

Los Alamos County Parks Master Plan

Prepared for:
**Community Services Department
Parks Division**
January 25, 2005

By:

Roddick & Dunbar Ltd.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

with
Resource Technology Inc.
and Research and Polling, Inc.

And Park Assessments 2005



Park Assessments prepared by:
**Community Services Department
Parks Division**
January 25, 2005

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

January 25, 2004

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I. Executive Summary

Los Alamos County Parks Division energetically hosts a varied parks system that is well used by County residents. The parks vary in levels of development, ranging from playgrounds and sports fields to bucolic picnic areas and beautiful natural areas. Los Alamos County also boasts an extensive trail network that is used considerably by residents for both transportation and recreation. Strong community support exists to preserve and enhance the parks and trail system.

The County of Los Alamos has prepared this Master Plan to identify long term development and maintenance needs of the park system, based on existing services, amenities and public needs. The Parks Master Plan covers all public parks in both Los Alamos and White Rock, and addresses a minimum planning period of ten years. During the writing of this Master Plan, the County hosted an effort to receive public input to help guide the updating of the County Comprehensive Plan. Several Vision Statements developed in that process pertain to outdoor parks and recreation, and are consistent with the recommendations of the Master Plan. These are: Preserve our Past, Protect the Environment, Improve Recreation, and Enhance Youth Activities.

Los Alamos County is currently experiencing a growth rate so low that it could be considered static. According to U.S. Census Bureau information, Los Alamos County population was reported to be 18,343 for the year 2000. Reported to live in the Los Alamos town area were 11,909, and reported to live in the White Rock town area were 6,045. The population of the County has matured with the Laboratory, resulting in a retirement sector that has grown substantially since 1950 and depletion in the numbers of children. These numbers indicate that Los Alamos County has evolved to demographics more similar to the rest of the State, in comparison to its youth-oriented development during the 1950's and 1960's. There is, however, a shortage of resources to support entrepreneurial and other job opportunities, and a shortage of recreational and/or social resources (in comparison to what larger communities may offer).

Los Alamos County owns and manages approximately 201 acres of "standard developed" parkland, 588 acres of undeveloped or "nonstandard" parkland and 205 acres of golf course. Approximately 117 acres of standard developed parkland are in White Rock, and approximately 84 acres of standard developed parkland exist in Los Alamos. Los Alamos has 27 developed parks and 2 undeveloped parks, and White Rock has 5 developed parks and 6 undeveloped parks. With approximately 201 acres of standard developed parkland to approximately 18,347 people, the current service level is 11 acres per 1000 people for the County. A widely accepted standard used to estimate amount of parkland needed has been 10 acres per 1,000 population. Los Alamos County meets that goal with 11 acres per 1,000 people, but if the two towns are examined separately, it becomes evident that White Rock owns the lions share of standard developed parkland acreage (White Rock - 19.35 acres per 1,000, Los Alamos - 7 acres per 1,000). This can be attributed largely to two factors - the scarcity of developable land in Los Alamos, and the development of Overlook Park in White Rock that handles much of the organized sports activities. When informed that the County rates well compared to standards in a Master Plan public meeting, some attendees felt the citizens of Los Alamos County used more than a standard quantity of parkland and park amenities. Thus, the shortage of privately provided recreation such as shopping, music concerts, video arcades etc. may render Los Alamos citizens more dependent than expected upon their park and open space facilities for recreational pursuits.

A broad public input process was employed to identify the needs of the community regarding public parks and park facilities. The process included a series of three public meetings held during April 2002, and another series of three public meetings held July and August 2004. A public questionnaire was distributed during the 2004 public meetings, made available through the Internet and through various outlets in the County. A telephone survey was conducted February 2004. Based upon the public input process, and input from County staff, the following recommendations are summarized:

- Identified as the highest priority by residents in the telephone survey was the provision of more facilities for teenagers and young adults. This need may be closely aligned with the need for transportation. Thus, access and multi-use status of facilities should remain important considerations.
- Providing an expanded network of footpath and bicycle trails was identified as the second highest priority by residents in the telephone survey. Providing trail signage and trail maps were priorities. The community has requested additional trails to increase access, and has requested the trails become multi-use to include bicycle and equestrian use.
- The development a graphic master plan for North Mesa Park with a community task force is recommended. During the research and writing of this Master Plan, North Mesa Park remained a source of some conflict within the community. A significant number of residents opposing a ball field at FEMAville attended the public meetings. However, those who use and program the fields recognize a distinct need for one or more additional fields, and the town of Los Alamos has fewer softball/baseball fields than does White Rock. The master plan process should take place with the consistent involvement of a "Community Task Force" and the end product should be an official County document that was developed in respectful compromise by all parties involved.
- To aid in the development of additional ball fields, it is recommended that the Parks Division evaluate the cost effectiveness of a lighted artificial turf field vs. the quantity of lighted or non-lighted natural turf fields required to provide the same level of use. This should be done with the Council goal of increased economic impact through sports recreation in mind.
- The development of an outdoor amphitheater for concerts and other live entertainment, which is currently being planned by the County, was ranked as a very high priority among 31% of the residents in terms of a new recreation facility, and ranked very high among 76% of those with teenagers. The County can also make strides toward meeting the goal of providing more facilities for younger children through the renovation of existing parks, which rated as a very high priority among 25% of the residents in the telephone survey. A Community Recreation Center was identified as a very high priority by 27% of the telephone survey respondents, and a very high priority (66%) among those with youth at home. A community Recreation Center could serve a multitude of intergenerational community functions, including providing a location for performing arts, lectures and conventions, which also ranked high in priority level among the survey participants.
- The renovation of existing parks continues to occur to existing park and tot lot playgrounds, to replace older equipment with modern equipment that is specifically constructed to comply with national safety standards. It is recommended that the County upgrade all parks to become ADA compliant. The County should include at least one boundless playground or one play structure that is completely accessible by wheelchair. All existing fencing in disrepair should be replaced, and new fencing be provided around tot lots near streets and in wooded areas where appropriate. To increase the quality of park renovation and installation, it is recommended that in-

house construction crews obtain any needed construction installation training, and that the Parks Division remain especially vigilant about public safety issues during construction and renovation of parks.

- The development of additional smaller parks for use by neighborhoods was rated as a very high priority by 21% of survey respondents. Due to a noted lack of a nearby park by residents, it is recommended that the County develop one or two of the undeveloped parks in the La Senda / Parajito Acres / Karen Circle area. A high level of local resident involvement in the planning of the park development is recommended.
- The large majority of telephone survey respondents stated that they are satisfied with the maintenance of the parks (61%), while 8% stated that they were dissatisfied, and 27% had neutral or mixed feelings. It is absolutely mandatory that the parks and play equipment remain maintained at a level that ensures public safety. One area that is sometimes overlooked is the condition of the sand and other safety surfaces below play structures.
- A good turnout of dog enthusiasts attended the public meetings and responded to the questionnaires, requesting additional dog parks and dog training parks. While it may or may not be cost effective to the community to provide one or more exclusive dog training park(s), it is recommended that the County engage in a dialog with the dog enthusiasts to attempt to better meet their needs in a reasonable manner.
- The planting of trees was an item that arose repeatedly and favorably in public meeting comments, and was rated third on the questionnaire priority list. Especially favored are trees near seating areas at playgrounds and other viewing areas where shade is appreciated.
- The LAC policy for obtaining parkland provides that five acres of parkland be established per 1,000 residents (in new development). This standard is less than that recommended by national standards (10 acres of parkland per 1000 people). It is recommended that the County development code be revised to increase the acreage of parkland dedication to meet national standards.
- The basic source of funds for the County Parks Division is derived from the County General Fund tax revenues. The Parks Division often receives little or no increase in its annual budget. Two-thirds of the telephone survey respondents said they would either be very likely (31%) or somewhat likely (36%) to support a small tax increase for improvements to the County Parks and Recreational facilities. Additional funding sources worth consideration include the following: land acquisitions and easement dedications, real estate transfer tax, federal and state assistance, advertising, special fundraisers, revenue-raising facilities, Volunteer Labor Corps, "Friends of Los Alamos County Parks" organization, marketing consultant, and partnership programs.

A Park System Model is provided in the Master Plan to assist the County in renovation and management of the parks. The Model is a parks classification system that aids in providing recommendations of specific features such as service area, parking systems, setbacks, lighting, facilities and amenities. The Parks Model is based on existing conditions and facilities of the Los Alamos County Park System, conventional standards, and community input. Individual parks are assigned to a particular class based on their sizes, intended use and locations. Although industry standards exist for use as park classification systems, Los Alamos County is unique from most communities in the history of park development, land availability, and growth projections. For this reason, industry standards have been adapted to better serve Los Alamos County. Los Alamos deviates from standard neighborhood park size by recognizing the original tot lots as

important components of this category. Tot lots are grouped into a Parks Model category called **Neighborhood Pocket Parks**. Los Alamos community parks are also smaller in size than industry standards, and most are located in residential communities and served by residential streets, however they offer a wider range of facilities than the neighborhood parks. Thus, they are classified as **Residential Community Parks**. The County has two **Urban County Parks** - Overlook in White Rock and the lesser developed North Mesa in Los Alamos. **Special Use Parks** include such uses as isolated sports facilities and areas of historical or environmental significance, among others. Also included within the Model are classifications for **Urban Space** and **Undeveloped Parks**. Recommendations for each class include: size, service area, location and access, parking, basic amenities, optional facilities, inappropriate facilities, setbacks, park lighting, community recommendations (based on a written questionnaire), community defined preferences for park amenities (listed in order of preference), development costs, and a listing of each park within each category.

The County Parks Division has prepared a special supplement to the Master Plan. This document, entitled "*Master Plan Supplement: Park Assessments*", presents renovation goals identified by the Parks Division for individual parks within Los Alamos County. The Supplement is to be used in conjunction with the Master Plan.

II. Introduction

Plan Purpose

Los Alamos County Parks Division energetically hosts a varied parks system that is well used by County residents. The parks vary in levels of development, ranging from playgrounds and sports fields to bucolic picnic areas and natural areas. Hobbyist facilities are provided, including horse stables and rodeo facilities. Pleasantly landscaped public areas and roadway landscaping help beautify the two towns of White Rock and Los Alamos. Los Alamos County also boasts an extensive trail network that is used considerably by residents for both transportation and recreation. The trails provide access for hikers and equestrians through the canyons and mesas of Los Alamos County, and help create a successful pedestrian community by connecting important destinations including home, work, shopping and school. Strong community support exists to preserve and enhance the parks and trail system.

The County of Los Alamos has prepared this Master Plan to identify long term development and maintenance needs of the park system, based on existing services, amenities and public needs. This effort has been driven by community voice. Plan implementation will be aided by a parks system Model to be used as a tool for evaluating existing conditions against optimal (Model) conditions. The Plan development has occurred during a window of time shared by the Los Alamos County Visioning Process, subsequent updating of the County Comprehensive Plan, and writing of the County Recreation Needs Assessment. The Parks Master Plan covers all public parks in both Los Alamos and White Rock, and addresses a minimum planning period of ten years.

The County Parks Division has prepared a special supplement to the Master Plan. This document, entitled "*Master Plan Supplement: Park Assessments*", presents renovation goals identified by the Parks Division for individual parks within Los Alamos County. The Supplement is to be used in conjunction with the Master Plan.

Envision Los Alamos – Public Input for the Comprehensive Plan

During the writing of this Master Plan, the County hosted an extensive effort, termed "Envision Los Alamos", to receive public input to help guide the updating of the County Comprehensive Plan. While this visioning process has not dealt with parks specifically, it is important to note several of the Vision Statements that pertain to outdoor parks and recreation and the recommendations of this Master Plan. These are:

PRESERVE OUR PAST

We will be considerate of our past by preserving the historic, environmental and cultural landscapes of our area.

PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

Los Alamos will be an environmentally friendly small community that is a steward of open spaces and protects its natural environment, ecosystems, and wildlife.

IMPROVE RECREATION

We will maintain and carefully improve outdoor recreation that addresses the needs of a diverse population. This includes hike and bike trails. We will maintain, improve and expand indoor recreational activities and programs.

ENHANCE YOUTH ACTIVITIES

We will engage young people in planning and delivering more activities and programs for kids and teens, including intergenerational activities.

Mission for the County Park System

Strive for continuous improvement in the promotion of safety and quality of the Parks infrastructure through reliable and consistent maintenance, development and enhancement of the facilities and aesthetics of parks, trails and open spaces of Los Alamos County.

County Council Goals

County Council goals include increased economic impact through sports recreation, the removal of urban blight, and improvements in transportation and mobility.

III. Planning Environment

History of Los Alamos County Parks and Recreation Facilities

Los Alamos County was created from Sandoval and Santa Fe Counties in 1963.² With 109 square miles; it is the smallest county in New Mexico. The current park system consists primarily of developed neighborhood parks with multiple amenities, "tot lots" on small parcels of land often tucked behind or beside residential properties, undeveloped parcels in residential neighborhoods, several other small parcels with tennis courts only, and several large parks with sports fields or other special uses. Many of the tot lots were constructed in the 1960's by the Atomic Energy Commission. The quantity and distribution of the tot lots seems to indicate they were likely constructed with intent of providing children's play areas within walking distance from surrounding residences. The tot lots were later donated to the County with other community facilities pursuant to the 1962 "transfer" legislation.¹

The County has an enviable trail network for bicycles and pedestrians through many of the local forests and canyons. Though some of the 300-mile trail network is used for horseback riding and motorcycling, motorized vehicles are restricted in many areas. The trail network is vast and variable (and includes both paved and unpaved trails), suitable for both commuting about town and recreational hiking. The trail network is highly valued by County residents – a 2001 citizen survey indicated that 41% of respondents saw a need for additional bike and pedestrian pathways, and many also indicated a need for preservation of open space.²

Demographic Profile and Projections

According to U.S. Census Bureau information, Los Alamos County population was reported to be 18,343 for the year 2000. Reported to live in the Los Alamos town area were 11,909, and reported to live in the White Rock town area were 6,045.

Los Alamos County is currently experiencing a growth rate so low that it could be considered static. In the past, the County population has generally grown in proportion to the growth of Lab personnel (historically, housing assignments were restricted to those working in Los Alamos).¹ Negative factors contributing to demographic trends today may include the high cost of housing, a shortage of resources that support entrepreneurial and other job opportunities, and a shortage of recreational and/or social resources (in comparison to what larger communities may offer). Positive factors may include a low rate of crime, abundance of recreational resources for the naturalist, and aesthetic quality of the area. From the year 1980 to the year 2000, the County's population increased by 744 people, representing a 20-year growth of 4.1%. From the year 1990 to the year 2000, the County's population increased by 228 people, representing a ten-year growth of only 1.24%.

The population of the County has matured with the Laboratory, resulting in a retirement sector that has grown substantially since 1950 and depletion in the numbers of children. Over 12% of the County population is represented by seniors in the year 2000 (approximately 2219 people). This increase brings the senior population up to a rate similar to the rest of the State (11.5%). The UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) projects that this percentage of Los Alamos seniors will increase slightly to about 13% in 2020.² The percentage of young children (under 5 years) was somewhat less in 2000 compared to the State (5.6% for the County vs. 7.2% for the

State). Similarly, the percentage of people under 18 years of age is just slightly under those within the State (25.8% for the County vs. 28% for the State). These numbers indicate that Los Alamos County has evolved to demographics more similar to the rest of the State, in comparison to its youth-oriented development during the 1950's and 1960's.

IV. Existing Park System

County Parks System Summary

Los Alamos County owns and manages approximately 201 acres of "standard developed" parkland, 588 acres of undeveloped or nonstandard parkland (much of this is natural area within developed parks) and 205 acres of golf course. Approximately 117 acres of standard developed parkland and 105 acres of undeveloped or nonstandard parkland are in White Rock, and approximately 84 acres of standard developed parkland and 483 acres of undeveloped or nonstandard parkland are in Los Alamos. In addition to County land, nearby recreational lands include the Santa Fe National Forest and Bandelier National Monument. See Appendix Three for an explanation of "standard developed" parkland.

The Park system includes the following (listed alphabetically):

Los Alamos - 27 developed parks (varying degrees of development) and 2 undeveloped parks with:

- 1 aquatic center
- 3 lighted youth baseball fields
- 7 full or half basketball courts
- 1 general community center
- 1 equestrian center
- 1 golf course
- 3 multi-use pavilions (large shade structures)
- 2 practice backstops
- 3 picnic shelters in natural or scenic areas (one or two tables only)
- 14 playgrounds
- 1 senior center
- 1 shuffleboard area
- 3 softball fields (non-lighted)
- 1 softball field (lighted)
- 5 soccer fields (non-lighted)
- 1 street esplanade
- 10 tennis courts (non-lighted)
- 4 tennis courts (lighted)
- 1 xeriscape demonstration garden

White Rock - 5 developed parks (varying degrees of development) and 6 undeveloped parks with:

- 1 youth baseball field (non-lighted)
- 2 youth baseball fields (lighted)
- 3 full or half basketball courts
- 1 general community center
- 2 multi-use pavilions (large shade structures)
- 4 picnic shelters in natural or scenic areas (one or two tables only)
- 2 picnic shelters in developed park settings (one or two tables only)
- 5 playgrounds
- 1 sand volleyball court
- 1 senior center
- 5 softball fields (non-lighted)
- 1 softball field (lighted)
- 5 soccer fields (non-lighted)
- 1 street esplanade
- 2 tennis courts (non-lighted)
- 3 tennis courts (lighted)
- 1 youth center

Park Inventory

The matrix charts on the following pages list County Parks with existing amenities.

Key

Park Classification

- PP Neighborhood Pocket Park
- CP Residential Community Park
- UP Urban County Park
- SP Special Purpose Park
- US Urban Space

Amenities

- Bbq Bar-b-que Grills
- BsF Baseball Field
- BsL Baseball Field - Lighted
- Bsk Basketball Court (full or half)
- Cns Concessions
- Drk Drinking Fountain
- Ex Exercise Equipment
- Fnc Fenced (all or partially)
- Irr Irrigation System
- MPv Multi-use pavilion (large shade structures with picnic tables)
- Nat Native or Natural Areas
- Pkg On-site Parking
- Spc Passive Recreational Space (grassed)
- Pic Picnic Shelter (one or two tables only)
- Ply Playground Equipment
- PrB Practice Backstop
- Rr Restrooms
- Stg Seating
- Lt Security or Area Lighting
- Shd Shade (natural)
- Soc Soccer Field
- Sfb Softball Field
- SfL Softball Field -Lighted
- Ph Telephone
- Tns Tennis Court
- TnL Tennis Court - Lighted
- Tra Trail Connection(s)
- Sh Shuffleboard
- Vo Volleyball

Park Facilities Inventory
Los Alamos

#	Park Name	Acres	Class	Bbq	Bsf	BsL	Bsk	Cns	Drk	Ex	Fnc	Irr	MPv	Nat	Pkg	Spc	Pic	Ply	PrB	Rr	Stg	Lt	Shd	Soc	Sfb	SfL	Ph	Tns	TnL	Tra	Sh	Vo	
	Ashley Pond	2.5	SP							Y			Y			Y					Y		Y								Y		
2	Barranca Mesa Park	5.4	CP	Y			Y			Y		Y	1			Y		Y			Y	Y	Y	1				3					
	Brewer Arena	3	SP																														
5	Canyon Rd Tennis Courts	1.68	SP						Y									1				Y						2					
	Community Center Soccer	2.4	SP						Y		Y	Y			Y									1								Y	
7	East Park	4.3	CP	Y					Y		Y	Y			Y			Y			Y	Y	1								Y		
8	East Road Green	< 1.0	US								Y													1								Y	
9	Eastgate-Sunrise Park	1.79	SP	Y									Y		Y	Y	2	Y			Y	Y	Y		Y						Y		
10	El Gancho	1 Est.	Undev.																														
11	Entry Park	1.13	US								Y											Y											
12	Fantasy Playlot	0.67	PP											Y				Y				Y		Y									
13	Fuller Lodge Historic Grounds	2.82	SP								Y					Y						Y		Y								Y	
	Golf Course	205	SP																														
19	Kinnikinnick Park	2.5 Est.	SP								Y				Y							Y		Y							Y		
20	Loma Linda Tot Lot	9.88	PP				Y								Y			Y				Y		Y							Y		
22	Los Pueblos	3 Est.	Undev.																													Y	
27	Myrtle Street Green	1.16	US								Y																						
28	Myrtle Street Tennis Courts	0.19	SP																														
29	North Mesa Park	410.93	UP			3		Y	Y			Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	2	1	Y	2				Y		
31	North Mesa Picnic Grounds	16.8	SP	2									1	Y	Y		3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y								Y		
32	Orange Street Tot Lot	0.42	PP							Y	Y							Y				Y		Y							Y		
34	Pine Street Playlot	0.96	PP				Y							Y				Y				Y		Y							Y		
37	Ridgeway Tot Lot	2.74	PP				Y			Y	Y							Y				Y		Y							Y		
38	San Ildefonso Park	0.45	PP								Y							Y				Y		Y							Y		
	Skate Park		SP																														
39	North Mesa Stables	43.96	SP																														
42	Urban Park	8.98	CP				Y					Y	1		Y		Y	1	Y	Y	Y										4	1	
43	Walnut Street Tot Lot	1.29	PP				Y				Y				Y			Y				Y		Y							Y		
44	Western Area Park	3.93	CP				Y			Y		Y						Y				Y		Y							1		
45	Xeriscape Demo Garden	0.57	SP									Y										Y											
47	36th Street Tennis Courts	0.16	SP																													1	
48	37th Street Tot Lot	1.33	PP							Y								Y				Y		Y								Y	

Park Facilities Inventory
White Rock

#	Park Name	Acres	Class	Bbq	Bsf	BsL	Bsk	Cns	Drk	Ex	Fnc	Irr	MPv	Nat	Pkg	Spc	Pic	Ply	PrB	Rr	Stg	Lt	Shd	Soc	Sfb	SfL	Ph	Tns	TnL	Tra	Sh	Vo	
	Community Club	5 Est.	Undev.																														
1	Grand Canyon Park & Tot Lot	13.5	Undev.																														
2	Jeffrey Playlot	1.6	PP				Y				Y							Y				Y										Y	
3	Mountain Meadows Tot Lot	3.36	PP											Y				Y				Y										Y	
4	Overlook Park	156.13	UP	1	2		Y		Y			Y		Y	Y	Y	4	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	4	5	1						Y		
7	Pinon Park	21.66	CP	Y			Y					Y	1	Y	Y	Y	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y								2		
8	Rover Park	6.24	CP				Y		Y			Y	1	Y	Y	Y	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1								1		
9	State Rd 4 Landscape	2.07	US											Y																			
	Unnamed @ Sherwood	1 Est.	Undev.																														
	Unnamed @ Bacabi	5 Est.	Undev.																														Y
	Unnamed @ Piedra	6 Est.	Undev.																														
	Unnamed @ La Senda	1 Est.	Undev.																														

Park Maps:

The following park maps provided include:

Park Locations

County Parks for Los Alamos

County Parks for White Rock

Facility Locations

Aquatic Center

Baseball Fields

BMX Track

Children's playgrounds

Community Centers

Equestrian Center

Model Airplane Field

Model Race Car Arena

Roller Hockey Arena

Scenic/Natural Picnic Areas

Shuffleboard Courts

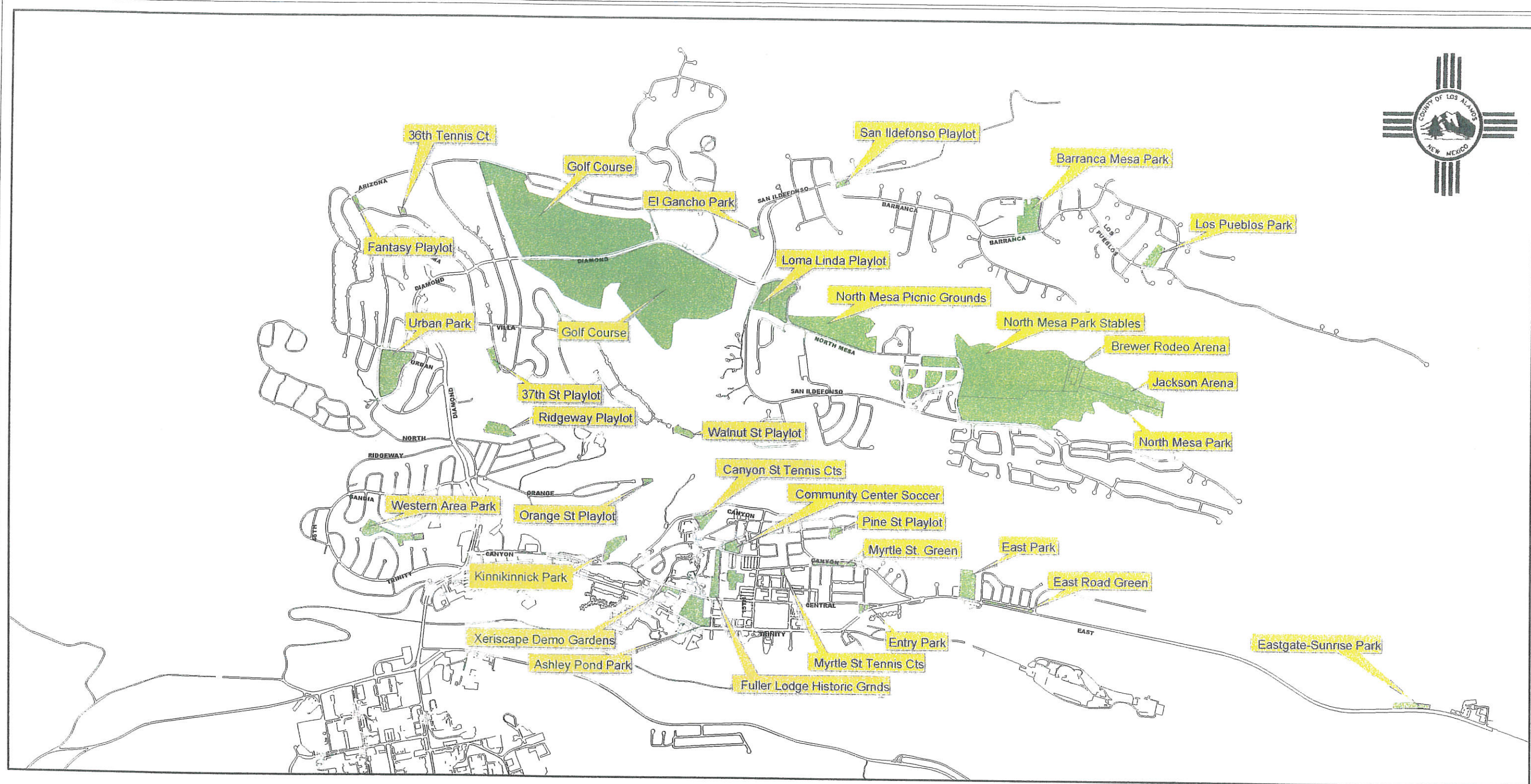
Soccer/multi-purpose Fields

Softball Fields

Tennis

Trailheads

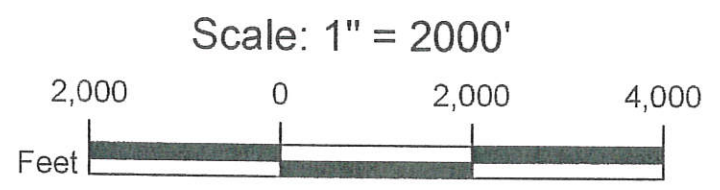
Volleyball



Los Alamos Parks and Streets

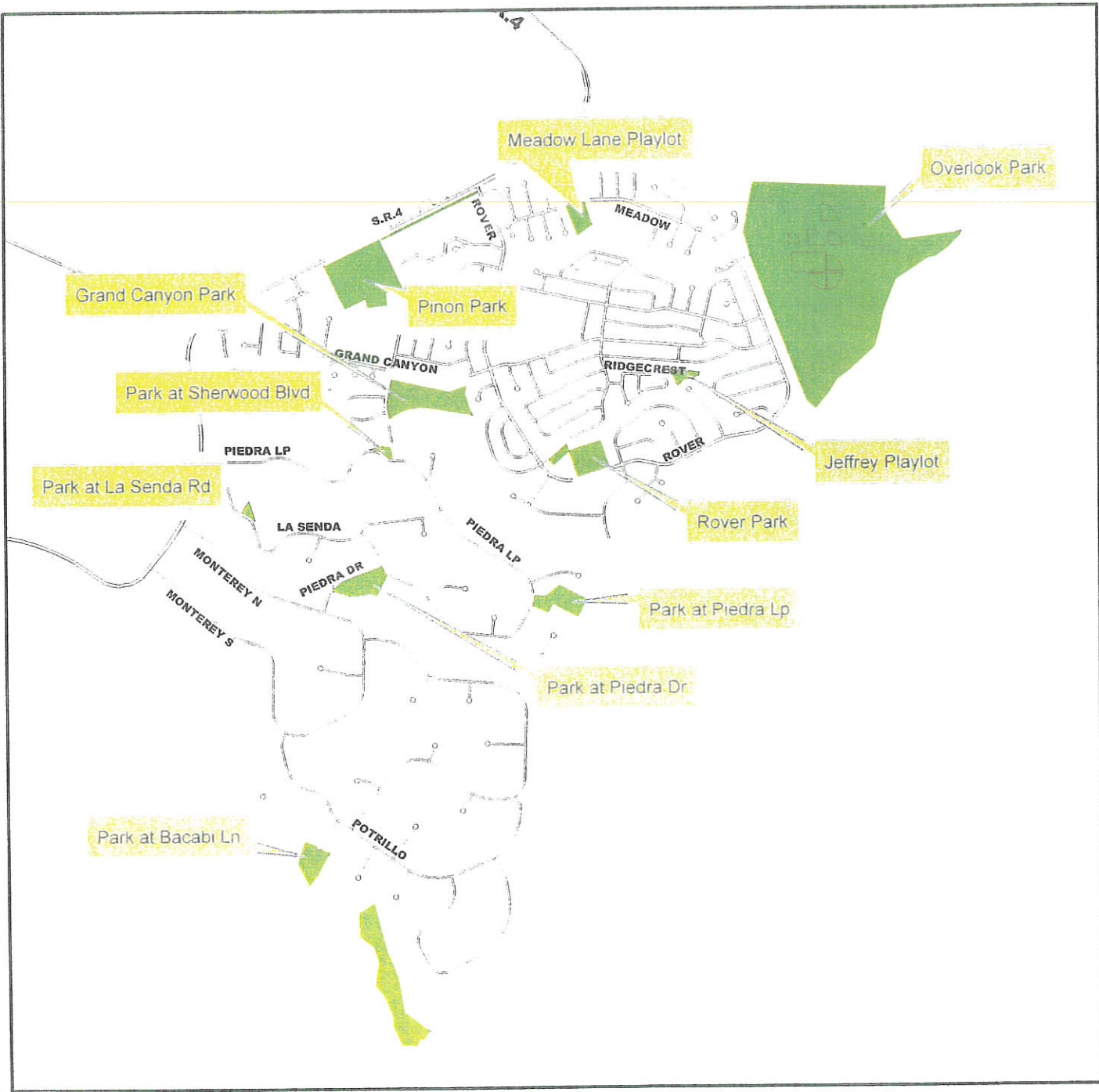
Legend

- Streets
- Parks



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

White Rock Parks and Streets



OVERLOOK PARK IN WHITE ROCK

Legend

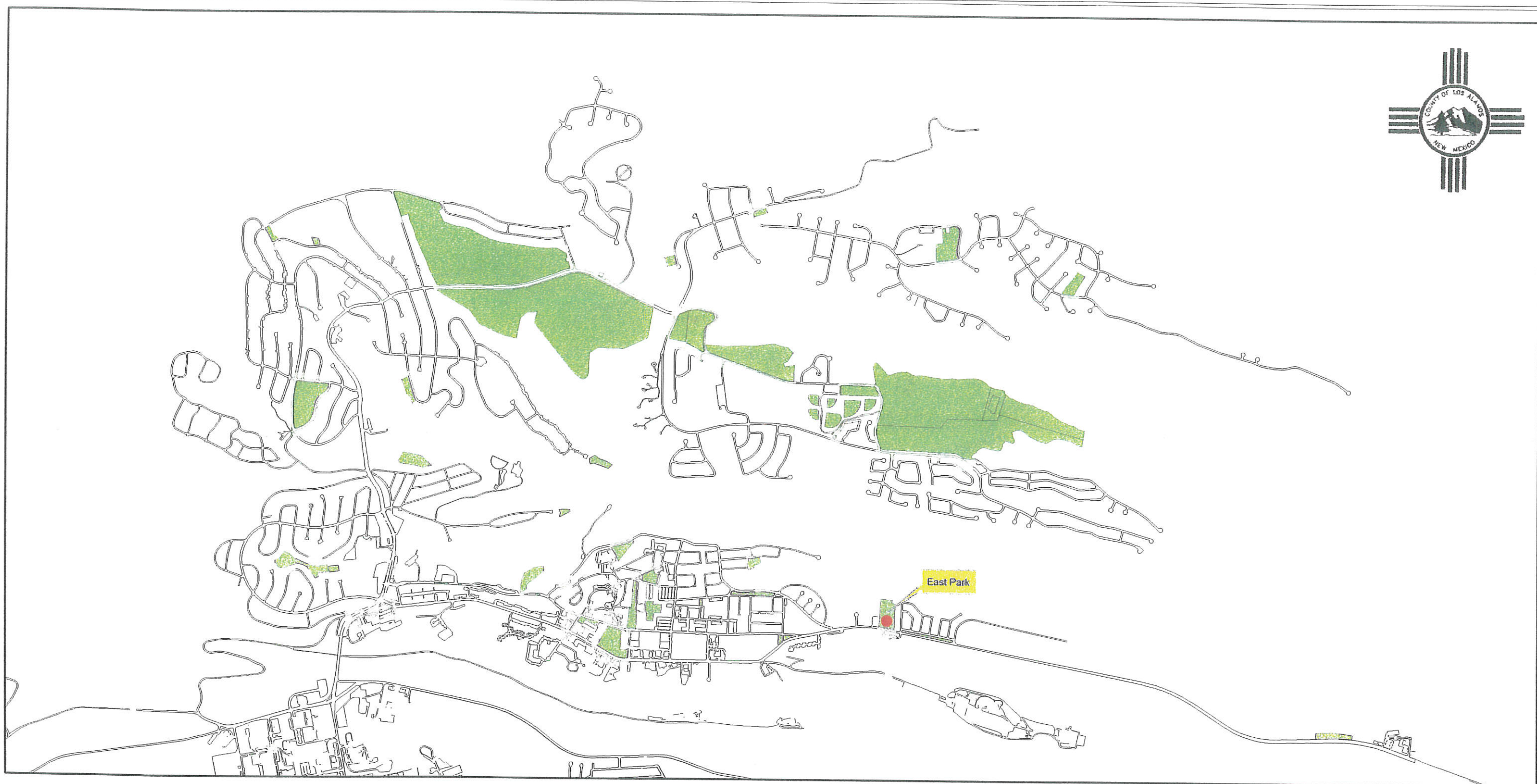
-  Streets
-  Parks



Scale: 1" = 2500'



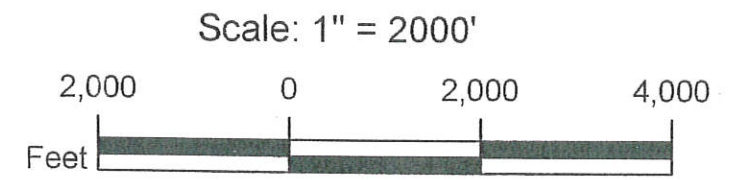
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



Los Alamos Roller Hockey

Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Roller Hockey Field



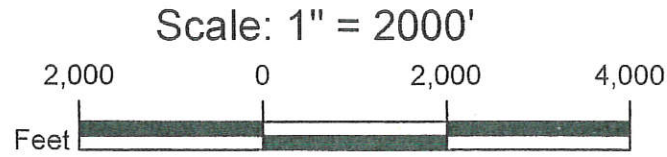
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



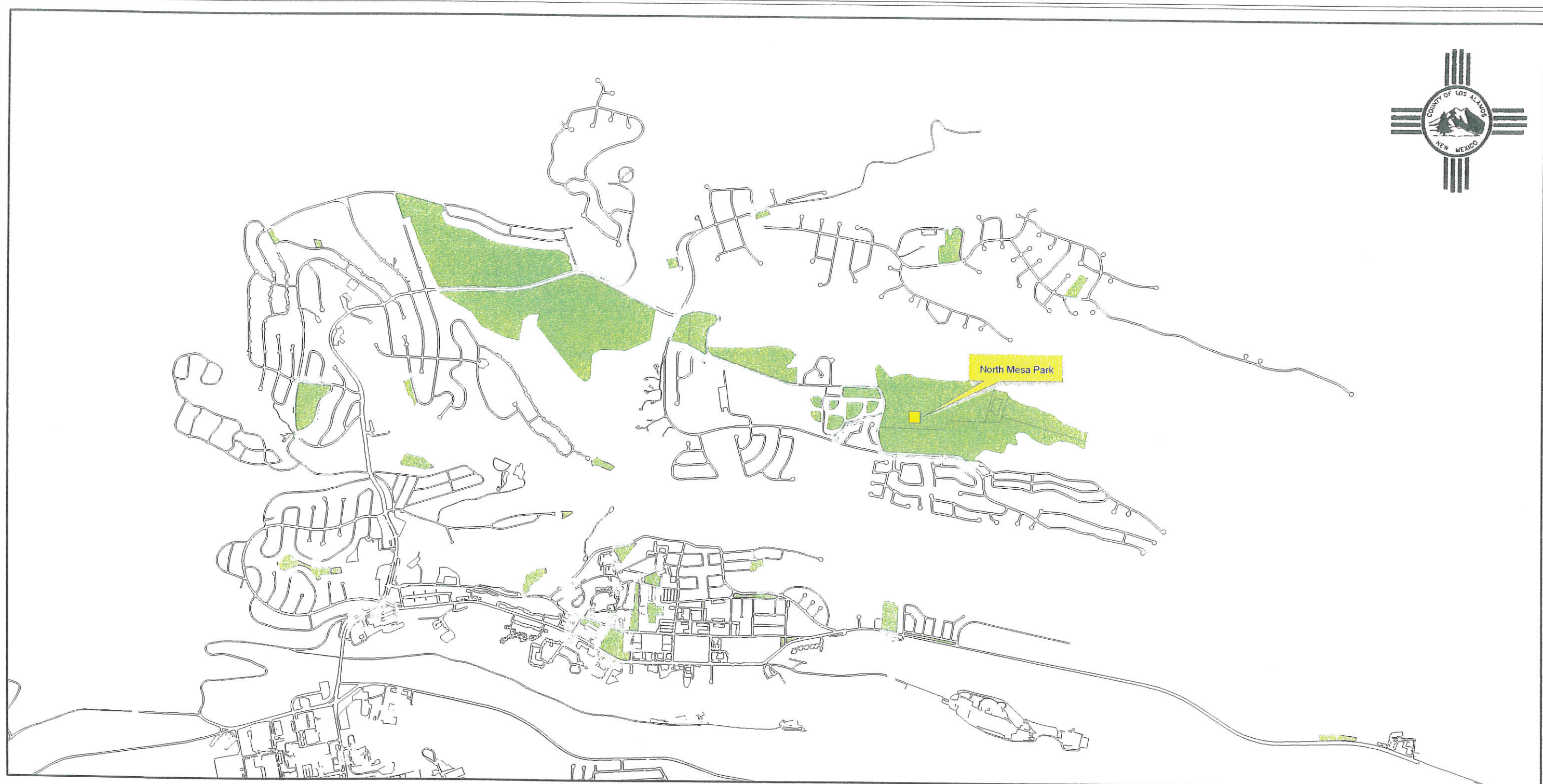
Los Alamos Scenic Picnic Areas

Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Scenic picnic Areas



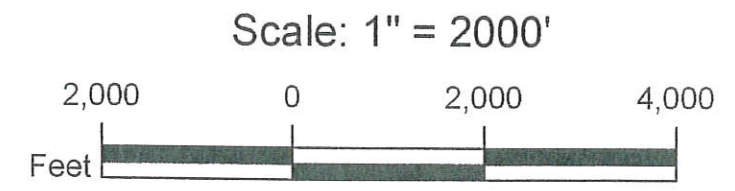
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



Los Alamos Equestrian Facility

Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Equestrian Center



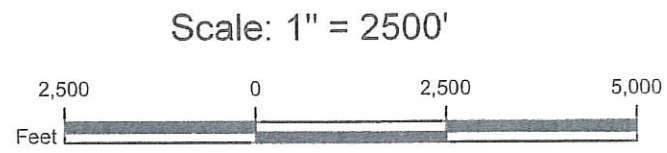
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

White Rock Model Airplane Field



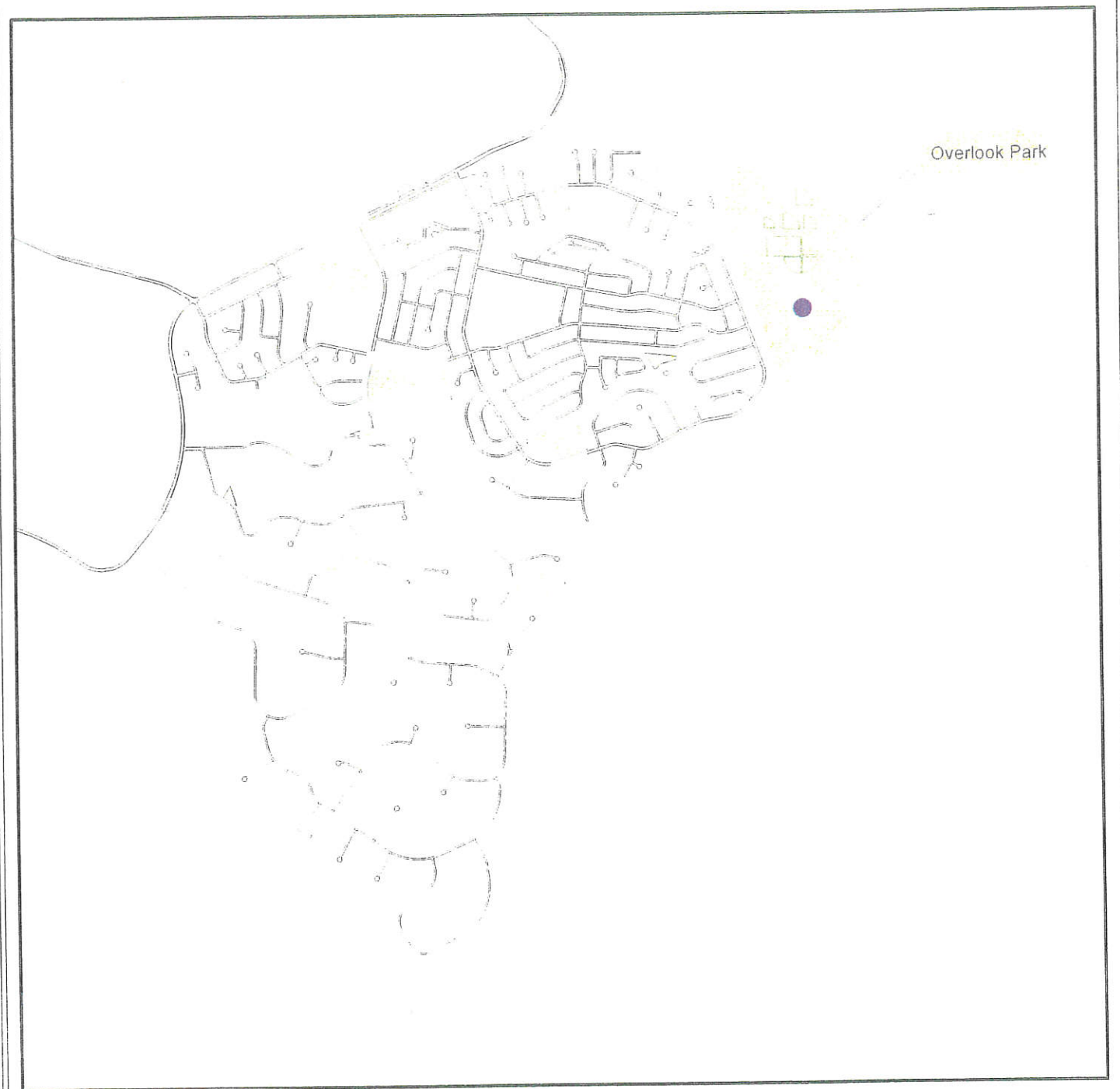
Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Model Plane Field



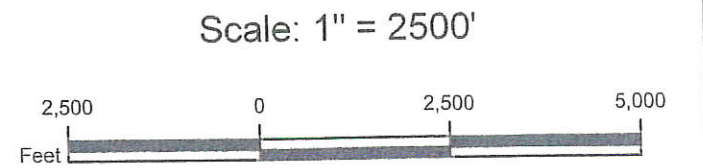
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

White Rock Model Car Raceway

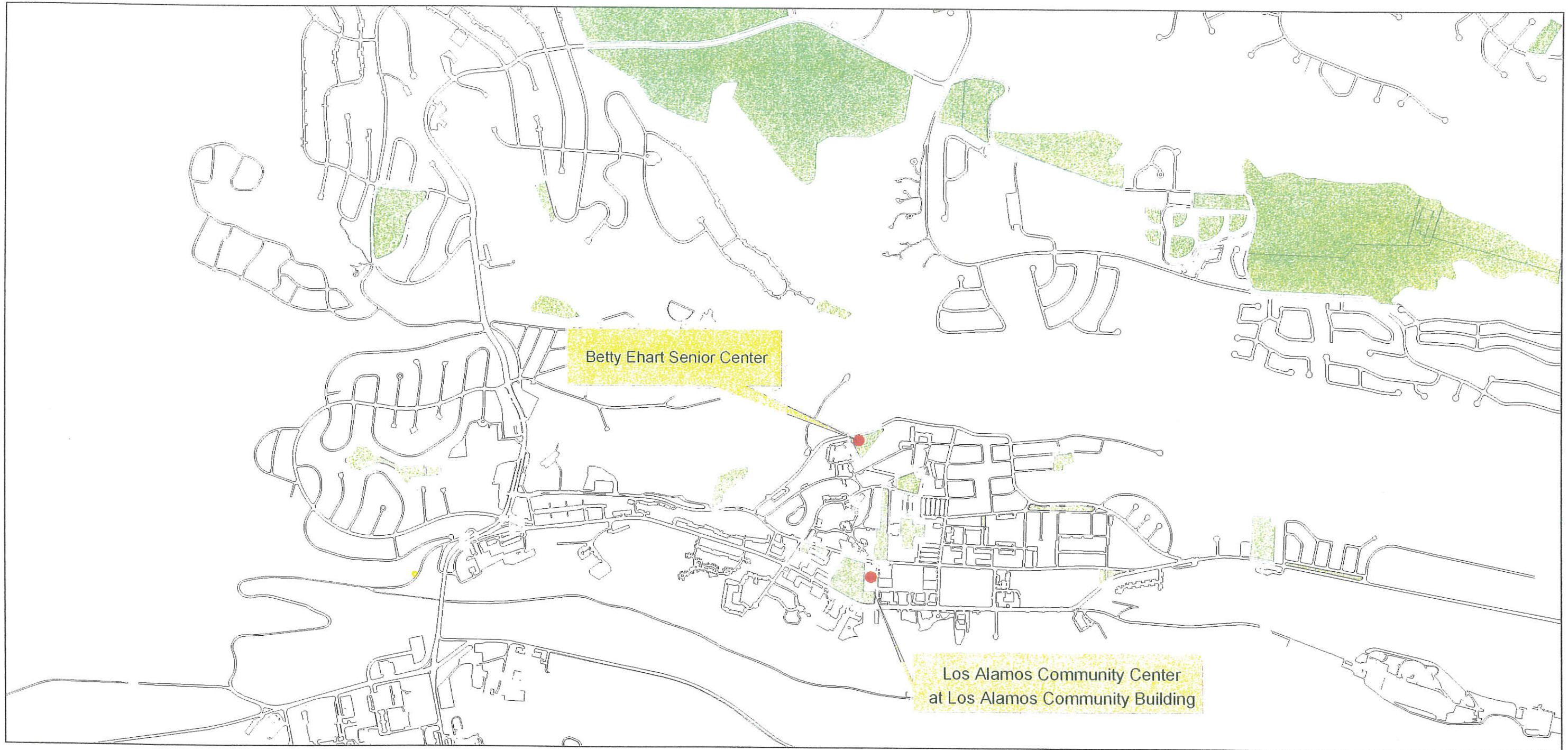


Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Model Car Raceway







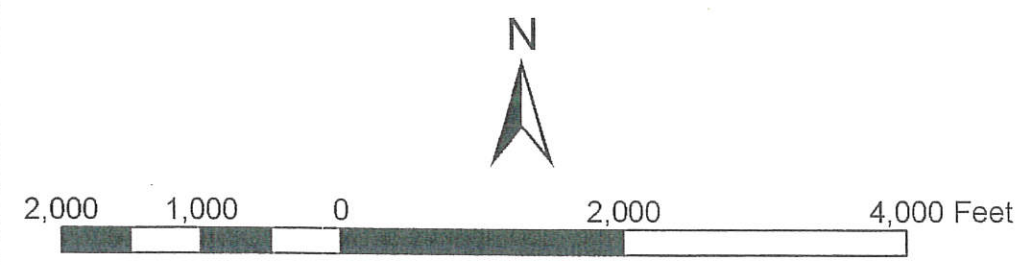
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



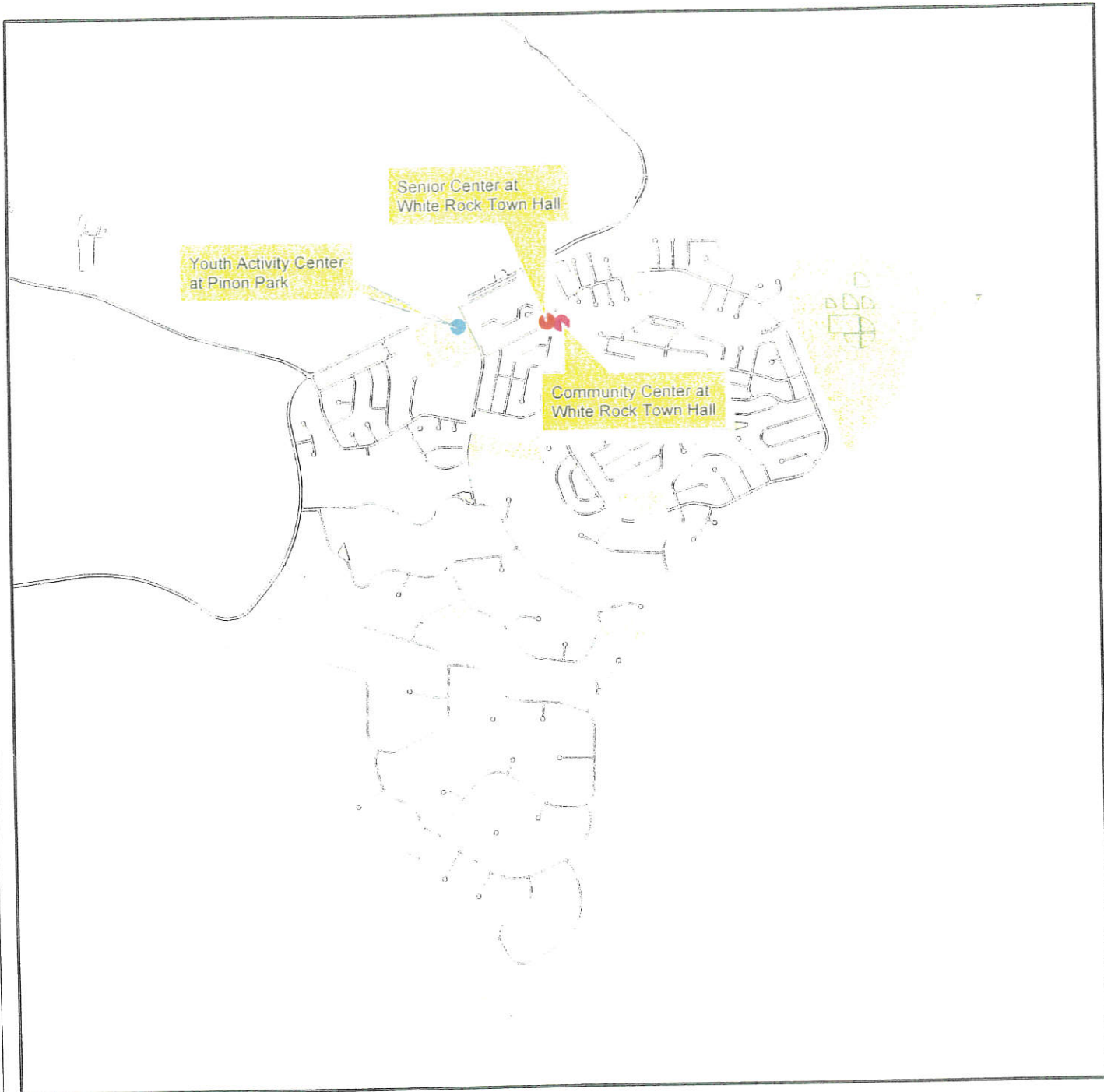
Los Alamos Community and Senior Centers

Legend

-  Streets
-  Parks
-  Community Center
-  Senior Center



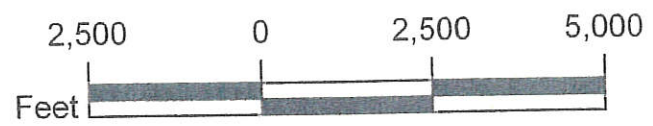
White Rock Community, Senior and Youth Activity Centers



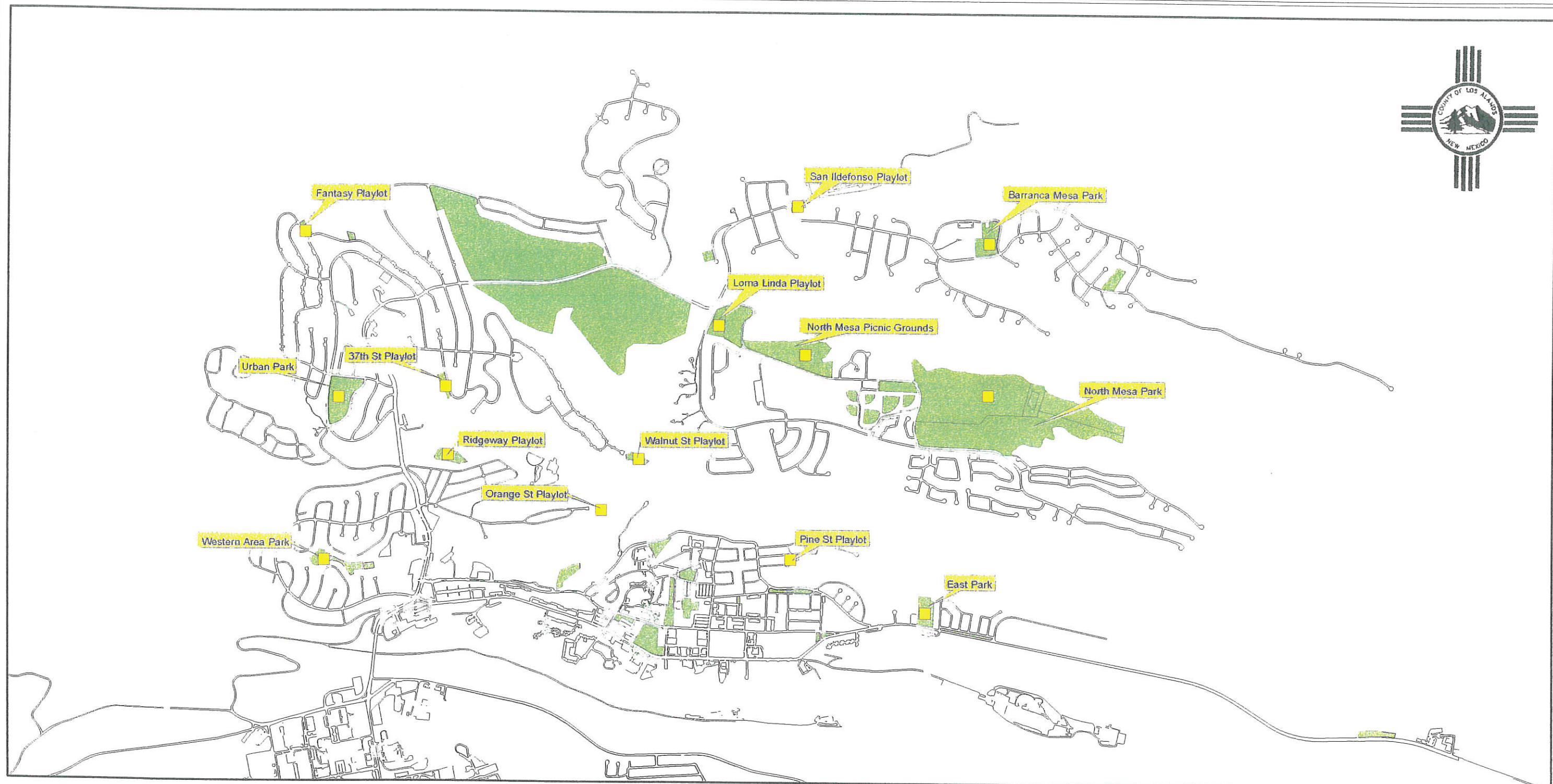
Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Community Center
- Senior Center
- Youth Activity Center

Scale: 1" = 2500'



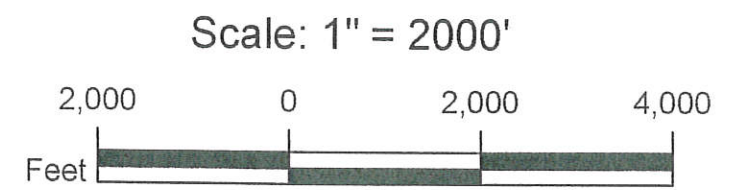
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



Los Alamos Playground Equipment

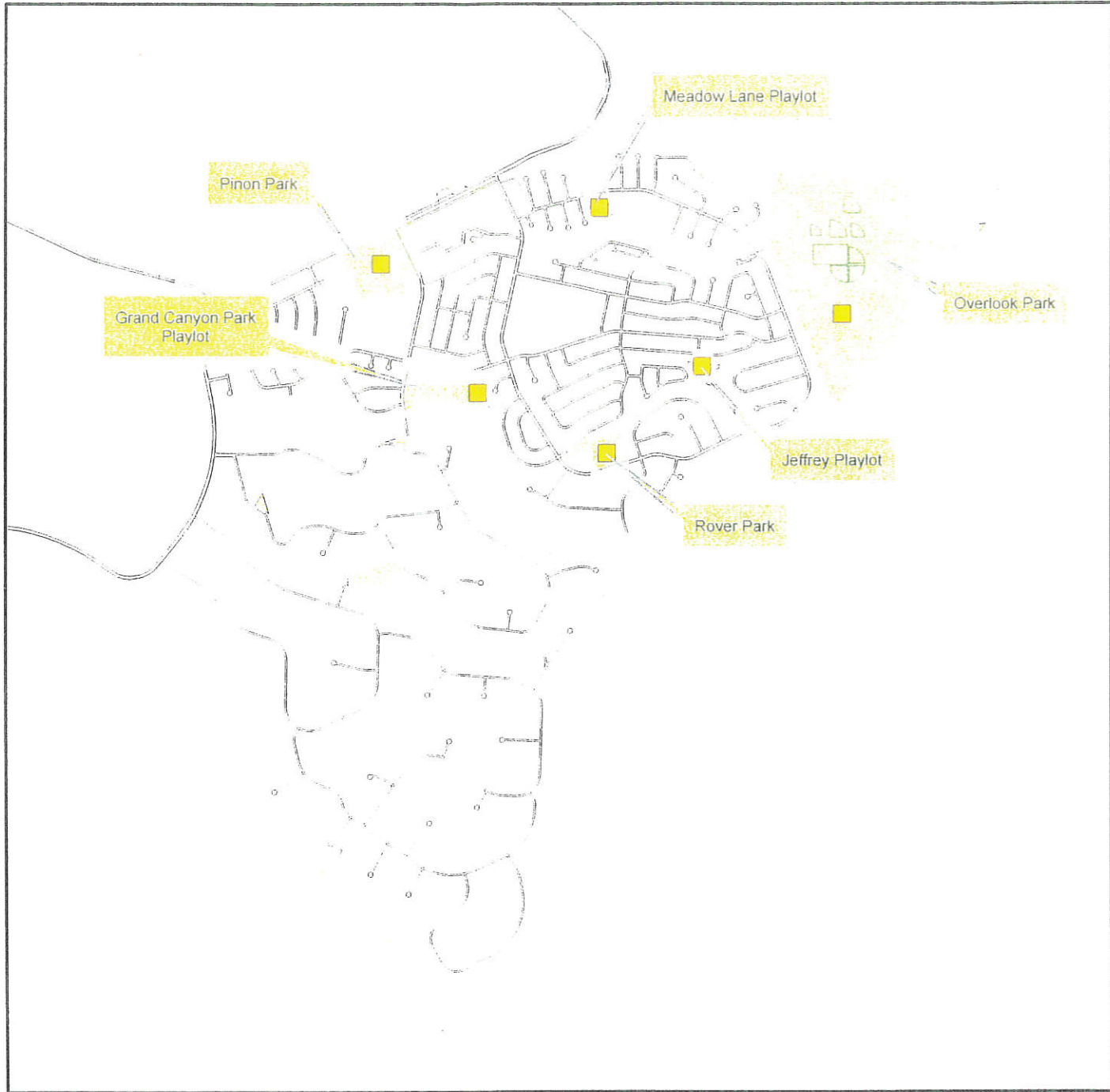
Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Playground equipment



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

White Rock Playground Equipment



Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Playground equipment



Scale: 1" = 2500'



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

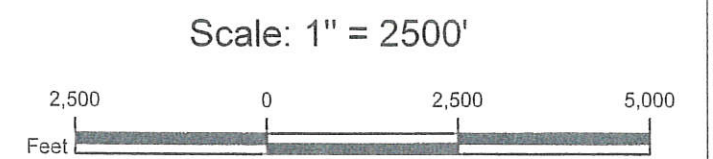


White Rock Baseball Fields



Legend

-  Streets
-  Parks
-  Baseball fields (lighted)
-  Baseball fields



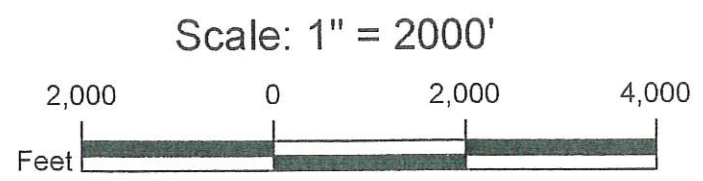
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



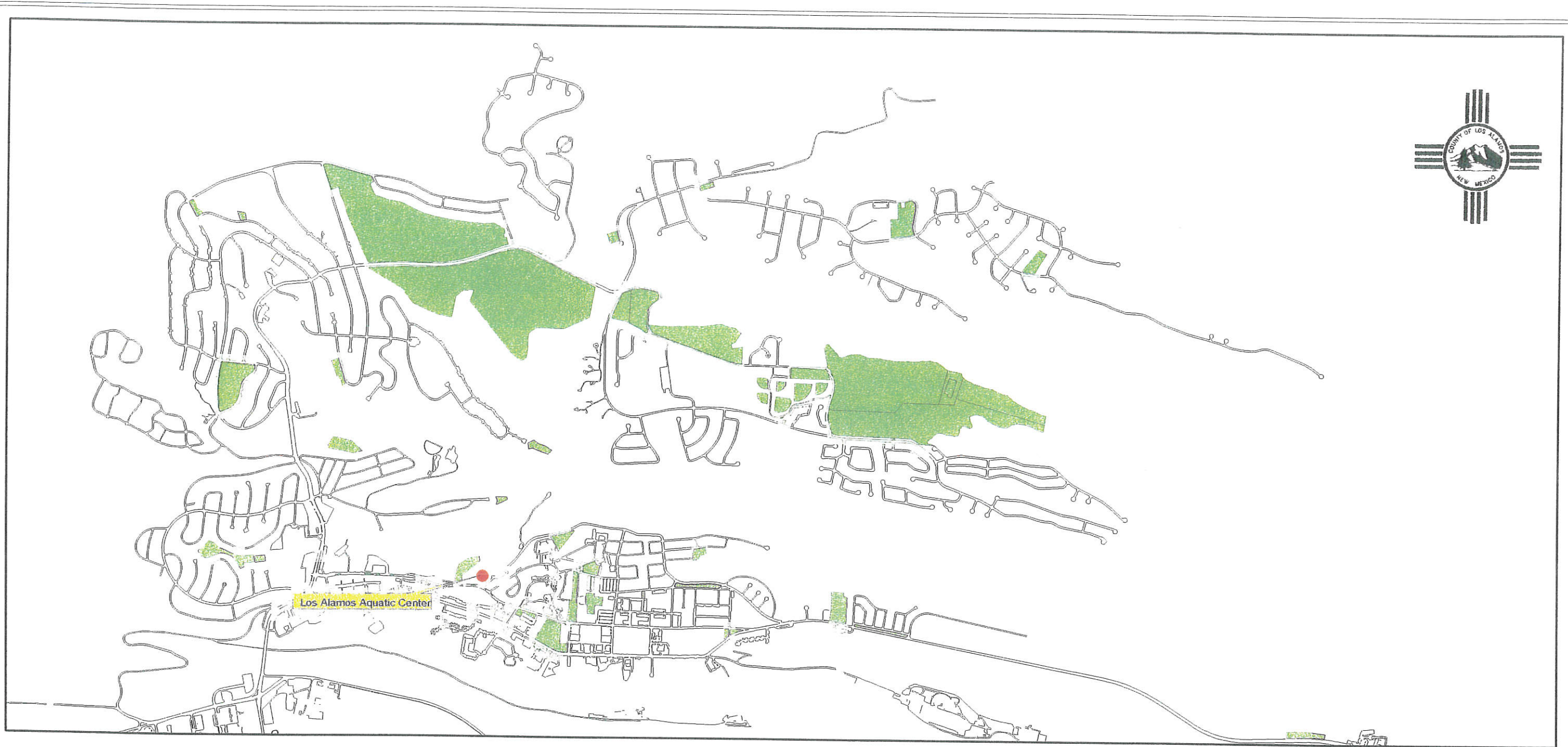
Los Alamos BMX Track

Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Bmx Track






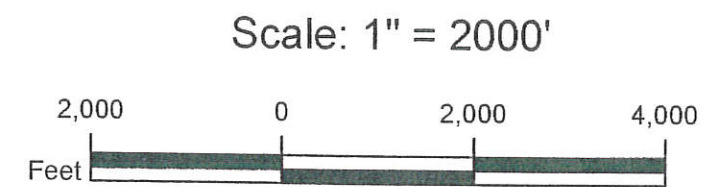
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



Los Alamos Aquatic Center

Legend

-  Aquatic Center
-  Parks
-  Streets



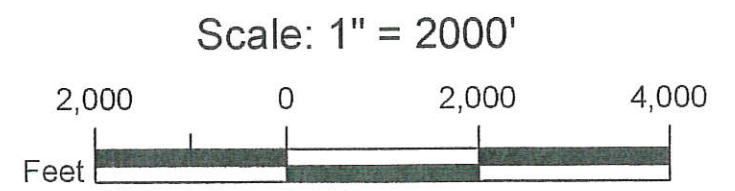
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



Los Alamos Baseball Fields

Legend

- Baseball fields (lighted)
- Parks
- Streets



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Dept.

White Rock Scenic Picnic Areas



Overlook Park

Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Scenic Picnic Areas



Scale: 1" = 2500'



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

White Rock Shuffleboard Courts



Pinon Park

Legend

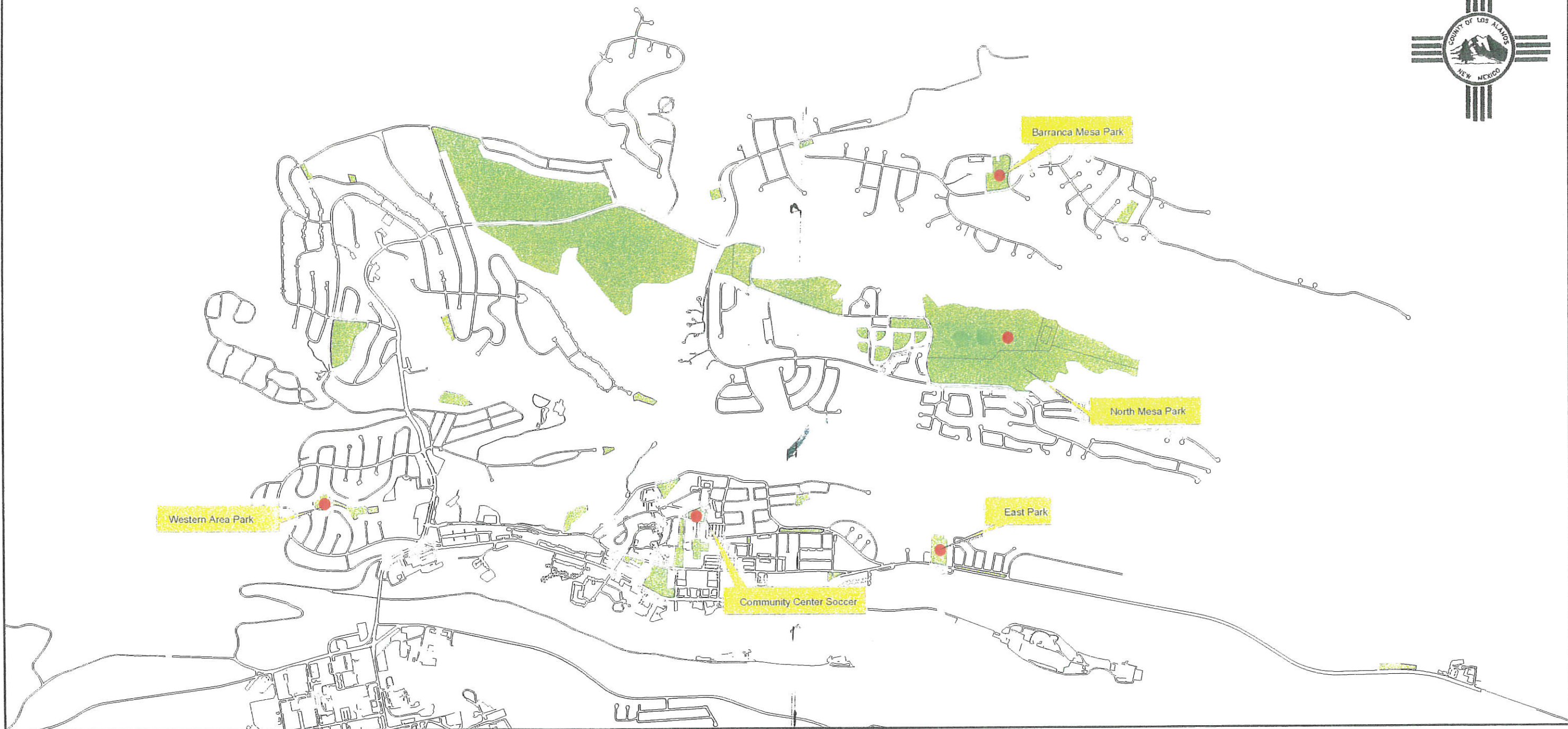
- Streets
- Parks
- Shuffle Board Courts



Scale: 1" = 2500'



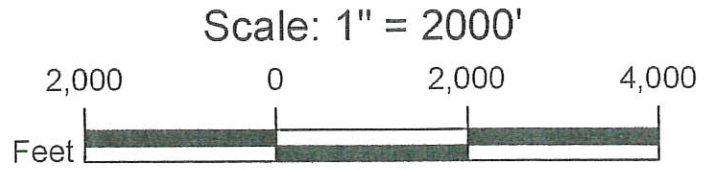
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



Los Alamos Soccer Fields

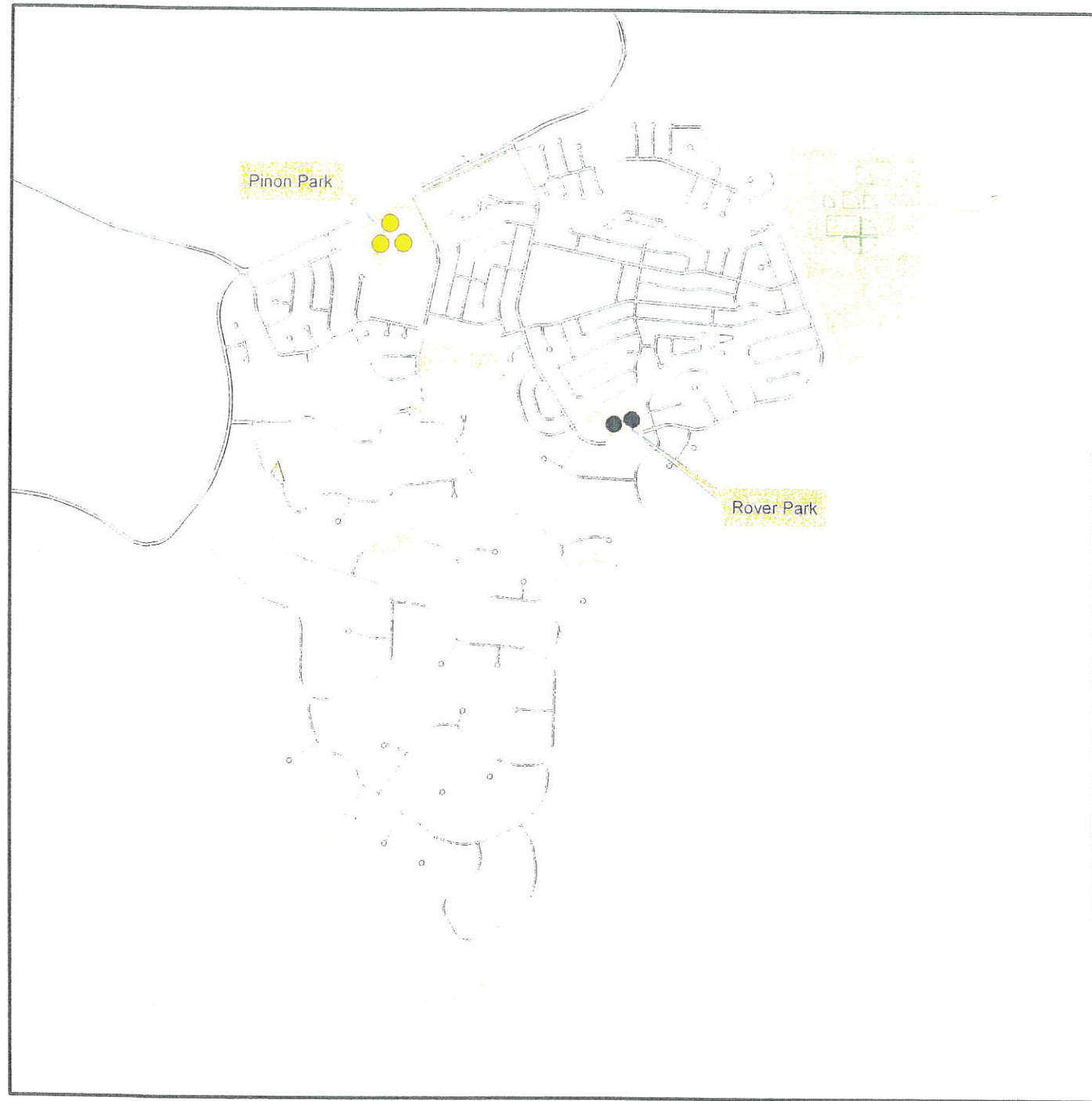
Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Soccer fields



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

White Rock Tennis Courts



Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Tennis cts (lighted)
- Tennis cts



Scale: 1" = 2500'



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

White Rock Soccer Fields



Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Soccer fields



Scale: 1" = 2500'



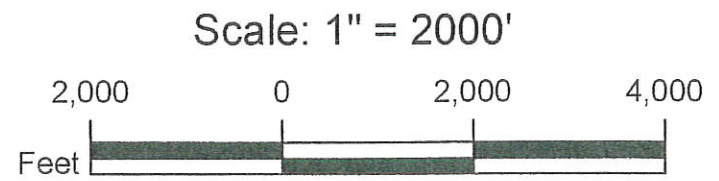
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



Los Alamos Softball Fields

Legend

- Streets
- Parks
- Softball fields (lighted)
- Softball fields



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

White Rock Volleyball Courts



Legend

- Volleyball Courts
- Parks
- Streets



Scale: 1" = 2500'



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

White Rock Softball Fields



Legend

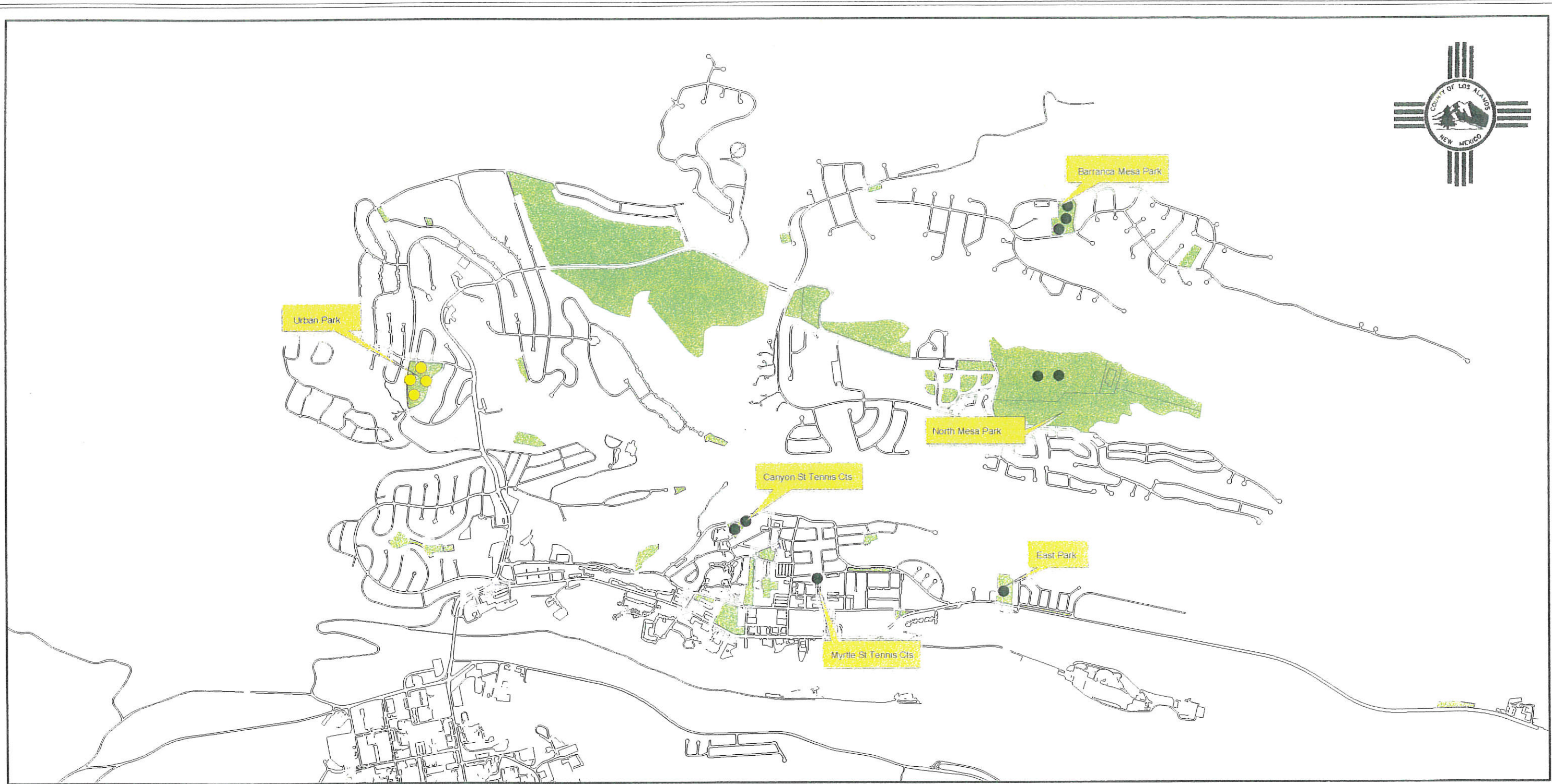
- Streets
- Parks
- Softball fields (lighted)
- Softball fields



Scale: 1" = 2500'



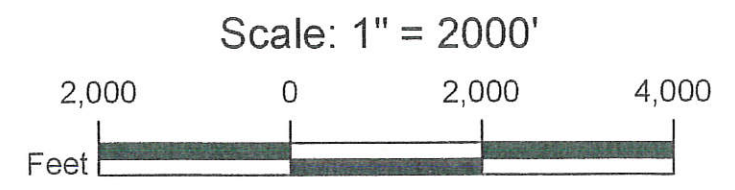
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



Los Alamos Tennis Courts

Legend

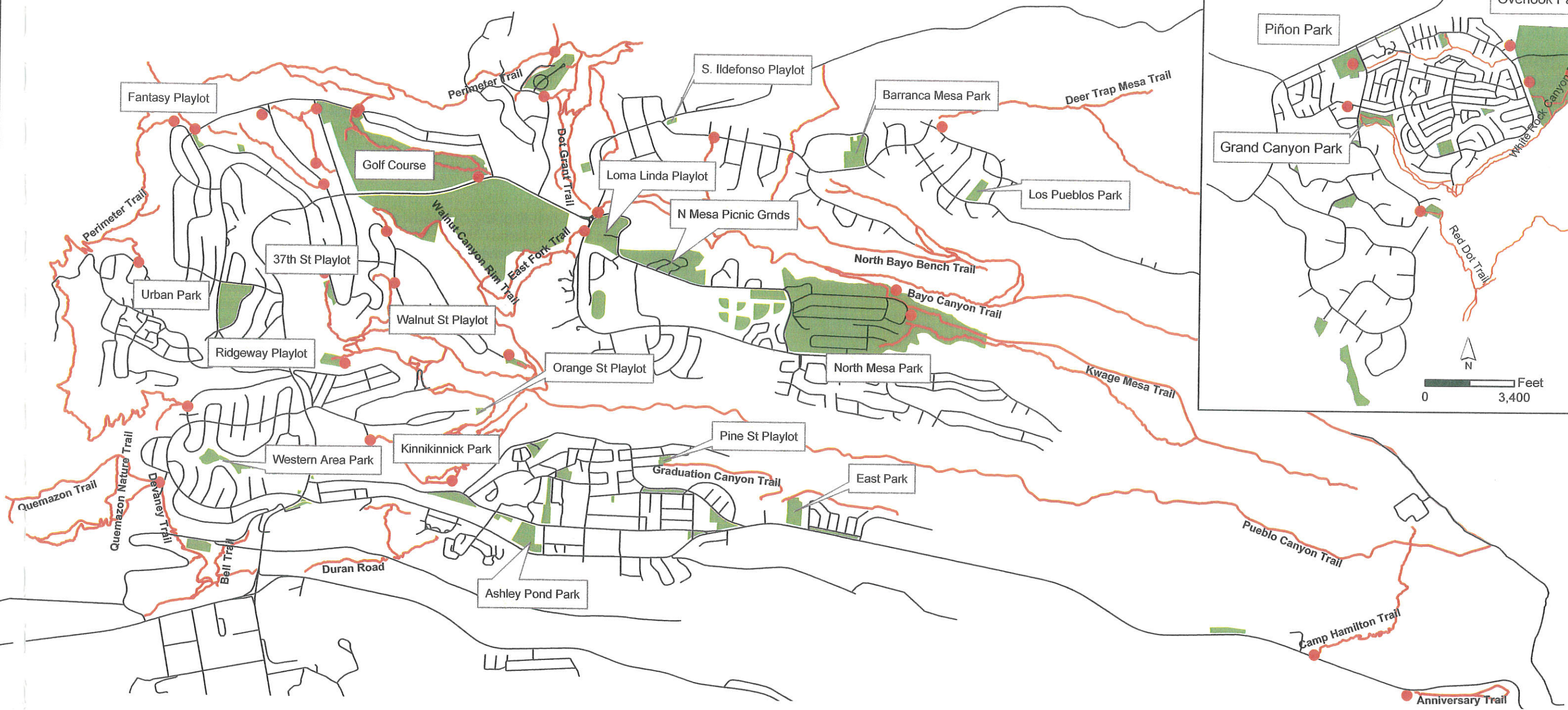
- Streets
- Parks
- Tennis cts (lighted)
- Tennis cts



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

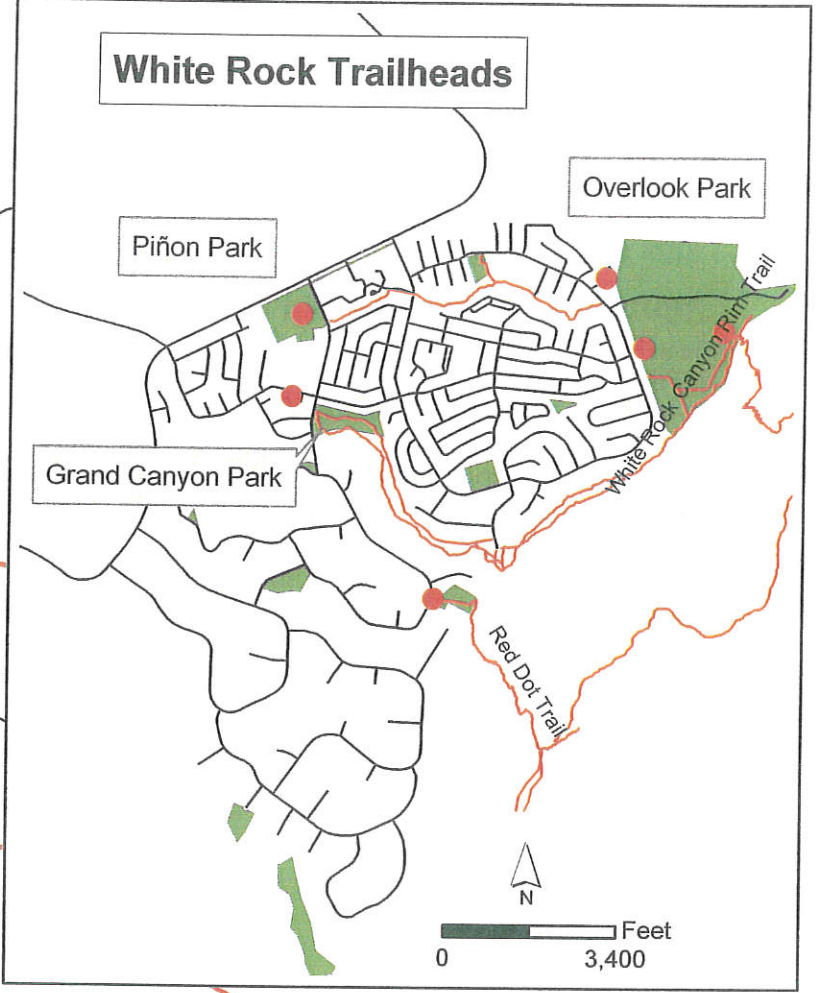
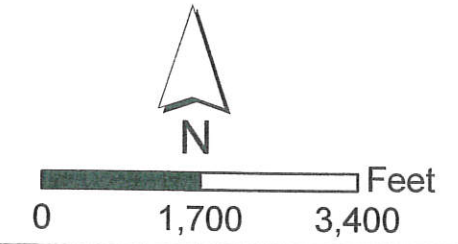


Los Alamos Trailheads



Legend

	Parks		Streets
	Trailheads		Trails



V. Park System Needs

Criteria for Determining Needs

How does Los Alamos County compare to National Standards and other communities in terms of the amount of parkland and park amenities offered to the community? This comparison is made below:

Standard-Based Criteria for Parkland

With approximately 201 acres of standard developed parkland to approximately 18,347 people, the current service level is approximately 11 acres per 1000 people for the County. A widely accepted standard used to estimate amount of parkland needed has been 10 acres per 1,000 population. Los Alamos County meets that goal with 11 acres per 1,000 people, but if the two towns are examined separately, it becomes evident that White Rock owns the lions share of developed parkland acreage (White Rock - 19.35 acres per 1,000, Los Alamos - 7 acres per 1,000). This can be attributed largely to two factors – the scarcity of developable land in Los Alamos, and the development of Overlook Park in White Rock that handles much of the organized sports activities.

	Los Alamos	White Rock	County
Standard Developed Parkland	84 Ac.	117 Ac.	201 Ac.
Population	11,909	6,045	18,347
Ac./1000 pop	7	19.35	11

Standard-Based Criteria for Park Amenities

Provided for comparison are several categories of recognized standards for individual recreational facilities. These include the 1990 National Recreation and Parks standards, those recommended in Albuquerque's City Parks Draft Master Plan of 1993, and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Master Plan of 1995. NRPA was included to illustrate a national standard, Albuquerque was included to illustrate standards from a sizeable New Mexico city, and Livermore was included because it is somewhat similar to Los Alamos in that it is a "laboratory town". Each ratio recommends the maximum quantity of residents served by a single type of facility.

Recreation Facility Standards – County compared to other standards

Amenity	1990 NRPA	Albuquerque	Livermore	LA County
Competition Softball/Baseball	1:30,000	1:11,000	1:2,000	1:1,146
Competition Soccer Fields	1:10,000	1:5,000	1:2,000	1:1,835
Tennis Courts	1:2,000	1:2,500	1:2,500	1:1,019
Playgrounds	N/A	1:3,000	N/A	1:965
General Community Centers	1:25,000	1:25,000	N/A	1:9,173
Swimming Pools	1:20,000	1:25,000	1:35,000	1:18,437
Golf Courses	1:50,000	1:50,000	N/A	1:18,437

It is clear that Los Alamos County falls well within all comparable standards for facility to population ratio. However, when comparing the two separate municipalities, Los Alamos and White Rock, some inequities in distribution become evident.

Recreation Facility Standards – Los Alamos compared to White rock

Amenity	Los Alamos	White Rock	LA County
Competition Softball/Baseball	1:1,701	1:671	1:1,146
Competition Soccer Fields	1:2,382	1:1,209	1:1,835
Tennis Courts	1:850	1:1,209	1:1,019
Playgrounds	1:850	1:1,209	1:965
General Community Centers	1:11,909	1:6,045	1:9,173
Swimming Pools	1:11,909	0	1:18,437
Golf Courses	1:11,909	0	1:18,437

Community Input

During one 2004 public meeting, the comparison of County parkland and park amenities to other standards was discussed. When informed that the County rates well compared to standards, some meeting attendees felt that the citizens of Los Alamos County used more than a standard quantity of parkland and park amenities. This notion is presumably based on the fact that many citizens of Los Alamos County feel that the area lacks in the variety of recreational opportunities often found in larger communities. The shortage of privately provided recreation such as shopping, music concerts, video arcades etc. may render Los Alamos citizens more dependent than expected upon their park and open space facilities for recreational pursuits.

VI. Community Input

A broad public input process was employed to identify the needs of the community regarding public parks and park facilities. The process included a series of three public meetings held during April 2002, and another series of three public meetings held July and August 2004. A public questionnaire was distributed during the 2004 public meetings, made available through the Internet and through various outlets in the County. A telephone survey was conducted February 2004.

Public Meetings 2002

Three public meetings were held April 15, 16 and 24, 2002, during which open discussion was encouraged. The following points represent desires voiced by the attendees:

Open Discussion Summary:

- Upgrade maintenance.
- Preserve parks.
- Adequate quantity of parks ADA compliant.
- Address perimeter lands.
- Preserve Bayo Canyon.
- Preserve some natural areas in parks.
- Provide recreational amenities for adults in parks.
- Notify public when making changes in parks.
- Continue upgrading sports fields.
- Evaluate existing use vs. need for new sports fields.
- Reinstate the adopt a park/spot.
- Consider environmentally friendly maintenance.
- Provide innovative parks/recreational facilities (look at national trends, dog park at North Mesa?).
- Designate equestrian area as separate entity from North Mesa Public Park.
- Provide a method for protection of park wildlife (from children with BB guns).
- Provide for safety.
- Make/keep parks fun.
- All tot lots should be ADA compliant.
- Do not eliminate any parks.
- Provide Park (or County) recreational facilities to compensate for loss of community-based sources of recreation of years past (loss of community-based recreation includes two grocery stores in White Rock, small shopping plaza with many interesting specialty shops, five department stores, among others).
- Provide more lighting for nighttime sports play.
- Provide a dog park.
- Provide shade structure in Mountain Meadows Park.
- Provide a skate park.
- Safe, appropriate, quality facilities for children's sports – especially soccer.
- Pay attention to age/aging demographic.
- Strategically located outdoor drinking fountains.
- Maintain undeveloped open spaces for passive use (walking, flying kites, etc.).
- Put financial priorities on quality maintenance.
- Provide beautification of currently developed parks (landscaping, benches, flowers, etc.).

- Provide a park (or area in a park) that is natural with native vegetation and that conserves water.
- Define "Open Space".
- Provide minimal maintenance on parkland that has not been developed.
- Need neighborhood park in North Mesa area.
- Possible park next to mid-school (vacant land/sloping areas).
- Provide designated noisy areas appropriate for dirt bikes, model airplanes, etc.
- Provide non-motorized area in parks.
- Provide an off-leash dog park (large, safe unfenced or smaller fenced).
- Ideal park is the undeveloped park.
- Utilize environmentally sound methods to reduce maintenance and irrigation needs.
- Provide unobtrusive lighting/other improvements that don't infringe on neighbors.
- Preserve existing park status (open, multi-use area) of North Mesa Park.
- Take into account that Los Alamos County residents live in the midst of millions of acres of open space.
- Some people enjoy walking in safe and accessible open spaces but are uncomfortable in isolated areas.
- Miniature golf/other developed activities for young people.
- Need capacity for compromise in designation of areas such as North Mesa – large enough for both developed and undeveloped uses.
- Compatible uses next to North Mesa stables and multi-use of rodeo/fairgrounds.
- Provide multi-use developed facilities ("like Taos") for kids with limited transportation opportunities (swimming, skate park, etc.).
- Develop a support system for developed areas – visitation by community-based groups/adults to promote interaction and community surveillance.
- Lighted fields might eliminate need for more fields (soccer, softball).
- Appropriate type of sports lighting to address issues of safety, visibility and unobtrusiveness.
- Enhance existing amenities (such as Ashley Pond) that make Los Alamos special – look at ecosystem aspect to lower maintenance needs.
- Consider lack of youth facilities (other than sports).
- Mixed use park development – developed fields connected by walking/riding paths, with undeveloped open areas.
- Add accessibility to existing amenities (Ashley Pond, Urban Park).
- Skateboard facility should be integrated into community rather than hidden in secluded area – multi-use would also improve visibility and integration (and minimize vandalism).
- Evaluate "true demand" for various facilities before making decisions on needs.
- Coexist with wildlife within undeveloped areas in parks.
- Investigate potential for cooperation between County and schools (including UNMLA) for joint-use of facilities and maintenance.
- One play structure accessible by wheelchairs.
- Summarize comments from meetings and publish/distribute suggestions generated to community.
- Consider existing zoning limitations and possibilities.

Public Meetings 2004

Three public meetings were held July 29 and August 2 & 5 of 2004, during which open discussion was encouraged, questionnaires were offered, and comment boards on various issues were provided. The following items characterize a summary of input from these meetings:

Open Discussion Summary:

- Residents in the area of North Mesa Park do not have a regular neighborhood park. Before development starts, a plan for North Mesa should be developed. A conceptual working document for North Mesa Park exists.
- Schools have 1st priority to use County public sports fields, so the community cannot use them at their convenience. The schools effectively dominate fields in Los Alamos. White Rock does not have the same problem. Modify the dual-use agreement.
- Lights would really extend use of an artificial turf field.
- Strongly varying opinions noted regarding North Mesa Park (keep it natural vs. installation of new sports field). A suggestion that the trail system at North Mesa Park would be natural (non-asphalt).
- Aesthetic value of parks is appreciated.
- Depending on neighborhood, some tennis courts are heavily used.
- Dog park in White Rock is working well, need one on the Hill. Also need dog-training areas at North Mesa.
- Supporting dog sports can help develop character and compassion in younger people.
- Recommend that play equipment is updated.
- Large multi-use building would be beneficial for small animal activities, dances for kids, etc.

Comment Board Summary:

How Can We Improve Our Small Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds?

1. Add basketball hoops so teenagers have something to do while watching the little ones.
2. Yes, I agree!
3. Me too!
4. Consider lights on selected ones.
5. Add Bocce ball courts – lights preferred.
6. Benches for parents to sit in shade while watching kids play.
7. Yes, benches for people to sit IN SHADE....
8. Also, small-scale dog parks could be added to existing parks where possible, so both dogs and kids have the opportunity to be out having fun at the same time.
9. But separated for safety.
10. Maintain and update, and repair when needed.
11. Yes! Yes!
12. Add swings for big kids and adults, maybe a merry-go-round too – something different and something ALL AGES can use. Remember, tots grow fast and still need something to do. All our tot lots have the same boring (and relatively useless) equipment.
13. Go back to themed parks.
14. More benches and bleachers.
15. More trees – for shade. A water fountain if possible.

What Should Our Vision and Direction be for the Future of Park Infrastructure?

1. Maintain existing facilities – especially Walkup Center. And increase hours, a bit, so serious swimmers can do a decent workout (which can't be done with 4 people in a lane).
2. Maintain natural open spaces for walking, feeling isolated and quiet – wherever these areas are now – especially North Mesa. In other words, please be careful not to feel compelled to cover all parks with ballfields and organized areas.
3. Low water / native plants wherever possible.
4. NM night sky protection – all lights need to be full cut-off.
5. Citizens walk – they need perimeter walking paths around all parks.
6. Somehow we need to encourage respect for our parks. Expanding vandalism, 4-wheeling, partying are indications of this trend. Suggest law enforcement play a more active role.
7. Provide safe and convenient pathways (a community network) – especially for young children and seniors (children should not have to ride bikes on busy streets in order to get to schools, etc.).
8. Parks / Open Space should be integrated with activities such as environmental education (e.g. PEEC), local arts / crafts. (e.g. Art Center), local history / archeology (e.g. Historical Society).
9. Integrated use (and associated financial support) for costly facilities such as swimming pool: County user groups, YMCA, LA Schools, LANL, etc.
10. Sustainable flexible facilities that can be modified to meet changing needs.... With low impact on night skies, xeriscaping, multi-use path networks to encourage more than "island" use that requires card.
11. Enhance park area at Trinity and Canyon (Canyon School) for aesthetics at entrance to town and continued community use of grass area for Tball, softball and volleyball.
12. Maintain existing diverse facilities, especially animals (horses, dogs) including stables, trails.
13. Hedges or buffer of some sort around athletic fields etc. (especially North Mesa) to separate from neighborhoods.

How Can We Improve Our Athletic and Multi-purpose Use Fields?

1. We need some lighted soccer fields to expand their use.
2. North Mesa and Dara Jones.
3. Yes.
4. Double Yes.
5. I agree, too.
6. There are no basketball courts on North Mesa! – There are 2 potential areas: picnic grounds and former FEMAville.
7. Add another soccer field on North Mesa. It will still leave some open space beyond.
8. Yes!
9. There is room between existing soccer field and volleyball, also room next to teeball field across from LASE.
10. All athletic field lights must conform to the NM Night Sky Protection Act. The "shoebox" type that I saw at the tennis courts at the Arm and Hammer World College in Montezuma are what is needed.
11. Yes. Lights should point down, not over to the next mesa.
12. Lighted all-purpose field in WR.
13. No! Respect pre-existing property owners and their rights.
14. We need more soccer facilities – especially on the Hill – probably North Mesa – grass or artificial turf – especially lighted.

15. Teaming and competition field for dog sports – YES!!
16. Yes
17. Yes on the training and competition field for dog sports!
18. Another dog park on the Hill. (At least 2-3 more needed).
19. 2 or 3 more?!! There are higher priorities.
20. Protect the night sky but also provide after-dark use.
21. This comment applies to all fields. The sprinklers can be adjusted to water all grass areas which would improve everything and it is simple. This also applies to putting water on what needs water and what doesn't. Overall, the crews do a great job with what they have to work with. But it seems to me more coordination of the needs of the end users (talk to the coaches, not the organizations) would benefit the users as well as the park.
22. Provide dispensers for plastic bags (aka Crested Butte) and accompanying trash cans to help dog owners be responsible.
23. More benches and bleachers.

Comments regarding Synthetic Turf Field:

1. Low water is always good.
2. Quick look>> cost?; Look @ with scheds.
3. Would be nice but pricey.
4. Absolutely needed – extends season, lights add useable hours, lower maintenance, on the Hill will relieve crunch.
5. Which fields? Location?
6. I'd probably support this, but would like to see a cost payback schedule. May not be worthwhile to retrofit, but should be considered for any new field.

Comments regarding Trail System at North Mesa Park:

1. Yes, there should be posted, good access from North Mesa Park. I strongly support the whole, connected trail system. Perimeter trails are very important. I also want to see old sidewalks connecting neighborhoods, parks and schools preserved, maintained and probably improved and expanded to connect with perimeter system.
2. Signage and education.
3. Nice exercise loops, paved or gravel or wood chips, but well defined and smooth.
4. Trails protected from roads, as they are along NM4 in White Rock.
5. Yes – and having a multi-use system (footing that's appropriate for horses!) would be great. Both LA and White Rock need interconnecting trail systems that don't hurt equine users (no asphalt with big gravel edges).
6. Connected with rest of trail system? Yes!
7. Past the tennis courts. Not paved. And on out Horsemesa.

Comments regarding Aero Modelers Area at Overlook Park:

1. Use current soccer fields – no separate field needed.
2. Don't they already have a field?
3. Agreed. Makes no sense to dedicate a field to such a small used group.
4. Gas powered planes are a danger to majority users of fields as well as a noise nuisance.
5. Does this really need a separate facility? Can't they use existing fields? How many people really use this, and for how long?

Comments regarding Mini-Golf Course:

1. Let's do it!
2. PLEASE!! SOON!!
3. This is really needed. I like the idea of using the old park equipment at the putt putt course.
4. This could be a great teen "date" place!!!
5. I think these facilities need to have an indoor snack bar and restroom facility so kids can hang.
6. Kiwani's several years ago offered to assist / champion. Return to the partnership concept.
7. Not worth the money to build or maintain.
8. If creative and nicely designed. Nothing small and corny.
9. Like the idea.
10. Love it! My whole family would enjoy it!
11. Seems like a good idea. Long (year round?) season, used by kids and grandparents alike, and relatively low maintenance / operating cost.
12. Across from airport? If we really get that land. There is room on North Mesa between picnic grounds and Hawks Landing or next to the Tee Ball field across from LASE. In White Rock next to Chamisa School.
13. At old skate park by Aquatic Center?
14. Great idea.
15. Put it in White Rock! Maybe at Rocket Park, with Activity Center being a good place to store / rent clubs, etc.
16. With benches and bleachers.

Comments regarding Aquatic Center Playground:

1. Good idea.
2. Along with a "Splash Park".
3. Waterpark? Outdoor? \$\$\$?
4. Playground yes. Waterpark no – we're not Albuquerque.
5. A simple playground at the Aquatic Center? Yes. Anything more complex or \$\$? No.
6. Ditto.
7. Yes, I agree too!
8. (a simple one – a few swings, monkey bars).

Comments regarding a Splash Park:

1. Water park at Aquatic Center should be considered along with leisure pool concept.
2. Outside Aquatic Center? Nice, but \$\$ reasonable?
3. Not worth the money.
4. Would be nice if affordable – insurance / liability concerns.
5. Seems a little unnecessary - use sprinklers at a regular park perhaps.
6. Plenty of pools in town, and the season is too short to invest in such a luxury.
7. Not worth it. We have 5 outdoor pools with slides and boards already. How often would people use such a thing? It's expensive and has a short season, large maintenance and insurance. BETTER to (1) build a kiddie pool and (2) keep regular pool open longer each day (i.e. go back to 8pm weekdays and keep open longer on weekends).

Comments regarding Trails and Open Space:

1. Re North Mesa (FEMAville area – Tennis Courts area) park, I would like to see trails, loops, established that would be good for dirt bikes, kids on bikes, walkers. I especially like to have a large open area but separated for dogs to be allowed off leash – it should connect easily to the trails along the mesa and from the stables area. Thanks for working on this and inviting comments.
2. Continue signage and education.
3. More signage would be nice.
4. Paved trail from community shopping area to assisted living complex (Aspen Ridge) to airport – and eventually to Camp Hamilton trailhead (East Gate area).
5. Integrated network of multi use pathways – connecting schools, neighborhoods, community activity areas, etc.
6. I'd rather see smooth and kept dirt trails (no fast bicycles allowed). We really should have a trail along the rim of Los Alamos Canyon. It would be worth buying easements. Not paved 12ft wide, dirt 6ft wide would be fine.
7. Trail footing could be dirt / woodchips, like they use in Livermore. Makes springy, mud-proof footing for both run / walk folks and horses.
8. Keep as multi-use (non-motorized) but use signs at trailhead and public campaign to educate bikers on riding responsibly. See IMBA.
9. Sidewalk or trails along Canyon Road – as athletic teams and others jog in the road there. It is an accident waiting to happen.

General Comments:

1. Snow park for sledding etc. in winter.
2. Need separate dog-training field – suggest at Overlook.
3. Need more dog parks – one in townsite, one on Barranca, one on North Mesa.
4. Dog training field would make more sense at East Park near LADOC.
5. Yes to dog training and exercise areas! Another in White Rock would be super!
6. More trash cans needed at all parks – the type that can't blow away.
7. Support for separated dog training / competition field. Also for additional dog parks.
8. Camp May needs to be reclaimed. If L.A. wants to be the gateway to the Valles Caldera, and reap the benefits of the tourism \$\$, Camp May could be our best asset. As it is now, it's a liability. Also consider making it more than just a campground. Sledding area?
9. Dog facility near stables would make sense and use common open space. Bike facility there doesn't make sense.
10. Expand building at Ice Rink to include video games, pool tables, etc.
11. Yes!

Public Questionnaire

A public questionnaire was distributed during public meetings, made available on the Internet, and through various outlets in the County. Thirty-three questionnaires were returned. Results are as follows:

Please list the level of priority that should be given to the County for the following statements (listed in level of priority):

1. Improve Trails and Open Space
2. Provide a mini-golf course
3. Continue memorial and other tree planting where appropriate
4. Improve parking at the Library
5. Provide a trail system at FEMAville

- Also calculated at Priority level 5. Provide a Splash Park
6. Improve grounds design at the library
7. Provide a synthetic turf field
Also calculated as Priority level 7. Provide a playground at the Aquatic Center
8. Provide an Area modelers area at Overlook Park

Do you have ideas for how we can expand the network of footpath and bicycle trails to connect neighborhoods, open spaces, retail areas and parks?

- Let's not pave 'em everywhere!
- Signage.
- Signs at Canyon rim and in-canyon trails.
- Trails from White Rock to Los Alamos (obtain R.O.W. along power lines).
- Map all informal neighborhood trails.
- All collector streets need bike paths.
- Buffer trails from streets.
- Enlarge / redesign sidewalk beside the Golf Course to be used as a bike path, so children can ride safely from Barranca / North Mesas to Downtown.
- Connect all parts of town.
- Parking on one side of street only.
- Path adjacent to busy streets (similar to that on Diamond by Golf Course).
- Exercise course on North Mesa Trail.
- Network of paved trails on the perimeter of houses from Barranca to Ponderosa behind Arizona and 48th, through Western to town via the canyon.
- Make trails improvements a high priority.
- Improve the worn paths that people have already established unofficially.
- Support heavy use areas.
- Create access to hard to reach areas of interest.
- Utilize County easements where possible.
- Create trail easements in new development.
- Demarcate bike lanes on roads where feasible.
- Expand sidewalks to include bike lanes where possible.
- Dog clean-up stations.
- Provide trail around perimeter of White Rock.
- Connect White Rock and La Senda better.
- Longview Drive is a nightmare (for drivers and pedestrians).

What park facilities would you like to see that are not currently available?

- Dog training fields – fenced with seating, parking, water, covered area for shade. More dog parks throughout town – with shade, grass, seating, water, parking. Include flyball and agility.
- Canyon Rim Trail.
- Shaded benches at playgrounds.
- Lighted soccer field(s).
- Lighted tennis courts.
- Putt putt (miniature) golf.
- Basketball hoop on North Mesa.
- Please address North Mesa concerns for keeping North Mesa park natural.
- All-purpose turf field for soccer and baseball.
- Exercise trails.

- Skatepark in Los Alamos.
- Downtown amphitheater near Ashley Park.
- Jogging with exercise / stretch stations.
- Quiet green areas with benches.
- Splash Park for kids.
- Winter Sledding area (at Roundabout).
- Year-round gymnasium for basketball and volleyball.
- Seating on the Canada del Buey trail.
- County provided RV storage at reasonable cost.
- Playlot / grassy area nearby (Karen Circle).
- Artificial turf playfield.
- Paved bike paths.
- County fair facilities like Santa Fe.
- Functioning toilets at more of the parks.
- Kid-friendly swimming pool (shallow with kid appropriate equipment).
- Jogging / walking trails around larger parks.
- Kids' museum (science hands-on type).
- Indoor kids play area for cold winter months.

How can play area design be improved?

- Shaded benches at playgrounds.
- Fenced and gated playlots.
- Hedges as buffers from neighbors.
- Rubberized ground under play structures.
- Maintain area better.
- Open grassy areas without trees.
- Lots of swings.
- Newer equipment.
- Keep unique park themes.
- Areas designated for younger (preschool and younger) park goers.
- More seating for caregivers.

How can the parks be made safer?

- Security phones.
- Lighting.
- More police patrols.
- Replace cactus and weeds with grass or artificial turf.
- Don't have sprinklers on after 7AM or before 10PM.
- They are safe now.
- Better fencing, such as around the Watanabe Soccer Field to prevent balls from going into traffic.
- More maintenance.
- Drinking fountains and restrooms.
- Safety surfaces beneath play structures.
- Maintain / repair old buildings and bleachers at Los Alamos ball fields (Jr. field score booth and bleachers on Sr. field).
- Create dog parks within various neighborhoods and near park facilities so dogs can be exercised away from public.
- Update old equipment.

- Provide fencing if park is near main road (i.e. Rocket Park / Pinon Park).
- Use materials that don't get hot in the sun.

What construction methods / materials would you like to see eliminated, preserved, and / or initiated?

- Forget about the triangle and concentrate on the rectangle, less expensive to construct and maintain. No octagons or circles please.
- Use Quivera Coalition methods for drainage / keep engineered structures to a minimum.
- Keep lighting to a minimum and adhere to NM Night Sky Law.
- Minimize irrigated grass / Xeriscape / use native plants.
- Install fun activities for ALL ages.
- Artificial turf on high use area.
- Skatepark made of concrete, with metal ledges.
- Wood play sets with rubber (safety) surface.
- Replace old wood structures and replace with those requiring minimal painting.
- Less metallic, more plastic (gets less hot in sun).

Aside from what is currently available, what new activities would you like to participate in at our parks?

- Sport of dog training in an area set aside for use by trainers – separate from dog parks which are also needed. Flyball and agility for dogs.
- Racquetball and Squash. It is exorbitantly expensive at the YMCA.
- Putt putt (miniature) golf.
- Skate park (and in-line skating) in Los Alamos.
- Snow park for sledding.
- Keep picnic tables cleaner & provide hoses / water to wash down tables and pavilion floors.
- Shuffleboard.
- Quiet alcoves for reading, meditating.
- Sand volleyball.
- Concerts for teens.
- Music concerts in a park setting.
- Go-karts and laser tag facilities for kids.
- Lease parkland to private concessions for mini-golf and splash park, and RV parking.
- Wildlife and nature type of education and activities.
- Water play.
- Holiday-related activities (egg hunts, trick-or-treat, kids' parades and carnivals, cultural days where food / music / traditions are displayed).
- Geology education at Overlook.
- Rio Grande fun run.

Should the parks be more attractive? How?

- Get rid of the cactus. Put up trashcans – everywhere!
- Trees around perimeter.
- Yes, remove dead trees and plant deciduous trees.
- Thoughtful, conservative use of grasses, shrubs and trees.
- Shade trees in parking lots.
- Use native plants / keep engineered structures to a minimum.

- More natural.
- Better maintenance. Hire more personnel and provide better training. Incorporate neighborhood in getting involved so there is pride.
- Do not cover whole park in trees, but have a few for shade.
- More trees and flower beds.
- Paved parking lots.
- Planting at entrance to stable area.
- More shade.
- More geological / historical information presented.

Should the parks be more modern, innovative or “state-of-the-art”? How?

- No.
- Focus on the basics: seats, shade, water, parking, bathrooms.
- A modern lighted turf field.
- Motion sensor lighting.
- We like natural.
- Artwork.
- Baseball field batting cages and a play area for children at North Mesa.
- A professionally designed skatepark in Los Alamos.
- Water fountains in every park.
- Continue to meet current safety codes and best practices for playgrounds and horse arenas.
- Emphasize park themes to reflect aspects of our community.

Additional comments:

- Keep open natural spaces open and natural.
- I would like to see the plans for the various parks, to maintain a balance among the various uses and real needs.
- We really need more special use fields.
- Lights from North Mesa shine in our windows in Eastern area! They should be shaded and aimed down both for residents and for dark skies. When you plan changes to any park, notify the neighbors first and get their input.
- Library and public swimming pool in White Rock.
- County needs to change dual use agreement to allow non-school clubs to use soccer fields.
- No RV park in Overlook.
- Safety at skate park – have some adult volunteer supervision / monitoring.
- Rafting on Ashley Pond.
- Construction methods / materials that discourage vandalism.
- Hope that fair consideration is given to providing a dog / training / competition field.
- Provide parks within walking distance from homes.
- Clean up and restore Community Center so it can be used for classes and functions. Keep the bandstand.
- Water fountains should work.
- Soccer fields at FEMAville.
- Hodgepodge of colors at Pinon Park is annoying.
- No more lighted fields.
- Loved Rocket Park across from Smiths.

- There are no kid-friendly parks south of Parajito Canyon in La Senda / Parajito Acres / Karen Circle area – why?
- I support adding the Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) as a special interest park. I feel an environmental education center would be an asset to the community and should be included as part of the community vision. 2 – I am interested in participating in the planning of the North Mesa Park (aka FEMAville area).

How many in your household are:

Less than 6 years old	8%
6-17	27%
18-24	5%
25-44	22%
45-64	32%
65 or older	6%

Resident Telephone Survey

The Interview

A random sample of 501 adult residents living in Los Alamos County was interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were generated from the Research & Polling, Inc. database. All interviews were conducted between February 20 and March 7, 2004.

The telephone interviewers are professionals who are brought together for a training session prior to each survey. This ensures their complete and consistent understanding of the survey instrument.

Margin of Error

A sample size of 501 at a 95% confidence level provides a maximum margin of error of approximately ±4.4%. In theory, in 95 out of 100 cases, the results based on a sample of 501 will differ by no more than 4.4 percentage points in either direction from what would have been obtained by interviewing all adult residents in Los Alamos County.

Sample Bias

In any survey, there are some respondents who will refuse to speak to the professional interviewer. A lower response rate among certain types of individuals can result in a sample wherein certain types of individuals are over-represented or under-represented. The potential for sampling bias increases as the response rate decreases. Research & Polling, Inc. often sets quotas for various segments of the population who are historically undercounted. This has the effect of minimizing, but not necessarily eliminating, sampling bias.

The Report

This report summarizes the results from each question in the survey and reports on any variances in attitude or perception, where significant, among demographic subgroups. The subgroups examined in this report include: age, household income, education, length of residency, place of residence, marital status and age of children in household.

Given its unique mountainous location, residents of Los Alamos County enjoy a wide array of recreational opportunities year round whether it be hiking in the summer or

skiing in the winter. According to residents, the most popular recreational activities in Los Alamos include hiking, skiing, walking, swimming, bicycling, golfing, jogging and ice-skating. The County Parks and Recreation divisions also provide and maintain many parks, recreational facilities and programs for residents' enjoyment. Overall, the Parks Division and Recreation Division are held in high regard by the majority of residents in Los Alamos County, with less than one-in-ten residents giving either division a negative evaluation.

While the Parks and Recreation divisions provide many recreational opportunities and programs, there is one area that is clearly lacking according to residents. Nearly three-in-four residents believe a high priority should be given to providing more facilities for teenagers and young adults and that more recreational programs should be provided to this group. Moreover, 81% believe that it is important to have night-time and weekend activities available for teenagers. The lack of activities available to teenagers is not unique to Los Alamos, but most residents strongly believe this is an area that needs to be addressed and given a very high priority, if not the highest priority.

There are of course other areas that residents feel need to be addressed by the Parks and Recreation divisions. For instance, nearly two-thirds of residents believe that expanding the network of footpaths and bicycle trails to connect all neighborhoods, open spaces, retail areas and parks should be given a high priority. This is not surprising given the popularity of hiking, walking, bicycling and jogging in Los Alamos. This brings up the importance of the local parks to area residents, the most popular of which are Urban Park, Overlook Park and Rover Park.

Overall, residents appear to be satisfied with the overall condition of the parks as indicated by the fact that relatively few offer any recommendations when asked how the parks can be improved. The most common suggestions include improving the maintenance/garbage collection, improving the overall cleanliness, adding more bathrooms, providing more seating and adding more facilities for younger children. It should be noted that when asked in a separate question, half of area residents say that providing more facilities for younger children should generally be given a high priority.

There are other types of facilities and programs that residents would like to see in Los Alamos. For instance, the majority of residents (55%) believe the development of an outdoor amphitheater for concerts and live entertainment should be given a high priority. Younger residents are particularly interested in having an outdoor amphitheater. In fact, 69% of residents under the age of 50 believe the development of an amphitheater should be given a high priority compared to just 29% of seniors. On a related note, the plurality of residents (42%) also believe that a high priority should be placed on developing facilities for performing arts, lectures and conventions. Interestingly, seniors (48%) are among the strongest proponents of this idea.

The results of this study show there are many different types of improvements that residents would like to see made to the County's parks and recreation facilities. It is one thing to say that you want improvements to be made, it is quite another to take money out of your pocket and pay for them. However, two-thirds of Los Alamos residents say they would be either *somewhat* or *very likely* to support a small tax increase to pay for improvements to the County parks and recreational facilities. Younger residents are particular more willing to support a tax increase to improve the facilities than are older residents. This can be attributable to the fact that younger residents tend to be more apt

to use the facilities and generally express more interest in having them improved or expanded.

Golfing

Twenty-eight percent of households have at least one member who plays golf and 22% of all households have a member who has golfed at the County Golf Course in the past 12 months. Overall, the large majority of golfers (66%) who have played at the County Course feel the practice facilities are of high quality. However, just 31% give high marks for the overall condition of the clubhouse. In fact, 32% of the golfers feel the clubhouse is in poor shape. It should also be noted that within the past 12 months 31% of golfers have played at Pojoaque's Towa Course and 28% have played at the Black Mesa Golf Course.

Swimming

Nearly half of the households in Los Alamos have at least one member who participates in aquatic activities. Furthermore, over one-third (37%) of households have a member who has used the Aquatic Center in the past 12 months. The vast majority (84%) of those who have used the Aquatic Center rate the facility highly for its overall quality. In fact, 44% say the facility is *excellent*. One-third of the households that participate in aquatic activities have at least one member who has gone to the Genoveva Chavez Community Center in the past 12 months and 7% have swam at the Pojoaque Wellness Center.

Ice Skating/Hockey

Thirty-six percent of households have at least one member who ice-skates or plays hockey. And, 31% of all households have a member who has used the County Ice Rink in the past 12 months. Overall, 78% of those who use the County Ice Rink feel the overall condition of the rink itself is good or excellent and 50% feel the building and facilities are in good shape. It should be noted that 27% of households with members who skate have someone who has skated at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center in the past 12 months and 8% have skated at the Taos Ice Rink.

Favorite Recreational & Sport Activities

(Top 11 Unaided Responses)

	Total Sample (N=501)
Hiking	34%
Skiing	24%
Walking	22%
Swimming	18%
Bicycling	14%
Golf	10%
Jogging	9%
Ice skating	8%
Tennis	6%
Soccer	6%
Basketball	6%

Note: The sum of the percentages exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

Favorite Recreational & Sport Activities of Other Household Adults

(Top 13 Unaided Responses)

	Total Sample (N=501)
Hiking	28%
Skiing	19%
Walking	19%
Bicycling	9%
Swimming	9%
Golf	8%
Jogging	7%
Camping	5%
Fishing	4%
Ice skating	4%
Basketball	4%
No other adults in household	18%
Don't know/won't say	4%

Note: The sum of the percentages exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

When asked in an unaided, open-ended manner what are their favorite recreational and sport activities, 34% of Los Alamos residents mention hiking, while 24% say they enjoy skiing and 22% say they go walking. Other frequently mentioned activities include swimming (18%), bicycling (14%), golf (10%), jogging (9%) and ice skating (8%).

Residents were also asked in an unaided, open-ended manner what are the favorite activities of other adults in their household. As shown above, 28% of respondents say they have a household member who enjoys hiking, while 19% have members who ski and another 19% mention walking.

Los Alamos County Parks Master Plan

Favorite Recreational & Sport Activities of Household Members 20 Years or Younger

Among Those With Children Under the Age of 20 (Top 12 Unaided Responses)

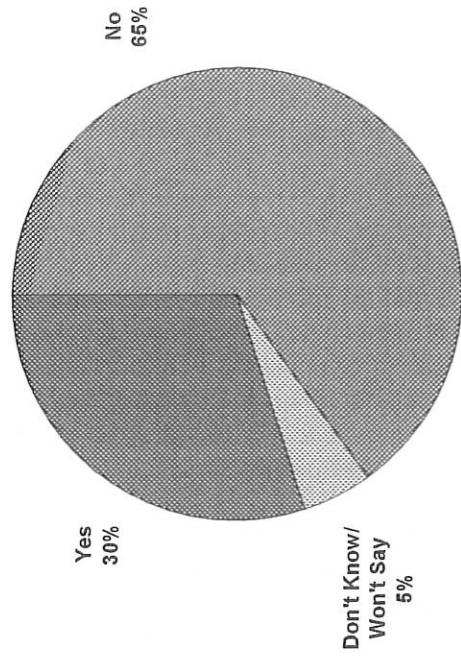
	Total Responses (N=203)
Swimming	28%
Soccer	24%
Skiing	20%
Ice skating	20%
Basketball	17%
Bicycling	16%
Hiking	15%
Baseball	12%
Going to playgrounds	11%
Football	8%
Walking	7%
Ice Hockey	6%

Note: The sum of the percentages exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

When asked what are the favorite recreational activities of household members 20 years of age or younger, 28% of respondents mention swimming, while 24% mention playing soccer. Other frequently mentioned recreational activities for those 20 and under include skiing (20%), ice skating (20%), basketball (17%), bicycling (16%) and hiking (15%).

Thirty-percent of households with a member under the age of 20 who has a favorite sport or recreational activity participates in these activities through their school.

Young Household Members Participate in School Activities
Among Those Who Have Favorite Recreational & Sports Activities (N=203)



Favorite Public Parks

(Top 11 Unaided Responses)

	Total Sample (N=501)	Los Alamos (N=344)	White Rock (N=157)
Urban Park			
Overlook Park	38%	48%	17%
Rover Park	28%	16%	55%
North Mesa Park	17%	4%	44%
	7%	9%	2%
Barranca Mesa Park	6%	8%	1%
Golf Course	6%	7%	3%
Western Area Park	5%	7%	-
Piñon Park	4%	3%	8%
East Park	4%	5%	2%
Ashley Pond Park	4%	4%	2%
Don't know/won't say	17%	19%	13%

Note: The sum of the percentages exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

When asked in an unaided, open-ended manner 38% of residents say their household members go to the Urban Park most often for recreation, while 28% go to Overlook Park most frequently and 17% can most often be found at Rover Park. Other frequently mentioned parks include North Mesa (7%), Barranca Mesa (6%), Golf Course (6%) and Western Area (5%).

There are some interesting demographic differences in park preference as 68% of residents under the age of 35 say they go to Urban Park most often compared to 26% of residents age 50 and over. Regionally, it is observed that 48% of Los Alamos residents say they go to Urban Park most often compared to 17% of White Rock residents. The majority of White Rock residents (55%) say they usually go to Overlook Park, while 44% say they go to Rover Park.

Los Alamos County Parks Master Plan

Suggested Improvements/New Facilities For Overlook Park or Complex (Total Sample (N=501) (Top 7 Unaided Responses)	Suggested Improvements/New Facilities For North Mesa Park or Complex (Total Sample (N=501) (Top 7 Unaided Responses)	Suggested Improvements Needed at Other County Parks (Total Sample (N=501) (Top 8 Unaided Responses)
More seating	3%	Maintenance/garbage/better
Maintaining/garbage	3%	More bathrooms
More bathrooms	3%	More facilities for younger children
More facilities for younger children	3%	More seating
Off-leash dog areas	2%	Cleaner bathrooms
Picnic tables	2%	Picnic tables
None in particular/don't know	70%	Covered picnic pavilions
		None in particular/don't know
		54%

Residents were asked in an unaided, open-ended manner what improvements they would like to see at various parks or complexes in the county. As shown above, when asked about Overlook Park, residents were most apt to suggest adding more seating, general maintenance/garbage, adding more bathrooms and adding more facilities for younger children. The large majority of residents (70%) did not offer any suggestions for Overlook Park.

When asked what suggestions they have for North Mesa Park, residents are most apt to recommend making improvements to the playground, maintenance/garbage, adding more bathrooms, more facilities for younger children and adding picnic tables. The large majority of residents (78%) did not offer any suggestions for North Mesa Park.

When asked about other parks in the county, 7% of residents suggest better maintenance/garbage collection (7%), more bathrooms (5%) and more facilities for younger children (4%).

Suggested Improvements/New Facilities For the Golf Course <i>Total Sample (N=501) (Top 3 Unaided Responses)</i>	Suggested Improvements/New Facilities For the Aquatic Center <i>Total Sample (N=501) (Top 5 Unaided Responses)</i>	Suggested Improvements/New Facilities For the Ice Rink <i>Total Sample (N=501) (Top 6 Unaided Responses)</i>
Serve food/restaurant/better 9%	Better hours 5%	Cover roof/shading 4%
Better/updated clubhouse 7%	Warmer water 5%	Better care of the ice 3%
Nothing in particular/don't know 79%	Shallower pool 5%	Longer season 3%
	Pool for children 5%	More benches/more seating/better 2%
	Don't know/won't say 72%	Better snack/food facilities 2%
		Nothing in particular/don't know 79%

When asked in an unaided, open-ended manner what improvements or new facilities they would like to see at the Golf Course, 9% of area residents suggest better food services, while 7% recommend updating the club house. While many other suggestions were given, none of these were mentioned by more than 1% of residents. The large majority of residents did not offer any suggestions.

When asked what suggestions they have to improve the Aquatic Center, better hours, warmer water, a shallower pool and a pool for children were each mentioned by 5% of area residents. The majority (72%) did not offer any recommendations. A complete list of suggestions can be found on page 43.

For the ice rink it is observed that 4% of residents recommend that a roof be added for shade, while 3% say the ice needs better care and 3% say they would like to see the season extended.

Los Alamos County Parks Master Plan

New Activities/Programs Family Would Like to Participate in at County Parks/Facilities

(Top 5 Unaided Responses)

	Total Sample (N=501)
Bowling alley	7%
Group activities	3%
Rollerblading	2%
Trails/better	2%
Don't know/won't say	69%

Residents were asked in an unaided, open-ended manner what new programs or activities they would like to see available at the County Parks. As shown above, 7% of residents say they would like to see a bowling alley, while 3% suggest group activities. Rollerblading and better trails are each mentioned by 2% of residents. While many other suggestions were given, none of these were mentioned by more than 1% of residents. A complete listing of recommendations can be found on page 45.

Priority Level the County Should Give to Various Recreational Facility Enhancements (Summary Table)

Ranked by Highest Percentage 'Very High Priority'
Total Sample (N=501)

	Very High Priority 5	4	3	2	Very Low Priority 1	Don't Know/ Won't Say	Mean†
Provide more facilities for teenagers and young adults	51%	22%	15%	4%	3%	4%	4.2
Provide an expanded network of footpath and bicycle trails to connect all neighborhoods, open spaces, retail areas, and parks	44%	19%	19%	6%	10%	3%	3.8
Develop an outdoor amphitheater for concerts and other live entertainment	31%	24%	15%	11%	16%	2%	3.4
Provide more facilities for younger children	30%	21%	23%	10%	8%	8%	3.6
Develop a community recreation center	27%	20%	19%	13%	16%	6%	3.3
Renovate existing parks	25%	24%	29%	11%	7%	4%	3.5
Develop facilities for performing arts, lectures, and conventions	23%	19%	23%	16%	15%	3%	3.2
Develop additional smaller parks for use by neighborhoods	21%	22%	23%	15%	14%	4%	3.2
Set aside more natural open space within parks	18%	18%	17%	18%	22%	6%	2.9
Develop off-leash dog parks	16%	17%	16%	15%	31%	5%	2.7
Provide more facilities for senior citizens	15%	13%	31%	13%	15%	13%	3.0
Provide lighting for existing sports fields where possible	12%	18%	23%	15%	17%	14%	2.9
Develop an indoor leisure swimming pool	11%	9%	11%	16%	49%	5%	2.1
Develop more community garden plots	10%	17%	26%	21%	20%	7%	2.8

† The mean score is derived by taking the average score based on the 5-point scale. The very high priority response is assigned a value of 5; the very low priority response is assigned a value of 1, etc. The "don't know/won't say" responses are excluded from the calculation of the mean.

Priority Level the County Should Give to Various Recreational Facility Enhancements (Summary Table) (continued)

Ranked by Highest Percentage 'Very High Priority'
Total Sample (N=501)

	Very High Priority 5	4	3	2	Very Low Priority 1	Don't Know/ Won't Say	Mean†
Develop another skate park	10%	13%	16%	19%	36%	7%	2.4
Provide lighting for existing tennis courts where possible	9%	17%	23%	15%	19%	16%	2.8
Provide exercise equipment at the Aquatic Center	8%	18%	17%	15%	32%	10%	2.5
Provide more open grassed play areas	8%	14%	31%	17%	25%	6%	2.6
Develop additional larger parks for use by community organizations and leagues	8%	14%	23%	24%	24%	6%	2.6
Develop more new soccer fields where space is available	7%	14%	23%	17%	26%	15%	2.5
Develop more new softball fields where space is available	6%	8%	23%	21%	26%	16%	2.4
Develop more new baseball fields where space is available	5%	6%	21%	21%	28%	18%	2.3

† The mean score is derived by taking the average score based on the 5-point scale. The very high priority response is assigned a value of 5; the very low priority response is assigned a value of 1, etc. The "don't know/won't say" responses are excluded from the calculation of the mean.

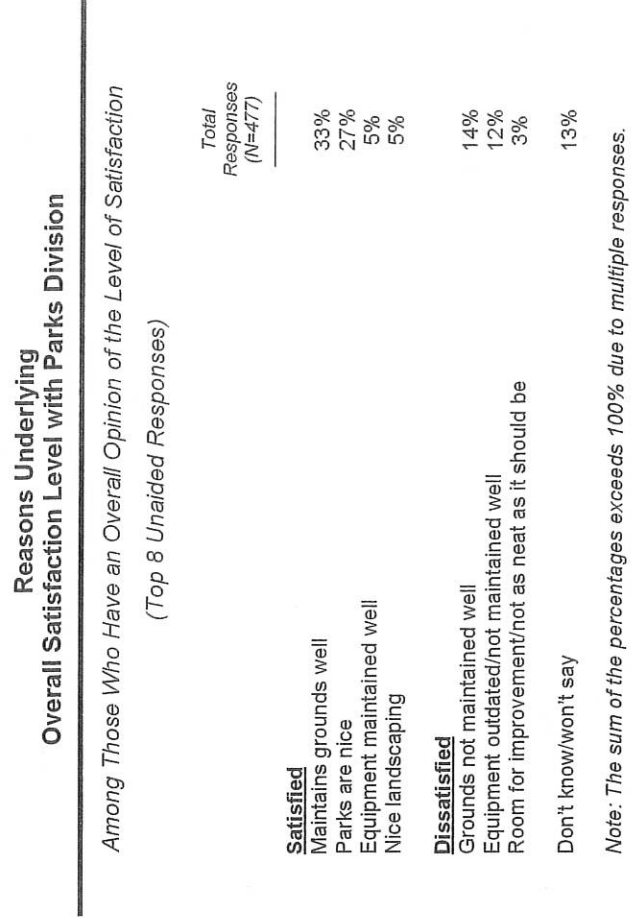
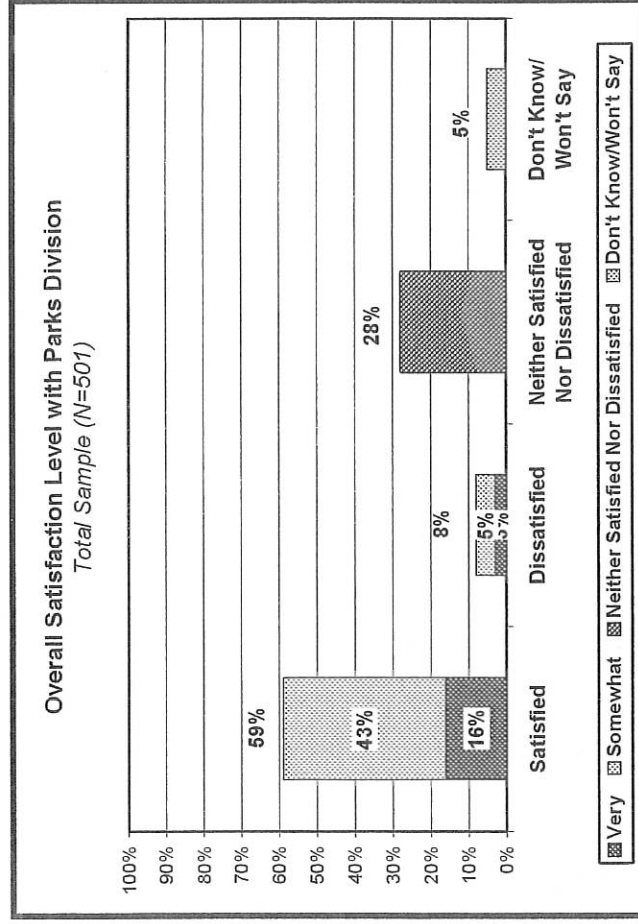
Residents were read a list of different types of enhancements that could be made at the area's parks and recreational facilities and were asked to rate how much of a priority should be given to each enhancement using a 5-point scale where 5 is a very high priority and 1 is a very low priority. As shown above, residents place the highest priority on providing more facilities for teenagers and young adults, with nearly three-quarters (73%) giving a rating of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale. In fact, half (51%) of County residents say this should be a very high priority. Not surprisingly, residents who have children between the ages of 13 and 20 living at home are more likely to say this should be a high priority. In addition, women are more likely than men to say providing more facilities for teenagers and young adults is a high priority.

Nearly two-thirds of residents (63%) also believe that providing an expanded network of footpaths and bicycle trails connecting all the neighborhoods, open spaces, retail areas and parks should be given a high priority. And, the majority of residents (55%) feel that a high priority should be given to developing an outdoor amphitheater for concerts and other live entertainment. Residents who are between 18 and 64 years of age and those who have lived in Los Alamos County for 20 years or less are more likely to say this should be a high priority.

Approximately half of area residents feel each of the following should be given a high priority: providing more facilities for younger children (51%), renovation of existing parks (49%) and development of a community recreation center (47%). Women and residents who have children under 6 years old are more likely to say providing more facilities for younger children and renovating existing parks should be a high priority. The plurality of residents also feel that developing additional parks for neighborhoods (43%) and developing facilities for performing arts, lectures and conventions (42%) should be given a high priority. However, approximately one-in-three residents feel these last two items should be given a low priority as indicated by a score of 1 or 2 on a 5-point scale.

While over one-third (36%) of residents believe a high priority should be given to setting aside more natural open space within county parks, the plurality (40%) say this should be a low priority. Similarly one-in-three residents feel a high priority should be given to developing off-leash dog parks, though nearly half (46%) say this is a low priority for the County.

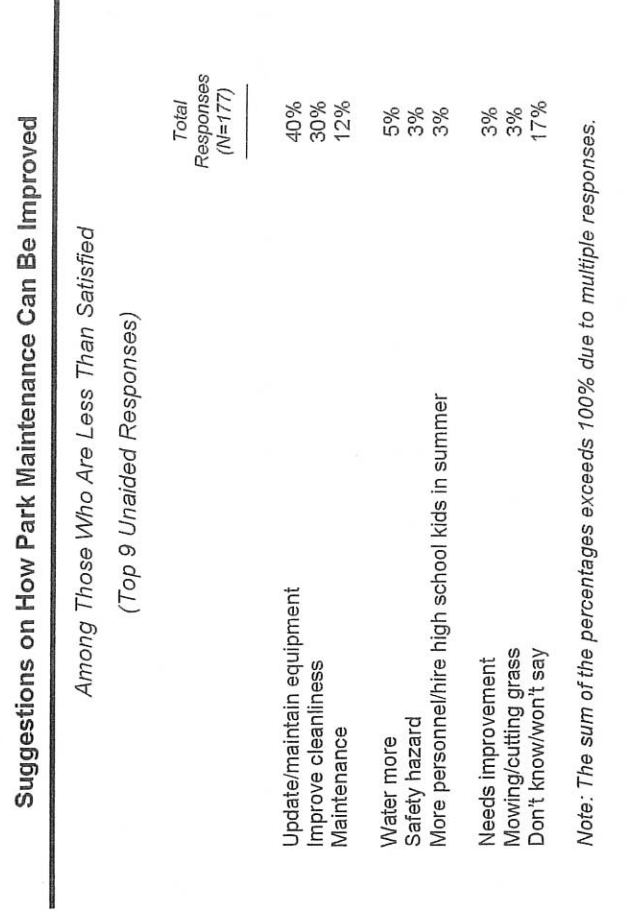
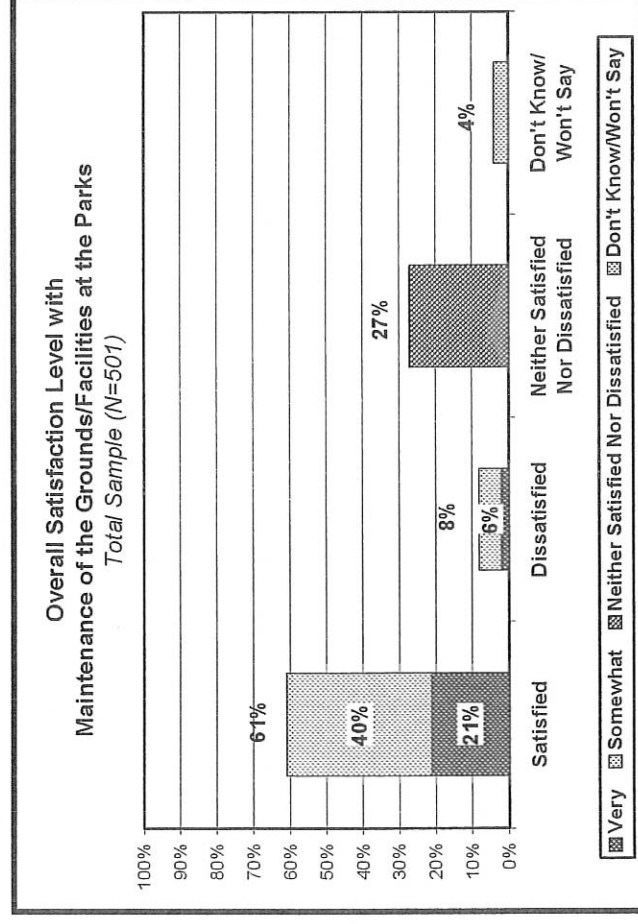
The remaining enhancements are perceived to be a high priority by less than one-in-three area residents. Of particular note, nearly two-thirds (65%) say developing an indoor leisure pool is a low priority and the majority (55%) also believe that building another skate park is a low priority. Residents who are more likely to say developing an indoor leisure pool is a high priority include those between 18 and 49 years of age, those who have lived in Los Alamos County for less than 8 years, and those with children under 13 years of age living in the household.



Residents were asked to rate their overall level of satisfaction with the Parks Division using a 5-point scale where 5 is very satisfied and 1 is very dissatisfied. Overall, three-fifths (59%) of County residents express satisfaction with the Parks Division as indicated by a score of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale. It should be noted that less one-fifth of residents (16%) are very satisfied. However, just 8% of residents are dissatisfied with the Parks Division (a score of 1 or 2), while 28% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (a score of 3).

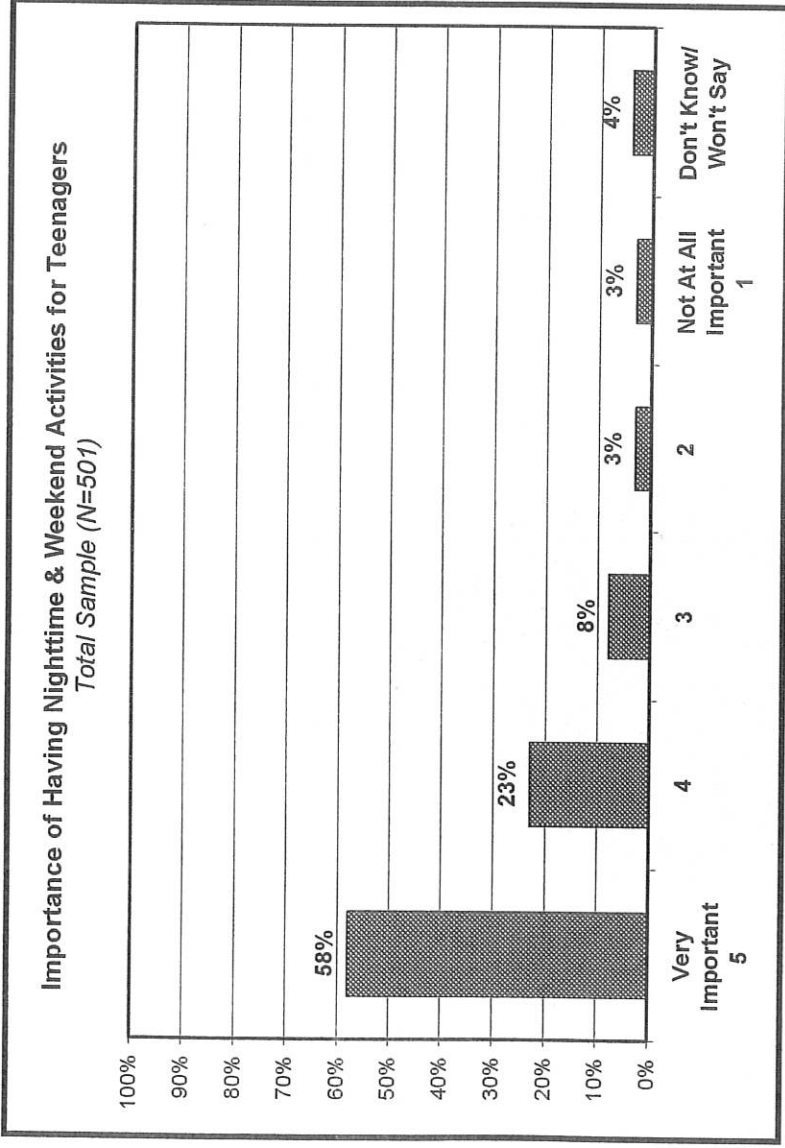
When asked in an unaided, open-ended manner to give the reasons underlying their overall level of satisfaction with the Parks Division, 33% of residents say the grounds are maintained well, while 27% say the parks are nice. On the other hand, 14% of residents complain that the grounds are not maintained very well and 12% feel the equipment is outdated or not maintained well.

Los Alamos County Parks Master Plan



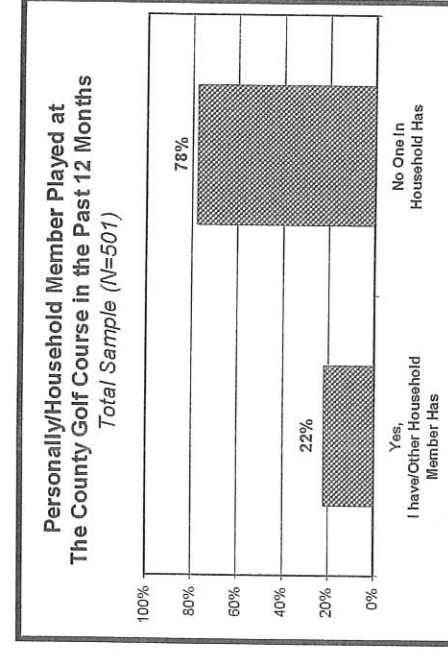
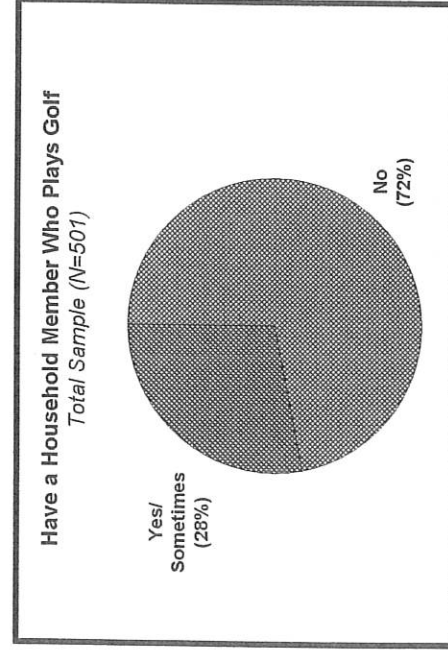
Residents were asked to rate their overall level of satisfaction with the maintenance of the grounds and facilities at the local parks using a 5-point scale where 5 is very satisfied and 1 is very dissatisfied. Overall, the large majority of residents (61%) say they are satisfied with the maintenance at the parks, with just 8% saying they are dissatisfied and 27% have neutral or mixed feelings.

When residents who are less than satisfied were asked in an unaided, open-ended manner how park maintenance can be improved, 40% say the equipment needs to be maintained and updated, while 30% suggest improving the cleanliness and 12% mention general maintenance.



When asked more specifically, it is observed that approximately four-fifths (81%) of area residents feel it is important to have nighttime and weekend activities for teenagers, with 58% saying this is *very important*. Few residents (6%) believe it is unimportant to have nighttime and weekend activities for teenagers. Residents who are more inclined to say it is *very important* to have nighttime and weekend programs for teenagers include women (65%) compared to men (51%), those under the age of 35 (73%) and those with a household income of \$60,000 and under (83%).

Golf Course

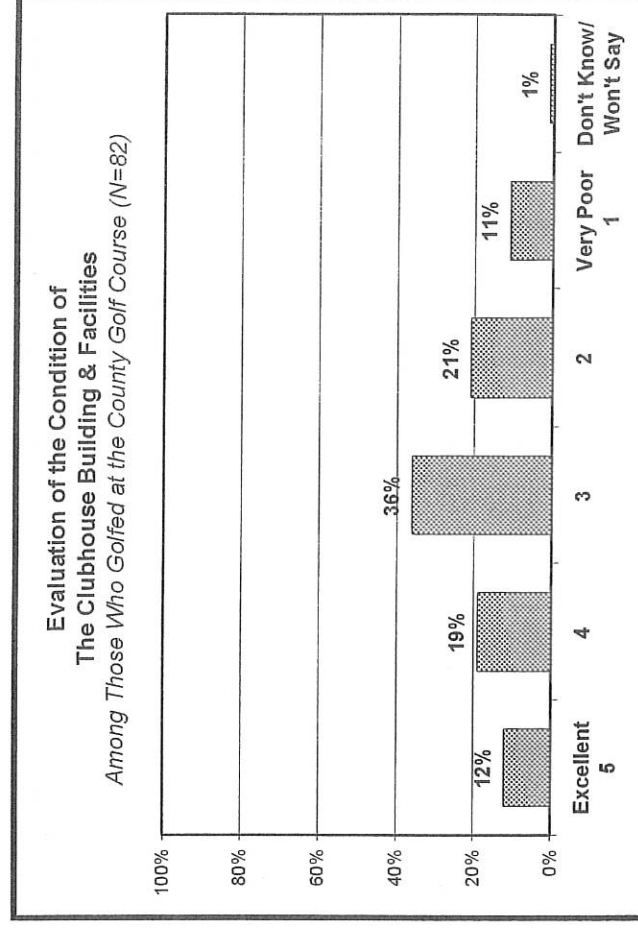
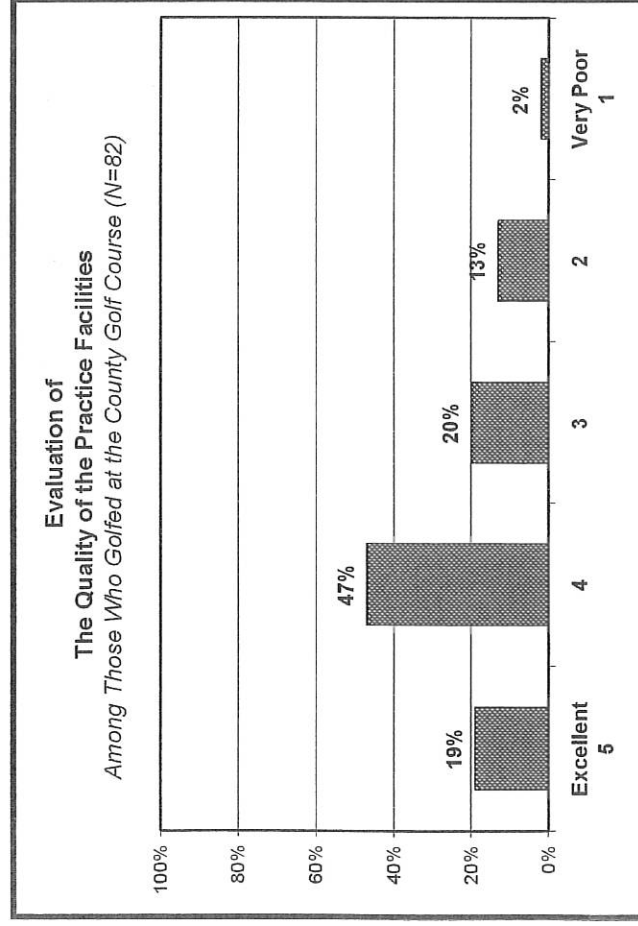


Reasons for Not Golfing at The County Golf Course in the Past 12 Months

Among Golfers Who Have Not Golfed At the County Golf Course (Unaided Responses)

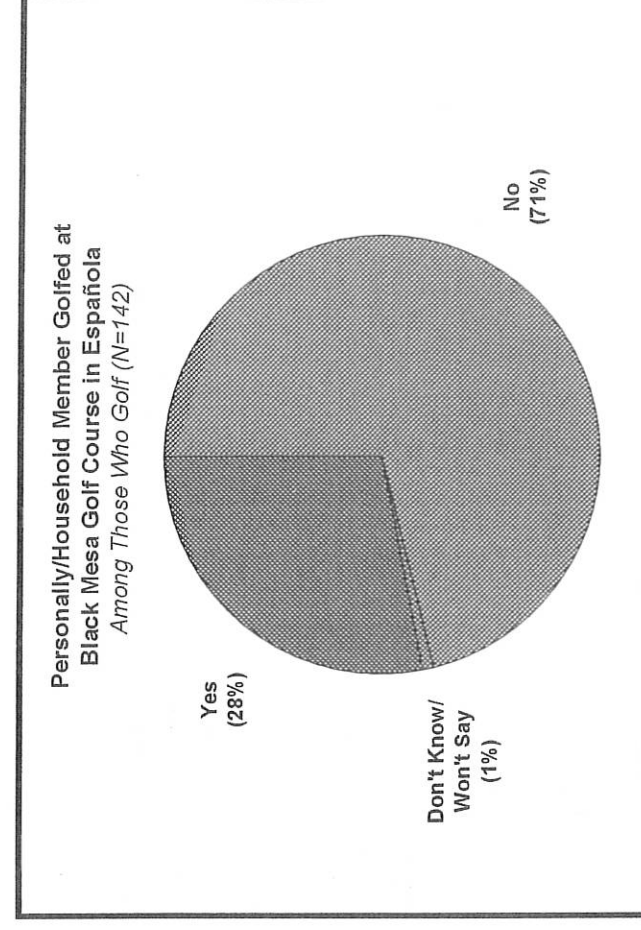
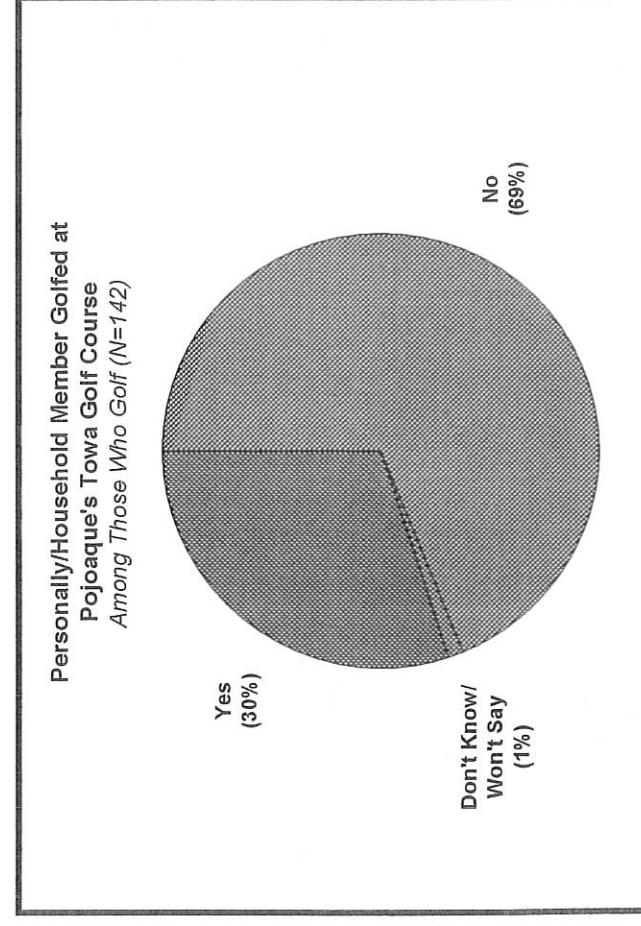


As shown above, 28% of Los Alamos County households have at least one member who plays golf. In total, 22% of the households surveyed have a family member who has golfed at the County Golf Course in the past 12 months. Nearly half (45%) of those who golf, but have not golfed at the County Course in the past 12 months, say they did not have the time, while 10% were unable to play due to health reasons.



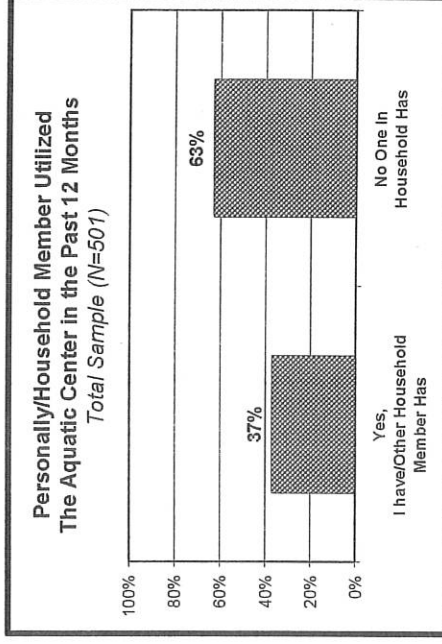
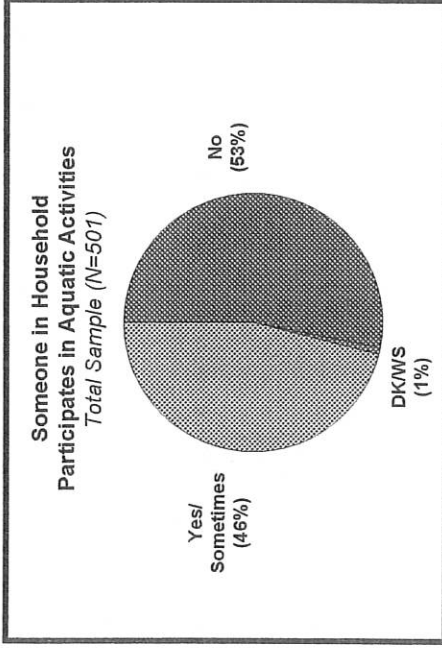
Residents who have personally golfed at the County Course were asked to rate the quality of the practice facilities and condition of the clubhouse facilities using a 5-point scale where 5 is *excellent* and 1 is *very poor*. Overall, two-thirds (66%) are complimentary of the practice facilities, giving a rating of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale. Fifteen percent of the golfers rate the practice facilities poorly. On the other hand, golfers have very mixed opinions about the clubhouse as 31% give a positive evaluation, while 32% rate the clubhouse poorly. The plurality of golfers (36%) have a neutral opinion of the clubhouse facilities.

Los Alamos County Parks Master Plan

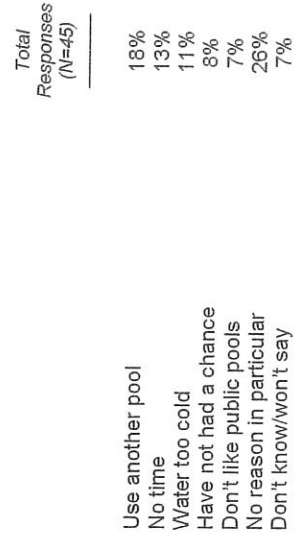


Thirty percent of residents who personally golf or have household members who golf say they have played at Pojoaque's Towa Golf Course. Furthermore, 28% of golfers have a household member who has played at Black Mesa Golf Course.

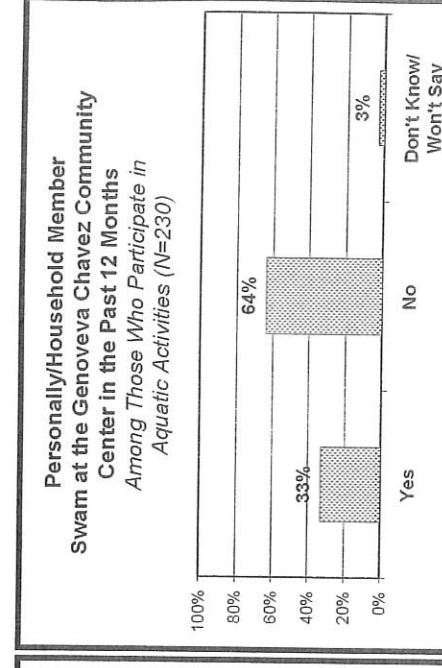
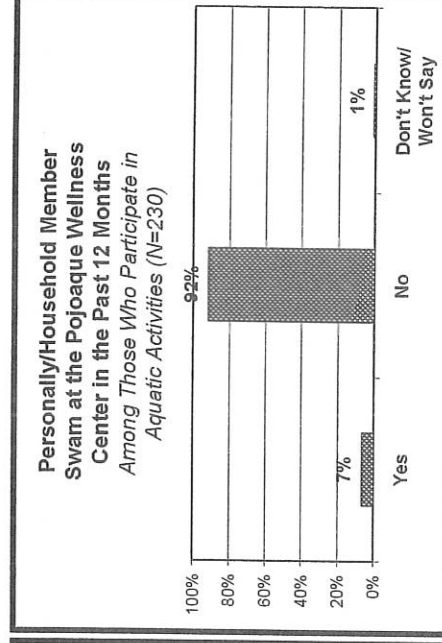
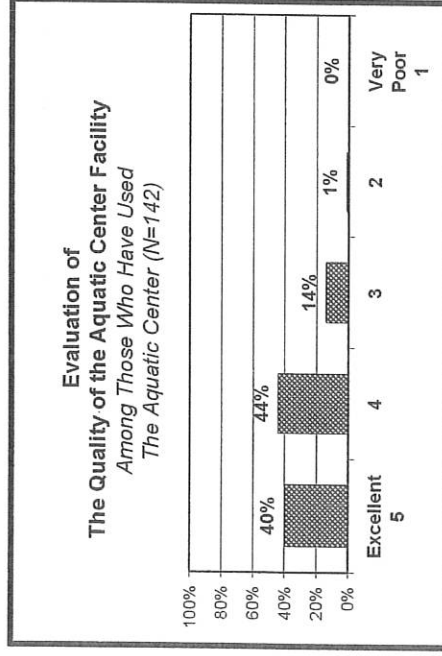
Aquatic Center



Reasons for Not Utilizing The Aquatic Center in the Past 12 Months
Among Those Who Have Not Used The Aquatic Center
(Top 7 Unaided Responses)



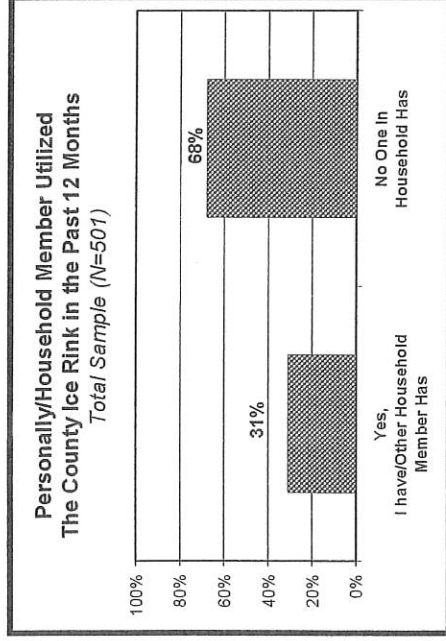
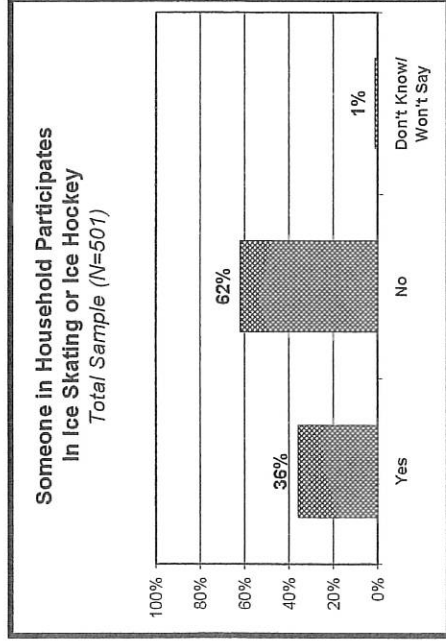
Nearly half (46%) of households in Los Alamos County have a member or members who participate in aquatic activities. Furthermore, 37% of the households surveyed have at least one member who has used the Aquatic Center in the past 12 months. The primary reasons for not utilizing the Aquatic Center in the past 12 months is that they use another pool (18%), don't have time (13%), and that the water is too cold (11%).



Residents who have used the Aquatic Center were asked to evaluate the overall quality of the facility using a 5-point scale where 5 is excellent and 1 is very poor. Overall, the vast majority of respondents (84%) give the Aquatic Center high marks, with 40% rating the facility as being excellent. Just one-percent of respondents rate the Aquatic Center poorly.

Seven percent of households that participate in aquatic activities say they have swam at the Pojoaque Wellness Center in the past 12 months and 33% have swam at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center.

Ice Rink

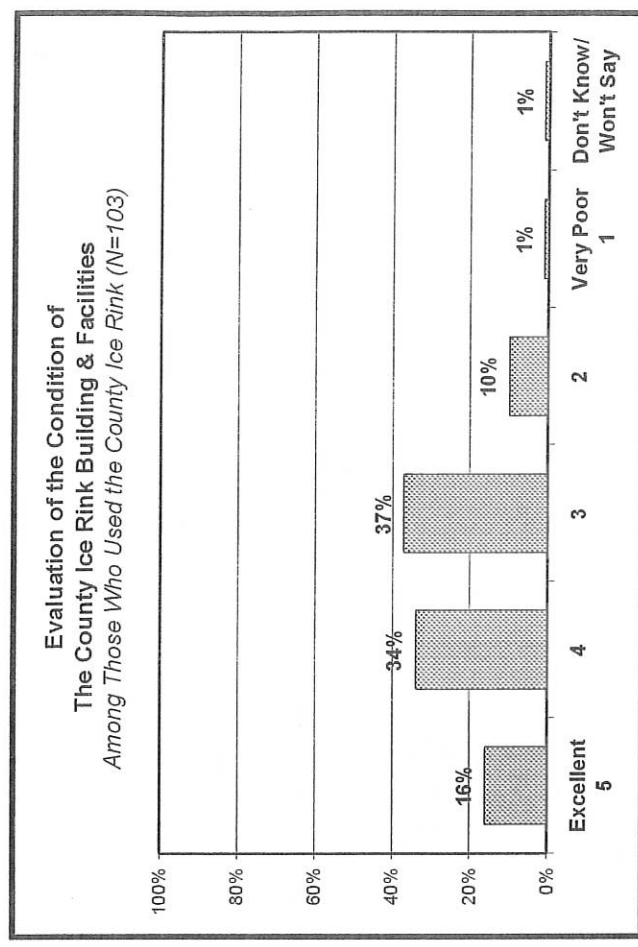
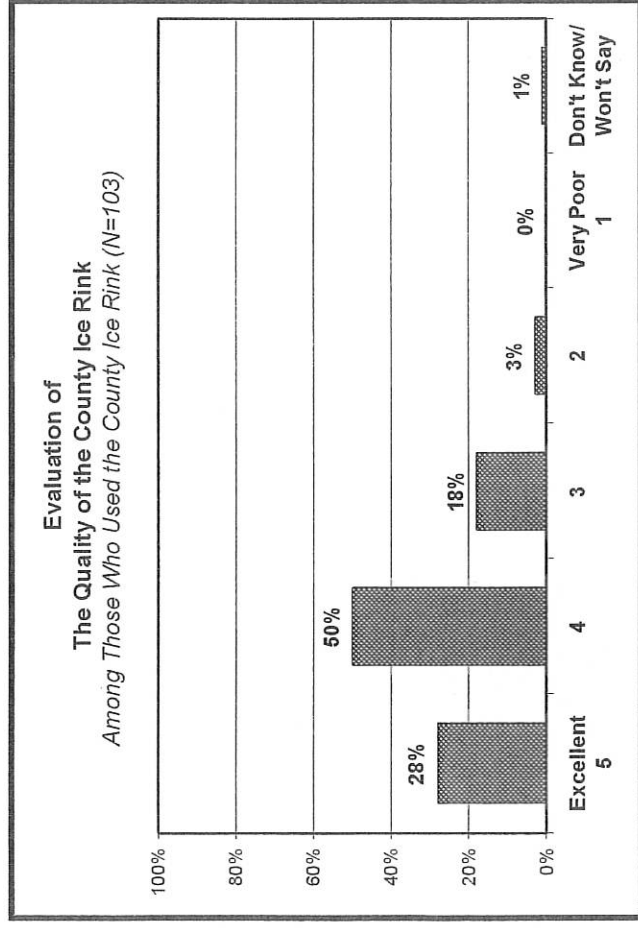


Reasons for Not Utilizing The Ice Rink in the Past 12 Months
Among Those Who Do Not Use the County Ice Rink (Unaided Responses)

Reason	Total Responses (N=23)
No time	51%
Have not had a chance	13%
No reason in particular	24%
Don't know/won't say	12%

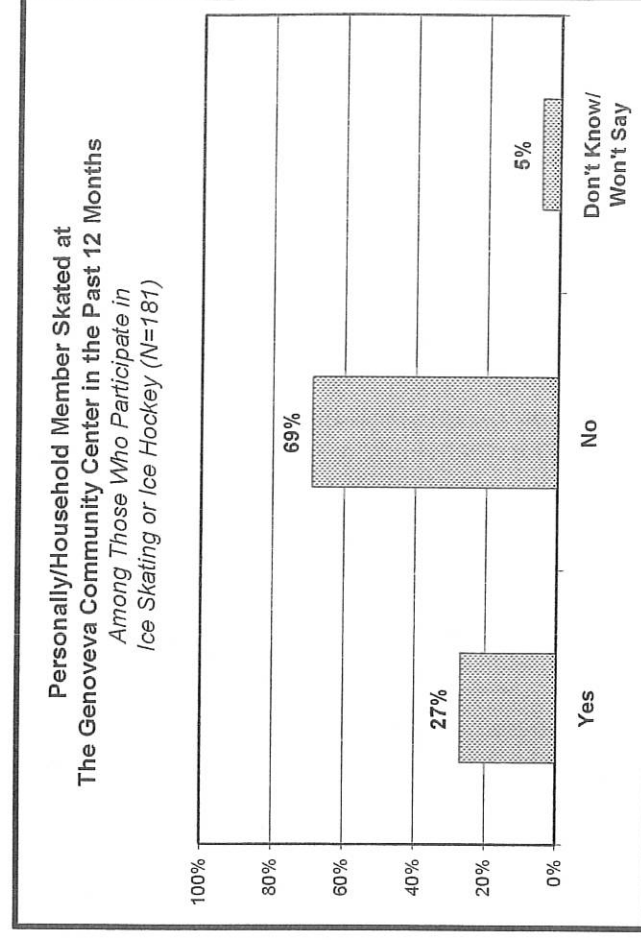
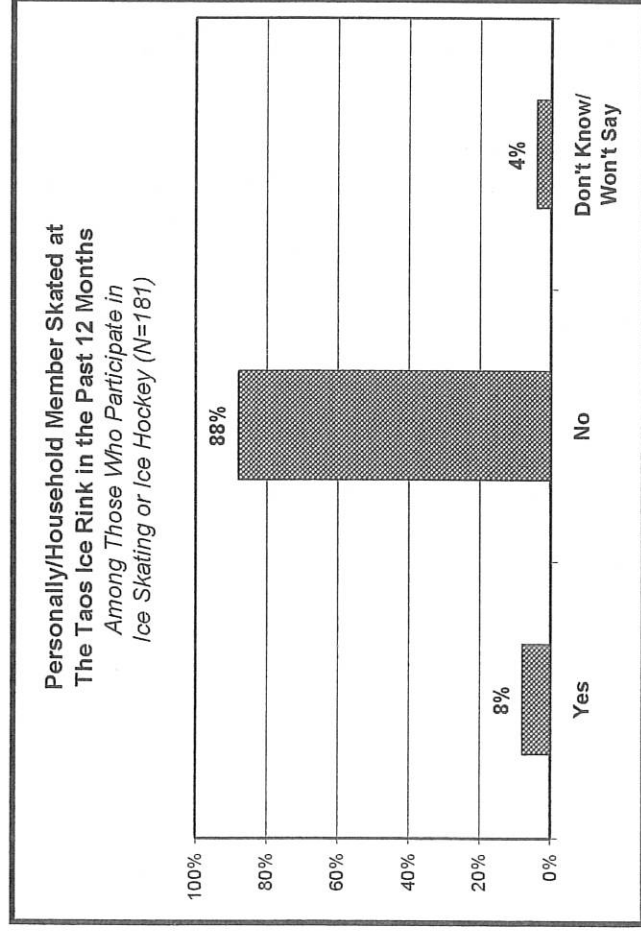
Over one-third (36%) of households in Los Alamos County have at least one member who either ice skates or plays ice hockey. It should be noted that 54% of those under the age of 50 say they or a household member ice skates or plays hockey. In total, 31% of the households surveyed have at least one member who has utilized the County Ice Rink in the past year.

Los Alamos County Parks Master Plan



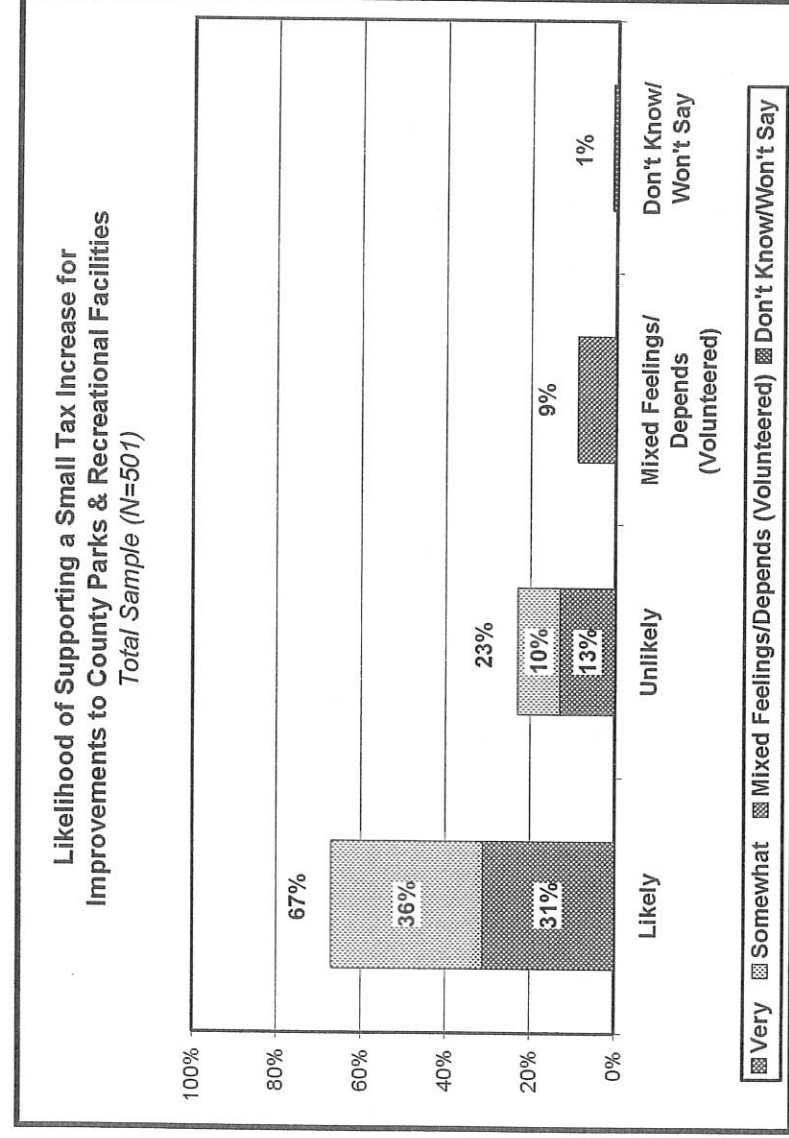
Those who have used the County Ice Rink were asked to rate the quality of the rink itself and the overall condition of the building and facilities using a 5-point scale where 5 is excellent and 1 is very poor. As shown above, over three-quarters (78%) of those who have been to the County Ice Rink give a favorable review of the rink's overall quality, with 28% giving an excellent rating. Very few patrons (3%) are critical of the rink. When it comes to the condition of the building and facilities, it is observed that half the patrons give a positive evaluation, while 11% are critical.

Los Alamos County Parks Master Plan



Just 8% of residents who say they or a household member ice skates or plays hockey have been to the Taos Ice Rink in the past 12 months, though 27% have been to the Genoveva Community Center.

Tax for Improvements to County Parks & Recreational Facilities



Two-thirds of residents countywide say they would either be *very likely* (31%) or *somewhat likely* (36%) to support a small tax increase for improvements to the County Parks and Recreational facilities. Less than one-in-four residents (23%) say they would be unlikely to support this tax increase, while 9% say it depends or have mixed feelings. Support for the tax increase is strongest among residents under the age of 50 and those who have children under the age of 13. In fact, 77% of those under the age of 50 are at least somewhat supportive of the tax compared to 55% of older residents.

VII. County Staff Based Criteria

County Staff-based Criteria for Parkland

Needs identified by County Staff:

- Develop a park assessment for each park site for the next 5 – 10 years (included in Master Plan, Appendix Five).
- Promote water conservation with continued and expanded use of treated wastewater for playing field and landscape irrigation.
- Provide a service-based budget with a life-cycle approach to park maintenance and improvements.
- Maximize the efficiency of the construction and maintenance programs through standardization of equipment, materials and procedures.
- Inventory, maintain, and enhance the Los Alamos County Trails as an integrated network promoting safe recreational opportunities, linkage and increased mobility of all County residents.
- Obtain approval for and implement a County Open Space Management Plan.

County Staff-based Criteria for Park Amenities

Needs identified by County Staff:

- Shared multi-use "synthetic turf" field.
- More lighted ball fields.
- More soccer fields, to allow for adequate downtime during restoration (approximately two months needed).
- Soccer fields in square configuration to allow for rotating.
- Sports fields need new soils over the bedrock.
- Increased budget to maintain/restore fields/general parks and added burdens.
- May need storage in closer proximity to ball fields.
- Better drainage for #'s 2 and 3 ball fields (Overlook Park).
- Increased parking at both Overlook and North Mesa.
- Revision of resident volunteer participation in park construction to participation in park design (safety reasons).
- Complete code and safety updates and modernization of playgrounds in the parks system.
- Improve outdoor recreational facilities and enhance youth activities and intergenerational participation.
- Provide more shading with tree planting.
- Increase number of trail signs and information boards.
- Post rules and regulations sign for each park.
- County Council defined a goal of increased economic impact through sports recreation. By hosting more night ball games, the County may encourage visitors to increase their visitation time and make use of local hotels and motels.
- Additional Council goals that apply in part to the Parks Division are the removal of urban blight, and improve upon transportation and mobility.

VIII. Recommendations

Provide More Facilities for Teenagers and Young Adults

Residents identified providing additional facilities for teens and young adults as the highest priority in the telephone survey, and second highest by the participants of the questionnaires.

- A bowling alley was most consistently mentioned in the telephone survey. The County could possibly work with a developer to provide incentive for installation, and/or pursue a public/private partnership agreement with a developer or manager.
- Residents placed a relatively low score on the importance of an additional skate park (only 10% rated it a very high priority), however it is noted that a skatepark appeared as a priority item for both Residential Community Parks and Urban County Parks on the public questionnaire.
- A miniature golf course received much enthusiasm during the public meetings.
- Other facilities requested by the community include a snow park, sand or hard volleyball courts, basketball courts, go-kart and laser tag facilities, and dog training facilities. It is important to note that availability of facilities for teenagers and young adults during nights and weekends is important.
- It must be noted that this need may be closely aligned with the need for transportation for youth that do not drive. While transportation of youth is not the responsibility of the Parks Division, access should remain an important consideration while providing facilities for youth. Also, multi-use facilities should be provided, so young folks who are transported to a recreational facility will have several sources of entertainment. This is especially important for the larger parks that are accessed primarily by vehicle. Perimeter trails, basketball hoops, and sand volleyball courts are amenities that can be added to existing parks to render them more multi-use.

Provide an Expanded Network of Footpath and Bicycle Trails

Residents identified expansion of the LAC trail network as the second highest priority in the telephone survey, and as the highest priority by participants of the questionnaires. Los Alamos County has developed an extensive trail network that is used considerably by residents for both transportation and recreation. The trails provide access for hikers and horseback riders through the canyons and mesas of Los Alamos County, and help to create a walkable community by connecting important destinations including home, work, shopping and school. Strong community support exists to preserve and enhance this unusual County amenity.

- Providing trail signage was a common request by the community, and likely one of the most useful and easiest to accomplish.
- Provide a map of all trails that is occasionally updated to include improvements, and is made available on the Internet as well as in printed form.
- Trails in Los Alamos County are used heavily for both recreation (where open space is valued) and for access to facilities. The community has requested additional trails to increase access. The following suggestions for trails additions/improvements were offered:
 - from White Rock to Los Alamos (obtain R.O.W. along power lines);
 - trails along collector streets (an opportunity for an accessible paved or multi-use trail);
 - network of trails on the perimeter of houses from Barranca to Ponderosa behind Arizona and 48th,
 - through Western to town via the canyon;

- improve the worn paths that people have already established unofficially;
- provide trail around perimeter of White Rock;
- connect White Rock and La Senda better;
- create access to hard to reach areas of interest; and...
- create trail easements in new development.
- Los Alamos existing trails are not accessible to persons of limited mobility due to surface and gradient challenges. Any new trails provided by the County are to be accessible. The LA Canyon Rim Trail and Los Alamos Mesa Trail Projects are to be accessible trails.
- Making the trails multi-use to include bicycle and equestrian was also deemed important. Sidewalks may be enlarged / redesigned to be used as a bike path, and bike lanes on roads could be demarcated where feasible. Trails near equestrian areas should include a soft surface. It should be noted that enhancing the trail system may also help increase access to facilities for youth. See Section VI, Community Input, for additional community comments regarding trail improvements.

Develop a Graphic Master Plan for North Mesa Park with a Community Task Force

During the research and writing of this Master Plan, North Mesa Park remained a source of some conflict within the community. The centrally located North Mesa Park site has great potential, and it is the only tract of parkland within the Town of Los Alamos large enough to serve as a county park. A large area of the Park was used as temporary housing for displaced residents following the devastating Cerro Grande Fire (and subsequently is called "FEMAville"). The FEMAville area borders San Ildefonso Road and the residential development to the south.

- A significant number of residents opposing a ball field at FEMAville attended the 2002 public meetings, and some opposition remained during the 2004 meetings. The opposition of ball field lights and noise so close to a residential area, and the desire to keep the area natural for walkers are valid positions. The development of new ball field(s) in Los Alamos County rated lowest in priorities on the telephone survey. However, those who use and program the fields recognize a distinct need for one or more additional fields, and the town of Los Alamos has fewer softball/baseball fields than does White Rock.
- The FEMAville area has underground utilities in place due to its temporary housing use. Due to the presence of the utilities, and its size and topography, the area is generally suitable to fill the niche of a needed ball field in Los Alamos.
- Therefore it is recommended that the County undergo a defined process of producing a graphic master plan for North Mesa Park. This process should take place with the consistent involvement of a "Community Task Force" that includes members of the nearby residential areas. The end product should be an official County document that was developed in a respectful compromise by all parties involved, and that which is eventually used to guide any further development of North Mesa Park and the former FEMAville area.

Develop Additional Ball Fields

- As stated above, the development of new ball field(s) in Los Alamos County rated lowest in priorities on the telephone survey, but rated high during the public meetings. Those who use and program the fields recognize a clear need for one or more additional fields.

- Providing adequate use time of ball fields helps support the community goal of providing recreational opportunities for youth.
- A goal defined by County Council includes increased economic impact through sports recreation. The County would like to encourage visitors to increase their visitation time and make use of local hotels and motels. This may be accomplished by hosting more night ball games, and this could be made possible by increasing the quantity of ball fields that are lighted for night use. It will be imperative to program lighted fields with community participation, and to take precautions that the fields do not adversely affect nearby residents.
- Issues of night lighting and artificial turf were discussed at the public meetings, however, the community identified no obvious direction. It is recommended that the Parks Division evaluate the cost effectiveness of a lighted artificial turf field vs. the quantity of lighted or non-lighted natural turf fields required to provide the same level of use.
- During one public meeting, a discussion occurred concerning the dual-use agreement between the County and Los Alamos School District. It was mentioned that this agreement significantly reduced the amount of time the ball fields were available for use by the community. It is recommended that the dual-use agreement between the County and the School District be revisited and modified to create a more equitable situation for the County. For additional discussion of this issue, reference the 2004 Los Alamos County Recreation Needs Assessment (page 43).

Develop an Outdoor Amphitheater for Concerts and Other Live Entertainment

The development of an outdoor amphitheater, which is currently being planned by the County, was ranked as a very high priority among 31% of the residents in terms of a new recreation facility, and ranked very high among 76% of those with teenagers.

Provide More Facilities for Younger Children

The County can make strides toward meeting this goal through the renovation of existing parks, which rated as a very high priority among 25% of the residents in the telephone survey. Additional park facilities requested by the community include a snow/sledding area, sand or hard volleyball courts, basketball courts, go-kart and laser tag facilities. Other requested improvements include continuing to update older equipment and providing greater accessibility to parks and playgrounds for the mobility-impaired. For park renovation recommendations and goals, see "Community Recommendations", and the supplement to this document, *Master Plan Supplement: Park Assessments*, provided by the Parks Division.

Develop a Community Recreation Center and Develop Facilities for Performing Arts, Lectures and Conventions

A Community Recreation Center was identified as a very high priority by 27% of the telephone survey respondents, and a very high priority (66%) among those with youth at home. This facility could serve a multitude of intergenerational community functions, including providing a location for performing arts, lectures and conventions, which also ranked high in priority level among the survey participants. A recreation center with central community access and well-planned programs could go a long way in supporting the community goal of providing recreational opportunities for youth. The community center may be best received if it included outdoor facilities or was located near outdoor facilities, rendering it as multi-use as possible.

Renovate Existing Parks

Upgrades have and continue to occur to existing park and tot lot playgrounds to replace older equipment with modern equipment that is specifically constructed to comply with national safety standards.

- In Los Alamos County, these play areas are typically installed over sand. Pressure-treated wood beams secured into place are often used to contain the sand. In some areas concrete mow curbs are used, however these have sometimes been difficult for in-house and volunteer crews to install correctly.
- Some play structures have handicap accessible safety surfacing to a transfer point (a transfer point is a place on the play structure designed so that a child in a wheelchair can pull himself out of the wheelchair and up onto the structure). Other handicap accessible amenities occur randomly, such as concrete sidewalk of appropriate grade or appropriate handicap parking. Los Alamos County does not have a boundless playground (where at least 70% of the entire playground is universally accessible) or a play structure that is accessible by wheelchair. It is recommended that the County upgrade all parks to become ADA compliant. The County should include at least one boundless playground or one play structure that is completely accessible by wheelchair.
- Playlots near streets and in wooded areas (with poor visibility from neighboring homes) should be fenced to promote safety. Many existing neighborhood pocket parks in Los Alamos are located in wooded areas behind homes and bordering nearby wooded areas, restricting views into the park from the street. While these original settings are very aesthetic, they do not offer the safest situations for children playing unsupervised. Many of these tot lots have fencing, however much of the fencing has the appearance of being old and of various materials, which lends a sense of general lack of care and supervision (a factor that could encourage an intruder). Los Alamos is generally considered a safe town. However, it is recommended that existing fencing that is in disrepair be replaced, and new fencing be provided around tot lots near streets and in wooded areas where appropriate. An acceptable example of aesthetically pleasing fencing may be black or green vinyl chain link. All fencing should be kept well maintained.
- County Community Services "in-house" and resident volunteer labor is often used for construction of park installation and renovation efforts. This practice undoubtedly has allowed staff to renovate more parks on a financially efficient basis. Some improvements, however, have not been installed as designed. This has resulted in some concrete mow curbs presenting a tripping hazard, sidewalks installed at a gradient too steep to be wheelchair accessible, and built park grades not reflecting original intended design - potentially presenting drainage problems. Timing and desire to adhere to a volunteer schedule in the past has presented situations where parks are renovated in a sequence that provides play equipment before the supporting safety features were installed. Other problems noted in the past include incorrect construction of play equipment, a lack of adequate safety signage and inadequate security fencing in areas that remain under construction. Although the Parks Division administration has changed some personnel since these observations, it is recommended that in-house construction crews obtain any needed construction installation training, and that the Parks Division remain especially vigilant about public safety issues during construction and renovation of parks.
- Additional comments from the community regarding park renovation include: provide more shaded benches at playgrounds, include more swings, install newer equipment, keep unique park themes, and include areas designated for younger (preschool and younger) park goers. See Community Input section for additional

comments, and "Community Recommendations", Park System Model section, for additional recommendations.

Develop Additional Smaller Parks for Use by Neighborhoods

- The development of additional smaller parks was rated as a very high priority by 21% of survey respondents. Conversely, the goal of preserving open space was continuously expressed by public meeting and questionnaire participants, thus it would be expected that the development of existing undeveloped parks might meet a significant level of local resident opposition.
- Los Alamos County is fortunate to possess an ample amount of park acreage, and its developed parks are fairly well distributed. One noted exception is the La Senda / Parajito Acres / Karen Circle area of White Rock, which has six undeveloped parks but no developed parks. It is recommended that the County develop one or two of the undeveloped parks in this area. A high level of community involvement in the planning of the park development is recommended.
- One undeveloped park in Los Alamos town site that may serve the community better in a developed or partially developed state is Los Pueblos Park. However, prior to planning any changes for this park, it is recommended that the County develop a dialog with the residents of this area to better judge whether development is desired.

Uphold/Increase Parks Maintenance Quality

The large majority of telephone survey respondents stated that they are satisfied with the maintenance of the parks (61%), while 8% stated that they were dissatisfied, and 27% had neutral or mixed feelings. Residents who were less than satisfied were asked how maintenance could be improved; 40% said the equipment needs to be maintained and updated, while 30% proposed improving the cleanliness and 12% referred to general maintenance. It is absolutely mandatory that the parks and play equipment remain maintained at a level that ensures public safety. One area that is sometimes overlooked in Los Alamos County is the condition of the sand and other safety surfaces below play structures. Sand often shifts and compacts; thus it requires regular evaluation and replenishment to remain an adequate landing surface.

Develop Dialog with Dog Enthusiasts

A good turnout of dog enthusiasts attended the public meetings and responded to the questionnaires, requesting additional dog parks and dog training parks. While this faction of the community may be regarded as a small special-interest group, it is noted that 16% of the telephone survey respondents rated the development of off-leash dog parks a very high priority (this was a higher rating than that for providing lighting for sports fields or providing additional sports fields).

Off-leash dog parks are likely more popular with the public than dog training fields simply because of the greater number of people who own and exercise dogs vs. those who show and compete with their dogs. One off-leash dog park exists in Overlook Park, but none exist in the town of Los Alamos. One multi-use field in White Rock is used as a dog-training field. While it may or may not be cost effective to the community to provide one or more exclusive dog training park(s), it is recommended that the County engage in a dialog with the dog enthusiasts to attempt to better determine their needs in a reasonable manner.

Continue Memorial and Other Tree Planting where Appropriate

The planting of trees was an item that arose repeatedly and favorably in public meeting comments, and was rated third on the questionnaire priority list. Especially favored are trees near seating areas at playgrounds and other viewing areas where shade is appreciated.

- Thus, it is recommended that additional shade trees be planted near playgrounds, provided that locations are assessed for effectiveness:
 - Trees are to receive adequate water from existing irrigation systems, or retrofit existing irrigation systems to service trees.
 - Sun angles for mid-day during the warmest seasons are to be taken into consideration when determining shade tree locations.
- It is recommended that a Memorial Tree Planting Program be instigated.

Policy for Obtaining Parkland

Los Alamos County Development Code states,

“For subdivisions that will establish or increase the allowed number of dwelling units, provisions shall be made to maintain the level of service of five acres of community or neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents in the County in accordance with the adopted comprehensive plan. A proposed subdivision will be required to provide the level of service of five acres per 1,000 residents by the dedication of land to the County, with five acres being the minimum acceptable size for a neighborhood park according to the comprehensive plan. If the required dedication is less than five acres, a payment in lieu of dedication shall be made to the County which is based on the value of the required dedication and which will facilitate the development of additional facilities on county-owned land to serve the new residents from the proposed subdivision. The proposed subdivision may include parkland of less than five acres if approved by the Parks and Recreation Board based on the need of the proposed development and the ability of the County to maintain the facility. The area of land dedicated for pedestrian walkways or pedestrian easements may be applied to the required dedication of land if approved by the Parks and Recreation Board as being part of a pedestrian walkway system or as being a needed connection to permanent open space, active recreation areas, or related developed parcels.”

This LAC standard is less than that recommended by national standards (10 acres of parkland per 1000 people). Los Alamos County currently meets that goal with *existing* parkland of 10.9 acres per 1,000 people, but if the two towns are examined separately, it becomes evident that White Rock owns the lions share of developed parkland acreage (White Rock - 19.35 acres per 1,000, Los Alamos - almost 7 acres per 1,000). This can be attributed largely to two factors – the scarcity of developable land in Los Alamos, and the development of Overlook Park in White Rock that handles much of the organized sports activities. Although it is rare for new parcels of land to be developed in the town of Los Alamos, it is recommended that the County development code be revised to increase the acreage of parkland dedication to meet national standards.

Costs & Funding Sources

The basic source of funds for the County Parks Division is derived from the County General Fund tax revenues. The Parks Division often receives little or no increase in its annual budget, however improvements often take place each year following the completion of previously budgeted improvements. Additional potential funding sources are provided for consideration:

- **Small Tax Increase:**
Quite impressively, two-thirds of the telephone survey respondents said they would either be very likely (31%) or somewhat likely (36%) to support a small tax increase for improvements to the County Parks and Recreational facilities. Support for the tax increase is strongest among residents under the age of 50 and those who have children under the age of 13.
- **Land Acquisitions and Easement Dedication:**
Obtaining dedicated easements from private property owners can be a highly effective method of creating new parkland and/or new trails. The Parks Division could gain influence over property without actually purchasing land – often the trade is seen as fair by the property owner in that improvements are made to the property that is dedicated. A successful example of easement dedication is the Los Candelarias Streetscape renovation by the City of Albuquerque, where five-foot width easements were obtained parallel to existing sidewalks along several blocks, effectively widening sidewalks to 11 feet. Additional space was also obtained through easement dedication on the project to provide developed placitas at intersections. The acquisition of easements could be an effective method for the Parks Division to widen existing trails, render existing trails multi-use, and obtain corridors for new trails. Other land acquisition techniques may include life estates and open space easements, among others.
- **Real Estate Transfer Tax:**
A local transfer tax is a one-time tax that is charged upon the sale of any real estate within the County. Funds from this tax then benefit the community by supporting community services such as the Parks Division. Typically, the fee is anywhere from .25% to 1% of the sale price of the property, however, prosperous towns can sometimes support higher transfer tax rates (the Town of Telluride, Colorado, has successfully implemented a 3% transfer tax due to the increasing affluence of the community). Transfer taxes are often waived for sales of affordable housing.
- **Federal and State Assistance:**
Government and state grants exist as opportunities for funding. The Land & Water Conservation Fund provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities (www.nps.gov/lwcf/). The National Scenic Byways Discretionary Grants program provides funding for byway-related projects each year, as part of the Federal Highway Administrations Discretionary Grants Program. Projects to support and enhance National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads and State-designated byways are eligible for grants (www.byways.org/learn/program.html). For information on grants provided by the Federal Transit Administration, visit www.fta.dot.gov/. For information on the Federal Highway Administration programs, visit www.fhwa.dot.gov/. Some additional grant information can be found at www.nps.sonoran.org/tk_fundraising_1.html. A dedicated grant writer and researcher could be hired to identify appropriate grant sources and to pursue grant acquisition.
- **Advertising:**
This revenue source may take the form of appropriate commercial advertising in any publications issued by the Community Services Department, such as a trails map that is updated on an intermittent basis. Care should be taken to assure that the selection of advertisers is appropriate to the Parks Division and to citizens of all ages. Similarly, the naming rights to new facilities may be sold, if the community views this action as acceptable. The sale of naming rights could apply to the proposed amphitheater and potential miniature golf course – essentially any facility where the name is strongly associated with the facility by signage.

- **Special Fundraisers:**

Special fundraisers conducted on an annual basis may be welcomed and well attended by the community due to a perceived lack of social resources. Fundraisers could be designed to be highly recreational, enjoyable to all age groups, and perhaps offered with holiday themes. If successful, this revenue source could be expanded into regular events that would draw participants from other communities, such as summer music and other festivals with various themes and special interest conferences. Regular events may also create additional revenue opportunities in concession management. The County may do well to study the fundraising methods of the town of Telluride, Colorado. Telluride has very successfully marketed itself so that every summer weekend is reserved for a festival or other special event that typically attracts visitors from far and wide. The town has managed to do this without requiring hugely expensive facilities, relying instead on a nicely designed multi-use town park and private resources such as local theaters and meeting rooms. While also buoyed by a winter ski area, the result of Telluride's aggressive marketing efforts are seen in heavily booked lodgings during weekends, a healthy variety of local shops, and steady real estate sales.

- **Develop Revenue-Raising Facilities:**

The installation of special facilities that raise revenue will help create versatility in social resources and increase local economic impact while raising additional funds for the County Parks. The proposed amphitheater and miniature golf course are potential sources for revenue, provided they are well designed, well marketed, and managed and maintained in a cost-effective manner.

- **Create a Volunteer Labor Corps:**

Los Alamos County may possess a substantial number of citizens willing to join a Volunteer Labor Corps. Volunteers may be helpful in a variety of ways, including office help, maintenance support, beautification projects, regulation enforcement at parks, special education opportunities, and special event coordination.

- **Develop a "Friends of Los Alamos County Parks" organization:**

A special organization dedicated to the funding and betterment of the County Parks system can help provide creative ideas and energy. This group, which would meet on a regular basis, could be utilized to help design and instigate special fundraisers, organize and coordinate the Volunteer Labor Corps, help initiate creative partnership efforts, and brainstorm, among other tasks.

- **Marketing Consultant:**

A marketing consultant could be hired to facilitate the promotion of the Parks Division within the County and to nearby Counties who lack similar recreational resources. The consultant could be especially useful in the marketing of the proposed amphitheater, related musical events, events and programs sponsored by the Community Services Department, and the development and distribution of a trails map, among other uses. The marketing consultant could also be made available to the potential "Friends" organization to help in the development of additional funding strategies.

- **Partnership Programs:**

As mentioned above, the dual-use agreement between the County and the Los Alamos School District should be revisited and modified to create a more equitable situation for the County. Other partnership efforts should be investigated, such as with local businesses and community groups. Creativity is encouraged. An example of such is the potential for an AKC sanctioned dog show hosted by a local dog club, that would result in increased economic impact for the County by virtue of being a two-day (or longer), and annual, event. Another option is an "Adopt-a-Park"

Program. Citizens, special interest groups, and commercial entities may be interested in private sponsorship of the Parks Division if presented in an "Adopt-a-Park" format. Plans for each contributor could be flexible, limited by a number of years, and customized to suit available budgets and interest.

IX. Park System Model and Classification Maps

A Park System Model is provided to aid the County in renovation and management of the parks. The Model is a parks classification system that aids in providing recommendations of specific features such as service area, parking systems, setbacks, lighting, facilities and amenities. Individual parks are assigned to a particular class based on their sizes, intended use and locations.

Although industry standards exist for use as park classification systems, Los Alamos County is unique from most communities in the history of park development, land availability, and growth projections. For this reason, industry standards have been adapted to better serve Los Alamos County. Los Alamos deviates from standard neighborhood park size by recognizing the original tot lots as important components of this category. Community parks are also smaller in size than industry standards, and most are located in residential communities and served by residential streets, however they offer a wider range of facilities than the neighborhood parks. The County has two County parks - Overlook in White Rock and the lesser developed North Mesa in Los Alamos. As numerous as the neighborhood parks are the Special Use Parks. Special Use Parks include such uses as isolated sports facilities and areas of historical or environmental significance, among others. The following Parks Model is based on existing conditions and facilities of the Los Alamos County Park System, conventional standards, and community input.

Neighborhood Pocket Park

Neighborhood Pocket Parks help meet individual neighborhood needs for informal forms of recreation. These parks are defined by size, available amenities, location and original purpose. Parks falling within the Neighborhood Pocket Park category are often referred to in Los Alamos County as "Tot Lots", although the parks may have other recreation facilities in addition to those of the toddler and young child age range. It is presumed that the original purpose of the tot lots was to provide a place within walking distance (or perhaps short driving distance) primarily for children's play equipment. Neighborhood Pocket Park sites should be residential in character with limited quantity of recreational features. Development should have a strong emphasis on passive and small child uses such as picnic areas, a small playground, and sitting areas. Shade is important and should be provided if not available from existing trees. Planning process should include neighborhood resident input. Although it is not the case for many existing tot lots, it is preferable for all areas of the park to be visible from adjacent streets to allow neighborhood monitoring for safety.

Size: Usually smaller than three acres

Service Area: Usually less than ½ mile

Location and Access:

- Centrally located within the neighborhood and easily accessed by residents
- Prefer adjacent residents to face or side the park instead of backing
- Park frontage required on one street but preferred on two (collector or local streets only)
- Minimum street frontage of 100 feet

(Some existing tot lots do not comply with these criteria and deserve to be recognized for their unique and historic origins. Any new tot lots should comply.)

Parking: No on-site parking is necessary or highly desired, due to intended pedestrian access emphasis of park.

Basic amenities for neighborhood pocket parks include:

- Seating (picnic tables, benches)
- Support facilities (bike racks, trash receptacles, signage, etc.)
- Shade provided by trees or a small shade structure
- Children's play equipment
- Linked to trail system where possible, with signage for trail system
- As universally accessible as possible
- Fencing (if not located where all areas of park not visible from adjacent streets)

Optional Facilities:

- Possible small informal and non-lighted play areas (full or half basketball court, sand volleyball, tennis or shuffleboard)
- Small picnic shelter with picnic tables
- Natural areas or grassed areas for passive recreation

Inappropriate Facilities:

- Multi-use pavilion
- Restrooms

- Lighted sports facilities
- Any recreational facility that could create a high noise level

Setbacks:

Playground and other recreational facilities – 20’ from street R.O.W. and 35’ from residential property lines

Park Lighting: None, unless desired for security reasons by neighborhood

Community Recommendations:

When residents were surveyed for their most desired “active recreational” facilities in this park category, the top three listed (in order of preference) were jogging and exercise trails, playground equipment, and multi-use hard courts (basketball, volleyball, etc.). Most Neighborhood Pocket Parks are tot lots and are not large enough to support a perimeter trail (with a possible exception or two). Playground equipment is a high priority by the community for all Pocket Parks. Thus, renovations where needed, and maintenance of play equipment becomes a priority. The community request of multi-use hard courts in the Pocket Parks may help provide easily accessible entertainment for youth. Residents also listed the top three “passive recreational” or “support amenities” to be open grassed play areas, drinking fountains and nature areas. An open grassed play area is another feature that is size dependent, thus not necessarily suitable for most Pocket Parks. Drinking fountains are a reasonable request, and educational exhibits or signage could support small nature areas. See below for additional amenities requested by the community for this park category.

Community Defined Preferences for Neighborhood Pocket Park Amenities (listed in order of preference):

Active recreational facilities:

1. Jogging and exercise trails (where size permits)
2. Playground equipment
3. Multi-use hard courts (basketball, volleyball, etc.)
4. Sand volleyball
5. Handicap accessible playgrounds (accessible sidewalk to playground, accessible safety surfacing up to play structure, and transfer point onto play structure)
6. Non-lighted tennis courts
7. Exercise equipment
8. Shuffleboard

Passive recreational and support facilities:

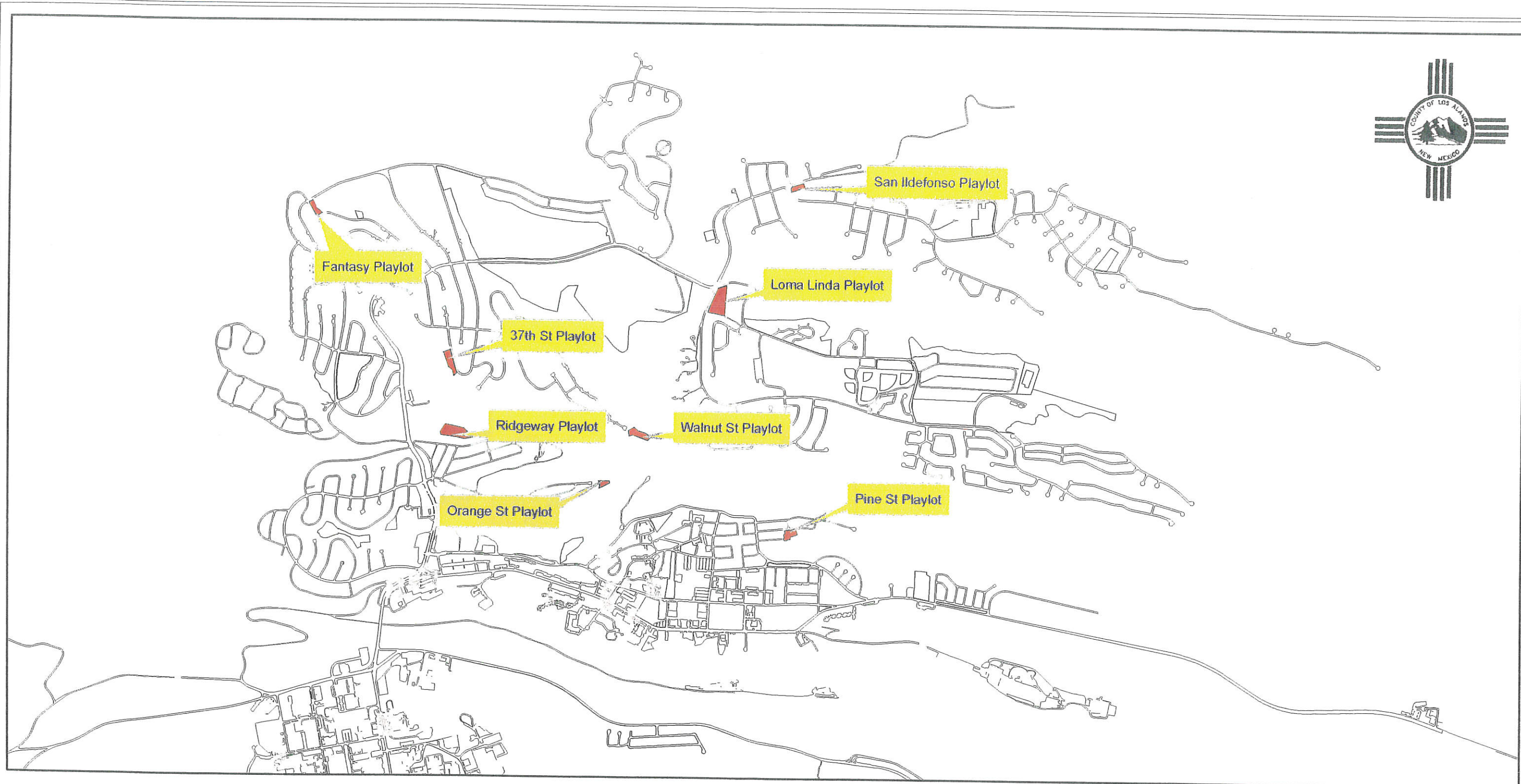
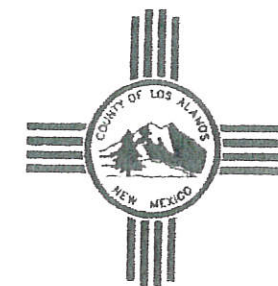
1. Open grassed play areas (where size permits)
2. Drinking fountains
3. Nature areas
4. Trail connection signage
5. Small covered picnic pavilions
6. Tree plantings
7. More seating
8. Picnic tables
9. Bar-b-que grills

Development Costs: May range from \$75,000 to \$150,000 for professional installation, depending on scope

Neighborhood Pocket Parks in Los Alamos County include:

Los Alamos - Fantasy Playlot
 Loma Linda Tot Lot
 Orange Street Tot Lot
 Pine Street Tot Lot
 San Ildefonso Tot Lot
 Ridgeway Tot Lot
 Walnut Street Tot Lot
 37th Street Tot Lot

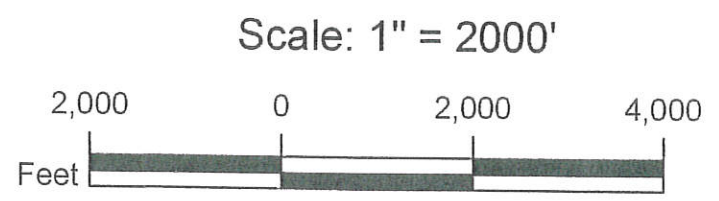
White Rock – Jeffrey Tot Lot
 Mountain Meadows Tot Lot



Los Alamos Park Model Neighborhood Pocket Parks

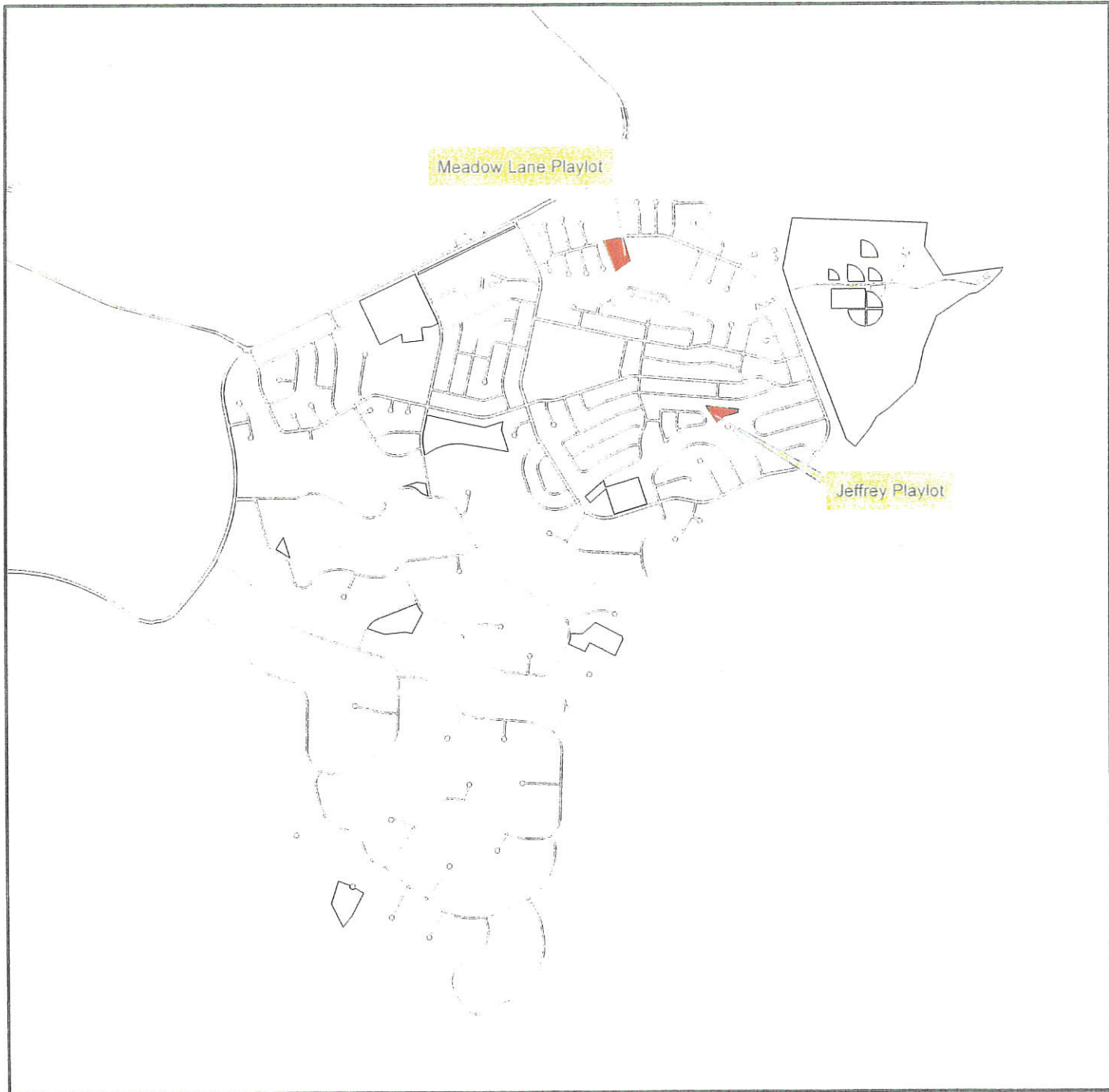
Legend

- Streets
- Neighborhood Pocket Parks
- Residential Community Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Undeveloped Parks
- Urban County Parks
- Urban Space



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

White Rock Park Model Neighborhood Pocket Parks



Legend

- Streets
- Neighborhood Pocket Parks
- Residential Community Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Undeveloped Park
- Urban County Parks
- Urban Space



Scale: 1" = 2500'



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



MOUNTAIN MEADOWS PLAYLOT

Residential Community Park

The Residential Community Park may be considered the basic and most versatile unit of the park system for Los Alamos County. Though located in residential areas and sometimes with limited street frontage, this park typically serves several neighborhoods.

Surrounding areas of the Residential Community Parks may be residential, but should serve community needs for informal and formal (game) forms of recreation. Playgrounds, passive recreational space and/or natural areas can be considered high priorities, with a balance between active and passive use. Areas for picnicking can be combined with active non-lighted sports fields such as soccer or softball/baseball. Lighted tennis courts may be included if programmed with community input. All areas of the park should be visible from adjacent streets. Where this is not possible, they should be fenced with six-foot height attractive and well-maintained fencing. An irrigation system should be used where appropriate to sustain turfgrass and other vegetation. Because Residential Community Parks are located in residential areas, programmed activities should be discouraged in neighborhood parks to keep street congestion, parking problems and noise at a minimum. Neighborhood Pocket Park facilities may also be provided within a Residential Community Park to serve nearby neighborhoods. The planning process should include input from nearby residents.

Size: Usually three to six acres

Service Area: One-mile maximum radius preferred, preferably uninterrupted by major thoroughfares or canyons

Location and Access:

- Centrally located within the neighborhood and easily accessed by residents
- Prefer adjacent residents to face or side the park instead of backing
- Park frontage required on two collector and/or local streets; major thoroughfare frontage is undesirable
- Minimum street frontage of 100 feet
- Access to water, sewer and electric service

Parking: Curbside or on-site parking acceptable. On-site parking should be limited to a specific area, and delineated by curbs, low walls or low site-appropriate fencing to provide for safety.

Basic amenities for Neighborhood parks include:

- Benches
- Picnic shelter with picnic tables
- Bar-b-que grills
- Drinking fountain
- Support facilities (bike racks, trash receptacles, signage, etc.)
- Children's play equipment
- Passive recreational space and/or natural areas with picnic tables
- Informal and non-lighted play areas (full or half basketball court, sand volleyball, tennis or shuffleboard)
- Trail system within park for walkers & joggers
- Linked to trail system where possible, with signage for trail system
- As universally accessible as possible

Optional Facilities:

- Multi-use pavilion
- Restrooms
- Tennis courts (lighted, providing this issue was planned with community input)
- Non-lighted sports fields

Inappropriate Facilities:

- Lighted sports fields
- Any recreational facility that could create a high noise level

Setbacks:

On-site parking – 10' from street R.O.W. and 35' from residential property lines
Playground and other recreational facilities, including multi-use pavilion – 40' from street R.O.W. and 50' from residential property lines

Park Lighting: Security or safety lighting where needed, and limited facility lighting where needed (preferably tennis courts only), if desired by neighborhood

Community Recommendations:

When residents were surveyed for their most desired "active recreational" facilities in this park category, the top three listed (in order of preference) were jogging and exercise trails, playground equipment, and soccer fields. A perimeter exercise trail could be incorporated into most of the Residential Community Parks, where topography and existing features allow. Perimeter trails should be eight feet in width, and possess accessible surfaces and gradients. Playground equipment exists in each of these parks, and upgrades should be made as needed to remain current with safety and ADA requirements. Some residents who live nearby may consider soccer fields a nuisance, so any additional fields should be programmed into the parks carefully with the involvement of the community. Residents also listed the top three "passive recreational" or "support amenities" to be nature areas, open grassed play areas, and trail connection signage. See below for additional amenities requested by the community for this park category.

Community Defined Preferences for Residential Community Park Amenities (listed in order of preference):

Active recreational facilities:

1. Jogging and exercise trails
2. Playground equipment
3. Soccer fields (where size permits and with neighborhood consent)
4. Skate park
5. Multi-use hard courts (basketball, volleyball, etc.)
6. Non-lighted tennis courts
7. Handicap accessible playgrounds (accessible sidewalk to playground, accessible safety surfacing up to play structure, and transfer point onto play structure)
8. Sand volleyball
9. Non-lighted baseball fields (where size permits and with neighborhood consent)
10. Shuffleboard

Passive recreational and support facilities:

1. Nature areas
2. Open grassed play areas

3. Trail connection signage
4. Drinking fountain
5. Additional picnic tables
6. Tree plantings
7. Small covered picnic pavilions
8. Large covered picnic pavilions (with numerous picnic tables)
9. Bar-b-que grills

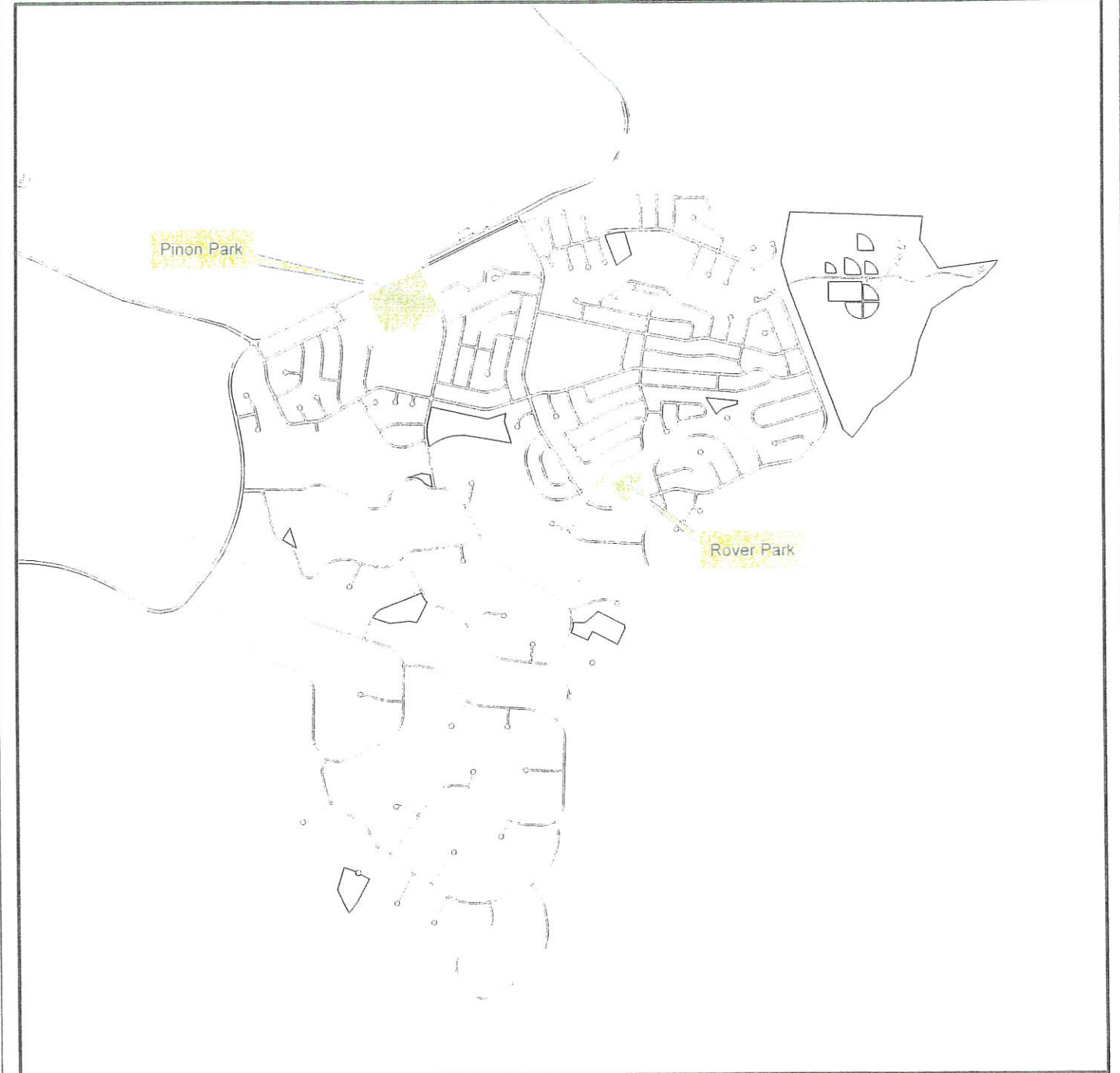
Development Costs: May range from \$100,000 to \$450,000 for professional installation, depending on scope

Residential Community Parks in Los Alamos County include:

Los Alamos - Barranca Mesa Park
 East Park
 Urban Park
 Western Area Park

White Rock - Pinon Park
 Rover Park

White Rock Park Model Residential Community Parks



Legend

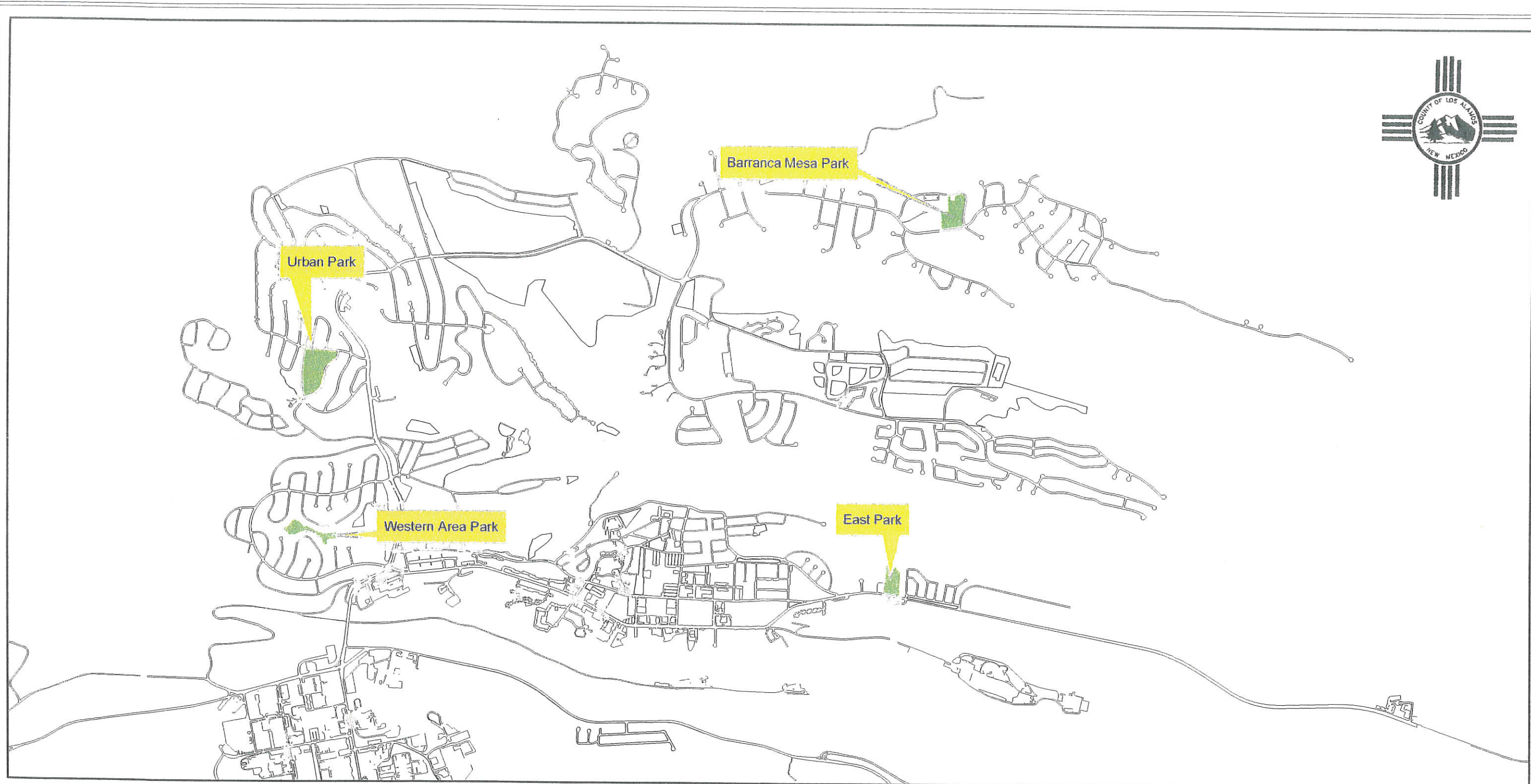
- Streets
- Neighborhood Pocket Parks
- Residential Community Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Undeveloped Park
- Urban County Parks
- Urban Space



Scale: 1" = 2500'



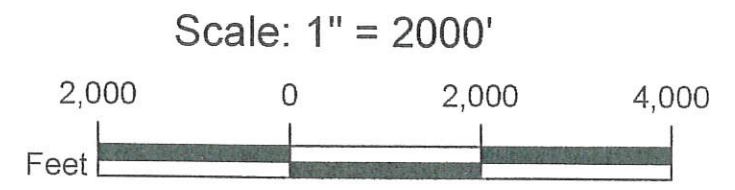
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Los Alamos Park Model Residential Community Parks

Legend

- Streets
- Neighborhood Pocket Parks
- Residential Community Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Undeveloped Park
- Urban County Parks
- Urban Space



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

Residential Community Park

The Residential Community Park may be considered the basic and most versatile unit of the park system for Los Alamos County. Though located in residential areas and sometimes with limited street frontage, this park typically serves several neighborhoods.

Surrounding areas of the Residential Community Parks may be residential, but should serve community needs for informal and formal (game) forms of recreation. Playgrounds, passive recreational space and/or natural areas can be considered high priorities, with a balance between active and passive use. Areas for picnicking can be combined with active non-lighted sports fields such as soccer or softball/baseball. Lighted tennis courts may be included if programmed with community input. All areas of the park should be visible from adjacent streets. Where this is not possible, they should be fenced with six-foot height attractive and well-maintained fencing. An irrigation system should be used where appropriate to sustain turfgrass and other vegetation. Because Residential Community Parks are located in residential areas, programmed activities should be discouraged in neighborhood parks to keep street congestion, parking problems and noise at a minimum. Neighborhood Pocket Park facilities may also be provided within a Residential Community Park to serve nearby neighborhoods. The planning process should include input from nearby residents.

Size: Usually three to six acres

Service Area: One-mile maximum radius preferred, preferably uninterrupted by major thoroughfares or canyons

Location and Access:

- Centrally located within the neighborhood and easily accessed by residents
- Prefer adjacent residents to face or side the park instead of backing
- Park frontage required on two collector and/or local streets; major thoroughfare frontage is undesirable
- Minimum street frontage of 100 feet
- Access to water, sewer and electric service

Parking: Curbside or on-site parking acceptable. On-site parking should be limited to a specific area, and delineated by curbs, low walls or low site-appropriate fencing to provide for safety.

Basic amenities for Neighborhood parks include:

- Benches
- Picnic shelter with picnic tables
- Bar-b-que grills
- Drinking fountain
- Support facilities (bike racks, trash receptacles, signage, etc.)
- Children's play equipment
- Passive recreational space and/or natural areas with picnic tables
- Informal and non-lighted play areas (full or half basketball court, sand volleyball, tennis or shuffleboard)
- Trail system within park for walkers & joggers
- Linked to trail system where possible, with signage for trail system
- As universally accessible as possible

Optional Facilities:

- Multi-use pavilion
- Restrooms
- Tennis courts (lighted, providing this issue was planned with community input)
- Non-lighted sports fields

Inappropriate Facilities:

- Lighted sports fields
- Any recreational facility that could create a high noise level

Setbacks:

On-site parking – 10' from street R.O.W. and 35' from residential property lines

Playground and other recreational facilities, including multi-use pavilion – 40' from street R.O.W. and 50' from residential property lines

Park Lighting: Security or safety lighting where needed, and limited facility lighting where needed (preferably tennis courts only), if desired by neighborhood

Community Recommendations:

When residents were surveyed for their most desired "active recreational" facilities in this park category, the top three listed (in order of preference) were jogging and exercise trails, playground equipment, and soccer fields. A perimeter exercise trail could be incorporated into most of the Residential Community Parks, where topography and existing features allow. Perimeter trails should be eight feet in width, and possess accessible surfaces and gradients. Playground equipment exists in each of these parks, and upgrades should be made as needed to remain current with safety and ADA requirements. Some residents who live nearby may consider soccer fields a nuisance, so any additional fields should be programmed into the parks carefully with the involvement of the community. Residents also listed the top three "passive recreational" or "support amenities" to be nature areas, open grassed play areas, and trail connection signage. See below for additional amenities requested by the community for this park category.

Community Defined Preferences for Residential Community Park Amenities (listed in order of preference):

Active recreational facilities:

1. Jogging and exercise trails
2. Playground equipment
3. Soccer fields (where size permits and with neighborhood consent)
4. Skate park
5. Multi-use hard courts (basketball, volleyball, etc.)
6. Non-lighted tennis courts
7. Handicap accessible playgrounds (accessible sidewalk to playground, accessible safety surfacing up to play structure, and transfer point onto play structure)
8. Sand volleyball
9. Non-lighted baseball fields (where size permits and with neighborhood consent)
10. Shuffleboard

Passive recreational and support facilities:

1. Nature areas
2. Open grassed play areas

Urban County Park

Urban County parks serve broader based recreation needs of the community, often providing facilities for programmed sports such as soccer, softball and youth baseball. A wide range of recreational pursuits may be hosted, due to the large size of these parks and ability to reduce the effect of facilities on nearby residential areas. Amenities to support both passive and active pursuits should be included, and some sizeable areas of natural vegetation preserved where possible. Facilities may include specialized purposes, however recreation needs addressed by smaller parks should also be included. These parks are most useful when they are as multi-use as possible, with the ability to create more than one recreational experience for the user during a single visit. Urban County parks should be sustained by an automatic irrigation system, and may be lighted for nighttime use (with care taken to program lighting with input from the local neighborhoods).

Size: 75 to 500 acres

Service Area: Countywide

Location and Access:

- Determined by resource availability, preferably with some degree of isolation from residential neighborhoods (either by size or distance)
- Access by major thoroughfare, trails and bikeways preferable
- Access to water, sewer and electric service

Parking: One or more parking lots serviced by internal roadways

Basic amenities for urban County parks include:

- Boundless playground (at least 70% of entire playground accessible to children of all abilities for which it is intended)
- Passive recreational space and/or natural areas with picnic tables
- Lighted sports fields
- Concessions facilities
- Full basketball courts
- Picnic shelters with picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountains
- Support facilities (bike racks, trash receptacles, signage, benches etc.)
- Security telephone
- Security lighting
- Trail system within park for walkers & joggers
- Linked to trail system where possible, with signage for trail system
- As universally accessible as possible

Optional Facilities:

- Multi-use pavilion
- Informal play areas (sand volleyball, tennis or shuffleboard)
- Non-lighted sports fields
- Cultural and special event facilities
- Unique recreational facilities

Setbacks:

On-site parking – 20' from street R.O.W., 100' from residential property lines
Aboveground buildings, other structures, and facility-specific fencing - 50' from perimeter boundaries, residential property lines and street R.O.W.

Park Lighting: Security or safety lighting where needed, and sports facility lighting where needed

Community Recommendations:

When residents were surveyed for their most desired "active recreational" facilities in this park category, the top three listed (in order of preference) were jogging and exercise trails, shuffleboard, and multi-use hard courts. A loop exercise trail is a low cost item that should be programmed into both North Mesa and Overlook Parks. Neither shuffleboard nor multi-use hard courts such as basketball or volleyball exist in either of these parks. However, these are amenities that may be well used if included, especially when Overlook gains its amphitheater and North Mesa is further developed. Residents also listed the top three "passive recreational" or "support amenities" to be open grassed play areas, drinking fountains, and nature areas. See below for additional amenities requested by the community for this park category.

Community Defined Preferences for Urban County Park Amenities (listed in order of preference):

Active recreational facilities:

1. Jogging and exercise trails
2. Shuffleboard
3. Multi-use hard courts (basketball, volleyball, etc.)
4. Lighted baseball fields
5. Playground equipment
6. Skatepark
7. Exercise equipment
8. Non-lighted softball fields
9. Handicap accessible playgrounds (accessible sidewalk to playground, accessible safety surfacing up to play structure, and transfer point onto play structure)

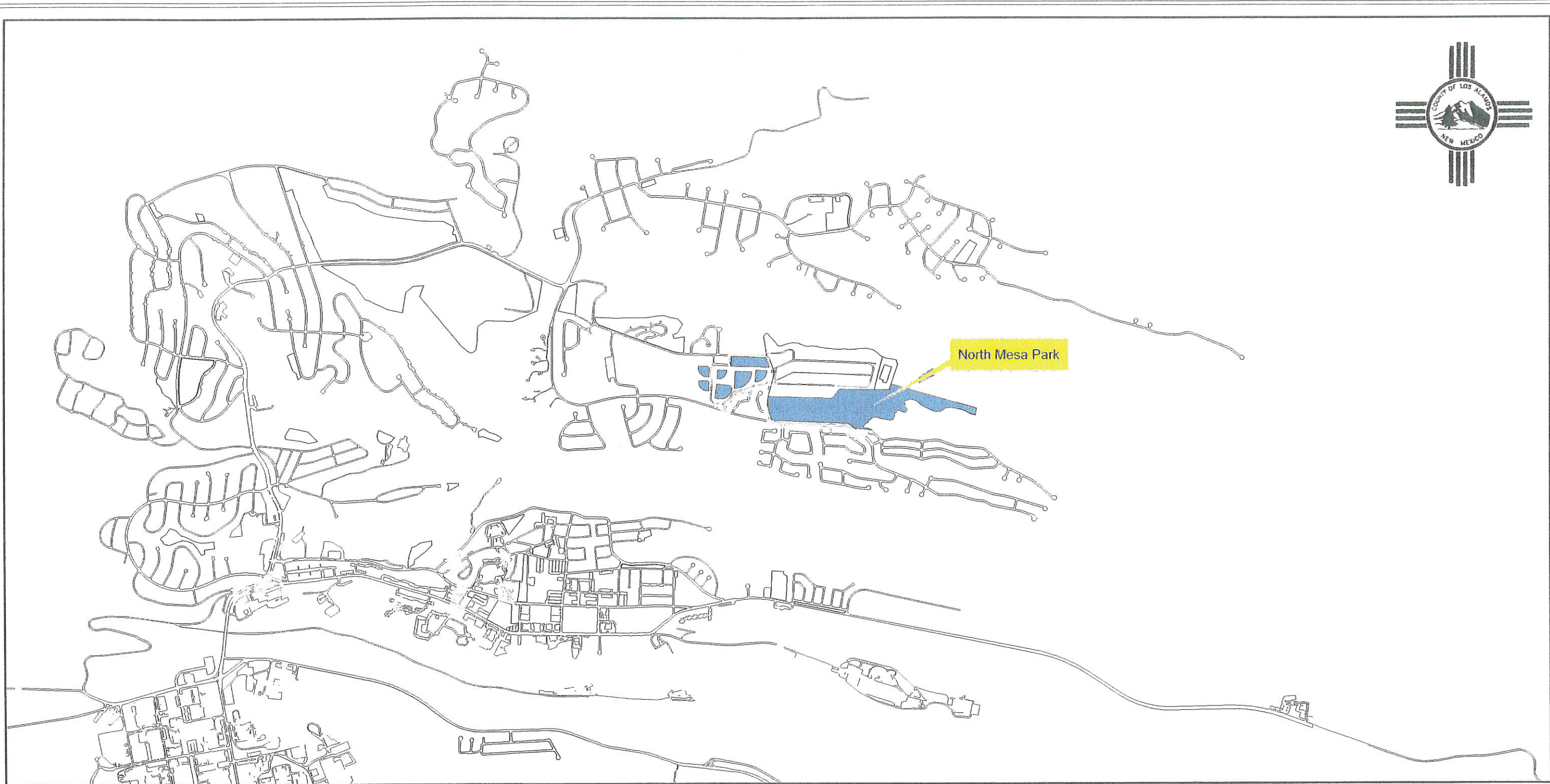
Passive recreational and support facilities:

1. Open grassed play areas
2. Drinking fountains
3. Nature areas
4. Restrooms
5. Trail connection signage
6. Large covered picnic pavilions (with numerous picnic tables)
7. Small covered picnic pavilions
8. Tree plantings
9. Casual seating (in addition to bleachers)

Development Costs: May range from \$500,000 to several million dollars for professional installation, depending on scope

Urban County Parks in Los Alamos County include:

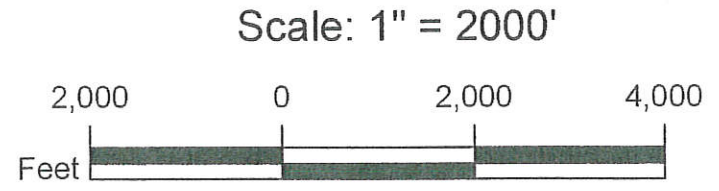
Los Alamos - North Mesa Park
White Rock - Overlook Park



Los Alamos Park Model Urban County Parks

Legend

- Streets
- Neighborhood Pocket Parks
- Residential Community Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Undeveloped Park
- Urban County Parks
- Urban Space



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

Urban Space

An urban space differs from parks in that their purpose is often to provide visual relief in the urban environment. Urban spaces typically do not have recreational amenities found in parks.

Size: Generally under two acres

Service Area: Countywide

Location and Access: Generally adjacent to major streets

Parking: No parking provided

Optional Facilities:

- Maintained turfgrass
- Concrete sidewalks or other walking paths
- Support facilities (site furniture, signage, etc)

Setbacks: Not applicable

Park Lighting: None

Development Costs: Usually less than \$75,000

Urban Spaces in Los Alamos County include:

Los Alamos - East Road Green
Entry Park
Myrtle Street Green

White Rock – State Road 4 Landscape

Undeveloped Parks

An undeveloped park is County land that has been designated a park, but has not been developed or programmed for any type of development.

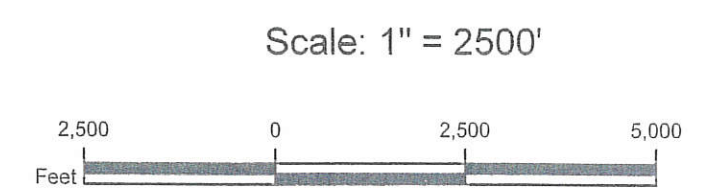
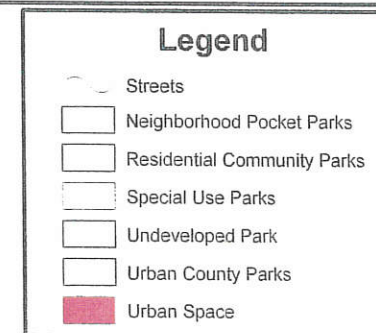
Undeveloped Parks in Los Alamos County include:

Los Alamos - El Gancho
Los Pueblos

White Rock – Grand Canyon Park (with exception of Tot Lot)

Unnamed @ Sherwood
Unnamed @ Bacabi
Park @ Piedra Dr (Community Club)
Unnamed @ Piedra Lp
Unnamed @ La Senda

White Rock Park Model Urban Space



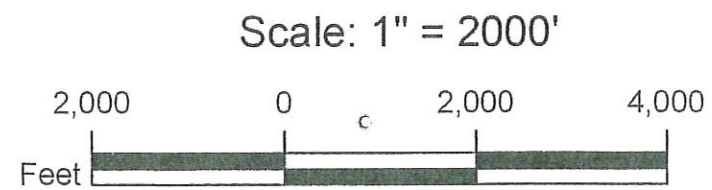
Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



Los Alamos Park Model Special Use Parks

Legend

- Streets
- Neighborhood Pocket Parks
- Residential Community Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Undeveloped Park
- Urban County Parks
- Urban Space



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

Special Use Park

A special use park may address a variety of special amenities, or may only feature a single special place or facility. Special use parks include the following:

- City aesthetics and special events
- Educational facility
- Isolated sports facility
- Area of environmental significance or preservation of natural vegetation
- Area of historic significance

Size: Usually under three acres (may be greater if purpose is to preserve environmentally significant areas)

Service Area: Countywide

Location and Access: Determined by resource availability

Parking: Street parking preferred except where prohibitive

Typical Development:

- Picnic grounds and/or trails and seating in natural areas
- Preservation of historic or culturally significant non-programmed parks
- Tennis courts as stand alone feature of small park
- Isolated soccer or ball field
- Xeriscape plant demonstration garden
- As universally accessible as possible

Setbacks: Not applicable

Park Lighting: None

Community Recommendations:

When residents were surveyed for their most desired preferences for Special Use Park amenities, the top three listed (in order of preference) were nature areas or open play areas, drinking fountains and tree plantings. These are all amenities that provide comfort and increased usability to a park. See below for additional amenities requested by the community for this park category.

Community Defined Preferences for Special Use Park Amenities (listed in order of preference):

1. Nature areas or open play areas
2. Drinking fountains
3. Tree plantings
4. Security lighting
5. Additional seating
6. Trail connection signage
7. Small covered picnic pavilions (where appropriate)
8. Handicap accessibility (accessible sidewalks where possible and appropriate, accessible site furniture where appropriate)
9. Picnic tables

Development Costs: Usually less than \$100,000

Special Use Parks in Los Alamos County include:

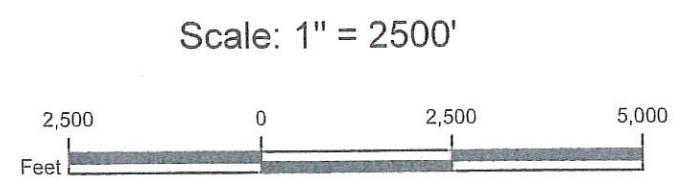
Los Alamos - Ashley Pond
Canyon Road Tennis Courts
Community Center Soccer
Eastgate-Sunrise Park
Fuller Lodge Historic Grounds
Golf Course
Equestrian Facility & Arenas at North Mesa Park
Kinnikinnick Park
Myrtle Street Tennis Courts
North Mesa Picnic Grounds
Skate Park
Xeriscape Demonstration Garden
36th Street Tennis Courts
Camp May

White Rock – none

White Rock Park Model Urban County Parks



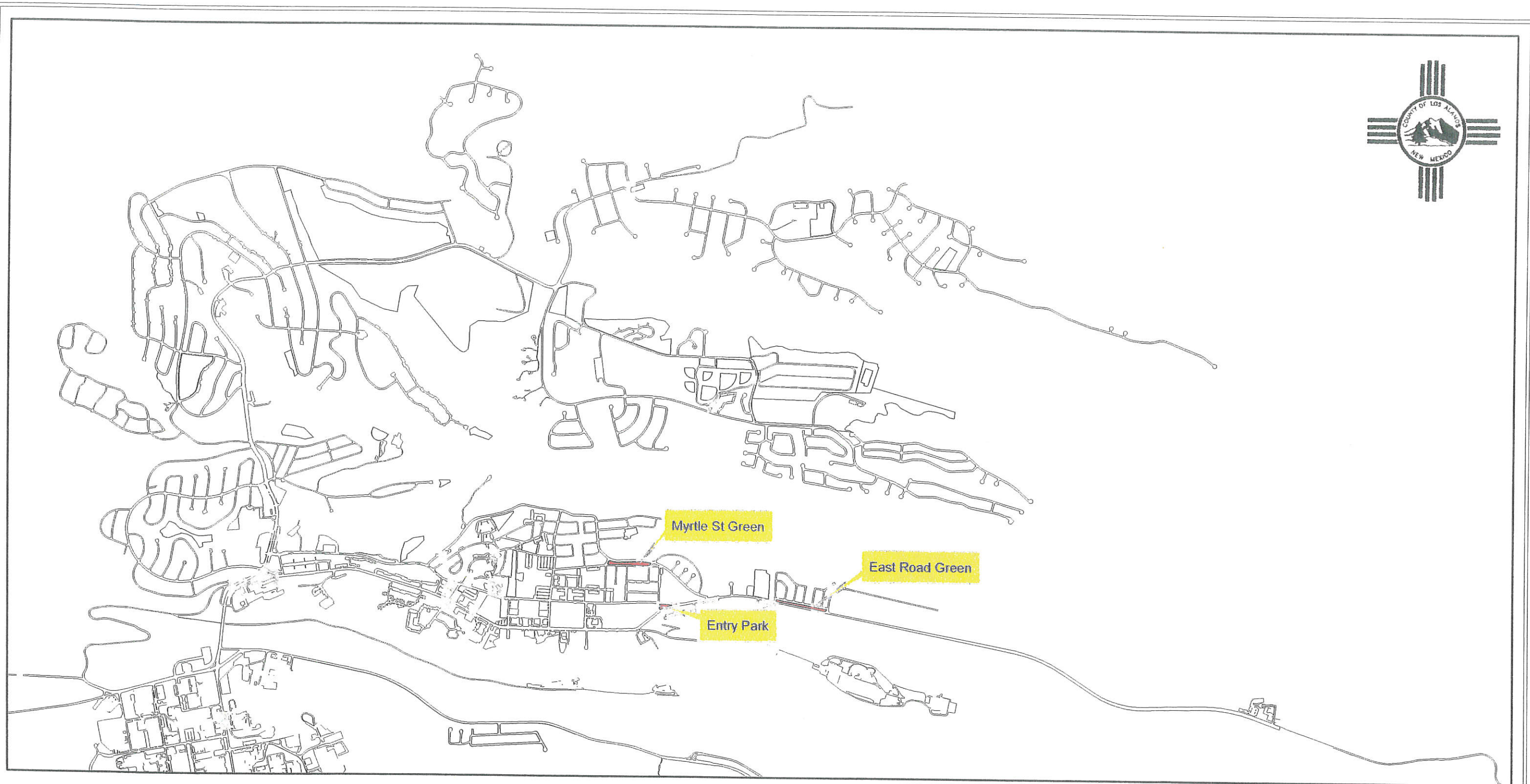
- Legend**
- Streets
 - Neighborhood Pocket Parks
 - Residential Community Parks
 - Special Use Parks
 - Undeveloped Park
 - Urban County Parks
 - Urban Space



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.

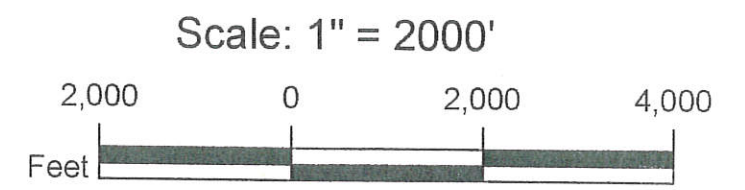


ENTRY PARK IN LOS ALAMOS

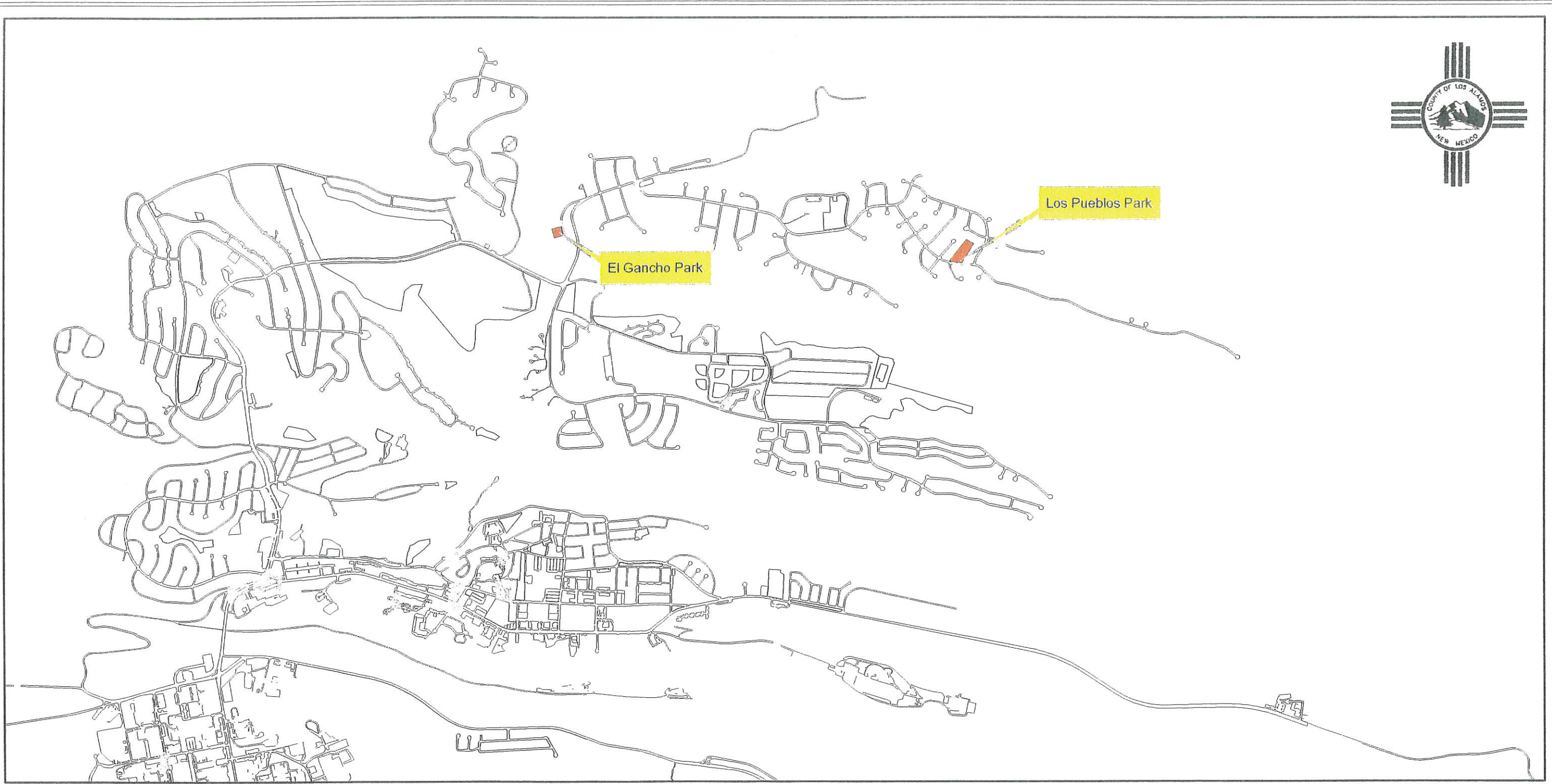


Los Alamos Park Model Urban Space

Legend	
	Streets
	Neighborhood Pocket Parks
	Residential Community Parks
	Special Use Parks
	Undeveloped Park
	Urban County Parks
	Urban Space

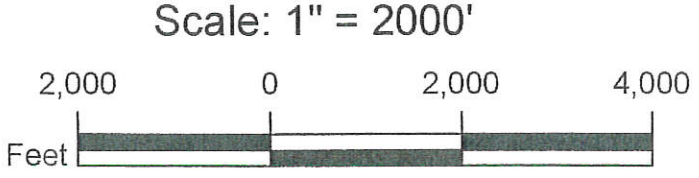


Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



Los Alamos Park Model Undeveloped Parks

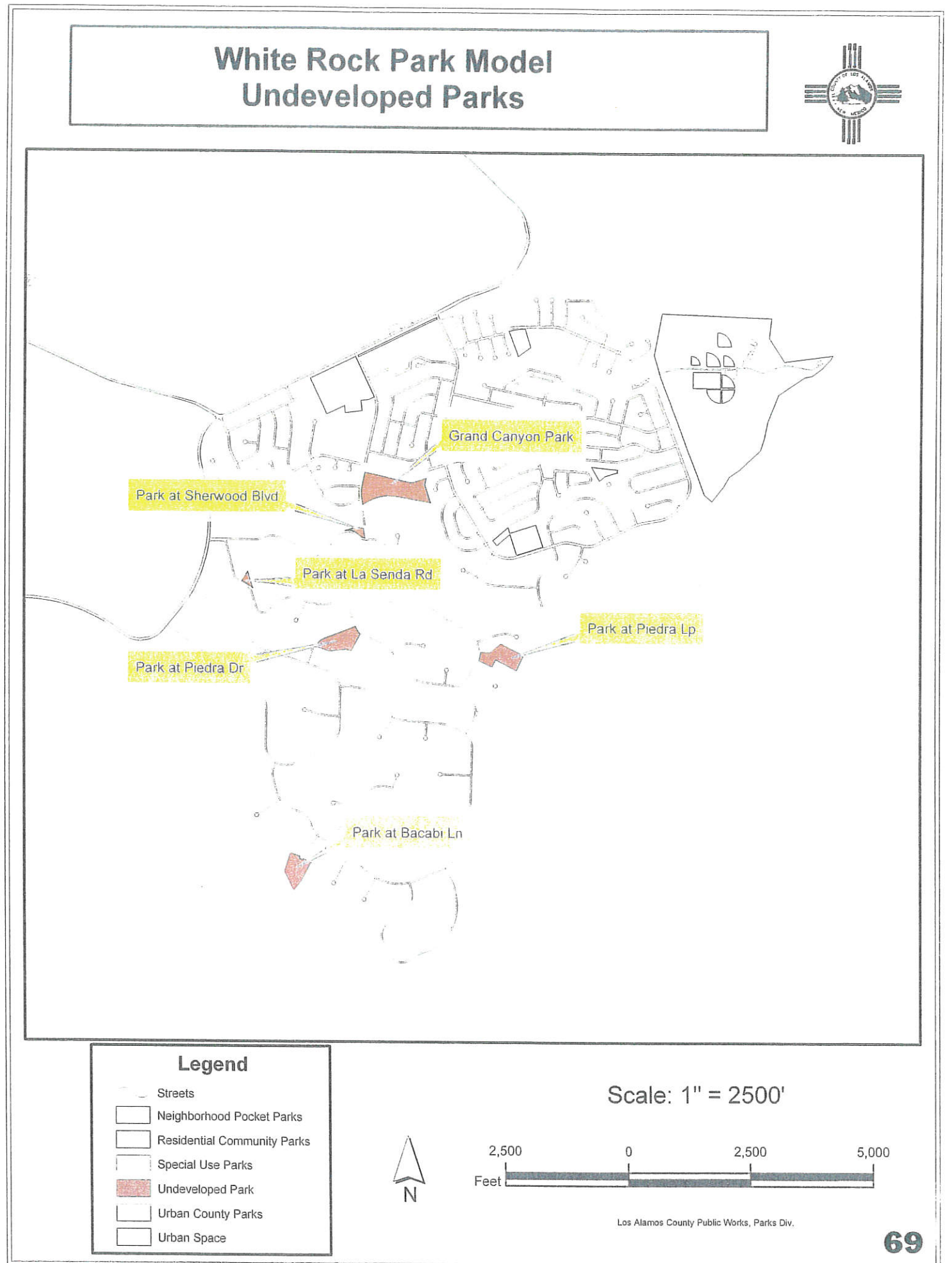
Legend	
	Streets
	Neighborhood Pocket Parks
	Residential Community Parks
	Special Use Parks
	Undeveloped Park
	Urban County Parks
	Urban Space



Los Alamos County Public Works, Parks Div.



GRAND CANYON PARK



X. Appendix One - References

1. Los Alamos County Recreation Master Plan, Prepared for Los Alamos County Council by Los Alamos County Recreation Board, Revised Feb 9, 1984
2. What is Your Vision for Los Alamos, Envision Los Alamos (newspaper flyer), The Community Store, no date (approximately January 2002).
3. Los Alamos County Recreation Needs Assessment Draft, Prepared for Los Alamos County Community Services Department Recreation Division by Planners Ink and Research and Polling, Inc., June 01, 2004

XI. Appendix Two - Plan Development Process

Data Collection and Analysis

Information gathering included the following:

Utilized the Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) developed by the County's Planning Department to include:

- Delineation of Los Alamos and White Rock
- Existing County park locations
- Illustrations of park type distribution
- Illustrations of facility distribution

Reviewed various planning documents including:

- Los Alamos County Recreation Master Plan, Prepared for Los Alamos County Council by Los Alamos County Recreation Board, Revised Feb 9, 1984
- What is Your Vision for Los Alamos, Envision Los Alamos (newspaper flyer), The Community Store, no date (approximately January 2002)
- Los Alamos County Parks Division Playgrounds and Playlots Improvements Final Recommendations, March 29, 2000
- Draft Vision Statement (a summary of the Visioning Process, a County-wide community input and planning process occurring concurrently with the development of this Plan), March 5, 2002
- U.S. Census Bureau information for year 2000 and General Profile for Los Alamos, NM
- Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, National Recreation and Park Association & American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, James D. Mertes, Ph.D. CLP and James R. Hall, CLP, 1996

Reviewed reference materials prepared by the following organizations and municipalities:

- Park System Facility Plan, City of Albuquerque, First (and only) Draft – March 1993
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan, City of Houston, Final Draft – September 2001
- Platte County Park Master Plan, Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation, February 2000
- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Master Plan, 1995

Conducted park site visits for development of park inventory and received public input through the following process:

- Two Visioning Meetings for County Comprehensive Plan
- Six Public Meetings for Parks Master Plan concepts

Plan Development

The development of the Plan will include the following steps:

1. Presentation of Vision Statements (goals) and mission for County Parks system that address:
 - Preservation of Past
 - Protection of Environment
 - Improvement of Recreation
 - Enhancement of youth activities

- Continuous improvement of parks infrastructure
2. Identification of planning environment including:
 - History of Los Alamos Parks and Recreation Facilities
 - Demographic Profile and Projections
 3. Identification of existing resources from:
 - County Parks Division, County Recreation Division of Community Services Department
 - Park site visits
 3. Assessment of needs for parkland and amenities by collecting data from:
 - Standard-based criteria provided by the National Recreation and Park Association
 - Comparison communities
 - Citizen input from public meetings
 4. Assessment of community needs by the collection of data and comments from:
 - Public meetings
 - Public questionnaire
 - Resident telephone survey
 - Criteria from County staff
 5. Development of recommendations including:
 - Youth issues
 - Park facilities
 - Park programming and interface with public
 - Renovation and maintenance issues
 - Parkland development and acquisition
 - Park amenities
 - Costs and funding sources
 4. Preparation of Parks Model to include:
 - Park classifications
 - Park development recommendations
 - Amenity standards and distribution standards
 - Estimations of costs for park renovation and development
 - Community recommendations with stated preferences for facilities and amenities

Plan Review and Adoption

Plan finalization included the following steps:

1. Present Program Document (Site Analysis and Draft Parks Model) to County Public Works, Community Development and Community Services for review
2. Present the Parks Model to three public meetings for citizen comment, and solicit comments on various other parks issues
3. Present the Draft Plan to Community Services Department Parks Division for review
4. Make Final Draft Plan available to the community and County Council for review
5. Present the Final Plan to County Council for comment and adoption

XII. Appendix Three – Park Acreage

Computation of Standard Developed Park Acreage

Standard developed parkland is considered to be land that is developed to a degree adequate to allow for multiple recreational uses by County residents. Standard developed parkland is the summation of all parkland that fits into the following park categories: Neighborhood Pocket Park, Residential Community Park, And Urban County Park. Some Special Use Parks that are located within the metropolitan area may be considered standard developed parkland.

The following parks, and portions of parks, were included as “standard developed park acreage” (numbers correspond to 1996 Los Alamos “Parks Department Areas” Maps, see Appendix Four):

Los Alamos Standard Developed Parkland:

- Ashley Pond (2.5 Ac.)
- 2. Barranca Mesa Park (5.4 Ac.)
- 5. Canyon Rd Tennis Courts (1.68 Ac.)
- Community Center Soccer Field (2.4 Ac.)
- 7. East Park (4.3 Ac.)
- 9. Eastgate-Sunrise Park (1.79 Ac.)
- 12. Fantasy Playlot (.67 Ac.)
- 13. Fuller Lodge Historic Grounds (2.82 Ac.) (Historical Society has design control)
- 20. Loma Linda Tot Lot (1 acre estimated developed of 9.88 Ac.)
- 27. Myrtle St. Green (1.16 Ac.)
- 28. Myrtle St. Tennis Courts (.19 Ac.)
- 29. North Mesa Park (23 acres estimated developed of 410.93 Ac.)
- 31. North Mesa Picnic Grounds (16.8 Ac.)
- 32. Orange Street Tot Lot (.42 Ac.)
- 34. Pine Street Playlot (.96 Ac.)
- 37. Ridgeway Tot Lot (2.74 Ac.)
- 38. San Ildefonso Park (.45 Ac.)
- 42. Urban Park (8.98 Ac.)
- 43. Walnut Street Tot Lot (1.29 Ac.)
- 44. Western Area Park (3.93 Ac.)
- 47. 36th Street Tennis Courts (.16 Ac.)
- 48. 37th Street Tot Lot (1.33 Ac.)

Total Los Alamos Standard Developed Park Acreage: 84

White Rock Standard Developed Parkland:

- 1. Grand Canyon Tot Lot (0.5 Ac. Estimated)
- 2. Jeffrey Tot Lot (1.6 Ac.)
- 3. Mountain Meadows Tot Lot (3.36 Ac.)
- 4. Overlook Park (102 acres estimated developed of 156.13 Ac.)
- 7. Pinon Park (4 acres estimated developed of 21.66 Ac.)
- 8. Rover Park (6.24 Ac.)

Total Los Alamos Standard Developed Park Acreage: 117.5

**Total Los Alamos County Standard Developed Park Acreage:
201.5**

Computation of Total County Park Acreage

The following parks, and portions of parks, were included as "total park acreage":

Los Alamos Parkland:

- Ashley Pond (2.5 Ac.)
 - 6. Barranca Mesa Park (5.4 Ac.)
 - Brewer Arena (3 ac.)
 - 5. Canyon Rd Tennis Courts (1.68 Ac.)
 - Community Center Soccer Field (2.4 Ac.)
 - 7. East Park (4.3 Ac.)
 - 9. Eastgate-Sunrise Park (1.79 Ac.)
 - 10. El Gancho (1 Ac. Estimated)
 - 11. Entry Park (1.13 Ac.)
 - 12. Fantasy Playlot (.67 Ac.)
 - 13. Fuller Lodge Historic Grounds (2.82 Ac.) (Historical Society has design control)
 - 19. Kinnikinnick Park (2.5 Ac. Estimated)
 - 20. Loma Linda Tot Lot (9.88 Ac.)
 - Los Pueblos (3 Ac. Estimated)
 - 27. Myrtle St. Green (1.16 Ac.)
 - 28. Myrtle St. Tennis Courts (.19 Ac.)
 - 29. North Mesa Park (410.93 Ac.)
 - 31. North Mesa Picnic Grounds (16.8 Ac.)
 - 32. Orange Street Tot Lot (.42 Ac.)
 - 34. Pine Street Playlot (.96 Ac.)
 - 37. Ridgeway Tot Lot (2.74 Ac.)
 - 38. San Ildefonso Park (.45 Ac.)
 - Skate Park (1 Ac. Estimated)
 - 39. North Mesa Stables (43.96 Ac.)
 - 42. Urban Park (8.98 Ac.)
 - 43. Walnut Street Tot Lot (1.29 Ac.)
 - 44. Western Area Park (3.93 Ac.)
 - 45. Xeriscape Demonstration Garden (0.57 Ac.)
 - 47. 36th Street Tennis Courts (.16 Ac.)
 - 48. 37th Street Tot Lot (1.33 Ac.)
 - Camp May (30 Ac.)
- Total Los Alamos Park Acreage: 566.94**

White Rock Parkland:

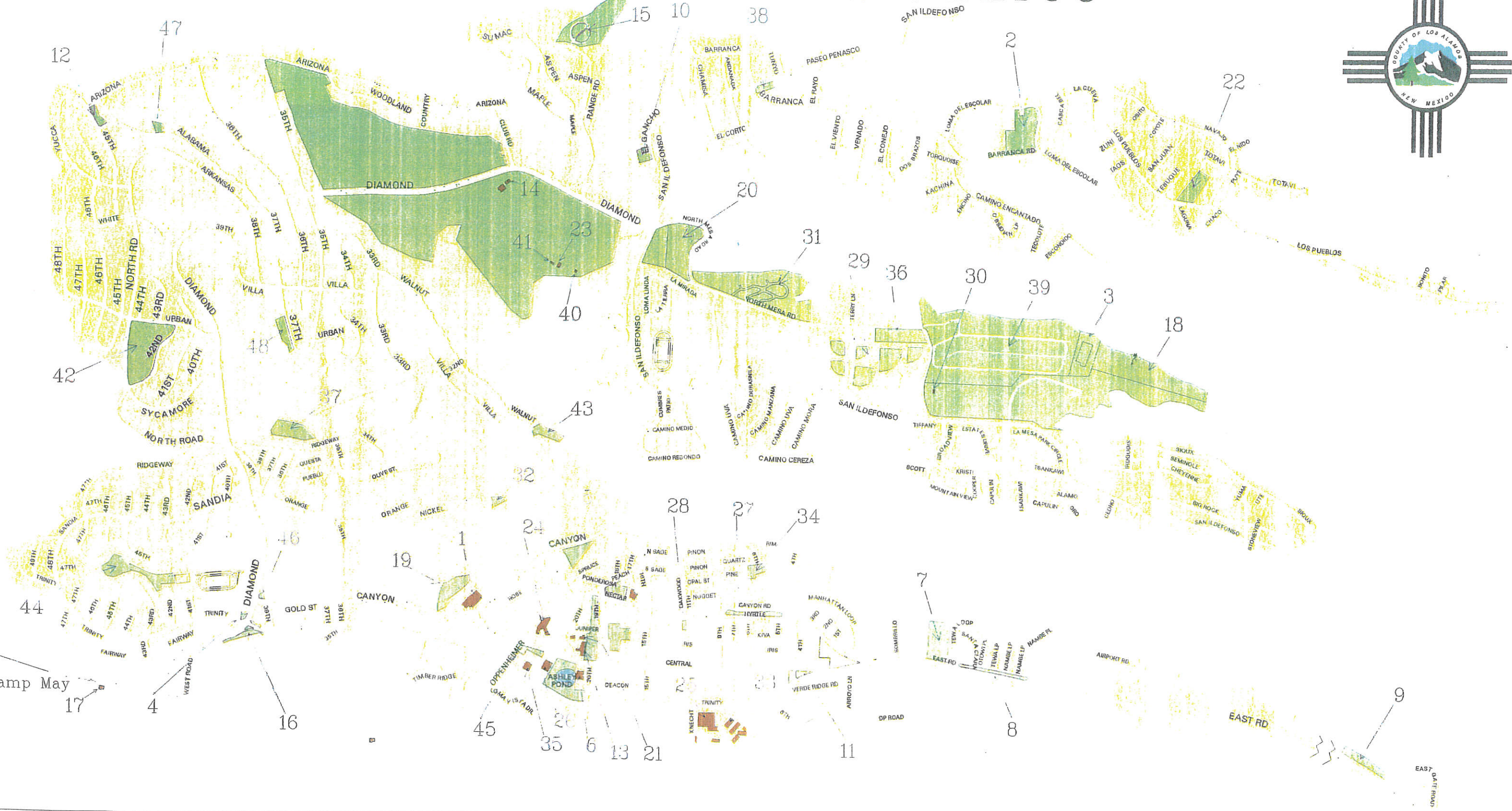
- Community Club (5 Ac. Estimated)
 - 1. Grand Canyon Park and Tot Lot (13.5 Ac.)
 - 2. Jeffrey Tot Lot (1.6 Ac.)
 - 3. Mountain Meadows Tot Lot (3.36 Ac.)
 - 4. Overlook Park (156.13 Ac.)
 - 7. Pinon Park (21.66 Ac.)
 - 6. Rover Park (6.24 Ac.)
 - 7. State Road 4 Landscape (2.07 Ac.)
 - Unnamed @ Sherwood (1 Ac. Estimated)
 - Unnamed @ Bacabi (5 Ac. Estimated)
 - Unnamed @ Piedra (6 Ac. Estimated)
 - Unnamed @ La Senda (1 Ac. Estimated)
- Total Los Alamos Park Acreage: 222.56**

Total Los Alamos County Park Acreage: 789.5

XIII. Appendix Four – 1996 Los Alamos County "Parks Department Areas" Maps

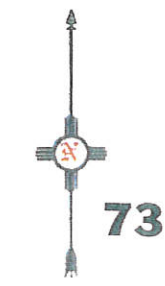
The following maps are provided for informational and record-keeping purposes only. The Parks Department Areas Maps were produced by Los Alamos County in 1996.

LOS ALAMOS NEW MEXICO

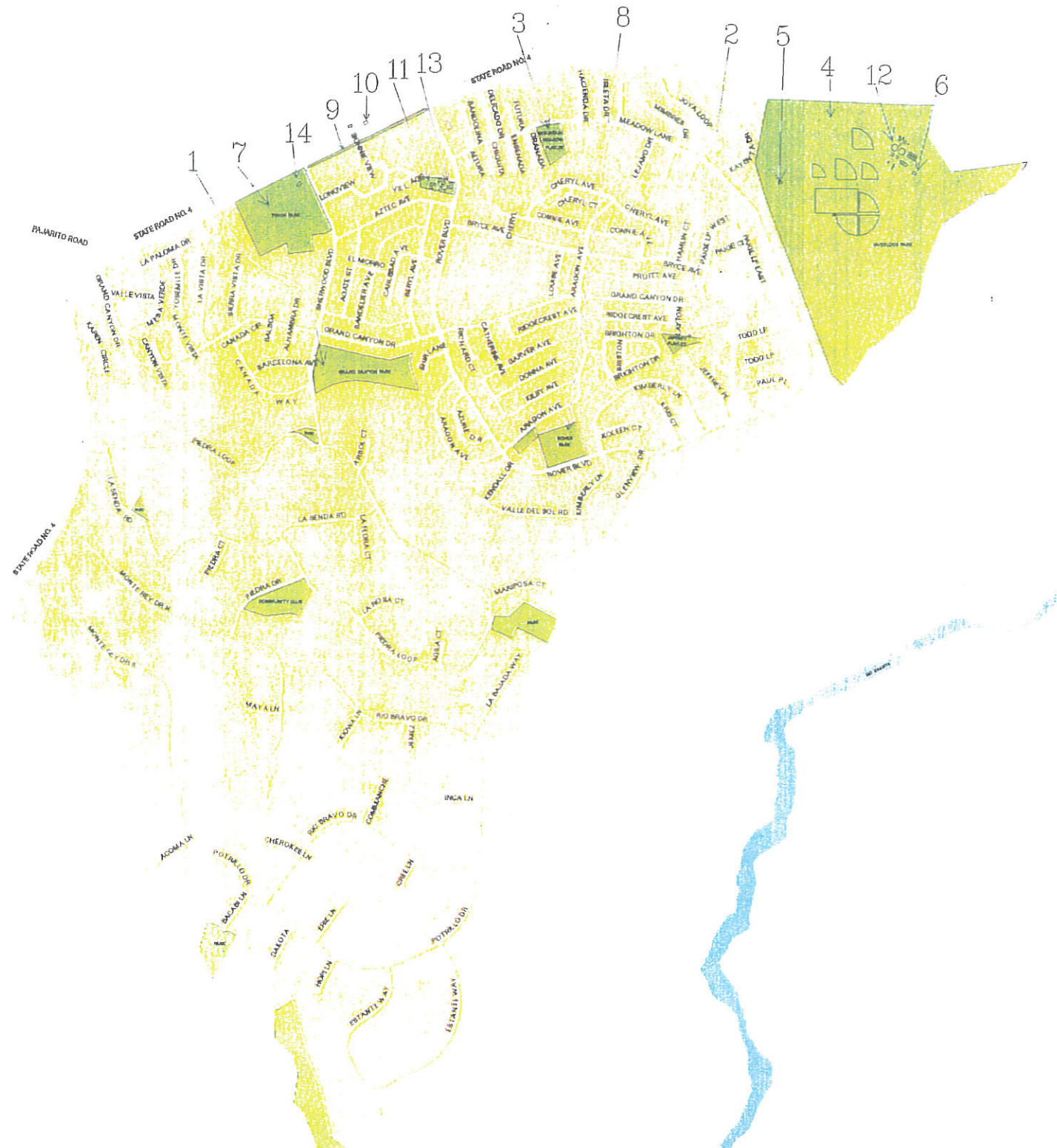


- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Aquatic Center | 13. Fuller Lodge | 25. Municipal Annex | 37. Ridgeway Tot Lot |
| 2. Barranca Mesa Park | 14. Golf Course Pro Shop/Clubhouse | 26. Municipal Building | 38. San Ildefonso Playlot |
| 3. Brewer Rodeo Arena | 15. Guaje Pines Cemetery | 27. Myrtle Street Green | 39. Stables |
| 4. Bus Stop | 16. Hospital Islands | 28. Myrtle Street Tennis Courts | 40. Standby/Intern House |
| 5. Canyon Street Tennis Courts | 17. Ice Rink | 29. North Mesa Ballfields | 41. Superintendent's House |
| 6. Community Building | 18. Jackson Dressage Arena | 30. North Mesa Caretaker | 42. Urban Park |
| 7. East Park | 19. Kinnickinick Park | 31. North Mesa Picnic Grounds | 43. Walnut Street Playlot |
| 8. East Road Green | 20. Loma Linda Tot Lot | 32. Orange Street Playlot | 44. Western Area Park |
| 9. Eastgate-Sunrise Park | 21. Los Alamos Historical Museum | 33. Park Operation Shop/Office | 45. Xeriscape Demonstration Garden |
| 10. El Gancho | 22. Los Pueblos | 34. Pine Street Playlot | 46. YWY Corner |
| 11. Entry Park | 23. Maintenance Barn | 35. Police Department | 47. 36th Street Tennis Courts |
| 12. Fantasy Playlot | 24. Mesa Public Library | 36. Recreational Vehicle Storage | 48. 37th Street Playlot |

Los Alamos County Utilities
 Planning and Engineering Division
PARKS DEPARTMENT AREAS
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 1400 FEET
 Produced by: Greg Baca
 Date: June 25, 1996



WHITE ROCK NEW MEXICO



ROVER PARK IN WHITE ROCK

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grand Canyon Park 2. Jeffrey Playlot 3. Meadow Lane Playlot 4. Overlook Park 5. Overlook Park Caretaker 6. Overlook Park Maintenance 7. Pinon Park 8. Rover Park 9. State Road 4 Landscape 10. Tourist Information Center 11. White Rock Library 12. White Rock Sewer Treatment Plant 13. White Rock Town Hall 14. Youth Activity Center 	<p>Los Alamos County Utilities Planning and Engineering Division PARKS DEPARTMENT AREAS SCALE: 1 INCH = 1900 FEET Produced by: Greg Baca Date: June 26, 1996</p> <p><small>Great care has been taken in preparing the information on this map from a variety of sources. This map is not a legal document. The Utilities GIS department does not warrant the information contained herein, and shall not be held liable for any errors or omissions.</small></p>	
<p>74</p>	<p>0 1900 3800 FEET</p>		