

# 2016 Parks & Recreation Master Plan

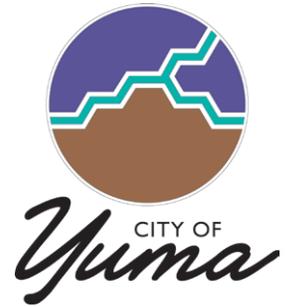
City of Yuma, AZ

DRAFT  
August 23, 2016



# Acknowledgments

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Kayaking on the Colorado River

## 1.1 Purpose & Mission

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to provide an overall framework for translating the community's needs and desires into a specific strategy for park and recreation development. The allocation of land and the development of facilities are crucial for the future of Yuma. Park, recreation, and specialized facilities create a system to provide recreational and cultural opportunities for all of our citizens. An effective Park System (as the collection of all facilities will subsequently be referred to in this document) contributes to the physical and aesthetic qualities of the City; therefore, a productive and well-planned park system will serve the needs of the citizens, enhance the well-being and pride of the community, create a sense of place, and offer a variety of opportunities for both active and passive forms of recreation and cultural activities.

### The Mission of Parks & Recreation

*Enriching lives through quality programs, experiences, and facilities that preserve the past, provide for the present, plan for the future and promote the spirit of fun.*

City of Yuma Parks & Recreation

### The Parks & Recreation Department

The Parks and Recreation Department provides opportunities for learning and life experiences that enhance the physical, social, cultural, and environmental well-being of the community. The department serves a diverse cross-section of citizens and visitors through the provision of programs, services, and facilities that encourage the development of positive, lasting value systems, and self-esteem.

The department consists of the following areas:

- Administration
- Arts & Culture
- Desert Hills Golf Courses
- Urban Forestry
- Parks Maintenance
- Recreation
- Yuma Civic Center

All of these areas reflect the Department's efforts to continually contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of Yuma.



Parks & Recreation Group Photo 2015

## 1.2 Document Overview

### Document Background

This plan is an update to the previous Parks & Recreation Facility Plan adopted in 2006. Many of the facilities outlined in the 2006 plan have been built and the recommendations of this plan intend to build on those successes.

This plan is one component in a broader system of long-term planning documents, the principal of which is the General Plan. Arizona state law requires that each city adopt a comprehensive, long-range General Plan to guide physical development within the community. The General Plan is intended to provide guidance for actions to be taken in the next ten to twenty years and must be updated at least every ten years. Yuma's most recent General Plan was adopted in 2012. It includes a summary of the Parks & Recreation Facility Plan, and will be updated to reflect the conclusions and recommendations laid out in this document.

In addition to the General Plan, this document references and informs other long-range planning documents, including: the Bicycle Facilities Master Plan, the Capital Improvement Program, and development fees documents. The Bicycle Facilities Master Plan was adopted in 2009 and outlines the vision for an extensive network of bike paths and facilities throughout the city. Because Yuma has this separate, dedicated plan that guides bike facilities, bikeways are generally not addressed in this plan although there is a clear link between biking, parks, and recreation. The Parks & Recreation Department feels strongly that the Park System would be well served by an interconnected network of bikeways, but the construction and maintenance of these bikeways often fall under the purview of the Public Works Department.

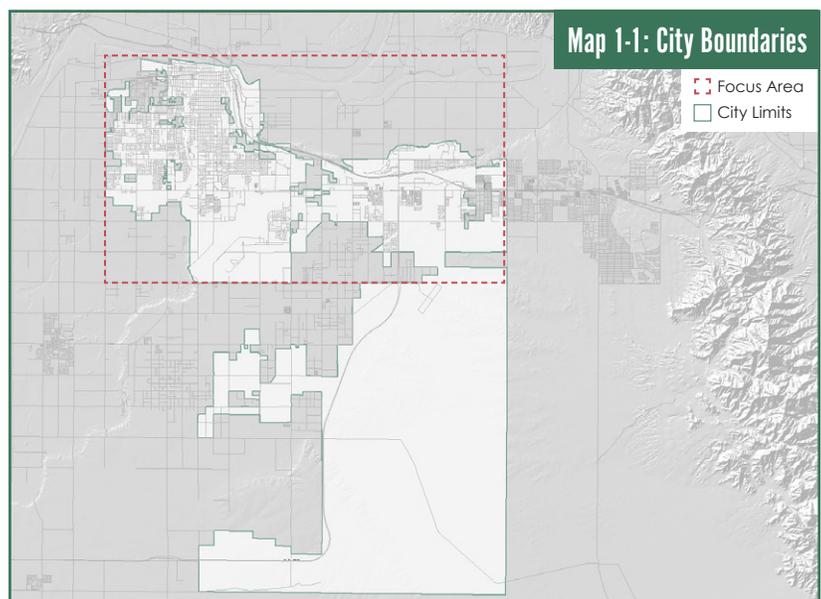
The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is the City's financial plan for the improvement and construction of municipal infrastructure. This Parks &

Recreation Master Plan directly informs decisions regarding which parks and recreation facilities are included in the CIP. The long-range vision presented in Section 4 of this document outlines specific projects that should be included in the CIP. The CIP is updated on an annual basis and reflects the most current priorities of the City Council, Administration, and residents.

The final layer of influence of this Plan relates to development fees. This plan serves to identify potential parks eligible to be funded by development fees, as shown in the City's Infrastructure Improvement Plan.

### Planning Area

The City limits encompasses 77,265 acres and a population of nearly 100,000. The focus area for this document, shown in red in Map 1-1 extends beyond the city limits of the City of Yuma, to include the most densely populated areas and those areas anticipated to see the most development in the coming years. When the southern portions of the City develop in the future, the plan should be updated to reflect the population and its needs.



It is important to note that Yuma's park system is significantly impacted by the population of the unincorporated area of Yuma County and the communities of Wellton, AZ, Somerton, AZ, Winterhaven, CA, and San Luis, AZ. Our neighboring communities do not offer the range of parks, recreation, and specialized facilities, nor the organized recreation and cultural activities that the City offers. Therefore, it is important, in some instances, to consider the additional impact on City facilities due to the expanded service population base.

### Document Organization

This Plan contains four main sections, as follows:

- **Existing Facilities**  
This section gives a brief history of parks and recreation in Yuma, includes an analysis of the current community demographics and population trends, and is followed by a summary of the 2015 Inventory of Existing Facilities, a separate document available for download on the City of Yuma website.
- **Level of Service Analysis**  
The second section identifies deficiencies and surpluses in the current facilities. It also analyzes the current level of service provided by the City of Yuma as compared to what other cities offer. Analysis takes a three-fold approach: public input, internal analysis of facility usage, and national benchmarking.
- **Long Range Vision**  
This section outlines the goals, objectives, and vision for the parks system in the years to come. This section includes the Long Range Vision Map that illustrates the envisioned park system, as well as detailed information on proposed new facilities. This Vision Map is also shown on the following page.
- **Implementation Plan**  
The last section focuses on how to implement the vision for the park system. Each proposed project is prioritized and a phasing plan is recommended. Additionally, an overview of current funding sources is outlined and alternative sources identified.



Youth Flag Football at Ray Kroc Complex

## Goals of the Long Range Vision

Thorough analysis of the existing park system, service levels, and community trends combine to create the long range vision for Yuma's Parks and Recreation Department. The vision is expressed two-fold: through the goals listed here and through the map on the following page.



### *Goal #1: Connectivity*

Improve connectivity between parks to achieve a walkable, interconnected park and recreation system to serve the entire community.



### *Goal #2: Accessibility*

Ensure that the parks and recreation system is available, accessible, and safe to best serve the needs of Yuma's diverse population.



### *Goal #3: Partnerships*

Encourage partnerships to improve and broaden the park and recreation system.



### *Goal #4: Environment & Conservation*

When possible, use the park and recreation system to achieve goals and objectives of the Conservation, Environmental, and Energy Element of the General Plan.



### *Goal #5: History, Art, & Culture*

Support the development and preservation of unique facilities which reflect and celebrate the cultural, artistic, and historic integrity of Yuma.



### *Goal #6: Health & Wellness*

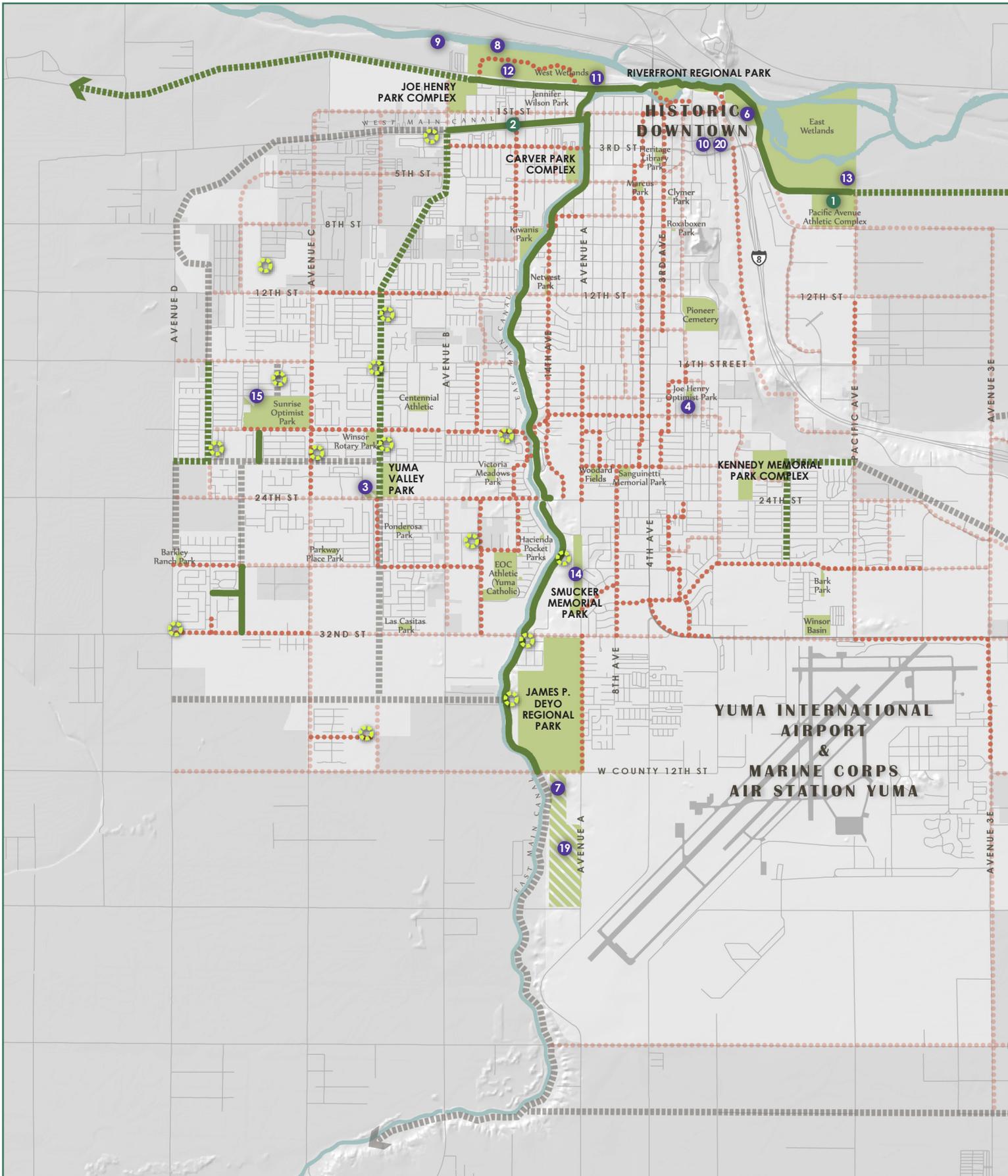
Encourage and improve healthy lifestyle choices and opportunities for Yuma residents and visitors through park facilities and programs.

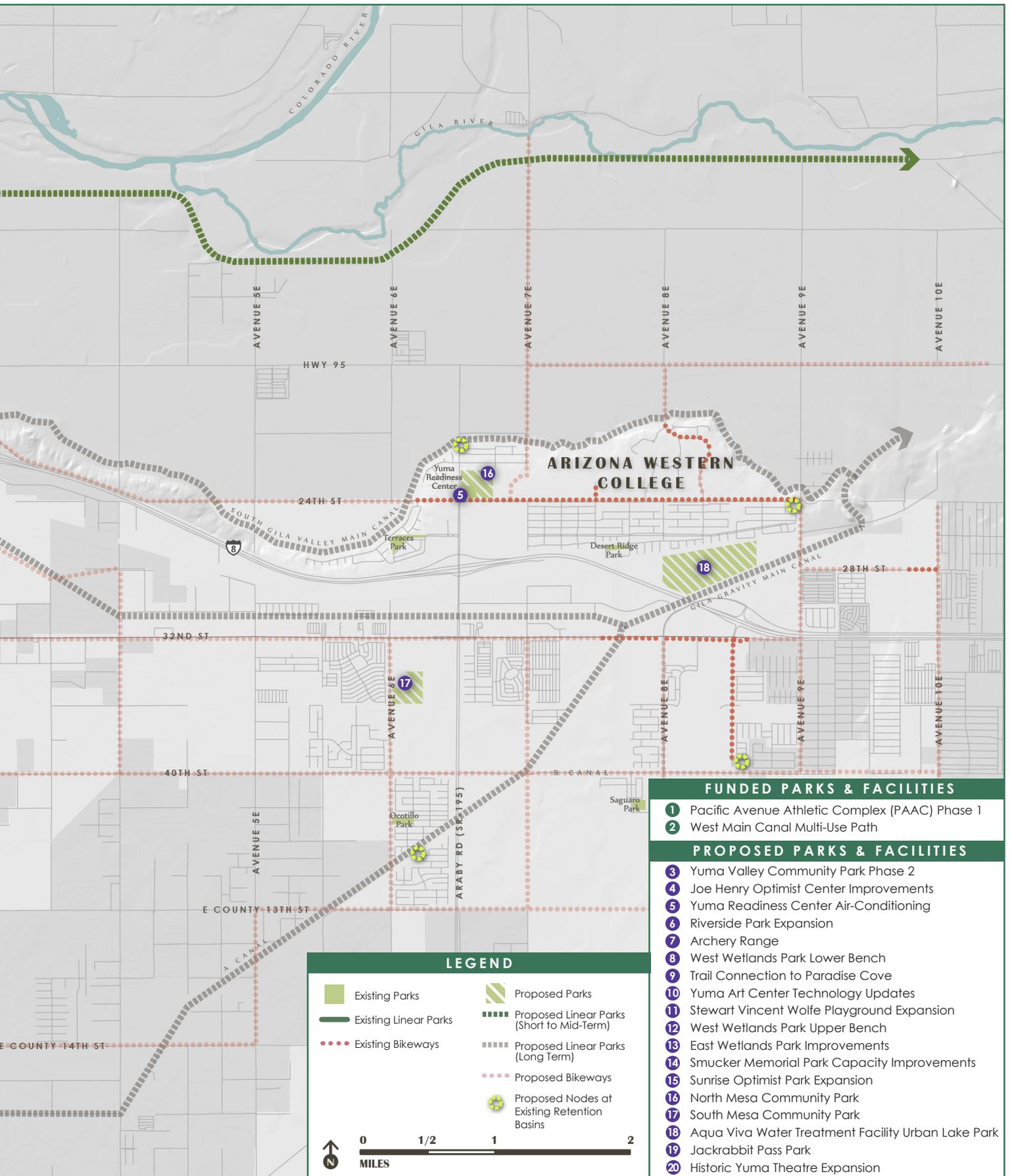


### *Goal #7: Thoughtful & Responsive Future Development*

Continue to expand and improve the parks and recreation system in response to changes in population and as needs of the community shift.

# 1.3 Long Range Vision









# EXISTING FACILITIES

- 2.1** Yuma's Heritage & Natural Resources page 10
- 2.2** Community Trends page 12
  - Overview
  - Population Growth & Characteristics
  - Housing Trends & Development Patterns
  - Recreation Culture & Trends
- 2.3** Inventory of Existing Facilities & Programs page 20
  - Overview
  - Parks Facilities
  - Recreation Facilities
  - Recreation Programs & Special Events
  - Alternative Service Providers
  - Undeveloped Land Owned by the City



## 2.1 Yuma's Heritage & Natural Resources

The City of Yuma was first established as "Arizona City" in 1871, and was renamed in 1873. It is the county seat of Yuma County and is currently the 11th largest city in the state of Arizona, the largest outside the metro areas of Phoenix and Tucson. Located in and around the valley of the Colorado River, Yuma enjoys fertile soil and a warm climate suited for agriculture, which makes up a large part of Yuma's economy. Yuma's sunny skies also attract many military operations and tourists in the winter months -- the other two major economic sectors in Yuma today.

The City of Yuma has a long and distinctive history of various people and groups occupying or moving through the area, from the Native American tribes who first inhabited the area, to Spanish explorers in the 1540s, to fortune hunters crossing the Colorado River during the gold rush of 1849. As the United States expanded westward, many trails traversed this key river transportation community since it was one of the few places where the Colorado River could be forded. Groups that traveled through the Yuma area included: the Army of the West; the Forty-Niners; Native Americans on pilgrimage to Picacho Peak and Spirit Mountain; de

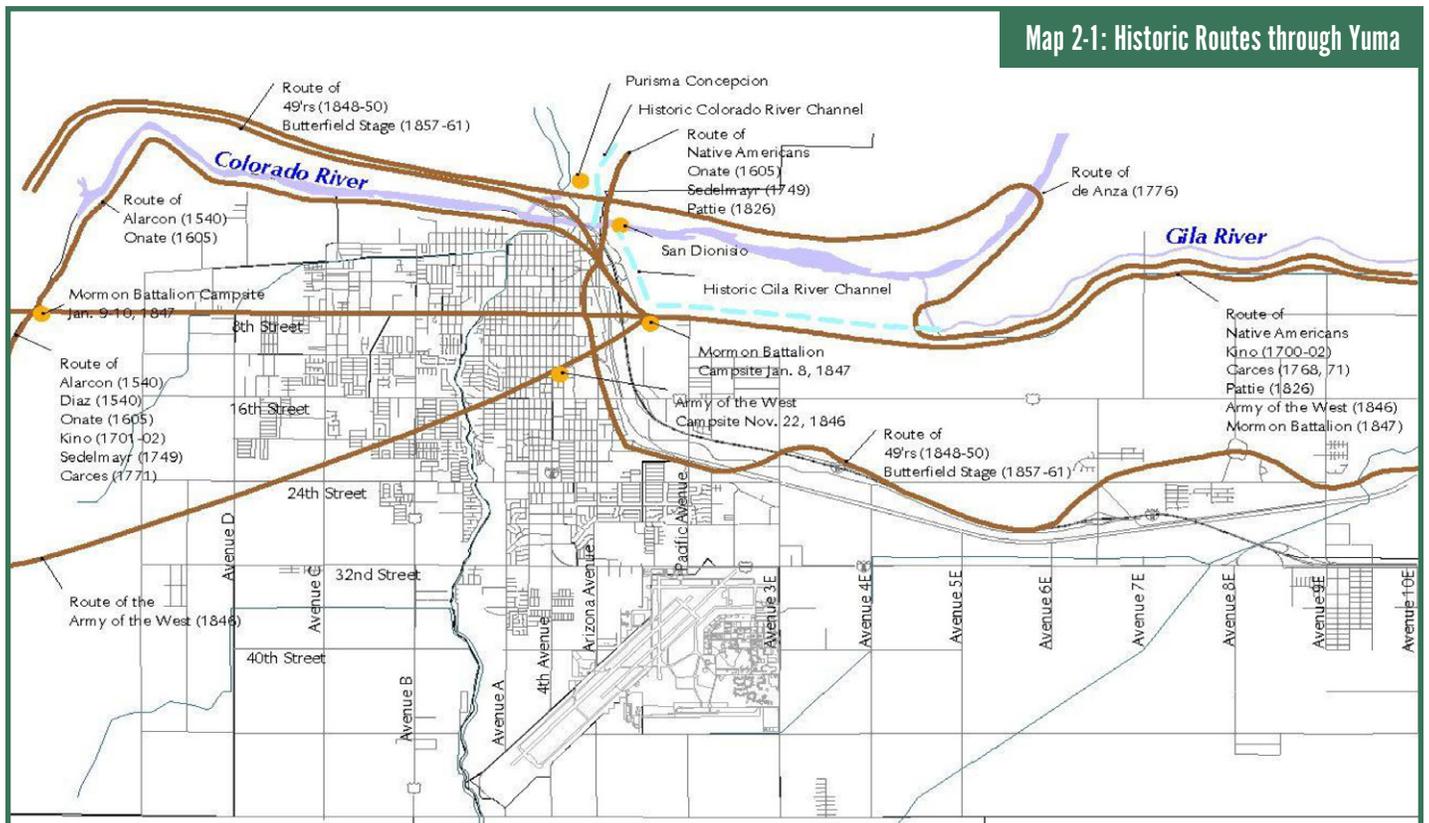
Anza; and Fathers Kino and Garces. Trails into the Yuma area generally followed the Gila and Colorado Rivers, as well as the upper edge of the mesa overlooking the Gila Valley. The general locations of these routes are shown in Map 2-1: Historic Routes through Yuma. Yuma residents can now visit a number of historic sites to learn about the rich heritage, including many sites maintained by the Parks & Recreation Department or the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area including: the Yuma Crossing State Historic Park, the Historic Yuma Theater, the Territorial Prison State Park, as well as the historic downtown district.

Proximity to the Colorado River, the lifeblood of the community, also provides a variety of outdoor activities for local residents; including boating, fishing, tubing, and swimming. The East Wetlands Park offers over five miles of trails for people to access the natural habitat that is home to over 330 species of birds and wildlife. The mountains surrounding the city also provide opportunities for residents to enjoy the flora and fauna of the area. Hiking, camping, birding, hunting, rockhounding or prospecting, and ATV trails abound in the hills and desert areas on the outskirts of town.



View of the Gila Mountains from the East Wetlands

### Map 2-1: Historic Routes through Yuma



Ocean to Ocean Bridge



Yuma Territorial Prison Tower



Yuma Territorial Prison



Steam Engine on display at Gateway Park

## 2.2 Community Trends

In the preparation of this plan, demographic data was reviewed and analyzed to determine impacts on parks and recreation needs and priorities, including:

- 1) Population Growth & Characteristics
- 2) Housing Trends & Development Patterns
- 3) Recreation Culture & Trends

The most recent data was used, including: 2010 U.S. Census data, 2009-2013 American Community Survey data, population projections from the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA), YumaStats Economic Reporters' Estimate of Winter Visitors, and ESRI Tapestry Data. The ADOA collects and reviews data directly from City sources, including building permits, to achieve the most accurate estimations of current population. YumaStats compiles data from numerous local sources to present the most accurate data available on the winter visitor market. Information regarding recreation culture and trends was gleaned from the Physical Activity Council's 2015 Participation Report and the National Recreation & Park Association's 2015 Field Report. Information regarding local trends came directly from Parks & Recreation staff.

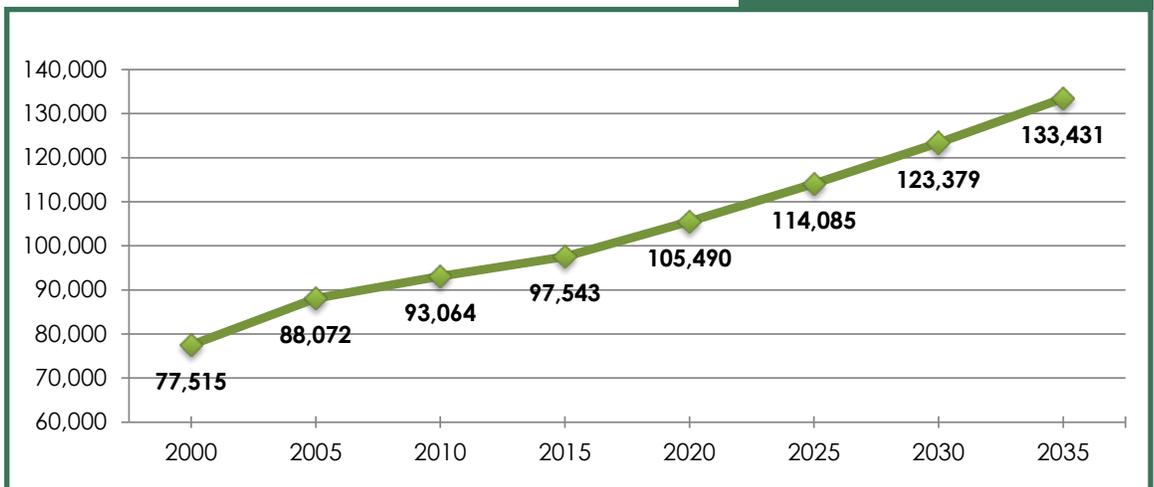
### Population Growth & Characteristics

#### Population Growth

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population of the City of Yuma was 93,064. From 2000 to 2010, the City experienced an average annual growth rate of 1.85%, with a total gain of 15,549 people. Most of the growth occurred in the first part of that decade (2.75% average annual growth), while the Recession led to a much slower growth rate in the later part of the decade (0.5% average annual growth). Data from the Arizona Department of Administration

(ADOA) Population Estimate Program estimated the 2015 population at 97,543 people. The 2025 population is projected to reach 114,085. See Table 2-1: Population Growth for more detailed numbers. These projections will help the Parks and Recreation Department plan for the needs of the community over the next 5, 10, and 15-year planning periods and to ensure an appropriate level of service is met as population numbers increase.

Table 2-1: Projected Population Growth



SOURCE: 2000 Census, 2010 Census, ADOA Population Projections 2015-2050

## Population Characteristics

### Race & Ethnicity

Yuma is a predominately Hispanic and white community, with small populations of African-Americans, Asians, and multi-race persons, as compared with the State of Arizona and the United States. When looking specifically at ethnicity, Yuma has experienced significant growth in the Hispanic and Latino population in the past years; reference Table 2-2 for more detailed numbers. This increase is seen most substantially in the percentages of school age children; nearly two-thirds of whom are now Hispanic.

**Table 2-2: Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity**

ETHNICITY	2000		2010	
	COUNTS	% OF TOTAL	COUNTS	% OF TOTAL
Hispanic or Latino Origin	36,796	46.05%	51,033	54.84%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	43,116	53.95%	42,031	45.16%

SOURCE: 2000 Census, 2010 Census, CensusViewer.com

### Age

According to 2010 Census data, the median age in Yuma was 31.3 years old. The age distribution of Yuma closely resembles that of the State of Arizona, with a slight skew to a younger than average population. The percentage of the population in the 12-24 years old range is about 2% higher than state and national averages, which can be accounted for partly by the presence of two large military bases in the area. The higher percentages of young adults is correlated with a lower than average percentage of middle-age adults in the 45-64 years old range. Young adults are often active in organized sports teams, thus creating a need for sports fields and courts.

Census data does not accurately represent Yuma's winter population, due to the large number of leisure visitors and farm workers who might not claim Yuma as their permanent residence, but who spend winter months here. Winter visitors are analyzed in more detail later in this section.

### Income

From 2009-2013, Yuma's median household income of \$44,220, as reported by the American Community Survey, was consistently lower than that of the State of Arizona and the U.S. in general. While the median household income is lower than average, the number of persons below the poverty level is lower than state averages, indicating an affordable cost of living in the Yuma area. As compared to Yuma County, City residents enjoy a higher median household income and fewer people live below the poverty line.

### Mode of Commute

Like most suburban communities, a large majority (76.6%) of working Yuma residents commute to work by car, driving alone. Over 13% reported carpooling, another 4% walk, and 3% work from home. Less than one percent bicycle or use mass transit. Yuma residents enjoy a relatively short average commute time of only 16 minutes.

The City continues to focus on the development of bikeways, trails, sidewalks, as well as a transit system, in part as an alternative mode of transportation to cars. The community benefits of such an alternate system include an increase in health and fitness, financial savings, reduced roadway maintenance costs, as well as a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The City has a separate Bicycle Facilities Master Plan (available for download on the City website) and is actively working toward creating an interconnected system of safe bikeways that will encourage



Tunes & Tacos Festival



Yuma River Daze Concert

commuters to bike to work. Citizens benefit from parks and recreation areas that are interconnected via trails and paths to create an environment friendly to pedestrians and cyclists alike.

**Household Types**

Nearly 75% of households in Yuma are classified as family households, with the remaining 25% classified as non-family households. Over 50% of the family households are comprised of married couples, 27% of which have children under the age of 18. In total, nearly 44% of the households have children under the age of 18, much higher than both the state average of 32% and the national average of 33%. Family events and programs continue to be an important service offered by the Parks & Recreation Department.

**Winter Visitors**

As mentioned previously, Yuma's mild climate and sunny weather attract many visitors throughout the winter months. The population peaks in January and February, with the highest population in February. County-wide, the population grows on average 46% during the winter; in 2013 this meant an increase from about 200,000 residents to nearly 295,000 residents.

Seasonal visitors are comprised of two groups: leisure visitors and seasonal workers.

Of the seasonal visitors, approximately 80% are made up of transient leisure visitors (including hotel guests) and approximately 20% are transient farm or non-farm workers and their families. In addition to hotels, there are several non-standard housing types (RV parks, manufactured housing parks, and farm worker housing) to accommodate these visitors. Most of the leisure visitors come from Washington, Oregon, and Canada. The typical age of leisure visitors is 65-70, but has shown an upward trend over the past ten years to the current average of 70.3 years old. In the past few years, the percentage of winter visitors to full-time residents has been shrinking.

The Parks & Recreation Department currently provides many events and programs for the winter visitor population. Tourism is expected to continue to be an important part of Yuma's economy and the needs of the visitors must be considered going forward. The seasonal senior population enjoys biking, golf, pickleball, and arts & culture events and programs.

## Housing Trends & Development Patterns

Analysis of housing and development trends helps determine where growth has and is expected to occur, thus identifying future parks and recreation needs and where new services might need to be located.

### Housing

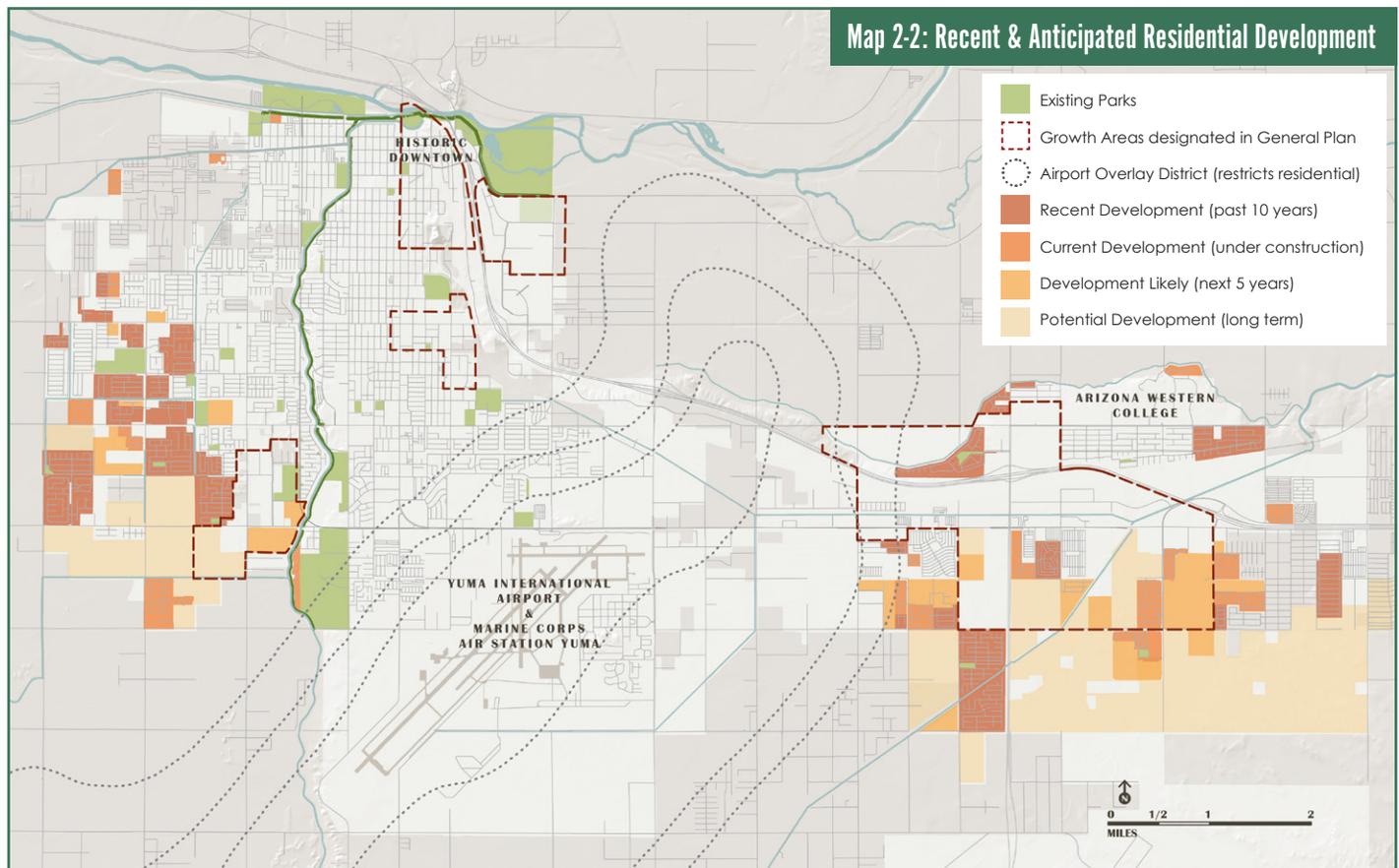
Yuma experienced a housing boom between 2000 and 2008, with an increase in the number of housing units that, according to 2013 data, accounted for over 20% of the total housing stock. Since the recession, this growth decreased significantly, but is now regaining strength, with residential building permits in 2015 up 25% over 2014. According to the 2013 American Community Survey, single-family homes comprise the greatest percentage of units within the community (54.5%) with mobile homes making up the next largest contingent (19%). The high percentage of mobile home units is due, in part, to the

high number of winter visitors. Of the total housing units, 80% were occupied and 20% unoccupied. Nearly two-thirds of the unoccupied units were deemed to be for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. The average household size is 2.86 persons, which is a useful number for estimating the density of new development, and therefore the future need for parks.

### Development Patterns

#### Residential Development

Residential development over recent years can be characterized as single-family suburban at the fringe of the developed areas of town -- mainly agricultural land converted into low density residential. Growth is limited to the north by the Colorado River and Quechan and Cocopah Tribe lands and limited in the center of the incorporated area by the presence of the airport and





Two Neighborhood Parks built by developers: Ocotillo Park (top) and Terraces Park (bottom)

corresponding Airport District Overlay Zone that restricts residential uses around the airport (indicated in Map 2-2 with gray dotted lines). Based on recent building permits, approved subdivision plats, subdivision applications, and annexation requests and applications, future development is anticipated to continue in a similar expanding pattern, primarily on greenfield land.

**Provision of Neighborhood Parks**

In the past, the City of Yuma has encouraged adequate neighborhood parks in newly developed areas by recommending that developers consolidate required stormwater retention areas into one in order to dually serve as parks. Under this system, the developer typically pays for the installation of the park, including hardscape and landscape elements, as well as a fee to the City equal to three years of estimated maintenance costs. Parks has acquired six neighborhood parks in this way over the last two decades.

Retention is required for streets within a new development as well as for smaller residential lots. The City of Yuma Code of Ordinances Title 19, Chapter 192 states that the “miniumum lot size for on-site retention shall be 8,000 square feet.” Therefore, any residential subdivision with lots smaller

than 8,000 square feet must provide off-site retention collection areas. In the past, retention areas were provided as small parcels throughout the subdivision that often did not serve as usable park space. The consolidation strategy not only provides parks, but also eases the maintenance burden since crews only have to maintain one site instead of several small ones. The Parks & Recreation Department's standards require that neighborhood parks be at least 5 acres in size to ensure ample acreage for level turf area for sports play. See more specific guidelines regarding neighborhood parks in the following section.

**Growth & Redevelopment Areas**

The 2012 General Plan identified several Growth Areas which are zoned to allow high density and more intense land uses, and are located near existing or planned public facilities and services. These Growth Areas are outlined with red dashed lines on Map 2-3. Most of these areas are well served by a variety of parks, with one exception: the Growth Area to the east, designated as Araby Road from 24th to 32nd Streets. This area currently has limited parks and recreation facilities, with the exception of four neighborhood parks (built by developers and subsequently maintained by the Parks & Recreation Department, following the pattern mentioned previously)

and one joint-use community center, the Yuma Readiness Center. This area is also expected to see some of the most intense residential development in the years to come, further exacerbating the issue. When considering future location of parks, athletic fields and trails, this scarcity should be considered.

The 2012 General Plan also identified multiple areas in the heart of town as Redevelopment Areas. Of the sixteen areas identified, specific revitalization plans have been developed that address six of these areas: Old Town Riverfront, Historic North End, 4th Avenue, 16th Street, Central Yuma, and South Arizona Avenue. Most recently, a revitalization plan for the Mesa Heights Neighborhood was adopted in 2015 and a redevelopment plan for the 4th Avenue and 16th Street Area was adopted in 2013. Since the late 1990s, the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area team has continued to have success in their efforts to revitalize the downtown and riverfront areas. As the City continues to implement strategies to encourage reinvestment in and redevelopment of these and other identified areas, the need for parks and recreation facilities can be expected to increase as well.

### **Nationwide Trends**

In recent years, there has been a nationwide trend toward walkable, mixed-use communities. Data show a distinct shift: young people and empty-nesters alike prefer to live in vibrant, walkable downtown environments over suburban ones. Businesses are also choosing to relocate to pedestrian-friendly locations, in part as a strategy to attract the best employees. Current development in Yuma is not yet following these patterns, but one should anticipate that these principles, popular nationwide, of downtown density and walkability will gather momentum here in the coming years.

In September 2015, the U.S. Surgeon General's office put out a call to action, the *Step It Up!* campaign, to encourage communities to become more pedestrian friendly -- as a matter of national health. His warning clearly stated that suburban, sprawling neighborhoods are hazardous to our health. The walkability of a neighborhood is directly correlated with the instances of chronic, preventable diseases. It is imperative to provide accessible, walkable parks to all residents, in order to encourage healthy habits.

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## **Recreation Culture & Trends**

### **Nationwide Trends**

Across the country, participation in individual sports has declined in recent years while interest in team and fitness sports has increased, according to the 2015 Physical Activity Council Report. Children born since 2000 (Gen Z) dominate team sports while Millennials and Gen X groups maintain interest in fitness sports. Across all age groups, people show a strong interest in swimming for fitness, camping, and hiking. Overall, inactivity continues to gradually increase, with approximately 28% of the population considered completely inactive. The sharpest increase in inactivity since the prior year was found in the 65+ age group.

According to the Washington Post and other news sources, the most popular trends in fitness include body-weight training, digital workout tracking devices and technology, and specialty fitness classes such as cycling, CrossFit, ZUMBA, etc. In today's digital world, citizens appreciate and benefit from access to online maps of parks, trails, and bikeways and mobile apps.

Nationwide, the responsibilities of parks and recreation departments continue to increase to include performing non-park management and maintenance functions -- namely, the management of tourism-generating facilities and events. The



Cyclists enjoying the pathways through Gateway Park

National Recreation and Park Association's 2015 Field Report identifies this as one of the greatest opportunities for forward-thinking parks and recreation leaders as a way to bring tremendous economic growth and revenues to an area.

### Local Trends

The warm, sunny climate and impressive landscape make outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, boating, and biking eternally popular here in Yuma. There has been an increased interest in archery, which is not surprising considering the Western culture of shooting and gun ownership.

Golf, once a top sport in the area, has experienced a decline in participation in recent years, mainly due to the expenses related to play and equipment. In response to this, the Parks & Recreation Department installed a foot golf course in one of the City-owned golf courses. Foot golf, a blend

of golf and soccer, appeals to families, is more affordable than traditional golf, and can be installed on existing courses without disrupting the layout or usability of the golf course.

Pickleball, a sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, has become extremely popular among seniors and is particularly popular in the winter months when the seasonal visitors are in town. In 2015, a pickleball tournament drew a crowd of over 3,000 people.

Basketball and soccer remain popular sports with school-age children, while softball is extremely popular among adults, with adult leagues playing year-round. The Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex, expected to be complete in 2017, will offer six softball fields capable of hosting large tournaments for both youth and adults and capable of hosting a variety of special events, drawing many out-of-town people to Yuma for these weekend events.

In recent years, Yuma has seen a steadily increasing interest in biking, both for fitness and as an alternative mode of transportation. The City has a network of on- and off-street bikeways to provide safe routes for cyclists, and efforts to improve and expand this system benefit citizens - adults and children alike.



Youth Archery Class

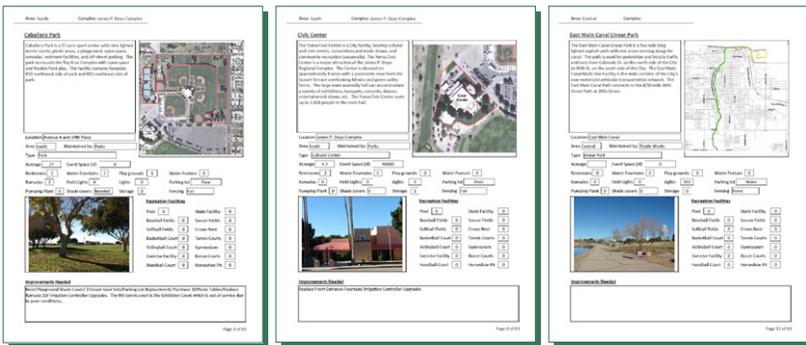
## KEY POINTS

### Community Trends

- Continue to preserve Yuma's natural resources and celebrate the area's rich history through the extension of the network of trails along the Colorado River, canals, and parks throughout town. Improve interpretive signage to help residents and visitors alike appreciate Yuma's heritage.
- Consider the needs and interests of the growing Hispanic population when determining new recreational programs, activities, and services.
- Continue to provide activities for seniors and seasonal visitors. As the statistically most inactive portion of the population, consider increasing programs and activities that encourage seniors to be physically active, in addition to the valuable arts and culture events offered now.
- As new residential development continues on the east side of town, the need for parks facilities will also increase.
- If national trends toward downtown infill development take hold in Yuma, one would expect to see a shift in development towards downtown and the need for more parks facilities to serve a higher density population downtown.
- As a matter of national health, there is a need to encourage safe walkable and bike-able park spaces that are interconnected.
- As trends in recreation evolve, there will be a need for new types of facilities, including but not limited to archery ranges, pickleball courts, alternatives to golf, and the potential for management of tourism-generating facilities and events.

## 2.3 Inventory of Existing Facilities & Programs

The City of Yuma provides a variety of parks, recreation, and cultural activities for its citizens. An inventory of these facilities allows the City to assess the existing condition of the Parks System and create a basis for improvements, allowing for future planning and expansion of that system. A comprehensive inventory was conducted from November 2014 to February 2015 and was compiled in the 2015 Parks & Recreation Facilities Inventory, available for download on the City website. The Inventory document includes a description of each existing park, recreation facility and specialized facility; images and location maps for each site; detailed information concerning park assets; and recommendations on needed improvements. Key metrics gleaned from the inventory are summarized in Table 2-3 and a map of existing facilities is shown in Map 2-3 on the following page. Numbering shown throughout this section correlates to Map 2-3 and asterisks indicate joint-use facilities.



Parks & Recreation Facilities Inventory

The City of Yuma classifies its facilities in three different categories:

### Park Facilities

Parks are not only recreation spaces they are community places. Parks are composed of trees, grass, open play areas and have clearly defined geographic locations and boundaries. The City parks are classified by the following categories: Regional Parks; Community Parks; Neighborhood Parks; Pocket Parks, Paths, Trails, and Linear Parks; and Open Space. The classifications differ by size, service area, and purpose. A service area is the geographic region intended to be served by the park facility, specifically, where the primary users of a specific park reside. Natural or man-made barriers, such as canals, can physically impede a person's convenient access to park facilities, which in turn may affect the service areas.

### Specialized Facilities

Specialized facilities include cultural facilities, historic facilities, dog parks, and joint-use facilities.

### Recreational Facilities

Recreational facilities are those facilities with a specific focus on sports play. These can be stand-alone facilities, or found within parks to enhance the natural features of the park and are the primary reason why many people will use it. The following recreational facilities are identified in this inventory: tennis courts, softball diamonds, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, basketball courts, volleyball facilities, play apparatus, exercise facilities, recreation centers, gymnasiums, in-line hockey arenas, skateboard facilities and community pools.

Table 2-3: Summary of Existing Facilities

<b>TOTAL ACREAGE</b>	<b>1,085 acres</b>
<b>TOTAL EVENT SPACE</b>	<b>115,332 SF</b>
<b>PARK FACILITIES</b>	
Regional Parks	2
Community Parks	5
Neighborhood Parks	16
Pocket Parks	6
Open Spaces	4
Linear Parks	2
<b>SPECIALIZED FACILITIES</b>	
Cultural Facilities	3
Historic Facilities	5
Dog Parks	1
<b>RECREATIONAL FACILITIES</b>	
Athletic Field Complexes	12
Recreation Centers	5
Aquatic Centers	1
Community Pools	3
Golf Courses	2

NOTE: Includes Joint-Use Facilities, does not include the PAAC, which is anticipated to open in 2017.



Enjoying a relaxing day at the West Wetlands pond

## Park Facilities

### Regional Parks

Regional Parks are characterized by natural or ornamental areas used for outdoor recreation such as picnicking, play areas, boating, fishing, swimming, walking, and golfing. All include public restrooms and drinking fountains. The service area for this type of park is defined by a one hour driving time. A park of this nature will generally service several communities. The overall population standard for a regional park is one for every 100,000 persons. The park size is from 25 to 200 acres. Regional parks may also include features that are contiguous to, or encompass natural resources. The City has two regional parks, which are comprised of many different types of facilities:

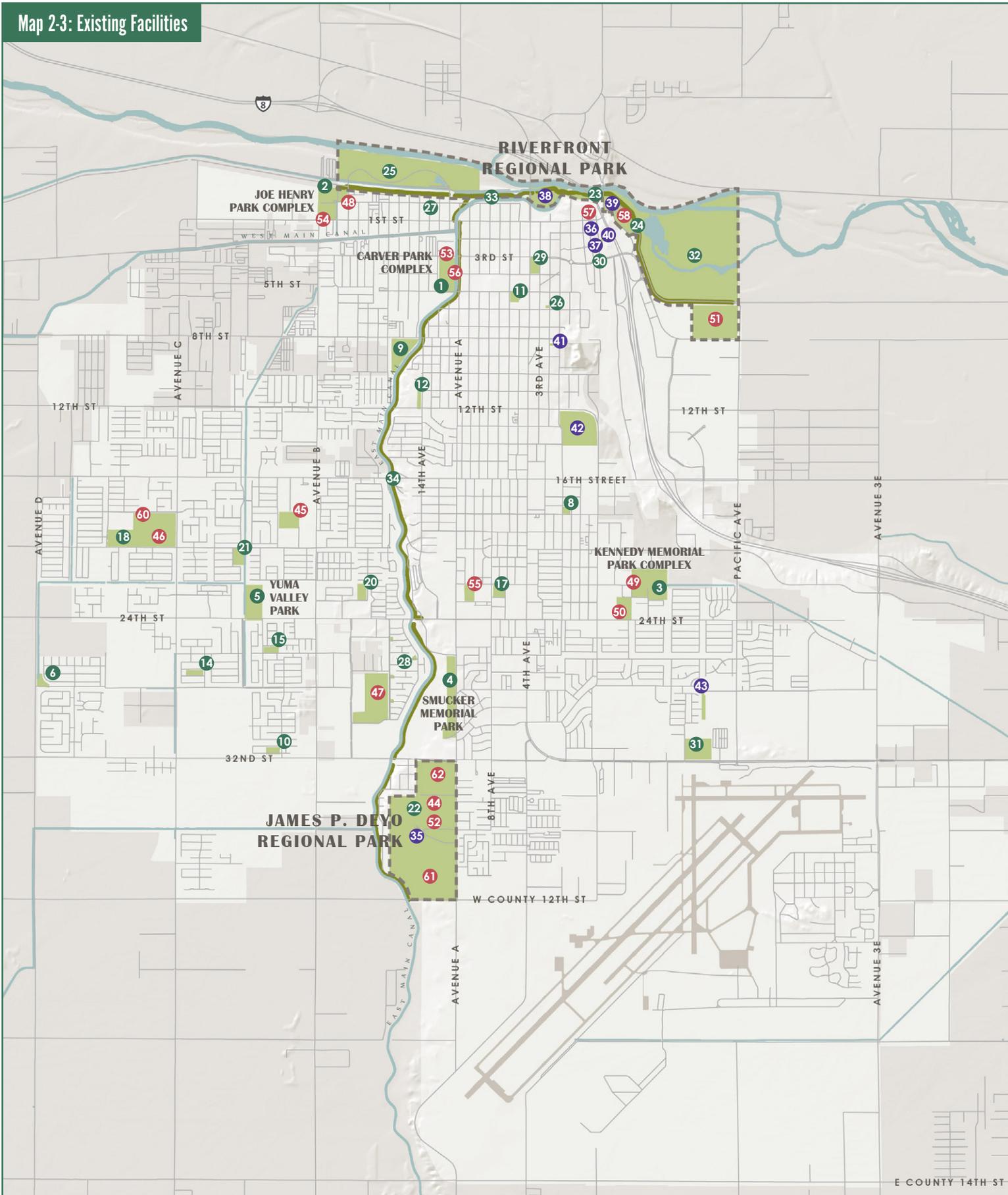
- James P. Deyo Regional Park Complex
  - 23 Friendship Park
  - 35 Civic Center
  - 44 Caballero Park
  - 52 Ray Kroc Baseball Complex
  - 61 Desert Hills Golf Course
  - 62 Desert Hills Par 3 Course
- Riverfront Regional Park
  - 23 Gateway Park
  - 24 Riverside Park
  - 25 West Wetlands Park
  - 32 Yuma East Wetlands
  - 33 Colorado River Levee Linear Park
  - 38 Yuma Crossing State Historic Park
  - 39 Yuma Territorial Prison State Park
  - 51 Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex
  - 58 Riverside Cottage

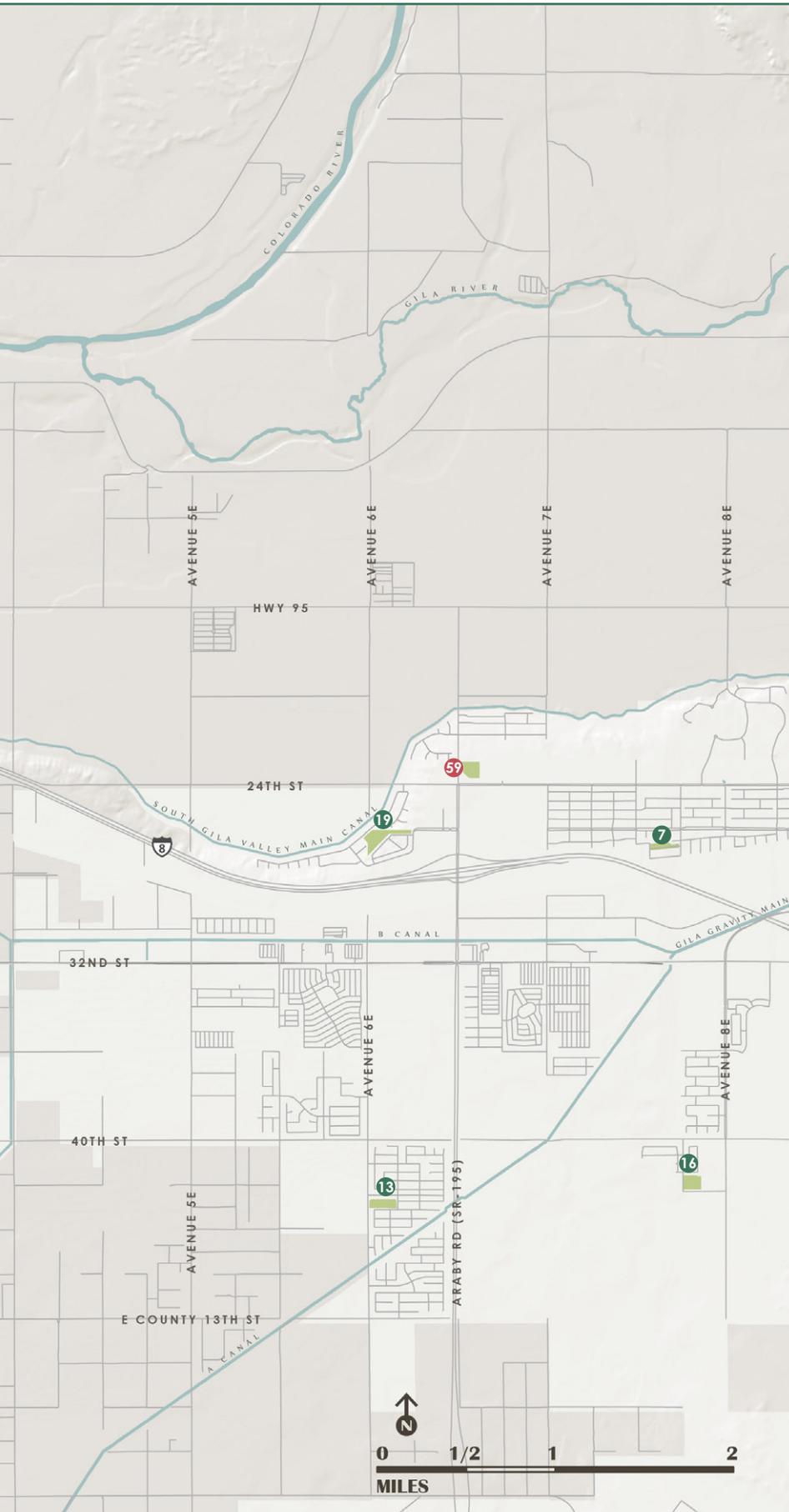
### Community Parks

Community parks (formerly referred to as area parks) are large parks that serve a population of 25,000 and typically encompass areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes or large swimming pools. These parks often include areas of natural quality or outdoor recreation for walking, viewing, sitting, picnic areas, and other passive activities. All include restrooms, drinking fountains, playground apparatus, ramadas, and adequate off-street parking. These parks serve residents within a one to two mile driving distance. The park size is 15 to 25 acres, easily accessible to residents within the service area, and should be located along arterial streets, due to the high vehicle traffic volumes associated with these facilities. Community parks may also include features such as man-made lakes and areas suited for intense park development. The City's community parks are:

- 1 Carver Park Complex
  - 53 Sanguinetti Athletic
  - 56 \*Yuma HS Carver Track
- 2 Joe Henry Park Complex
  - 48 Joe Henry Athletic
  - 54 \*Shaw Fields
- 3 Kennedy Memorial Park Complex
  - 49 Keegan Athletic
  - 50 \*Kennedy Athletic
- 4 Smucker Memorial Park
- 5 Yuma Valley Park

**Map 2-3: Existing Facilities**





**PARK FACILITIES**

	22 35 44 52 61 62	James P. Deyo Regional Park
	23 24 25 32 33 38 39 51 58	Riverfront Regional Park
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>	1 53 56	Carver Park Complex
	2 48 54	Joe Henry Memorial Park Complex
	3 49 50	Kennedy Memorial Park Complex
	4	Smucker Memorial Park
	5	Yuma Valley Park
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>	6	Barkley Ranch Park
	7	Desert Ridge Park
	8	Joe Henry Optimist Park
	9	Kiwanis Park
	10	Las Casitas Park
	11	Marcus Park
	12	Netwest Park
	13	Ocotillo Park
	14	Parkway Place Park
	15	Ponderosa Park
	16	Saguaro Park
	17	Sanguinetti Memorial Park
	18	Sunrise Optimist Park
	19	Terraces Park
	20	Victoria Meadows Park
	21	Winsor Rotary Park
<b>SPECIALIZED PARKS</b>	22	Friendship Park
	23	Gateway Park
	24	Riverside Park
	25	West Wetlands Park
<b>POCKET PARKS</b>	26	Clymer Park
	27	Jennifer Wilson Park
	28	Hacienda Parks 1-4
<b>OPEN SPACE</b>	29	Heritage Library Park
	30	Mall Maintenance District
	31	Winsor Basin
	32	Yuma East Wetlands
<b>LINEAR PARKS</b>	33	Colorado River Levee Linear Park
	34	East Main Canal Linear Park

**SPECIALIZED FACILITIES**

- 35 Yuma Civic Center
- 36 Yuma Art Center
- 37 Historic Yuma Theatre
- 38 Yuma Crossing State Historic Park
- 39 Yuma Territorial Prison State Park
- 40 Yuma Armed Forces Park
- 41 Roxaboxen Park
- 42 Pioneer Cemetery
- 43 Bark Park

**RECREATION FACILITIES**

- 44 Caballero Park
- 45 Centennial Middle School Athletic\*
- 46 Cibola HS Athletic Fields\*
- 47 Elena Orendain Curtis Athletic\*
- 48 Joe Henry Athletic
- 49 Keegan Athletic
- 50 Kennedy Athletic\*
- 51 Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex  
\*\*ANTICIPATED TO OPEN IN 2017\*\*
- 52 Ray Kroc Complex
- 53 Sanguinetti Athletic
- 54 Shaw Fields\*
- 55 Woodard Jr. High Fields\*
- 56 Yuma HS Carver Track\*
- 57 North End Community Center
- 58 Riverside Cottage
- 59 Yuma Readiness Center\*
- 60 Yuma Valley Aquatic Center
- 61 Desert Hills Golf Course
- 62 Desert Hills Par 3

NOTE: Facilities marked with an \* indicates joint-use facilities

## Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide an area for informal recreation activities and open space for field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus, walking, jogging, and picnics. The service area for this type of park is within a ½-mile walking distance and serves a population up to 6,000 people in a neighborhood. Neighborhood parks range from 5 to 15 acres, are required to have a defined shape (ratio 1.7:1 length to width), but are not required to have restrooms. The desirable neighborhood park consists of a minimum of 3 acres of level open space for field games and active recreational play of which at least 60% is turf. To achieve the 3 acre level surface, neighborhood parks should be at least 5 acres in total size. The desirable characteristics include: (1) suitability for active or passive recreational activities; (2) accessibility to neighborhood populations; and (3) geographic protection within the neighborhood, specifically not adjacent to arterial streets yet within safe walking and bicycle distance.

Natural or man-made barriers can physically alter a person's convenient access to neighborhood parks. Examples of such barriers include bluffs, canals, and major arterial streets. Such barriers may require that more parks be provided in an area than numerical standards dictate. For example, two neighboring parks may be needed in the same section area of land (square mile) serving 6,000 or more residents because a major canal or bluff splits the section of land in half, thus creating two distinct areas, each needing a neighborhood park. A neighborhood park may also be developed in conjunction with a school facility lessening the need to establish separate facilities within a given neighborhood.

Neighborhood parks are built in conjunction with or by new residential developments. The neighborhood park provides localized open space and recreation options to the residents of neighboring subdivisions. New development must provide retention basins for storm water control. These storm water control basins offer residential developers opportunities for development of neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks can be jointly used for retention basins where sufficient water retention/detention, open space and amenities are provided. Landscaping is required in storm water control basins for erosion and dust control. Retention basins with a minimum of 3 acres of level open grass space and located within an identified deficient geographical area can offer significant recreational and open space opportunities within neighborhoods.

- 6 Barkley Ranch Park\*
- 7 Desert Ridge Park\*
- 8 Joe Henry Optimist Park
- 9 Kiwanis Park\*
- 10 Las Casitas Park\*
- 11 Marcus Park
- 12 Netwest Park
- 13 Ocotillo Park\*
- 14 Parkway Place Park\*
- 15 Ponderosa Park\*
- 16 Saguaro Park\*
- 17 Sanguinetti Memorial Park
- 18 Sunrise Optimist Park
- 19 Terraces Park\*
- 20 Victoria Meadows Park\*
- 21 Winsor Rotary Park\*

\*Joint-use retention basin

## Specialized Parks

Parks located within larger regional parks provide specialized services and amenities that set them apart from neighborhood parks, including:

- 22 Friendship Park
- 23 Gateway Park
- 24 Riverside Park
- 25 West Wetlands Park



Gateway Park

## Pocket Parks

Pocket parks are special park facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population and are typically geared towards specific groups such as tots or senior citizens. The service area for this type of park is less than ¼ mile. The size of the park is smaller than 3 acres, and generally less than 1 acre in size. Pocket parks are particularly effective in high density areas that lack open green space such as near apartment complexes. The City of Yuma has only a small number of pocket parks due to the limited nature for their recreational use. The following pocket parks currently exist in the City:

- 26 Clymer Park
- 27 Jennifer Wilson Park
- 28 Hacienda Parks 1-4

## Open Space

Open space areas are green spaces within the community that offer little to no specific recreation areas or play equipment. They are intended to be passive areas or nature preservation areas.

- 29 Heritage Library Park
- 30 Mall Maintenance District
- 31 Winsor Basin
- 32 Yuma East Wetlands

## Linear Parks & Trails

A comprehensive path, trail, and linear park system provides an extensive network of natural open areas, canals, and urban paths to connect parks and other recreation facilities. This system promotes alternative sources of transportation. Paths, nature trails, and urban trails are designated routes that provide an opportunity for walking and cycling, and need not be intensely developed to function effectively as a corridor connecting other park and recreation facilities. Canal banks, rivers, creeks, or hilly areas can be used and developed with paths, trails, or greenway corridors to connect areas of the City and provide places of special interest, such as viewsheds.



Yuma East Wetlands Trail

Linear parks are developed as continuous greenway corridors, with trees, viewing areas, rest nodes, lighting, and multi-use paths. Linear parks may contain multi-use paths, bike paths, pedestrian walkways, equestrian trails, picnic areas, gardens, and children's play areas, or they may be left in a natural state. To function properly, the linear park should have a minimum of 50 feet of land width available along the respective corridor and should be larger when in proximity to recreational facilities. There are a variety of areas and corridors in the Yuma area that are and can be incorporated into a series of linear parks, such as the river levee and those irrigation canals with suitable right-of-way. Other park facilities should be located adjacent to linear parks to augment the linear park system and to ensure connectivity within the parks and recreation system. The City has the following linear parks and paths:

- 33 Colorado River Levee Linear Park (3.5 miles)
- 34 East Main Canal Linear Park (5 miles)

Extensive paths are also available at the Yuma East Wetlands, totaling over 3 miles.

Additionally, the City has an extensive network of well-identified bikeways (on-street and off-street) that provide a connection between residential, commercial, and public spaces for cyclists. Refer to the Bicycle Facilities Master Plan (available for download on the City website) for more information.



The Historic Yuma Theatre & Yuma Art Center

## Specialized Facilities

### Cultural Facilities

Cultural facilities have unique characteristics or qualities that serve the community, region, and/or nation. These facilities may support: arts and cultural events, performing arts, assemblages or large social gatherings, museums, education or advanced training classes, or other unique opportunities for recreation. Cultural facilities are classified as Cultural Centers, Community Performance Theaters, Regional Performing Arts Facilities, and Visual Arts Facilities. Facilities for such activities may be developed in cooperative or joint agreements with public agencies. The following are the

cultural facilities presently available in Yuma and managed by the City Parks & Recreation Department:

- 35 Yuma Civic Center
- 36 Yuma Art Center
- 37 Historic Yuma Theatre

The City of Yuma also owns the building at 270 South Main Street, near the Art Center. This facility was purchased in anticipation of future expansion of the Art Center, but until such time it is being rented to a private entity. The City of Yuma maintains an intergovernmental agreement with Yuma Union High School District 70 (for Gila Ridge HS, Cibola HS, Yuma HS, and Kofa HS) that includes the use of auditorium and stage facilities. The City does not manage these sites and therefore the facilities are not included in the Inventory. These facilities are not regularly, and rarely, programmed for Parks & Recreation events. Additionally, the Arizona Western College (AWC) campus has two performance facilities, the Little Theater and the outdoor Band Shell. No joint-use agreement is in effect for these sites.



The Yuma Art Center

## Historic Facilities

Historic facilities can include museums, regionally significant portrayals of historical events or circumstances, historic trails, education or advanced training classes, or other unique opportunities for recreation. Yuma's parks system includes several of Yuma's historically significant sites:

- 38 Yuma Crossing State Historic Park
- 39 \*Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park (maintained by Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area)
- 40 Yuma Armed Forces Park & Historic Southern Pacific Depot Site
- 41 Roxaboxen Park
- 42 Pioneer Cemetery

## Dog Parks

A growing trend is for communities to provide off-leash open green space areas to serve canines and their owners. Dog parks are fenced areas at least 3 acres in size. These parks typically have an area for large dogs separate from an area for small dogs with sanitary stations to provide users the materials needed to clean up after their dogs. They sometimes offer drinking fountains for dogs as well as humans. Considerable safety regulations must be enforced at dog parks.

- 43 Bark Park

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## Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities are those that contain hardscape features, fields, and courts. Whether they are stand-alone facilities or found within parks to enhance the natural features and are the primary reason why many people visit the park. Recreation facilities include aquatics, athletic fields, athletic courts, and other facilities. Table 2-4: Summary of Recreation Facilities shows how many of each type of recreation facility the City of Yuma currently provides.

### Athletic Fields

- 44 Caballero Park
- 45 \*Centennial Middle School Athletic
- 46 \*Cibola HS Athletic Fields
- 47 \*Elena Orendain Curtis Athletic Complex at Yuma Catholic High School
- 48 Joe Henry Athletic
- 49 Keegan Athletic
- 50 \*Kennedy Athletic
- 51 Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex (anticipated to open in 2017)
- 52 Ray Kroc Complex
- 53 Sanguinetti Athletic
- 54 \*Shaw Fields
- 55 \*Woodard Jr. High Fields
- 56 \*Yuma HS Carver Track
- 5 Yuma Valley Park Soccer Fields

### Recreation Centers

- 57 North End Community Center
- 58 Riverside Cottage
- 59 \*Yuma Readiness Center

Other recreation centers are located within parks and therefore not classified as separate facilities in the Inventory, including:

- Clymer Recreation Center (located at Clymer Park)
- John Morris Cottage (located at Carver Park Complex)

### Aquatic Centers

- 60 Yuma Valley Aquatic Center

### Golf Courses

- 61 Desert Hills Golf Course
- 62 Desert Hills Par 3

NOTE: Facilities marked with an \* indicates it is a joint-use facility which the Parks and Recreation Department does not directly own. Parks and Recreation has joint-use agreements with many of the local schools and other groups. The availability of these facilities is somewhat limited by school operations and as the school districts' schedules change, current agreements have the potential to be affected.

## Characteristics of Recreation Facilities

**Tennis Courts** are generally developed in groups of four or more. The standard size is 120 feet by 60 feet.

**Softball Diamonds** require a relatively flat turfed area with a skinned infield, backstop, and protected team benches, a minimum foul line distance of 230 feet, 300 feet for adult play, spectator space for 75 to 100 people, and convenient parking for participants and spectators. Softball facilities should be developed in 4-field complexes and lighted for night play.

**Baseball Diamonds** have similar requirements as softball diamonds but require a 350-foot minimum foul line distance and spectator area for 100 to 200 people. Fields should be lighted for night play.

**Adult/Regulation Soccer Fields** are level and turfed fields that are 360 feet long by 225 feet wide. Game fields should be lighted for night play.

**Youth/Practice Soccer Fields** should be relatively level turfed areas from 150 to 240 feet long and 90 to 120 feet wide depending on the type of play and age of participants. Game fields should be lighted for night play.

CLASSIFICATION	FACILITY TYPE	NUMBER
AQUATICS	Aquatic Center	1
	Community Pool	3
	Water Feature	2
ATHLETIC FIELDS	Baseball Diamond	6 (4 lit)
	Softball Field	15 (13 lit)
	Soccer Field	23 (13 lit)
ATHLETIC COURTS	Basketball Court	8 (3 lit)
	Tennis Court	10 (8 lit)
	Volleyball Court	8
	Bocce Court	2
	Pickleball Court	1
	Handball Court	2 (2 lit)
	Horseshoe Pit	11
OTHER	Gymnasium	2
	Exercise Facility	4
	Skate Facility	1
	Playgrounds	29
	Ramadas	42
	Recreation Centers	5
Golf Courses	2	

NOTE: Includes joint-use facilities; does not include the PAAC, which is anticipated to open in 2017.

**Basketball Courts** occupy a minimum of 85 feet by 50 feet. Additional amenities may include locker rooms, bleachers, and a scorekeeper area.

**Volleyball Courts** can be hard surfaces or sand, which is preferred to reduce injuries. The minimum area defined for a volleyball



Ray Kroc Complex

court is 50 feet by 60 feet, although smaller areas can be used if appropriately located to reduce conflicts with other activity areas. These courts should be lighted for night play.

**Play Apparatus Areas** include a variety of playground equipment, open play areas, and sitting areas, generally designed for preschool and elementary school children and their parents. The quantity and types of equipment used in these areas depend upon the type of park area being considered. Regional parks would have at least one such area. Community parks would have one or more areas depending on the population served. Each neighborhood park should have one play apparatus area. Long-term, the goal is to have all play areas shaded.

**Exercise Facilities** typically have a walking path or track with exercise stations for stretching and muscle building.

There are three types of recreation centers, each defined by their size and the population they serve:

**Recreation Centers** are small centers that serve a population of 25,000 people and are generally one room in size, limited in the activities they can host, have restroom facilities, and can accommodate 30-50 participants. In Yuma, the John Morris Cottage, Clymer Recreation Center, and the Riverside Outdoor Education Center all qualify as this type of facility.

**Community Recreation Centers** provide a variety of types and sizes of activities concurrently, accommodating 100 to 200 people for social assembly and usually include two additional meeting rooms for 20 to 30 people each. The center should also contain restrooms, a kitchen, storage areas, and an office. The building size can vary from 4,000 to 8,000 square feet. In Yuma, the Yuma Readiness Center and the North End Community Center qualify as Community Recreation Centers.

**Regional Recreation Centers** host a wide variety of recreational activities for all ages and draw participants from throughout the region. Typically, these venues include a gymnasium, exercise and dance rooms,



classroom areas, a large multipurpose room, walking track, hourly childcare, and snack bar area. The Yuma community has no dedicated facilities of this type, although the Civic Center partially fills this role during the summer months when a variety of youth sports clinics are hosted there.

**Gymnasiums** supply indoor sports facilities for basketball, volleyball, and badminton and include restrooms and locker rooms. Adequate floor space should be available to allow for three badminton courts, 2 volleyball courts, 2 basketball cross courts, or a large tournament basketball court with spectator space for 150 people. The City currently does not have a gymnasium that meets this description in its inventory, but it does have one smaller gym at the Joe Henry Optimist Park and one at Yuma Readiness Center neither of which currently have air conditioning, although plans to install air conditioning are underway for the Joe Henry Optimist Gymnasium.

**Community Pools** are 25 yards in length and the width varies due to the number of lanes and amenities. A separate diving area is required. Yuma has four community pools: Carver Pool, Kennedy Pool, Marcus Pool, and the Yuma Valley Aquatic Center.

**Skate Facilities** could include a roller blade rink, an area for in-line hockey, or a skateboard park. They can be part of multi-purpose facilities and are best located within an area park. Yuma has one skate facility, the skateboard park at Kennedy Memorial Park.

Table 2-5 on the following page identifies where each type of recreation facility is found in the network of existing parks. The definitions provided here are referenced in Section 3: Level of Service Analysis, in which population averages and standards for each type of facility are provided.

	PARK FACILITIES																											
	James P. Deyo Regional Park	Riverfront Regional Park	Carver Park Complex	Joe Henry Memorial Park Complex	Kennedy Memorial Park Complex	Smucker Memorial Park	Yuma Valley Park	Barkley Ranch Park	Clymer Park	Colorado River Levee Linear Park	Desert Ridge Park	East Main Canal Linear Park	Friendship Park	Gateway Park	Hacienda Parks	Heritage Library Park	Jennifer Wilson Park	Joe Henry Optimist Park	Kiwanis Park	Las Casitas Park	Mall Maintenance District	Marcus Park	Netwest Park	Ocotillo Park	Parkway Place Park	Ponderosa Park	Riverside Park	Saguaro Park
Alcohol with Permit	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X				X									X	
Barbecues	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X			X					X	X			X	X	
Baseball Diamond	X			X																								
Basketball Court			X		X												X							X				
Bocce Ball Court			X																									
Community Pool			X		X																	X						
Concessions/Restaurant	X			X	X																							
Disc Golf		X																										
Exercise Facility	X					X							X															
Fishing Pond		X																										
Golf Course	X																											
Gymnasium																		X										
Handball Court			X																									
Horseshoe Pit				X	X																							
Parking	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X			X					X	X					X	
Pickleball Court			X																									
Playground (ages 2-5)		X			X				X		X						X	X				X						
Playground (ages 5-12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X						X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Ramada	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X			X					X	X				X	
Recreation Center		X	X						X																			
Remote Mini Track																												
Restroom	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X				X				X						
Skate Facility					X																							
Soccer Field (Youth)	X		X		X		X											X						X				
Soccer Field (Adult)	X						X																					
Softball Diamond		X		X																								
Tennis Court	X		X										X															
Volleyball Court				X	X																							
Walking/Running Path		X	X		X	X				X		X	X	X					X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Water Feature	X		X										X															X



## Recreation Programs & Special Events

### Recreation Programs

The Recreation Division of the Parks & Recreation Department consists of eight areas that each focus on programming tailored to a specific purpose or demographic group, including: Recreation General, Senior Adult programming, Adult programming, Youth programming, Outdoor Recreation, Aquatics, Teens, and Adaptive Recreation. A special emphasis is placed on providing family activities that all can enjoy. Some programs are offered free of charge, while most are offered at a fee to cover instructor and material costs. As a general guide to profitability, fees for youth programs cover about 50% of the cost, senior programs about 75%, and adult programs aim to cover 100% of the cost of the program.

**Recreation General** oversees the management of the entire division.

**Senior Adult programming**, held at the North End Community Center and Yuma Readiness Center, serves adults 50 years of age and over, providing activities including arts and crafts, educational classes, fitness, dance, pool shooting, and Senior Games.

**Adult programming** includes volleyball, basketball, year-round softball leagues,

tournaments, instructional programs, fitness, and arts and crafts programs.

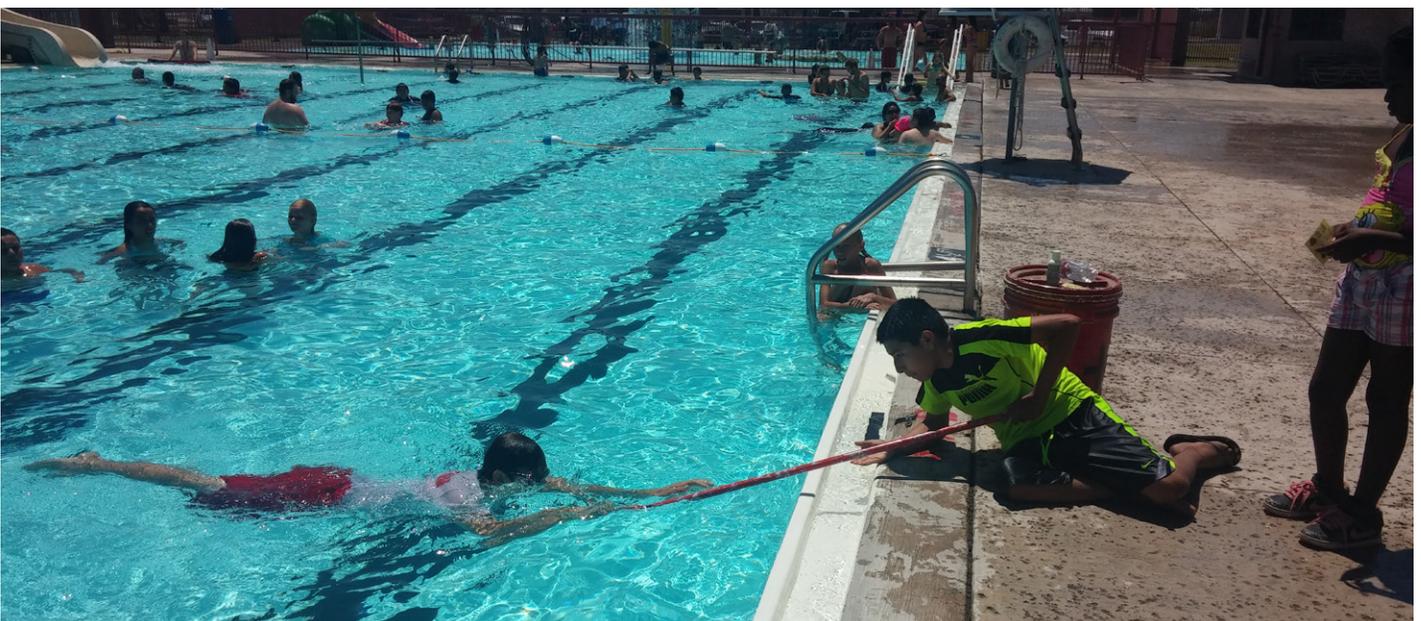
**Youth programming** offers a variety of sports, recreational, and instructional opportunities for youth of all ages, with a specific focus on tots and elementary-age children. In addition to the City-run activities, a strong component of the Parks and Recreation Department is the partnership between co-sponsored youth sports organizations and the City.

**Outdoor Recreation** provides recreational opportunities such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing, archery, stargazing, family camping activities and outdoor education programs for all ages.

**Aquatics programs** include the programming of four municipal pools. Fitness and swim programs are offered, as well as Learn-to-Swim lessons during the summer.

**Teens programs** focus on ages 13-18 and provide activities for youth in this specific age range. Sports programs are the most popular with this demographic.

**Adaptive Recreation programming** for



2015 Kick Off Summer at Kennedy Memorial Park

**Table 2-6: Parks & Recreation Programs Overview**

PROGRAM TYPE	FOCUS	PROGRAMS
<b>SPORTS</b>	Youth	Yuma Babe Ruth Baseball, Yuma Youth In-Line Hockey League, Yuma Youth Soccer Association (YUSA), Cal Ripken - Yuma Boys Baseball League (YBBL), Yuma Fast Pitch & T-ball League (YFTL), Pop Warner Football, NFL Catch & Go, Flag Football & Cheerleading Program, Cheer & Dance Clinic, Volleyball Clinic, Yuma Heat Swim Team, AquaForce Swim Team, Pee Wee Basketball, Basketball Clinic, Boy's Jr. High Basketball, Girl's Cricket Basketball, Boy's Grasshopper Basketball, Girl's Basketball, Advantage Youth Tennis, Soccer Clinics, Dodgeball Clinics, Skateboard Championship
	Adult	Volleyball (Men's, Women's, & Open Gym), Co-Rec Tournaments, Men's Wooden Bat League, Co-Rec Softball Leagues, Men's 12" Softball League, Men's 12"/Women's 11" Adult Softball League, Horseshoe Tournaments, Free Sports Official Clinics, Washoes & Cornhole Tournaments, Basketball Competitions, Sand Volleyball, Basketball Leagues
	Senior	Softball Fun League, Table Tennis, Pickleball, Volleyball, Badminton, Senior Games
<b>ARTS &amp; CULTURE ACTIVITIES</b>	Young Children	Dance, Storytime, Play Groups, Arts & Crafts
	Youth	Dance, Painting, Pottery, Youth Theater, Guitar & Piano Lessons, Seasonal Arts & Crafts Classes, Art Smart Camp, Cosplay Workshop
	Adult/Senior	Pottery Studio, Wheel Throwing Workshop, Performing Art Series Theatre Productions, Art Exhibitions, Salsa 101, Guitar & Piano Lessons
<b>RECREATION</b>	Young Children	Dance, Tiny Tots, Fire Truck Fitness, Mommy & Me, Craft Classes, Toddler Tumble Bugs, Play Groups
	Youth	Craft Classes, Painting, Science Discovery Classes, Workshops, Spanish Classes, Sign Language, Summer Day Camp, Theme/Holiday Events, Jewelry Classes, Cooking Classes, Woodcarving, Instructional Classes
	Adult	ScrapBookers Anonymous, Arts & Crafts, Oil Painting, Woodcarving, Middle Eastern Drumming, Zumba, Yoga, Belly Dancing, Fitness Walks/Runs
	Senior	Woodcarving, Oil Painting, Pool Shooting, Jewelry Making, Gourd Art, Belly Dancing, Card Games, 3-D Art, Silversmithing, Quilting, Porcelain Painting, Fitness Classes
<b>OUTDOOR RECREATION</b>	Youth	Fishing, Archery Clinic & Tournaments, Kayaking, Insect Classes, Outdoor Experience, Astronomy Expo, Stargazing, Hiking
	Family	Eco-Education & Wildlife Conservation, Family Camping, Canoe Trip, Stargazing
<b>FESTIVALS, SPECIAL EVENTS, &amp; EXPOS</b>	Family	Playful City USA Spruce Up Your Park Day, Fiestas Patrias, Come Out & Play Day, Movies in the Park, Catfish Rodeo & Nature Fair, Children's Festival of the Arts, North End Art Walk, New Year's Eve Family Party, Family Fitness Fest, Park Socials, Kite Festival, Tunes & Tacos, 4th of July Fireworks, Back to School Rodeo, Wedding Expo, Fairy Party, ARTbeat, Youth Sports Expo, Yuma Campout Challenge, Family Fish Fiesta, Woof Splash, Art in the Park, YumaCon, Tribute of the Muse, 5K/10K Runs & Walks (6 annually)
<b>AQUATICS</b>	Youth/Adult	Swim Lessons, Fun Swim, Fitness Swim, Water Aerobics, Scuba Diving, Aqua Zumba
<b>GOLF</b>	Youth	Golf Clinics, SNAG Futbol Clinic, FootGolf Clinic, FootGolf Tournament, Snag Golf Clinic, Summer Golf Camp
	Adult/Family	Family Golf Clinics, Golf Tournaments, Golf Clinics, Private Instruction, Leagues
<b>ADAPTIVE RECREATION</b>	Physically & Mentally Disabled	Salsa Classes, Movie Events, Seasonal Parties, Washoes & Cornhole Tournament, Seasonal Crafting Classes, Fishing, Night on the Town, Splash-tacular



Tunes & Tacos

special needs participants is offered year-round and over the past year, an emphasis has been placed on providing additional activities such as Day Camps and music based programs that participants may register for.

### **Festivals & Special Events**

The Parks & Recreation Department hosts special events and festivals throughout the year (see Table 2-6 for a complete list), the largest of which in 2015 were Tacos & Tunes and the 4th of July Fireworks. The Tacos & Tunes festival started in 2009 as a taco festival, and three years later grew to include music. The first annual 4th of July Fireworks Festival was held in 2015 and due to tremendous attendance and overall success of the event, this festival will be continued in the future. The Yuma Art Center sponsors annual festivals including the North End Art Walk, ARTbeat, YumaCon, and the Children's Festival of the Art. The Yuma Art Center also hosts an annual event, Tribute of the Muse, which

celebrates community members and local artists who have made a significant influence on the arts community in Yuma.

The Parks & Recreation Department co-hosts several events with other local organizations by offering staff, facilities, and maintenance support. For example, they work with the Caballeros de Yuma to host the Midnight at the Oasis Classic Car Festival and the Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival.

Another city organization, Heritage Festivals, organizes a series of festivals and events as well, including: Arizona Hog Rally; Military Appreciation Day; Medjool Date Festival; Boogie, Brews, & Blues; Music on Main; and Cinco de Mayo. These Heritage festivals are all held in the historic downtown or on the riverfront. Most of Yuma's festivals are held in the cooler winter months and are very well attended by residents and visitors alike, drawing families, retirees, seasonal visitors, and military members.

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## **Alternative Recreation Opportunities & Providers**

In addition to the facilities provided by The Parks & Recreation Department, Yuma has several other recreation facilities

and services provided by non-profits and commercial enterprises. The list here is not intended to be exhaustive, rather it gives an

overview of facilities available to residents. Analysis of alternative available services informs the department what needs are being met by the private sector, helping to determine which services are most essential for public prioritization.

### **Regional Recreation**

**Martinez Lake** is located about 40 miles north of Yuma and is a popular weekend retreat for residents to enjoy boating, fishing, bird watching, and nature.

**Kofa National Wildlife Refuge**, located to the northeast of Yuma, offers wilderness hiking and camping in a rugged nature preserve.

**Telegraph Pass Trail** offers several miles of hiking through the Gila Mountains.

**Barry M. Goldwater Range** allows recreation opportunities by permit only. This rugged natural area offers camping, hunting, hiking, and recreational vehicle trails.

### **Golf Courses**

Within the city limits, Yuma has two privately-owned and operated golf courses, both of which are open year-round: Ironwood Golf Course (9-hole public course) and Yuma Golf & Country Club (18-hole private course). Several other golf courses are located in Yuma County.

### **Fitness Centers & Gyms**

Yuma has a wide variety of fitness centers and gyms located around town, including but not limited to the following: Yuma Family YMCA, Planet Fitness, Club Yuma, World Gym, Snap Fitness, 4th Avenue Gym, Hard Core Personal Training, Loyalty Fitness, CrossFit Glory, Curves, Yuma United Mixed Martial Arts, Jump Up Trampoline & Tumbling, and Gymnastics World of Yuma. Many of the RV parks offer small fitness centers and in some cases a pool for their residents. The Z Fun Factory & Waylon's Water World offers a variety of recreation opportunities, aimed mainly at children, including: mini golf, arcade games, go karts, tree climbing, batting cages, and a large water park designed for all ages.

### **Sports Facilities & Courts**

Many RV parks offer tennis courts, pickleball courts, and shuffleboard courts for use by their residents, mainly winter visitors. Fortuna de Oro RV Resort in the Foothills recently installed eight pickleball courts.

### **Military Facilities**

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma (MCAS) has park and recreation facilities located on the base to serve military members, dependents, retirees, and other authorized government employees. MCAS has the following facilities: four softball fields, two soccer fields, a football field, two basketball courts, two tennis courts, a volleyball court, two batting cages, three fitness centers, an outdoor recreation center, a movie theatre, a bowling center, two swimming pools, a baby pool, a youth center, three community centers, a paintball field, and three playgrounds. Program services include directed and self-directed sports and athletics to include intramural and varsity sports, youth sports, aquatics, fitness classes, outdoor recreation, and recreational skill development programs. Recreation equipment, including sports equipment, bicycles, camping equipment, hunting & fishing equipment, boats, and other items.

### **School Facilities**

Many local school playgrounds and athletic facilities serve the education needs of the community, as well as being available to the general public for recreational programs. Generally, school facilities can be used for community recreational programs on a time available basis. However, the availability of these facilities is limited by school operations. Arizona Western College has several recreation facilities designed to serve their student population, including: Veterans Memorial Stadium, "The House" gymnasium, the AWC Soccer Field, the Charlie Dine Softball Field, Walt Kammann Baseball Field, a theater, and a fitness center.

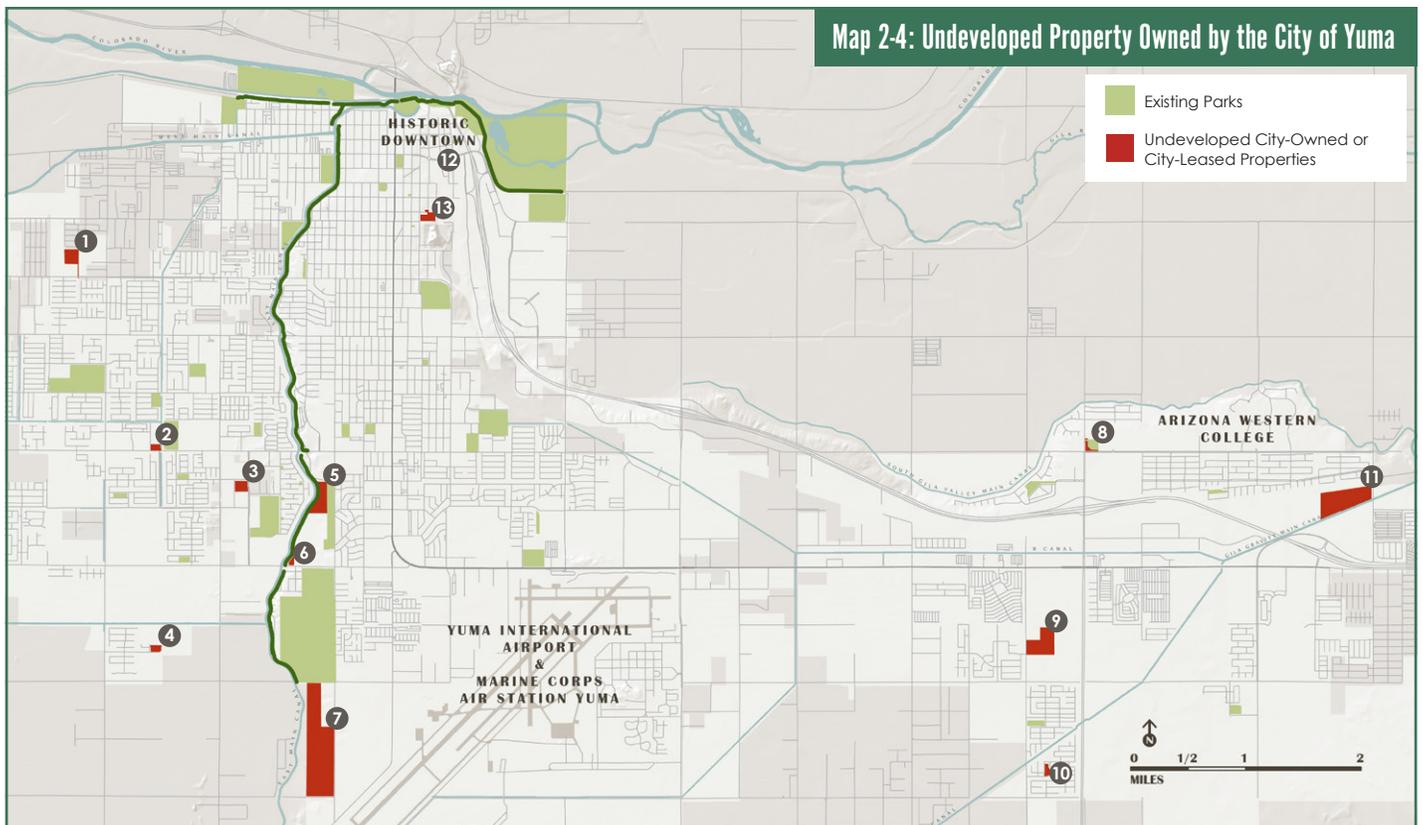
## Undeveloped Property Owned by the City of Yuma

The City of Yuma owns or leases approximately several hundred acres, ten sites of which are both vacant or underdeveloped and could be suitable for potential park facilities. Map 2-4 highlights those properties in red. Conceptual plans have been created for some of these properties; see Section 4: Long Range Vision of this document for further information. This map should not be interpreted as recommending all of these properties to be developed as parks, rather that these sites should be considered as the most economically efficient for future park development.

- 1 **W 11th Street Retention Basin**  
This 11 acre basin located adjacent to the Salida Del Sol Elementary School is currently undeveloped. The large size of this parcel could be suitable for athletic fields, but vehicular access to the site is limited.
- 2 **Yuma Valley Park Site (24th St & 34th Dr)**  
This 3 1/2 acre site is currently

undeveloped. The land was purchased for future use as a retention basin and has been adapted for temporary use as overflow parking for the Yuma Valley Park.

- 3 **W 26th St & W 27th St Retention Basin**  
This 6 1/2 acre retention basin is located across the street from Walmart and adjacent to the Yuma County Health Department. In close proximity is Yuma Catholic High School, the Main Library, and Gary A Knox Elementary School. This site has been considered as a potential location for a dog park.
- 4 **Livingston Ranch Site (38th St)**  
This 3 1/2 acre site in the Livingston Ranch neighborhood is currently a retention area that could be improved to serve as a park.
- 5 **Smucker Park Undeveloped Portion**  
This 26 acre parcel adjacent to Smucker Park is currently unimproved, but construction of a stormwater basin is funded and will begin in 2016.



- ⑥ *32nd St & East Main Canal Site*  
This 3.3 acre parcel adjacent to the East Main Canal would make an excellent site for a trailhead for the East Main Canal Park. Many in the community support a pedestrian/bike crossing at this section of 32nd Street to improve access of the canal.
- ⑦ *Jackrabbit Pass*  
The City has a long term lease on this 120 acre parcel located just south of the James P. Deyo Complex.
- ⑧ *Yuma Readiness Center Site (Araby Rd)*  
This 4 acre parcel surrounding the Yuma Readiness Center is currently vacant and unimproved.
- ⑨ *East Mesa Site (Avenue 6E)*  
This 25.6 acre site is currently planned to house a Veterans Medical Facility and has been considered as a site for an area park. See Section 4 for detailed site information & plans for this parcel.
- ⑩ *Ocotillo Unit 4B Tract B (S Gazania Ave)*  
This 3.3 acre grassy retention basin is located in the Ocotillo subdivision and could be an appropriate site for a small neighborhood park.
- ⑪ *Aqua Viva Water Treatment Site*  
This 50 acre parcel is home to the Water Treatment Facility. The site and adjacent properties have been considered as a location for an urban lake and surrounding park.
- ⑫ *Commercial Building (270 S. Main Street)*  
This building, located near the Art Center, was purchased by the City in anticipation of future expansion of the Art Center. Until such time, the facility is being rented to a private entity. The City continues to explore other expansion opportunities in the downtown area.
- ⑬ *Black Hill (700 Block of S. 1st Avenue)*  
Several parcels totaling over 4.5 acres make up Black Hill, one of the highest points in downtown. The site has panoramic views and was identified in the 2014 Old Town South Revitalization

Plan as an appropriate location for open space and trails.

## KEY POINTS

### Inventory of Existing Facilities & Programs

- The City currently provides **1,072 acres of parkland** and open space as well as **115,332 square feet of event space** for public use.
- The City offers a **wide variety of parks**: two regional parks, five community parks, sixteen neighborhood parks, six pocket parks, and two linear parks.
- The City offers several **specialized facilities**: three cultural facilities, five historic facilities, and one dog park.
- The City offers **many recreational facilities**: eleven athletic field areas, three recreation centers, one aquatic center, and two golf courses.
- The City offers a **range of recreation and arts programs**, aimed to serve a diverse population and age range, including: young children, youth, adults, seniors, and those with special needs.
- **Festivals and special events** hosted by Parks & Recreation are widely popular and well-attended. In general, Yuma residents enjoy family-friendly festivals and there are many events offered throughout the winter months.
- Besides facilities and services offered by the City, Yuma has **several other recreational service providers**. The local YMCA offers a wide variety of classes and programs, the Marine Corps base has several facilities to serve its population, and many of the school facilities are joint-use.
- The City owns or leases several undeveloped or under-developed parcels that could be **appropriate sites for future parks**. In the Long Range Plan, these sites will be considered as the most economical sites for future parks.





# LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

**3.1**

## Assessing Level of Service

page 40

Public Input  
Internal Review  
National & State Benchmarking

**3.2**

## Updating Yuma's Service Standards

page 50

Population Standards  
Location/Walkability Standards



2015 Flag Football

### 3.1 Assessing Level of Service

The intent of the level of service analysis presented in this section is to understand what types of facilities are needed and where these future parks and facilities should be located to best serve the population. The analysis from this section will inform the long-range plan presented in Section 4.

Analysis was performed using a threefold approach; that is by (1) considering public input, (2) conducting an internal analysis based on park and facility usage, and (3) comparing local standards and usage to national benchmarks.

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#### Public Input Survey

Public input is an essential component to effectively analyze the current state of the park system and to guide the path forward. Feedback from the public helps staff discern how the parks, recreation programs, and events are experienced and viewed by the general public, as well as to get valuable recommendations for improving the overall system. This feedback is also crucial for making decisions about future parks and recreation facilities to ensure they best serve the needs of the local population.

For the purposes of this master planning effort, a public survey was conducted to assess the current level of service and needs. In 2016, over the course of the month of January, an open internet survey was available to the public. The survey was distributed via direct email to Parks & Recreation contacts (over 15,000 distinct emails) as well as shared on their Facebook page. Over 500 people responded to the 22-question survey (see Appendix A), a statistically significant sample size based on Yuma's overall population from which

to glean conclusions at a 95% confidence level. Demographically, the sample group was diverse; it roughly correlated to the overall population, with a slightly higher percentage of seniors 60 years and older. This anomaly can be explained by the presence of winter visitors during the survey period. Slightly more females (56%) responded to the survey than males (42%), but the difference was not significant. Forty-two percent of the sample group had children under the age of eighteen. Nearly 80% of the respondents were full-time residents of Yuma, while about 20% reside in the Yuma area on a part-time basis.

The West Wetlands Park was identified as the favorite city park with 37% of the responses. Second was the Desert Hills Golf Course (10%), third was Smucker Memorial Park (9%), fourth was the East Wetlands Park (7%), and fifth was Gateway Park (5%). When combining all responses for parks included within the Riverfront Regional Park, over half of the respondents said it was their favorite park. When asked which parks they had visited in the last twelve months, respondents again answered resoundingly with Riverfront Regional Park, particularly the West Wetlands Park. Smucker Memorial Park, the Historic Theatre & Art Center, Kennedy Memorial Park Complex, Desert Hills Golf Course, Desert Sun Stadium, and the Yuma Valley Aquatic Center were the other most visited park facilities. This correlates with Regional and Community Park facilities intending to serve the largest population sizes and drawing the largest crowds with their frequent programming.

Overall, respondents rated the park system well; over 75% gave it a high rating for overall service. Desired facilities and programs, areas for improvement, and general concerns were also identified and are detailed in the following paragraphs.

**Identified Needs**

Certain needs and desires for particular facilities and programs were apparent throughout the questions of the survey. Recurring themes included the following:

**Park Facilities**

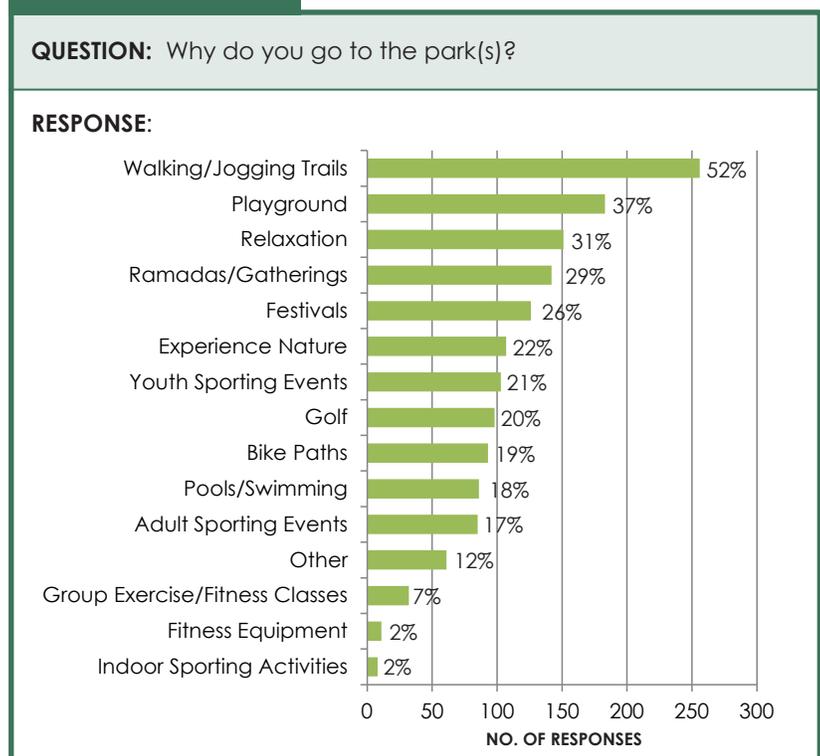
**Walking/Jogging Trails**

Respondents stated the most common reason for going to the parks is for walking and jogging opportunities; over half the respondents named this reason (see Table 3-1). Trails ranked highest among the types of park facilities most desired. The 5K/10K run/walk events hosted by the City are well attended and many respondents wanted to see more of these events; they commented frequently about them. This feedback supports a continued emphasis on linear parks and trails as an important part of the park system.

**Bikeways**

In addition to using the linear parks for walking and jogging, many people utilize the paths for cycling. Cycling has gained popularity nationwide in recent years, and this survey shows that interest is strong in Yuma as well. Nearly a third of respondents wanted to see more bike facilities, including off-street bike paths (linear parks) and on-street bike lanes. Currently, only off-street bikeways are within the scope of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, but connections

**Table 3-1: Reasons for Use**



to the road bikeways system should be a high priority for long-term planning and carefully considered with specific park design.

**Recreation Center & Gymnasium Facilities**

Facilities for indoor sports play rank high on the list of desired park facilities. The City currently has only a few such facilities, so it ranked low on the list of reasons people go to the parks. A high desire for more youth sports and fitness classes also indicates a need for recreation centers and gymnasiums.

**Playgrounds**

Playgrounds are a staple of neighborhood parks and are a central reason people frequent the parks. High response rates for more playgrounds indicates that the current emphasis on playgrounds and development of neighborhood parks is appropriate and current population standards should be maintained.

**Athletic Fields**

Outdoor fields for sports play are a strong draw for the parks and a portion of the population strongly desired more

athletic field facilities. The sample group also displayed a strong interest in more youth and adult sports programs, further supporting a need for more fields.

**Park Facilities on the East Mesa**

In the open response section of the survey, many people commented about a need for a park on the east side of town.

**Archery Facilities**

Survey results showed a moderate interest in archery facilities and programs. Existing archery programs were mentioned frequently, indicating high use relative to the few programs and events currently offered.

**Pickleball Courts**

Although not specifically listed on the survey as an option for desired facilities or programs, pickleball courts were mentioned many times in the open comments section. In the past decade, the popularity of pickleball has grown rapidly, particularly among seniors, as it is a low-impact sport.

**Recreation Programs & Special Events**

**Fitness Classes**

The most requested type of recreation program was fitness classes (see Table 3-3), which is surprising considering the relative lack of participation in or mention of existing classes elsewhere throughout the survey. In the comments section, some people identified scheduling and pricing of existing fitness classes as a barrier to participation.

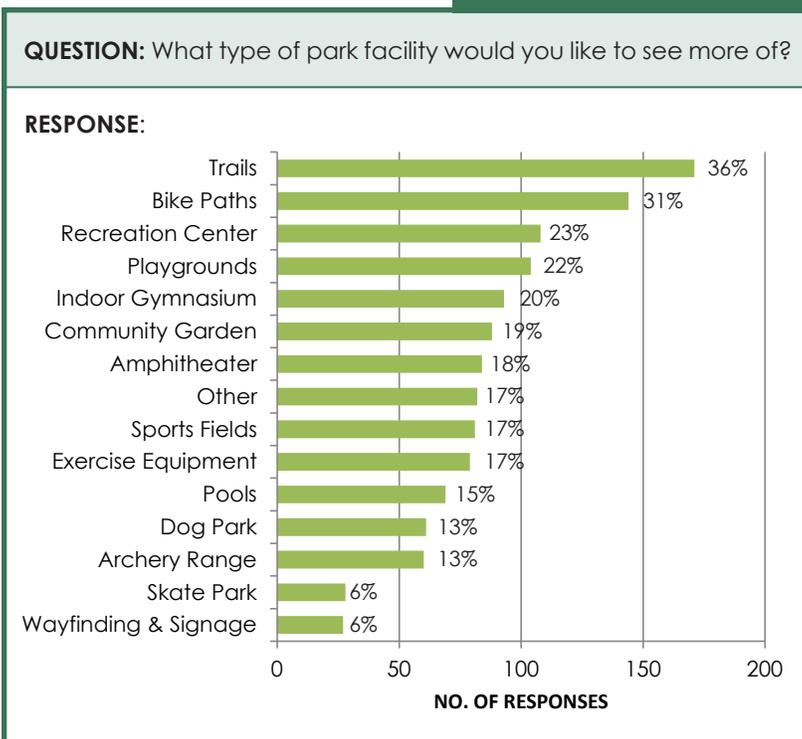
**Outdoor Nature Activities**

Relaxation and experiencing nature were two popular reasons for people to go to the parks. There was also moderate interest in more outdoor programming such as canoeing, fishing, and camping.

**Festivals & Special Events**

Festivals and special events proved to be a popular reason to go to the park and were high on the priority list for desired services. The 2015 inaugural 4th of July Fireworks Festival was the most popular, with 19% identifying it as their favorite event. Tunes & Tacos, the Children's Festival of the Arts, Movies in the Park, and the North

**Table 3-2: Desired Park Facilities**



End Art Walk also ranked high. Reported attendance to these events corresponds to this ranking.

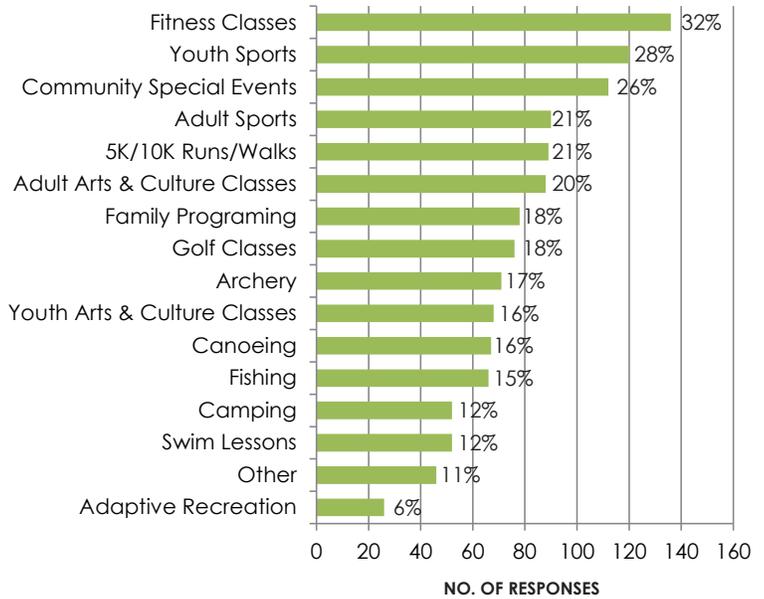
### Identified Concerns

When asked how Parks & Recreation could better serve the community, the most common responses included increased advertising, maintenance, and safety. Advertising recommendations focused on widening the variety and frequency of advertising efforts to include digital and traditional media outlets; social media, email, text messaging, newspaper ads, and radio spots were mentioned. Maintenance concerns focused primarily on the cleanliness of the restroom facilities as well as the need for more restrooms in general. While most people (75%) reported they felt safe in the parks, many mentioned inadequate lighting and the presence of transients as safety concerns that impacted their use of the parks.

**Table 3-3: Desired Recreation Program & Special Events**

**QUESTION:** What types of programs would you like to see offered or see more of?

**RESPONSE:**



### Internal Review

In addition to soliciting public input, several meetings were conducted with Parks & Recreation staff to understand the needs of the department. These discussions brought to light several recreational facility and programming needs that the staff see as benefiting Yuma residents. Additionally, an in-depth analysis of current facilities usage and programs participation was conducted and is presented in the following sections.

#### Needs Identified by Parks & Recreation Staff

Discussions with Parks & Recreation staff revealed several specific needs brought to their attention by residents. Due to their direct and continual contact with park users, staff has an acute sense of demand. In addition to providing community parks to serve the East Mesa and looking at

creative solutions for neighborhood parks, staff identified the following as facilities they would like to add to the parks system:

#### Regional Recreation Center

A regional community center that hosts a multitude of uses and serves a variety of users is a facility not currently available in the Yuma area. Parks & Recreation staff envision this facility as including a cafeteria, gymnasium, track, childcare facilities, classrooms, and dance rooms to serve a multi-generational market. One example cited as a precedent is the Apache Junction Multi-Generational Center in the Phoenix area.

#### Gymnasium

Gymnasiums provide the indoor space needed for many of Parks & Recreation's programs and sports teams throughout

the City. Of the two gymnasiums currently offered at Joe Henry Optimist Park and the Yuma Readiness Center, historically neither offer air conditioning and the one at Joe Henry Optimist Park is quite small. Recently, a grant has been secured and plans exist to add air conditioning to the gym at Joe Henry Optimist Park. In the summer, the school gyms are available, but when school is in session availability is severely limited and scheduling is not reliable.

### **Archery Range**

In recent years, archery has become more popular in Yuma and nationwide. The City currently hosts archery lessons at Riverside Park, West Wetlands Park, and the Joe Henry Optimist Center, but would like to have a dedicated archery range.

### **Skate Facility**

Many people use the existing skateboard facility located at Kennedy Memorial Park and many users would like to see another one built. This second skateboard facility would be ideally located on the East Mesa to serve the residential population located there.

### **Dog Park**

In the winter when many visitors are in town, the Dog Park can get crowded. Many people have requested either an expansion of the existing dog park or an additional facility, which could be located on the East Mesa or within an existing park.

### **Pickleball Courts**

In recent years, the popularity of pickleball has grown exponentially, particularly among the seniors. There is high demand from winter visitors for dedicated pickleball facilities.

### **Specialty Camping at the West Wetlands**

In conjunction with the restoration of the West Wetlands Lower Bench area, a specialty camping area and nature learning center would serve local youth groups. The camping area would include several tent sites and would be available on a permit-only basis. A nature center with educational materials and a classroom would be integral for group activities. Ramadas or other gathering areas could also be provided.

### **Connectivity**

In general, the network of parks needs to be better connected via linear parks, trails, bikeways, and walkways. Specifically, the East Main Canal should be connected to both Smucker Park and the James P. Deyo Regional Park.

### **Wayfinding**

In general, signage and wayfinding at the parks could be improved. Wayfinding is particularly important with the linear parks to help users identify where along the trail they are and how to access other parks and facilities from the path.

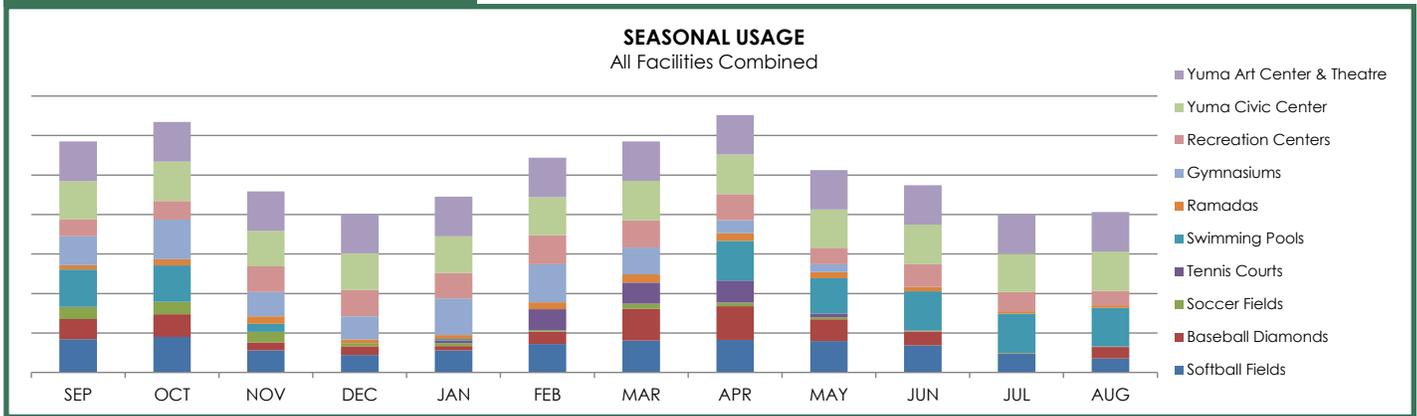
### **Facilities Usage by Reservation**

The athletic fields, courts, swimming pools, gymnasiums, recreation centers, ramadas, and cultural facilities managed by Parks & Recreation are available for reservation at a fee to organizations and residents. Rental rates vary based on the type of customer (non-profit vs. commercial and resident vs. non-resident). Parks & Recreation staff maintains a database of reservations for all facilities and issues permits for paid reservations. A dataset spanning the 12-month period between September 2014 to August 2015 was used to analyze daily usage. It is important to note that reservation data does not capture all use of each facility; during daylight hours, outdoor facilities are used on a first-come-



Many youth activities require the use of a gymnasium, of which Parks & Recreation only has two facilities.

**Table 3-4: Seasonal Usage of Rental Facilities**



first-served basis free of charge. Several facilities, particularly athletic fields, are joint-use with local schools, which limits their availability for Parks & Recreation activities. The schools have priority use on weekdays during the school year, restricting the time Parks & Recreation can program the space, but not limiting the actual use of the facility for the school's recreational use.

Another important consideration is the seasonality of sports, programs, and events, as illustrated in Table 3-4. Sports follow particular seasons: youth baseball and softball are played in the spring, football and soccer are fall sports, while adult softball is played in both spring and fall. Organized sports see a decline during the winter months due to the holidays. Yuma's extremely hot weather in July and August cause another dip in activity, exacerbated by the lack of air-conditioned indoor athletic facilities.

Table 3-5 shows the usage of facilities grouped by type - athletic fields and courts, swimming pools, gymnasiums & recreation centers, cultural facilities, and ramadas. Detailed analysis of each category follows here.

**Athletic Fields and Courts**

Athletic fields are used very frequently and are in high demand by local teams, especially in peak seasons. Most sports team coaches are well aware of the high demand for athletic fields and consistently make reservations for their teams' games

and practices in order to avoid conflicts with other teams. Parks & Recreation staff has a policy to leave one field open each weekend for open community use. Many of the City's athletic fields are multi-use, which provides freedom of use, but also poses a constraint. Re-organization of a field to fit different sports (re-stripping, setting up goals, etc.) takes time and staff, which means one field can't be scheduled for different sports in the same day. Due to the open field policy, multi-use nature of many fields, holidays, and maintenance, an occupancy or daily use rate of 100% is largely unattainable and an occupancy rate of 80% can be considered maximum capacity.

As mentioned, most sports are seasonal, and usage varies based on the month. Baseball diamonds were used at nearly full capacity in March and April, with considerably less use at other times. Softball fields maintain high use throughout the year, and are at nearly 100% occupancy in the fall and spring. Soccer fields are not often used at capacity, although certain facilities - those with lights and irrigated turf (as opposed to flood irrigated grass) - saw much higher levels of use.

The fields used most often in the winter were those with lights; although certain fields have lights that are particularly expensive to operate and therefore staff avoids scheduling these when possible. As a general policy for cost effective use of field lights, staff books all the time slots at one

athletic field before scheduling another field.

Tennis courts are not often reserved, although they are commonly used by drop-in leisure players. The school teams do reserve the courts during the spring season, but staff always maintains two courts for open community use.

Outdoor basketball courts are rarely reserved because of the associated fee; they are used on a first-come-first-served basis which is difficult to track and collect data. Anecdotal evidence shows the basketball courts are quite popular and are a draw to the neighborhood parks.

### **Swimming Pools Usage**

The community pools and aquatic center are very popular and are used nearly every day they are open in the summer months. As a general rule, the pools are open to the public from the beginning of May through Labor Day, with a couple of pools opening before or staying open slightly after this season.

Marcus Pool is the only community pool in the system that is heated and kept open year-round. The competition pool at the Valley Aquatic Center can be heated, but the expense to heat and operate in winter months makes it cost prohibitive to keep open to the public, so it is only available for team reservations (usually schools) during the winter months.

### **Gymnasiums & Recreation Centers**

All recreation centers are available on a reservation-only basis; if not reserved, they are not open for public use. The John Morris Cottage and Riverside Cottage are generally only used when programmed by Parks & Recreation in the summer months. Neither of these facilities is equipped to handle sports or fitness activities; they offer classroom-type gathering spaces.

Gymnasiums are not used much in the summer because, at the time of data collection, neither of the two facilities had air conditioning. The gymnasium at the Yuma Readiness Center, a joint-use facility, is used often by the National Guard, but

not often for City programs except in the winter months when it hosts senior sports programs.

Although the City maintains joint-use agreements with local schools for several school gymnasiums, these facilities are rarely, if ever, programmed for Parks & Recreation events. The joint-use gyms are not convenient to use because of frequent use by the schools, time restrictions during school hours, and accessibility of school facilities in general. In order to use, Parks staff needs to coordinate access to the building, access to restricted parking, and maintenance.

### **Cultural Facilities**

Yuma's cultural facilities available for rent or reservation include: the Civic Center, the Art Center and the Historic Yuma Theatre. The Civic Center is used on a nearly daily basis year-round, hosting a wide variety of events including festivals, expos, dances, banquets, concerts, meetings, and summer sports clinics. The Historic Yuma Theatre and Art Center are also used nearly every day of the year. Typically, the Art Center and Theatre are closed on Sundays and Mondays, but if a special event is requested for those days, they will open. The facility hosts art classes, performances, shows, weddings, and meetings. More specifically, the theatre is programmed for events or rehearsals on more than 50% of the days in the year; the art gallery nearly 25%, and other group meetings happen on 20% of the days, for a total of over 95% daily usage of the Art Center and Historic Theater facilities.

### **Ramada Usage**

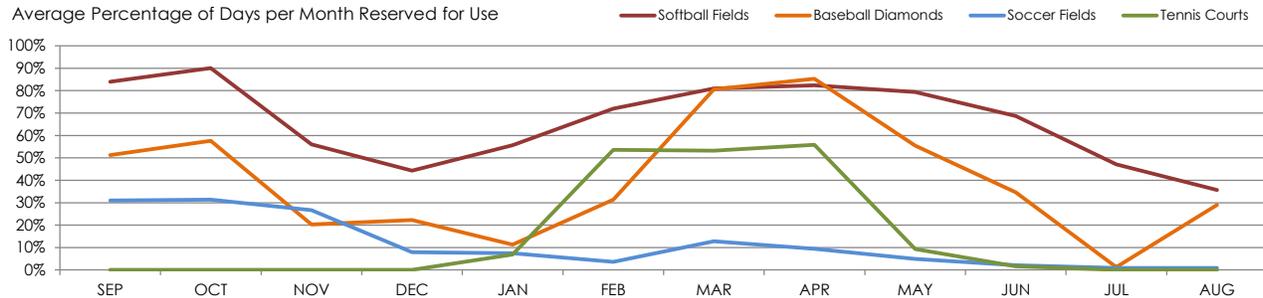
A total of 37 ramadas at 13 different parks are available for rent. The ramadas located in regional or community parks allow alcohol, while those in neighborhood parks typically do not (Kiwanis Park is the only exception to the alcohol rule). Reservations are placed with Parks & Recreation at least ten days, but not more than twelve months in advance of the event. If not reserved, a ramada may be used on a first-come-first-served basis; such usage is not tracked.

The last chart in Table 3-5 summarizes the

**Table 3-5: Summary of Usage of Facilities by Reservation**

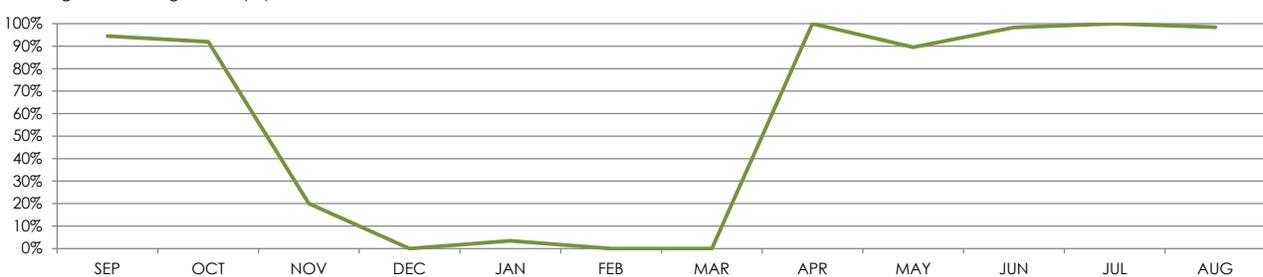
**ATHLETIC FIELDS & COURTS**

Average Percentage of Days per Month Reserved for Use



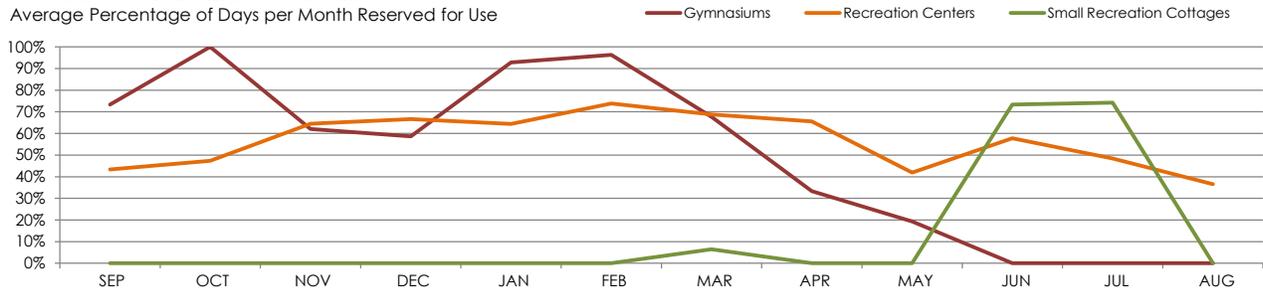
**SWIMMING POOLS**

Average Percentage of Days per Month Reserved for Use



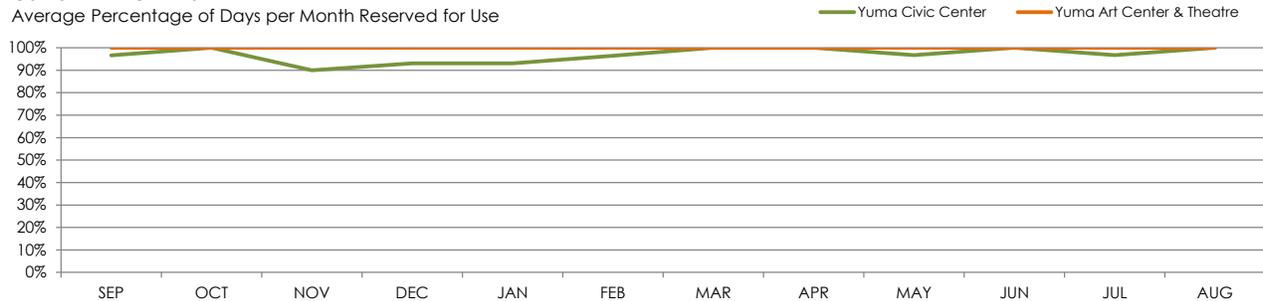
**GYMNASIUMS & RECREATION CENTERS**

Average Percentage of Days per Month Reserved for Use



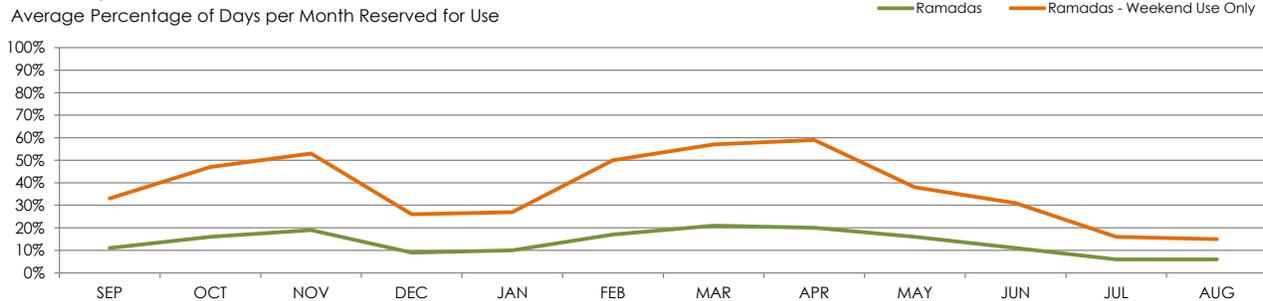
**CULTURAL FACILITIES**

Average Percentage of Days per Month Reserved for Use



**RAMADAS**

Average Percentage of Days per Month Reserved for Use



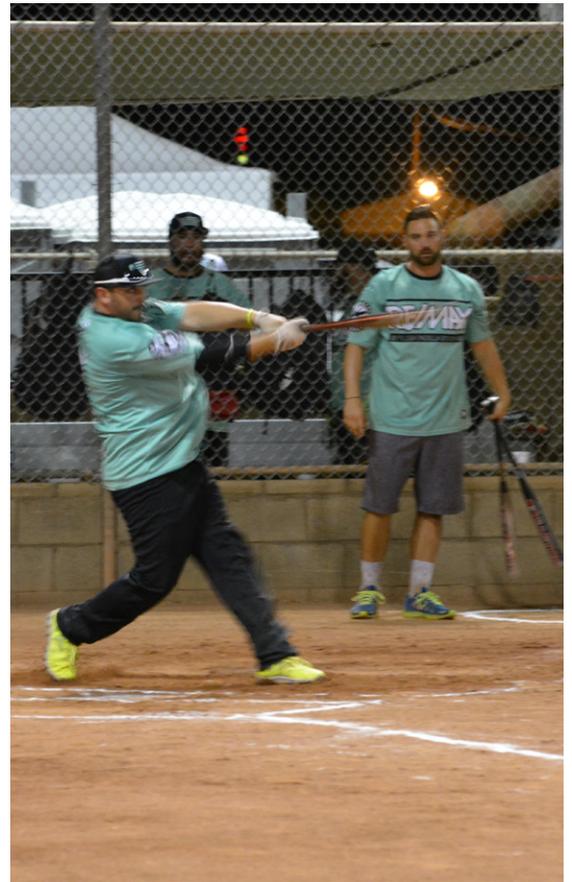
NOTE: Does not include joint-use athletic fields

annual usage of the ramadas based on reservations. A more detailed analysis is available in Appendix B. Ramadas are most frequently used during the mild weather months of March, April, and November. The least popular months coincided with the hottest months of July and August and the winter holidays in December and January. Saturday was the most popular day for reservations, with Sunday close behind; nearly 80% of all ramada use is on the weekends. Not surprisingly, weekdays saw few reservations. The most popular ramadas are located in Riverfront Regional Park, James P. Deyo Regional Park, Smucker Park, and Joe Henry Park Complex. This correlates to the higher service population size and increased programming of these regional and community parks.

### Recreation Programs Participation

Parks & Recreation offers a wide variety of programs year-round for many different groups, as outlined in Table 2-6 in Section 2.3. Program enrollment data for the 12-month period between September 2014 and August 2015 was analyzed to understand which programs were the most and least popular. Some limitations to the data set exist: 1) enrollment data does not fully reflect the actual participation in youth sports because Parks & Recreation staff does not manage all the reservations, occasionally outside organizations do; and 2) revenue and expenditure data was not available, so only participation was considered, not monetary performance of the programs. Observations from data analysis are summarized here.

**Summer youth sports clinics** hosted at the Civic Center were very popular, well attended and often had wait lists. The Civic Center is not an ideal place to host sports events as special flooring must be brought in for sports play, but the consolidated location it offers is a desirable feature. The popularity of these clinics indicates the need for more gymnasium facilities, particularly a large recreation center with areas designed to accommodate many different sports at one time and in one location.



2015 Softball Tournament

**Interest in archery** classes and tournaments is high among youth and adults. The summer archery camp had the most people on the wait list (9) of any program offered by the Department. The archery tournament and tournament training sessions were also well-attended. The Introduction to Archery class offered at the North End Community Center was also popular. This high level of interest in archery indicates the need for expansion of archery programs and facilities for both youth and adults.

**Swim lessons** are extremely popular in the summer. Classes fill up quickly and are offered at every pool facility. During the summer months, pools are programmed for every operational hour. This indicates a need for another community pool, particularly in the East Mesa area.

**Summer day camp programs** for youth are well-attended, regardless of the location (North End Community Center, Clymer Community Center, or Civic Center).

Expansion of the day camp programs would be beneficial, but there is a need for more community center facilities to host such events.

**Science-related programs** offered in the summer were generally very popular, which indicates demand for an increase in the science-related programming and science/nature exploration facilities.

**Tots programs** are popular across the board, and in all seasons. An increase in the numbers of tots programs would be beneficial, but more space is needed to host such events. Participants feel that locational convenience is key to whether or not they will participate.

**Adult craft classes** saw low interest levels, indicating that efforts focused on other demographic groups (tots, youth, families, seniors, etc.) would be more beneficial to the community.

**Adult basketball** league enrollment in the summer was high, but had to be hosted at the Yuma High School gymnasium due to a lack of suitable gymnasium facilities owned by the City. The lack of gymnasium facilities restricts adult basketball programs to the summer months when the school facilities are available for use.

**Senior sports activities** are most popular from November to February, which correlates with the winter visitor population increase. The active programs that focused on games or low-impact sports were generally more popular than the craft programs. The exception was the pool shooting classes, which were not well-attended. Most of these senior activities were hosted at the Yuma Readiness Center, including the extremely popular Senior Games events. The high interest and attendance at these events indicates the need for more senior-related activities and dedicated facilities.

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## National & State Benchmarks

When determining standards for level of service provided by the department, it is useful to compare to other cities across the state and nation. For this planning document, two key sources of data were used: the National Recreation & Park Association and the Trust for Public Land. These national and state averages provide a starting point from which standards for Yuma can be calibrated to local conditions.

The National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of public parks, recreation and conservation. NRPA manages the national recreation and parks database, known as PRORAGIS, which provides a wealth of information on services and facilities provided by parks departments across the country. Because needs and interests vary widely by location, the NRPA no longer provides national population standards for recommended level of service for each type of facility, but they do provide national averages that

can serve as benchmarking data. For this planning document, the numbers published in the 2015 Field Report are referenced, as well as numbers from reports generated by the PRORAGIS database.

Another source of data is provided by the Trust for Public Land's 2015 City Park Facts Report. This report details the parks and recreation systems of the 100 most populous cities in the U.S., which includes seven municipalities in Arizona: Phoenix, Glendale, Gilbert, Chandler, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tucson. Out of the complete data set, data for these seven cities were parsed to provide specific state-level information to guide this planning document.

National service averages gleaned from these sources were used as benchmark data from which updates to Yuma's service standards were made; see Table 3-6 in the next section for detailed figures.

## 3.2 Updating Yuma's Service Standards

Input from the public, analysis conducted within the department, and nationwide benchmarking data are collectively used to inform decisions concerning Yuma's park standards. As seen in the national and state benchmarking data, standards for parks are based on both population and location. After careful consideration of available information, this plan presents updates to the level of service standards provided in previous plans. These standards are calibrated to the specific needs and recreational interests of Yuma residents. This section details the twofold approach to assessing level of service and guiding future development: population standards and location standards.

### Population Standards

Population-based standards for parks and recreation facilities are the most common and widely-used method of estimating the current level of service and serve as an effective guide to plan for future growth.

Yuma's population standards were introduced in the first Parks & Recreation Plan adopted in 1986. These original standards were based on recommendations by the National Recreation and Park Association

**Table 3-6: Population Standards**

	2006 YUMA PARKS PLAN POPULATION STANDARDS	NATIONAL AVERAGE (NRPA*)	STATE AVERAGE (TPL**)	2016 YUMA PARKS PLAN POPULATION STANDARDS
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents	10	9.9 (median)	11.2 (adj. average)	10
<b>PARKS</b>				
Regional Parks	1/100,000	N/A	N/A	1/100,000
Community Parks	1/25,000	N/A	N/A	1/20,000
Neighborhood Parks	1/6,000	N/A	N/A	1/6,000
Linear Parks & Trails	N/A	1 mile/2,100	N/A	1 mile/2,000
<b>SPECIALIZED FACILITIES</b>				
Cultural Center	1/75,000	N/A	N/A	1/75,000
Community Performance Theater	1/25,000	N/A	N/A	1/100,000
Regional Performing Arts Center	1/100,000	1/132,957	N/A	REMOVED
Visual Arts Facility	1/75,000	1/84,331	N/A	1/75,000
Dog Park	N/A		1/102,045	1/75,000
<b>RECREATION FACILITIES</b>				
Tennis Court	1/10,000	1/7,686	1/8,364	1/10,000
Softball Diamond	1/4,000	1/7,127 (diamond fields)	1/6,539 (ball diamonds)	1/5,000
Baseball Diamond	1/15,000			1/15,000
Soccer Fields (Adult/Regulation)	1/10,000	1/7,899	N/A	1/15,000
Soccer Fields (Youth/Practice)	1/6,000	(rectangular fields)	N/A	1/6,000
Basketball Court	1/6,000	1/15,123	1/4,809 hoops	1/8,000
Volleyball Court	1/5,000	1/33,333 <sup>1</sup>	N/A	1/15,000
Play Apparatus/Playground	1/4,000	1/7,801	1/4,453	1/4,000
Exercise Facilities	1/10,000	1/61,474	N/A	1/20,000
Recreation Center	1/25,000	1/35,092	1/40,869 (Recreation & Senior Centers)	1/25,000
Community Recreation Center	1/50,000	1/46,294 <sup>2</sup>		1/50,000
Regional Recreation Center	1/100,000	N/A		1/100,000
Senior Center	N/A	1/84,087		1/100,000
Gymnasium	1/25,000	N/A	N/A	1/25,000
Aquatic Center	1/100,000	1/36,415 <sup>3</sup>	N/A	1/100,000
Community Pool	1/15,000	1/46,439	1/44,907	1/20,000
Skate Facility	1/60,000	N/A	N/A	1/60,000

\*Data from the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) 2015 Field Report  
 \*\*Data from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) 2015 City Park Facts

and calibrated to Yuma's needs using a Community Interest Survey conducted in 1985. Subsequent updates to the plan in 1994 and 2006 have adjusted these standards based on current market and demographic conditions. This iteration of the plan refines the standards once again based on current conditions, as detailed in Table 3-6.

The overall park standard for the City is one acre of parkland/open space for each 100 residents, or a ratio of 10 acres/1,000 persons. This is consistent with national and state averages and has been the standard in Yuma since the original 1986 plan.

### **Rationale for Altered Standards**

A concerted effort was made to calibrate the level of service standards to ensure they reflect the needs of Yuma. A combination of public input, national and state averages, and detailed facility usage and program enrollment data were carefully analyzed to inform the changes to the standards. Some categories were added, some deleted, and some standards were changed. Each change is explained in detail here.

#### **Community Parks**

The standard was adjusted to reflect a high demand for multi-use, athletic parks in Yuma.

#### **Linear Parks & Trails**

Where previously there was no standard for this type of park, the standard was added to reflect the growing national and local demand for trails, as shown in the public survey. Trails not only promote healthy living by encouraging pedestrian and bicyclist activity, they also provide connectivity between parks.

#### **Community Performance Theater & Regional Performing Arts Center**

Emphasis on performance theaters and arts facilities will continue to be an important service provided by the Parks & Recreation Department, as well as a key anchor in the continued revitalization of downtown. The previous plan included separate standards for theaters, performing arts centers, and visual arts facilities. Having distinct standards

for each of these facilities is redundant, so the standards were consolidated. For community performance theaters, the population service size was increased due to the presence of other theater facilities in Yuma. Based on enrollment figures and participation in current theater programs hosted by the City, the demand for publicly-owned and operated theater facilities seems to be met at this time. A regional performing arts center is built for a capacity of 2,500 to 3,500 people and is intended to attract large touring acts. The Yuma area has several privately-owned and operated facilities that can handle and attract performances of this type, including the local casinos, the Arizona Western College, and the fairgrounds. Yuma currently does not have a facility to handle a crowd of 5,000 or more, but this type of facility is being considered as a programming element in the fairgrounds. Considering all these factors, demand for this type of specialized performing arts facility is being met by the private sector.

#### **Dog Park**

Dog parks were added to the list of standardized facilities as these are one of the fastest growing types of parks nationwide. Locally, the one existing dog park is very popular and there is demand for more facilities of this type.

#### **Softball Diamonds**

The population size was raised slightly to align with benchmark figures while taking into account the popularity of softball in the area. The proposed Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex is anticipated to meet demand under the revised standard.

#### **Soccer Fields (Adult/Regulation)**

The standard for population size was raised slightly to align with benchmark figures. Yuma has an adequate number of youth/practice soccer fields, but is lacking somewhat on regulation-size fields appropriate for adult and tournament play.

#### **Basketball Courts**

The population size was raised slightly to align with benchmark figures. Demand for indoor basketball facilities outweighs the demand for outdoor courts.

### Volleyball Courts

The population size was adjusted to align with benchmark figures and due to low demand and use of existing courts.

### Exercise Facilities

This standard was adjusted to be more in line with the standard for community parks, where a majority of these facilities are located. Outdoor fitness equipment is very popular, but the expense limits the number that can be installed.

### Senior Center

The category "senior center" was added due to increased interest both nationwide and increased demand locally, particularly by the winter visitor population. A senior center would not necessarily be a stand-alone facility, but might have a dedicated staff and specific programming elements

to address seniors' recreation needs.

### Community Pools

Enrollment data and public survey indicated demand for another pool facility, particularly due to the popularity of swim lessons in the summer. The public survey also indicated a strong desire for more pools, both in the summer months as well as indoor facilities that are open year round. The standard was raised to align more with national standards, while keeping in mind that Yuma's weather allows for a longer swim season than most locales.

### Surplus/Deficiency Analysis

Since the 2006 Plan, several parks and facilities have been built or expanded to address the level of service deficiencies identified in that plan. The Yuma Valley

**Table 3-7: Surplus/Deficiency Analysis**

	POPULATION STANDARD	EXISTING & FUNDED FACILITIES	2015 POPULATION 97,543		2020 PROJECTED POPULATION 105,490		2025 PROJECTED POPULATION 114,085		2030 PROJECTED POPULATION 123,379	
			FACILITIES NEEDED	SURPLUS/ DEFICIENCY	FACILITIES NEEDED	SURPLUS/ DEFICIENCY	FACILITIES NEEDED	SURPLUS/ DEFICIENCY	FACILITIES NEEDED	SURPLUS/ DEFICIENCY
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents	10/1,000	1,085	975	110	1,055	30	1,141	-56	1,234	-149
<b>PARKS</b>										
Regional Parks	1/100,000	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Community Parks	1/20,000	5	5	0	5	0	6	-1	6	-1
Neighborhood Parks	1/6,000	16	16	0	18	-2	19	-3	21	-5
Linear Parks & Trails	1 mile/2,000	19 miles	49	-30	53	-34	57	-38	62	-43
<b>SPECIALIZED FACILITIES</b>										
Cultural Center	1/75,000	1	1	0	1	0	2	-1	2	-1
Community Performance Theater	1/100,000	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Visual Arts Facility	1/75,000	1	1	0	1	0	2	-1	2	-1
Dog Park	1/75,000	1	1	0	1	0	2	-1	2	-1
<b>RECREATION FACILITIES</b>										
Tennis Court	1/10,000	10	10	0	11	-1	11	-1	12	-2
Softball Diamond	1/5,000	15	20	-5	21	-6	23	-8	25	-10
Baseball Diamond	1/15,000	6	7	-1	7	-1	8	-2	8	-2
Soccer Fields (Adult/Regulation)	1/15,000	5	7	-2	7	-2	8	-3	8	-3
Soccer Fields (Youth/Practice)	1/6,000	18	16	2	18	0	19	-1	21	-3
Basketball Court	1/8,000	8	12	-4	13	-5	14	-6	15	-7
Volleyball Court	1/15,000	8	7	1	7	1	8	0	8	0
Play Apparatus/Playground	1/4,000	29	24	5	26	3	29	0	31	-2
Exercise Facilities/Fitness Center	1/20,000	4	5	-1	5	-1	6	-2	6	-2
Recreation Center	1/25,000	3	4	-1	4	-1	5	-2	5	-2
Community Recreation Center	1/50,000	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0
Regional Recreation Center	1/100,000	0	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1
Senior Center	1/100,000	0	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1
Gymnasium	1/25,000	2	4	-2	4	-2	5	-3	5	-3
Aquatic Center	1/100,000	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Community Pool	1/20,000	3	5	-2	5	-2	6	-3	6	-3
Skate Facility	1/60,000	1	2	-1	2	-1	2	-1	2	-1

NOTE: Includes Joint-Use Facilities, but does not include the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex (PAAC) which is anticipated to open in 2017. "Facilities Needed" is calculated by dividing the "Projected Population" by the "Population Standard"; the quotient is rounded to the nearest whole number. Numbers in **green** indicate facilities provided in excess of the standard, **yellow** indicates meeting the standard, and **red** indicates a deficiency.



Grand re-opening of the Stewart Vincent Wolfe Playground, 2015

Park, opened in 2014 adding four additional regulation soccer fields (two lighted and 2 not lighted) and a playground to the inventory. Several neighborhood parks, including Barkley Ranch Park, Ponderosa Park, and Saguaro Park were built in the last ten years, serving a population of at least 18,000 people. The Valley Aquatic Center was completed in 2009, providing residents with a much-needed pool and aquatic facility. Several parks were improved or expanded, including: a redesign of the Deyo Complex, expansion of the West Wetlands, construction (and subsequent re-construction in 2015) of the acclaimed Stewart Vincent Wolfe Creative Playground, restoration of the East Wetlands, and the expansion of Gateway and Riverside Parks.

Table 3-7 shows the level of service offered for each facility type as the population is projected to grow in the coming years. Parks & Recreation offers exceptional service in many areas, although certain types of facilities are desired to better meet demand. Data from Table 3-7 is intended to help guide budget decisions when choosing where to prioritize spending. Color coding helps visualize priorities; numbers in green indicate facilities provided in excess of the standard, yellow indicates meeting the standard, and red indicates a deficiency.

### **Parks**

When looking at the overall provisions of parkland and types of parks, Yuma is currently meeting or exceeding standards in all but one category: linear parks and trails. As a new standard for Yuma, it has recently become a focus area and should continue to be to catch up to the current population size. If population grows as expected, Yuma should anticipate the

need for another community park in the next 10-15 years and the continued need for more neighborhood parks as soon as the next five years. The need for neighborhood parks is closely correlated with new residential development and should be built in those areas.

### **Specialized Facilities**

Yuma has a number of excellent cultural facilities that are currently meeting demand. Over the next 10-15 years, demand for cultural centers and visual arts facilities might start to over-burden the existing centers and development of additional facilities could be considered over the long term.

### **Recreation Facilities**

While several recreational facilities meet or exceed service level standards, one can see at first glance that many are falling short of standards, particularly athletic fields, recreation centers, gymnasiums, and pools. The planned construction of the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex, anticipated to open in 2017, will meet the current deficiencies in softball diamonds. There is also a strong need for lighted regulation soccer fields, demand for which construction of the Yuma Valley Park ameliorated, but did not fully meet. While standards for small and mid-sized recreation centers are being met, there is a strong need for larger, sports-oriented recreation centers. One large multi-use recreation facility could help Yuma make gains toward meeting these service standards.

While currently exceeding standards for playgrounds, as population grows demand increases and continued emphasis on planning for playgrounds remains important.

## Location/Walkability Standards

The second method of evaluating park and recreation facilities is to identify specific location or geographic standards. Each type of park -- regional, community, neighborhood, and linear parks -- are assigned a particular service area based on walk or drive times. Regional parks have a drive time of one hour; community parks a one to two mile drive distance; neighborhood and linear parks serve a population in a 1/4 to 1/2 mile walking distance. An analysis of access to parks was conducted and is illustrated in the maps contained in this section. The last map, Map 3-4 shows a walkable 1/2 mile and one mile distance to any park in the City. It is important to remember that pedestrian access to parks might be limited by major roadways and natural or man-made barriers. Location of future parks should pay careful attention to the

**Table 3-8: Location Standards Update**

FACILITY TYPE	2016 POPULATION STANDARDS
<b>Regional Parks</b>	1 hour drive
<b>Community Parks</b>	1 to 2 mile drive
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	1/4 to 1/2 mile walk
<b>Linear Parks &amp; Trails</b>	N/A

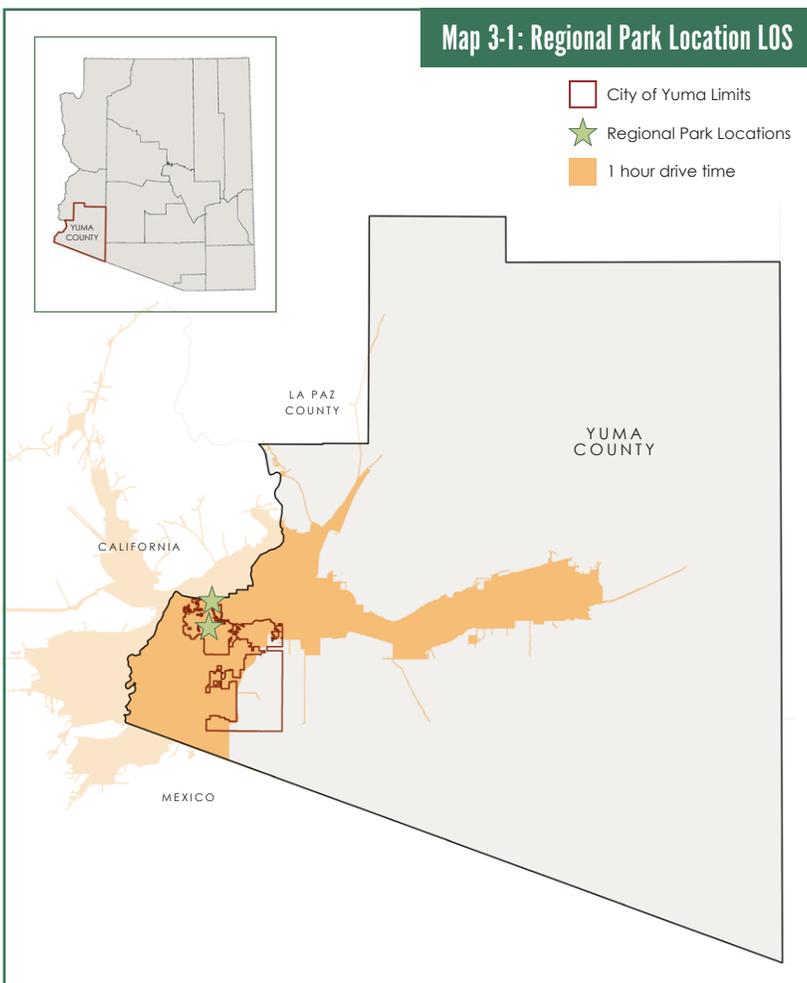
equitable allocation of parkland, relying on this analysis to choose the best location.

Fair and equitable access to and allocation of parks and open space, particularly within a walkable distance of residences, is an important public health and social justice issue. In a study conducted by the International Journal of Health Geographics about access to parks, the importance of walkable access to parks is clearly stated: "Proximity to parks and activity sites has been linked to an increase in active behaviors, and positive impacts on health outcomes such as lower rates of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity. Since populations with a low socio-economic status as well as racial and ethnic minorities tend to experience worse health outcomes in the USA, access to parks and physical activity sites may be an environmental justice issue."

Based on location standards, Yuma provides walkable access to parkland to most residents and much of the incorporated area of the City. Three areas of deficiency exist: 1) in the older residential portion of the City in the western Yuma Valley; 2) the new residential areas on the East Mesa; and 3) in the southwestern valley where residential growth has occurred and is anticipated to continue. Specific deficiencies are discussed further in the following analysis.

### Regional Park Analysis

Yuma's two regional parks, Riverfront and James P. Deyo Regional Parks, serve all of the populated areas of the City of Yuma as well as much of the populated areas of Yuma County, as illustrated in Map 3-1. Yuma's excellent regional parks draw



visitors from across the state and even the nation with the historical and cultural features they offer.

### Community Park Analysis

Community parks are defined as serving the population within a one to two mile driving or walking distance. Current service area is shown in Map 3-2. This map shows that while the western portion of town is generally well served, deficiencies exist on the East Mesa. Most of the residential development on the East Mesa happened within the past two decades, and as the housing development trends analysis in Section 2.2 showed, more residential development can be expected on the East Mesa in years to come, increasing demand for a community park in this area.

### Neighborhood Park Analysis

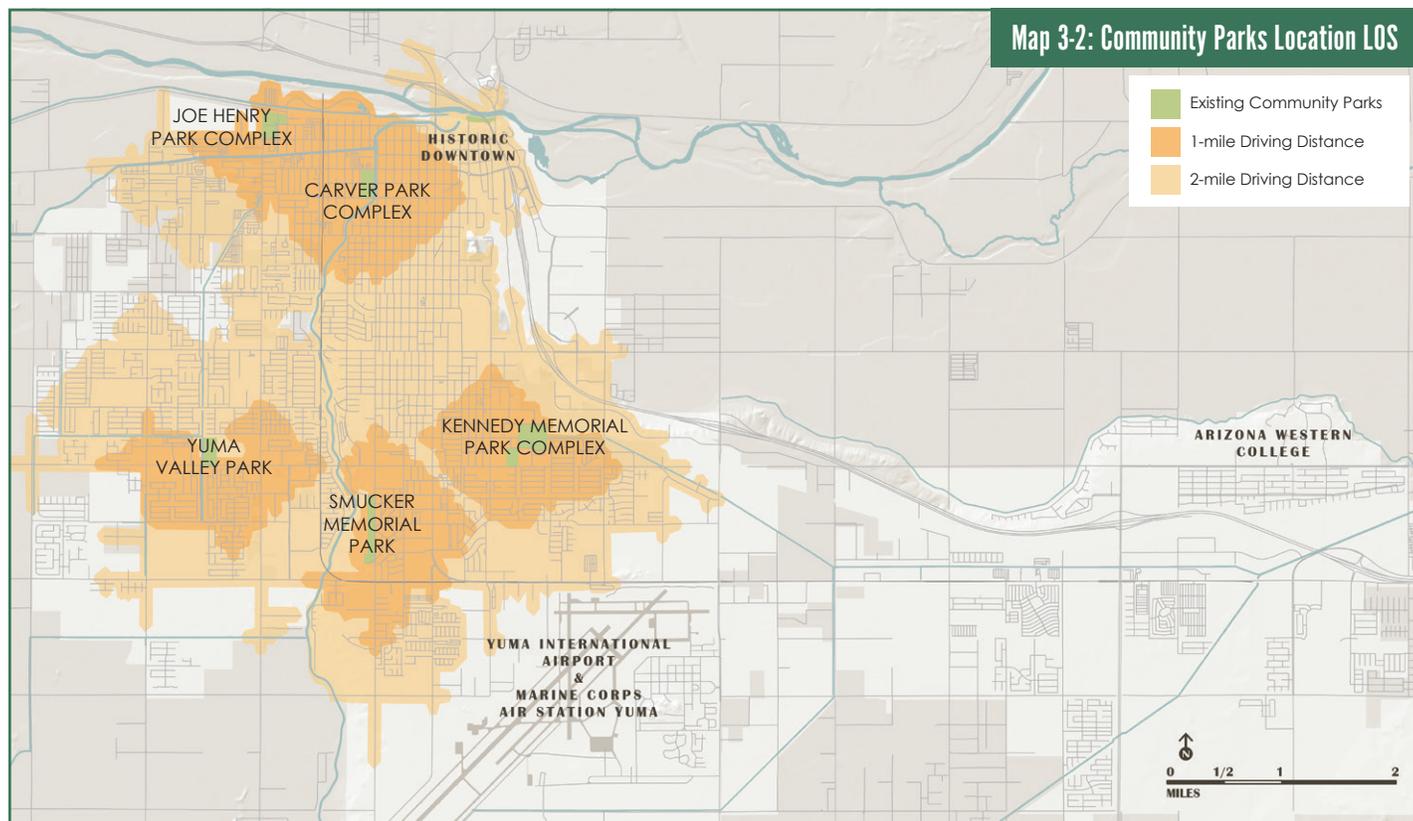
The City has been successful in addressing neighborhood park needs, particularly in high growth areas, through the joint retention basin-park strategy mentioned in

the previous section. As Map 3-3 illustrates, neighborhood parks are dispersed throughout town in most of the residential neighborhoods, save a few of the oldest and most dense neighborhoods, as well as some of the more recent development on the East Mesa.

In the older sections of town in the valley, very little undeveloped land remains, making the provision of new park facilities difficult. In many areas, deficiencies are supplemented by access to other types of green open space, whether it be school fields, golf courses, RV park recreation facilities, or grassy retention basins. Some of the new neighborhoods on the East Mesa were designed with retention basins that serve as open space, although they don't have amenities to qualify as a neighborhood park (acreage and playground equipment being key).

### Retention Basins/Mini-Parks

Of particular interest to this planning effort are the small retention basins that fill some of the gaps in service coverage seen in the

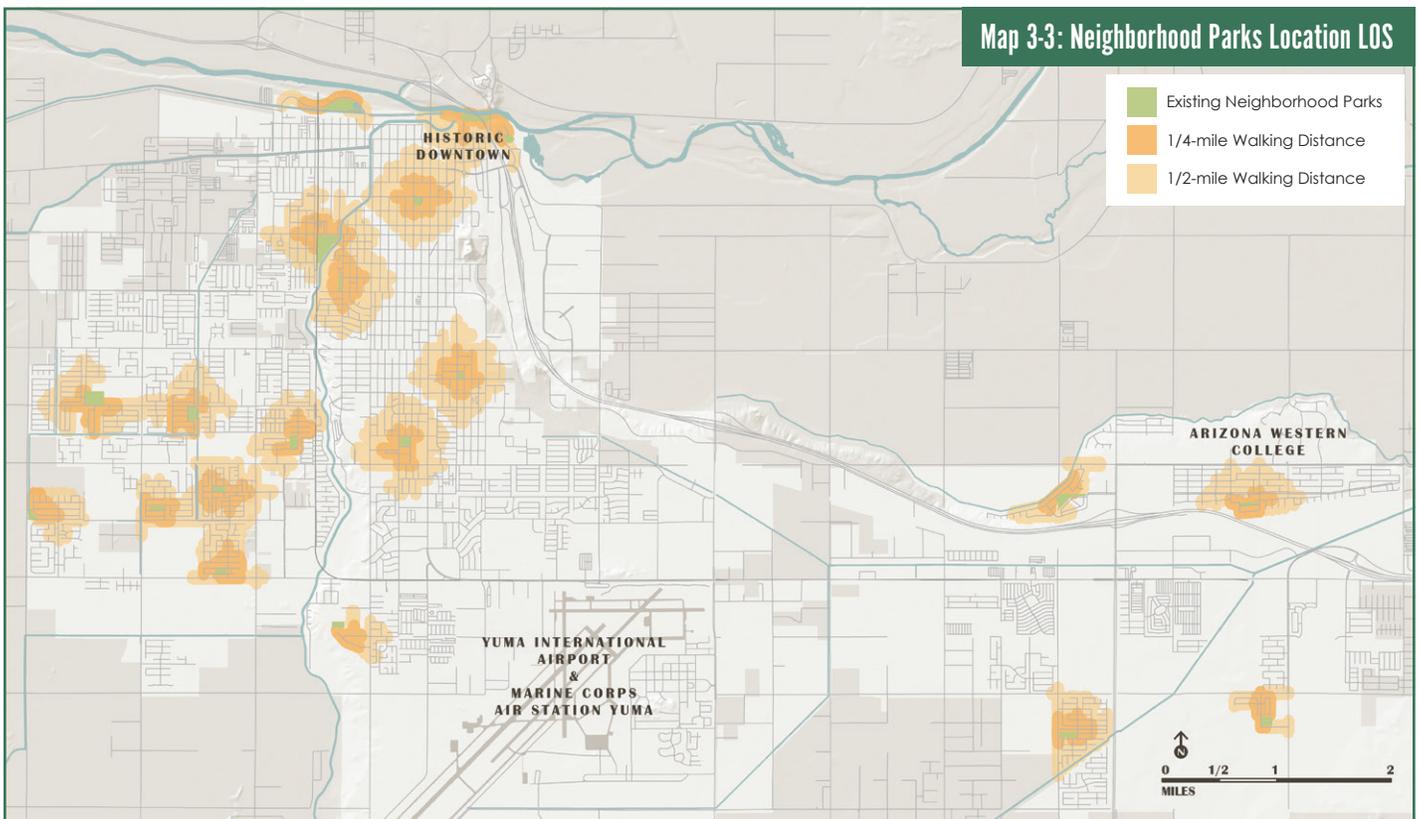


neighborhood parks analysis. These grassy retention basins were originally designed and platted as mini-park recreation areas, but are currently not considered part of the parks inventory as they are not maintained by Parks & Recreation staff. In the 1994 version of the parks plan, these retention basins were listed as part of the park system, but were subsequently dropped in the 2006 iteration of the plan when mini-parks were redefined as “pocket parks”. This change was due partly to the maintenance burden of these small basin/parks. There are over 60 green basins that serve as open space to surrounding residents, nearly half of which were platted and dedicated for recreation use. All the basins are currently maintained by Public Works. They are currently looking at strategies for reducing maintenance costs association with irrigation and mowing, particularly by switching the landscape from grass to xeriscape plantings. Additional service area coverage could be achieved by redefining some of these basins as mini-parks or nodes within the overall park system. In the Long Range

Plan, nodes are identified as potential park facilities. These facilities would be passive spaces and might include improvements such as benches, shade, trash cans, or water fountains. These nodes are best located along the linear park and bicycle network to provide users a place for respite.

### Linear Park Analysis

Location of linear parks is largely determined by geographic features that allow for or constrain the development of such parks through developed areas. Therefore, a locational standard is not feasible, and the population standards should be relied upon to guide development of linear parks and trails.



# KEY POINTS

## Level of Service Analysis

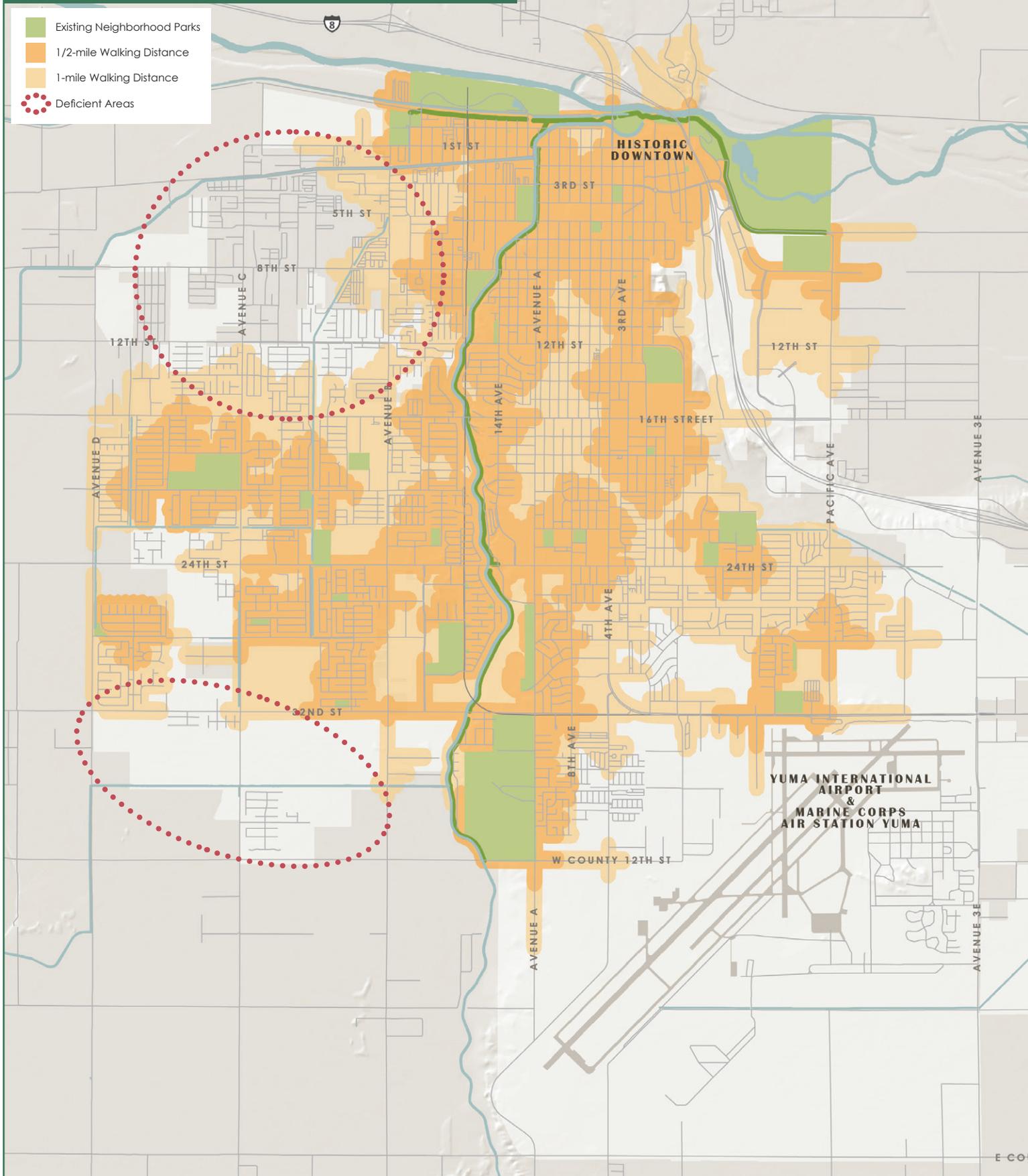
- Level of service is determined through a combination of public input, internal review, and benchmark data. Standards based on population and location are established to help assess current level of service and to guide future decisions. Conclusions from all input sources are summarized in Table 3-9, which also assigns an importance level for future development.
- The public input survey highlighted public desire for linear parks and trails to accommodate walking, jogging, and bicycling.
- Close analysis of reservation data showed a need for more athletic fields and indoor recreation facilities.
- Locational analysis showed a lack of parks on the East Mesa and in pockets of the West Valley, a deficiency also expressed in the public input survey.

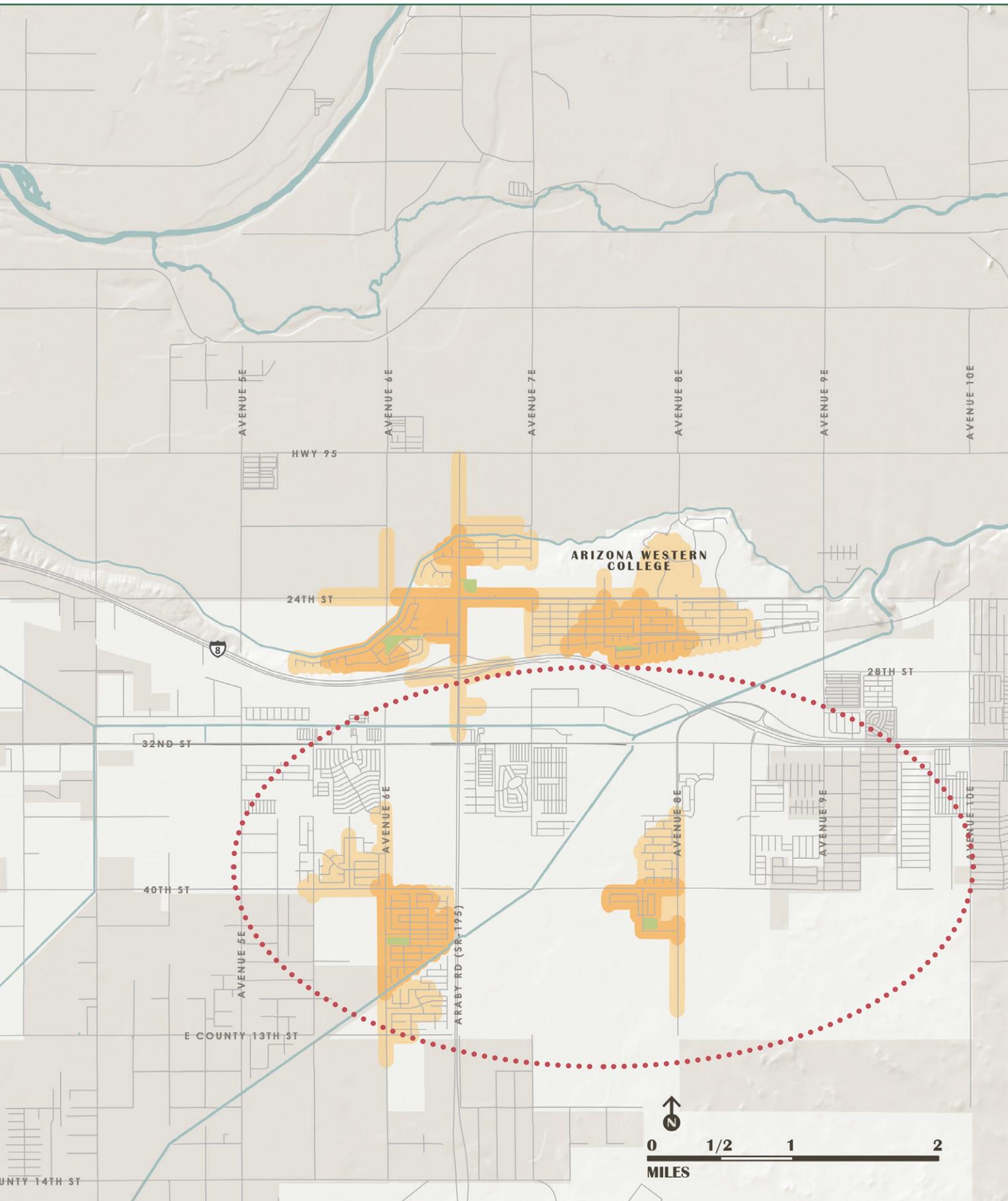
**Table 3-9: Needs Assessment Summary**

FACILITY TYPE	PUBLIC SURVEY RESPONSES	INTERNAL STAFF REVIEW	FACILITIES & PROGRAMS USAGE	POPULATION & LOCATION STANDARDS	IMPORTANCE LEVEL FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (4=HIGH, 0=NONE)
<b>PARKS</b>					
Regional Parks					0
Community Parks	✓	✓		✓	3
Neighborhood Parks	✓	✓		✓	3
Linear Parks & Trails	✓	✓		✓	3
<b>SPECIALIZED FACILITIES</b>					
Cultural Center					0
Community Performance Theater					0
Visual Arts Facility					0
Dog Park	✓	✓			2
<b>RECREATION FACILITIES</b>					
Tennis Court					0
Softball Diamond	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
Baseball Diamond	✓		✓	✓	3
Soccer Fields (Adult/Regulation)	✓			✓	2
Soccer Fields (Youth/Practice)	✓				1
Basketball Court	✓			✓	2
Volleyball Court					0
Play Apparatus/Playground	✓				1
Exercise Facilities/Fitness Center				✓	1
Recreation Center				✓	1
Community Recreation Center	✓	✓	✓		3
Regional Recreation Center	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
Senior Center			✓	✓	2
Gymnasium	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
Aquatic Center			✓		1
Community Pool	✓		✓	✓	3
Skate Facility		✓		✓	2
Archery Range	✓	✓	✓		3
Camping Facility	✓	✓			2
Pickleball Court	✓	✓	✓		3

NOTE: Check marks indicate the need for such facilities

Map 3-4: All Park Facilities - Location LOS - Walking Distance (1/2 & 1 mile)









# LONG RANGE VISION

## 4.1

### Goals, Objectives, & Policies

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Goal #1: Connectivity

Goal #2: Accessibility

Goal #3: Partnerships

Goal #4: Environment & Conservation

Goal #5: History, Art, & Culture

Goal #6: Health & Wellness

Goal #7: Thoughtful & Responsive

Future Development

## 4.2

### Proposed Parks & Facilities

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Long Range Vision Map

Proposed Projects & Initiatives



## 4.1 Goals, Objectives, & Policies

The vision for the future of the Parks & Recreation Department is informed and shaped by a careful consideration of the analysis from the previous sections. This analysis combines a review of existing conditions with a detailed look at the current level of service to understand the needs of the community and how the Parks & Recreation Department can continue to meet demand.

The vision is expressed twofold: first, through a set of goals, objectives, and policies; and second, by identifying future projects and needed facilities. The goals, objectives, and policies are intended to guide the Parks & Recreation Department's decisions over the coming years, and are also listed in the General Plan. Goals provide the long-term vision and serve as the foundation of the plan. The goals are broad statements of purpose, while the objectives provide more specific direction. Policies provide action items that serve as a bridge between goals and implementation.

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### Goal #1: Connectivity

**Improve connectivity between parks to achieve a walkable, interconnected park and recreation system to serve the entire community.**

**Objective 1.1:** Develop a linear park and trail system for walking, cycling, and horseback riding that, where possible, takes advantage of the canal banks, riverfront, and other natural and man-made corridors and emphasizes creating connections between parks.

*Policy 1.1.1: Encourage specific area plans for the development of trails, linear parks, and scenic routes to connect neighborhood and community parks to public activity centers.*

*Policy 1.1.2: Create and implement a plan for signage, traffic crossings, and connections to make existing linear parks safer and more accessible from surrounding streets.*

*Policy 1.1.3: Develop the linear park system in proximity to historic trails where possible.*

*Policy 1.1.4: Expand recreational opportunities through landscape or conservation easements, trail easements, land leases, or other non-ownership methods, particularly with the local irrigation districts.*

*Policy 1.1.5: Require all new residential developments to provide pedestrian and bicycle connections to any and all City parks, trails, or open spaces within a ½-mile radius.*



View of the Colorado River Levee Linear Park

**Objective 1.2:** Support other City Departments in their efforts to promote pedestrian and bicycle connectivity throughout the City.

*Policy 1.2.1: Support the City's Department of Community Development in their efforts to promote bicycle access and designated bicycle facilities throughout Yuma through the Bicycle Master Plan, a plan that is in accordance with the objectives set for linear parks, paths, and trails.*

*Policy 1.2.2: Support the City's Complete Streets policy, as outlined in the Transportation Master Plan.*

*Policy 1.2.3: Work with the City's Public Works Department & Department of Community Development to create a Street Tree and Shade Master Plan (see page 93 for more details) to promote walkability and mitigate heat islands.*

## **Goal #2: Accessibility**

**Ensure that the parks and recreation system is available, accessible, and safe to best serve the needs of Yuma's diverse population.**

**Objective 2.1:** Continue to enhance the parks and recreation system to offer a wide variety of facilities and programs to meet the desires of special needs and special interest populations.

*Policy 2.1.1: Develop accessible programs for the handicapped in a variety of settings – parks, recreation areas, community centers, and other cultural and education facilities.*

*Policy 2.1.2: Maintain recreational programming for special needs populations. Ensure creative projects in the following areas: pottery, puppets, storytelling, weaving, and other sensory-based projects.*

*Policy 2.1.3: Initiate an interpretive arts workshop, ensuring site accessibility.*

**Objective 2.2:** Provide a safe, clean, and accessible park and recreation system.

*Policy 2.2.1: Ensure that all new and existing park and recreational facilities are designed to be universally accessible, safe, and sufficiently lighted. In particular, handicapped parking and loading zones at existing parks should be assessed to ensure convenience and compliance with ADA laws.*

*Policy 2.2.2: Require all facilities to be designed using Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies.*

*Policy 2.2.3: Implement an interpretive park ranger/host program (see page 94 for more details) to improve safety and accessibility at regional and community parks.*

*Policy 2.2.4: Seek continued support from the City Police Department to patrol and secure park facilities, particularly during non-operational hours, in conjunction with the park ranger/host program.*

## Goal #3: Partnerships

### Encourage partnerships to improve and broaden the park and recreation system.

**Objective 3.1:** Achieve a coordinated and cooperative program between the City and other governmental entities in areas of mutual concern.

*Policy 3.1.1: Coordinate with area school districts to expand the development, access and/or continued joint-use of school facilities for public use.*

*Policy 3.1.2: Continue to encourage coordination by Federal, State, and City entities for the development of the riverfront and wetlands.*

*Policy 3.1.3: Partner with local irrigation districts to expand the linear parks and trails system along the irrigation canals, laterals, and drains.*

**Objective 3.2:** Achieve a coordinated and cooperative program between the City and private or non-profit groups to provide park and recreational amenities.

*Policy 3.2.1: Require agreements be made with the City for private parks under 3 acres in size to be maintained either by the new residential community or the development entity.*

*Policy 3.2.2: Develop and enforce standards encouraging new residential subdivisions to have access to or provide within a 1/2-mile walking distance a park with amenities such as a playground, turf area of at least 2 acres, a walking path, and lighting. Long-term maintenance for such parks shall be funded by a Home or Property Owners Association, improvement district, or similar entity.*

*Policy 3.2.3: Implement an Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Trail program to encourage service organizations, private companies, and individuals to provide and maintain park and recreation facilities.*

*Policy 3.2.4: Implement a Park Champion program to designate leaders to find and coordinate funding for special interest park and recreation facilities.*

## Goal #4: Environment & Conservation

### When possible, use the park and recreation system to achieve goals and objectives of the Conservation, Environmental, and Energy Element of the General Plan.

**Objective 4.1:** Utilize open space to protect sensitive areas and to protect natural habitats for Species of Concern, including hillsides, water courses, or other natural geographic features.

*Policy 4.1.1: Focus conservation efforts at the East and West Wetlands, the Fortuna Wash, and the Gila and Laguna Mountains.*

*Policy 4.1.2: Create development guidelines for sensitive lands and other natural features.*

**Objective 4.2:** Encourage nature and outdoor activities to allow children and adults alike to experience and explore Yuma's unique environment.

*Policy 4.2.1: Provide nature activities and programs with a focus on science exploration. These activities should be held in natural environments and can include activities such as hiking, biking, and canoeing. Continue to collaborate with educational institutions to closely integrate activities with established curriculum.*



Entry to downtown Yuma at night

*Policy 4.2.2: Solicit partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management and the Arizona Game & Fish Department to encourage more outdoor activities and recreation opportunities.*

## **Goal #5: History, Art, & Culture**

**Support the development and preservation of unique facilities which reflect and celebrate the cultural, artistic, and historic integrity of Yuma.**

**Objective 5.1:** Develop facilities and utilize existing resources to offer a variety of cultural and artistic experiences.

*Policy 5.1.1: Enhance and showcase the artistic and cultural opportunities of the Yuma community by incorporating artistic design elements or public art in the development of all new City facilities, and also include display areas for artwork.*

*Policy 5.1.2: Focus programs on education or training classes in a studio environment for arts, crafts or special hobby pursuits. Also facilitate educational opportunities for art therapy programming through exhibitions and special events.*

*Policy 5.1.3: Establish an artist-in-residence program that would support and house visiting artists, curators, and academics.*

*Policy 5.1.4: Partner with local arts and cultural organizations to provide expanded opportunities.*

*Policy 5.1.5: Develop regional and national art exhibitions in partnership with the Congressional Art Competition and Scholastics Art Competition.*

*Policy 5.1.6: Build programming directly related to arts education initiatives and partner with area schools for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) related programs.*

*Policy 5.1.7: Provide exhibition opportunities for local artists to present their work.*

**Objective 5.2:** Preserve the history and significance and celebrate unique cultural and historic landmarks, people, and events.

*Policy 5.2.1: Special efforts shall be taken to preserve Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park, Yuma Territorial Prison, Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge, Pivot Point and*

Roxaboxen Park.

*Policy 5.2.2: Focus specialized facility development on social and cultural activities; the performing arts; and living history museums or other regionally significant historical places.*

*Policy 5.2.3: Continue to offer popular festivals and special events to attract people to the parks and build a sense of community.*

*Policy 5.2.4: Initiate a program whereby a percentage of the total budget for every project included in the Capital Improvements Program is set aside specifically for public art and facility improvements.*

*Policy 5.2.5: Further develop a public art and sculpture program in Historic Downtown Yuma.*

*Policy 5.2.6: Utilize the arts to champion cultural diversity by expanding cross-cultural partnerships and programming.*

## **Goal #6: Health & Wellness**

### **Encourage and improve healthy lifestyle choices and opportunities for Yuma residents and visitors through park facilities and programs.**

**Objective 6.1:** Provide a framework for wellness for all residents.

*Policy 6.1.1: Continue to host popular community run/walks as effective ways to get people involved and motivated to lead healthy lives.*

*Policy 6.1.2: Collaborate with local schools, hospitals, and health departments to implement a Park Prescription program. (See page 94 for more information.)*

*Policy 6.1.3: Whenever possible, include and encourage fitness equipment at all parks. Seek grant funding to add these amenities to existing parks or trail nodes.*

## **Goal #7: Thoughtful & Responsive Future Development**

### **Continue to expand and improve the parks and recreation system in response to changes in population and needs of the community.**

**Objective 7.1:** Work in conjunction with the elements of the General Plan to identify future parks, connective bicycle routes, linear parks, and open space corridors.

*Policy 7.1.1: Develop the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to meet the park needs stated in the Parks Master Plan. Public park improvements should be re-assessed and re-evaluated annually based on population growth trends and projected facility needs.*

*Policy 7.1.2: Utilize existing vacant land, some retention basins, utility easements, and rights-of-way for recreation potential and multiple uses.*

*Policy 7.1.3: Incorporate water-play features or water misting stations in parks, and utilize playground shades to extend the life of playground apparatus.*

**Objective 7.2:** Use standards as the basis for providing appropriate levels of park and recreation facilities needed to achieve a balanced park and recreation system. These standards include the following:

*Policy 7.2.1: Regional Parks - One regional park for every 100,000 citizens. The size of the regional park is from 25 to 200 acres, and serves an area within a 1 hour drive time.*

*Policy 7.2.2: Community Parks - One community park for every 25,000 citizens. The size of the area park is from 15 to 25 acres, serves an area within a 1 to 2 mile driving distance, and should be located along arterial streets.*

*Policy 7.2.3: Neighborhood Parks - One neighborhood park for every 6,000 citizens. The size of the neighborhood park is from 5 to 15 acres, with a minimum of 3 acres of level open space in an appropriate shape. Neighborhood Parks serve the area within a ½-mile walking distance, to be accessible to residents.*

*Policy 7.2.4: Linear Parks & Trails - Provide a multi-use system of paths, urban trails, nature trails, and linear parks to connect parks and key locations in the community at a rate of one mile for every 2,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.5: Cultural Center - One cultural center for every 75,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.6: Community Performance Theater - One community performance theater for every 100,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.7: Visual Arts Facility - One visual arts facility for every 75,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.8: Dog Park - One dog park for every 75,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.9: Tennis Court - One tennis court for every 10,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.10: Softball Diamond - One softball diamond for every 5,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.11: Baseball Diamond - One baseball diamond for every 15,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.12: Soccer Field (Adult/Regulation) - One soccer field for every 15,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.13: Soccer Field (Youth/Practice) - One soccer field for every 6,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.14: Basketball Court - One basketball court for every 8,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.15: Play Apparatus Area - One apparatus area for each 4,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.16: Volleyball Court - One volleyball court for every 15,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.17: Exercise Facility - One exercise facility for every 20,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.18: Recreation Center - One recreation center for every 25,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.19: Community Recreation Center - One center for every 50,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.20: Regional Recreation Center - One center for every 100,000 citizens*

*Policy 7.2.21: Senior Center - One center for every 100,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.22: Gymnasium - One gymnasium for every 25,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.23: Aquatic Center - One aquatic center for every 100,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.24: Community Pool - One community pool for every 20,000 citizens.*

*Policy 7.2.25: Skate Facility - One skate facility for every 60,000 citizens.*



Herb Guenther Overlook at the East Wetlands Park

## 4.2 Proposed Parks & Facilities

In addition to the Goals, Objectives, and Policies, the vision for the parks system is expressed through a set of proposed projects, desired facilities, and future initiatives. Each of the proposed projects and desired facilities addresses a need or deficiency identified in the prior sections and is intended to meet the recreation needs of Yuma's growing population. Over time, as needs of the community change and financial realities shift, these projects may morph in response. The Long Range Vision Map illustrates projected future park needs, and the Proposed Projects & Initiatives section elaborates on those facilities and programs that currently have specific design plans associated with them.

The information presented in this section is intended to inform budgeting decisions and projects included in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP), which is the mechanism by which most Parks and Recreation projects are funded and constructed. The CIP includes projects from many City departments; some, like transportation projects that might include a multi-use path or bike lane, can fulfill the needs of the Parks & Recreation Department's goals and should be considered as part of the overall vision plan.

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### Long Range Vision Map

The Long Range Vision Map on the following page shows both the existing parks and the proposed parks. Existing park facilities are shown in light green and existing linear parks are shown in dark green. Proposed parks and linear parks are shown as hatched areas or dashed lines. Those with identified locations are labeled, and elaborated upon in the next section, Proposed Projects & Initiatives.

Also shown on the map are bikeways, both existing and proposed. Although the bikeways are outside the purview of the Parks & Recreation Department, bike accessibility has a significant impact on the convenience and enjoyment of the recreation system. Many of the linear parks serve as bikeways, and many streets with separated bike paths or designated as bike routes are safer for pedestrians, which also serves to improve connectivity between parks.

A new facility type proposed in this plan are *nodes*. Nodes are located along the linear park system and serve as rest points along the way. Potential nodes along the linear park system are indicated with bright green circles on Map 4-2. These locations coincide with existing City retention basins, and could make dual use of these City-managed sites. Amenities would be minimal, but could include benches, water fountains, signage, and shade.

An important goal of the Long Range Vision is to improve connectivity between the entire park system; of which bikeway and pedestrian connections are a critical component. To achieve these connections, it is important that Parks & Recreation staff takes an active role in supporting the efforts of other departments when it comes to bike paths, sidewalks, multi-use paths that are included in the

CIP. Such projects are typically classified as Transportation & Streets projects. When developing conceptual designs for new parks and facilities, the Long Range Vision Map should be consulted to ensure maximum connectivity throughout the park system is achieved. The parks and facilities recommended in this vision map are also reflected in the General Plan.

Overall, the Parks & Recreation Department is looking to maximize use of park lands currently owned by the City, rather than acquiring new land. Looking across departments, such as opportunities to leverage existing retention basins, could be a future option for increasing parkland without having to purchase additional land.

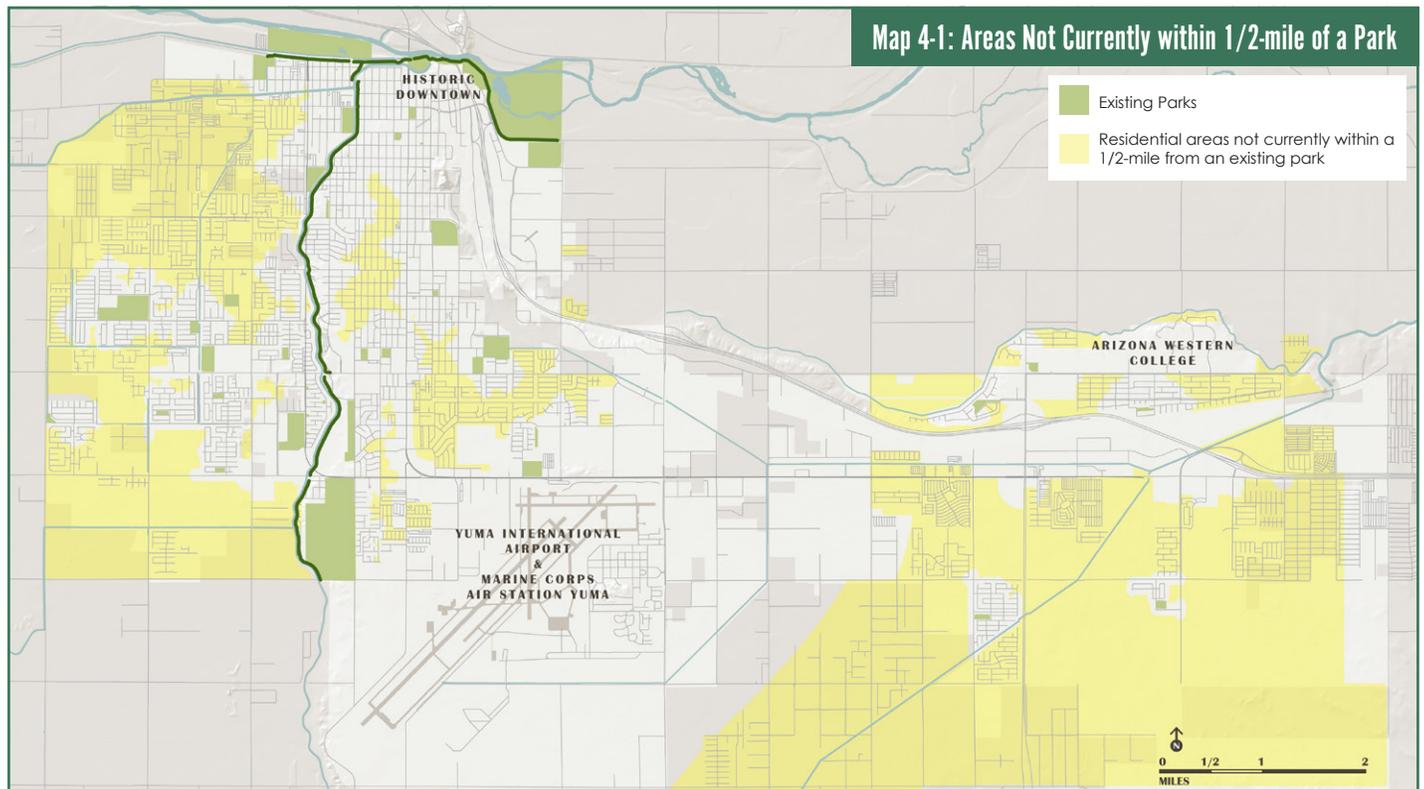
### Future Neighborhood Parks

Locations for regional, community and linear parks are largely determined based on geographic constraints, but neighborhood parks are more responsive to new residential development and the density of that new development. For this reason, it is impossible to predict the exact location of future neighborhood

parks, but rather easier to map those residential areas currently not served by a neighborhood park, as shown in Map 4-1 below. The Parks & Recreation Department will encourage residential developers to build neighborhood parks and take into consideration funding for the long-term maintenance.

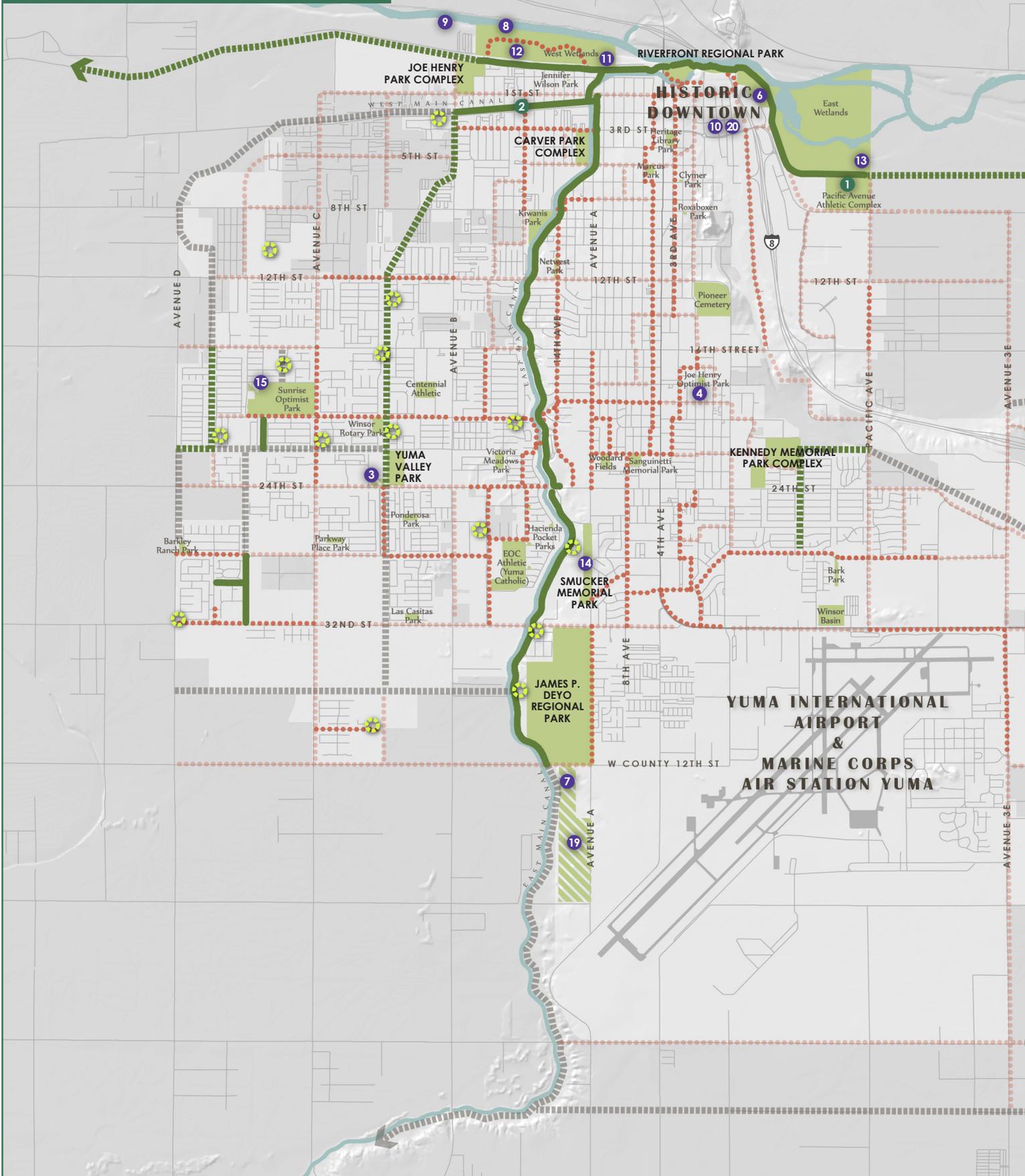
### Future Linear Parks

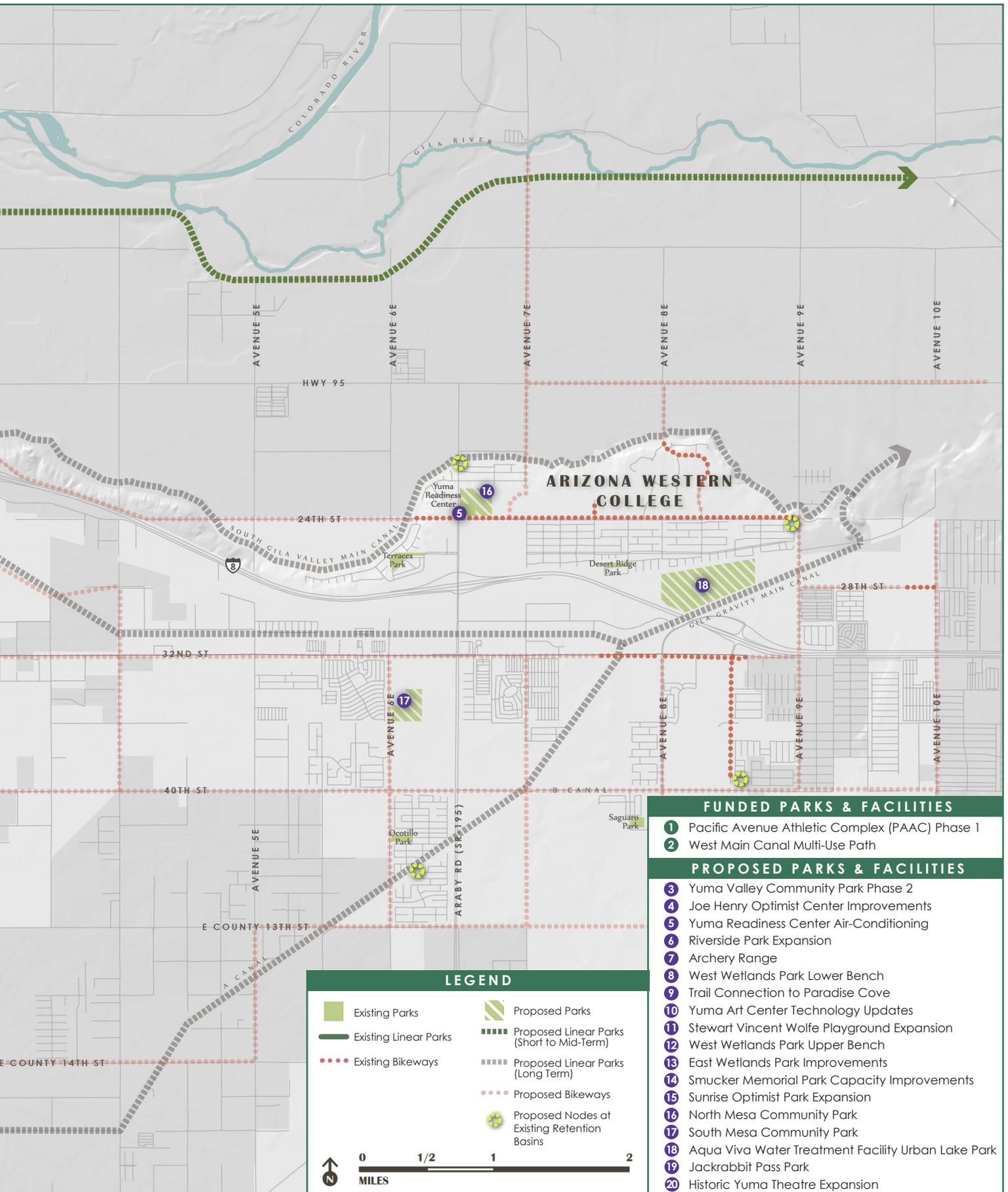
Linear parks are proposed along most of the area canals. During the planning process, the Yuma Mesa Irrigation & Drainage District (YMIDD), the Yuma Irrigation District (YID), and the Yuma County Water Users Association (YCWUA) contacted the City to express concerns regarding public trails along their rights-of-way. Their concerns included narrow easements, sandy unstable soils, dangers posed by fast-moving canal waters, and conflicts between recreational users and regular maintenance vehicles. In response to these concerns, linear parks where agreements are not in place are shown in gray. As the nature of land use in the surrounding areas changes over time, the City will continue to work with local irrigation districts to explore the possibility of using these areas for recreational uses.



Note: Highlighted areas are those designated as residential land use and currently not within 1/2-mile walking distance from an existing park.

Map 4-2: Long Range Vision Map for Yuma's Parks System





## Proposed Projects & Initiatives

In addition to the build-out scenario addressed in the Long Range Vision Map for the entire parks system, the vision also includes proposed parks and recreation facilities. Using the Needs Assessment Summary shown in Table 3-9, all facilities with an importance level of three or higher are specifically addressed in the long range plan. (Baseball diamonds were not included because current demand on the baseball fields is expected to be relieved when the six softball fields at the PAAC open.) The following pages give a snapshot of each planned and proposed project. Some of the projects have sites associated with them, while others are needed facilities that could be included in existing or new parks. The projects listed here address capacity and level of service improvements that are beyond normal maintenance concerns. The information included in each project sheet is intended to feed into the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The projects included

are divided into three categories: funded projects, proposed projects, and other desired facilities.

**Funded Projects** include those currently in the CIP that are either under construction or anticipated to start construction soon. These projects have defined funding sources.

**Proposed Projects** have an identified site and include both new parks and capacity improvements to existing parks. All plans shown in this document are conceptual in nature and subject to change.

**Other Desired Facilities & Initiatives** are parks, facilities, initiatives, or programs that have been identified as desired elements. They are not necessarily tied to a particular site, but could be included in existing or new parks.

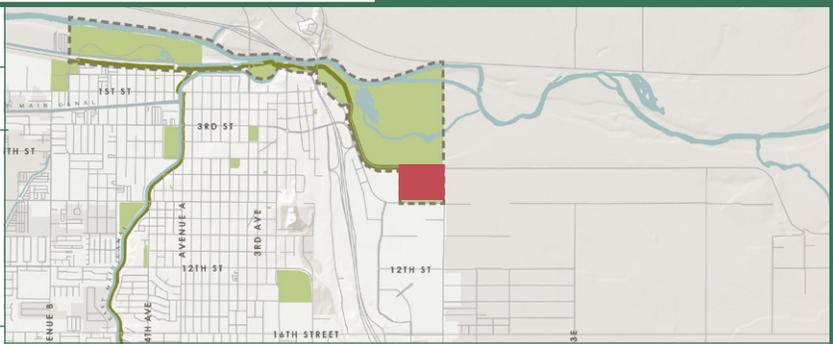
**Table 4-1: Proposed Projects & Initiatives Summary**

NO.	PROJECT NAME	TIMELINE	COST	PAGE #
<b>FUNDED PROJECTS</b>				
1	Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex (PAAC) Phase 1	UNDER CONSTRUCTION	\$\$\$\$	73
2	West Main Canal Multi-Use Path	UNDER CONSTRUCTION	\$\$	74
<b>PROPOSED PROJECTS</b>				
3	Yuma Valley Community Park Phase 2	SHORT TERM	\$\$	75
4	Joe Henry Optimist Center Improvements	SHORT TERM	\$	76
5	Yuma Readiness Center Air-Conditioning	SHORT TERM	?	77
6	Riverside Park Expansion	SHORT TERM	\$\$\$	78
7	Archery Range	SHORT TERM	\$	79
8	West Wetlands Park Lower Bench	SHORT TERM	\$\$	80
9	Trail Connection to Paradise Cove	SHORT TERM	\$	81
10	Yuma Art Center Technology Updates	SHORT TERM	\$	82
11	Stewart Vincent Wolfe Playground Expansion	SHORT TERM	\$\$	83
12	West Wetlands Park Upper Bench	MID-TERM	\$\$	84
13	East Wetlands Park Improvements	MID-TERM	\$\$	85
14	Smucker Memorial Park Capacity Improvements	MID-TERM	\$\$	86
15	Sunrise Optimist Park Expansion	MID-TERM	\$	87
16	North Mesa Community Park	LONG TERM	\$\$\$	88
17	South Mesa Community Park	LONG TERM	\$\$\$	89
18	Aqua Viva Water Treatment Facility Urban Lake Park	LONG TERM	\$\$\$\$	90
19	Jackrabbit Pass Park	LONG TERM	\$\$\$	91
20	Historic Yuma Theatre Expansion	LONG TERM	\$\$\$\$	92
<b>OTHER DESIRED FACILITIES &amp; INITIATIVES</b>				
21	Linear Parks	ONGOING	VARIES	93
22	Neighborhood Parks in New Residential Subdivisions	ONGOING	\$	94
23	Expanded Joint-Use Agreements with Local Schools	ONGOING	VARIES	94
24	Park Prescription Program	ONGOING	\$	95
25	Street Tree & Shade Master Plan	ONGOING	\$	95
26	Park Host/Ranger Program	ONGOING	\$\$	96
27	Gymnasium	SHORT TERM	\$\$\$	96
28	Pickleball Court	MID-TERM	\$	97
29	Regional Recreation Center	LONG TERM	\$\$\$\$	97
30	Community Pool	LONG TERM	\$\$\$\$	98

NOTE: \$ = <\$500,000; \$\$ = \$500,000-\$1M; \$\$\$ = \$1-5M; \$\$\$\$ = \$5M+; refers to construction costs only, not operation & maintenance costs

# 01: Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex (PAAC)

<b>STATUS</b>	FUNDED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	49 acres
<b>FACILITIES</b>	6 lighted softball fields 1 playground 0.7 miles of walking paths 1 restroom facility 1 concessions facility
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Construction to begin in 2016, completion anticipated 9-12 months following
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$14,200,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Two Percent Tax bond (2015 issue) development fees, & grants
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	+6 softball diamonds +1 playground +49 acres of parkland



The PAAC is a 49-acre athletic complex that will consist of six lighted grass softball fields for league and tournament play, an irrigation storage lake, and a maintenance facility. Central to making the facility user-friendly, the design also includes a concessions building, restrooms, and a play area including softscape and hardscape elements. Connections to nearby trails will be made through the use of wayfinding signage. Construction of Phase 1 (approximately \$14.2 million) is expected to begin in 2016 and be complete in 9-12 months from the start date, by August 31, 2017. The project is being funded through a combination of monies from the 2% special tax, development fees, and grants.

### Key Notes

- 1 ENTRY MONUMENTATION
- 2 DROP-OFF AREA
- 3 PARKING LOT (431 SPACES)
- 4 PARKING LOT (99 SPACES)
- 5 PARKING LOT (84 SPACES)
- 6 PARKING LOT (138 SPACES)
- 7 PARKING LOT (79 SPACES)
- 8 MULTI-USE PATHWAY
- 9 CONNECTION TO EAST WETLANDS
- 10 CONCESSIONS/RESTROOM BUILDING
- 11 OUTDOOR CAFE
- 12 MAINTENANCE BUILDING AND YARD (18,000 SF)
- 13 LARGE GROUP RAMADA
- 14 SMALL GROUP RAMADA
- 15 BATTING CAGES AND RESTROOMS (FUTURE)
- 16 IRRIGATION PUMP STATION
- 17 LAKE (3.2 ACRES)
- 18 WATER FEATURE
- 19 POLICE MEMORIAL (FUTURE)
- 20 SHADE NODE
- 21 MULTI-USE TURF AREA (1.8 ACRES)
- 22 SOFTBALL FIELD (325' BASELINES)
- 23 CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD (325' BASELINES)
- 24 SPECTATOR LAWN SEATING AREA
- 25 PRACTICE/ WARM-UP AREA
- 26 PLAYGROUND (2-5 AND 5-12)
- 27 RAISED PLANTING AREAS



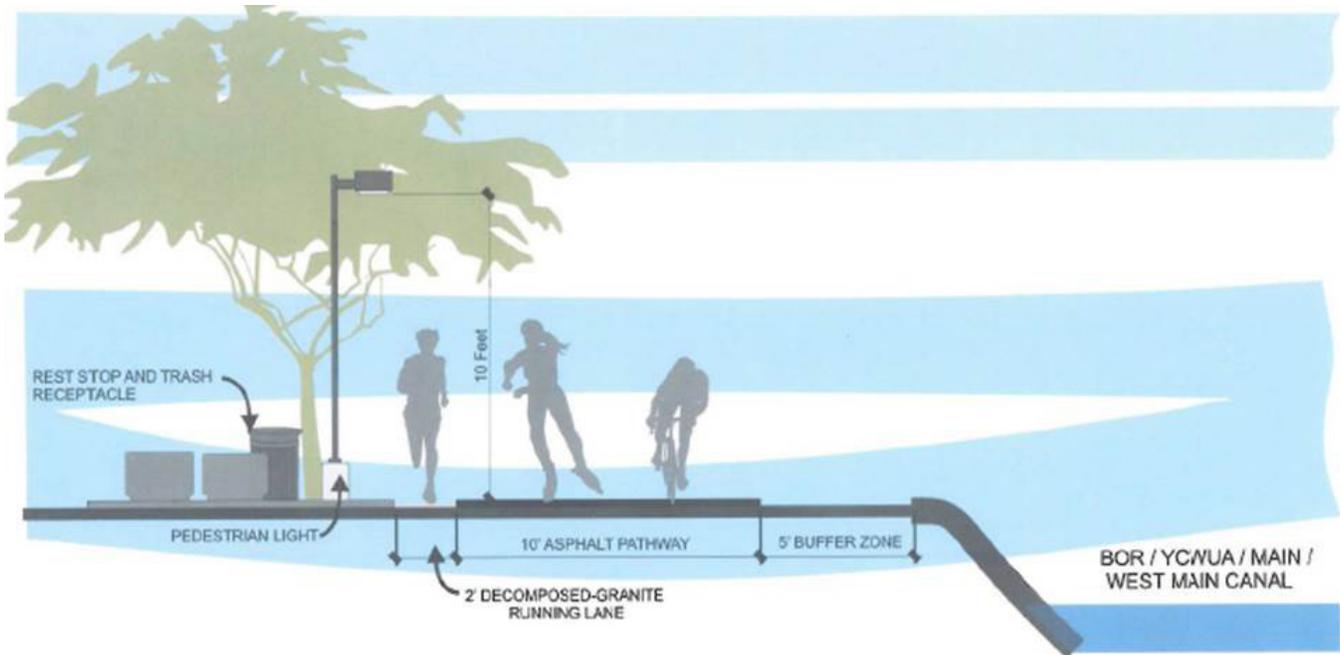
PREPARED FOR THE CITY OF YUMA BY Kimley»Horn

## 02: West Main Canal Multi-Use Path

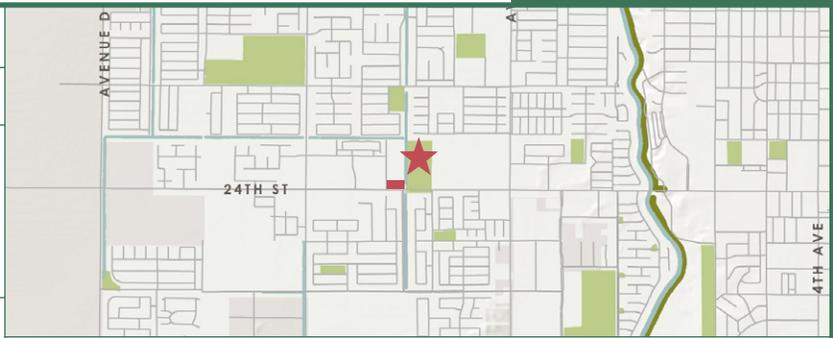
<b>STATUS</b>	FUNDED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	2.3 acres
<b>FACILITIES</b>	1 mile of multi-use path/ linear park
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Construction to begin in 2016 with completion anticipated in the third quarter of 2016
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$795,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Enhancement Grant & City Road Tax
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	+1 mile linear park/trail +2.3 acres of parkland



This project includes the design and construction of a lighted pathway along the West Main Canal, extending from Avenue A and Avenue B. This path is identified in the Transportation Element of the City of Yuma General Plan. The path will be at least 10 feet wide. Enhancement Grant funding was sought and awarded for this project.



<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	2 acres
<b>FACILITIES</b>	0.6 mile walking path 2 ramadas 1 concessions facility Approx. 270 parking spaces
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Short Term (1-5 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$970,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Development fees
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	+2 ramadas +1 acre of parkland (1 acre included in park currently)



The Yuma Valley Park opened in 2014, offering four adult/regulation soccer fields, a playground, a restroom facility, and 130 parking spaces. Since opening, the park has become very popular, hosting many youth soccer tournaments with hundreds of people in attendance. For these events, the need for additional parking has become apparent. In early 2016, the City-owned parcel to the west of the park was converted into temporary parking to accommodate the crowds. In addition to making this parking area permanent, Phase 2 of the park includes walking paths, two ramadas, and a concessions facility as an addition to the existing restroom building. Parks & Recreation staff will work with the City Engineering staff to develop a permanent solution for the additional parking area to the west that will serve a dual-use as a retention basin.



Existing Park, view from 24th Street looking North



**LEGEND**

- Existing Structures
- Proposed Structures
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees



## 04: Joe Henry Optimist Center Improvements

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	None
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Air-Conditioned Gymnasium
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Short Term (1-5 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$ (approx. \$200,000)
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Grants, donations, 2% funds
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Need for year-round use of a gymnasium

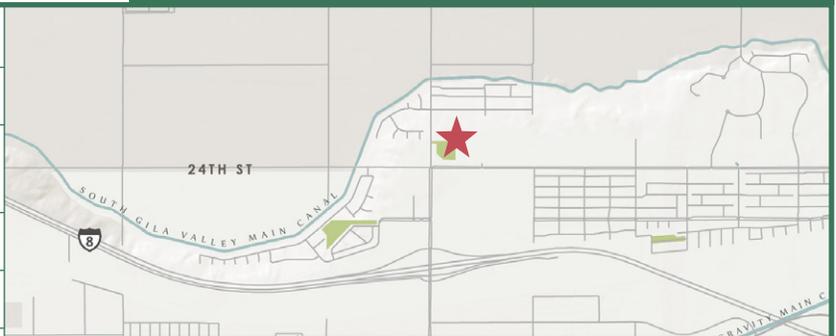


Improvements to the inside of the facility include air conditioning, insulation, new doors, electrical upgrades, and new sports flooring. Outside improvements will include demolition, removal, and replacement of existing basketball courts, lighting, and fencing. Community Development Block Grant funds will be used for improvements to the inside of the building. Other grants & private donations will subsidize the cost of the renovations.



## 05: Yuma Readiness & Community Center Gymnasium Air-Conditioning

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	None
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Air-Conditioned Gymnasium
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Short Term (1-5 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$ (approx. \$500,000)
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Development fees & grants
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Need for year-round use of a gymnasium



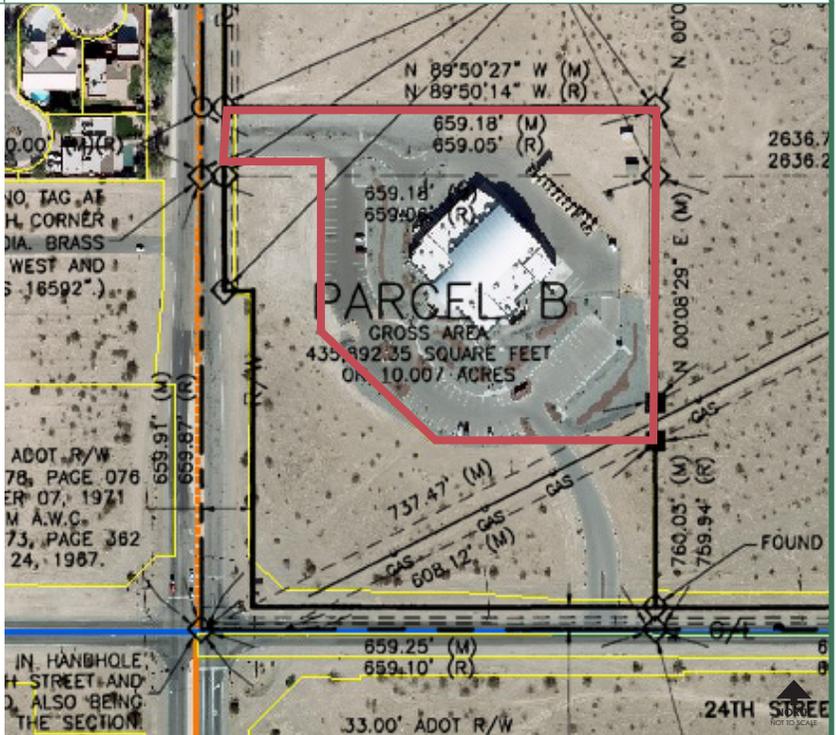
The Yuma Readiness & Community Center was built as a joint-use facility with the National Guard. The facility consists of an administrative office, two large classrooms, an industrial kitchen, a small exercise room, and a large multi-purpose room which serves as a gymnasium for recreational uses. Other portions of the building are not accessible for Parks & Recreation use. When built, the budget did not allow for installation of air conditioning in the gymnasium portion of the facility, which limits the use of the facility particularly in the summer months. This project proposes to add an HVAC system to the gymnasium to replace the existing evaporative cooling system. In addition to the HVAC system, the electrical system would need to be upgraded and insulation added to the building. Engineering studies would also be needed to determine where the HVAC units could be placed on the building. The HVAC system that currently serves the other portions of the building is controlled off-site, from the main office in Phoenix. Due to the joint-use nature of this facility, this project should be completed in partnership with the National Guard. The National Guard and the Parks & Recreation Department have an agreement to share the cost of utilities, so it will also be important to consider the long-term cost of operating the HVAC system and both parties will need to be in agreement.



Existing Yuma Readiness Center

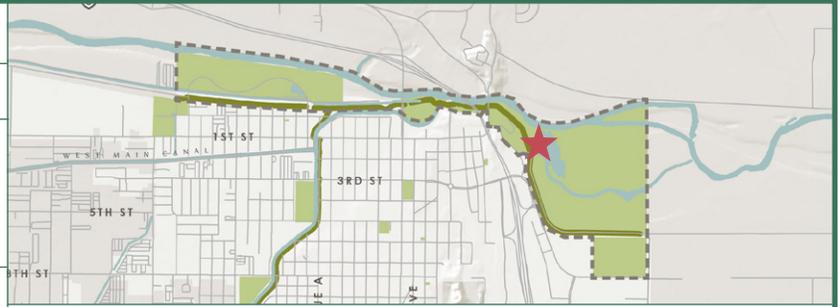


Mural inside gymnasium

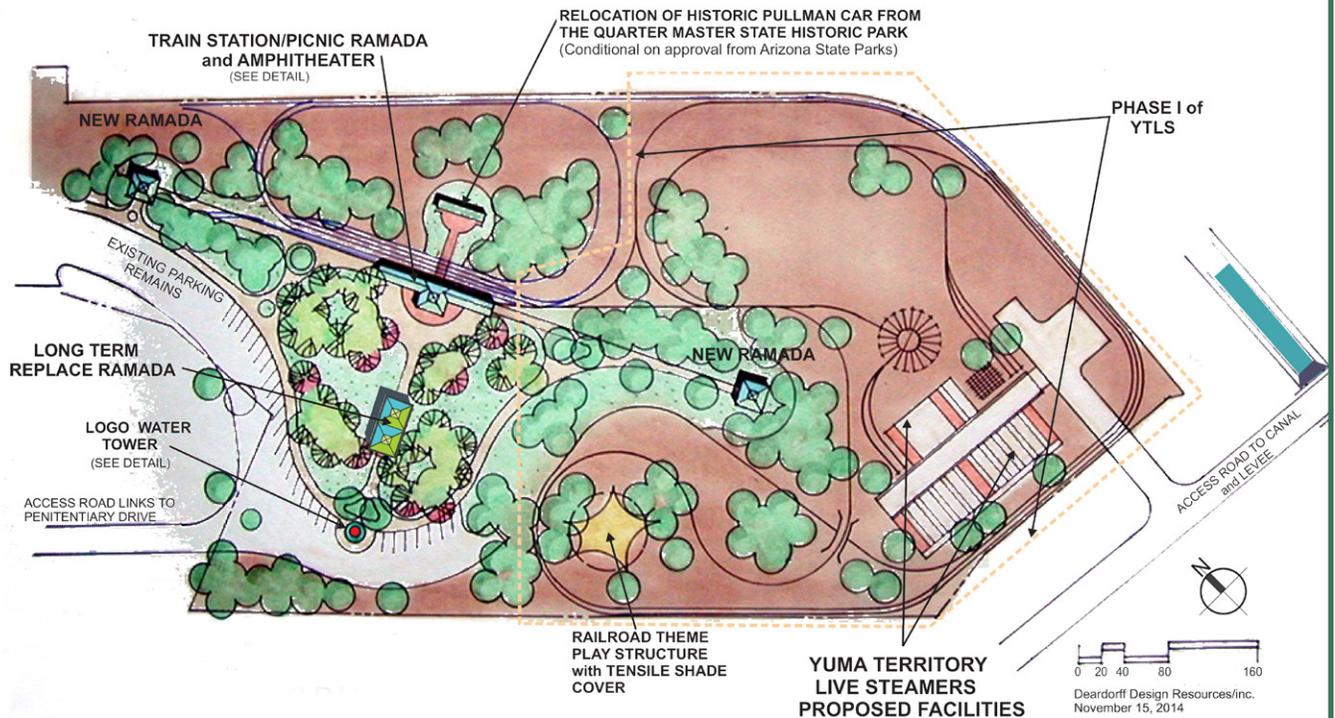


## 06: Riverside Park Expansion

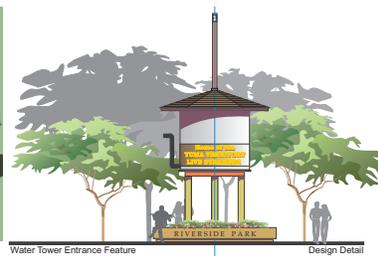
<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	7.7 acres
<b>FACILITIES</b>	0.3 mile walking path 1 playground 3 ramadas 15 parking spaces
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Short Term (1-5 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$1,220,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Private partnerships, grants, & development fees
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	+1 playground +3 ramadas +7.7 acres developed parkland



Improvements to lighting, landscape, and facilities are needed in conjunction with the addition of an educational railroad attraction that is being funded and constructed by the Yuma Territory Live Steamers. The purpose of this organization is "to educate the public about the lore and history of American steam railroading with 1/8 scale, fully functioning, steam engine, vintage diesel and cars. The railroad is intended for both children and adults alike to ride on and enjoy." As of May 2015, the group has installed 3,000 linear feet of track at Riverside Park and are currently constructing an expansion that will total nearly 7,000 linear feet. The Steamers are seeking grants to construct the station ramada that will be a feature for the park. In conjunction with this private investment, Parks & Recreation will install and maintain the landscaped areas surrounding the site, provide water capacity to serve the landscape and turf areas, and will install lighting, ramadas, additional parking, and an expanded restroom facility.



Steamer Station Multi use Feature Design Detail



Water Tower Entrance Feature Design Detail



<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	None
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Archery Range
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Short Term (1-5 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	Approx. \$120,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Grants, public partnerships
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Demand for archery facilities & programs



In partnership with Arizona Game & Fish, the Parks & Recreation Department will install an archery range at the Jack Rabbit Pass parcel to foster the growth of the sport of archery. In addition to the archery range, the improvements will include shade areas, announcement system, signage, fencing, and a storage area for archery equipment. The Department will seek a grant from the Easton Foundations to help fund the archery facility.

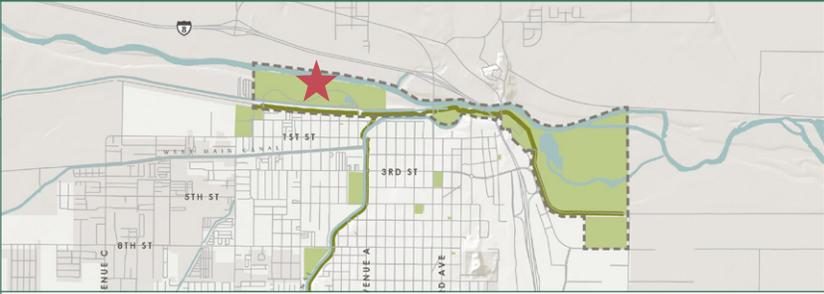


Standard layout of a Youth/Community Field presented by Easton Foundations.

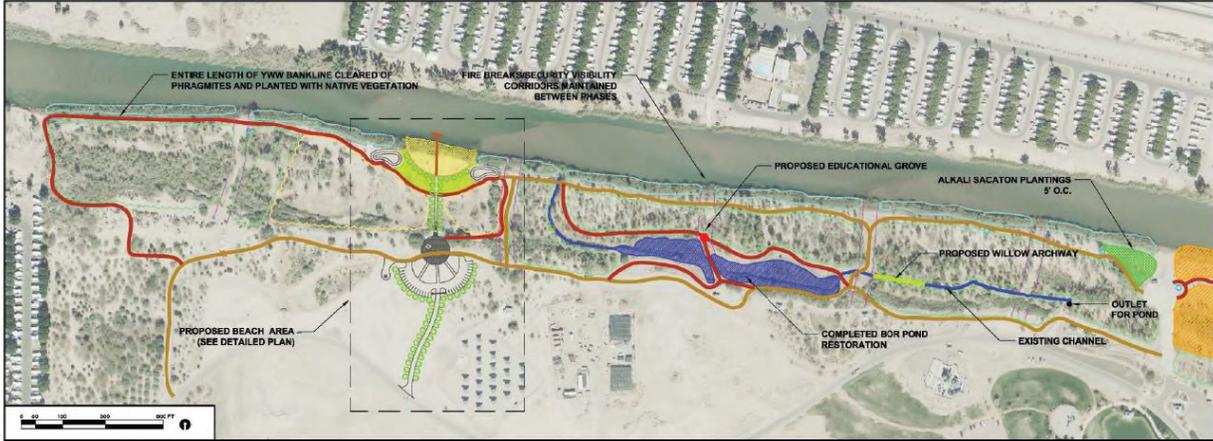
Images from Easton Foundations (esdf.org)

# 08: West Wetlands Park Lower Bench

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	55.5 acres
<b>FACILITIES</b>	1.25 mile walking paths Beach with dock Ramada Approx. 30 parking spaces
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Short Term (1-5 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$720,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Bond (general), development fees, grants
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	+55.5 acres of developed parkland



Restoration and development of the Lower Bench of the West Wetlands is an ongoing project, managed jointly by the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area and the Parks & Recreation Department. Portions of the project have been completed, and in total, the remaining portion of the planned improvements for the park are anticipated to cost upwards of \$700,000. Grants and bond funding will be the primary funding sources, with the potential for development fee funds to kick in on eligible portions of the project.



**GENERAL NOTES**

**MAP FEATURES**

- OPEN WATER
- PROPOSED 4' TRAIL
- EXISTING 4' TRAIL
- FIRE BREAK HO/HEAVY
- MANTAINED EXISTING VEGETATION
- MAINTAINED EXISTING VEGETATION
- SALINARIA VEGETATION
- RESTORED BANKLINE VEGETATION
- EXISTING BEACH
- EXISTING BEACH
- GRAVE AREA
- PROPOSED BEACH
- MESQUITE TREE
- PROPOSED EDUCATIONAL GROVE

1	Revised Layout	1/16
No.	Revisory Issue	Date

**FIRM NAMES AND ADDRESSES**

Fred Phillips Consulting  
451 South Union St.  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
phone: 908.773.1530  
fax: 928.774.4156  
www.fredphilipsconsulting.com

**PROJECT NAME AND ADDRESS**

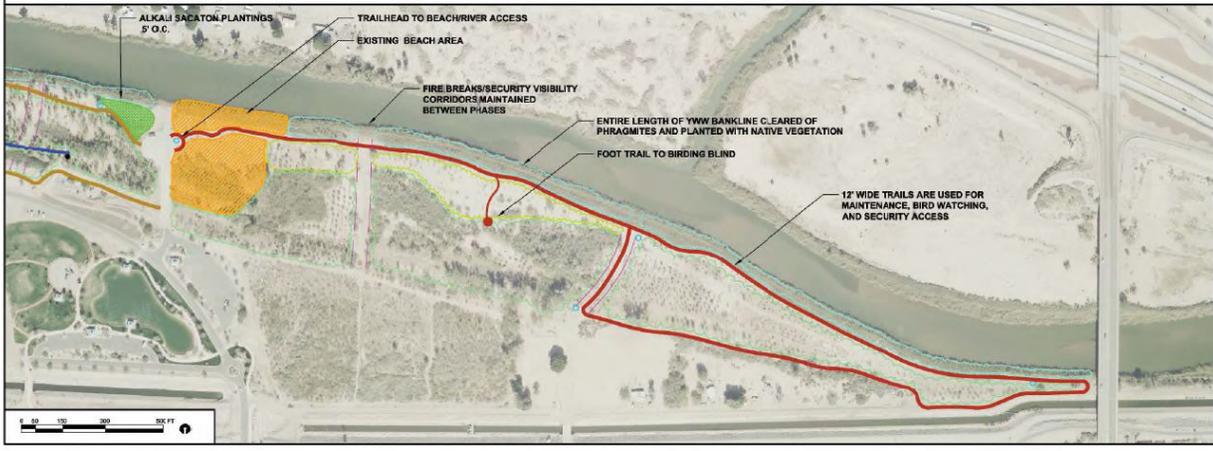
City of Yuma  
One City Plaza  
PO Box 85366-2014  
Yuma, AZ 85366  
www.yumazip.gov

Yuma Crossing National  
Heritage Area  
150 W. 5th St.  
Yuma, AZ 85364  
www.yumacrossing.com

**DRAWING**

**SITE OVERVIEW**

DATE	SHEET #
01/16/2015	L1
SCALE @ 11"x17"	SCALE @ 22"x34"
1:300	1:150



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Heritage Area  
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Yuma, AZ 85364  
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**DRAWING**

**SITE OVERVIEW**

DATE	SHEET #
01/16/2015	L1
SCALE @ 11"x17"	SCALE @ 22"x34"
1:300	1:150

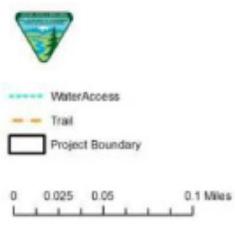
<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	None
<b>FACILITIES</b>	1/4 mile multi-use trail
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Short Term (1-5 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	Approx. \$30,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Grants & partnerships
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	+1/4 mile of linear park/trails



In 2014, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) undertook an effort to clean and improve Paradise Cove, a 20 acre site west of the West Wetlands Park. Once overgrown and overrun with criminal activity, the area now boasts five access points to the Colorado River, walking trails, and public parking. The Parks & Recreation Department would like to work with current land owners to provide a pedestrian easement from the West Wetlands Park to the newly renovated Paradise Cove. This trail would extend approximately 0.25 miles and would follow the Colorado River in the Federal right-of-way. Ideally, the trail would be 12' wide to accommodate hiking, biking, and equestrian users.



2012 Conceptual Plan for Paradise Cove Improvements



## 10: Yuma Art Center Technology Upgrades

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	None
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Technology upgrades
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Short Term (1-5 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$150,000

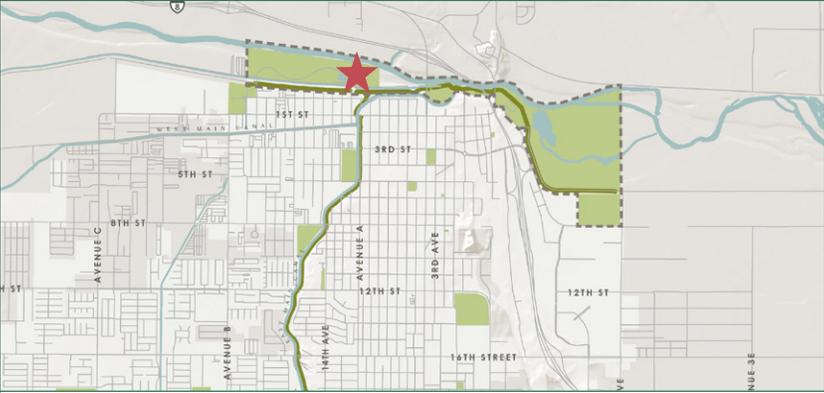


<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Grants
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	History, Arts, & Culture

The technical improvement to the Yuma Art Center and the Historic Yuma Theatre will include an overall sound, lighting, and projection upgrade. Built in 1912, the Historic Yuma Theatre is primarily used as a rental house and for events produced by the Yuma Art Center. Current technology limits the audio and visual effects that can be utilized during performances. A sound and lighting upgrade would greatly improve the quality of performances as well as increase rental revenues, as a wider variety of performances could be accommodated, thus expanding the services offered by the Theatre. In the Yuma Art Center, an audio package would be installed to be used for everyday background music and for special events.



## 11: Stewart Vincent Wolfe Playground Expansion

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT	
<b>ACREAGE</b>	2 acres	
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Playground Water feature Zip line Climbing Wall	
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Short Term (1-5 years)	
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$\$ (approx. \$600,000)	
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Donations, grants, 2% funds	
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	N/A	<p>An expansion of the Stewart Vincent Wolfe Creative Playground would include the following amenities, as requested by school children: ADA accessible playground and features, splash pad, zip lines, and a climbing feature for older children. The climbing feature will be located in a separate area for older children.</p>



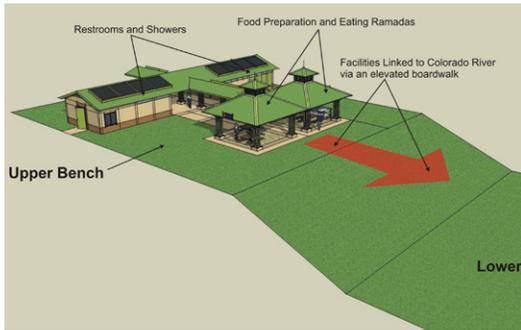
Existing Stewart Vincent Wolfe Playground on day of Grand Re-Opening Ceremony, December 19, 2016

## 12: West Wetlands Park Upper Bench Completion

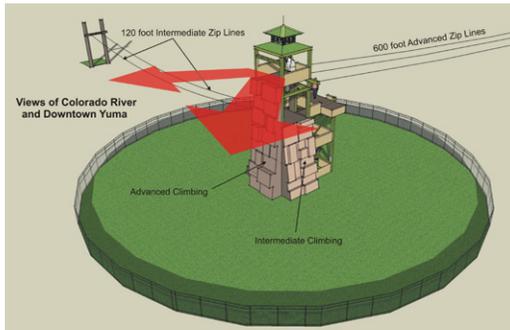
<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	None additional
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Eco-camp Zip-lines & climbing tower Small Amphitheater 2 ramadas Maintenance building Parking
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Mid-Term (5-10 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$880,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Bond (general), development fees, & grants
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	+20 acres of developed parkland



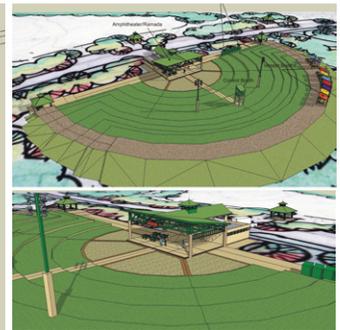
Development of the Upper Bench of the West Wetlands Park is an ongoing project. The first phase of the park is complete, including a pond, the Stewart Vincent Wolfe Playground, a disc golf area, trails, and parking. Conceptual plans for the remainder of the park include zip lines, a climbing tower, an eco-camp (specialty camping), more trails, and additional parking areas.



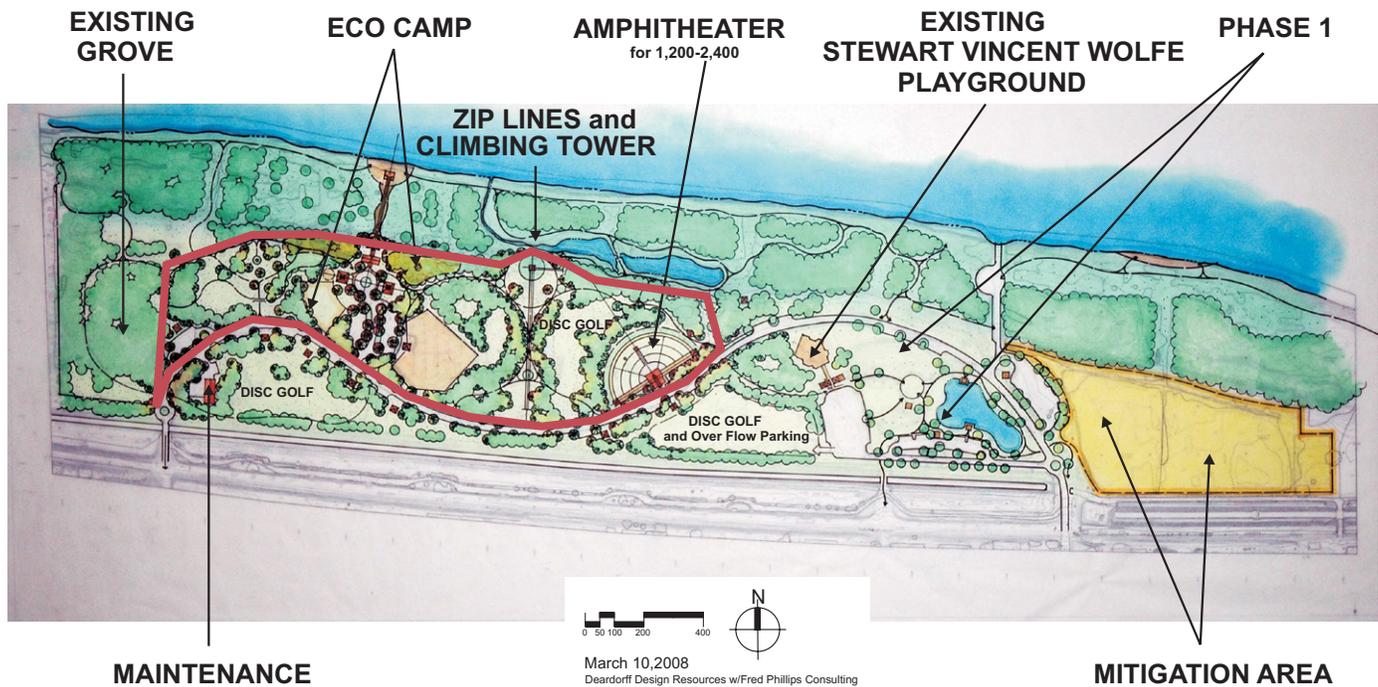
Camping Area Service Center Looking Southwest



Climbing Tower/Zip Line Looking Southeast



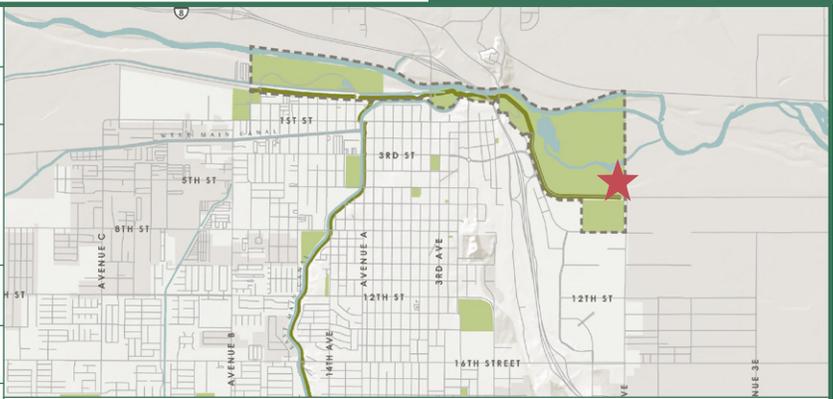
Amphitheater & Festival Space



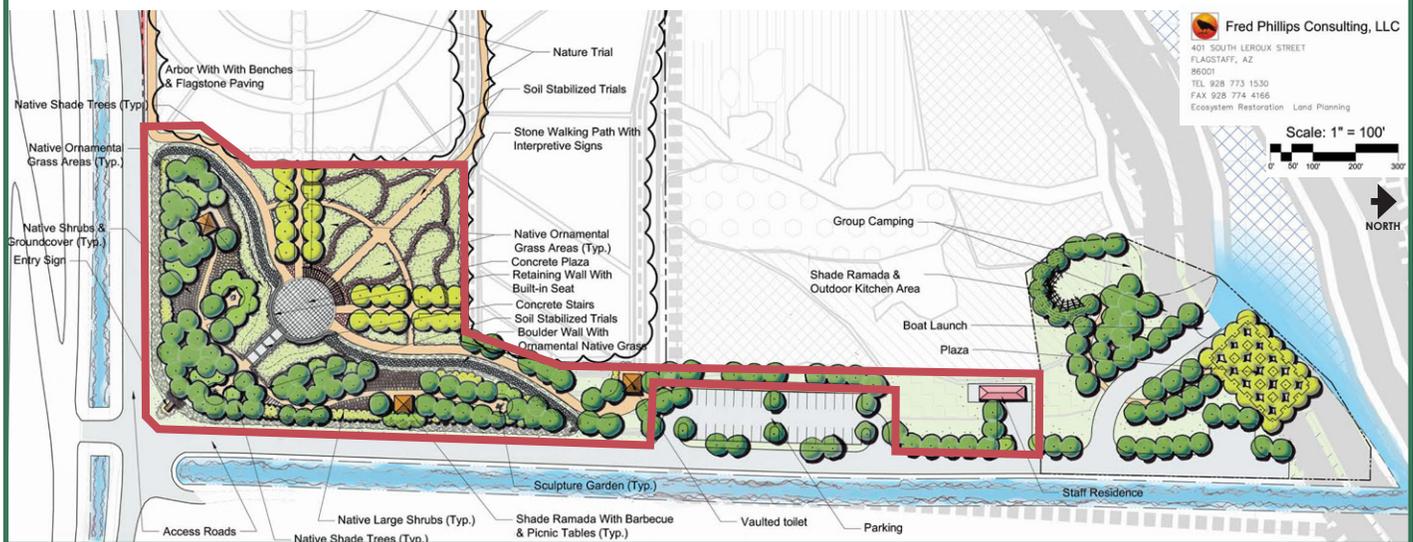
March 10, 2008  
Deardorff Design Resources w/Fred Phillips Consulting

# 13: East Wetlands Park Improvements

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	3.4 acres
<b>FACILITIES</b>	3 ramadas 0.3 mile walking path Staff residence Plaza
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Mid-Term (5-10 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$840,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Bond funds, development fees, & grants
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	+3.4 acres of developed parkland

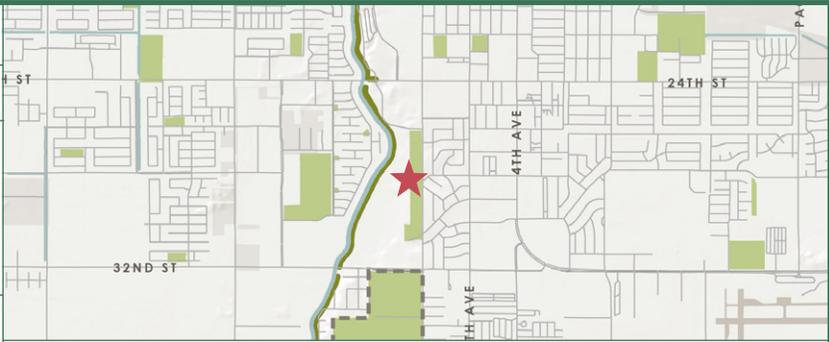


Improvements to this site in the East Wetlands began over ten years ago with filling and grading of the site in preparation for future development. The parking and fishing access areas of the park were completed more recently, thanks to a joint effort between the City, the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, and the generous donation of labor and equipment from PG&E, LLC, a heavy equipment contractor. Staff should continue to seek grant funding to finish the planned improvements: three ramadas, walking paths, a plaza, signage, native plantings, and a staff residence. With the construction of the PAAC just to the south of this site, visibility and access to this park will increase, elevating the importance of completing the development plans as soon as funds are available.



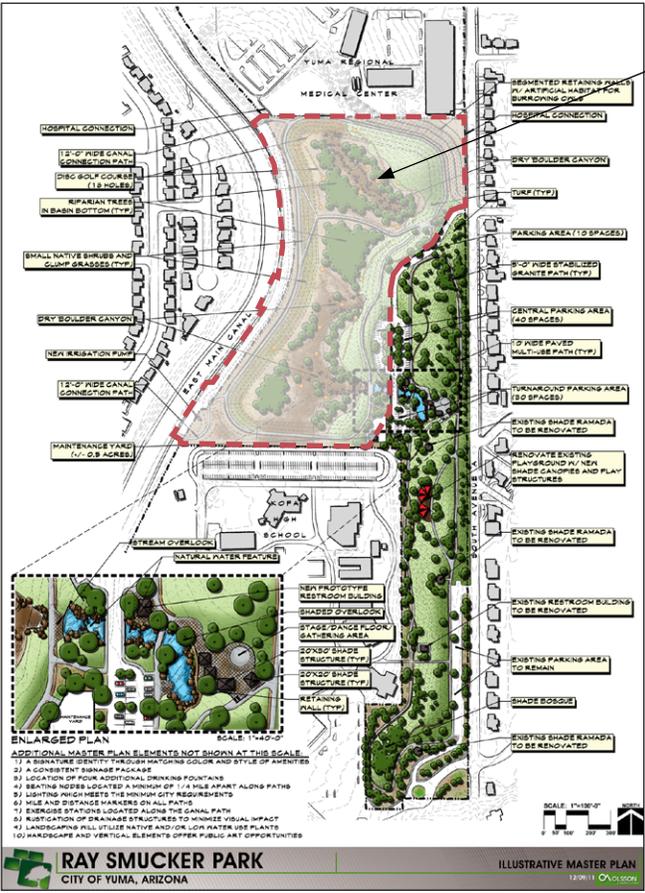
# 14: Smucker Memorial Park Capacity Improvements

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	None additional
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Approx. 65 parking spaces 1 restroom facility 4 ramadas 1 large gathering area
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Mid-Term (5-10 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$950,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Development fees & grants
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	+4 ramadas

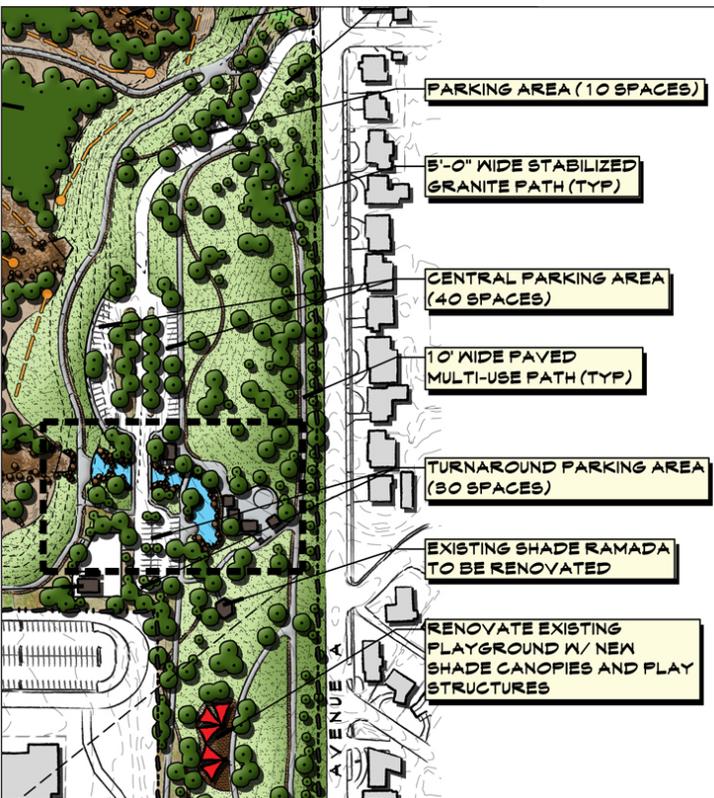


There is an immediate need for additional parking at Smucker Park to increase the capacity of one of the most popular community parks in the City. In 2011, the City conducted a design study of the park, including an extensive public outreach effort, to determine future enhancements and improvements. Priorities identified in that plan (shown below) included parking, walking paths, playgrounds, gathering places, and signage. The design plan developed at that time is largely obsolete due to construction of a large regional retention basin, but need remains for parking and other improvements to aging facilities.

## 2011 Conceptual Plan:



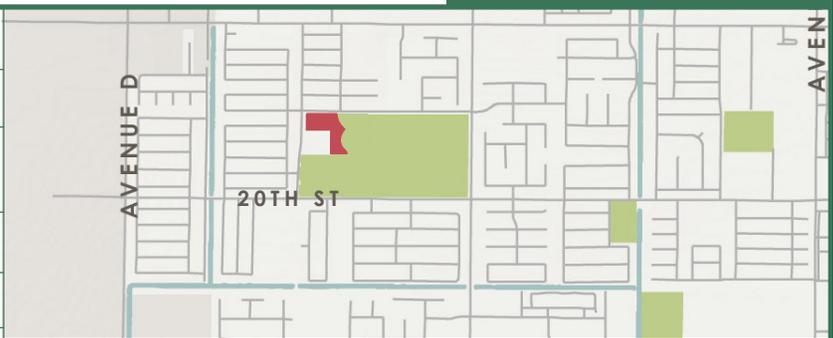
Portion of the site currently under construction as a regional retention basin. The design scheme shown is largely obsolete due to access restrictions based on safety concerns. The City is limited as to what improvements can be made due to Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) regulations of the retention basin and the license agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation.



Some programming and design elements from the 2011 plan are still relevant, as shown in the portion of the plan above, although positioning might change due to the basin re-construction of 2016-2017.

## 15: Sunrise Optimist Park Expansion

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PROJECT
<b>ACREAGE</b>	4 acres
<b>FACILITIES</b>	2 ramadas Walking paths
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Mid-Term (5-10 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$ (<\$500,000)
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	General budget, grants
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	+2 ramadas +1/8-mile walking paths



Currently, the 4-acre site is landscaped with irrigated grass and trees, but is not well connected to the surrounding park amenities because of a retention ditch along the east side of the site. Installation of a culvert over top would provide easy access to the additional acreage. Two crossings would be ideal (shown below in yellow); one along the northern part leading from the parking area, and another along the southern park leading from the Aquatic Center to the RC Track. Additionally, three ramadas, locations indicated below, would be added along with benches to improve the usability of the park. The walking path could be extended from the existing sidewalks around the southern side of the parcel to better connect the existing parks and facilities.



View of RC Track from west side of Aquatic Center



Retention ditch along eastern side of 4-acre parcel



Existing Sunrise Optimist Park northeastern area

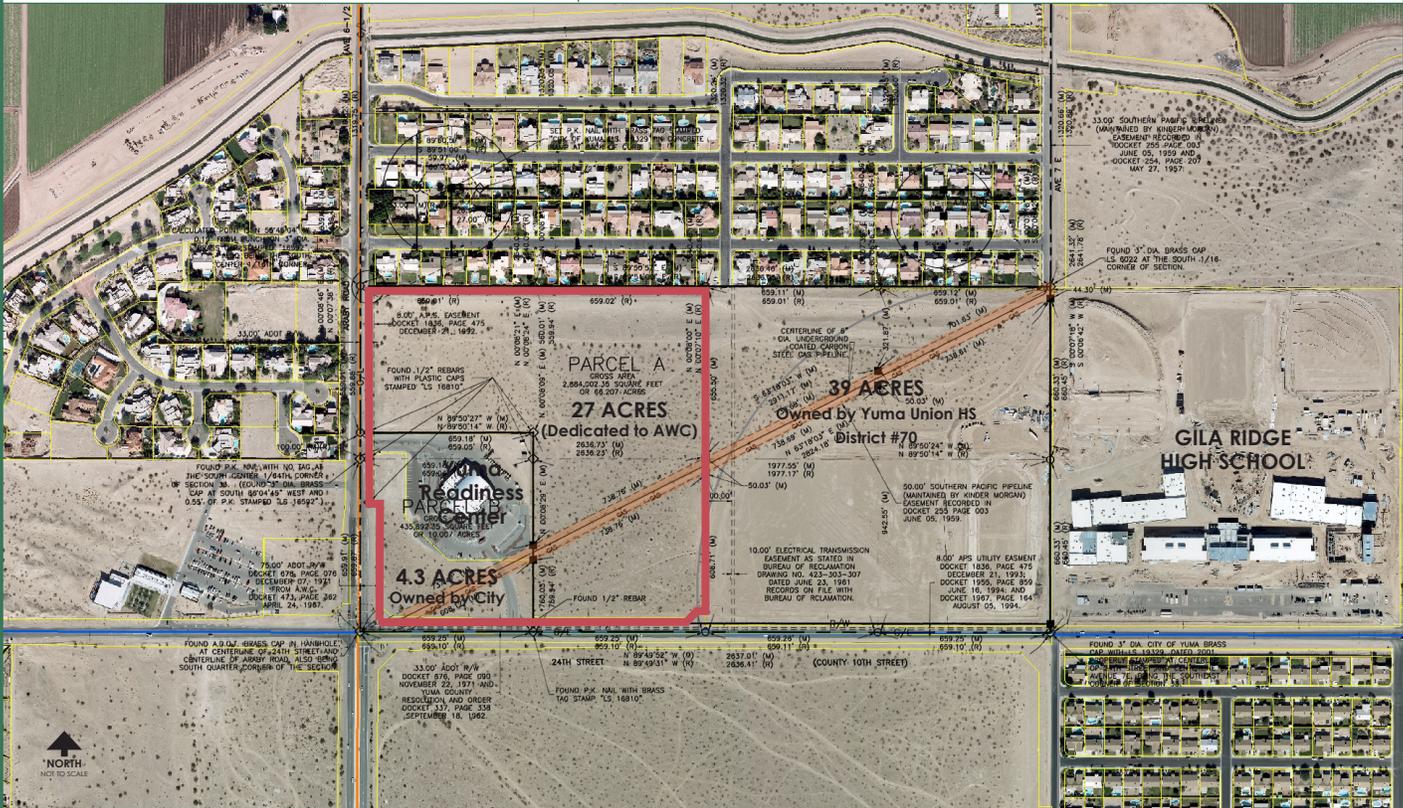
# 16: North Mesa Community Park

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PARK
<b>ACREAGE</b>	27 acres
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Playground Ramadas Restrooms Walking/Jogging Paths Multi-use athletic fields Athletic courts
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Long Term (10+ years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$4,150,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Development fees, grants, etc.
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Community Park Locational LOS Standard +27 acres of parkland +1 playground + Athletic fields + Athletic courts



Expanding upon the existing joint-use recreation center, the 27 acre parcel adjacent to the Yuma Readiness Center is an ideal location for a community park to serve the residents of the northeast mesa. This community park could include a playground, ramadas, a restroom, walking/jogging paths, as well as a large turf area for sports play.

The site is currently owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and was dedicated to the Arizona Western College in 1962. Buildable area on the site is constrained by a gas pipeline that runs under the property; the 50' easement for which is shown in orange in the site plan below. These constraints make the site particularly suitable for passive park and recreation uses.



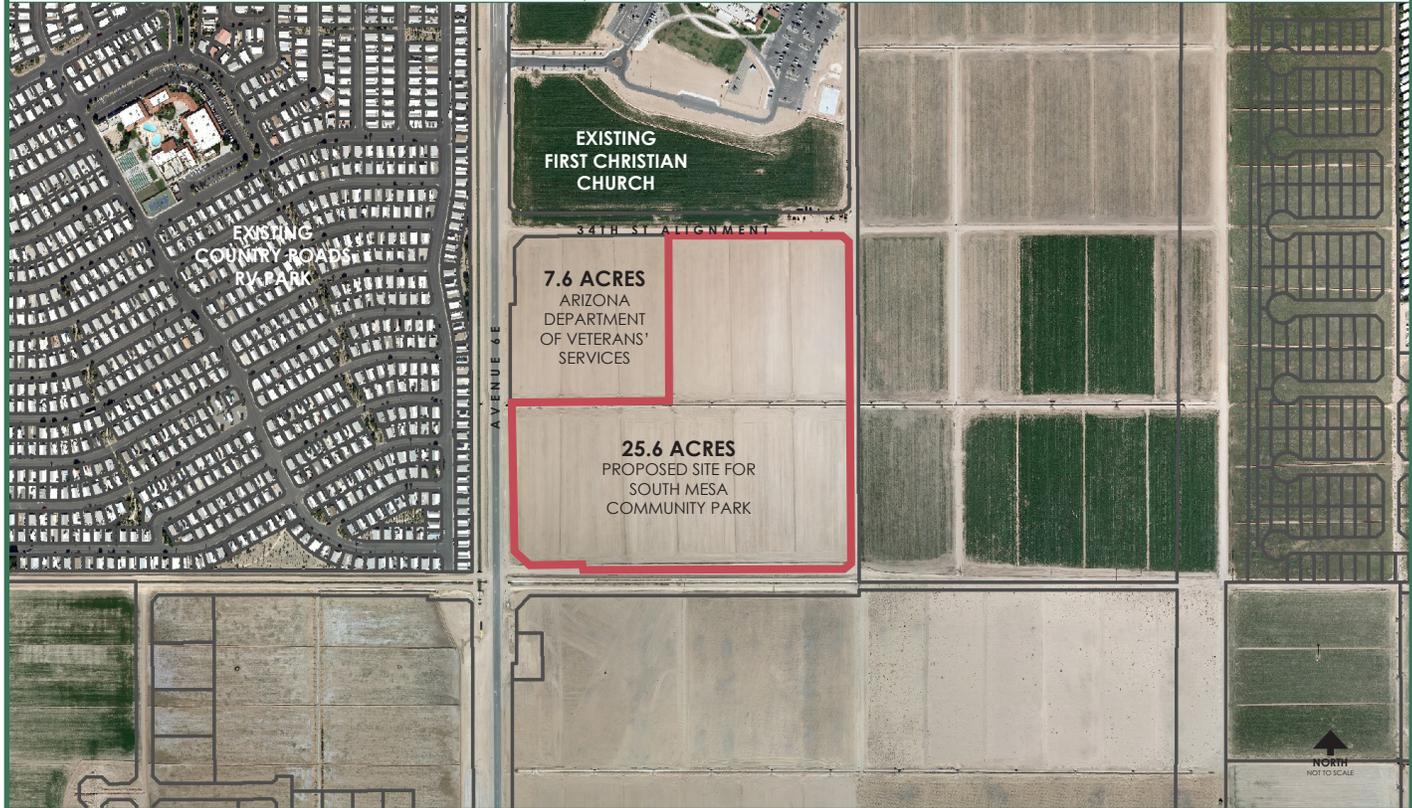
## 17: South Mesa Community Park

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PARK
<b>ACREAGE</b>	25.6 acres
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Playground Ramadas Restrooms Walking/Jogging Paths Multi-use athletic fields Athletic courts
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Long Term (10+ years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$4,000,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Development fees, grants, etc.
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Community Park Locational LOS Standard +25.6 acres of parkland +1 playground + Athletic fields + Athletic courts



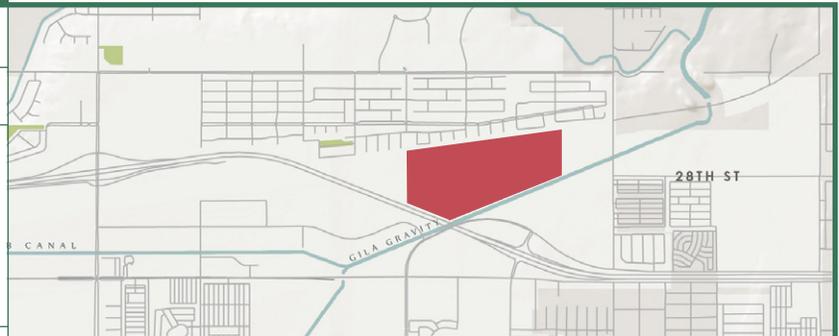
The 25 acre site at Avenue 6E & the 34th Street alignment was purchased by the City in 2007 as part of a larger acquisition of nearly 115 acres for expansion of the Desert Dunes Water Reclamation Facility. The 25-acre parcel was specifically purchased for use as a park, fire station, and Avenue 6E improvements. A portion of the purchase was funded through development fees in response to rapid development in this area of the City.

In 2015, the City conveyed approximately 8 acres to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services for construction of a 65,000 square-foot veterans care facility. The future park will be designed in a way to compliment the adjacent VA facility. The South Mesa Community Park is envisioned largely as a passive park including open turf areas for multi-use sports play. The park could also include ramadas, a playground, a restroom, and walking/jogging paths. The park could be funded, in part, through development fees, in response to the rapid residential development seen in the East Mesa area.

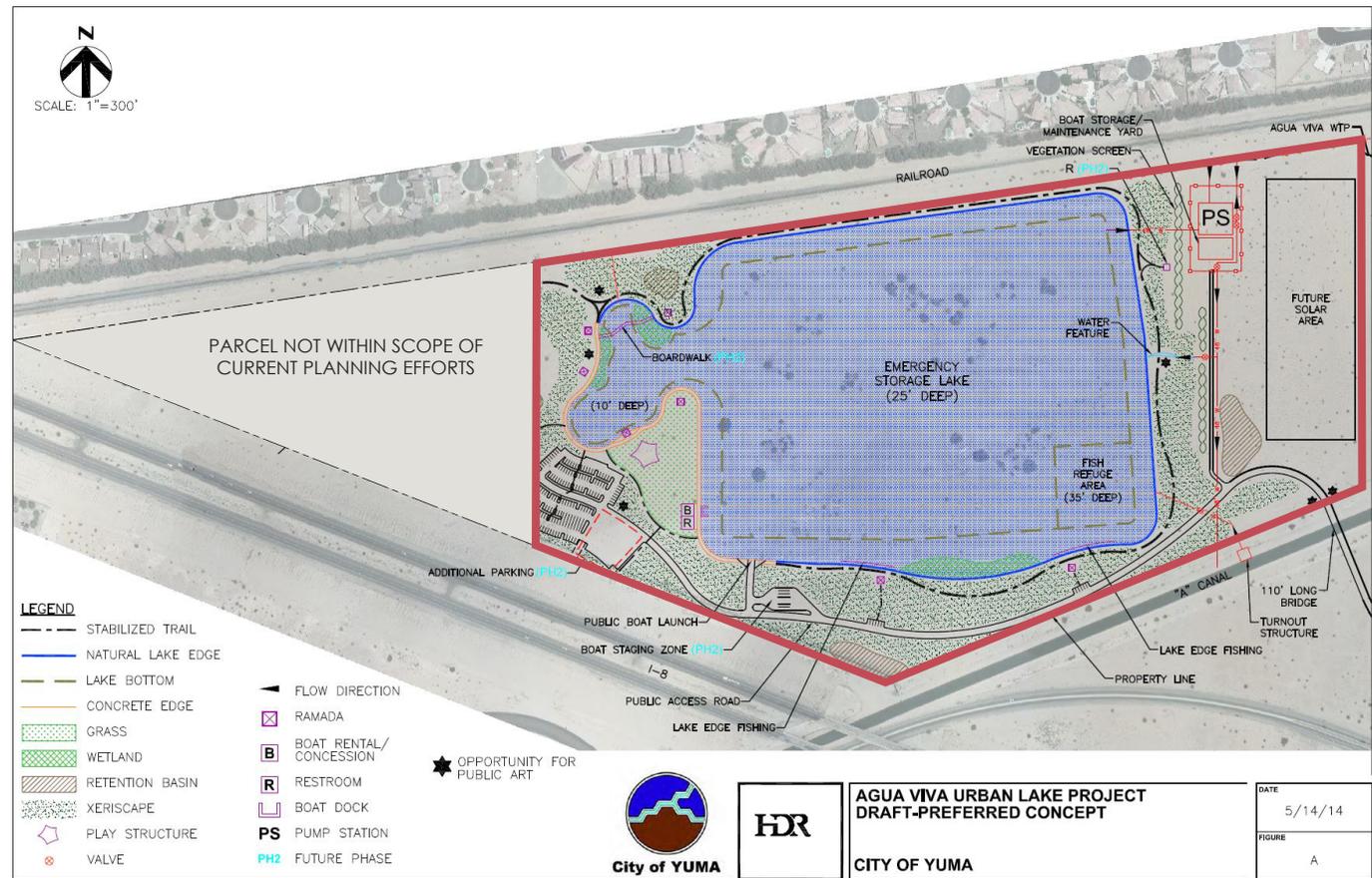


## 18: Agua Viva Water Treatment Facility Urban Lake Park

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PARK
<b>ACREAGE</b>	93 acres
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Urban Fishing Ramadas Restrooms Walking/Jogging Paths Exercise Equipment Parking
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Long Term (10+ years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$\$\$\$ (\$5M+)
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Partnerships, federal funding, state funding, grants, etc.
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Community Park Locational LOS Standard +110 acres of parkland



In early 2014, the City held meetings to discuss conceptual plans for an urban lake project developed in conjunction with an emergency water storage site at the Agua Viva Water Treatment Plant. In partnership with the Arizona Game & Fish Department and the Yuma Mesa Irrigation & Drainage District (YMIDD), the City explored opportunities to create a fishing lake with a surrounding park offering passive recreation. The lake is planned as a fish and wildlife habitat and would allow non-motorized boats, but the design does not include beach access or swimming. The surrounding park could include ramadas, barbeques, fitness equipment, and walking trails. Restrooms and parking would also be provided. Interpretive signage and signature branding is desirable to create a unique park. The Gilbert Riparian Preserve in Gilbert, AZ is a good precedent.

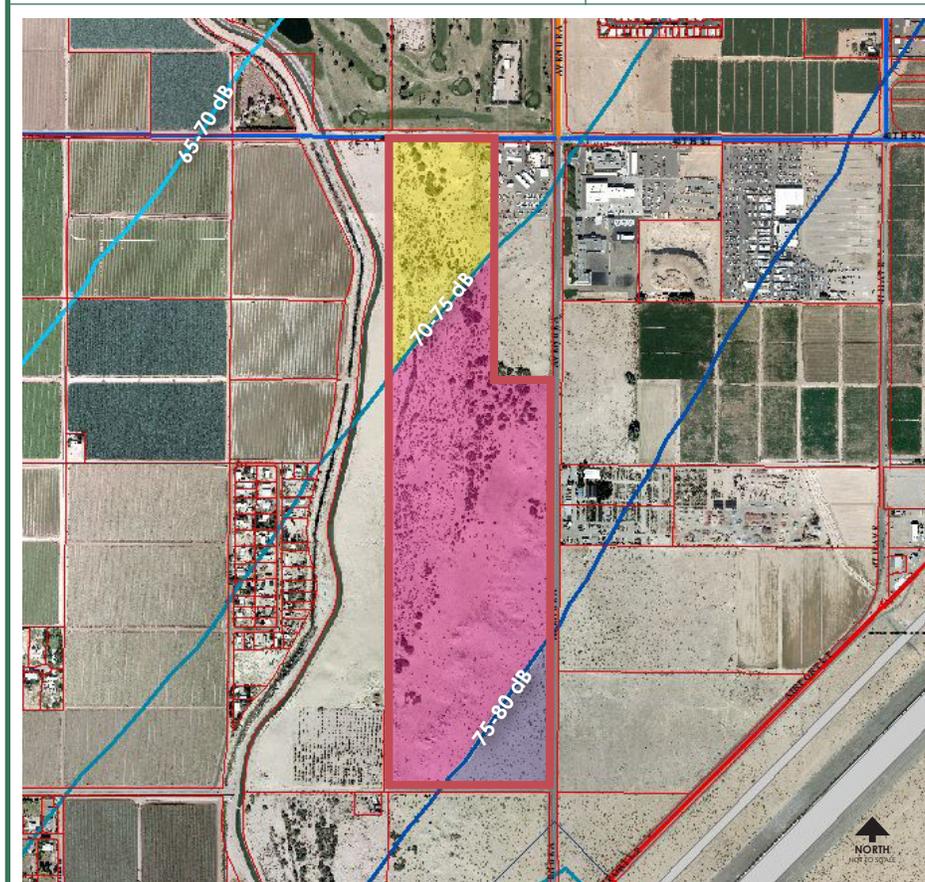


## 19: Jackrabbit Pass Park

<b>STATUS</b>	PROPOSED PARK
<b>ACREAGE</b>	120 acres
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Undetermined
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Long Term (10+ years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$\$\$ (\$1M-\$5M)
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Development fees, grants, etc.
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	+120 acres of parkland



The City of Yuma maintains a long term lease on this 120 acre parcel located just south of the James P. Deyo Complex. The intended use of the site is yet undetermined, although past conceptual designs have included soccer fields, golf, and archery as potential uses. Jackrabbit Pass is currently a relatively untouched desert landscape with significant topographic change because the site is situated at the edge of the mesa. The site's proximity to the Marine Corps Air Station places it within the Airport Overlay District, which restricts the land use of the property. Within the 75-80 decibel range (shown below in purple), permanent open space, parking, and outdoor amphitheatres are permitted, but many other outdoor recreational uses such as community and regional parks, playgrounds, nature exhibits, and group camping areas are not allowed. The 70-75 dB (shown in pink) and 65-70 dB (shown in yellow) zones have fewer restrictions, but certain indoor uses are required to take extra measures to reduce the indoor noise levels.



Looking west from southern portion of Avenue A



Looking west from northern portion of Avenue A

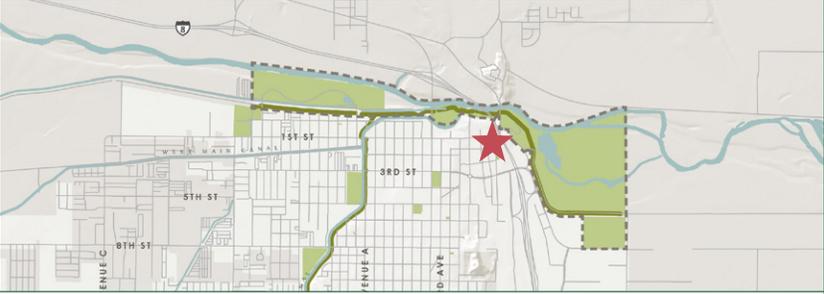


Looking north from 48th Street

- 65-70 dB zone
- 70-75 dB zone
- 75-80 dB zone

Images courtesy of Google Earth Street View, 2015

## 20: Historic Yuma Theatre Expansion

<b>STATUS</b>	DESIRED FACILITY	
<b>ACREAGE</b>	None	
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Larger stage & increased capacity	
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Long Term (10+ years)	
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$\$\$\$	
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Partnerships, donations, & grants	
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	History, Arts, & Culture	

Plans to expand the Historic Yuma Theatre include creating a basement below the existing stage for support space, enlarging the stage, creating a flyloft, loading dock, and organ lift. Installation of state-of-the-art sound, lighting, and rigging would also be included. The project would be funded by the private sector through donations, grants, and other sources.

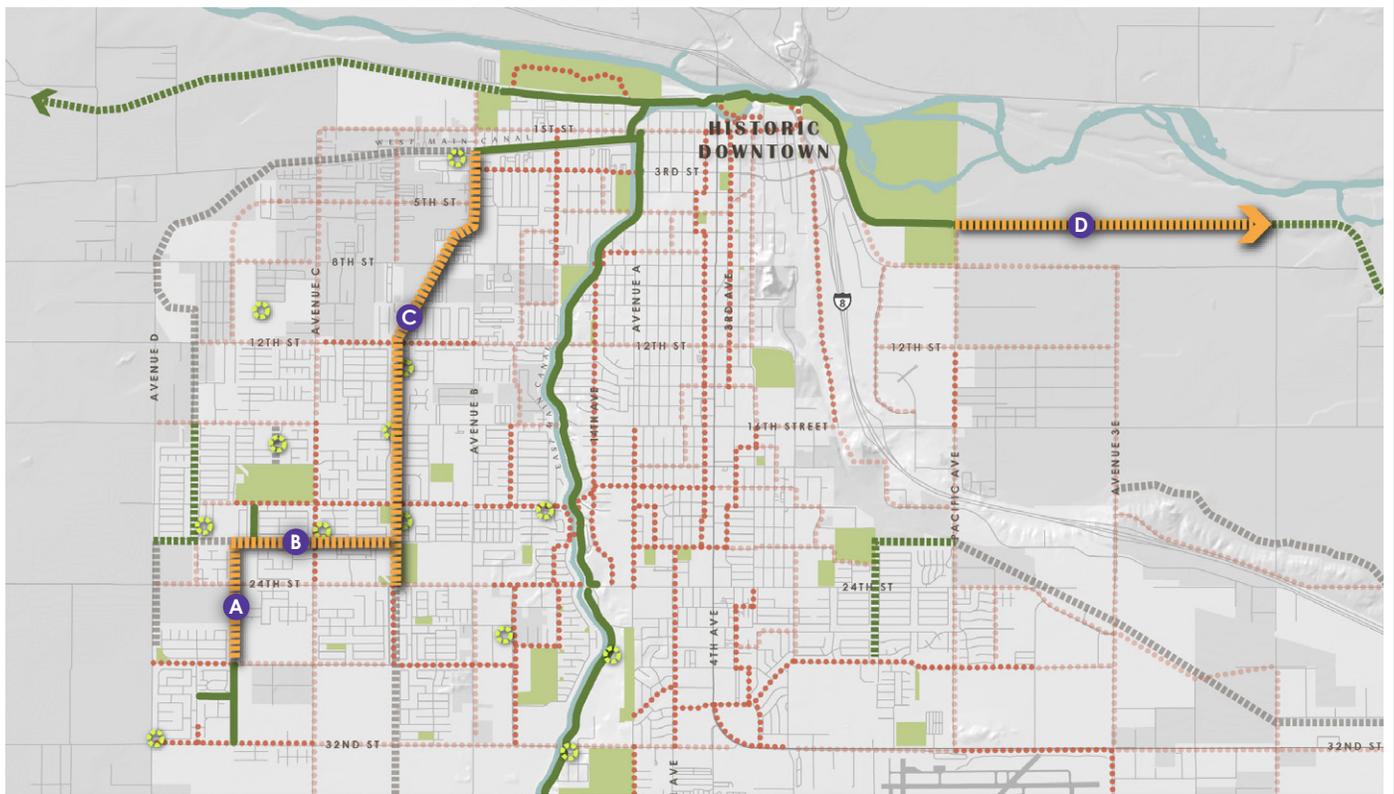
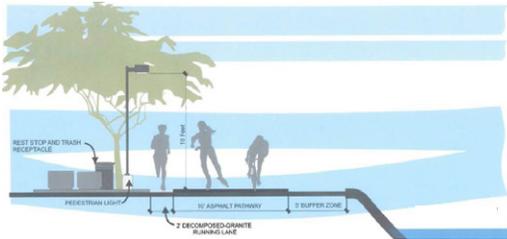


<b>STATUS</b>	DESIRED FACILITY
<b>ACREAGE</b>	Varies
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Ongoing
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	Varies
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Development fees, grants, etc.
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Linear Parks (1 mile/2,000 residents)

As an ongoing effort, the City seeks to incrementally add to the linear park network as portions of the planned routes become available. The Long Range Vision Map (Map 4-2) details the locations of all the planned linear park and trails, and the map below indicates priority sections for the near term. These sections were chosen because they improve connectivity between the existing park system and are also identified in the Transportation Master Plan as priority segments for bicycle facilities.

Prices of each segment will depend on the location and treatment needed. The ideal path would be 10-feet wide, paved concrete or asphalt, and would include lighting, street trees, benches, and trash receptacles (as shown in the section to the left). In some instances, a compacted gravel or dirt pathway would be appropriate.

Nodes along the linear park are also included in the overall plan, located at existing City-owned retention basins. These nodes are envisioned as rest points along the park system and could include benches, shade, and water.



**A Lawler Lateral between Central Drain & 28th Street**  
Connects the existing linear parks in the Barkley Ranch subdivision to the Sunrise Optimist Park to the north. This portion has not been previously approved by YCWUA.

**B Central Drain between Lawler & Thacker Laterals**  
Connects the Yuma Valley Park to the Sunrise Optimist Park. This portion has not been previously approved by YCWUA.

**C Thacker Lateral between West Main Canal & 32nd St**  
Building on the most recent section of the West Main Canal path, this section provides park access to an underserved portion of the City and connects several existing parks.

**D Colorado River Levee heading east**  
With the PAAC opening in 2017, a potential extension of the Colorado River Levee trail to the east increases recreation opportunities in the immediate area.

## 22: Neighborhood Parks in New Subdivisions

STATUS	DESIRED FACILITY	<p>Ideal locations for neighborhood parks should be responsive to new residential development and the density of that new development. For this reason, it is impossible to predict the exact location of future neighborhood parks, but easier to map those residential areas currently not served by a neighborhood park, as shown in Map 4-1. The Parks &amp; Recreation Department will encourage residential developers to build neighborhood parks while taking into consideration funding for the long-term maintenance. In other municipalities in Arizona, property owners associations or special taxing districts are used to fund long-term maintenance of parks.</p>
ACREAGE	Approx. 5 acres each	
TIMELINE	Ongoing	
ESTIMATED COST	Approx. \$200,000 for each park (improvements only, land to be dedicated)	
FUNDING SOURCES	Development fees	
LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED	Neighborhood Parks Locational LOS	

## 23: Expanded Joint-Use Agreements with Local Schools

STATUS	DESIRED FACILITY	<p>The City maintains agreements with some of the schools in Yuma Union High School District 70, Crane District 1, and Yuma Catholic for use of fields, gymnasiums, and auditoriums. Joint-use arrangements with these schools are quite successful in regards to the athletic fields, but challenges exist in using the indoor facilities. Considering the lack of gymnasium facilities in the park system, improving access to these facilities could greatly improve the Parks &amp; Recreation Department's level of service. Challenges include entry into the building, access to parking, and coordination with maintenance crews. In particular, looking to partner with schools on the East Mesa could allow for deficiencies in that area to be addressed until such time that the Parks &amp; Recreation Department can build a park in that area.</p>
ACREAGE	Varies	
TIMELINE	Ongoing	
ESTIMATED COST	Varies	
FUNDING SOURCES	None	
LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED	Gymnasiums	

## 24: Park Prescription Program

<b>STATUS</b>	PLANNED INITIATIVE	<p>As the National Recreation and Park Association states in their brief on the growing trend of park prescription programs: “Time and again, studies have demonstrated the ‘medicinal’ impact of outdoor exercise.” Parks &amp; Recreation Departments across the country are partnering with local healthcare providers to connect people with their parks and, in turn, create healthier communities. Park prescription program strategies vary across communities, but some common approaches include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Partnering with local physicians to prescribe outdoor activity;</li> <li>2) Hosting clinics and medical screenings at park facilities to increase exposure to recreation programs;</li> <li>3) Offering reduced rates for fitness classes through a co-pay system.</li> </ol> <p>Successful programs have been implemented in Washington, DC; San Diego, CA; Portland, OR; Greenville, SC; and Baltimore, MD. In 2013, with support from the National Recreation Foundation, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provided grants to fund Park prescription efforts; similar grant opportunities might be available again in the future.</p>
<b>ACREAGE</b>	None	
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Ongoing	
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$	
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Grants	
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Health & Wellness	

## 25: Street Tree & Shade Master Plan

<b>STATUS</b>	PLANNED INITIATIVE	<p>A Street Tree &amp; Shade Master Plan is a new initiative that Yuma has not undertaken before. This type of plan would focus on creating a healthier, more livable and prosperous Yuma by investing in the care and maintenance of the urban forest and shade structures; much of this infrastructure is located throughout the parks system.</p> <p>Trees function as the lungs of a community and are an important part of the infrastructure framework. The quality and quantity of urban forestry are indicators of environmental health and increase the quality of life of residents and visitors. Incorporating green infrastructure into planning policies and initiatives has a number of benefits; shade mitigates climate change by reducing the need for air conditioning and reducing urban heat island effect. Trees sequester carbon emitted by sources like transportation. Urban forestry builds community resilience to climatic events like intense rain through flood and erosion management. Trees and shade structures are critical components of the city’s infrastructure and over the long-term can save millions of dollars. These plans are particularly important in the desert southwest to combat the brutally hot summers.</p> <p>The Parks &amp; Recreation Department should support other City Departments, particularly Community Development &amp; Public Works, to create this plan.</p>
<b>ACREAGE</b>	None	
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Ongoing	
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$	
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Other City Departments	
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Environment & Connectivity	

## 26: Park Host/Ranger Program

<b>STATUS</b>	PLANNED INITIATIVE	<p>Park rangers and hosts would serve as goodwill ambassadors and provide a positive presence at park facilities. They serve multiple roles by providing information, helping solve conflicts, and enforcing City Code and park rules. Their presence would improve safety at the parks and would be focused on the regional parks where attendance is highest. Rangers would be unarmed and non-sworn (law enforcement) officials given the authority under City Code to enforce park rules and issue park exclusions, if necessary. All Rangers would be trained to assess a given situation and use verbal persuasion and problem solving skills to gain voluntary compliance. If warranted, they would call police or other responders to address the park concern. Rangers would be employees of the Parks &amp; Recreation Department, while hosts would be volunteers. Park hosts would provide information about the parks, rules, and events. They would be utilized mainly during the busiest times of year or during events.</p> <p>The City of Portland, OR has an effective program of urban park rangers that could be used as a model when developing Yuma's program.</p>
<b>ACREAGE</b>	None	
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Ongoing	
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$\$	
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	General Fund, grants, etc.	
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Accessibility & Safety	

## 27: Gymnasium

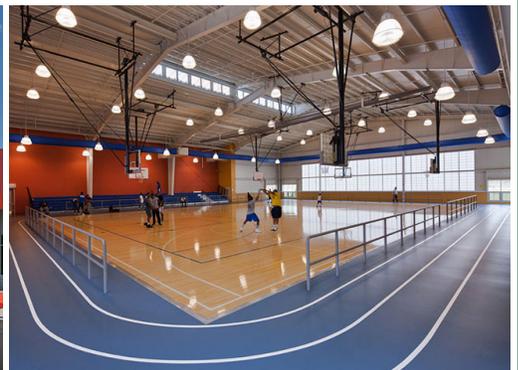
<b>STATUS</b>	DESIRED FACILITY	<p>Analysis indicated a strong need for air-conditioned gymnasium facilities, particularly on the east side of town. In addition to adding air-conditioning to the existing gymnasium facility at the Yuma Readiness Center, other opportunities to add gymnasium facilities to new parks should remain a priority. A gymnasium would be included in the proposed Regional/Community Recreation Center. Creative partnerships could be explored to utilize or convert underused existing buildings, such as abandoned big box retail outlets, for gymnasium use. The Collinwood Recreation Center in Cleveland, Ohio is a good example. Improving partnerships with local schools can also play a key role.</p>
<b>ACREAGE</b>	Varies	
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Short Term (1-5 years)	
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$\$\$	
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Development fees, grants, private funding, etc.	
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Gymnasium	



Above: Collinwood Recreation Center before - an abandoned Big Lots Store.

Right: Collinwood Recreation Center after - adaptive reuse of the big box store to provide a gymnasium, swimming pool, exercise rooms, walking track, and art installations.

Images courtesy of Scott Pease  
([www.buildabetterburb.org](http://www.buildabetterburb.org))

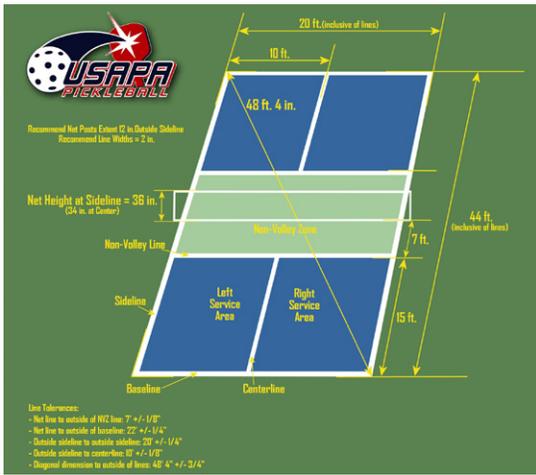


**28: Pickleball Court(s)**

<b>STATUS</b>	DESIRED FACILITY
<b>ACREAGE</b>	Varies
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Mid-Term (5-10 years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$30-40,000 per court
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Development fees, grants, etc.

Analysis showed a high demand for pickleball courts, particularly among seniors and winter visitors. The estimated cost of one pickleball court is \$30,000. Each court is 20 feet by 44 feet, approximately half the size of a standard tennis court. Pickleball courts could be included in new parks, added to existing parks, or existing tennis courts could be converted into pickleball courts. One standard tennis court can accommodate two pickleball courts.

<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	N/A
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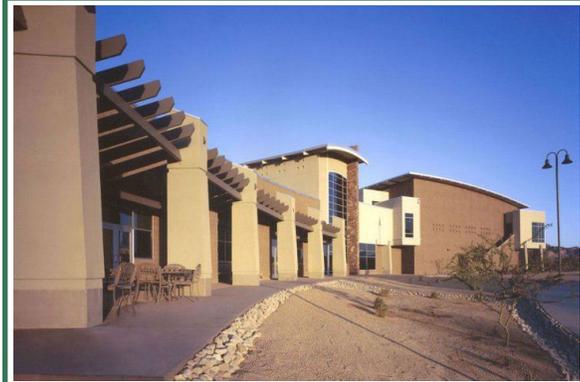


**29: Regional Recreation Center**

<b>STATUS</b>	DESIRED FACILITY
<b>ACREAGE</b>	Approx. 3 acres
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Long Term (10+ years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$5,000,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Development fees, 2% special tax, grants, etc.

The City of Yuma currently does not have a large regional recreation center to serve a large population with a variety of needs, and analysis indicates demand for such a facility.

A good example of such a facility is the Apache Junction Multi-Generational Center, a 43,524 square foot center that opened in 2005 at a total cost of \$3.8 million. According to their website, the center offers the following amenities: senior center, recreation center, running track, fitness studios, climbing wall, multipurpose room, full-service kitchen, dining area, day care, conference room, gymnasium, game room, locker rooms, and classrooms.



Photos: Paul Richer/Richer Images; www.recmanagement.com/20065aw1j.php

### 30: Community Pool

<b>STATUS</b>	DESIRED FACILITY
<b>ACREAGE</b>	Approx. 1.5 acres
<b>TIMELINE</b>	Long Term (10+ years)
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	\$8,000,000
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	Development fees, grants, etc.
<b>LOS STANDARDS ADDRESSED</b>	Community Pool

Service analysis indicates the need for a community pool, particularly one located on the East Mesa. A community pool could be located in conjunction with either the proposed North Mesa or South Mesa Community Park. The pool would be similar in size to Marcus Pool, and would include a lane pool, a wading pool, and a water feature. Inclusive of the pool, restrooms, and parking, the acreage needed for a community pool would total approximately 1.5 acres.

Manzanita Pool in Pima County ([webcms.pima.gov](http://webcms.pima.gov))



Brimhall Aquatic Complex in Mesa ([mesaz.gov](http://mesaz.gov))



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# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**4.1** Action Plan page 102

**4.2** Funding Sources page 104  
Current Funding Analysis  
Funding Alternatives



Stewart Vincent Wolfe Creative Playground Rebuild Groundbreaking Ceremony 2015

## 5.1 Action Plan

A thorough analysis of the park system led to the development of a clear vision to guide the future of the Parks and Recreation Department. The next step - and the most critical - is to implement this vision. Together with the Proposed Projects & Initiatives introduced in the last section, the Action Plan presented here seeks to organize the vision into manageable steps that fit seamlessly with the City's business procedures, namely the Capital Improvements Program and the budget. The Action Plan identifies a list of projects and initiatives that serve to implement the policies from the list of Goals & Objectives. This list can be used as a starting point to inform annual budget goals. In addition to summarizing the project, the Action Plan (Table 5-1) also identifies the phasing timeline and the agency or agencies responsible for implementation. Collaboration between departments is key to success for many projects.

**Table 5-1: Action Plan**

PHASE	PROJECT	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Ongoing	Bring existing parks to standard with security lighting, sprinkler systems, play apparatus, shades, restrooms, and ramadas	Parks
Ongoing	Design and construct linear parks and bikeways to improve connectivity	Parks/Public Works
1-5 years	Design and construct the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex (PAAC)	Parks
1-5 years	Complete Phase 2 of the Yuma Valley Park	Parks
1-5 years	Add air-conditioning & other improvements to the Joe Henry Optimist Center	Parks
1-5 years	Add air-conditioning to the Yuma Readiness Center Gymnasium	Parks
1-5 years	Expand Riverside Park	Parks
1-5 years	Complete construction of an archery range at the West Wetlands Park	Parks

**Table 5-1: Action Plan, continued**

PHASE	PROJECT	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
1-5 years	Complete construction of the West Wetlands Lower Bench Develop funding mechanism for inclusion of public art in public facilities and gateways	Parks
1-5 years	Expand the joint-use agreements with local schools to better meet the recreation needs of the community	Parks
1-5 years	Design and construct priority sections of the linear park system	Parks/Public Works
1-5 years	Construct a trail connection from the West Wetlands Park to Paradise Cove	Parks
1-5 years	Create and implement a plan for signage, traffic crossings, and connections to make existing linear parks safer and more accessible from surrounding streets	Parks/Community Development
1-5 years	Work with other departments to create and implement a Street Tree and Shade Master Plan and encourage tree planting whenever possible	Parks/Community Development/ Public Works
1-5 years	Research and implement a park ranger program at regional parks	Parks
1-5 years	Implement an Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Trail programs for service organizations, private companies, and individuals	Parks
1-5 years	Implement a Park Champion program	Parks
1-5 years	Complete the technology upgrades to the Yuma Art Center & Historic Theatre	Parks
6+ years	Complete construction of the West Wetlands Upper Bench	Parks
6+ years	Complete the Smucker Park expansion	Parks
6+ years	Complete improvements to the East Wetlands Park	Parks
6+ years	Complete the expansion to Sunrise Optimist Park	Parks
6+ years	Create and implement a Park Prescription program	Parks
6+ years	Annex or partner with the Bureau of Land Management and Yuma County to provide a public trail into the Gila Mountains for hiking and bicycling activities	Parks
10+ years	Design and construct the North Mesa Community Park	Parks
10+ years	Design and construct the South Mesa Community Park	Parks
10+ years	Design and construct the Agua Viva Urban Lake Park	Parks
10+ years	Develop the Jack Rabbit Pass Parcel which will serve as an extension of the James P. Deyo Regional Park	Parks
10+ years	Develop strategy for building a Regional/Community Recreation Center to include a Senior Center, Gymnasium, and other facilities	Parks
10+ years	Design and construct a community pool in the East Mesa area in partnership with educational institutions	Parks
10+ years	Develop a strategy to move forward with Phase 2 of the Yuma Art Center to provide an expanded stage, fly loft, and performer support space in the Historic Yuma Theatre	Parks

## 5.2 Funding Sources

In order to successfully implement the Long Range Vision Plan, it is crucial to understand how projects are financed and constructed. This section gives an overview of the funding sources available to the Parks & Recreation Department. It should be noted that the Vision Plan is a guide for development that is intended to be implemented over time, as funding becomes available. Over time, the Long Range Vision Plan and Action Plan may need to adapt to changing development trends, population, and demographics as they continue to evolve.

### Current Funding Analysis

Nearly half of the Parks & Recreation Department's total funding comes from the City's General Fund. Roughly a quarter comes from the Two Percent Tax Fund and the remaining balance is funded through special funds designated for specific services (the Mall Maintenance Fund, the Desert Hills Golf Course Fund, and the Equipment Replacement Fund). On top of these funds, the Department can use monies collected under the development fees program for projects that increase service capacity. Grant funding, donations, and partnerships - which can vary widely year to year - are layered on to complete the full array of funding sources available.

Information included in this section was adapted from the City of Yuma's Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Table

5-2 illustrates the breakdown of funding sources from fiscal year 2015-16, and was borrowed from the FY 2015-16 Annual Budget document.

### General Fund

The General Fund is the main operating fund for the City and the primary source of funding for the Parks and Recreation Department. Its main revenue sources are property taxes, the 1% City sales tax, State-shared revenues, and unrestricted charges and fees. In FY 2015-16, approximately 13% of the General Fund expenditures were related to Parks & Recreation. Revenue collected by the Parks & Recreation Department in the form of facility rental and program fees are unrestricted sources of revenue and therefore are returned to the citywide General Fund. Funding

Table 5-2: FY 2015-16 Parks & Recreation Budget Sources & Uses

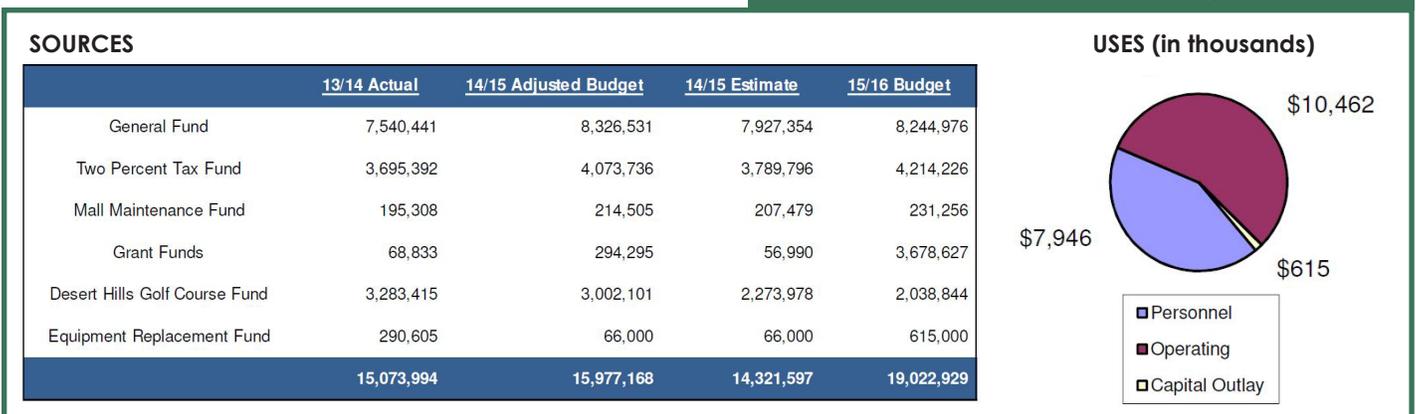


Table and graph from the FY 2015-16 Annual Budget document, Parks & Recreation Department section, page 103.

for the Parks & Recreation Department is allocated in the annual budget and is not directly tied to revenue generated within the department.

### **Two Percent Tax Fund**

The Two Percent Tax Fund is a special revenue fund named for its revenue source, a 2% transaction privilege tax on bars, hotels, and restaurants. Use of these funds are restricted to the Recreation Complex, golf course, parks throughout the City, Yuma Crossing area, and conventions/tourism. This special tax was begun in 1971 and renewed by public vote for an additional 15 years in both 1994 and 2009. The 2% tax is valid until 2024, when it would have to go to the general electorate again to seek continued approval. This fund is used to pay for personnel, operating expenses, capital improvements, and it funds the Riverfront Redevelopment and Desert Hills Golf Course Funds. The revenue stream from the 2% tax can also be bonded to fund large capital projects, such as the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex.

### **Other Funds**

A few other general government funds contribute to the overall budget for the Parks & Recreation Department. The Mall Maintenance Fund is a special revenue fund levied on businesses located in the downtown mall district. This fund is managed by the Parks & Recreation Department to maintain the streetscape and landscape areas in the downtown district.

Another type of fund, called enterprise funds, are used by governments to account for operations in which user charges are the main source of revenue. Within Parks & Recreation, this type of fund is used for operation of the Desert Hills Golf Course. The Two Percent Tax Fund is occasionally used to supplement the golf course operations, mainly restricted to funding capital improvements.

One last type of fund is the Equipment Replacement Fund, classified as an internal service fund. This fund accounts for the accumulation of resources from

each department for the replacement of equipment. After initial purchase of equipment by the fund, the asset is recorded in this fund and then "rented" by the operating department. This rental income plus interest earnings, accumulate over the life of the asset making monies available for the purchase of new equipment when the older item is no longer serviceable.

### **Development Fees**

Municipalities in Arizona may assess development fees to offset infrastructure costs to a municipality associated with providing necessary public services to new development. The development fees must be based on an Infrastructure Improvements Plan (IIP). In 2016, the City of Yuma is undergoing an update to their development fees program. During this update, the fee assessment method was shifted from a plan-based methodology to an incremental approach. This allows greater flexibility for development fees to be used to create additional capacity within existing parks; whereas in the previous methodology fees could only be used for construction of new parks listed in the IIP. Under the new approach, it is important to distinguish between "developed" parkland and the "undeveloped" portions of existing parks, so those acreages are indicated in the Proposed Project sheets in the last section.

The Arizona State Legislature restricts the types of recreational facilities that development fees can be used to fund, including but not limited to the following: "amusement parks, aquariums, aquatic centers, auditoriums, arenas, arts and cultural facilities, bandstand and orchestra facilities, bathhouses, boathouses, clubhouses, community centers greater than three thousand square feet in floor area, environmental education centers, equestrian facilities, golf course facilities, greenhouses, lakes, museums, theme parks, water reclamation or riparian areas, wetlands, zoo facilities or similar recreational facilities, but may include swimming pools" (Arizona Revised Statute 9-463.05).

## Funding Alternatives

### Grants

In addition to the funding sources mentioned above, alternative funding sources such as grants and donations can be used to supplement revenue. Grant funding can vary widely year to year, largely dependent on time devoted to seeking these grants. In 2015, the Parks & Recreation Department hired a full-time staff person who specializes in writing grants. As seen in the forecasts shown in Table 5-2, the addition of the grant writer has greatly improved the forecast for such funding sources.

The proposed project sheets in the Long Range Vision Plan will assist staff when determining which grants might be applicable to specific projects. The proposed project sheets clearly identify the scope and elements of planned projects. With these projects in mind, staff has identified several grants that align with current and planned projects, categorized into the following groups: Recreation; Connectivity, Linear Parks, & Trails; Environment & Conservation; and Arts & Culture. These identified grant opportunities are summarized in Table 5-3. This list is not meant to be exhaustive; rather it is a starting point for future reference and serves as an example of the breadth of funds available.

### Partnerships

By developing partnerships with public and private entities, the Parks & Recreation Department can increase its services with minimal capital outlay. Creative partnerships can leverage outside investment and resources to improve the quality of life and recreation opportunities available to Yuma residents. As mentioned previously, the Parks & Recreation Department currently maintains a joint-use agreement with the local school district, has effective partnerships with the state park system and the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, and works with several local sports teams and groups to provide exceptional programs and services. Continuing to develop these relationships can open up more opportunities.

### Park Champion Program

Yuma has many active and involved special interest groups, such as sports leagues, arts groups, and many others. Continuing to strengthen these partnerships will be beneficial for the Parks & Recreation Department. The department can seek out "Park Champions" to represent a particular special interest group. This person would champion fundraising and improvement projects desired by their constituency. As an example, a champion from the basketball community would seek out funding to build additional courts or improve existing ones. Funding could be sought from local businesses, charities, or private donors. The Parks & Recreation Department could offer matching support in the form of labor, maintenance, or funding. Champions who are intimately involved with their particular group are oftentimes best equipped to increase interest and support within the community.

### Adopt-a-Park Programs

Many municipalities elicit maintenance support of small parks from the community through an Adopt-a-Park or Adopt-a-Trail program. Adopters volunteer their time and resources to provide general care and maintenance; to include mowing, maintaining plantings, clearing paths, picking up litter, and promoting park usage. Oftentimes, adopters are neighborhood associations, community groups, faith-based organizations, or schools. The City of Yuma could adopt a similar system to help maintain some aspects of the smaller parks. If nodes along the linear park system are developed, these would be ideal for inclusion in an Adopt-a-Park program.

### Joint-Use Partnerships with Local Schools

The City maintains an intergovernmental agreement with some of the schools in Yuma Union High School District 70 for use of the fields, gymnasiums, and auditoriums. Joint-use arrangements with these schools are quite successful in regards to the athletic fields, but challenges exist in using the indoor facilities. Considering the paucity of gymnasium facilities in the current park system, improving access

**Table 5-3: Grant Opportunities (2016)**

FUNDING PROGRAM	TYPES OF ELIGIBLE ELEMENTS	AMOUNT	ANTICIPATED DEADLINE
<b>RECREATION</b>			
<b>Bank of America: Neighborhood Excellence Initiative</b>	Fostering green communities (activities that seek the creation, preservation, or restoration of open/green/parks space)	\$100,000	Ongoing
<b>Lowe's Community Partners</b>	Community involvement projects, building renovations/upgrades, grounds improvements, safety improvements	\$5,000 - \$25,000	May & August
<b>The Home Depot</b>	Construction efforts with work to be completed by community volunteers	\$5,000	December
<b>Finish Line Youth Foundation</b>	Youth athletic programs and camps, improvements to buildings, grounds, and property	\$10,000 - \$75,000	Quarterly
<b>Wayne &amp; Gladys Valley Foundation</b>	Youth programs, improvements and renovation of existing building	\$75,000	Ongoing
<b>National Alliance for Accessible Golf</b>	Golf programming for individuals with disabilities	<\$20,000	Ongoing
<b>Easton Foundation</b>	Archery ranges and programs	VARIES	February & July
<b>Cabela's Outdoor Fund</b>	Promote conservation, hunting, fishing, camping, boating, and outdoor sporting (archery)	VARIES	November
<b>Community Development Block Grant</b>	Program support for youth and families	VARIES	January
<b>U.S. Soccer Foundation</b>	Soccer programs and fields	\$5,000 - \$50,000	February & June
<b>Tony Hawk Foundation</b>	Public skateboard parks	\$1,000 - \$25,000	January
<b>Greenfields Outdoor Fitness</b>	Outdoor fitness equipment	VARIES	November
<b>United Tennis Association</b>	Tennis courts	\$4,000 - \$20,000	Ongoing
<b>Arizona Diamondbacks</b>	Build or renovate a signature field	VARIES	July
<b>Fiesta Bowl Charities</b>	Playground, youth	VARIES	July
<b>Phoenix Suns Charities</b>	Youth sports & recreation, particularly basketball	\$100,000	April
<b>American Academy of Dermatology</b>	Shade structures	\$8,000	October
<b>CONNECTIVITY, LINEAR PARKS, &amp; TRAILS</b>			
<b>Arizona State Parks Recreation Trails</b>	Trails construction and renovation (purchase, development, maintenance, construction, and education)	VARIES	February
<b>People for Bikes</b>	Bicycle infrastructure projects	\$10,000	July
<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; CONSERVATION</b>			
<b>National Land and Water Conservation</b>	Acquire lands and waters for parks and outdoor recreation, facilities, planning, athletic fields, picnic areas, swimming pools, trails, campgrounds, boating facilities, restrooms	\$250,000 - \$750,000	May
<b>Bureau of Land Management</b>	Provide youth with hands on learning opportunities in the field of natural resources management, conservation, preservation, and protection	\$500 - \$500,000	August
<b>Environmental Education Local Grants</b>	Locally-focused environmental education projects	\$91,000	March
<b>ARTS &amp; CULTURE</b>			
<b>National Endowment for the Arts: Challenge America</b>	Extend arts to underserved populations	\$10,000	April
<b>National Endowment for the Arts: Our Town</b>	Arts engagement, cultural planning, and design projects focused on placemaking	\$25,000 - \$200,000	September
<b>National Arts &amp; Humanities Youth Program Awards</b>	Youth after-school programs	\$10,000	February
<b>Arizona Public Service (APS)</b>	Community programs with an emphasis on environment and arts & culture	\$1,000+	Ongoing
<b>Arizona Commission on the Arts: Community Investment Grant</b>	Nonprofit arts organizations, local arts agencies and tribal cultural organizations may use funds for general operating expenses.	Varies	Varies
<b>Knight Foundation Arts Challenge Grant</b>	The challenge seeks to find and fund the best ideas for the arts. Winners range from individual artists to large institutions.	Varies	Varies

could greatly improve the Parks & Recreation Department's level of service. Challenges include entry into the building, access to parking, and coordination with maintenance crews. In particular, seeking partnerships with schools on the East Mesa could allow for deficiencies in that area to be addressed until such time that the Parks & Recreation Department can build a park in that area.

### **Special Taxing Districts**

Special taxing districts, pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute Title 48, are "created to fill a need and to enable the provision of services in an area that might otherwise be limited from receiving those services for various reasons, including size, location, financial limitations, or unavailability of other government support" (Arizona State Senate Issue Brief, November 10, 2014). Of the forty-two types of special taxing districts allowed under the law, at least three are potentially applicable to parks: municipal improvement districts, community facilities districts, and community park maintenance districts.

**Municipal improvement districts** are formed within specific boundaries with agreement from a majority of property owners within the district. Districts have the authority to impose assessments on the benefited properties to fund the costs of improvements or maintenance. Special Assessment bonds may be issued by a City on behalf of improvement districts created by property owners for a specific purpose. The City serves as trustee for improvement districts, and is responsible for collecting the assessments levied against the owners of property within the improvement districts and for disbursing these amounts to retire the bonds issued to finance the improvements. Pursuant to ARS 48-574, improvement districts can also be "formed for the sole purpose of the operation, maintenance, repair and improvements of pedestrian malls, off-street parking facilities, and parkings and parkways."

**Community facilities districts** are designed to allow municipalities to pass on the cost of infrastructure improvements to the

landowners within the boundaries of the district and to provide for low-interest, long-term, tax-exempt financing to fund such improvements. The law authorizes bonds to be issued on behalf of the community facility district (CFD) and repaid with a mechanism that assesses only the lands directly benefited by the new infrastructure. CFDs are formed with approval from 25% of the landowners in the district. Parks are an authorized use for CFDs. Many Arizona municipalities use CFDs, including Mesa, Prescott Valley, and Buckeye.

**Community park maintenance districts** are formed to maintain an existing community park which is defined as an "area of developed or undeveloped land within the boundaries of a district not exceeding 160 acres in size which has been dedicated for unrestricted public use by a county, city or town or private entity." In addition to their power to levy taxes, community park maintenance districts (CPMDs) are empowered to maintain, acquire or dispose of property, and employ staff.

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# APPENDIX A

## City of Yuma Parks & Recreation Survey 2016

Thank you for participating in the City of Yuma Parks & Recreation survey! We are soliciting responses from residents to help guide recommendations made in the 10-year update to the master plan for Parks & Recreation services. We want to know what YOU want from your parks, and how we can serve you better!

### Section 1: Parks

Which park is your favorite?

Which park(s) do you visit the most often? Check all that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Park                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Las Casitas Park            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bark Park                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Marcus Park                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barkley Ranch Park                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Netwest Park                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caballero Park                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Ocotillo Park               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carver Park Complex                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Parkway Place Park          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Levee Linear Park/Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Ponderosa Park              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Hills Golf Course               | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverfront Regional Park    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Hills Par 3                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverside Park              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Ridge Park                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Roxaboxen Park              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Sun Stadium                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Saguaro Park                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Main Canal Linear Park/Trail      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanguinetti Memorial Park   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Wetlands Park                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Smucker Memorial Park       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendship Park                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunrise Optimist Park       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gateway Park                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria Meadows Park       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Yuma Theatre or Art Center    | <input type="checkbox"/> West Wetlands Park          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Henry Memorial Park Complex        | <input type="checkbox"/> Winsor Rotary Park          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Henry Optimist Park                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yuma Valley Park            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> James P. Deyo Regional Park            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yuma Valley Aquatic Center  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kennedy Memorial Park Complex          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kiwanis Park                           |  |

Why do you go to the park(s)? Check all that apply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike paths                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth sporting events          | <input type="checkbox"/> Pools/swimming             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult sporting events          | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor sporting activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Festivals                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness equipment          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ramadas/parties/gatherings     | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group exercise/fitness classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/jogging/trails         | <input type="checkbox"/> Experience nature          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>    |   |

Please rate our parks overall:

	1	2	3	4	5	
Fair	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Excellent

What type of park facility would you like to see more of? Check all that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Archery range                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pools                | <input type="checkbox"/> Trails                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Center    | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike paths                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor gymnasium     | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor exercise equipment      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amphitheater         | <input type="checkbox"/> Community garden                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skate park           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wayfinding & Locational Signage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog park             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports fields        |  |

How do you typically travel to the park?

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Drive | <input type="radio"/> Jog/Run                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Walk  | <input type="radio"/> Public Transportation       |
| <input type="radio"/> Bike  | <input type="radio"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |

Is there a park within walking distance (about 1/2 mile) of your home?

- Yes  
 No

How important is it to you to be able to walk to a park?

1 2 3 4 5

Not important	<input type="radio"/>	Very important				
---------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	----------------

Are the parks normally clean and well maintained?

- Yes
- No

Do you feel safe at the parks?

- Yes
- No

If not, please explain.

## Section 2: Recreation Programs & Special Events

Which recreation programs have your or your family used in the last 12 months?

What types of programs would you like to see offered or see more of? Check all that apply. If "Other", please specify if the activity is for youth or adults.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth sports                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness classes              | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult sports                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf classes                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth arts & culture classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptive recreation programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult arts & culture classes | <input type="checkbox"/> 5K/10K Runs/walks            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swim lessons                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family programming           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Community special events     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>  |

What is your favorite event offered by Parks & Rec?

Which of these events did you attend in the last year? Check all that apply.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tunes & Tacos                   | <input type="checkbox"/> New Year's Eve Family Party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July Fireworks           | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Fitness Fest         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boogie Brews and Blues Festival | <input type="checkbox"/> Kite Festival               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movies in the Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Socials                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARTbeat                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Come Out & Play Day         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catfish Rodeo & Nature Fair     | <input type="checkbox"/> Spruce Up Your Park Day     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Festival of the Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiestas Patrias             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North End Art Walk              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |

### Section 3: Personal Information

Information provided in this section is confidential and will be used only to assess needs in relation to parks. You will not be added to any mailing list by providing your address below.

*How can Parks & Recreation serve the community better?*

*What is your gender? \*Required*

- Male  Prefer not to answer  
 Female

*How old are you? \*Required*

- 20 and under  41-60  
 21-40  61+

*Do you have children under the age of 18? \*Required*

- Yes  
 No

*Are you a full time resident in the Yuma area?*

- Yes  
 No

*Are you a City Resident?*

- Yes  
 No

*What is your address? This information will not be used to add you to a mailing list; rather it will solely be used to assess the level of service based on location.*

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# APPENDIX B

## Ramada Reservations

PARK COMPLEX	RAMADA NO.	LOCATION	ANNUAL DAYS AVAILABLE	ANNUAL DAYS RESERVED	PERCENTAGE DAYS USED/YEAR
<b>REGIONAL PARKS</b>					
James P. Deyo Regional Park	<b>Ramada #10</b>	<b>Caballero Park</b>	361	85	<b>24%</b>
	Ramada #11	Caballero Park	361	49	14%
	<b>Ramada #22</b>	<b>Friendship Park</b>	358	78	<b>22%</b>
	<b>Ramada #23</b>	<b>Friendship Park</b>	358	87	<b>24%</b>
Riverfront Regional Park	Ramada #14	Riverside Park	361	20	6%
	<b>Ramada #32</b>	<b>West Wetlands Park</b>	361	71	<b>20%</b>
	Ramada #33	West Wetlands Park	358	68	19%
	<b>Ramada #34</b>	<b>West Wetlands Park</b>	361	95	<b>26%</b>
	Ramada #35	West Wetlands Park	361	35	10%
	Ramada #36	West Wetlands Park	361	31	9%
	<b>Ramada #37</b>	<b>Gateway Park</b>	361	74	<b>20%</b>
	Ramada #38	Gateway Park	361	56	16%
Ramada #39	Gateway Park	361	29	8%	
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>					
Carver Park Complex	Ramada #03	Carver Park	361	31	9%
	Ramada #04	Carver Park	361	35	10%
	Ramada #24	Carver Park	361	22	6%
	Ramada #25	Carver Park	361	66	18%
Joe Henry Park Complex	<b>Ramada #01</b>	<b>Joe Henry Memorial Park</b>	346	72	<b>21%</b>
	<b>Ramada #28</b>	<b>Joe Henry Memorial Park</b>	346	69	<b>20%</b>
	Ramada #31	Joe Henry Memorial Park	340	60	18%
Kennedy Memorial Park Complex	Ramada #05	Kennedy Memorial Park	361	49	14%
	Ramada #06	Kennedy Memorial Park	361	27	7%
	Ramada #16	Kennedy Memorial Park	361	45	12%
	Ramada #17	Kennedy Memorial Park	361	13	4%
	Ramada #26	Kennedy Memorial Park	361	45	12%
	Ramada #27	Kennedy Memorial Park	361	48	13%
Smucker Memorial Park	<b>Ramada #08</b>	<b>Smucker Memorial Park</b>	361	118	<b>33%</b>
	Ramada #09	Smucker Memorial Park	361	32	9%
	Ramada #15	Smucker Memorial Park	361	49	14%
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>					
	Ramada #12	Netwest Park	361	4	1%
	Ramada #13	Sanguinetti Memorial Park	347	49	14%
	Ramada #29	Sanguinetti Memorial Park	347	39	11%
	Ramada #30	Sanguinetti Memorial Park	347	40	12%
	Ramada #18	Sunrise Optimist Park	361	36	10%
	Ramada #19	Sunrise Optimist Park	361	20	6%
	Ramada #20	Winsor Rotary Park	361	22	6%
	Ramada #21	Winsor Rotary Park	361	7	2%

**NOTES:**

- This table summarizes annual data for the period between September 2014 to August 2015.
- Park names and ramada numbers shown in bold are the most popular, with over 20% of available days with one or more reservations.
- "Days Reserved" refers to number of days with one or more reservations, regardless of the amount of time.
- "Percentage Days Used/Year" refers to the number of days with on or more reservations out of the total number of days available.
- All parks are closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, and New Years Day. Other discrepancies in "Days Available" are due to maintenance or flooding issues.
- Two ramadas, #2 and #7, had been destroyed or removed and were not in use for the period shown in the data.