AMAFCA, COA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain View Community Center (MVCC) Site Improvements</td>
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<td>MVCC Site Amenities</td>
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<td>MVCC Whole Life Center Addition</td>
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<td>Mountain View 2nd Street Neighborhood Park</td>
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<td>$150,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*All costs are estimated as of the fall of 2015, and are subject to change over time and as projects proceed to construction. Estimated O&M costs include sustainment costs and may include amounts already budgeted by the County for the particular facility. All projects are subject to availability of funds and Bernalillo County Commission approval.

b. **Valle De Oro-Rio Grande Pedestrian-Equestrian Bridge:** The development of a pedestrian and equestrian bridge across the Rio Grande within close proximity to the Refuge.

c. **2nd Street SW Paved Multi-Purpose Trail:** Continued development of the 2nd Street SW Corridor Trail.

4. **Dr. E. A. “Swede” Swede Scholer Regional Recreation Complex:** The County proposes to continue development of regional potential for this facility per the adopted master plans, including the following:

a. **Playing Fields**—Additional field space for football, soccer and cricket and a concession stand.

b. **Bike Facilities**—A velodrome, paved multi-purpose trails and mountain bike trail race course along the escarpment portion of the site.

c. **Other Regional Facilities**—The County will explore developing a tournament softball complex and other regional sports facilities.
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- North 14 NCA is a large, sparsely populated service area, bounded on the north and east by the County line, on the south by Interstate 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 USFS, New Mexico State Land Office (SLO), and the 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 Sandia Knolls neighborhood, 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), as well as with assisting in the City’s acquisition of Tres Pistoles and Route 66 Open Spaces. Improvements to Ojito are largely complete.

- A development program for Carlito Springs 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 in 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 trail connections, limited improvements to the center and further development of neighboring outdoor spaces, the center is functional for current and proposed programming.

- The community expressed interest in various trail connections, including completion of 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 Sandia Mountains and the Carnuel-Tijeras Regional Trail Network. These trails would, in many cases, formalize existing informal routes and improve connections between existing open spaces, recreational and educational 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
1. Carlito Springs Open Space Improvements: The County will continue to develop Carlito Springs 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 (a) the main house and (b) the cabins. Programming and space needs are being explored for an intergovernmental research center, retreat center, and possible 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 land health monitoring, youth education programs and volunteer efforts such as SiteWatch and the Carlito Springs Volunteer Cohort.

2. Carnuel-Tijeras Trail Network: The proposed Carnuel-Tijeras Trail Network will provide appropriate bike or hiking trail connections to and from County, the Forest Service lands and other community open space facilities throughout the southern portion of the Sandia Mountains consistent with existing plans and policies in the East Mountain Area Plan, East Mountain Trails and Bikeways Plan and the specific Open Space facility management plans and the Cibola National Forest Plan. The proposed network will also serve to improve pedestrian/bicycle access to and from community facilities managed by the Village of Tijeras, APS, the USFS, the City and the County. Key links in the Los Vecinos-Carnue NCA will include the following: (a) improved multi-purpose facilities along NM 333, NM 14, NM 337 and Public School Road; and, (b) formalization of existing informal trails for hiking and nature viewing between Carlito Springs to Ojito through the National Forest. This project would also include trail head improvements at Carlito Springs and Ojito to provide potential hikers with shade, signage and picnic amenities. The County will play a key role in the development of this part of the
NORTH 14 NCA (continued)

Figure 5h1: Carlito Springs Master Plan

Figure 5h2: Vista Grande & East Mountain Little League Park
RECOMMENDATIONS (cont’d)

trail network by collaborating with the Cañon de Carnue Land Grant (Carnuel Land Grant), the Village of Tijeras (Tijeras), APS, the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), the USFS Cibola National Forest Sandia Ranger District (Sandia District), Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District and the East Mountain Coalition of Neighborhood Associations to further identify, plan and design the alignments for various proposed trails, bike facilities and potential funding sources. Any alignments outside of NMDOT right-of-way will require an extensive planning process.

3. Vista Grande Community Center (VGCC) Complex: The County intends to support development of facilities that will enable the VGCC to function as a regional facility. The County will work with the neighboring charter high school and other partners to develop additional facilities to ensure that more of the needs of the growing community in this area are met.

a. VGCC Center Upgrades: The VGCC is the one of the newest of the County’s community centers, and it 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 improvements would include site improvements such as a natural play area, basketball courts and extension of the Prescription (Rx) Trail.

b. VGCC Second Gym: A second gym is also proposed for the VGCC to the west of the current building, which will require acquisition of additional property.

Other major site amenities are proposed for the shared VGCC-East Mountain Charter School campus, including the following: (c) a skate park; (d) tennis/pickleball courts; and (e) a running track with soccer field.

5. East Mountain Little League Facility: The County is proposing additional pavement and shade structures at the East Mountain Little League facility, and a multi-purpose trail loop to connect to the Little League, the community center, the East Mountain Charter High School and other proposed recreational facilities to the existing multi-purpose trail located along La Madera Road.

6. El Refugio Archery Range Improvements: Recommendations for El Refugio Archery Range (Archery Range) include the development of a gateway feature with improved signage, landscaping and a new gate, improvements to the parking area, ADA related accessibility improvements and the addition of a shade structure and picnic area. The County is working with the Archery Range operator to increase opportunities for programming and use by the County and its partners.

CIP LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Estimated Capital Cost</th>
<th>Estimated O&amp;M Cost</th>
<th>County Overall Level of Priority</th>
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$11,255,000 $245,550

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7. Proposed Gutierrez Canyon/San Antonito Trail Improvements: The proposed Gutierrez Canyon/San Antonito Trail would improve hiking and equestrian connections and trail heads between the City’s John Milne/ Gutierrez Canyon Open Space, San Antonito Open Spaces and the Archery Range.

8. East Mountain Powerline Trail: The proposed powerline trail would be a collaborative effort between the County and the USFS. It 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 and USFS trails to existing neighborhoods along North 14 and, potentially, provide a connecting spur and crossing to the City’s John Milne/Gutierrez Canyon Open Space. This would be the first new leg of a potential Sandia Circuit Trail for mountain bikers, hikers and equestrians.

9. North 14 Trail System Extension: Improvements are proposed to the existing North 14 trail including the to extension of it to connect from Frost Road to East Mountain Elementary School.
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

• The Los Vecinos-Carnuel NCA, bounded to the south and east by the County boundary, to the north by Interstate 40, and following census tract boundaries to the west, is a large, sparsely-populated and growing area of the unincorporated County. This NCA is in Commission District 5, and it includes the Village of Tijeras.

• The County is meeting service goals with respect to the categories of overall parks and open space acreage and community centers. 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 East Mountain Library, function as a community recreation and education hub. These functions could be developed further to incorporate community health initiatives.

• A two-day public charrette process was held for the LVCC. Four additional meetings were held during which the community provided input on the LVCC and other facilities in the NCA. The feedback focused primarily on improving the LVCC and adding an aquatics facility.

• As with other community centers in the County, there are considerable mobility and accessibility issues at LVCC 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 to the center and further southeast to the Sandia District 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. In either direction from the County property the arroyo is owned by the Carnuel Land Grant, another potential collaborator in restoration and future trail efforts.

• 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 and Hockett Park
  ◊ Sunflower Park
  ◊ Sabino Canyon Open Space
  ◊ Sedillo Ridge Open Space
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Los Vecinos Community Center Improvements: Los Vecinos Community Center has long been in need of major renovation and land expansion to accommodate its programmatic needs. Proposed improvements are, as follows:

   a. **LVCC Land Acquisition and Site Improvements:** Land acquisition to the east is the first step to accommodate additional parking before construction of the site and building improvements at the center can begin. The program for the site includes a new playground, new basketball court, updated skate park, drainage improvements, much-needed additional parking and ADA improvements. A Prescription (Rx) Trail loop is proposed to connect all of these site amenities.

   b. **LVCC Whole Life Renovation:** 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 have whole life functionality. The improvements will include a significant renovation, with the oldest portions of the existing building being demolished and reconstructed with the addition of a second story to provide opportunities for better lighting, more sustainable building heating and cooling systems and views of the Sandia Mountains. The new building is planned to have a game room, a health resources area, a lobby and a flexible, multi-purpose meeting room space.

   c. **Los Vecinos-Tijeras-Carnuel Open Space Restoration and Mobility Connections:** The Tijeras Arroyo from Public School Road to where it forks south and west is proposed as 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 SWCS. 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 District Ranger Station and perhaps to a future Carnuel-Tijeras trail eastward through the canyon.
The heart of Tijeras is Los Vecinos Community Center and it should be just that, the center of the community. After reviewing the list of wishes made by the public, it was realized that many of these amenities already exist in the community either right across the street or right across the arroyos. The problem is access. By building better and safer connections throughout the community the need for many new amenities is lessened. Building new trails, sidewalks and medians in town not only makes the town pedestrian and bike friendly but also provides the opportunity for community aesthetics.
**2. East Mountain Splash Park and Aquatics Facility:** The community has expressed tremendous interest in an aquatics facility in the East Mountains. Water resource limitations in this area limit the possibility of undertaking a pool until (and if) ABCWUA extends a water line to Tijeras. As part of the PROS Plan, the County: (a) will pursue a splash park to be located at LVCC; and, (b) may explore the possibility of working with neighboring counties and municipalities to the east and south to build a future public pool facility. The splash park could be undertaken upon completion of, or in tandem with, the site improvements at LVCC.

**3. Sedillo Ridge Open Space Improvements:** The County plans to make improvements to Sedillo Ridge such as a trailhead with parking that will support equestrians, a shade structure and picnic area. The County will work 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.

**4. Cedro Peak-County and Open Space Trail Connections:** 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 in order to further integrate the existing USFS trail system with neighboring City and County Open Spaces. This would increase hiking, mountain biking and equestrian connectivity between Sabino Canyon, Sedillo Ridge and Juan Tomas Open Spaces. As part of this process, the County will work with the City and stakeholder user groups to explore potential ways to formally integrate the City owned Reserve Open Space to the north of Sedillo Ridge into the Cedro Peak network of trails and open space resources. The County will play a primary role in the trail development by working with other public agencies to identify the trail alignments and potential funding sources.

**CIP LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Estimated Capital Cost</th>
<th>Estimated O &amp; M Cost</th>
<th>County Overall Level of Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Mountain Splash Park</td>
<td>$ 850,000</td>
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<td>Very High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Mountain Aquatics Facility</td>
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<td>Los Vecinos Community Center (LVCC) Land Acquisition &amp; Sitework</td>
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<td>LVCC Whole Life Center Renovation</td>
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<td>Sunflower Park Upgrades and Rx Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>McGrane Center Park Development</td>
<td>$ 200,000</td>
<td>$ 5,000</td>
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**5. Sunflower Park:** The County will complete renovations to Sunflower Park including a new playground and upgrades to the basketball court, picnic area and the existing trail to make it into a paved Prescription (Rx) Trail.

**6. Whispering Pines Senior Meal Site and Hockett Park:** The County will hold community and stakeholder meetings to consider future uses and programming for the senior meal site as a potential satellite center for LVCC. A new playground is planned for Hockett Park.

**7. McGrane Center Park Facility:** A passive park facility is proposed for the McGrane Center, which will include a public art piece and be a node on the Public School Road Trail connecting the Sandia District Ranger Station to Carlito Springs.
6. PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Facilities Master Plan (PROS Plan) has two sets of final recommendations. The final recommendations were developed after the District Commission meetings in June 2015. At those meetings, and as a part of an on-line survey, residents were asked about their preferences regarding key policies and capital projects that are important to them and their community. Based on the community feedback and the staff technical evaluation, County staff prioritized the proposed capital projects into a phased-priority capital improvement plan (CIP) and developed a schedule of planning and programming recommendations.

PHASED PRIORITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The phased priority CIP provides the road map for the County’s future capital project investments in parks, recreation and open space facilities. All the projects with their relative level of priority are the basis for the phased priority CIP program, which is mandated for State ICF-funded projects. The PROS Plan’s phased CIP provides the basis and priorities for the County to seek and allocate future funding from various sources, including the State Legislative Capital Outlay funds, grants, general obligation bond funds, development impact fees, special mill levies and/or other taxes. Projects that are currently in the pipeline and/or have funding will continue to the next complete phase of development. Also, the priority list does not include the upgrades that will be required from time to time as a result of periodic audits of play structures and irrigation systems.

Prioritization Process: At the start of the prioritization process there were 102 projects totaling more than $150 Million. All of the projects that came out of the community process were weighted based on community priority and the outcome of a technical evaluation in order to determine the overall priority.

Community Priority: The community priority is based on the number of surveys that cited a particular project as a priority and the relative number of points a particular project received during the community meetings. Survey points were added to community meeting points. Each project received a final District and County-wide score of one, two or three points depending on which quarter they fell in at the District and County-wide level. The two top projects in each District and in the County as a whole received an additional point.

The district score and the County overall score were then multiplied to obtain the total community priority score. In summary:

1. Commission District Community Score:
   - Four points if one of the two highest-rated projects in the Commission District
   - Three points if in upper third of total points
   - Two points if in middle third of total points
   - One point if in the lower third of total points

2. County Community Score:
   - Four points if one of the two highest-rated projects in the County
   - Three points if in upper third of total points
   - Two points if in middle third of total points
   - One point if in the lower third of total points

Total Community Score = District Score x County Score

Technical Evaluation: The technical evaluation took into account a number of criteria from the PROS Plan policy section, which had been validated by community, stakeholder and staff feedback. POST Plan Score is based on whether an identified project has yet to be completed and what priority it had been given in the POST Plan. Percent Funded Score takes into account that it is better from a capital project standpoint to fund projects that are partially complete so that they can be completed. ADA Priority Score came from the phased recommendations of the recent Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation ADA Compliance Audit. Center Technical Evaluation Score was meant to address the deferred maintenance issues at a number of community centers by giving them a higher priority based on center usage and the average annual number of maintenance calls. Community Health Priority Score took into account whether the particular facility improvement had a specific community health element and whether it was in one of the communities that the Bernalillo County Community Health Council has identified as vulnerable from a health standpoint. NCA Level-of-Service Score came from whether it was in a category of facility for a particular NCA that was under the County’s level-of-service goals as described further on page 27 in Section 4. Spatial Needs Analysis Score came from whether the proposed project was a facility that would address a need gap for one of the more capital intensive specialized facilities (aquatics or community centers), as further described also in Section 4. Revenue Potential Score was an implementation of the economic development and finance policies and is based the projected amount of revenue a facility could generate. For example, tournament facilities with concession stands could generate high amounts of revenue compared to a neighborhood park. The final Technical Evaluation Score was the sum of an eight criteria described above with the corresponding point weighting.

1. POST Plan Score:
   - Four points if an incomplete high-priority project
   - Three points if an incomplete medium-priority project
   - Two points if an incomplete lower-priority project
   - One point if it is a new project

2. Percent Funded Score:
   - Four points if more than 50% funded
   - Two points if more than 10% funded, but less than 50% funded
   - One point if less than 10% funded

3. Community Center Technical Evaluation Score:
   - Four points if it was one of the two centers with the highest scores
   - Three points if it was one of two centers with second highest scores
   - Two points if twas one of the three centers with the lowest scores
   - One point for all other facilities

4. ADA Priority Score:
   - Three points if in Phase 1 for ADA compliance
   - Two points if in Phase 2 for ADA compliance
   - One point if in Phase 3 or optional for ADA compliance

5. Community Health Priority Score:
   - Four points if it is in a community health vulnerable area and includes a community health facility element (e.g., Prescription (Rx) Trail)
   - Two points if it includes a community health element
   - One point for all other facilities

6. NCA 2030 Level-of-Service Analysis Score:
   - Three points if the facility is located in an NCA that is projected to be more than 50% under the level-of-service standard for the facility type
   - Two points if the facility is located in an NCA that is projected to be between 20% and 50% under the level-of-service standard for the facility type
   - 1 point for all other facilities

7. Spatial Analysis Score for Community Centers and Swimming Pools:
   - Three points if in a gap area for that facility type
   - Two points if adjacent to a gap area for that facility type
   - One point for all other facilities

8. Revenue Potential Score:
   - Four points if the proposed facility has a high revenue potential (e.g., tournaments, concession stand and markets)
   - Three points if the proposed facility has medium revenue potential (e.g., rental use for sports and recreation or farm lease)
   - Two points if the proposed facility has some potential (e.g., lease for parties or recreation)
   - One point for all other facilities

Final Prioritization: The Technical Evaluation Score was then added to the Community Priority Score to determine a total Priority Raw Score:

Priority Raw Score = Community Priority + Technical Evaluation Score

The Priority Raw Score was the basis for the final County Overall Priority Level. Based on the Overall Priority, the projects were then sorted from very high to low, as follows:

- Very High - more than 24 points
- High - 20-24 points
- Medium - 16-20 points
- Lower - less than 16 points

Forty projects totaling a little more than $101 Million were rated high to very high and are considered to be the priority projects for the 15-year PROS Plan planning horizon. The projects and their relative priority are shown in Figure 6.1.
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>SCC Dist.</th>
<th>NCA</th>
<th>PROS ID</th>
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<th>Current Funding</th>
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<td>2 2 4</td>
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<td>2 3 1 1 1 1 1 2</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Sedillo Ridge Open Space Improvements</td>
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<td>73</td>
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$33,820,000 $1,190,077 $2,720,000

Figure 6.1: Chart of Prioritized Capital Projects

79
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>BCC Dist.</th>
<th>NCA</th>
<th>PROS ID</th>
<th>Estimated Capital Cost</th>
<th>Estimated O &amp; M Cost</th>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>Community Priority</th>
<th>Technical Evaluation</th>
<th>Overall Priority</th>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Raw Score</td>
<td>District Priority Score</td>
<td>County-wide Priority Score</td>
<td>Community Priority Score</td>
<td>POST Plan Score</td>
<td>Percent Funded Score</td>
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<td>North Albuquerque Acres Equestrian Facility Upgrades and Trail Improvements (AMAFCA)</td>
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<td>NAAla</td>
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<td>Los Pájilas Lateral Open Space Ditch Trail and Crossing (Don Felipe to Duran) (MRGCD)</td>
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<td>Paradise Hills Trails and Pedestrian Improvements</td>
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<td>Pedestrian Connection from Alameda Drain Trail to 4-H Site (COA &amp; MRGCD)</td>
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$ 16,845,000 | $304,425 | $1,485,000

TOTAL | $ 151,830,000 | $ 5,466,449 | $ 15,780,890
**Highest Priority Projects & Funding:** The very highest priority of those projects are the capital project recommendations of the PROS Plan. They are as follows:

1. **South Valley Replacement Pool and Bath House**
2. **Tom Tenorio Park Improvements**
3. **Westside Community Center Site Improvements**
4. **Paradise Hills Community Center (PHCC) Circulation, Accessibility, Parking and Park Improvements**
5. **North Valley Aquatics Facility**
6. **Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center (RGSCC) Site Improvements**
7. **UNM North Golf Course Phases 2 & 3**
8. **PHCC Whole Life Addition**
9. **South Valley Agricultural Property and Water Rights Acquisition (North of Rio Bravo)**
10. **Vista Grande Community Center Complex Improvements**
11. **RGSCC Whole Life Center Renovation and Addition**
12. **Urban Vacant Lot Open Space Community Gardens**
13. **East Mountain Splash Park**
14. **Carlito Springs Open Space Main House and Water System Development**
15. **Los Padillas Community Center Life Center Addition**

In total, there are 15 very-high priority projects, which add up to an estimated $32,035,000. Currently, there is approximately $4,507,000 already invested in funding for these projects. The County will seek to identify and allocate an additional $27,528,000 to complete construction of these projects. At full build-out, the estimated operations and maintenance costs include $1,083,505, which will necessitate increases to the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Fleet and Facilities Management budgets. These costs will be revised as they come forward for Bernalillo County Commission approval.

Parks and Recreation will revisit the CIP and update the PROS Plan priority projects every five years.

**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Another outcome of the planning process is a series of planning and programming recommendations for the next five years to include the following:

1. **Aquatics Planning Study:** This planning effort, which was started during the PROS planning process, and will be completed by the County with the following additional elements: a site identification study for the North Valley Aquatics Facility; conclusion of the evaluation and planning for a South Valley replacement pool; and, preliminary evaluation and outreach for an intergovernmental East Mountain Aquatics facility and an evaluation of aquatics funding strategies.

2. **Open Space Green-print Analysis:** This planning effort is in the process of being scoped to take the acquisition criteria identified in Section 3 and other criteria in order to identify areas where the County should pursue acquisition of open space land in the future.

3. **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Programming Study:** This study will evaluate the entire programming structure and offering of the Parks and Recreation Department and develop recommendations for future programming and the budget and facility enhancements to support it.

4. **Parks and Recreation Fee Study:** Parks and Recreation has determined that it is imperative to charge reasonable fees for programming and lease of Parks and Recreation facilities in order to address current budget constraints impacting operations and programming. Either as a part of the above study, or as a separate study, an evaluation of the entire fee structure of the Parks and Recreation Department will be undertaken and recommendations developed for changes and/or additions to fees charged for various facilities and programs. Parks and Recreation may use the GreenPlay Assessment, or similar tool, to evaluate existing and proposed future programs in order to determine what fees to charge for those programs.

5. **Regional Facility Planning Study:** The Regional Facility Planning Study will be a collaborative effort with the City, UNM and APS to determine needs, potential locations and funding necessary for regional competition facilities for aquatics, soccer and cycling.

6. **Open Space Management Plans:** Management Plans will need to be completed for new open spaces and updates completed for existing management plans that are now more than ten years old. These may be combined by general location to link strategies for land management, operations, programming, cultural heritage preservation, economic development and marketing between County facilities (and potentially facilities of other Agencies) to develop areas of the County as destinations for tourism and local recreation. For example, south of Rio Bravo, the County owns three agricultural properties, as well as a Rodeo Grounds, a former Senior Meal Site and two community centers. The USFWS Valle de Oro is also in this area along with the Rio Grande State Park (maintained by the City),
a number of ditches maintained by the MRGCD and most of the remaining agricultural lands in the County. All these can be programmed and marketed together to create a destination for visitors and locals alike. This in turn can be the basis for an overall economic development strategy for this area with incentives and land use changes to support.

The outcome of all these studies may impact the priority of capital projects, and will be factored into future updates of the PROS Plan.

**FUTURE UPDATES OF THE PROS PLAN**

It is also recommended that the PROS Plan be updated by Parks and Recreation every five-years. This update will consist of a status review and re-evaluation of priority capital projects based on what projects have been completed and any new programming needs. A complete update to and re-write of the plan is recommended at the 15-year mark.
**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.

**AMAFCA:** 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 with 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.

**Land preservation agreement or 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 considered negative easements because they 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. Donation of a conservation easement may result in a tax break for 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):** 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 a 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.

**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.

**No net expense:** The capital, as well as the operations and maintenance, costs of a particular facility will be offset by revenues and/or economic and fiscal benefits of the development in which the proposed facility is situated.

**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.