



ARKS & RECREATION  
ELEMENT



## 9. RECREATION

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION:

The City of Rio Rancho is the third largest, and fastest growing city in the State of New Mexico. Incorporated in 1981, the City of Rio Rancho has been challenged to keep up with park infrastructure due to rapid development.

Rio Rancho was created and marketed as a retirement community in the 1960s. The original land holder, American Realty and Petroleum (AMREP) subdivided more than 73,000 acres of its 91,000 contiguous acres in Sandoval County. At the time Rio Rancho Estates was subdivided, public infrastructure such as parks were not required.

While the City of Rio Rancho has worked diligently to increase and update its park and recreation facilities, there are many facilities such as the Meadowlark Senior Center, and Haynes and Sabana Grande Recreation Centers that have served the community since the inception of the city.

The 2002 Senior Center Master Plan recommended constructing a new senior center and making modern improvements to the Meadowlark Senior Center to meet the needs of a growing, active senior population.

The city’s 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan showed the need to acquire land for, and construct two additional recreation centers and an indoor aquatic center as community priorities. The Plan also identified a goal of 7 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents and the need to develop another 203 acres of parkland to meet that goal. Since completion of the 2005 Plan, the city

has increased park acreage, but it has also adapted the above goal to 4 acres of developed park land and another 3 acres of open space per 1,000 residents based on the city’s ability to construct and maintain parks. The Mid Region Council of Governments estimates Rio Rancho’s 2008 population to be 82,589. See Table 1 for a tentative population forecast based on the Mid Region Council Of Governments population statistics.

The need for parks is significant. In a paper for The Trust for Public Land, Paul M. Sherer states: Strong evidence shows that when people have access to parks, they exercise more. Regular physical activity has been shown to improve health and reduce the risk of a wide range of diseases, including heart disease, hypertension, colon cancer, and diabetes.

Physical activity also relieves symptoms of depression and anxiety, improves mood, and enhances psychological well-being. Beyond the benefits of exercise, a growing body of research shows that contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health.

Sherer goes on to state: “Numerous studies have shown that parks and open space increase the value of neighboring residential property. Growing evidence points to a similar benefit on commercial property value. The availability of park and recreation facilities is an important quality-of-life factor for corporations choosing where to locate facilities and for well-educated individuals choosing a place to live. City parks such as San Antonio’s River Walk Park often become important tourism draws, contributing heavily to local businesses.

**Table PR-1 Population Projections**

Council District	2008	2008 Share	2035	2035 Share
1	9,726	11.8%	87,773	38.1%
2	17,294	20.9%	38,546	16.7%
3	11,710	14.2%	22,601	9.8%
4	11,832	14.3%	13,714	6.0%
5	14,575	17.6%	16,573	7.2%
6	17,461	21.1%	50,943	22.1%
Rio Rancho	82,598	100.0%	230,150	100.0%

Green space in urban areas provides substantial environmental benefits. Trees reduce air pollution and water pollution, they help keep cities cooler, and they are a more effective and less expensive way to manage storm water runoff than building systems of concrete sewers and drainage ditches.

City parks, recreation and senior centers also produce important social and community development benefits. They make inner-city neighborhoods more livable; they offer recreational opportunities for at-risk youth, low-income children, and low-income families; and they provide places in low-income neighborhoods where people can feel a sense of community. Access to public parks and recreational facilities has been strongly linked to reductions in crime and in particular to reduced juvenile delinquency.” (Paul M. Sherer 2003)

## 9.1. EXISTING CONDITIONS

### 9.1.1 PARK CLASSIFICATIONS:

Parks in the City of Rio Rancho can be classified into 8 different types.

**Neighborhood Parks:** (Large & Small) Neighborhood parks are the basic unit of the park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Larger facilities listed below may also function as a neighborhood park, depending on their location and the type of facilities they have. Generally, neighborhood parks range from 1 to 10 acres in size and have a service area of 10 minutes walking distance.

**Community Parks:** Community parks are larger in size than neighborhood parks and serve a broader purpose with multiple facilities present. The optimal size of a community park is 10-20 acres, although it should also be based on location and functionality. For example, Haynes Park with all its facilities currently functions as a community park, although it is a neighborhood park. Optimal service area for community parks is 10 minutes drive or less.

**Sports Complex:** A sports complex consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities at larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community. The minimum size is 40 acres, with 80 to 150 acres being optimal. A 10 minute drive is the optimal service area.

**Special Use Parks:** A special use park covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented towards single-purpose use with size and location being determined by the use, for example dog parks, skate parks and pools at less than 1 acre to balloon parks and RV parks greater than 20 acres. The optimal service area for these facilities should be 20 minutes drive or less.

**Open Space:** Open Space areas are lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/ buffering. These can range in size depending on the resource and location. Major Open Space Areas (greater than 20 acres) have a service area of 20 minutes drive or less.

**Connector Trails, Walkways & Bikeways:** Connector trails are multi-purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians and cyclists to and from recreation destinations and around the community. Bikeways and trails have an optimum service area of a 10 minute bike ride.

**Multi-Purpose Recreation Center:** A recreation center is a structure that accommodates multiple recreational activities and events programming. Typically, such structures will include a variety of spaces ranging from class rooms, general use auditorium/ gymnasium spaces, to more specialized spaces including swimming pools. A 10 minute drive is the optimal service area.

**Senior Center:** A Senior Center is a structure similar in construction to a recreation center. A Senior Center is a community focal point where older adults come for services and activities that respond to their diverse needs and interests, support their independence, and is a resource for the entire community. These facilities support intergenerational activities and programming, lifelong learning, volunteer opportunities, meal programs and other services. A 10 minute drive is the optimal service area.

The City of Rio Rancho operates and maintains 45 parks and recreational facilities which are identified in Table PR1.

1. Year Parks were subdivided and dedicated through the NM Subdivision Act.
2. Year parks were subdivided and/or dedicated to the City of Rio Rancho.

Table PR-2: City of Rio Rancho Park &amp; Recreation Facilities

Facility Name	Facility Type	Location	Construction Year	Developed Facility Size (Acres/Sq. Ft.)	Undeveloped Facility Size (Acres/Sq. Ft.)
Alpine Xeric Park	Neighborhood Park	4536 Alpine Ct. SE	1978 Dedication	1 Acre	
Ann Park	Neighborhood Park	1433 Ann Cir. SE	1978 Dedication		0.3 Acre
Big Brothers Big Sisters Park	Neighborhood Park	1703? 17 <sup>th</sup>	2010	2.0	
Bosque Trail (including Trailhead, North Beach and Willow Creek Entries)	Trail/ Open Space	Riverside Dr. & Allegheny Dr.	1993 <sup>2</sup>	11.2 Acres	166.8 Acres
Cabezon Park	Community Park, Pool, Recreation Center	2307 Cabezon Blvd. SE	2008	13.55 Acres; Pool – 3,300 sf; Building – 3,915 sf	
Camino Crossing	Neighborhood Park	269 El Camino Loop NW	2010	2.01	
Canyon Park	Neighborhood Park	1739 Blueberry Dr. NE	2005 <sup>2</sup>	2.5 Acres	7.1 Acres
Cherry Open Space	Open Space	Cherry Rd.	2005 <sup>2</sup>		5 Acres
Cielo Grande	Neighborhood Park	2811 18 <sup>th</sup> Street	2009 <sup>2</sup>		0.6
Cielo Vista Park	Neighborhood Park	633 Pecos Loop SE	2005	1.7 Acres	
Clayton Meadows Park	Neighborhood Park	620 Clayton Meadows Dr. NE	1999	1.5 Acres	5.5 Acres
Clearview Park	Neighborhood Park	3107 21st Ave SE	1987 <sup>2</sup>		1.5 Acres
Dam Site 1 Bike Path	Trail/Open Space	4921 Dolores Hidalgo Drive SE	2000	5.5 Acres Trail	18.87 Acres
Enchanted Hills Park	Neighborhood Park	7201 Enchanted Hills Blvd. NE	2002	9 Acres	
Enchanted Hills Paths	Trail/Open Space	Between Chayote Rd. & Sprint Blvd.	2003	22 Acres Trail	*remainder drainage
Havasu Park	Neighborhood Park	3535 Havasu Falls St. NE	2009	7.8 Acres	
Haynes Park	Community Park & Pool, Community Center	2006 Grande Blvd.	1965; 1985 <sup>1</sup>	12.9 Acres Pool – 5,975 sf; Building – 4,454 sf.	
High Range Park	Neighborhood and Special Use Park	1901 Loma Colorado Blvd.	2009	8.5 Acres	
King Meadows Park	Neighborhood Park	3601 King Blvd. NE	2000	8.97	
Leon Grande Park	Neighborhood Park	4501 Leon Grande SE	1970 <sup>1</sup>	1.4 Acres	
Loma Colorado Park	Community Park	735 Loma Colorado Dr. NE	2005	12.8 Acres	21.2 Acres
Los Milagros Park	Neighborhood Park	400 Colorado Mountain Rd. NE	2005	8.3 Acres	
Los Montoyas Park	Neighborhood and Special Use Park	3701 Camino de Los Montoyas	2007	4.8 Acres	
Los Rios Trail	Trail/Open Space	Rio Vista Dr. & Rio Ruidoso Rd.	2006	3 Acres Trail	
Meadowlark Senior Center	Community Center	4330 Meadowlark Lane SE	1985	13,995 SF	
Mountain View Park	Neighborhood and Special Use Park	6441 Grayson Hills Dr. NE	2002	14.96 Acres Park and 7.4 Acres Trail	

Table PR-2 Continue: City of Rio Rancho Park &amp; Recreation Facilities

Facility Name	Facility Type	Location	Construction Year	Developed Facility Size (Acres/Sq. Ft.)	Undeveloped Facility Size (Acres/Sq. Ft.)
Nicklaus Park	Neighborhood Park	1000 Nicklaus Dr. SE	1979 <sup>2</sup>	2 Acres	
Northern Meadows Trails	Trail	Along Los Montoyas & Panta de Leon Arroyos	2006	7.7	
North Hills Park	Neighborhood Park	1901 Strawberry Drive NE	2006	2.9 Acres	
North Hills Open Space	Open Space	17 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Avenues	2005 <sup>2</sup>		17 Acres
Olympus Park	Neighborhood Park	500 Quantum Rd. SE	1997	4 Acres	
Rainbow Park	Community Park, Pool	301 Southern Boulevard SE	1992	9.7 Acres Pool – 7,975 sf	5 Acres
Rio Rancho Aquatic Center	Indoor Pools	745 Loma Colorado Blvd.	2008	4,478 sf, 5,391 sf, 550 sf; Building – 34,938 sf incl. pools.	
Rio Rancho Sports Complex	Sports Complex	3501 High Resort Blvd. SE	1995	78.5 Acres	
Rio Vista Park	Neighborhood Park	1670 Riverside Dr. NE	1989 <sup>2</sup>	4 Acres	
Roadrunner Park	Trailhead / Park	4921 Dolores Hidalgo Dr. SE	2006	0.5 Acres	7.23 Acres
Rockaway Heights Open Space	Open Space	716 Silver Court NE	1990 <sup>2</sup>		3.80 Acres
Sabana Grande	Community Center	4110 Sabana Grande Blvd.	Pre-1985	Center - >5,000 sf.; Art Center portable – 1,600 sf.	
Sabana Heights Park	Neighborhood Park	999 Benjamin Drive SE	1998	0.7 Acres	
Sierra Norte II Park	Neighborhood Park	1800 Pine Rd. NE	2006	2.2 Acres	5.0 Acres
Sierra Norte Path	Trail	Between Penasco Rd. & Questa Rd.	2002 <sup>2</sup>	3 Acres Trail	
Snead Park	Neighborhood Park	601 Snead Loop SE	1979 <sup>2</sup>	2.7 Acres	
Sports Complex North	Sports Complex	3620 Chayote Rd. NE	2010	11 Acres	31 Acres
Star Heights Park	Neighborhood and Special Use Park, Community Center	800 Polaris Blvd. SE	1982 <sup>1</sup> ; 1989	3.7 Acres Building – 3,996 +	
Sugar Park	Neighborhood Park	500 Sugar Rd. NE	1977	2.5 Acres	2.5 Acres
Trailhead Park	Neighborhood Park	6322 Roadrunner Loop NE	1996	2.5 Acres	
Veja Baja Park	Neighborhood Park	303 Veja Baja Dr. SE	1970 <sup>1</sup>	1.1 Acres	
Veterans Memorial Park and Water Wise Garden	Neighborhood Park	950 Pine Tree Rd. SE	1996	8.3 Acres?	
Vista Grande Park	Neighborhood Park	6901 Husky Dr. NE	2002	6 Acres	
Vista Hills Park	Neighborhood Park	411 Rockaway Blvd. NE	1988	5.5 Acres	
Vista Sandia Park	Neighborhood Park	100 Parkside Road SE	1999	5.3 Acres	
Western Winds Park	Neighborhood Park	2260 Zaragoza Rd. SE	1986	3.3 Acres	
Zia Park	Neighborhood Park	3245 Zia St. NE	2007	4.1 Acres	

## 9.2. SERVICE LEVELS

### Service Levels

As previously stated, the City of Rio Rancho’s goal is to maintain 4 acres of developed parkland and 3 acres of open space per 1,000 residents. The city also has a goal to provide residents access to a multi-purpose recreation center or senior center within 10 minutes driving time.

Table PR2 identifies existing recreation facilities, service areas and the total acreage of both public and private parks and open space. See Map PR-1 for City of Rio Rancho parks parcels and Map PR-2 for Arroyo Buffering for future open space in and along arroyos.

**Table PR-3: Park Facilities Types**

Park & Recreation Facilities	Acreage	Service Area	Typical Amenities
Neighborhood Park	1-10 Acres	10 Minute Walk	Grass area, play elements, shade structure, picnic tables, benches, sport courts.
Community Park	10-20 Acres	< 10 Minute Drive	Same amenities as Neighborhood parks with multiple sport courts, skate parks, parking lot, paths.
Multi-Purpose Recreation Center *Including Pool Facilities	N/A	10 Minute Drive	Multi-roomed building capable of hosting public meetings, multiple recreation activities and programming; If a pool is included, pool will be a minimum 5,000 sf. Of surface area, plus bath house.
Senior Center	N/A	10 Minute Drive	Multi-roomed building capable of providing learning, recreation, meal and other services.
Sports Complex	40 Acre Minimum	10 Minute Drive	Playing fields and courts that supports league play with associated parking, seating, and restrooms.
Special Use Park	1-20 Acres	< 20 Minute Drive	Based on targeted use
Open Space Area	20 Acres or More	< 20 Minute Drive	Significant amount of natural resources and associated buffer land

**Table PR-4: Current Park & Recreation Service Levels**

Publicly Owned & Operated		
	Total Acres	Acres/1,000 Population
City Parks, Developed Acreage	274.36	3.2
City Trails & Open Space	274.57	3.21
Rio Rancho Public Schools Joint Use Facilities	654	7.92
Public Golf Courses	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1296.17</b>	<b>15.70</b>
Privately Owned & Operated		
		Acres/1,000 Population
Private Parks/Open Space	3,875 Mariposa	
Private Golf Courses	257.86 Chamisa Hills CC	3.22
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4132.86</b>	<b>50.04</b>
<b>Total Public &amp; Private Park Service Levels</b>	<b>5429.03</b>	<b>65.74</b>

### 9.3. 2005 PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services identified a number of improvements necessary to meet the goals of the master plan. The needs identified in the plan are:

**Short-Term Needs:**

- Acquire an additional 203 acres of developed park land to meet the goal of 7 acres per 1,000 residents (Adjusted 4 per 1,000 people for an additional 116 acres of developed park land).
- Construct 2 recreation centers to provide classrooms, gyms and other facilities for more programmed services.
- Construct an indoor aquatics facility.
- Construct additional sports fields and turf areas similar to the Rio Rancho Sports Complex for Rio Rancho based sports teams.
- Neighborhood park development in older parts of the city.
- Construct 2 multi-use community parks, including festival grounds.
- Acquire open space and develop an open space system.
- Develop more programmed services for adults and seniors.
- Develop an on-line registration system.

**Long-Term Needs:**

- Acquire an additional 564 acres of developed park land by 2025 to meet the goal of 7 acres per 1,000 residents (Adjusted 4 per 1000 people for an additional 322 acres of developed park land).
- Develop new community parks, recreation centers, swimming pools and sports complexes, as well as additional major open space areas to meet the needs of the 2025 population.
- Develop Special Use facilities that meet a variety of more specialized educational and recreational needs such as the Environmental Park.

**Recommendations:**

The 2005 Master Plan identified the need to construct 89 new facilities by 2025. Future demands include construction of the following facilities:

- 3 Sports Complexes
- 7 Community Parks
- 54 Neighborhood Parks
- 2 Special Use Facilities
- 5 Recreation Centers
- 3 Senior Services Centers
- 5 Swimming Pools
- Major Open Space Areas

The Plan indicates that the majority of these facilities will be built in the northern and western parts of the city with developers constructing approximately half of the facilities. Wherever possible the City will plan and co-locate parks with public school campuses.

The 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan prioritized recommendations for facility construction are:

- Indoor Aquatic Center
- Community Park & Recreation Center North
- Community Park & Festival Grounds
- Rio Rancho Sports Complex North
- Neighborhood Park Development Package
- Community Park & Recreation Center West
- Outdoor Aquatic Center North
- Central Arroyo and Western Open Spaces

The 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan also prioritized planning and program development recommendations as:

- Modify the Subdivision Development Ordinance
- Develop Comprehensive Design Guidelines for all Parks & Recreation Facilities
- Develop an on-line registration, reservation and feedback program.
- Develop a Local & Regional Recreational Services, Business and Marketing Plan for Rio Rancho
- Update the Trails & Bikeways Facilities Plan
- Create an Open Space Facilities Plan

### 9.4. 2005 PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Great strides have been made by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department since the 2005 Parks & Recreation Master Plan was adopted. Below is a list of accomplishments since the adoption of the plan:

**Short-Term Needs:**

- Add 203 acres of new park land. 90.55 acres of new, developed park acreage associated with 15 parks has been added to the City's assets.
- Construct two community recreation centers. The City has accepted the Cabezon Recreation Center and has purchased the land and building shell for the Northern Boulevard Community Center. The City also established a joint use agreement with the school district that will allow community members to use school facilities as recreation centers.
- Construct an indoor aquatics facility. The Rio Rancho Aquatic Center was opened in 2008.
- Construct more sports fields and turf areas similar to the Rio Rancho Sports Complex. The City has begun construction of the Sports Complex North. All land for the facility has been purchased, and phase one with two little league fields and support amenities were completed in January 2010.
- Neighborhood park development in older parts of the city. The City has added playground, skate park, restroom, dog park and other improvements to older parks such as Cielo Vista, Rainbow, Star Heights, and Haynes Parks. The City has also constructed North Hills, Canyon and Big Brothers Big Sisters Parks in older neighborhoods.
- Construct two multi-use community parks, especially a festival grounds. Loma Colorado Park was designed and constructed with large, tiered multipurpose fields, parking, and space and amenities to support a stage, multiple vendors and other attributes of a "festival grounds." Cabezon Park is over 13 acres, has basic park amenities and 3 multipurpose fields.
- Acquire open space and develop an open space system. The Department is reviewing SSCAFCA's Quality of Life Master Plan which would allow arroyos and drainage facilities to function as the backbone of an open space system.
- Develop more programmed services for adults and seniors. The Adults Sports Program has been expanded to include new sports such as pickle ball, volley ball, and kick ball.
- Develop an on-line registration system. The Department's programs are available for on-line viewing by the public, however a program that would allow for complete on-line registration has been identified, but not funded.

**Long-Term Needs Accomplishments:**

Adding 564 acres of developed park land by 2025 to meet the goal of 7 acres per thousand residents.

The following construction priorities from the 2005 Plan are in progress or have been completed:

- 3 Sports Complexes - 1 In progress
- 7 Community Parks – 2 Completed
- 54 Neighborhood Parks – 12 completed
- 2 Special Use Facilities – 0 completed
- 5 Recreation Centers – 1 Completed
- 5 Swimming Pools – 2 Completed
- Indoor Aquatic Center - Complete
- Community Park & Festival Grounds - Complete
- Rio Rancho Sports Complex North - Phase I started
- Neighborhood Park Development Package - Ongoing

2005 Master Plan priorities for planning and program development that have been addressed are:

- Development of Comprehensive Design Guidelines for all Parks & Recreation Facilities – Completed, section II.5 of the Design Process Manual.
- Updating the Trails & Bikeways Facilities Plan – A Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Master Plan will be completed by December, 2010.

## 9.5 CURRENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

**Council District 1**

City Council District 1 has a population of 9,726 and has 4 city parks with a total of 22.9 acres of parkland. Population projections for this district estimate the 2035 population to be 87,773 which will result in a need to add 328.19 acres of parkland.

**Council District 2**

City Council District 2 has a population of 17,294 and has 10 city parks with a total of 51.65 acres of parkland. Population projections for this district estimate the 2035 population to be 38,546 which will result in a need to add 102.53 acres of parkland.

**Council District 3**

City Council District 3 has a population of 11,710 and has 7 city parks with a total of 23.6 acres of parkland. Population projections for this district estimate the 2035 population to be 22,601 which will result in a need to add 66.80 acres of parkland.

**Council District 4**

City Council District 4 has a population of 11,832 and has 5 city parks with a total of 125.8 acres of parkland. Population projections for this district estimate the 2035 population to be 13,714 which results in a surplus of 70.94 acres of parkland in this Council District.

**Council District 5**

City Council District 5 has a population of 14,575 and has 9 city parks with a total of 46.98 acres of parkland. Population projections for this district estimate the 2035 population to be 16,573 which will result in a need to add 19.32 acres of parkland.

**Council District 6**

City Council District 6 has a population of 17,461 and has 7 city parks with a total of 87.06 acres of parkland. Population projections for this district estimate the 2035 population to be 50,943 which results in a need to add 116.71 acres of parkland in this Council District.

**9.6. FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS**

A functional analysis in parks and recreation identifies recreational needs by activity type using national standards as a guide. Therefore, the functional analysis will identify the level of service, whether existing facilities are adequate to serve the existing population and the level-of-service necessary to meet future needs for each type of park facility.

**Table PR 5: Citywide Service Standard For Recreation Facilities**

Amenity	Recommended Service Standard	Current Inventory	2010 Current Population:	2035 Projected Population:
			Current Surplus (+)/Deficit (-)	Projected Surplus (+)/Deficit (-)
Basketball Court	1:5,000 Residents	23	+6	-23
Baseball/Softball Field	1:5,000 Residents	9	-8	-37
Multi-purpose Field (Football/Soccer)	1:20,000 Residents	25	+10	-10
Tennis Court	1:2,000 Residents	2	-41	-113
Swimming Pool	1:20,000 Residents	3 indoor 3 outdoor	+2	-6
Volleyball Court	1:5,000 Residents	3	-14	-43
Playgrounds	1:2,500 Residents		-6	-64
Dog Park	1:50,000 Residents	5	+3	0
Picnic Tables	1:725 Residents	149	+31	-168
Horseshoe Pit	1:15,000 Residents	3	-3	-12
Bocce Court	1:30,000 Residents	1	-2	-7
Fitness/Exercise Course	1:50,000 Residents	5	+3	0
Skate Park	1:81,000 Residents	5	+4	+1
Multi-Use Court	1:10,000 Residents	0	-9	-23

## 9.7. 2002 SENIOR SERVICES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2002 Senior Services Comprehensive Plan identified a number of improvements necessary to meet the goals of the comprehensive plan. The needs identified in the plan are:

- Extend the life of the Meadowlark Senior Center. A minimum of \$893,900 in renovations will be required through 2012.
- Land acquisition for future facilities.
- Construct 3 new senior centers between 2003 and 2023. The first and largest was estimated to cost \$5.3 million.
- Three new senior adult day care centers built in conjunction with the proposed senior centers over the same 20-year period.
- Division administrative space included in overall facility costs.

## 9.8. 2002 SENIOR SERVICES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following is a list of improvements made to the Meadowlark Senior Center since the adoption of the 2002 Senior Services Comprehensive Plan:

- Repaired cracked walls
- Clad walls in kitchen
- Installed:
  - Power-assisted doors
  - Drinking fountain
  - TV monitors in classrooms
  - Local Area Network (LAN)
  - Handicapped accessible work/class stations
  - New roof and skylights
  - Fire suppression system in the kitchen range hood
  - Gas line in kitchen
  - Walk-in refrigerator/freezer
- Renovated restrooms
- Replaced HVAC system
- Replaced Carpet
- Replaced windows
- Stucco resurfacing
- Resurfaced library floor

## 9.9. IMPLEMENTATION

### 9.9.1 DISCUSSION

The City's Strategic Plan states that "Quality of life is a cornerstone of the City of Rio Rancho." At present 80%, and 74% of citizens have rated the community respectively as an "Excellent" or "Good" place to raise children and to retire. Both of these dimensions were above the benchmark for service to the community, and the Parks and Recreation element will focus on key goals and strategies from the Strategic Plan with additional goals, policies and actions to provide quality of life facilities and maintain or exceed these ratings as the city continues to grow.

The Parks and Recreation Element will be implemented primarily through two funding sources, with the first through private development of parks and recreation facilities within master-planned communities. Through the use of dedications in development agreements with a master developer, and impact fees, the City of Rio Rancho will be able to acquire land and construct the facilities necessary for city parks. The second funding source for parks and recreation is the use of development impact fees for non master planned communities.

More than half of the City's revenues are derived from gross receipts and property taxes. Long term facilities development, improvement and maintenance will require a more diversified funding base and improved mechanisms for land acquisition. The Department supports both the Strategic and Comprehensive Plans to Develop and implement a strategy for increasing the City's gross receipts tax, updating the impact fee plan, address antiquated platting, and develop and implement a Comprehensive Plan with clear principles and policies.

## 9.9.2 GOALS

**GOAL PR-1:** Establish new and maintain existing recreation and senior centers, parks, trails and open space that foster a quality community, support a strong economy, and meet the needs of current and future residents.

**GOAL PR-2:** Be responsive to the recreational needs of the community.

**GOAL PR-3:** Develop, operate, and maintain parkland, recreation facilities and senior centers in a sustainable manner.

**GOAL PR-4:** Modify existing parks and recreation facilities as needed to ensure safety, accessibility, and optimum use.

**GOAL PR-5:** Provide a variety of quality of life services to meet community needs, assuring that there are strong relationships with all sectors of the community and ample opportunities to foster human interaction.

## 9.9.3 POLICIES

**POLICY PR-1:** Develop pedestrian and bicycle linkages between neighborhoods and major natural areas, recreation facilities, and education, employment and retail centers.

**POLICY PR-2:** Establish a coordinated and connected system of open space throughout the city that preserves natural systems, protects wildlife habitat and corridors, and provides land for low impact recreation.

**POLICY PR-3:** Acquire land throughout the city to meet present and future parks, open space and recreation/senior center needs.

**POLICY PR-4:** Create or update facility plans for new, and enhance existing recreation and senior centers, parks, trails and open spaces that foster lifelong learning, recreation, interdisciplinary collaboration and a sense of community. These plans will recommend levels of service, identify and prioritize future locations, and estimate construction, renovation, operation and maintenance costs for each type of facility.

**POLICY PR-5:** Partner and collaborate with jurisdictions of government, schools, and other private and public entities to coordinate recreation/senior center and park planning, land acquisition, and development with other city projects and programs that implement the Comprehensive Plan.

**POLICY PR-6:** Develop partnerships with Rio Rancho Public Schools, public agencies, and private groups to coordinate and co-locate facilities to meet the open space and recreation needs of the city.

**POLICY PR-7:** Develop a culture of sustainability by designing and constructing facilities that maximize long term conservation and stewardship of the city's human, financial and natural resources.

## 9.9.4 ACTIONS

**ACTION PR-1:** Amend the city's zoning and subdivision ordinances to ensure there is adequate dedication of land to meet current and future parks and recreation needs.

**ACTION PR-2:** Develop, implement, and enforce comprehensive design and approval criteria for new parks, recreation facilities and senior centers to ensure quality, and that sustainable facilities are provided consistently throughout the city.

**ACTION PR-3:** Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**ACTION PR-4:** Update the Senior Services Master Plan.

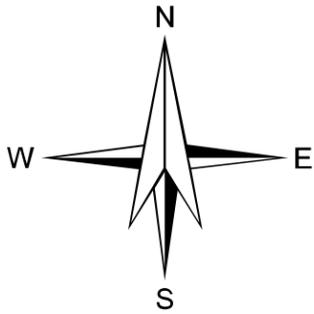
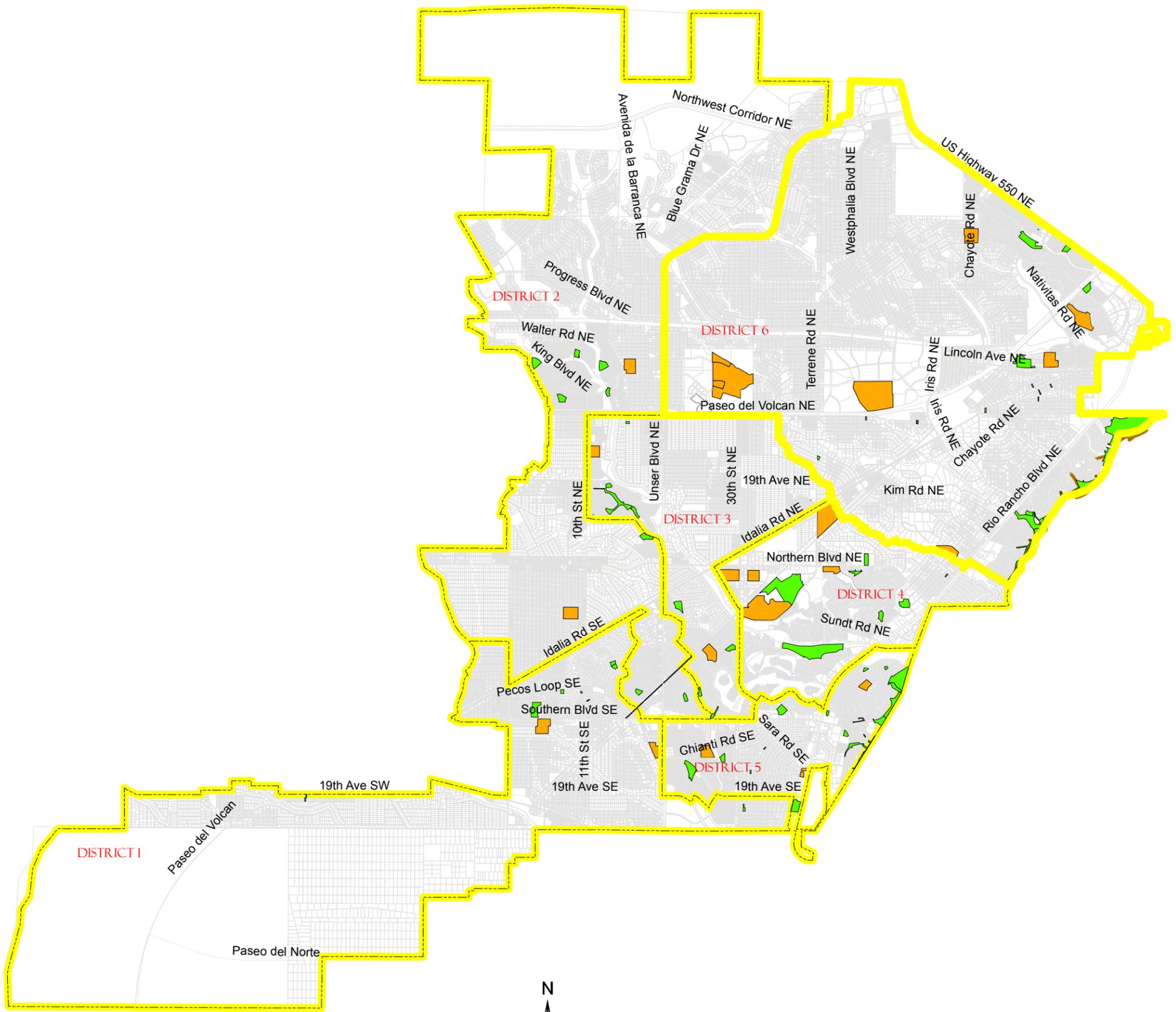
**ACTION PR-5:** Develop a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian transportation master plan.

**ACTION PR-6:** Develop an open space master plan.

**ACTION PR-7:** Complete a study that demonstrates the need and benefit of creating a quality of life tax or passing a two year bond cycle that will fund planning, design and construction of new, and operation, maintenance and renovation of existing, parks, trails, open space, and recreation and senior centers.

**ACTION PR-8:** Implement joint-use agreements to utilize school buildings and facilities to fill the service gap for recreation programs.

**ACTION PR-9:** Work with other jurisdictions, public agencies, and the private sector to acquire land for parks, trails and open space to meet the short and long-term needs of the community.

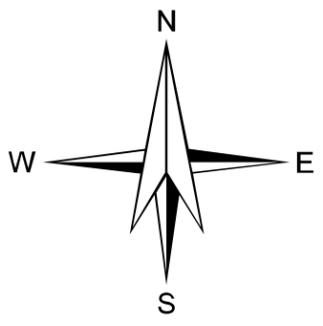
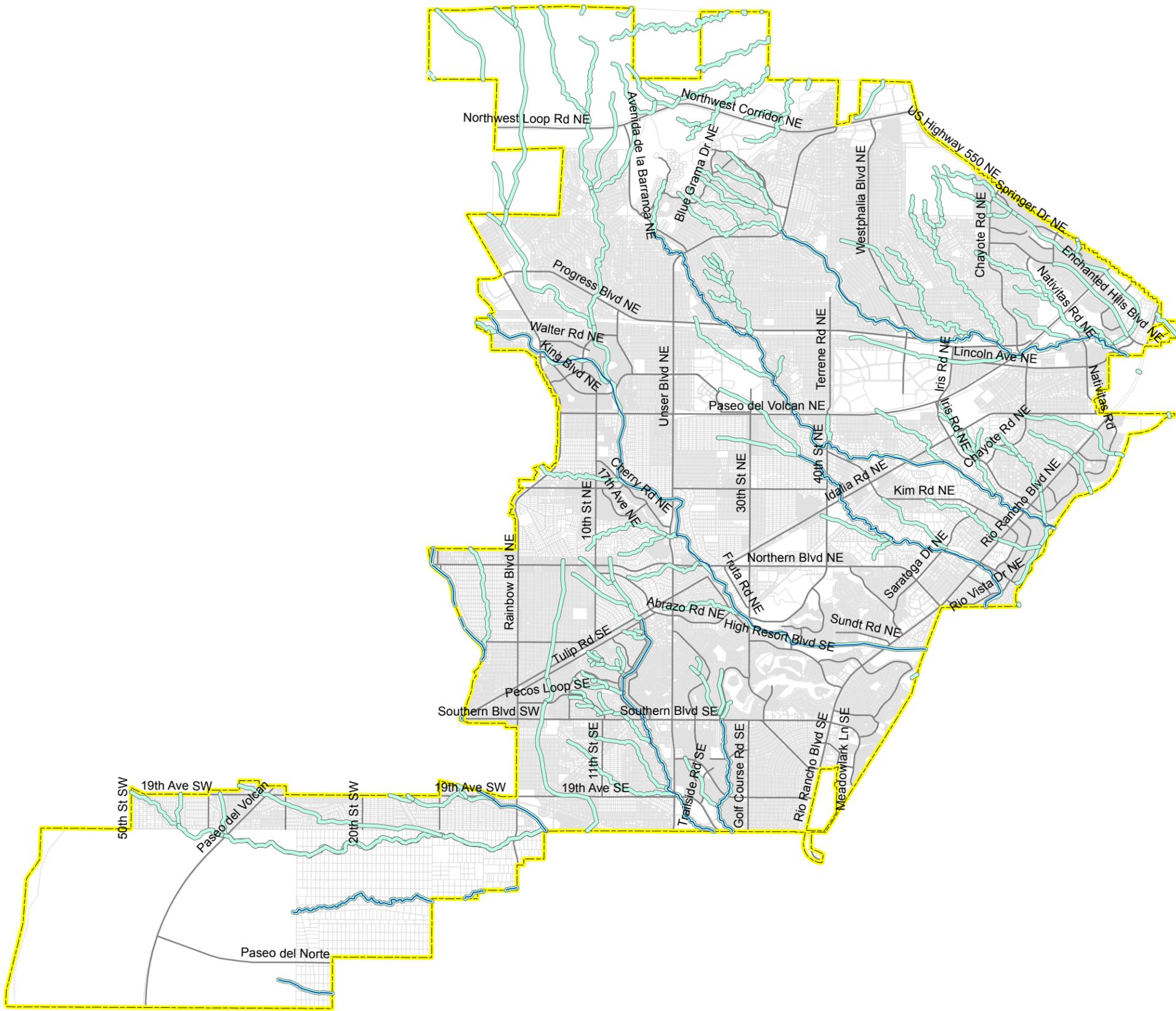


**LEGEND**

- Council/Park Districts
- Park Parcels
- School Parcels
- Bosque Trial

# MAP PR-1: CITY PARKS BY COUNCIL DISTRICT

Page left blank intentionally



**LEGEND**

- Rio Rancho Arroyos
- 150 Foot Arroyo Buffer
- Rio Rancho City Limit
- Rio Rancho Major Roads



# MAP PR-2: RIO RANCHO ARROYO OPEN SPACE CORRIDOR

Page left blank intentionally