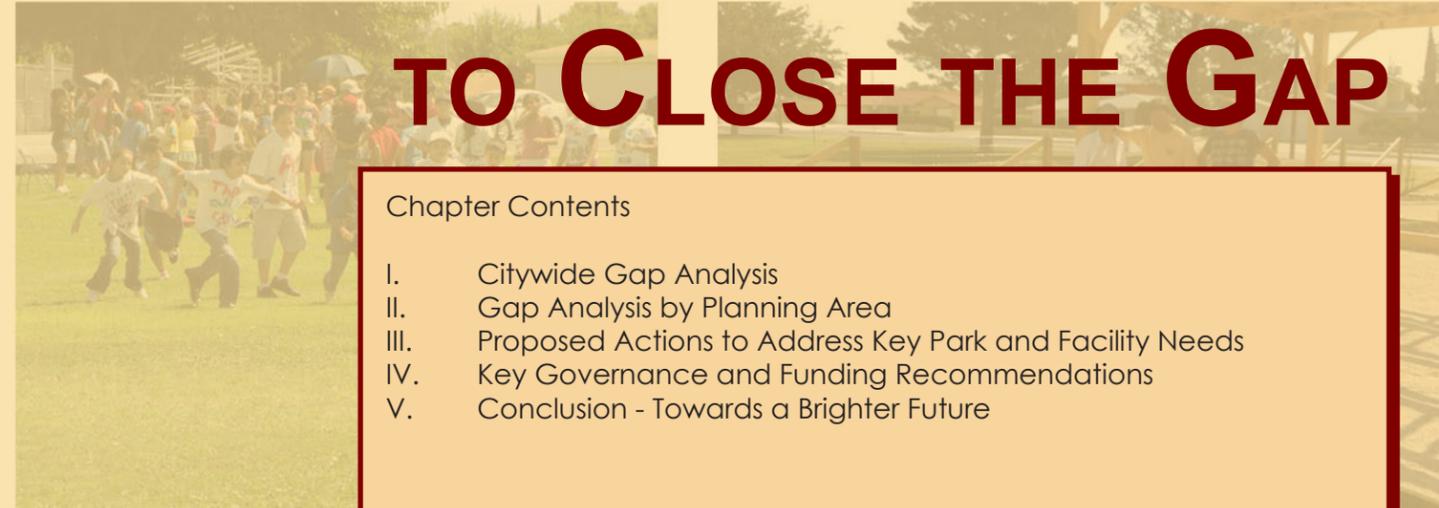


CHAPTER 9:

GAP ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CLOSE THE GAP

Chapter Contents

- I. Citywide Gap Analysis
- II. Gap Analysis by Planning Area
- III. Proposed Actions to Address Key Park and Facility Needs
- IV. Key Governance and Funding Recommendations
- V. Conclusion - Towards a Brighter Future





I. Gap Analysis

The previous chapters analyze the condition of El Paso's park system and how each category of facility type is working towards meeting the recreation needs of El Paso's residents. This chapter summarizes the "gap" between existing park facilities and current and future needs, and recommends a series of actions to address those gaps.

- Key needs or gaps are looked at from both a citywide standpoint as well as specifically in each of the five planning areas of the City.
- Gaps are based on a comparison of the number of facilities that are available now with the projected number of facilities that will be needed over the next 10+ years.
- The analysis includes the facilities based on the 2012 Quality of Life Bond.
- A target level of service that has been established for each category.

II. Citywide Park and Facility Gaps

Table 9.1 shows the most significant outdoor and indoor facility needs across the entire City of El Paso, based on actual 2012 inventory, 2012 Quality of Life Bond projects, and needs for the projected 2020 population.

Key Outdoor Gaps and Needs

- 1. The City lacks regional parkland** – Even including Ascarate and Chamizal Parks, the City only has 43% of the regional parkland that it needs. Regional parks are critical since they are the most efficient location for large multi-field athletic facilities and facilities that should draw from large sectors of El Paso. Even more importantly, the east side of El Paso with almost 200,000 residents has no large developed regional park space (which would include multi-field athletic facilities).
- 2. El Paso needs additional diamond fields and flat fields citywide** - The City's facilities are currently over-utilized and have little opportunity to rest. The City only has 46% of the recommended number of diamond fields and 74% of the recommended number of flat fields. Diamond fields are needed in the far northwestern and far eastern areas of the City. Flat fields are needed in the eastern, central and northeast areas of the City (Chapter 8).

3. Many areas of El Paso lack immediate access to trail corridors – While El Paso residents have many miles of mountain trails in and near the Franklin Mountains, in-town trails that are easily accessed from nearby neighborhoods are not readily available. Citywide, El Paso has less than 50% of the target level of trails. As discussed in Chapter 7, less than 10% of the City is within 1/2 mile of any sort of walking trail that can be used for fitness.

4. The City lacks leisure pools – With the exception of the Central area, which has the immensely popular Armijo Pool, no other area of the City currently has this type of feature. Citywide, the available amount of pool space is only 55% of what it should be, and that available pool space is often not actively used because pool spaces are configured for lap swimming and not leisure or "fun" activities.

5. The City lacks interactive water spray features – Freestanding interactive water spray features in major parks can provide low cost water recreation experiences for El Paso's youth (Chapters 4 and 6). El Paso only has one city-operated interactive water spray feature at the zoo.

6. El Paso lacks trailheads to link the City to the Franklin Mountains – The Franklin Mountains are one of the City's greatest assets, and yet walking access to the mountains is limited to a few informal access points. Following the guidance of Plan El Paso, the City should create a series of gateway parks that link neighborhoods to the foothills of the Franklin Mountains (Chapter 7).

7. The City needs to continue to reduce water needs for parks – Continue to reduce areas in parks that need irrigation (turf reduction), and selectively begin to implement synthetic turf athletic fields in new parks throughout the City (Chapters 4 and 8).

8. The City lacks a premier citywide sports complex – El Paso lacks a premier sports complex that would bring regional and national tournaments to the City (Chapter 8).

9. The City lacks preserved open space areas in many parts of El Paso – Target areas can be along the mountain foothills, arroyos and river corridor. Funding should be appropriated that is in addition to, and independent of, storm water utility actions and fees (Chapter 7).

10. The redevelopment of Ascarate Park continues to be needed – Ascarate Park (owned and operated by El Paso County) continues to hold promise as a major recreational and quality of life asset for all area residents (whether City or County). But funding and operational

challenges continue to limit even the simple exploring of possibilities for the park (Chapter 4).

Key Indoor Gaps and Needs

1. With only 51% of the citywide target amount of indoor recreation space, major areas of El Paso lack access to indoor recreation opportunities – Though much of the city's growth in recent years and into the next decade is on the far eastern side of the City, this area has no indoor recreation center east of the Marty Robbins Center. In the growing northwest and northeast areas, existing centers are small and need to be updated. Even the new Don Haskins center in the northwest sector is showing signs of overuse. Citywide, existing centers are limited by their small sizes, and as a result El Paso only has a little over 50% of its target level of recreation center space (Chapter 5).

2. The City lacks competition natatoriums – El Paso currently has no significant natatoriums for swimming competitions. Swimming is a fast growing sport, and El Paso has first class swimmers with very few practice and competition venue choices (Chapter 6).

3. Senior centers need to gradually shift to be combined with recreation centers throughout the City – Senior centers with the highest rates of usage need minor upgrades and expansion to continue to meet demand. Longer term, a strategic shift to combining existing senior with adjacent or nearby recreation centers should begin (Chapter 5).

II. Key Gaps and Needs in Each Planning Area

El Paso's size and geographic length (more than 35 miles from one end of the City to the other) result in the need to also establish priority recommendations by sector. The City should pursue grant funding on a sector basis as well as from an overall standpoint. Key needs in each of the five major planning areas in the City are discussed on the following pages.



**Table 9.1
Citywide Gap Analysis Summary**

Type of Park or Facility	Target Level of Service (unit of measure)	Target Inventory to meet 2010 population	2012 Actual Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)	Target Inventory to meet 2020 population	2012 Actual Inventory	2012 QOL Bond Projects - Estimated Additions	TOTAL Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)
Acres of Parkland		Population 2010 (649,121)			Projected Population 2020 (717,700)				
Overall Park Land Ratio (w/ Ascarate and Chamizal)	6 acres/ 1,000 residents	3,894	3,110	(784)	4,306	3,110	59	3,169	(1,137)
Neighborhood Parks (includes pocket parks and close in community parks)	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	1,298	920	(321.5)	1,435	920	24	944	(491)
Community Parks	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	1,298	1,210	(88)	1,435	1,210	35	1,245	(190)
Regional Parks (including 1/2 of Ascarate Park and Chamizal)	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	1,298	555	(743)	1,435	555	0	555	(880)
Access to Parkland (½ mile)	100% of Homes	NA	62%						
Access to Parkland (¼ mile)	75% of Homes	NA	24%						
Facilities									
Diamond Fields (adult size, 300 ft. outfield fence)	1 game diamond/ 10,000 residents	65	30	(35)	72	30	7	37	(35)
Flat Fields (adult size, 50 yards x 100 yards)	1 game field/ 10,000 residents	65	48	(17)	72	48	21	69	(3)
Pools	25 sf for 0.75% of residents	121,750	67,314 (14 pools)	(54,436)	134,569	67,314 (14 pools)	42,500	109,814	(24,755)
Recreation Centers	1 sf/ resident	649,121	334,000 (16 centers)	(315,121)	717,700	334,000 (16 centers)	280,000	614,000	(103,700)
Trails	1 mile/ 10,000 residents	64.9	31.1	(33.8)	71.8	31.1	20	51.1	(20.7)



Central Planning Area - Summary of Key Gaps and Needs

The Central area is the most urban area of El Paso, and as a result parks in this sector tend to be smaller but receive a high amount of use. The area has more indoor recreation and pool facilities than other parts of the City, but lacks access to flat fields for soccer and football.

Since the area is largely built out, solutions for this area may vary from other areas. In the denser Central area, the 2 acres of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 residents target may be difficult to acquire. In the developed portions of this area, some parks should be more urban, with larger areas of hardscape and lower amounts of turf.

Key Outdoor Gaps and Needs - Immediate

1. A replacement aquatic facility (either pool or interactive water spray feature) for the closed Chelsea Pool (on site or nearby) is critically needed.
2. Additional flat fields are needed. Given the lack of available land in the central area, smaller "quick soccer" courts that are the size of basketball courts may be considered as an innovative alternative.

**Table 9.2
Central Area Gap Analysis Summary**

Type of Park or Facility	Target Level of Service (unit of measure)	Target Inventory to meet 2010 population	2012 Actual Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)	Target Inventory to meet 2020 population	2012 Actual Inventory	2012 QOL Bond Projects - Estimated Additions	TOTAL Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)
Acres of Parkland		Population 2010 (125,405)			Projected Population 2020 (127,500)				
Neighborhood Parks (includes pocket parks and close in community parks)	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	251	152	(99)	255	152	0	152	(103)
Community Parks	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	251	302	51	255	302	0	302	47
Regional Parks (including 1/2 of Ascarate Park and Chamizal)	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	251	155	(96)	255	155	0	155	(100)
Facilities									
Diamond Fields (adult size, 300 ft. outfield fence)	1 game diamond/ 10,000 residents	12	4	(8)	13	4	0	4	(9)
Flat Fields (adult size, 50 yards x 100 yards)	1 game field/10,000 residents	12	2	(10)	13	2	0	2	(11)
Pools	25 sf for 0.75% of residents	23,513	20,566 (5 pools)	(2,947)	23,906	20,566 (5 pools)	7,500	28,066	4,160
Recreation Centers	1 sf/resident	125,405	137,888 (7 centers)	12,483	127,500	137,888 (7 centers)	80,000	217,888	90,388

3. The supply of smaller parks in the area is approximately 60% of the target level of service. Add pocket or urban parks where possible.
4. The Central area lacks trails that link parks or civic facilities together. The area has less than 25% of the target 12 miles of trails.
5. Key community parks that serve the area (Modesto Gomez Park and Grandview Park) need to be renovated and upgraded.
6. Ascarate Park continues to be a major recreational opportunity for area residents, but is under the jurisdiction of El Paso County whose resources are limited. The enhancement of this park is critically needed to provide recreation alternatives for area residents.
7. Trail "gateways" into the foothills of the Franklin Mountains are needed in this area.

Medium and Longer Term Needs

8. Beyond San Jacinto Plaza, additional downtown plazas, pocket parks and linear parks are needed as the Downtown area transitions to a 24-hour downtown.
9. A new large "central" park for El Paso in the downtown or Central planning area, as suggested in the 2006 Parks Master Plan and in Plan El Paso should continue to be explored on under-used industrial or railroad properties.

Key Indoor Gaps and Needs

1. Because of its popularity and its ability to provide indoor programs and facilities for much of the Central area, the continued expansion of the Pat O'Rourke Center is needed.
2. Improvements to the Grandview Senior Center to create a multipurpose recreation center are needed.



Northeast Planning Area - Summary of Key Needs

The Northeast planning area has some well-located parks, but also has significant growth potential that will require additional park facilities. The Northeast Area Master Plan prepared by the Public Service Board (PSB) provides land for some future parks as the area grows. Expansion of the Northeast Regional Park into a large regional park is a high priority for this area.

Key Outdoor Gaps and Needs - Immediate

1. The area lacks a regional park that can attract users from all over the planning sector. Northeast Regional Park should be expanded with a wider variety of amenities, so it can serve as the regional park for the area.
2. The area only has 60% of the target level of service for flat fields. More should be added to address population needs.
3. The area continues to lack a major leisure pool facility. Area pools are generally small, dated in their style, and provide only 48% of the target level of service.
4. The area has few trails, and none that extend from park to park. For a population of over 100,000, around 10 miles of accessible close in trails are

Type of Park or Facility	Target Level of Service (unit of measure)	Target Inventory to meet 2010 population	2012 Actual Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)	Target Inventory to meet 2020 population	2012 Actual Inventory	2012 QOL Bond Projects - Estimated Additions	TOTAL Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)
Acres of Parkland		Population 2010 (104,066)			Projected Population 2020 (126,000)				
Neighborhood Parks (includes pocket parks and close in community parks)	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	208	177	(31)	252	177	16	193	(59)
Community Parks	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	208	208	0	252	208	35	243	(9)
Regional Parks	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	208	0	(208)	252	0	0	0	(252)
Facilities									
Diamond Fields (adult size, 300 ft. outfield fence)	1 game diamond/ 10,000 residents	10	9	(1)	13	9	0	9	(4)
Flat Fields (adult size, 50 yards x 100 yards)	1 game field/10,000 residents	10	6	(4)	13	6	2	8	(5)
Pools	25 sf for 0.75% of residents	19,512	9,488 (2 pools)	(10,024)	23,625	9,488 (2 pools)	0	9,488	(14,137)
Recreation Centers	1 sf/resident	104,066	84,085 (4 centers)	(19,981)	126,000	84,085 (4 centers)	25,000	109,085	(16,915)

desirable, and the area has less than 10% of that total.

5. The area continues to have few open space preserves within the urbanized developed area of this sector. Opportunities with area detention ponds should be considered.
6. The developed portions of this planning area generally have good access to neighborhood and community parks. Some additional smaller parks totaling up to 30 acres are needed in key areas to improve access.
7. Additional neighborhood and community parks should be developed as the Northeast Area Master Plan is implemented. Park and trail corridors should be an integral and exemplary feature of this area.
8. The area does have some access to trails in the foothills of the Franklin Mountains, especially through Chuck Heinrick Park, but better trailheads with parking are needed.

Additional future trailheads are needed as the Northeast Planning area is developed, and should be pre-planned before area development occurs.

Key Indoor Gaps and Needs

1. While the four area centers come close to the total recommended square footage, the existing centers are small and dated, and are in need of expansion and the addition of new amenities. Area facilities that could be expanded or enhanced include Veterans (Northeast) Center and Nolan Richardson Center (which needs a gym and expanded classroom space).
2. Longer term, a new far northeast recreation center north of the Patriot Freeway is needed. This center would serve all of the regional center for all remaining undeveloped lands in the Northeast area.



Northwest Planning Area - Summary of Key Needs

Growth in the Northwest planning area is anticipated to be second only to the East planning area, with a population approaching 140,000 by 2020.

Historically, the Northwest area has been underserved with parkland, but the recent development of the Westside Sports Complex and the Westside Community Park, in addition to several smaller parks, have helped alleviate needs in the area. However, west El Paso continues to need additional pool space, community parks, regional parks, trails and open space.

Key Outdoor Gaps and Needs - Immediate

1. The most significant gap in the area is the lack of developed community park space. The area only has 30% of the target acreage. The completion of Valley Creek Park would help alleviate this critical gap.

2. The area lacks aquatic facilities, including both a competitive natatorium and leisure pool facilities. Currently, there is only one existing pool serving the entire area. At just 22% of the target level of service, this area has the lowest ratio of pool area to population in the City.

Table 9.4 Northwest Area Gap Analysis Summary									
Type of Park or Facility	Target Level of Service (unit of measure)	Target Inventory to meet 2010 population	2012 Actual Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)	Target Inventory to meet 2020 population	2012 Actual Inventory	2012 QOL Bond Projects - Estimated Additions	TOTAL Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)
Acres of Parkland		Population 2010 (119,800)			Projected Population 2020 (138,500)				
Neighborhood Parks (includes pocket parks and close in community parks)	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	240	150	(90)	277	150	8	158	(119)
Community Parks	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	240	71	(169)	277	71	0	71	(206)
Regional Parks	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	240	0	(240)	277	0	0	0	(277)
Facilities									
Diamond Fields (adult size, 300 ft. outfield fence)	1 game diamond/ 10,000 residents	12	3	(9)	14	3	2	5	(9)
Flat Fields (adult size, 50 yards x 100 yards)	1 game field/10,000 residents	12	21	9	14	21	0	21	7
Pools	25 sf for 0.75% of residents	22,463	4,764 (1 pool)	(17,699)	25,969	4,764 (1 pool)	15,000	19,764	(6,205)
Recreation Centers	1 sf/resident	119,800	60,000 (2 centers)	(59,800)	138,500	60,000 (2 centers)	15,000	75,000	(63,500)

3. The area has less than 36% of the target number of diamond fields. New fields need to be developed for the area.

4. The area lacks major trail corridors that link the City to the Franklin Mountains foothills, as well as to other parks in the area. This area has several significant trail corridor opportunities, and development of these is critically needed.

5. The area lacks regional park space with a broad variety of facilities and attractions. Currently there are no regional parks in the area, even in an undeveloped state. The identification of a location and initial planning for that facility, even if not to be funded for another decade, should begin now before development in the area accelerates.

6. The area continues to lack smaller parks within neighborhoods. The current supply is only 60% of the target level of service. However, the need for community park land is

more critical, and should be addressed first. Parkland dedication requirements should also be used to address area neighborhood park needs.

Key Indoor Gaps and Needs

1. The area lacks an indoor natatorium for both competitive and fitness swimming. If developed, a leisure pool component should be considered for this facility.

2. The Northwest area only has 50% of its recreation center needs being met with existing facilities. The two current facilities are well placed but need to be enlarged. A third center is needed west of Interstate 10 in the future.

3. The Polly Harris Senior Center needs to be expanded and enhanced to serve as the primary senior facility for the area.



East Planning Area - Summary of Key Needs

The eastern sector of the City is one of the fastest growing areas of El Paso, and today nearly exceeds 200,000 residents. The number of neighborhood parks in the newer portions of the East Planning Area has increased significantly over the last six years due to the City's updated Parkland Dedication Ordinance. However, the area is lacking in community and regional parks, and older established neighborhoods are also behind in terms of access to parks. Key needs in this area are as follows.

Key Outdoor Gaps and Needs - Immediate

1. The area lacks developed regional parkland in large enough tracts of land that would allow major recreation and athletic facilities to be clustered on one site. Development of the Eastside Regional Park is one of the most important park facility needs across the entire City.
2. Additional flat and diamond fields are critically needed. The current supply for this area is less than 58% of the current need, and this need will get even higher if not addressed within the next 10 years.
3. While ideally there should be 10 to 20 miles of trails in this area, in actuality the area has

Type of Park or Facility	Target Level of Service (unit of measure)	Target Inventory to meet 2010 population	2012 Actual Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)	Target Inventory to meet 2020 population	2012 Actual Inventory	2012 QOL Bond Projects - Estimated Additions	TOTAL Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)
Acres of Parkland		Population 2010 (191,222)			Projected Population 2020 (212,500)				
Neighborhood Parks (includes pocket parks and close in community parks)	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	382	281	(101)	425	281	0	281	(144)
Community Parks	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	382	256	(126)	425	256	0	256	(169)
Regional Parks	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	382	92	(290)	425	92	0	92	(333)
Facilities									
Diamond Fields (adult size, 300 ft. outfield fence)	1 game diamond/ 10,000 residents	19	5	(14)	21	5	4	9	(12)
Flat Fields (adult size, 50 yards x 100 yards)	1 game field/10,000 residents	19	10	(9)	21	10	14	24	3
Pools	25 sf for 0.75% of residents	35,854	10,408 (3 pools)	(25,446)	39,844	10,408 (3 pools)	20,000	30,408	(9,436)
Recreation Centers	1 sf/resident	191,222	117,132 (3 centers)	(74,090)	212,500	117,132 (4 centers)	50,000	167,132	(45,368)

no significant trails, and ranks among the lowest in the City in this category. Linear trails along unused utility corridors should be considered.

4. Although major portions of the area are still undeveloped, there is no significant open space preserves in eastern El Paso. Opportunities for preservation or potential acquisition need to be identified.
5. Areas in between Joe Battle (Loop 375) and Lee Trevino are lacking neighborhood parks. The parkland dedication requirements should continue to be used to acquire and develop parks in this area as new development occurs.
6. Beyond the development of the 92 acre Eastside Regional Park, lands for future large community parks or regional parks need to be identified and preserved, even if development is well beyond the year 2020.

Key Indoor Gaps and Needs

1. The area has only 30% of the target service for pools. The area also lacks regional aquatic facilities for fitness and competitive swimming. Aquatic facilities should be a base component of the new Eastside Regional Park as it is developed.
2. More than half of this area has no access to indoor recreation. In fact, the fast growing far east area of El Paso has no indoor recreation facilities at all. A new regional "super center" should be considered in the development of the Eastside Regional Park. This center should be multi-generational and consider the needs of both youth and senior residents.
3. The Marty Robbins Recreation Center serves a huge population, and needs to be expanded.



Mission Valley Planning Area - Summary of Key Needs

The population of the Mission Valley area is projected to grow more slowly than other parts of the City, but the area continues to have significant facility needs. Parks, pools and recreation centers in the area are aging and need to be updated. The area has limited trails, but does have opportunities for linear parks.

Several neighborhoods continue to lack access to outdoor recreation spaces – these could be addressed with school/parks or park/ponds. The expansion of Yucca Park is planned and should be implemented to address the need for recreation space.

Key Outdoor Gaps and Needs - Immediate

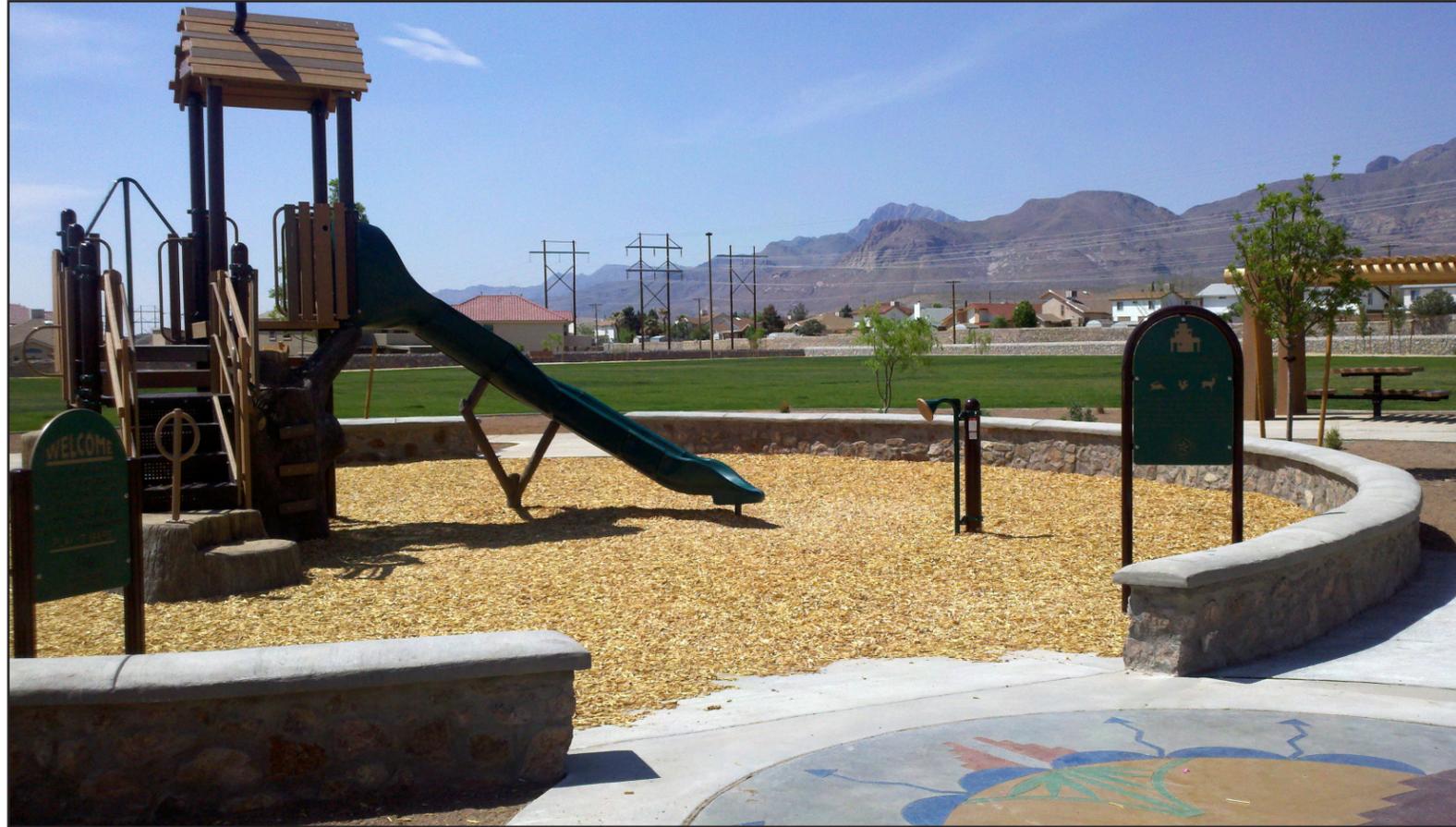
- Existing area community and athletic parks need to be renovated and enhanced. These include Shawver, Yucca, Pavo Real and Blackie Cheshier Parks.
- The area has significant potential for linear parks and trail corridors along drainage canals. As is the case in other parts of the City, the supply of trails is less than 25% of the ideal target level of service.

Table 9.6 Mission Valley Area Gap Analysis Summary									
Type of Park or Facility	Target Level of Service (unit of measure)	Target Inventory to meet 2010 population	2012 Actual Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)	Target Inventory to meet 2020 population	2012 Actual Inventory	2012 QOL Bond Projects - Estimated Additions	TOTAL Inventory	Excess/ (Deficit)
Acres of Parkland		Population 2010 (108,600)			Projected Population 2020 (112,700)				
Neighborhood Parks (includes pocket parks and close in community parks)	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	217	161	(56)	225	161	0	161	(64)
Community Parks	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	217	169	(48)	225	169	0	169	(56)
Regional Parks (including 1/3 of Ascarate Park)	2 acres/ 1,000 residents	217	143	(74)	225	143	0	143	(82)
Facilities									
Diamond Fields (adult size, 300 ft. outfield fence)	1 game diamond/ 10,000 residents	11	9	(2)	11	9	1	10	(1)
Flat Fields (adult size, 50 yards x 100 yards)	1 game field/10,000 residents	11	9	(2)	11	9	2	11	0
Pools	25 sf for 0.75% of residents	20,363	22,088 (3 pools)	1,725	21,131	22,088 (3 pools)	0	22,088	957
Recreation Centers	1 sf/resident	108,600	59,200 (2 centers)	(49,400)	112,700	59,200 (2 centers)	110,000	169,200	56,500

- Area pools, while providing the surface area, are dated and lack leisure pool amenities such as slides. This area needs an investment in pool features such as larger pool areas, zero entry “beach” areas, slides, water playground areas and interactive water spray features.
- The area has 82% of the flat fields needed, and at least two additional flat fields are needed.
- The area has 74% of the desired amount of close in parks, and several areas lack access to a park of any kind. Additional neighborhood parks or linear trail corridor parks can address this need and help create linkages to other parks.

Key Indoor Gaps and Needs

- The area has 54% of the recommended target amount of indoor recreation space, and area centers are small and dated. Existing centers such as Carolina and Pavo Real need to be expanded if feasible.
- The area around Lomaland and Yucca Park lacks access to indoor recreation facilities, and a new center may be considered in this area.
- The area lacks an indoor pool for year round aquatic fitness and recreation.



The new Sandstone Ranch Park in Northeast El Paso exemplifies the evolution of the City's parks system over the past decade. The park has characteristics that readily identify it as an El Paso park, especially with the spectacular Franklin Mountains as a backdrop. Photo by Halff Associates

III. Recommendations to Address Key Park and Facility Needs and Gaps

Overall, the El Paso Parks and Recreation System has made enormous strides since the passage of the 2000 Quality of Life bonds. Many parks have been upgraded, and deficiencies in neighborhood parks in newly developing areas of the City have improved due to changes to the City's parkland dedication ordinance.

However, the City continues to have basic parkland space and facility needs. Indoor recreation space is limited, as is the amount of pool space per capita. Funding for the system remains low when compared to other peer cities, and funding for larger, more comprehensive park facilities is needed. Key citywide actions include:

- 1. Develop Regional Park lands** - Development of an east side regional park is the City's highest need (Chapter 4). Development of the Eastside Regional Park lands would be the first regional park (first of its kind) on the eastern side of El Paso.
- 2. Trails and Pathways** - Pathways for riding or walking in each sector of the City should be developed that link schools, parks, recreation centers and other community landmarks together. A minimum of two miles should be developed in each area of the City, and should be expandable to link even more destinations together (Chapter 7).
- 3. Leisure Pools** - Add "water play" features in at least one existing pool in each sector of the City, designating that facility as the "family aquatic center" for that area. These can be added at either indoor or outdoor pools.

Key recommendations for each planning area are summarized on the following pages, and correspond to the assessments of each facility type discussed in earlier chapters.

- Projects that are earmarked for funding through the approved 2012 Quality of Life Bond are noted in the tables.
- Projects with unknown funding sources are considered longer-term.
- Within each of the categories, projects are listed in general order of priority and are intended to establish a sequence for the actions.
- Note that the prioritization in this master plan is intended to guide staff and the City Council, and any item may be initiated sooner than recommended if unique circumstances or opportunities arise.
- For each recommendation, a preliminary order of magnitude cost range for that action is shown.
- Note that these are very early in the development process, and should be refined with detailed facility planning and conceptual design prior to assigning specific capital budgets.

Central Planning Area: Implementation Plan

Many of the recommendations of the Central area involves renovations to existing parks and facilities. Many of the parks, recreation centers, and swimming pools in this area of the City are some of the oldest in El Paso.

In this largely developed portion of the City, the opening of elementary schools' fields and playground facilities will be a key solution to address neighborhood park deficiencies.

This planning area also has a deficit in the number of flat fields that are available. Bond money has been allocated for the development of scattered flat fields throughout the Central part of the City. Adding approximately eight flat fields will significantly improve the level of service for the Central area residents.

Specific strategies and recommendations to address key needs in the Central area and reduce facility gaps are shown in the illustration on this page and are discussed below. Recommendations for this area are also summarized in Table 9.7 on the following page.

Key Outdoor Recommendations - Immediate

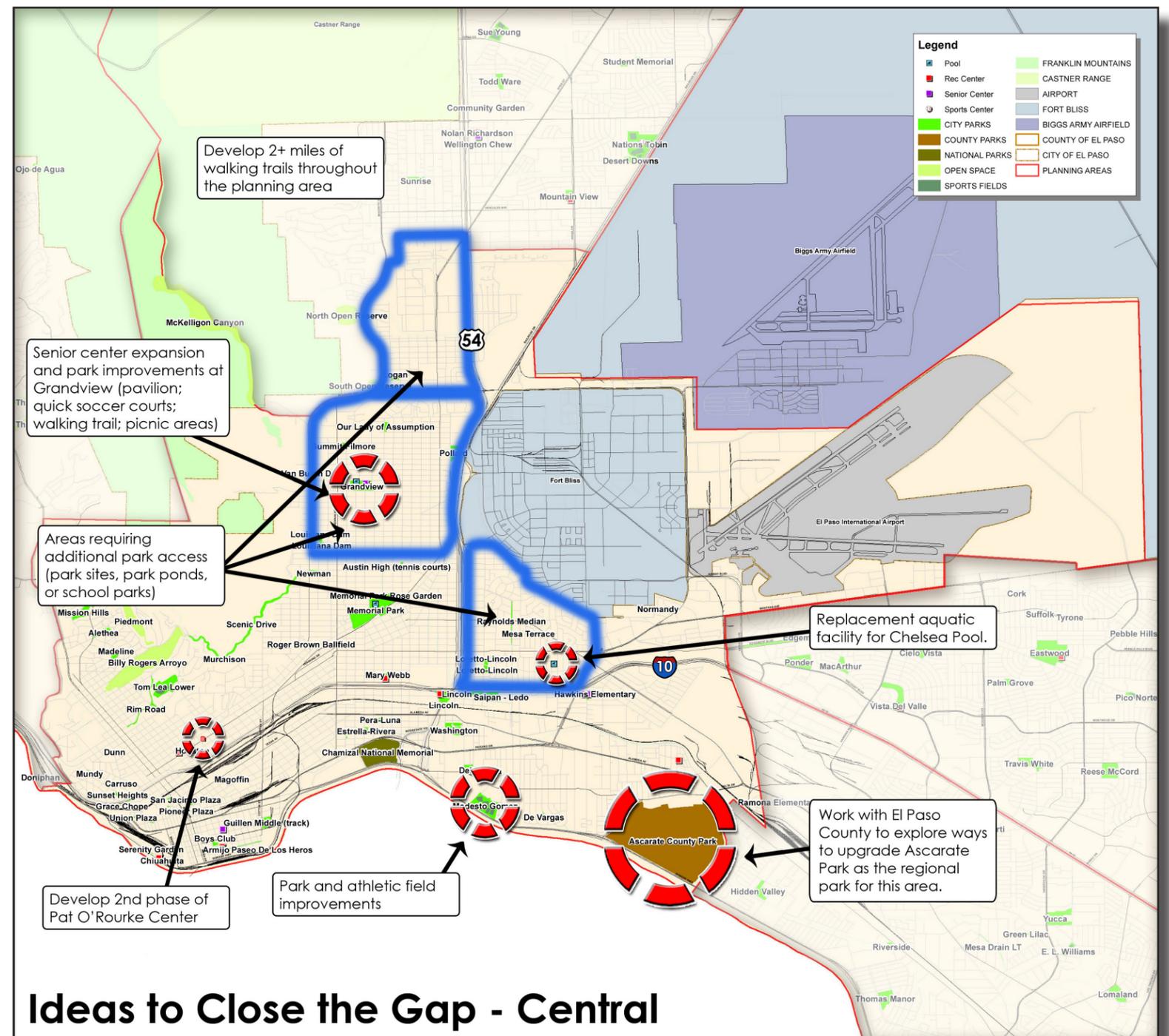
1. Develop a replacement pool or interactive water spray feature for the closed Chelsea Pool. Due to land constraints at the existing pool site, other nearby sites may be considered.
2. Incorporate four "quick soccer" courts into new and existing parks in the area. Because of the difficulty and expense of acquiring land in this largely built out area, the smaller soccer courts provide a unique and innovative location for soccer play that would be unlike any other in El Paso, and perfectly in sync with the urban character of this planning area.
3. To improve park access, develop four new

parks to provide better park access. Locations at Magoffin, Johnson Basin, and Radford neighborhoods have been identified. School park sites may also be considered. School/park combinations may also be considered.

4. Develop two miles of off-street pathways that link parks or civic facilities together. These may occur in linear parks or along roadway or area railroad corridors. In some areas, consider narrowing existing street pavement sections to create a separate linear trail/bikeway facility.
5. Renovate Modesto Gomez Park and Grandview Parks as key community parks for the Central area with new equipment, landscaping, trails, athletic field upgrades and pavilions.
6. Evaluate opportunities to work with El Paso County to improve Ascarate Park and to add facilities. The park has major infrastructure challenges. Although the County has recently made improvements to the entryway, other deficiencies remain including lack of adequate irrigation and overuse of fields, road and parking infrastructure, and the existing pool needs updating and repairs. Lake water quality must be improved and aeration added, and the golf course and clubhouse should continue to be upgraded. While not the primary responsibility of the City of El Paso, effort should continue to be made to partner with the County to implement major renovations.
7. Establish a trail "gateway" into the foothills of the Franklin Mountains in this planning area.

Medium and Longer Term Outdoor Recommendations

8. Beyond the currently planned improvements to San Jacinto Plaza, develop additional downtown plazas or urban parks as part of downtown redevelopment efforts. Conversion of streets to pocket or linear parks similar to



Ideas to Close the Gap - Central



Paseo de Los Heroes should be considered to use City owned lands. Identify opportunities for pocket parks in the area and develop if land and funding are available.

9. Longer term, consider creating a new large "central" park for El Paso on under used industrial or railroad properties.

Key Indoor Recommendations - Immediate

1. Expand indoor recreation capabilities of the Pat O'Rourke Center by developing the second phase of the project. Due to its modern facilities and central location, this center serves both the central area and residents from other planning areas.

2. Expand and improve facilities at the Grandview Senior Center to create a multipurpose recreation center.

**Table 9.7
Central Planning Area: Project Implementation Plan**

Action		Acquisition Cost - High Estimate	Development Cost - High Estimate	Funding Source	Projected new inventory	2012 Inventory	Target Inventory for 2020 Pop.	Inventory Still Needed - Excess/ (Deficit)
Neighborhood Parks	Renovate San Jacinto Park		\$3,000,000	2012 Bond				
	Renovate Magoffin Park		\$300,000	2012 Bond				
	Identify and develop one park site in the area between Grandview Park and Memorial Park. Consider a school/park site if feasible	\$250,000	\$750,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	Create "urban" neighborhood park	\$250,000	\$1,500,000	TBD	1 to 3 acres			
	Create "urban" neighborhood park	\$250,000	\$1,500,000	TBD	1 to 3 acres			
	Develop one neighborhood park	\$250,000	\$750,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	Convert Chelsea Pool site into park w/ interactive water spray feature		\$2,250,000	2012 Bond				
SUBTOTAL		\$1,000,000	\$10,050,000		16 max.	152	255	(87)
Community Parks	Renovate eight acres of Modesto Gomez Park		\$2,400,000	2012 Bond				
	Acquire land and develop an "urban" community park. Consider abandoned industrial or mining lands	\$2,000,000	\$10,000,000	TBD	10 acres			
SUBTOTAL		\$2,000,000	\$12,400,000		10 max.	302	255	57
Regional Parks	Evaluate redevelopment of Ascarate Park along with El Paso County		TBD	TBD				
	SUBTOTAL		TBD			155	255	(100)
Recreation Centers	Expand Grandview Center as a multipurpose center		\$2,500,000	2012 Bond	15,000 s.f.			
	Renovate Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center (Phase 2)		\$2,500,000	2012 Bond	15,000 s.f.			
	New recreation center in the Chamizal area		\$11,000,000	2012 Bond	50,000 s.f.			
	Renovate Armijo Center		\$7,500,000	TBD				
	Combine San Juan and San Juan Senior Centers into one center		\$2,000,000	TBD	5,000 s.f.			
	Renovate the interior of the South El Paso Senior Center		\$1,000,000	TBD				
	Renovate the interior and entrance of the Memorial Senior Center		\$1,500,000	TBD				
SUBTOTAL			\$28,000,000		85,000 s.f.	137,888	127,500	95,388
Pools	Replace Chelsea Pool on a new site in the area	\$500,000	\$4,000,000	2012 Bond	7,500 s.f.			
	Enhance/renovate Grandview Pool		\$2,000,000	TBD				
	Enhance/renovate Delta Pool		\$2,000,000	TBD				
SUBTOTAL		\$500,000	\$8,000,000		7,500 s.f.	20,566	23,906	4,160
Trails	Add two+ miles of in-town trails in the area.		\$1,500,000	2012 Bond	2+ miles			
	Create one gateway park as entrance to Franklin Mountain trails		\$250,000	2012 Bond				
SUBTOTAL			\$1,750,000		2+ miles			
Athletic	Add flat fields/quick soccer courts where feasible		\$5,000,000	2012 Bond	8 fields +/-			
	SUBTOTAL			\$5,000,000	8 fields	4	13	(1)

TBD - To be determined in the future

Northeast Planning Area: Implementation Plan

The Northeast sector is one of the fastest growing areas of the City, and as such, major needs will occur. Recommendations to close gaps in this area are as follows.

Key Outdoor Facility Recommendations - Immediate

1. Identify lands to be added to the Northeast Regional Park to increase its size and transform it into the regional park for this planning area. Floodplain lands may be added and used for trails or informal play/practice areas. Lands north of the Patriot Highway can also be considered to increase the size of the park.
2. Develop additional flat fields at the Northeast Regional Park.
3. Develop two to four miles of regional linkage trails in the area. Create trail corridors that link parks and civic features together. Consider using power line corridors that cross the area.
4. Develop a major leisure pool in the area. Consider a highly visible location that serves both existing and new parts of the area. This pool may replace one of the existing pools in the area.
5. Develop two trailhead gateways for improved access to the Franklin Mountains trails.
6. Enhance the regional drainage detention area near Railroad and Dyer with trails, practice fields, and interpretive features around the periphery of the detention area.
7. Continue to pursue the permanent preservation of other open space lands in the area, including Public Service Board lands where feasible, portions of the Castner Range, and major drainage ponding areas (where feasible).

8. Develop two additional neighborhood, school/parks or park/ponds to improve access in underserved areas.

Outdoor Recommendations - Medium and Longer Term

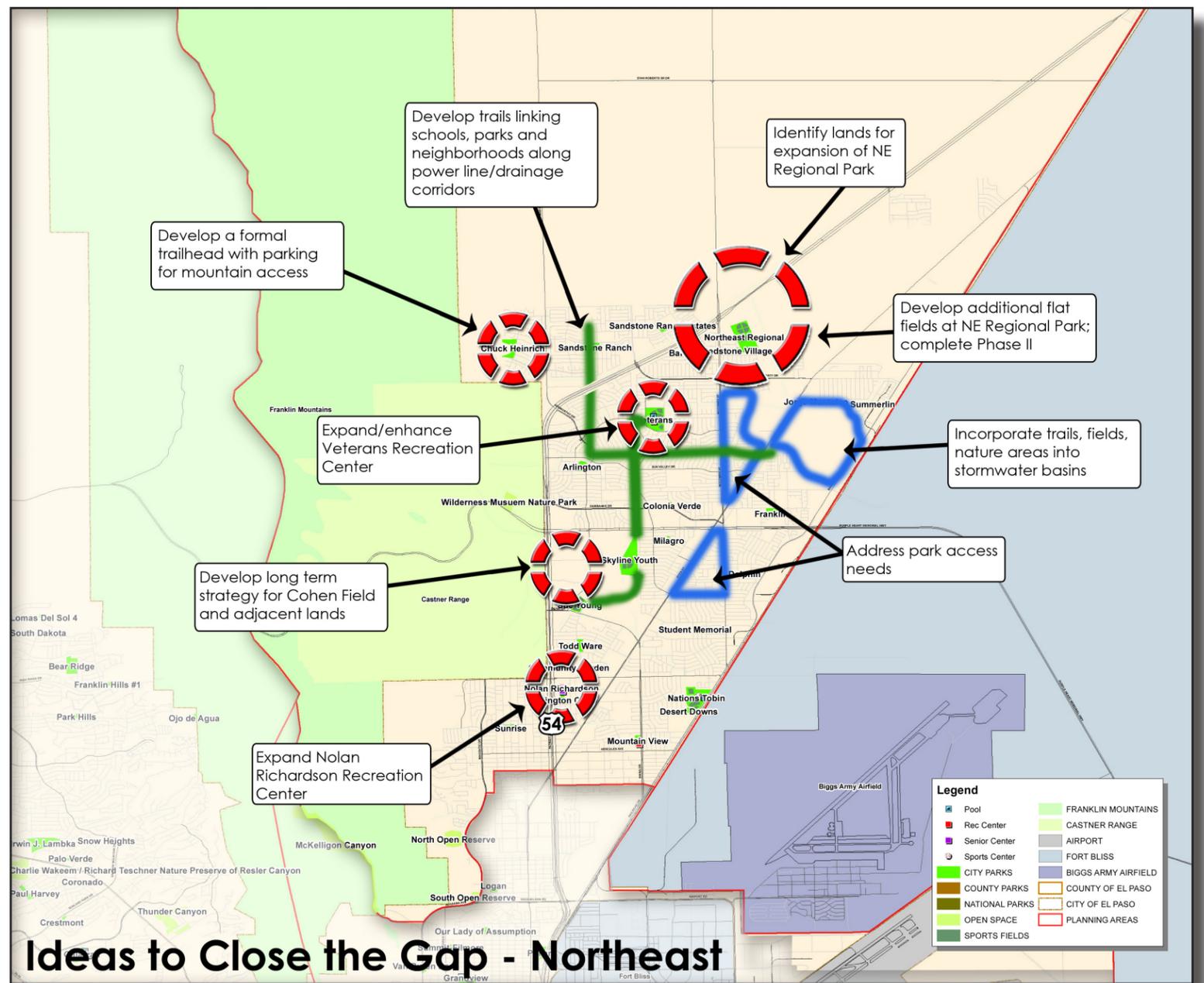
9. Renovate and enhance the existing pool at Nations Tobin. Add interactive water spray feature and slide amenities.
10. Identify a site and develop a new 10 to 20 acre community park north of the Patriot Freeway (Hwy. 54) as the residential population of the area expands.
11. Through parkland dedication, develop neighborhood parks to meet the population growth north of the Patriot Freeway.
12. Expand athletic facilities at Skyline Youth.
13. Renovate the Cohen Field site (50 acres +/-).

Key Indoor Recommendations - Immediate

1. Expand and enhance the Veterans (Northeast) Recreation Center to meet expanding population of the area.
2. Expand Nolan Richardson Recreation Center to add gym and classroom space for expanded programming and community recreation classes.

Indoor Recommendations - Medium and Longer Term

3. Develop a new far northeast recreation center north of the Patriot Freeway. This center would serve all of the remaining undeveloped lands in the Northeast area, and as such should be planned as a very large regional center.



Ideas to Close the Gap - Northeast



**Table 9.8
Northeast Planning Area: Project Implementation Plan**

Action		Acquisition Cost - High Estimate	Development Cost - High Estimate	Funding Source	Projected new inventory	2012 Inventory	Target Inventory for 2020 Population	Inventory Still Needed - Excess/ (Deficit)
Neighborhood Parks	Renovate Barron Park		\$1,500,000	2012 Bond				
	Develop Johnson Basin		\$400,000	2012 Bond	8 acres +/-			
	Develop NE Basin		\$400,000	2012 Bond	8 acres +/-			
	Add amenities to neighborhood parks as development occurs. Land acquired through dedication		\$2,500,000	TBD				
	SUBTOTAL		\$4,800,000		16 max.	177	252	(59)
Community Parks	Acquire land for new Radford Park	\$1,000,000		2012 Bond	20 acres +/-			
	Acquire land for new Wainwright Park	\$750,000		2012 Bond	15 acres +/-			
	Add concrete skate park and parking to Northeast Regional Park		\$1,600,000	2012 Bond				
	Develop Northeast Regional Park Phase 2		\$2,000,000	2012 Bond				
	Construct sports maintenance storage compound to Northeast Regional Park		\$800,000	2012 Bond				
	SUBTOTAL	\$1,750,000	\$4,400,000		35 max.	208	252	(9)
Recreation Centers	Expand Veterans Recreation Center		\$1,500,000	2012 Bond	15,000 s.f.			
	Expand Nolan Richardson Center		\$2,500,000	2012 Bond	10,000 s.f.			
	Expand Nations Tobin Sports Center to add a gym, multipurpose rooms and other recreation activities		\$4,000,000	TBD	20,000 s.f.			
	Renovate the interior of Wellington Chew Senior Center. Create a stronger connection to the Nolan Richardson Recreation Center		\$1,000,000	TBD				
	SUBTOTAL		\$9,000,000		45,000 s.f.	84,085	126,000	3,085
Pools	Convert Nations Tobin Pool into aquatic center for the Northeast		\$10,000,000	TBD				
	Enhance/Renovate Veterans Pool		\$2,000,000	TBD				
	Develop a major leisure pool in the area		\$4,000,000	TBD				
	SUBTOTAL		\$16,000,000			9,528	23,625	(14,097)
Trails	Add two to four miles of in-town trails in the area.		\$3,000,000	2012 Bond	2 to 4 miles			
	Add two to three trail heads to improve access/connectivity to Franklin Mountains nature trails		\$750,000	2012 Bond	NA			
	SUBTOTAL		\$3,750,000		2 to 4 miles			
Ath-letics	Add two lighted flat fields to Northeast Regional Park		\$1,250,000	2012 Bond	2 fields			
	SUBTOTAL		\$1,250,000		2 flat fields	6	13	(5)

TBD - To be determined in the future

Northwest Planning Area: Implementation Plan

This area of the City has the most significant need for community parkland when compared to the other four planning areas. The most effective method to address this need is by completing the development of Valley Creek Park.

This planning area currently has two recreation centers. However, both centers have the potential to be expanded into larger regional centers. Long term, another regional center should be constructed in the far northwest area.

There is only one swimming pool located in the Northwest. This pool is small, and the residents in this area are underserved. An approved bond project for a new west side swimming pool will start to alleviate the aquatic need but will still leave a gap towards meeting the target level of service.

Westside Community Park and Westside Sports Complex offer premier athletic fields in El Paso. Because of the Westside Sports Complex, the Northwest planning area is adequately served by the number of flat fields. Two more diamond fields at the Westside Community Park will help to meet the current need for the area and will complete the complex at that site.

Key actions for this area are discussed below. All target actions are shown in Table 9.8 on the following page.

Key Outdoor Recommendations - Immediate

1. Develop leisure aquatics facilities for the area. Consider the development of an outdoor leisure pool.
2. Develop two to four miles of trails in the area, so that every area has ready access to a trail corridor.

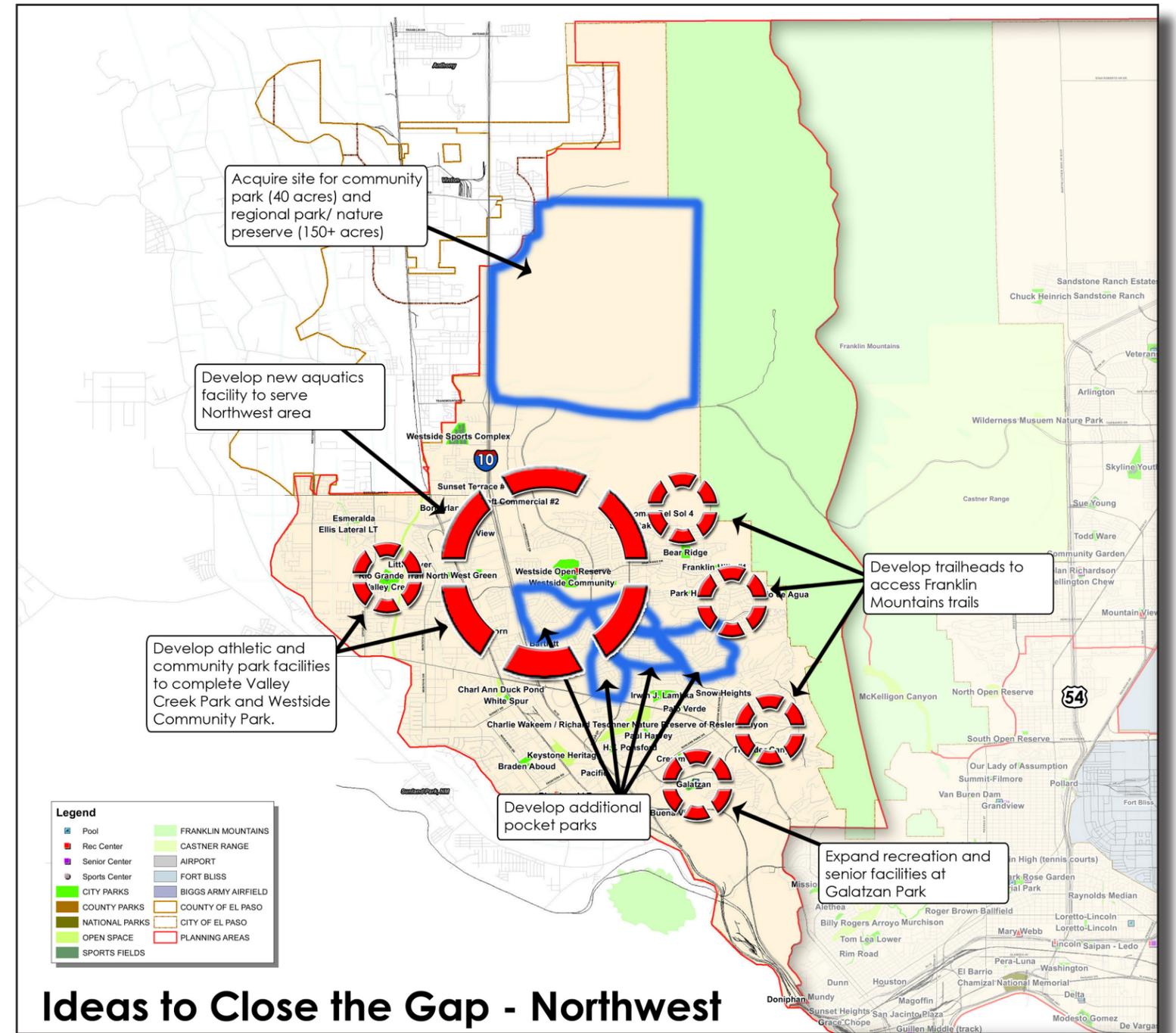
3. Renovate or expand existing neighborhood parks in the area, including Coronado, Balboa, Barlett and Fiesta Parks.
4. Develop three trailhead access park sites (either freestanding or in existing parks) to link neighborhoods to the Franklin Mountains foothills.
5. Develop additional phases of the Westside Community Park.
6. Complete the development of Valley Creek Park as a major community park for the Upper Valley residents of El Paso.
7. Develop three new neighborhood parks in underserved areas (may be pocket and/or school park sites).
8. Continue to acquire funding for open space and arroyo preservation in the area.

Medium and Longer Term Recommendations

9. Identify and preserve community and regional park sites north of Highway 375 (Transmountain Road) for future development.

Key Indoor Recommendations - Immediate

1. Develop a competitive aquatics natatorium in the area. Select a site that has adequate room for expansion, space for parking and regional access.
2. If feasible consolidate the Polly Harris Senior Center facilities with the recreation center at Galatzan when enhancement occurs.



Ideas to Close the Gap - Northwest



**Table 9.9
Northwest Planning Area: Project Implementation Plan**

Action		Acquisition Cost - High Estimate	Development Cost - High Estimate	Funding Source	Projected new inventory	2012 Inventory	Target Inventory for 2020 Population	Inventory Still Needed - Excess/ (Deficit)
Neighborhood Parks	Develop Barlett Park Phase 2		\$1,000,000	2012 Bond				
	Acquire new Coronado Park (area north of Mesa)	\$1,750,000		2012 Bond	8 acres +/-			
	Renovate Fiesta/Balboa Park		\$400,000	2012 Bond				
	Identify and develop one school/park or park/pond site	\$250,000	\$750,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	Identify and develop one of two small park sites	\$125,000	\$750,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	Identify and develop two of two small park sites	\$125,000	\$750,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	Add amenities to neighborhood parks as development occurs. Land acquired through dedication		\$2,500,000	TBD				
SUBTOTAL	\$2,250,000	\$6,150,000		23 max.	150	277	(104)	
Community Parks	Develop Westside Community Park Phase 4		\$1,900,000	2012 Bond				
	Expand amenities into available lands around Galatzan Park		\$1,750,000	TBD	10 acres +/-			
	Complete development of Valley Creek Park and improve access		\$7,500,000	TBD				
	Acquire land for future community park in far Northwest beyond Transmountain and east of Interstate 10 and develop initial phase	\$2,000,000	\$7,500,000	TBD	40 acres +/-			
	Expand and redevelop Braden Aboud Park and convert to community park with adjacent school property		\$1,750,000	TBD				
SUBTOTAL	\$2,000,000	\$20,400,000		50 max.	71	277	(126)	
Regional Parks	Acquire and develop a far Northwest regional park north of Transmountain. Note that land acquisition and preservation should be an immediate priority (may be phased)	\$7,500,000	\$15,000,000	TBD	150 acres +/-			
	Consider and if feasible develop regional park presence in proximity to old Asarco site and along Rio Grande River	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD			
SUBTOTAL	\$7,500,000	\$15,000,000		150 max.	0	277	(127)	
Recreation Centers	Expand Polly Harris Senior Center entry		\$1,500,000	2012 Bond	15,000 s.f.			
	Consolidate Galatzan Center with Polly Harris Senior Center to create a west side "super center"		\$4,000,000	TBD	20,000 s.f.			
	Develop a new sports center		\$8,000,000	TBD	35,000 s.f.			
	Develop a far northwest regional "super center." Plan for a combination center and aquatic facility		TBD	TBD	45,000 s.f.			
SUBTOTAL		\$13,500,000		115,000 s.f.	60,000	138,500	36,500	

TBD - To be determined in the future



Table 9.9 Continued
Northwest Planning Area: Project Implementation Plan

Action		Acquisition Cost - High Estimate	Development Cost - High Estimate	Funding Source	Projected new inventory	2012 Inventory	Target Inventory for 2020 Population	Inventory Still Needed - Excess/ (Deficit)
Pools	Develop a new west side natatorium for competition, fitness and leisure use		\$8,000,000	2012 Bond	15,000 s.f.			
	Develop a major leisure pool in the area		\$4,000,000	TBD				
	Enhance/renovate Leo Cancellare Pool		\$2,000,000	TBD				
	SUBTOTAL		\$14,000,000		15,000 s.f.	4,764	25,969	(6,205)
Trails	Add two to four miles of in-town trails in the area.		\$3,000,000	2012 Bond	2 to 4 miles			
	Add two to three trail heads to improve access/connectivity to Franklin Mountains nature trails		\$750,000	2012 Bond	NA			
	SUBTOTAL		\$3,750,000		2 to 4 miles			
Athletics	Add two diamond fields to the Westside Community Park (to complete a complex)		TBD	TBD	2 diamonds			
	SUBTOTAL				2 diamonds	3	14	(9)

TBD - To be determined in the future



East Planning Area: Implementation Plan

The East planning area is one of the fastest growing areas of the City. This area is projected to have the largest population of the five areas, with a population projected to exceed 212,000 residents by 2020.

Because of the large population, significant parkland needs will occur for neighborhood, community and regional parkland. It is especially important to develop the Eastside Regional Park. Because it will be difficult to build new parks at a rate that keeps up with the population growth, this large regional park will meet a variety of needs in just one location.

As recommended for the Eastside Regional Recreation Center and Aquatics Center, all future recreation centers and aquatic centers should be combined together instead of near each other. For example, the Marty Robbins Center in this planning area has buildings that are located a quarter of a mile from each other. This layout mandates that each building has its own staff, parking lot, and even signs. It is not as efficient as it would have been if the recreation and pool amenities were combined.

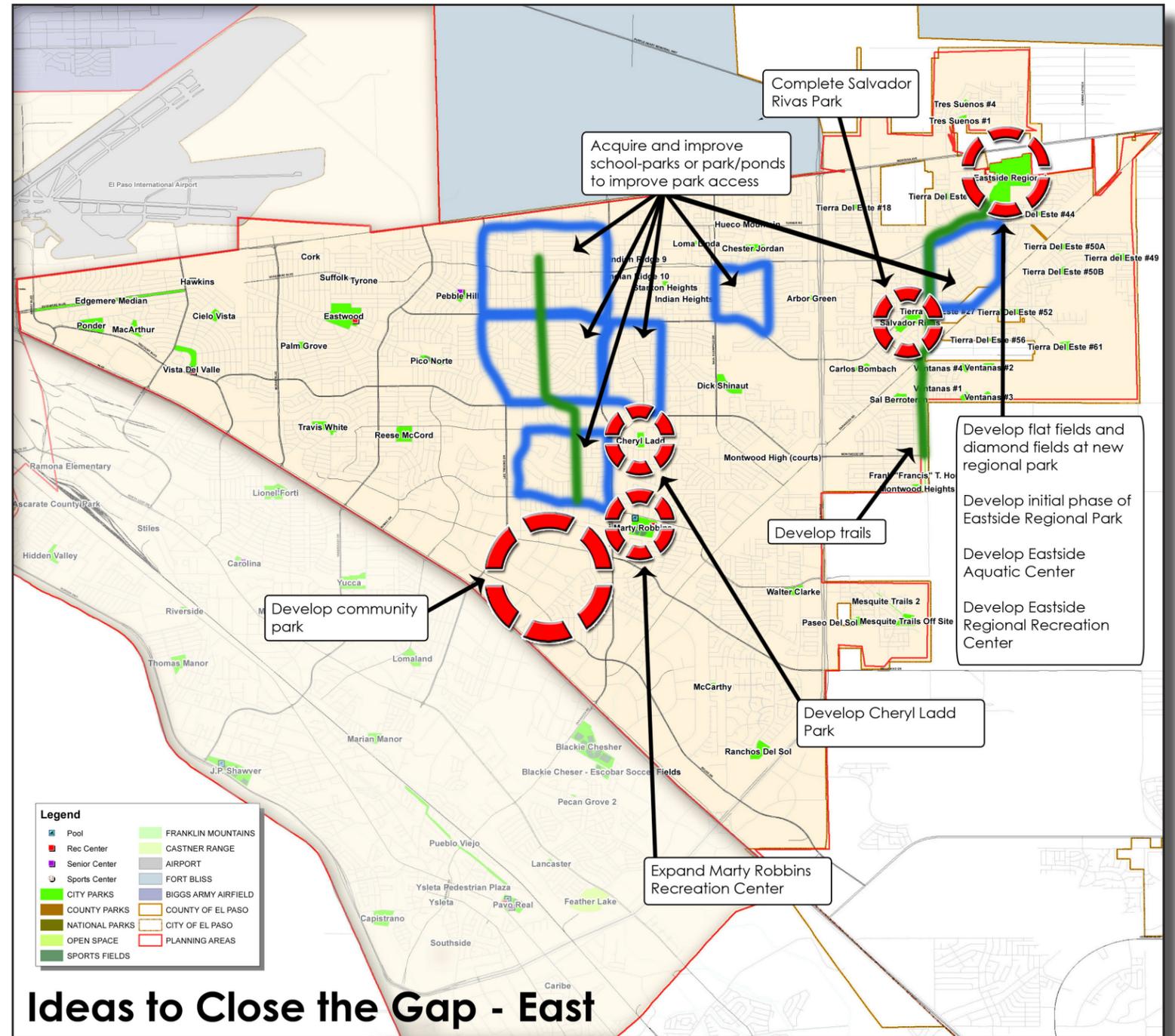
While there is a deficit in the number of flat fields and diamond fields in this planning area, two of the bond projects will help to increase the level of service for the residents. Also, there is a proposed flat fields sports complex that will be constructed which will have 8 to 12 flat fields.

A master plan that incorporates all of the major desired facilities is recommended for the Eastside Regional Park before any development occurs, so that multiple uses for the site can be developed.

Key actions for this area are discussed below. All target actions are shown in the table on the following page.

Key Outdoor Recommendations - Immediate

1. Develop flat fields and clustered diamond fields at Eastside Regional Park. The proposed development of the regional park is slated to have at least four diamond fields and six flat fields, along with support parking and restrooms.
2. Develop initial phase(s) of other components of the Eastside Regional Park; include spaces for organized and spontaneous outdoor recreation, including walking and bicycling trails, playground areas, park shelters, and outdoor multi-purpose courts.
3. Target the development of two to four miles of trail corridors as connections between parks and other destinations such as schools, civic facilities and retail areas. Along powerline corridors, develop them as linear parks with benches, some landscaping and other amenity features.
4. Target development of Cheryl Ladd Park, as a key park site in a built out area with limited park access.
5. Develop three neighborhood park sites, either on undeveloped lands, as park pond sites, or as school-park sites to address access to park deficiencies west of Joe Battle.
6. Develop a large neighborhood park in the vicinity of Pendale Road. Additional diamond and/or flat fields can be located at the park.
7. Complete the development of Salvador Rivas Park as a key community park for the far east neighborhoods of the City.
8. To supplement the limited aquatic facilities in this area, develop two interactive water spray features in neighborhood or community parks in this sector.



Ideas to Close the Gap - East



Table 9.10 East Planning Area: Project Implementation Plan								
Action		Acquisition Cost - High Estimate	Development Cost - High Estimate	Funding Source	Projected new inventory	2012 Inventory	Target Inventory for 2020 Population	Inventory Still Needed - Excess/ (Deficit)
Neighborhood Parks	Renovate Cheryl Ladd Park		\$1,750,000	2012 Bond				
	Add concrete skate park to Dick Shinault Park		\$800,000	2012 Bond				
	Develop Paseo del Sol Park Phase 2		\$750,000	2012 Bond				
	Identify and develop one of three school/park, park/pond or park sites between Saul Kleinfeld and Lee Trevino Drive	\$250,000	\$680,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	Identify and develop two of three school/park, park/pond or park sites between Saul Kleinfeld and Lee Trevino Drive	\$250,000	\$660,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	Identify and develop three of three school/park, park/pond or park sites between Saul Kleinfeld and Lee Trevino Drive	\$250,000	\$660,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	Add amenities to neighborhood parks as development occurs. Land acquired through dedication		\$2,500,000	TBD				
	SUBTOTAL	\$750,000	\$7,800,000		15 max.	281	425	(129)
Community Parks	Expand Salvador Rivas Park Phase 3		\$1,400,000	2012 Bond				
	Acquire land and develop a new community park west of Loop 375 and north of Montwood. Consider detention area if feasible	\$500,000	\$7,500,000	TBD	10 acres			
	Acquire land for second community park east of Loop 375	\$1,000,000	TBD	TBD	20 acres			
	Acquire land and develop additional community park in the far East	\$1,000,000	\$10,000,000	TBD	20 - 50 acres			
	SUBTOTAL	\$3,500,000	\$18,900,000		80 max.	256	425	(89)
Regional Parks	Master plan and design Eastside Regional Park		\$3,000,000	2012 Bond				
	Develop Eastside Regional Park.		\$18,000,000	2012 Bond				
	Acquire additional land for a regional park in the far East	\$7,500,000		TBD	75 acres +/-			
	SUBTOTAL	\$7,500,000	\$21,000,000		75 max.	92	425	(258)
Recreation Centers	Develop Eastside Regional Recreation Center		\$11,000,000	2012 Bond	45,000 s.f.			
	Expand Eastside Senior Center		\$1,500,000	2012 Bond	5,000 s.f.			
	Expand Marty Robbins Center - add a second gym, additional classroom and fitness facilities		\$3,000,000	TBD	10,000 s.f.			
	SUBTOTAL		\$15,500,000		60,000 s.f.	117,132	212,500	(35,368)

TBD - To be determined in the future



**Table 9.10 Continued
East Planning Area: Project Implementation Plan**

Action		Acquisition Cost - High Estimate	Development Cost - High Estimate	Funding Source	Projected new inventory	2012 Inventory	Target Inventory for 2020 Population	Inventory Still Needed - Excess/ (Deficit)
Pools	Develop new Eastside Regional Aquatics Center/Natatorium		\$12,000,000	2012 Bond	15,000 s.f.	10,408	39,844	(9,436)
	Develop new Eastside Regional Leisure Pool		\$4,000,000	2012 Bond	5,000 s.f.			
	Renovate Training and Instruction Pool (in Vista del Valle Park)		\$450,000	2012 Bond				
	Enhance/renovate Hawkins Pool		\$2,000,000	TBD				
	SUBTOTAL		\$18,450,000		20,000 s.f.			
Trails	Add two to four miles of in-town trails in the area.		\$3,000,000	2012 Bond	2 to 4 miles	10	21	5
	SUBTOTAL		\$3,050,000	TBD	2 to 4 miles			
Athletics (flat fields / diamond fields)	Develop flat fields sports complex (in site that serves entire City)		\$10,000,000	2012 Bond	8 fields	5	21	(12)
	Develop six flat fields in the Eastside Regional Park			2012 Bond	6 fields			
	Add two flat fields to Salvador Rivas Park		\$1,250,000	TBD	2 fields			
	SUBTOTAL		\$11,250,000		16 flat fields			
	Develop four diamond fields to Eastside Regional Park (as part of bond project)			2012 Bond	4 diamonds			
	SUBTOTAL				4 diamonds			

9. Identify and preserve drainage areas east of Zaragoza and south of Montana as future open desert land preserves.

Medium and Longer Term Recommendations

- 10. Identify additional lands for preservation for an additional regional park for the area (since the availability of lands for further expansion of the Eastside site is limited).
- 11. Develop a four field quick soccer complex at a community or regional park in the area.
- 12. Develop an additional four miles of trails linking key destinations (schools and parks).

Key Indoor Recommendations - Immediate

- 1. Develop a competitive aquatics natatorium in the area. The Eastside Regional Park site, with parking that can be shared, has been identified as the location for this facility. Combine with leisure pool facilities that can share locker rooms and staffing.
- 2. Develop a far east recreation center to serve the area west of Loop 375. Model as a true regional center, with the availability to grow in size to over 60 to 80,000 square feet in the future. The Eastside Regional Park site is an ideal site for this facility.
- 3. Complete the second phase gym and additional recreation rooms at the Marty Robbins Center.
- 4. Incorporate multi-generational facilities into the proposed Eastside Recreation Center, rather than developing a new senior center for far East El Paso.



Mission Valley Planning Area: Implementation Plan

While the residents in this planning area have easy access to Ascarate County Park, there is still a significant deficit in terms of community and regional parkland. Developing a community park in the Las Palmas/Pendale area will help to alleviate this need. Long term, the City should look to acquire land for a regional park that is at least 75 acres in size.

The current square footage of indoor recreation space is only half of the target level of service. However, there are two bond projects to construct new recreation centers in the Alameda area and Yucca or Lomaland area. With the addition of these two centers, Mission Valley area residents will be adequately served by indoor recreation space.

There are currently two outdoor pools and one indoor pool in this planning area. It is recommended to enclose one of the outdoor pools so that they can better serve the residents all year.

In order to meet the target level of service for flat fields, two lighted flat fields should be added at Blackie Chesher Park.

Key actions for this area are discussed below. All target actions are shown in the table on the following page.

Key Outdoor Recommendations - Immediate

1. Develop two additional flat fields for soccer and football at Blackie Chesher Park.
2. Renovate and enhance sports fields and community park amenities at Shawver Park.
3. Enhance Pavo Real pool to become the regional aquatics facility for the Mission Valley area. Consider that enclosure of the pool would

provide additional opportunities for fitness and competitive swimming, but should also include much needed leisure amenities comparable to those found at Armijo Pool.

4. Develop two miles of linear parks along existing irrigation canals or drainage corridors. Include amenity features, lighting for nighttime use and access connections to surrounding neighborhoods. Consider using the Playa Drain corridor for this purpose.
5. Expand Yucca Park to include additional park amenities such as trails, pavilions, multipurpose court, or interactive water spray feature.
6. Develop four new park sites, either through park/pond combinations or by school/park enhancements.

Medium and Longer Term Needs

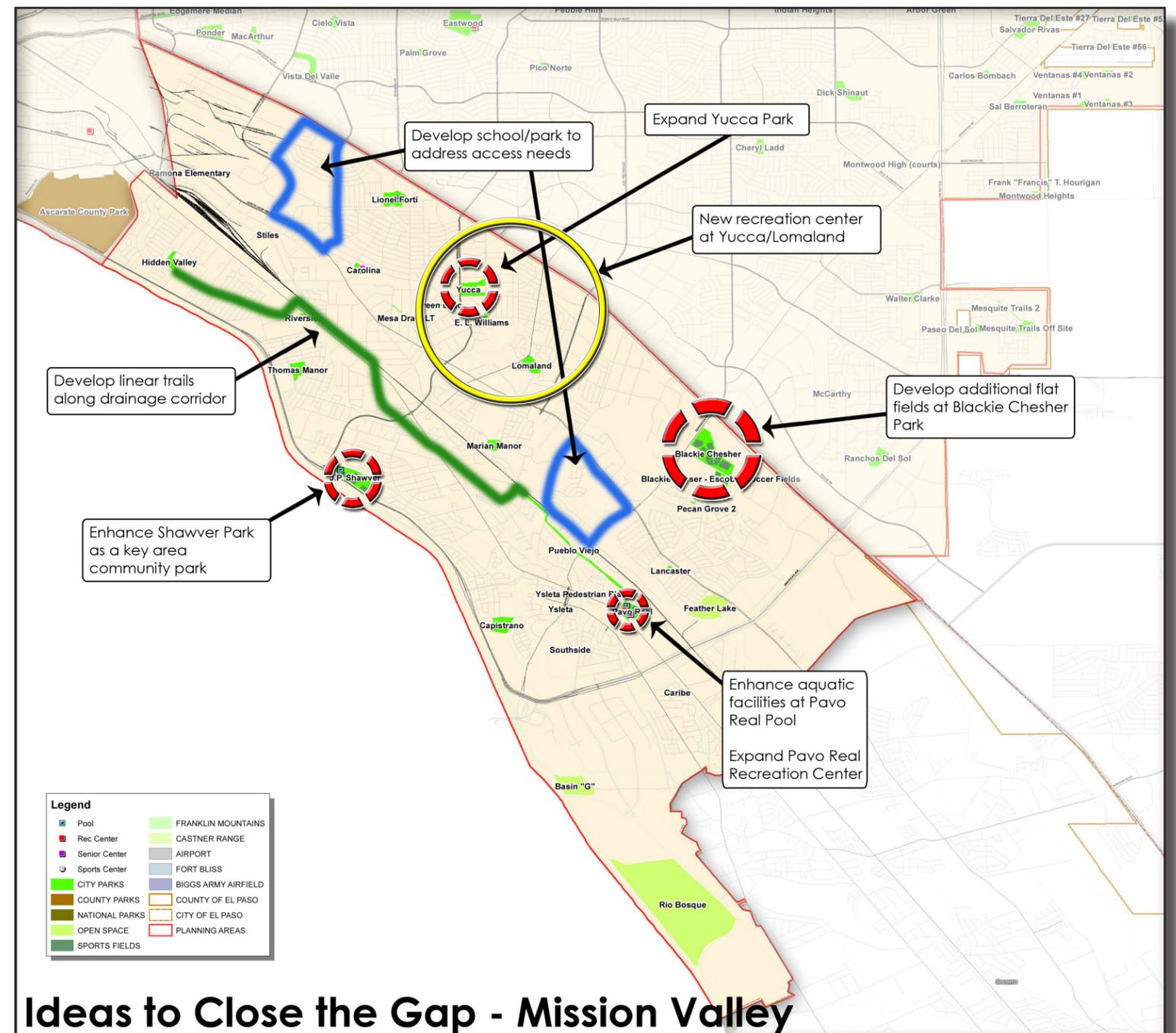
7. Develop additional phases of linear park corridors with trails along the Playa Drain.
8. Develop four quick soccer courts in the area.

Key Indoor Recommendations - Immediate

1. Build a new recreation center in vicinity of Lomaland or Yucca Park.
2. Enhance Pavo Real Recreation Center.

Medium and Longer Term Needs

3. Combine the nearby Fr. Martinez Senior Center with the Pavo Real Recreation Center.



Ideas to Close the Gap - Mission Valley



**Table 9.11
Mission Valley Planning Area: Project Implementation Plan**

Action		Acquisition Cost - High Estimate	Development Cost - High Estimate	Funding Source	Projected new inventory	2012 Inventory	Target Inventory for 2020 Population	Inventory Still Needed - Excess/ (Deficit)
Neighborhood Parks	Add landscaping extension along right-of-way of Adrian Garcia Park		\$250,000	2012 Bond				
	Identify and develop one of three school/park or park/pond sites	\$250,000	\$750,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	Identify and develop two of three school/park or park/pond sites	\$250,000	\$750,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	Identify and develop three of three school/park or park/pond sites	\$250,000	\$750,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	Identify and develop one neighborhood park	\$250,000	\$750,000	TBD	2 to 5 acres			
	SUBTOTAL	\$1,000,000	\$3,250,000		20 max.	161	225	(44)
Community Parks	Expand Yucca Park Phase 3		\$1,100,000	2012 Bond				
	Renovate sports fields at Shawver Park		\$1,500,000	2012 Bond				
	Develop Las Palmas/Pendale area community park		\$5,000,000	2012 Bond				
	Add sports maintenance storage compound at Blackie Chesher Park		\$800,000	2012 Bond				
	Add improvements to Shawver Park		\$1,750,000	TBD				
	Add improvements to Pavo Real Park		\$1,750,000	TBD				
	Expand Blackie Chesher to adjacent City lands south of Escobar Road		\$2,500,000	TBD	5 acres			
SUBTOTAL		\$14,400,000		5 max.	169	225	(51)	
Regional Parks	Acquire land for a regional park	\$3,750,000		TBD	75 acres +/-			
	SUBTOTAL	\$3,750,000			75 max.	100	225	(50)
Recreation Centers	Upgrade entry of Pavo Real Recreation Center		\$2,000,000	2012 Bond	10,000 s.f.			
	Develop new recreation center in the Alameda area		\$11,000,000	2012 Bond	50,000 s.f.			
	Develop new recreation center in the Yucca or Lomaland area		\$11,000,000	2012 Bond	50,000 s.f.			
	SUBTOTAL		\$24,000,000		110,000 s.f.	59,200	112,700	56,500
Pools	Renovate and enclose Lionel Forti Pool		\$4,000,000	2012 Bond				
	Enclose Pavo Real Pool		\$2,000,000	2012 Bond				
	SUBTOTAL		\$6,000,000			22,088	21,131	957
Trails	Add two to four miles of in-town trails in the area.		\$3,000,000	2012 Bond	2 to 4 miles			
	SUBTOTAL		\$3,000,000		2 to 4 miles			
Athletics (flat fields /diamond fields)	Add two lighted flat fields at Blackie Chesher Park		\$1,750,000	2012 Bond	2 fields			
	Add one flat field to Las Palmas/Pendale area community park (as part of bond project)			2012 Bond	1 field			
	SUBTOTAL		\$1,750,000		3 flat fields	9	11	1
	Add one diamond field at new Las Palmas/Pendale area community park (as part of bond project)			2012 Bond	1 diamond			
SUBTOTAL				1 diamond	9	11	(1)	



IV. Key Governance and Funding Recommendations

1. Annual operating funding must be provided to maintain and operate facilities -

The \$32+/- per capita expended on operations, programming and administration (by both the Parks and Recreation Department and by General Services) is a significant improvement over recent years but is still very low for a city the size and breadth of El Paso.

The 2006 Master Plan recommended a target level of \$38+/- per capita to fully operate the system by the year 2012. Adjusted for inflation, the target amount is now closer to \$41 per capita. The recommended expenditure amount allows for increased programming of facilities, improved maintenance, replacement of systems in buildings and pools in a timely fashion, and the ability to staff new facilities as they are brought on line. Because of the intervening global economic downturn, this target may have not been achievable, but should be set as a near term target.

2. Perform an annual performance review to ensure that parks and facilities are maintained to a level that is acceptable to the citizens of El Paso.

3. As recommended in the 2006 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and reinforced in this update, include a capital equipment and major repairs line item in the department's budget -

This is especially critical given the age of many of the parks and building facilities in the City. This is needed to address key replacement needs in a timely fashion to efficiently extend the useful lifespan of City assets, and can yield significant longer term savings.

Even if only \$500,000, (less than one quarter of one percent (0.25%) of the total value of the Parks and Recreation system infrastructure), this amount would help replace and more adequately maintain the 48+ buildings and the hundreds of outdoor structures and out-buildings that are part of the Parks and Recreation system.

4. Ensure that fees for programs and athletics are adequate but reasonable -

Fees should be adjusted periodically and increased if necessary to provide high quality facilities and services that are not unreasonably subsidized.

Different parks and recreation facilities will require different funding strategies. While small improvements to existing parks and most trails can be built with local funds, other parks, open spaces and large facility projects may be able to contend for federal or state funds. This section provides brief descriptions of these funding implementation assistance opportunities.

Key City Generated Funding Sources

General Fund Expenditures - General fund expenditures are primarily used for operations and minor improvements.

Municipal Development District (MDD) - Sales tax revenue is used to fund a variety of infrastructure needs throughout many cities in Texas. Allocations in future years may be used to address needs identified in this parks master plan update.

TIRZ Districts - Establishing a TIRZ district allows for the property tax revenue generated in that district to be used to fund public improvements.

Voter Approved Bond Funds - The City is currently pursuing a parks and recreation bond package for 2014 that will fund most of the high priority recommendations of this master plan update.

Park Facility Funding Through Parkland Dedication Ordinance - This ordinance provides some lands and/or funding for the development of neighborhood parks throughout the City in new residential developments.

Sales Tax Revenue - Sales tax revenue from the city's 4B fund can be used for community facilities such as parks, trails and recreation buildings, subject to approval by voting by the citizens of El Paso. While each project or group of projects would have to be approved by citizen vote, this option should be considered for projects with significant community-wide benefit.

Key Grant Funding Sources

Grants can provide a significant source of additional funding for parks, but should not be considered as the primary source for park construction.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) is the primary source for parks grants in Texas, and in addition provides funding for recreational trails. Up to a 50 percent match can be obtained, up to \$500,000 for new parks and trail facilities. Grant applications that stress joint funding and support from two or more local entities may have a greater chance of contending for the TRPA grants. These grants are highly competitive, and in recent years there have been far fewer grants available or awarded due to State budget restrictions. When the grants are available, the typical deadline to submit an application is March 1st and August 1st every year.



Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - This fund is divided into two funding categories: state grants and federal acquisition. The state grants are distributed to all 50 states, DC, and other territories based on factors such as population. State grant funds can be used for park development and for acquisition of parkland or easements.

Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program - This program provides monetary support for transportation activities designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the transportation system. Typically, funds can be used for trails and streetscape related projects. Funding is on a cost reimbursement basis, and projects selected are eligible for reimbursement of up to 80% of allowable costs. This funding program is not available on a yearly basis, but intermittently only, often in two to five year periods. A deadline for a submission was late last year, so the next opportunity for funding under this program is unknown at this time. These funds, while difficult to work with, are becoming more responsible to real world costs, and should be seriously considered since they remain one of the few sources of outside funds.

Indoor Recreation Grants – These grants are available to local governments for the construction or renovation of indoor recreation facilities. This assistance is in the form of 50% matching grant funds up to \$750,000. Local governments must apply, permanently dedicate the building for public recreational use and assume responsibility for operation and maintenance. This grant program is currently suspended, and funding amounts may be limited over the next few years.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) – These funds can be spent to construct new recreational trails, improve/maintain existing trails, develop/improve trailheads or trail side facilities, and acquire trail corridors/easements. It is a cost reimbursement program. Projects may range in total cost between \$5,000 and \$100,000.

Environmental Protection Agency – The EPA can provide funding for projects with money collected in pollution settlements, or with funding targeted at wetland and habitat preservation or reclamation.

Foundation and Company Grants – These can assist in direct funding for projects, while others exist to help citizen efforts get established with small seed funds or technical and publicity assistance.

Grants for Greenways – This is a national listing that provides descriptions of a broad spectrum of both general and specific groups who provide technical and financial support for greenway interests.

Partnering with Volunteer Groups – Partnering with volunteer groups can be helpful when constructing trails or playground equipment. Their effort can be used as part of the required match for many grants such as the Recreational Trails Program. There

are a variety of sources for volunteers including: user groups, local residents, corporate community service initiatives, and business and civic support groups.

Parks Foundation - Parks foundations are non-profit organizations and another source for volunteers. People can make tax deductible donations to a foundation, which in turn provides financial support and volunteer time to a city's parks system. Parks foundations often assist with physical improvements to a park or support recreational programming. They essentially help fill the gap between what needs to be done and what a parks and recreation department can afford to do.

V. Conclusion – Towards a Brighter Future

Fundamentally, El Paso continues to have the framework for a world-class parks and recreation system. The natural features of the area and the man-made form of the City create a wonderful palette with which to work. The creativity is there – witness the many beautiful parks and buildings that exist all over El Paso. And the citizens of El Paso use and appreciate their parks as much as anyone else in the United States.

Historical under funding of the system because it has been in a catchup mode has been its major weakness. This has resulted in:

1. Not being able to keep up with development of new facilities to address population growth.
2. When new facilities are built, they are under-sized for the populations' needs.
3. \$2.5 million in deferred maintenance in “D” rated facilities has been identified. Funding to repair those deficiencies should be a priority.

The infusion of funding from the 2000 and 2004 Bond packages resulted in park upgrades everywhere in the City and the development of creative parks, recreation buildings and pool upgrades that any city would be proud of. The system has made enormous strides since 2000.

The system is now at a turning point – the system is a good one now, but can it become a great park system? To accomplish that, the challenge ahead is as follows:

- Whether through bonds or annual funding sources, the City must focus on larger more capital intensive components of the parks system; larger regional and community parks, new recreation buildings, a premier sports complex, and new and different aquatic facilities. These are expensive and operationally intensive,



but they are the heart of any good Parks and Recreation Department.

- Funding for staffing, programming and necessary training must continue to increase, especially as new facilities are added. Staff ratios need to increase for both safety and customer service.
- Care must be given to ensure that the new investments in parks are maintained at a high level, regardless of which department maintains them. Accountability to the City Council for this is important.
- Trails and open space are a key part of the City's future image, and they must be greatly accelerated. They should be made a part of everyday decision making with reliable, ongoing funding sources.
- Partnerships will continue to be a major part of the future success of the system. They will involve every governmental entity, from the City and County to each of the area school districts and the State of Texas. They will also include other City departments, all working to make El Paso a better place to live in. The development community will be critical to help implement parts of the park system of tomorrow. Everyone must work together and be invested in improving El Paso's parks, trails, recreation facilities, and open spaces.
- The City should continue to aggressively pursue outside grant funding where feasible.

This plan continues the vision created in the 2006 Park Master Plan. The plan for today is well underway, and the way to a "Bright Future" for the City and everyone who lives in El Paso is now becoming much clearer. The future can be bright, but it is not guaranteed. Residents of El Paso have spoken – they want to continue the transformation of their parks and recreation system into a great system.