

II. Community Parks Needs

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

Key Desirable Characteristics of Community Parks

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



Community park examples in El Paso include Pavo Real, Blackie Chesser and Shawver Parks.

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

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

Existing Community Park Context

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

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

Memorial Park is El Paso's premier community park





Existing Level of Service – Community Parks

The existing level of service for community parks is shown in the table below. **Citywide, the current level of service is just over 1.41 acres for every 1,000 residents.** In four out of the five major planning areas, the level of service is less than 1.5 acres per 1,000, and represents only 34% of the desired amount of community park land.

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

Target Level of Service – Community Parks

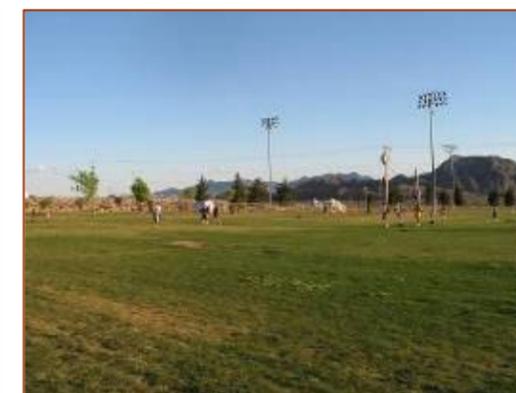
A target level of 4 acres of community parks for every 1,000 residents is recommended by this plan. This level provides adequate space for active sports and activities, and allows portions of each park to recuperate after periods of intense use. Citywide, El Paso is at 34% of the recommended target goal.

Distribution of Community Parks in El Paso

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

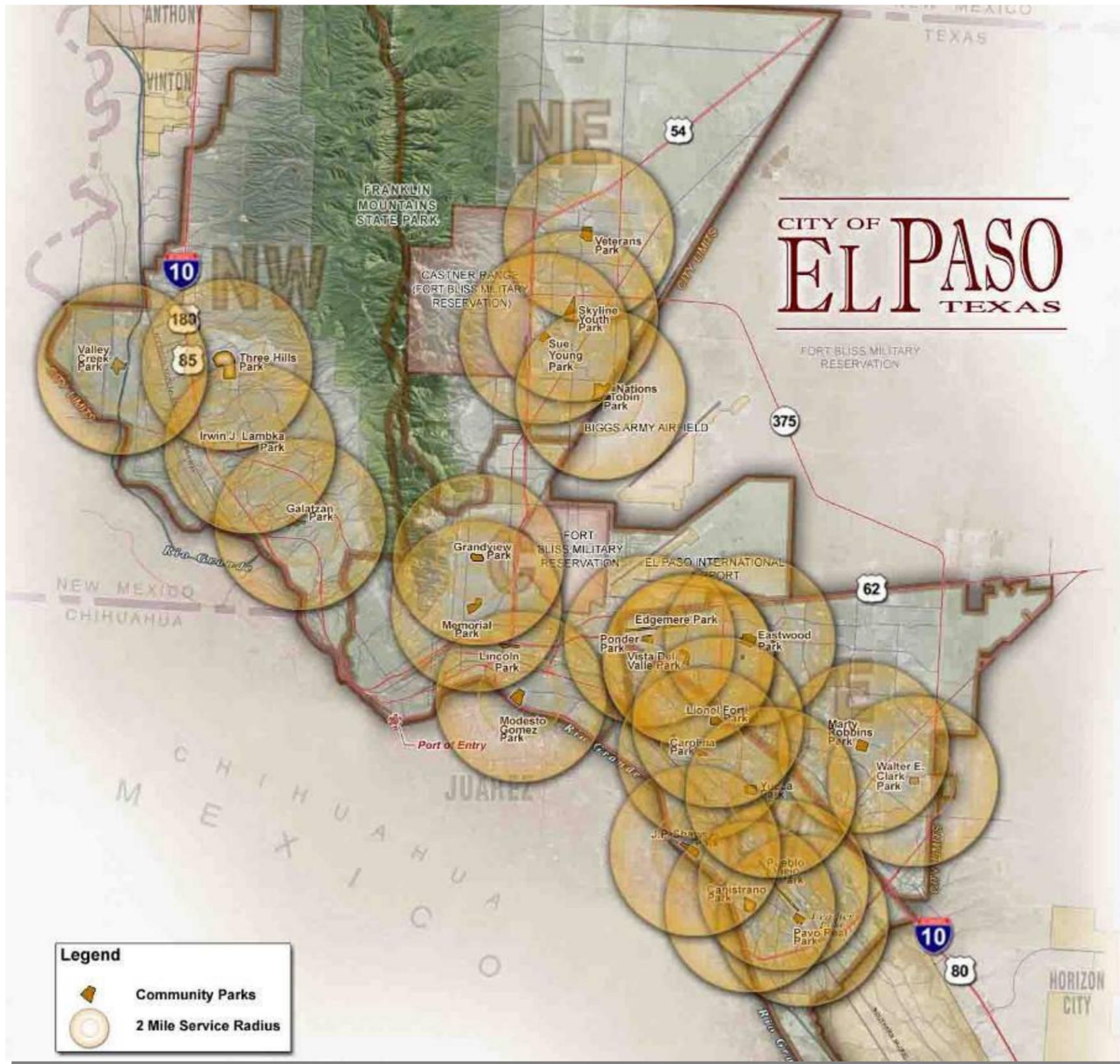
Key Community Needs in Each Planning Area

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



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

	Existing Park Acres	Estimated Population 2006		Percent of Target L.O.S.	Estimated Population 2016		Percent of Target L.O.S.	Projected Population 2020	
		Population	Acres per 1000 residents		Population	Acres per 1000 residents		Population	Acres per 1000 residents
Central	113.19	120,049	0.94	24%	125,132	0.90	23%	-	-
East	173.02	197,463	0.88	22%	240,584	0.72	18%	-	-
Mission Valley	151.46	101,450	1.49	37%	109,117	1.39	35%	-	-
Northeast	302.60	91,349	3.31	83%	115,128	2.63	66%	-	-
Northwest	112.40	105,555	1.06	27%	148,332	0.76	19%	-	-
Fort Bliss		6,663	NA	NA	8,854	NA	NA	-	-
Hueco		12,287	0	0%	15,923	0	0%	-	-
Citywide	852.67	634,816	1.34	34%	763,070	1.12	28%	796,000	1.07



Community Parks Service Areas For all planning areas

NORTHEAST PLANNING SECTOR										
Park Name and Size										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys
Nations Tobin		1	8831 Railroad Dr.	NE	2	Community	44.00	42.30		Auto
Skyline Youth		1	5050 Yvette Ave.	NE	4	Community	172.00	24.90	147.10	Auto
Sue Young		1	9730 Diana Dr.	NE	4	Community	25.20	24.70		Auto
Veterans		1	5301 Salem Dr.	NE	4	Community	44.00	41.00		Auto
Chuck Heinrich		2	11055 Loma Del Norte Dr.	NE	4	Community	17.40	17.40		Auto
Acreage and Facility Totals							302.60	150.30		
Community Park Level of Service in the Northeast Area										
Year 2006					3.31	Acres per 1000 residents				
Year 2016					2.63	Acres per 1000 residents				

Northeast Area Community Parks

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

The five parks are also well dispersed in the area that they serve, and each has its own character and range of facilities. Veterans Park is a perfect prototype for community parks throughout the city – it has a multitude of facilities, is centered

in the area that it serves, and is easily accessed from several routes. The park is well maintained and only lacks additional shade structures to increase summertime use.

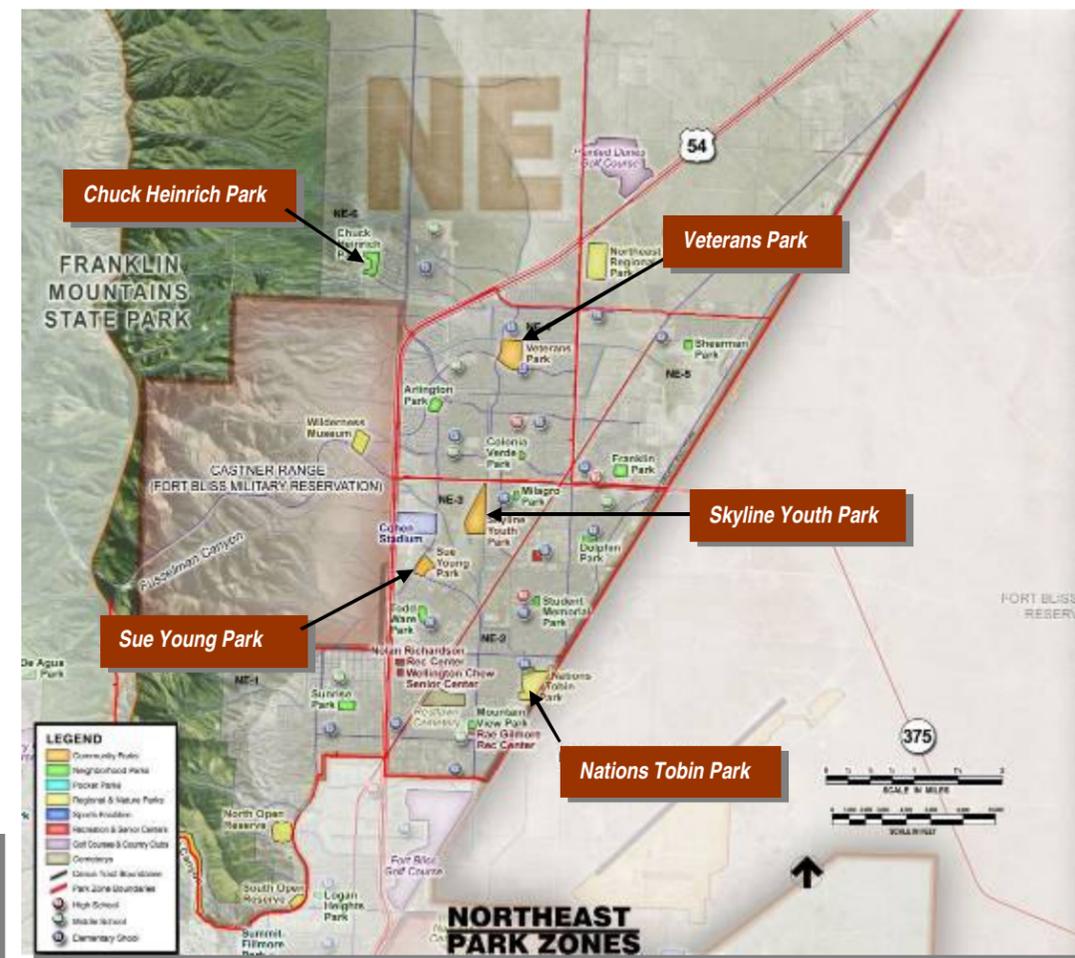
Northeast Community Parks

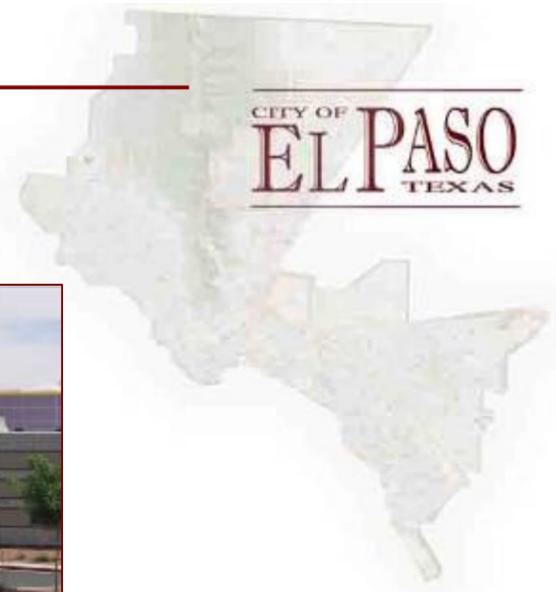
Current Land Needs

- For the current population, a total of at least 360 acres of larger parks are desired. The area lacks as much as 210 acres of community parks.
- Even taking into consideration the 100 acres of the Northeast Regional Park, the area still lacks 100 acres to ideally meet the needs of the current population.

Future Land Needs

- The area is projected to have over 115,000 residents by the year 2016.
- The community park land deficit by the year 2016 will be 150+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**





East Side Area Community Parks

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

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



East Side Community Parks

Current Land Needs

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

Future Land Needs

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

EAST PLANNING SECTOR

PARK NAME AND SIZE										
PARK	Alternate Name	Level	ADDRESS	Area	Dist	Type	Total Acres	Turf Acres	Natural Areas (acres)	Water Sys
Ponder		1	7500 Burgess Dr.	E	3	Community	23.10	21.75		Auto
Vista Del Valle		1	1288 Hawkins Blvd.	E	3	Community	22.13	16.00		Auto
Eastwood	Album	1	3110 Parkwood St.	E	5	Community	47.04	40.00		Auto
Tierra Del Este #1		1	12515 Tierra Norte	E	5	Community	17.25	5.00		Auto
Marty Robbins		1	11600 Vista Del Sol Dr.	E	6	Community	31.00	30.00		Auto
Walter Clarke		1	1519 Bob Hope Dr.	E	6	Community	16.50	16.00		Auto
Vista Del Sol		1	1900 Trawood Dr.	E	7	Community	16.00	15.50		Auto
Acres and Facility Totals							173.02	144.25		
Community Park Level of Service in the East Area										
Year 2006					0.88	Acres per 1000 residents				
Year 2016					0.72	Acres per 1000 residents				



Mission Valley Community Parks

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

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

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

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



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

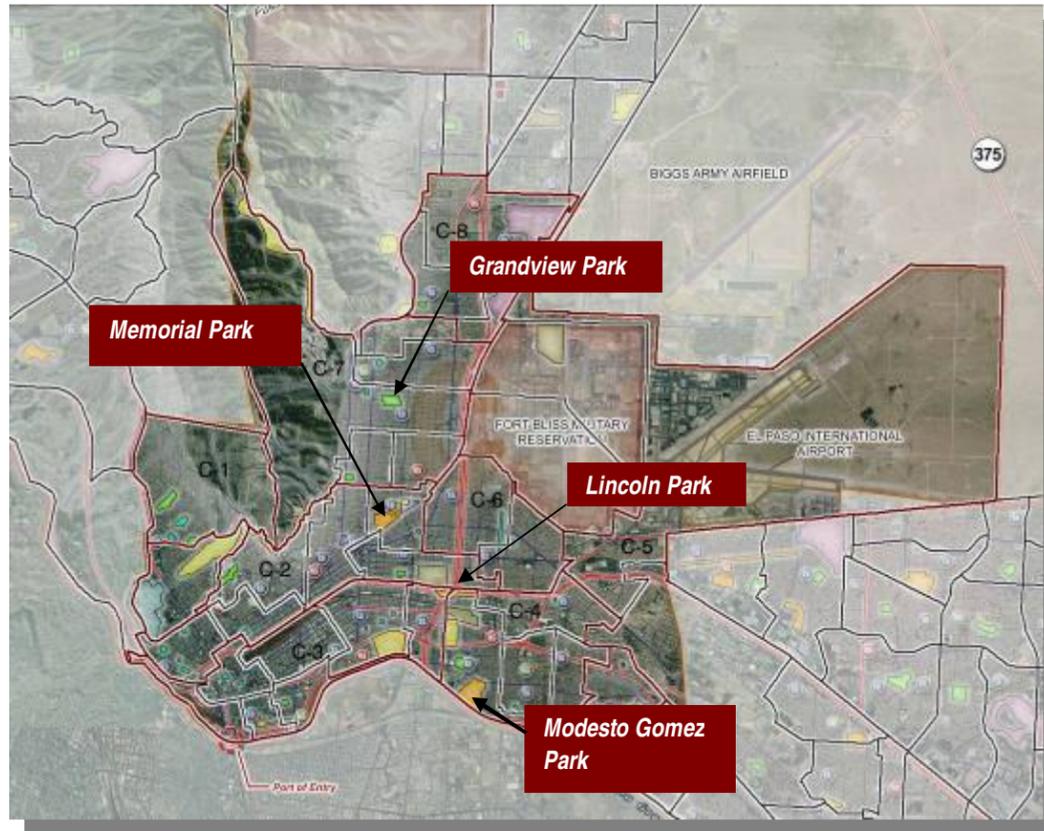
Mission Valley Community Parks

Current Land Needs

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

Future Land Needs

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



Central Area Community Parks

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

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



Central Area Community Parks

Current Land Needs

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

Future Land Needs

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

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



Northwest Community Parks

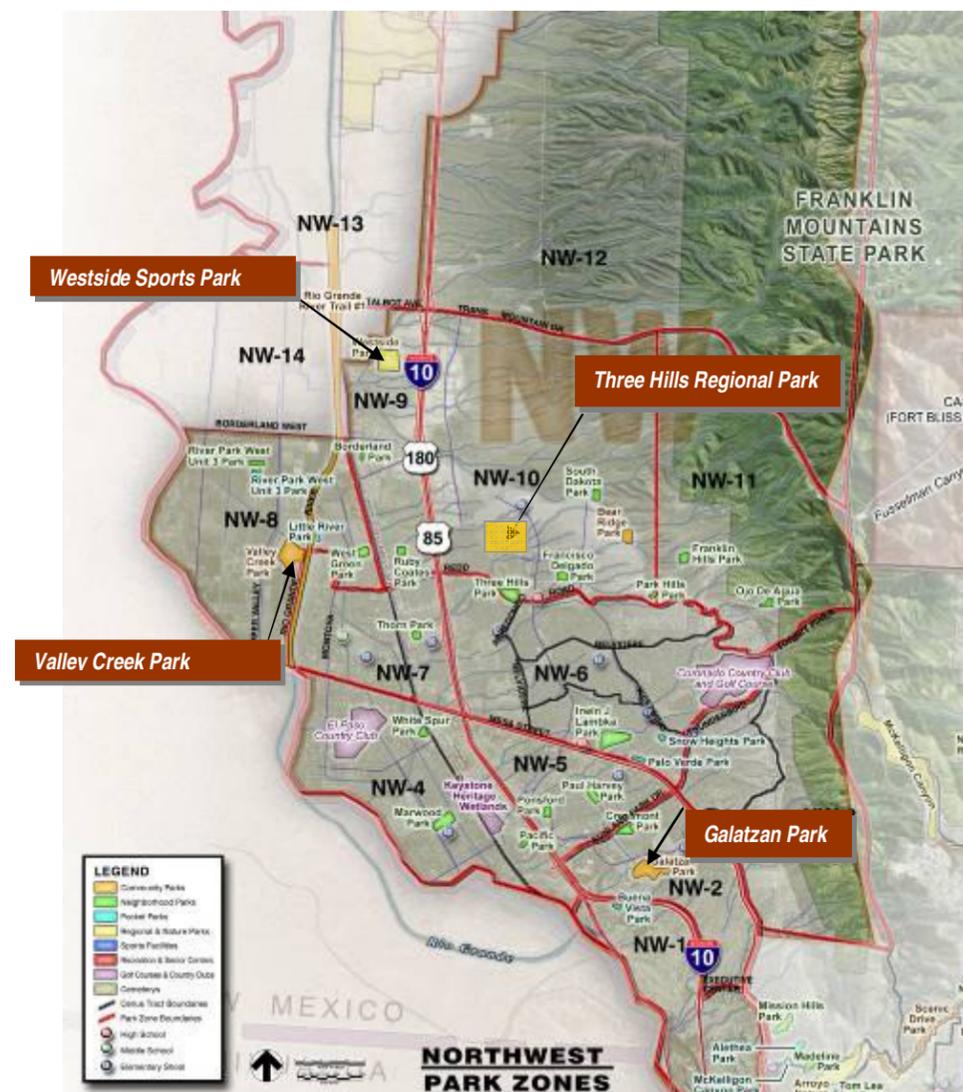
The Northwest of El Paso has the third lowest community park service level in the entire city. The population of over 105,555 residents is served by a total of 112 acres of community parks. Included in that acreage are two parks which are just now being developed, the Westside Sports Complex and the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

The current service level is approximately 1.06 acres per 1,000 residents, or just over 27% of the desired goal. This service level will get significantly worse over the next ten years as the area population almost doubles, and if no new

parklands are added, will result in a service level that is just 19% of the target goal. Significant new parkland acquisition is needed in this area.

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

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



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

Northwest Community Parks

Current Land Needs

- For the current population, approximately 420 acres of larger parks are needed.
- The area only has 112 acres, including two new parks that will be available in 2007. The current land deficit is over 300 acres.

Future Land Needs

- Area needs will grow significant by 2016 resulting in an ideal supply of over 600 acres
- The community park land deficit by the year 2016 will be over 480+/- acres if new parklands are not added.**
- Community park needs in this area may be addressed through new regional parks in undeveloped portions of the area.

Community Park Priorities and Summary of Key Recommendations

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

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

Community Park Priority Recommendations

Priority	Action	Park Zone	Projected New Acres	Acquisition Potential Cost Range		Development Potential Cost Range		Rationale for Need
				Low Cost Range	High Cost Range	Low Cost Range	High Cost Range	
Short Term Actions – The Plan for Today								
1(a)	Acquire land for two condensed community parks in the Central area. Consider abandoned industrial or mining lands.	All central area	40	\$500,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000	Critical park needs in this area. Consider underutilized railroad or mining lands in the area, as well as water facility properties if accessible to the public.
1(b)	Expand facilities into available lands around Galatzan Park.	NW-2, NW-3, NW-5	10	\$0	\$0	\$1,250,000	\$1,750,000	Heavily used park, major facility serving a large population around the park
2	Acquire land and develop a new community park in the east area west of Loop 375 and north of Montwood. Consider detention area if feasible	E-5	30	\$0	\$2,500,000	\$400,000	\$750,000	No major community parks in this part of the city, very poor level of service in heavily populated area.
3	Expand Yucca Park by acquiring available property near the park.	LV-3, LV-4	10	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	Heavily used and popular park, explore availability of land for expansion.
4	Complete development of the second phase of the Three Hills Regional Park	NW-9	20	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$3,500,000	Adds much needed community park facilities and park land to fast growing area
5	Improve access to Valley Creek Park and complete development of the park	NW-8	10	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	Only community park west of IH 10, poor access limits current use of the park
6	Expand Pavo Real Park as feasible, and add features to the park	LV-5, LV-6	10	\$0	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000	Popular park, well placed for the area that it serves.
7	a) Fully develop Tierra del Este Com. Park – b) Acquire land for second com. pk. east of Loop 375	E-7	0	\$100,000	\$450,000	\$400,000	\$1,000,000	Adds community park service in fast growing area
8	Acquire land for future community park in far north area beyond Trans Mountain and east of IH 10	NW-10	75+	\$0	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$500,000	Fully developed area with no small park service. Other larger parks a mile away.
9	Expand and redevelop Marwood Park and convert to community park with adjacent school property	NW-4,	0	\$0	\$250,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000	No close in park service, area is lower density but is expected to increase in density
10	Expand Blackie Chesser Park if feasible to other adjacent city owned lands to the south of the park	LV-5	0	\$0	\$750,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,500,000	Significant nearby population, park facilities are older and underdeveloped
11	Acquire and re-develop Ascarate Park (this action is discussed under regional parks)	All Central, All LV	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Key central location makes this park an attractive location for facilities
12	Acquire land for three new community parks north of Hwy. 54 in the northern NE planning area – Minimum of 30 acres. each (hold for future development)	NE-8	90	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Reserve lands that are in semi-public ownership. Development may be more than ten years in the future.
Estimated Total - Short Term - Plan for Today			295	\$600,000	\$10,650,000	\$15,300,000	\$26,000,000	



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

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

Other Community Park Actions

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

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