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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City of El Paso to Transition YMCA Bowling Branch Facility Back to City Control

Property to be evaluated for future use through City's Parks Master Plan

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso is preparing to transition the YMCA Bowling Branch facility back to City control following the YMCA's decision to terminate its lease and cease operations at the site.

The YMCA has operated the YMCA Bowling Branch, a City-owned facility, under a longstanding lease agreement with the City, leasing the property for \$1 per year since 1960. While the City is disappointed to see the YMCA leave this location, it is accepting the YMCA's decision to terminate the lease, with operations scheduled to end on May 15, 2026.

Because Veterans Pool, the nearest public pool serving the area, is currently under repair, the City asked the YMCA to consider extending its lease or entering into a short-term agreement to continue pool access and limited services for the community through the summer. The YMCA declined.

"We are disappointed to see the YMCA leave this City-owned facility, particularly given the role it has played in serving families in this area," said City Manager Dionne Mack. "We also asked the YMCA to consider a short-term arrangement that would have helped maintain pool access for the community while Veterans Pool remains under repair, but they were not willing to extend the lease or continue services on that basis."

Under the transition, the City will:

- Accept the YMCA's termination of the lease agreement, effective May 15, 2026
- Transition the facility back to City control
- Evaluate the property for future use through the Parks Master Plan process

Veterans Pool is expected to reopen later this summer, but in the meantime, the closure of the YMCA Bowling Branch creates a temporary gap in access to a public pool in the area.

City staff will continue to assess facility conditions, community needs, and long-term options for the site as part of the Parks Master Plan. Future possibilities for the property may include reinvestment, partnerships, or alternative uses identified through that planning process.

"This transition is not the outcome we hoped for, but we are committed to planning responsibly for the future of this site," said District 4 City Rep. Cynthia Boyar Trejo. "We will continue looking at how this property can best serve the community over the long term."

Additional details on the agreement and long-term planning efforts will be shared as they become available.

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