

I. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

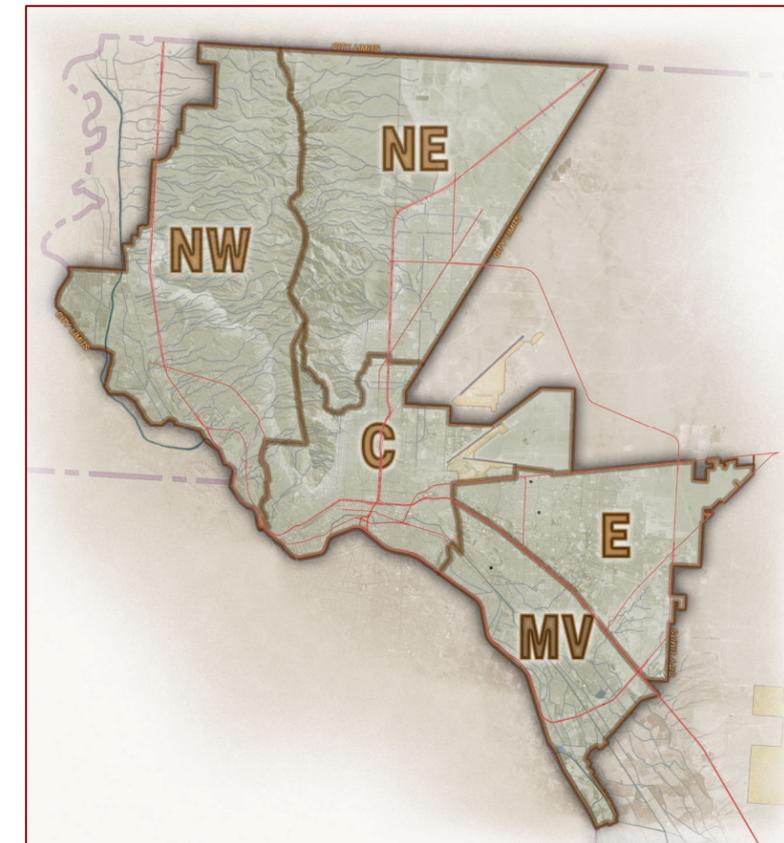
Parks and Recreation: Utilization and Opinions

Satisfaction with Current Park Facilities

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

Favorite Recreation Activities

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



Planning Areas Used as part of the Citizen Survey



TOP 10 FAVORITE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES OR SPORTS

BY SUBSECTOR

RESPONSE	OVERALL	RESPONSE	NW	RESPONSE	CENTRAL
Walking/hiking	27%	Walking/hiking	17%	Walking/hiking	33%
Basketball	9%	Football	9%	Basketball	7%
Football	8%	Running/jogging	9%	Football	7%
Baseball/softball	8%	Swimming	8%	Swimming	7%
Swimming	6%	Golf/disc golf	8%	Soccer	7%
Running/jogging	6%	Biking/motorbiking	8%	Golf/disc golf	7%
Soccer	6%	Baseball/softball	7%	Basketball/Softball	7%
Golf/disc golf	5%	Skiing/skating/ice skating	6%	Biking/motorbiking	5%
Biking/motorbiking	4%	Basketball	5%	Baseball/softball	3%
Tennis	3%	Soccer	3%	Running/jogging	3%

RESPONSE	NE	RESPONSE	LOWER VALLEY	RESPONSE	EAST
Walking/hiking	26%	Walking/hiking	23%	Walking/hiking	28%
Basketball	12%	Basketball	15%	Baseball/softball	11%
Swimming	11%	Baseball/softball	15%	Basketball	10%
Football	9%	Football	10%	Running/jogging	7%
Running/jogging	5%	Soccer	9%	Football	6%
Fishing/camping/hunting	5%	Running/jogging	5%	Soccer	6%
Bowling	5%	Swimming	4%	Biking/motorbiking	6%
Baseball/softball	4%	Volleyball	4%	Tennis	4%
Soccer	4%	Tennis	2%	Fishing/camping/h	4%
Tennis	4%	Fishing/camping/hunting	2%	Swimming	3%

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

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

Favorite Park Facilities

- **Most frequently used types of park facilities** over the past 12 months include:
 - Visiting a small park near your home (73%);
 - Using a trail for walking or exercising (66%);
 - Visiting a city playground (65%);
 - Used a large park with athletic fields (47%);
 - Attending festivals, concerts, or events sponsored by the Parks (43%);
 - Attending events at Chamizal National Monument (40%).

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



included:

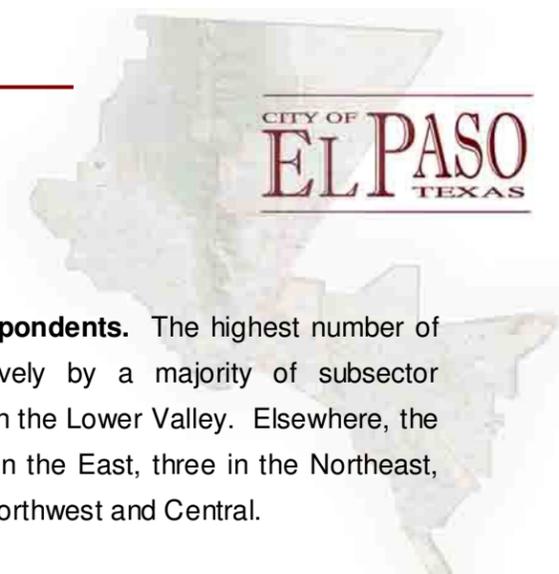
- **Album/Eastwood (20%),**
 - **Memorial (11%)**
 - **Veteran’s (8%)**
 - **Marty Robbins (7%)**
- **Most frequently used Senior Centers** - Memorial (13%), Eastside (12%), and San Juan (10%) were the most visited city senior centers
 - **Most frequently used recreation centers** - Album/Eastwood (17%), and Pavo Real and Veteran’s (both 7%)
 - **Most popular recreation programs** - sports activities such as basketball or volleyball (45%), fitness activities such as aerobics or weights (44%), summer program for kids (27%), and programs or events for seniors (21%) were the most popular programs.
 - **Reasons for people not participating in recreational programming** - Didn’t know about program (76%-21%, 3.6:1) and the program did not interest them (58%-33%, 1.8:1)
 - **Cost and lack of transportation were not mentioned as frequently** - program they wanted cost too much (41%-47%, 0.9:1), the facility was too far away (53%-44%, 1.2:1), and they did not have available transportation (50%-43%, 1.2:1).

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

Key responses included:

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

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



TOP 10 BEST AND WORST RATINGS OF CITY RECREATIONAL ASPECTS

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

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

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

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

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

- For example, statements related to location were low - ranked 16th (parks conveniently located), 18th (athletic fields conveniently located), 21st (hike and bike located), and 15th (recreation centers conveniently trails conveniently located).
- **The statements relating to number of facilities** were very low - ranked 19th (parks), 17th (athletic fields), 20th (amount of hike and bike trails), and 14th (recreation centers).
- **Twelve of the 21 statements were rated fair or poor**

by a majority of respondents. The highest number of aspects rated positively by a majority of subsector participants was 10, in the Lower Valley. Elsewhere, the aspects were seven in the East, three in the Northeast, and one in both the Northwest and Central.

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

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

- the Northwest),
- number of parks (51% in Lower Valley, to only 20% in the Northwest).

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



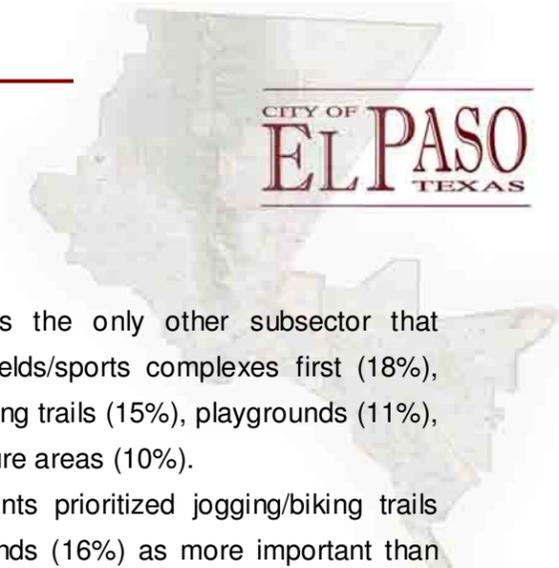
Assessing Future Needs

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

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

RESPONSE	OVERALL	RESPONSE	NW	RESPONSE	CENTRAL
Parks	28%	Parks	36%	Parks	21%
Pools/aquatic facilities	12%	Athletic fields/sports complex	14%	Recreation center/gym/teen center	16%
Recreation center/gym/teen center	10%	Pools/aquatic facilities	11%	Pools/aquatic facilities	15%
Multi-use trails	8%	Multi-use trails	9%	Multi-use trails	8%
Athletic fields/sports complex	8%	Recreation center/gym/teen center	4%	Athletic fields/sports complex	7%
Playgrounds	7%	Playgrounds	4%	Playgrounds	6%
Miscellaneous	6%	Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	4%	Senior center/community center	5%
Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	5%	Restrooms/lights/benches	4%	Golf course/disc golf course	4%
Restrooms/lights/benches	3%	Tennis courts	3%	Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	3%
Senior center/community center	3%	Golf course/disc golf course	3%	Restrooms/lights/benches	2%

RESPONSE	NE	RESPONSE	EAST	RESPONSE	LOWER VALLEY
Parks	19%	Parks	34%	Parks	35%
Recreation center/gym/teen center	11%	Pools/aquatic facilities	13%	Pools/aquatic facilities	10%
Playgrounds	11%	Recreation center/gym/teen center	4%	Recreation center/gym/teen center	10%
Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	11%	Multi-use trails	13%	Multi-use trails	6%
Pools/aquatic facilities	10%	Athletic fields/sports complex	8%	Playgrounds	6%
Restrooms/lights/benches	6%	Playgrounds	6%	Restrooms/lights/benches	6%
Amusement park/arcade/theater	6%	Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	4%	Athletic fields/sports complex	4%
Athletic fields/sports complex	5%	Restrooms/lights/benches	0%	Senior center/community center	4%
Multi-use trails	3%	Senior center/community center	3%	Nature areas/shade/grassy areas	4%
Basketball courts/indoor basketball	3%	Amusement park/arcade/theater	2%	Skate park/skate rink/skateboarding	2%



OVERALL SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES

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

Support for Additional Recreation Facilities

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

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

- **The Northeast** was the only other subsector that prioritized athletic fields/sports complexes first (18%), and then jogging/biking trails (15%), playgrounds (11%), and open space/nature areas (10%).
- **In the East**, residents prioritized jogging/biking trails (17%) and playgrounds (16%) as more important than athletic fields/sports complexes (15%).
- **In the Lower Valley**, playgrounds (18%) placed ahead of athletic fields/sport complexes (14%) and indoor pools (12%) as being most important to develop.



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

IMPORTANCE OF FUTURE PARK DEPARTMENT ACTIONS BY SUBSECTOR

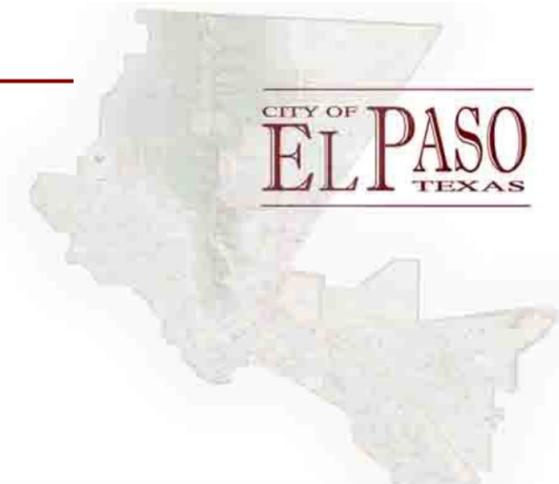
ACTION	NW
Offer small neighborhood parks close to where you live	94%
Provide affordable recreation opportunities for all residents of El Paso, especially those who may not be able to afford them.	94%
Renovate and add to existing parks in the city	91%
Develop major trails for transportation and recreation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

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

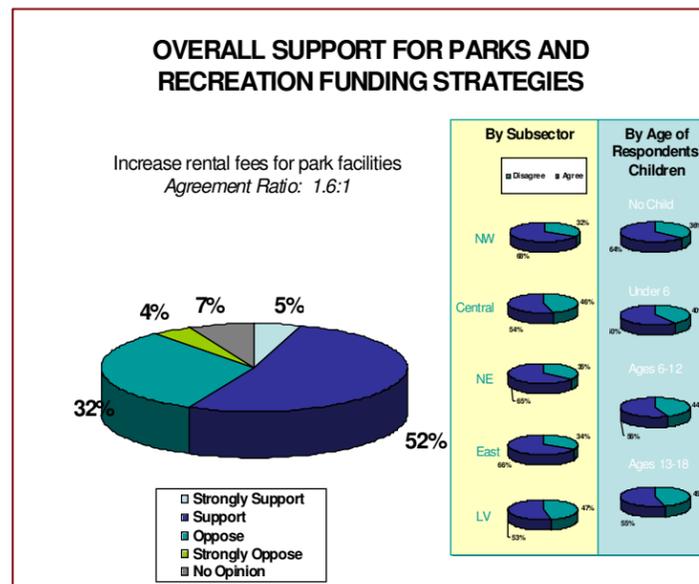
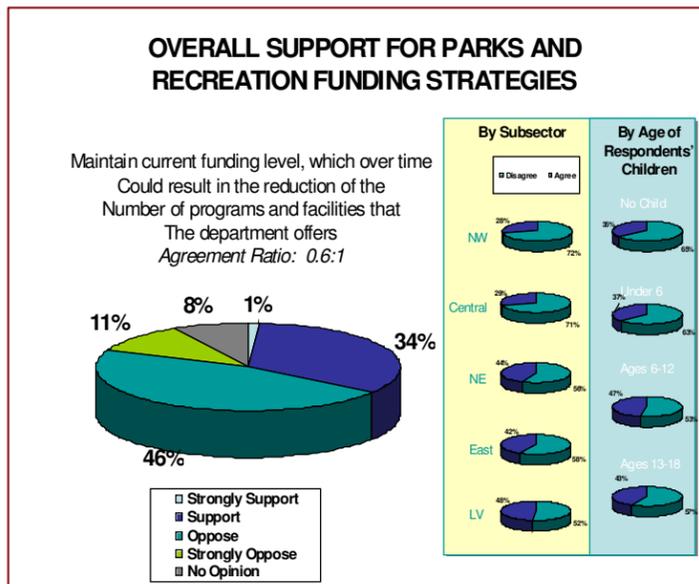
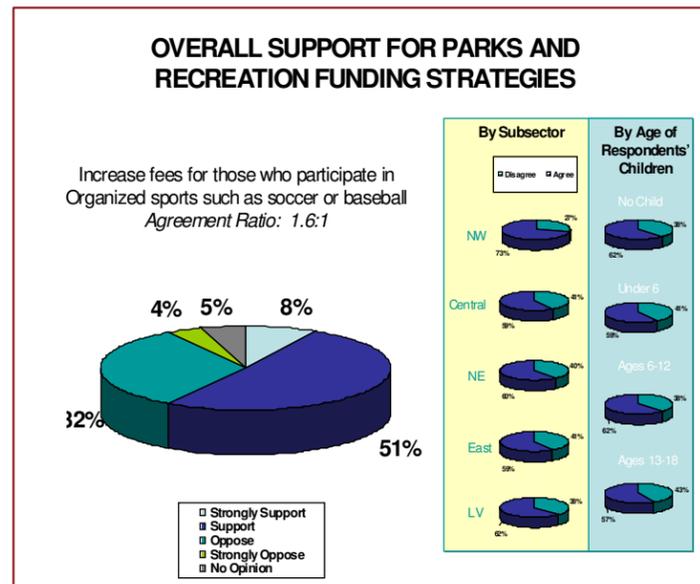
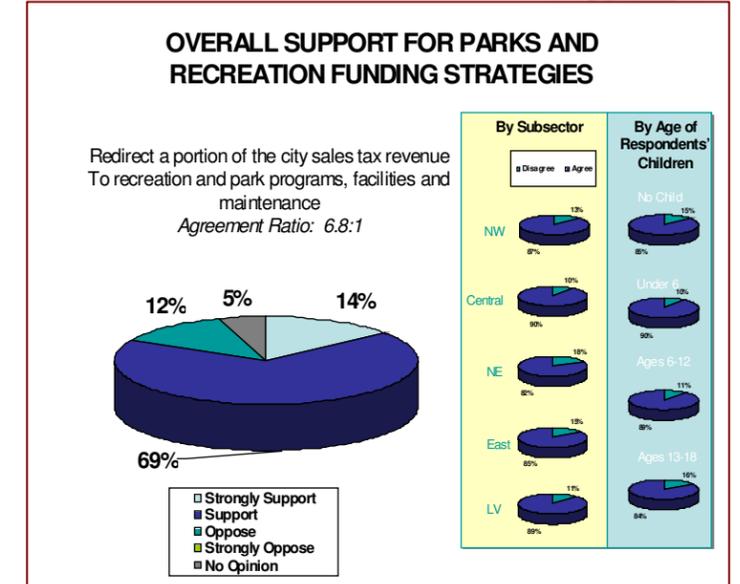
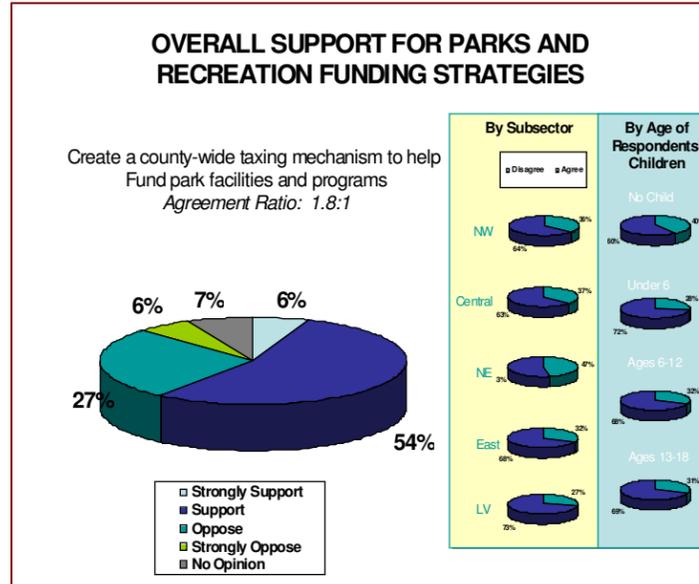
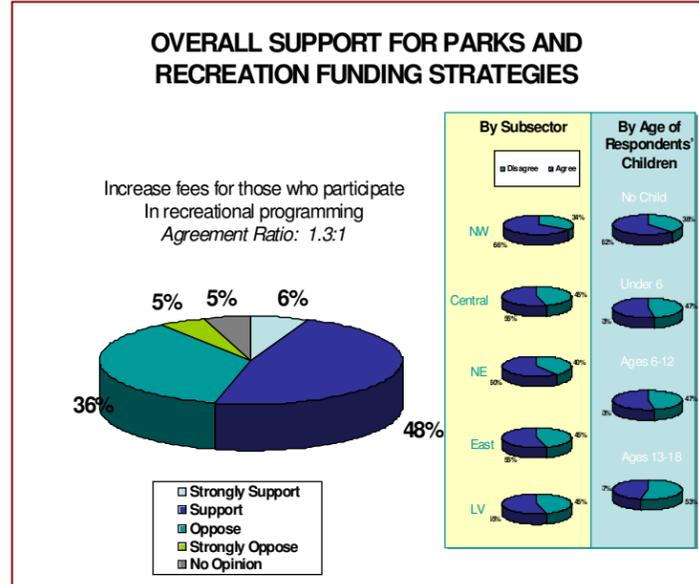
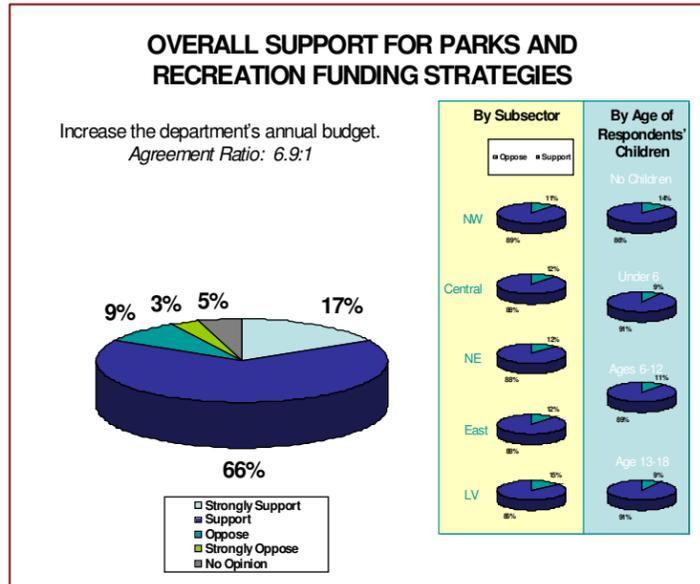
ACTION	LOWER VALLEY
Build large regional parks with a wide variety of facilities	98%
Provide affordable recreation opportunities for all residents of El Paso, especially those who may not be able to afford them.	98%
Renovate and add to existing parks in the city	98%
Offer small neighborhood parks close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

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

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



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



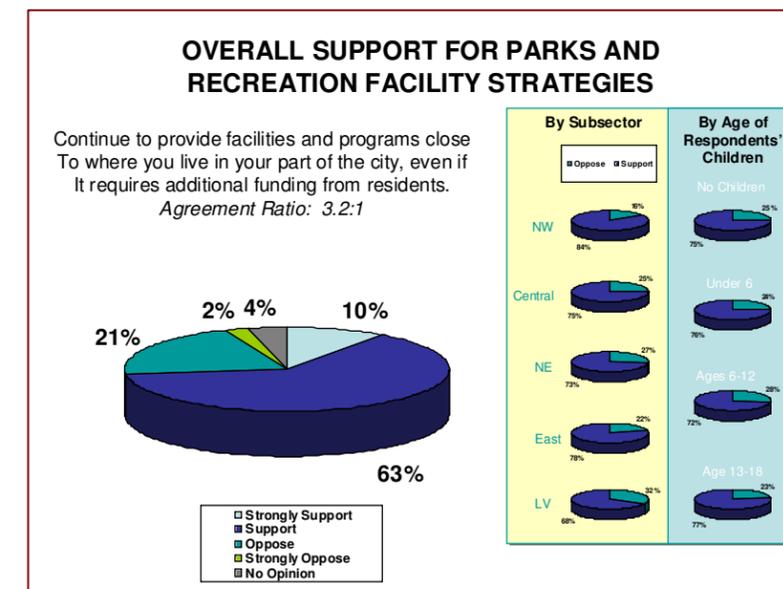
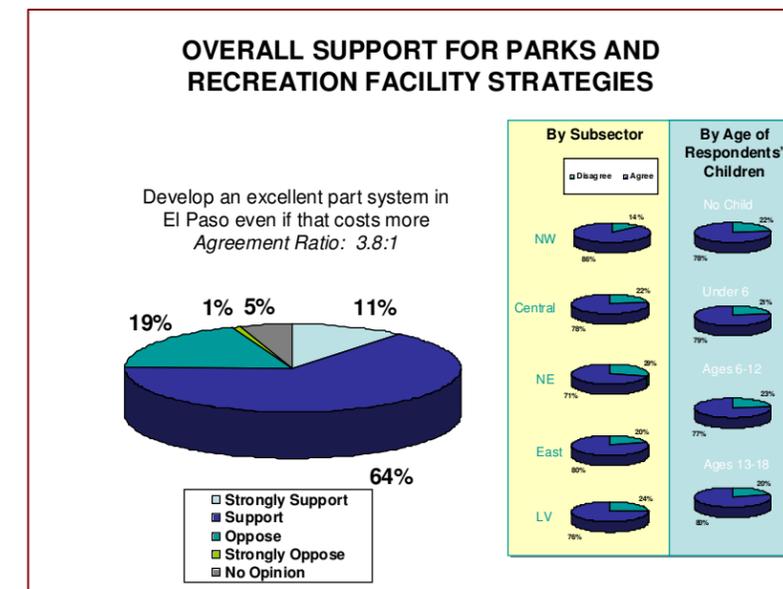


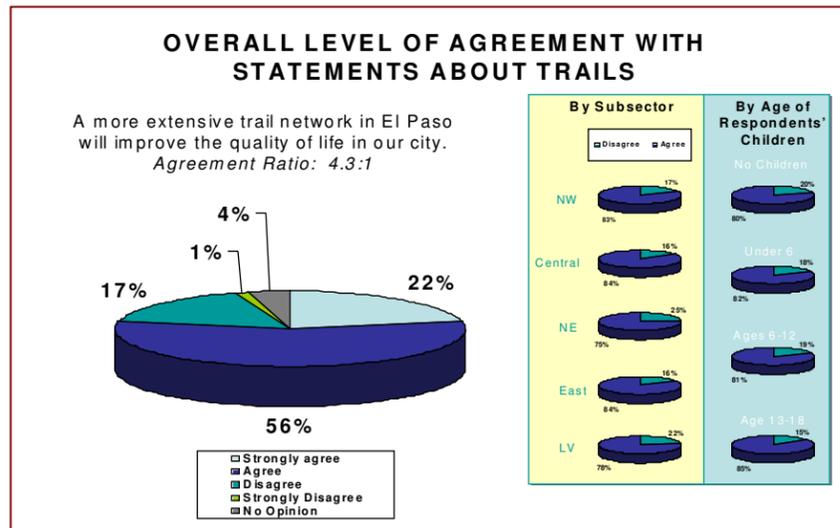
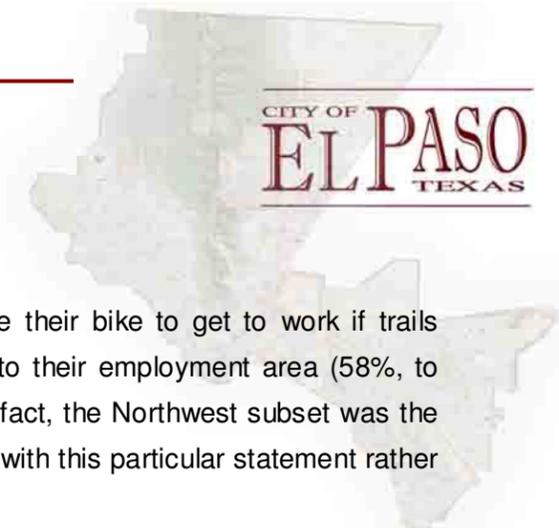
Support for Increased Funding for the Parks and Recreation Department (to increase the amount of funding available to the Parks and Recreation Department in order for it to meet the needs of its growing population):

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

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

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



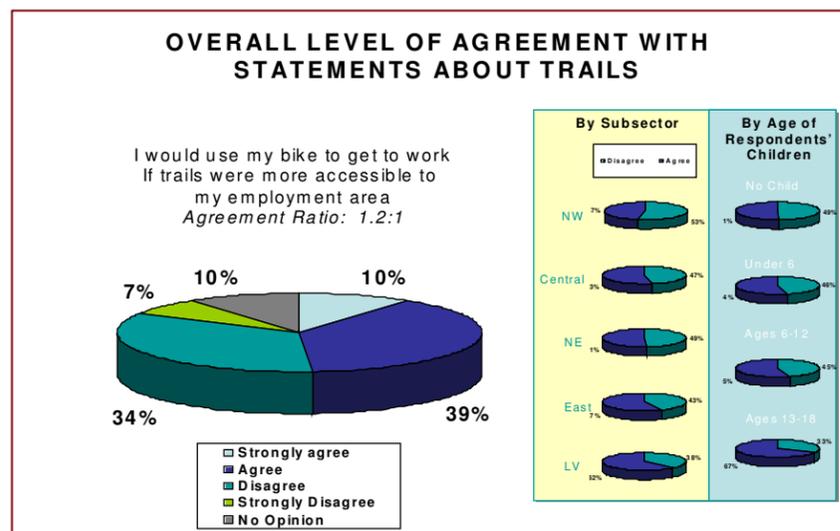
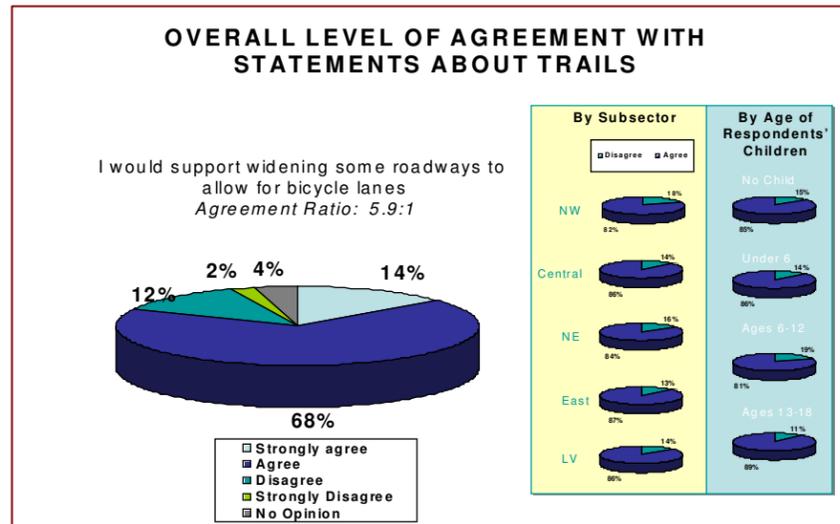


Support for trail and bicycle facilities

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

in the East) and to use their bike to get to work if trails were more accessible to their employment area (58%, to 39% in Northwest). In fact, the Northwest subset was the only region to disagree with this particular statement rather than agree (44%-39%).

- Linking trails to connect to nearby schools was also more popular in the Lower Valley (76%) than anywhere else, especially the Central zone (63%).





III. Community Meetings to Gather Input

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

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

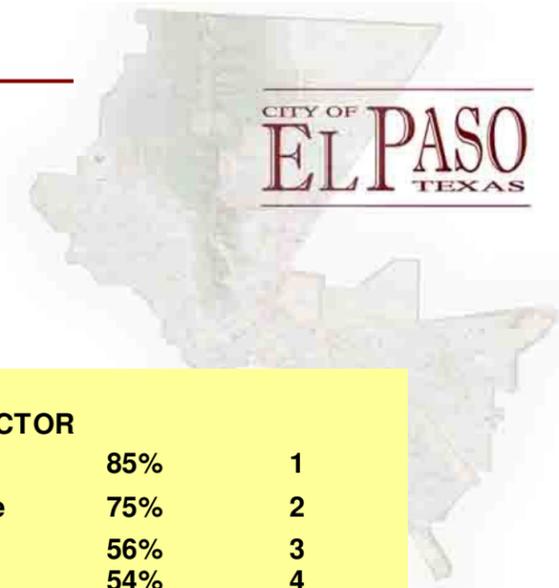
Key points from the public meetings that have been considered as part of this planning process are as follows:

1. DO YOU LIVE IN THE _____ PLANNING AREA?

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

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

<p>Walk or run</p> <p>NE 39 81%</p> <p>LV 17 65%</p> <p>ES 19 68%</p> <p>C 15 94%</p> <p>WS 41 85%</p> <p>AVERAGE 79%</p> <p>Use playgrounds</p> <p>NE 18 37%</p> <p>LV 7 27%</p> <p>ES 14 50%</p> <p>C 5 31%</p> <p>WS 27 56%</p> <p>AVERAGE 40%</p> <p>Enjoy being outside</p> <p>NE 33 69%</p> <p>LV 18 69%</p> <p>ES 13 46%</p> <p>C 14 88%</p> <p>WS 36 75%</p> <p>AVERAGE 69%</p> <p>Other</p> <p>NE 1 2%</p> <p>LV 0 0%</p> <p>ES 0 0%</p> <p>C 0 0%</p> <p>WS 1 2%</p>	<p>Play sports such as basketball or tennis</p> <p>NE 17 35%</p> <p>LV 8 31%</p> <p>ES 12 43%</p> <p>C 4 19%</p> <p>WS 16 33%</p> <p>AVERAGE 32%</p> <p>Play sports such as soccer, baseball or softball</p> <p>NE 20 42%</p> <p>LV 11 42%</p> <p>ES 15 54%</p> <p>C 2 19%</p> <p>WS 18 38%</p> <p>AVERAGE 39%</p> <p>Picnic with friends or family</p> <p>NE 14 56%</p> <p>LV 15 58%</p> <p>ES 12 43%</p> <p>C 9 19%</p> <p>WS 22 49%</p> <p>AVERAGE 45%</p>	<p>Attend recreation activities such as classes</p> <p>NE 21 44%</p> <p>LV 9 35%</p> <p>ES 11 39%</p> <p>C 5 31%</p> <p>WS 17 35%</p> <p>AVERAGE 37%</p> <p>Swim</p> <p>NE 24 50%</p> <p>LV 11 42%</p> <p>ES 14 50%</p> <p>C 5 31%</p> <p>WS 22 49%</p> <p>AVERAGE 44%</p> <p>Visit large natural areas</p> <p>NE 22 46%</p> <p>LV 7 27%</p> <p>ES 8 29%</p> <p>C 12 75%</p> <p>WS 26 54%</p> <p>AVERAGE 46%</p>
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RANK BY SECTOR OF THE CITY – FAVORITE ACTIVITIES IN PARKS IN EL PASO

LOWER VALLEY PLANNING SECTOR

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

EAST SIDE PLANNING SECTOR

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

WESTSIDE PLANNING SECTOR

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

NORTHEAST PLANNING SECTOR

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

CENTRAL PLANNING SECTOR

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

AVERAGE RANKING OF ACTIVITIES

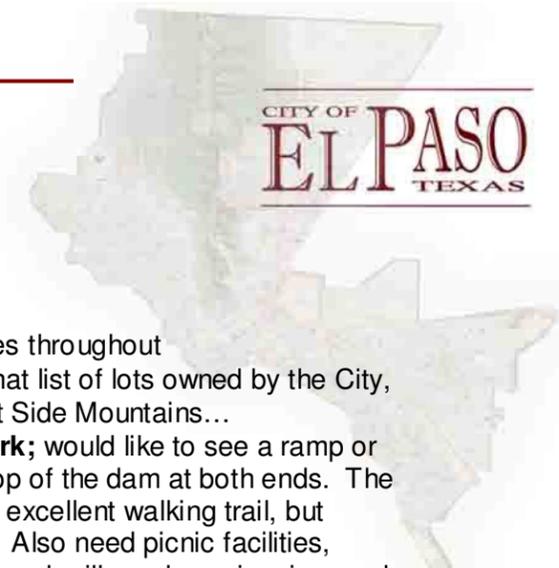
Walk or run	79%	1
Enjoy being outside	69%	2
Visit natural areas	46%	3
Picnic with family/ friends	45%	4
Swim	42%	5
Use playgrounds	40%	6
Play Sports such as soccer baseball or softball	39%	7
Attend recreation activities	37%	8
Play Sports such as basketball or tennis	32%	9
Other	1%	10

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

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

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

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



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

NORTHEAST PLANNING SECTOR

- Needs a sports complex that would offer soccer fields, softball/baseball fields, skateboard facilities
- Need to maintain what they already have improved
- Need more restrooms
- Need more aquatic facilities with competition lanes
- **Noland Richardson Community Center needs a swimming pool**
- More bike trails and lanes; a trail system that would run through all of El Paso benefiting joggers and walkers as well as bikers.
- A mountain biking ability course to practice biking over rock vertical inclines and declines, a teeter totter, riding over a balance beam, hopping levels, and trails on elevated 1 to 2 foot boards with changing surfaces. Possibly a biking trail connecting all of the rec. centers in El Paso so that restrooms, water, and break areas are easily accessed as well as Sun Metro bus routes (a cycletarium). Rec. equipment for adults such as low and mid-level obstacle challenge courses, zero level water play areas, outdoor climbing walls, non-traditional playgrounds, non-traditional aquatic facilities.
- **Sherman Park** needs the whole enchilada. In its present form, the park is very small. We need expansion, and there is plenty of land out there.
- Need small parks with walk/bike paths around them. Not just grass to curb, but covered picnic tables and open grass as well as paths.
- **Central Northeast** needs indoor full facility like the one on Viscount street near Cielo Vista.
- Have more program activities for children to keep them off the street
- Need more rec. centers throughout the city.
- More walking areas
- Se necesitan parques y caminos mejores para que la gente pueda caminar sin peligros que te los molesten

- All need more lights
- More athletic facilities throughout
- **Pocket Parks** get that list of lots owned by the City, conservation of east Side Mountains...
- **Chuck Heinrich Park;** would like to see a ramp or stairs to get to the top of the dam at both ends. The top of the dam is an excellent walking trail, but dangerous to climb. Also need picnic facilities, shelters, with tables and grills and a swimming pool
- Handicap equipment for a handicap accessible park and a fence that separates the desert from the parks
- Private schools need equal access to park facilities and fair rates.
- Add decorative street lights, gardens
- Need better parking and sanitary facilities in various parks. Trash is a major problem.
- More park entrances
- Would like to see the city help build a roof for Desert Downs BMX on the grounds at the Trans Mountain Optimist Club. BMX is a sport at the 2008 Olympics – Rob Doss '05-'06 president of the Trans Mountain Optimist Club.

LOWER VALLEY PLANNING SECTOR

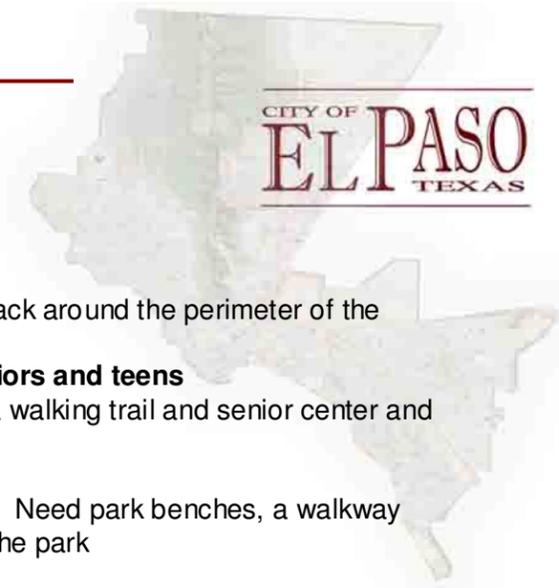
- Rio Bosque Wetlands park needs reliable water supply and safe routes to school
- More Rec. Centers, Gyms with volleyball and basketball for private and civic groups, and swimming pools
- More open space, jogging and biking areas, playground for children
- More ball fields
- Give private organization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

CENTRAL PLANNING SECTOR

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

EASTSIDE PLANNING SECTOR

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



WESTSIDE PLANNING SECTOR

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

- Include a walking track around the perimeter of the park.
- **Park areas for seniors and teens**
- **Thorn Park** – add a walking trail and senior center and add swings
- A dog park
- **Chihuahuita Park** - Need park benches, a walkway for walking around the park
- More bathrooms
- Salon Comonitatio
- Open Space
- **Resler and Transmountain** – Need more lights
- **Rim Road Area (79902)** – need public athletic facilities, tennis court, basketball court, and swimming pool

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

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

PLEASE ADD ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS THAT YOU MAY BELOW.

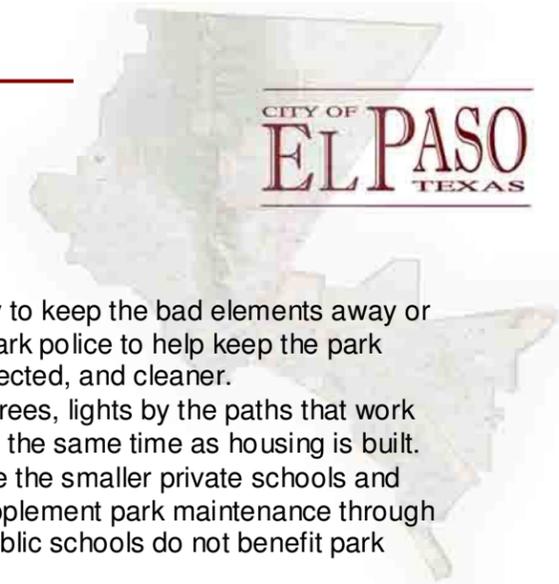
NORTHEAST PLANNING SECTOR

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

- Rent out the areas for dances and use the proceeds to improve and add facilities
- Keep the karate classes
- Senior citizen Garden should be placed under control of parks and recreation. I am a member of the Garden and enjoy the freedom we have there.
- Build a building for parties for public to reserve

LOWER VALLEY PLANNING SECTOR

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



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

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

EASTSIDE PLANNING SECTOR

- Better use of ponding areas, such as skate parks.
- Football is being neglected... Kids are playing football on soccer fields under no lights! Kids lives are being jeopardized by being in dangerous situations. The gang element has taken over Marty Robbins and we have to put a stop to this! Currently, you can smell they smoke marijuana in the parks; There is lots of theft including cars, and they race in the parking lots.

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

CENTRAL PLANNING SECTOR

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

WESTSIDE PLANNING SECTOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- This is the last chance El Paso has to protect and incorporate natural areas (arroyos, river habitat) into park systems.
- Provide safe hike and bike trails with lights
- Change impact fees to developers and require them to dedicate land for the trails so that all can be connected. Do not accept park dedication fees instead of requiring developers to donate land for parks – as it is now, a development with 75 homes is not required to donate even 1 acre for a park within the development where children can play. We must find a way to have connecting trails systems for people riding horses, bicycles, and walking and find watching connecting all areas of the upper valley and the Rio Grande.
- Park maintenance needs to be better coordinated, work better with park partners like Frank Manning to coordinate watering, money, trash pickup etc...

- Need better security, lighting, shade over playgrounds and sports fields
- Encourage neighborhood associations to get involved with their parks
- There is a vacant lot **near Sandoval Housing projects** which would be just right for a swimming pool or rec. center. It belongs to the City already. Also it is the most kid populated area in the Westside area.
- **Roberts Neighborhood** has many residents in a small area and we have not had quality of life improvements...
- **Lighting and Shade is necessary everywhere for older citizens to be able to walk in this heat**
- Palm trees don't provide any shade, please plant trees native to the area
- Have a Rec Center
- Have a better marketing plan and work on infrastructure

IV. Final Draft Recommendation Meetings

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

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

These comments have been incorporated into the final plan recommendations.