



Towards A Brighter Future

Parks and Recreation Master Plan for El Paso



September 2014



September 2, 2014

Mr. Tracy Novak, Director
City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department
PO Box 1890
El Paso, Texas 79950-1890

Reference: El Paso Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Dear Mr. Novak:

Halff Associates Inc. is pleased to submit the final Parks and Recreation Master Plan for El Paso. This master plan captures the many observations and findings developed as part of the park planning process, and matches those to the dreams and expectations of the citizens of El Paso. The recommendations encompass the many varied aspects of a large park system such as El Paso's, ranging from facilities, operations, athletics, and aquatics to management, funding and other key governance issues. This plan is far reaching but reasonable in terms of its recommendations, and it articulates what the citizens of El Paso would like to see their park system become.

As in any comprehensive analysis, this document identifies gaps or key needs in your parks system, and gears its recommendations towards addressing those needs. It takes into account the impact that voter approved 2012 park bonds will have in resolving many of those needs, and notes where gaps remain in the longer term.

Time and time again the citizens of El Paso have supported actions to transform the City's parks into a world class system. This plan embraces their desire for a great park system, and helps guide the way to a brighter future.

We deeply appreciate the opportunity to have worked with you, your staff, and the citizens of El Paso, and look forward to El Paso's bright future.

Sincerely,

HALFF ASSOCIATES, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim E. Carrillo".

Jim Carrillo, FAICP, ASLA
Vice President, Director of Planning



Acknowledgements

This plan was prepared with the supervision and insights of the following entities and individuals.

Current El Paso City Council Representatives

- Oscar Leoser – Mayor
- Ann Morgan Lilly – District 1
- Larry E. Romero – District 2
- Emma Acosta – District 3
- Carl L. Robinson – District 4
- Dr. Michiel Noe – District 5
- Claudia Ordaz – District 6
- Lily Limón – District 7
- Cortney Niland – District 8

Former El Paso City Council Representatives

- John Cook – Former Mayor
- Susie Byrd – Former Representative, District 2
- Eddie Holguin Jr. – Former Representative, District 6
- Steve Ortega - Former Representative, District 7

City Staff

- Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager
- Tracy Novak, Director of Parks & Recreation
- Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails & Parks Coordinator (Project Coordinator)
- Paula Powell, Interim Assistant Director
- Wright Stanton, Aquatics Manager
- Joe Rodriguez, Special Programs Manager
- Veronica Myers, Recreation Centers Manager
- Ada Hatten, Department Human Resources Manager
- Wayne Thornton, Public Relations Coordinator
- Staff Representatives from the General Services Department and Planning and Economic Development Department*

Board of Parks and Recreation

- Jennifer Barr
- Sylvia Carreon
- Deanna De La Cruz
- Francoise Feliberti
- Theresa Welch Fordham
- Roy Gilyard
- Adam Gurrola
- Ana Roush
- David Turner

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A special thanks is also extended to the many interested citizens and groups who participated in the Master Plan's public input process. May your interest and dreams for El Paso continue into the future as this plan become reality.