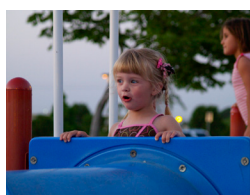
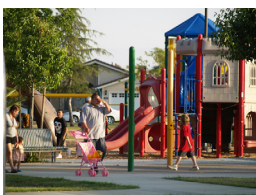




RECREATION AND PARK MASTER PLAN 2010 -2020



**PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
2010 – 2020
for
NORTH OF THE RIVER
RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT**



Pictured Left to Right: Stuart Patteson, Bobbie Roberson, Steve Ruettgers, Dana Martin, Jim Eckroth

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Adoption Date:

June 20, 2011

Resolution Number:

25-11

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all who have been involved in the process giving input and helping develop this important document to guide the direction for recreation programming and park maintenance and development in the area known as North of the River Recreation and Park District. A special thanks to area residents, school officials and others who responded to the needs survey and/or provided suggestions and comments for consideration related to future directions for this agency.

Special thanks to staff who prepared, typed, reviewed, and/or contributed in any way to the development of this document.



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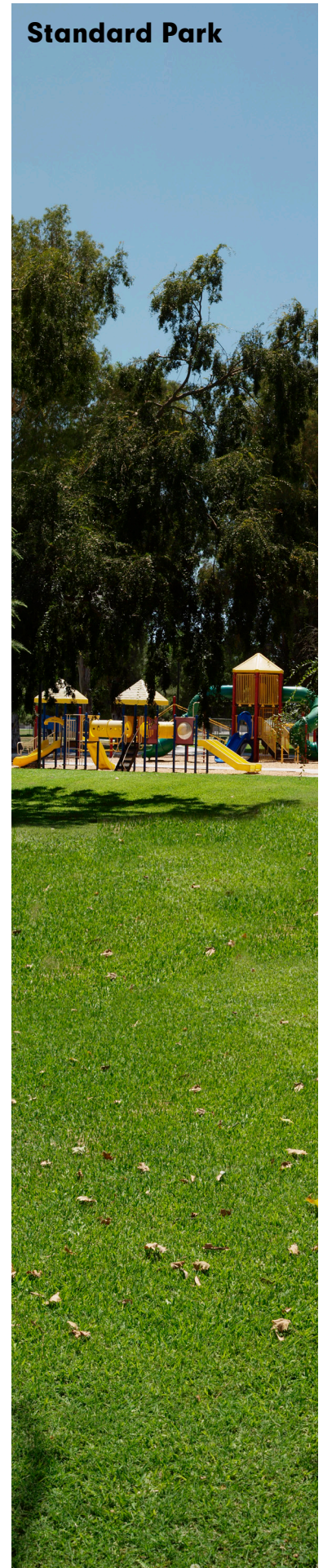
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INTRODUCTION



Silver Oak Park Playground

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

The park district was established by a vote of the people in 1955 and included approximately 22,000 people within its boundary. Initially it was named North of the River Public Recreation District, fondly referred to as “NOR.” In 1960 (through auspices of the 1957 Recreation and Park Special District law) the district was renamed North Bakersfield Recreation and Park District. After the name change residents continued to refer to the district as “NOR,” so for the 50th anniversary of the founding of the district it was once again renamed to reflect the “NOR” common reference, per provisions of Public Resources Code Section 5786.9(b).

North of the River Recreation and Park District (NOR), as it was renamed in 2005, has undergone many changes since its early beginning in Oildale. These changes have created the need for diversified programs to meet the needs of area residents. NOR currently encompasses approximately 215 square miles, including the 90 square mile area annexed in 2007, and houses an estimated population of about 123,300 people. This population is generally validated by the 2000 Census statistics.

As early as 1939 park and recreation needs were recognized when an area developer deeded approximately two acres of land for park purposes to Kern County. This first donation is known as McCray Park. Since that early start, area residents have been increasingly aware of the need for park facilities and recreation programs. Kern County relinquished its jurisdiction for park and recreation services to NOR even though it continued to maintain three local parks in the area until 1990. It was then that Sears, McCray and Standard Parks were deeded to NOR.

Originally, the park district consisted of the area north of the Kern River generally east of Freeway 99 consisting of most of the Standard and Beardsley School Districts. Expansion of the recreation district occurred in 1972 when NOR expanded to include Fruitvale, Norris and Rosedale Union School Districts.

A major service area change occurred in 2007 when approximately 90 square miles, most of Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District, was annexed into NOR and resulted in the need to reconsider plans for providing park and recreation services.

Major growth, increased population densities and rapidly growing populations in many areas of NOR have challenged the organized delivery of facilities and services. Strong growth during recent years has further exacerbated the need for expanded services and facilities.

PLAN ROLE AND PURPOSE

The changing development scene north of the river, growth, annexation and the age of the last planning document have initiated the need for a Master Plan update. Some assumptions made in 1995 when the last park master plan was prepared no longer reflect reality. In 1990, the Metropolitan Bakersfield 2010 General Plan was adopted by the City of Bakersfield and County of Kern which included a “Parks Element”. Provisions from that document will continue to influence the NOR Park Master Plan. Changing interests, geographic service area changes and financial conditions have subsequently generated the need for the recommendations included in this update.

The NOR Master Plan has been revised consistently about every ten years since 1965 to adjust to the changing needs of area constituents. It is prepared with the intention to provide services in a more economical manner through adjusting standards and looking to new cooperative delivery methods. It is anticipated that considerable residential development will continue to occur within NOR boundaries south of the approximate alignment of Petrol Road and will press west into the Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District area.

Growth within NOR has accelerated considerably since the document was last adopted in 1995. This revision attempts to recognize and plan for anticipated growth and changes.

The NOR park system includes a series of parks classified as community parks, neighborhood parks and mini parks. Community parks facilitate the major active recreational venues and accommodate large numbers of people in leisure pursuits. Each community park service area overlays the service areas of multiple neighborhood and mini parks. Neighborhood and mini parks serve the close-to-home needs for smaller portions of the population and generally provide sites for less organized activities.

This plan is intended to be a policy document and to give long range direction to assist in the provision of facilities and services to this rapidly growing area. It is intended to direct development to the year 2020. Nothing in this plan is intended to conflict with the currently adopted Metropolitan Bakersfield 2010 General Plan or the Kern County Year 2000 General Plan. This document will define, in greater detail, provisions for park and recreation services within the NOR area north of the Kern River.

An analysis of current facilities is measured against NOR facilities and acreage standards to determine how closely the needs of the community are being met. This document will, to the extent possible, address the needs of all user's interests and limitations. It is expected that uniformity of services and quality and variety of programs and facilities will be improved through this study.

UPDATE PROCESS

This plan is the result of the efforts of interested NOR residents who offer suggestions and give input to improve services provided by NOR. Some of the input comes from recreation program participants who have firsthand experience using NOR park and recreation services. Further direction comes from a resident survey. Additionally, other stakeholders such as school officials and other recreation program providers in the NOR area have provided suggestions for the plan area. This input allows customizing services to meet identified needs of NOR constituents.

It is the interest and involvement of the community that validate the direction provided with this document. Input from schools, the City, the County and other interested entities is most helpful to this review and update. Goals, policies and recommendations are made using the input received from all of the various sources. Implementation relies, to some extent, upon planning and development approvals received through the City of Bakersfield or County of Kern. Private developers are also involved in providing parkland, site improvements and/or fees to help improve the park sites. This combination of effort ultimately provides a quality of life defined by the resultant livability created.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Ball Field at North Highland Park

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The "Executive Summary" is formulated using data discovered during preparation of the "Needs Analysis," "Standards" outline and proposed "Recommendations" sections. The "Needs Analysis" section reviews concerns and their ramifications for future planning. Considerations addressed include: Trends, Demographics, Socioeconomics, Financial, Open Space, Conservation, Circulation, Marketing, Recreation, Maintenance, Safety and Security, and Accessibility. Abbreviated summaries regarding the identified considerations are outlined in this section. For more detailed discussions, the appropriate sections should be reviewed in their entirety.

Goals, Objectives and Policies related to the considerations mentioned above were established which created direction for Standards and Recommendations that have been formulated to guide the ultimate future decision making process for NOR.

TRENDS

North of the River Recreation and Park District (NOR) and national leisure trends should guide current and future program and facility development.

Changing trends will continuously need to be monitored to adequately address leisure expectations within NOR.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Rapid residential growth justifies the coinciding expansion of facilities and programs.

Highest growth is west of Freeway 99, thus, generating the need to concentrate new facilities in that area to meet the expanding population needs.

Greatest growth includes the very young and seniors who create the need for special attention to these groups while maintaining quality services for the total population.

Population changes related to traditional households versus single heads of households and the changing makeup of the population brings new challenges to meet the desires of all.

SOCIOECONOMICS

Evaluations of changing socioeconomic factors will be important in bringing more specific focus to programs and facilities.

Human factors (i.e., household incomes, mobility and population mix) are vastly different east of Freeway 99 than west of the freeway causing the need for offerings to be consistent and empathetic with area socioeconomic abilities.

FINANCIAL

Monitoring funding trends is essential in order to maintain the viability of NOR.

Operations will need to continue to fit the finance stream.

Cash reserves should be maintained for replacement and improvement of fixed assets.

A mechanism should be maintained relating to cost recovery associated with programs and the use of facilities.

Financial policies need to support expansion of developed parkland required to serve residential growth.

OPEN SPACE

NOR is an important contributor in meeting the needs of the residents even though it is not responsible to govern such spaces.

Open space provided by NOR is universally beneficial to all residents of the north of the Kern River community because it is open to the general public without specific focus or designated use.

The Kern River corridor provides important open space for NOR residents.

CONSERVATION

NOR should be an active participant in conserving natural resources.

Prudent use of water and electricity are critically important for NOR.

Park development should be managed in a way that does not induce leap frog growth of residential development, but instead supports orderly and systematic community growth.

It is important for NOR to help protect natural significant flora and fauna through careful development of its facilities and services.

CIRCULATION

Convenient access to parks is important.

Safety of various forms of circulation within parks (pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle) must be a high priority.



Standard Park

MARKETING

Promotion of programs and facilities is important to the growth and vitality of NOR.

Ongoing evaluation of programs and facilities is crucial in building a positive NOR image.

RECREATION

Program categories should be frequently analyzed for pertinence and practicality.

Recreation should, to the degree possible, provide equal opportunities for all.

Team efforts with other recreation providers expand overall efficiency and opportunities.

Continual evaluation of programs plays a role in justifying new and expanded offerings.

Recreational studies, surveys and research are helpful in identifying trend related programming options that should be incorporated.

Major program events are high priorities to area residents.

The results of the 2009 community survey gives guidance related to recreational desires and expectations of NOR constituents.

MAINTENANCE

Standards for park maintenance have been defined to cover the significant elements of appropriate care including premium components and undeveloped site considerations.

NOR has and may expand some responsibilities for street and trail landscape maintenance.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Safety is a consideration in development of all facility improvements.

Personnel involved in park programs and facility safety and security are significant to the overall satisfaction of NOR residents.

Training regarding safety provides staff with needed resources in working with NOR constituents.



Silver Oak Park

NOR uses security practices to help decrease loss, damage, and abuse of facilities and programs.

Up to date communications are an important asset for NOR services.

Emergency planning prepares staff for crisis situations before they occur.

ACCESSIBILITY

New facility construction will meet, at least, the minimum requirement for access.

Existing programs and facilities are being modified, where possible, to meet the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

STANDARDS

A total recommended park acreage standard includes three acres per 1,000 people. The recommended standard includes two acres per 1,000 people for neighborhood parks and one acre per 1,000 people for community parks. The accomplishment of this recommendation is contingent upon adoption of the standard by the City of Bakersfield and Kern County.

Neighborhood parks, preferred to be ten acres in size, are provided for close to home activities including mostly active recreational areas while preserving at least 25% of each site for more passive activities.

Community parks, with a preferred minimum usable size of 20 acres, are highly programmed and include recreational pursuits that require travel for most to participate in lighted field sports activities, aquatic facilities and community centers.

Mini parks may be provided in areas of severe shortage of parks and low land availability.

The park acreage recommendations include a proposed increase to the existing standard by .5 acre per 1,000 people.

Facility standards help determine adequacy and timing for adding needed recreational elements.

To meet facility standards required to accommodate the projected population by 2010, the following recreational improvements were needed: six children's play areas, five basketball courts, six tennis courts, three baseball diamonds, four softball/baseball combination facilities, four soccer facilities, one swimming pool, one skating/skateboard park and one dog park. By the end of 2011 with completion of two parks currently under construction only four children's play areas, two and one half basketball courts, four tennis courts, two baseball diamonds, one swimming pool, one skating/skateboard park and one dog park are needed

Based on population estimates between 2010 and 2020, it is expected that, in addition to identified needed facilities by 2010 as defined in the above paragraph, additional facilities are required. They include: six children's play areas, the equivalent of twelve family eight-foot picnic tables, six basketball courts, five volleyball courts, four tennis courts, one lighted baseball diamond, three soccer fields, one swimming pool, one community center, one skating/skateboard facility, and one dog park.

Standards need to be open to change as may be determined from ongoing community input.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES



Greenacres Park and Community Center

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Criteria is generated to guide future development within North of the River Recreation and Park District (NOR). This criteria is presented as goals, objectives and policies. These guidelines outline major areas of concern and emphasis for upcoming years. Goals, objectives and policies working together with established park acreage and facilities parameters assist in the decision-making process to help maintain consistency and equity throughout the entire service area.

For years, NOR has desired to adopt a three acre per 1,000 people standard. While goals, objectives and policies are directed to this standard, the reality is that such a standard cannot become effective until a three acre per 1,000 standard is adopted by the land use administrators for the metropolitan Bakersfield area including Kern County and the City of Bakersfield. Nevertheless, goals, objectives and policies are set to guide future actions and, therefore, look to a standard that NOR feels should be supported to create the quality of environment that is felt to be appropriate for Bakersfield.

Both Kern County and the City of Bakersfield have discussed increasing the park acreage standard. NOR, with this plan, is on record in support of a three acre per 1,000 standard for local parks.

Without a three acre per 1,000 standard, the division of the 2.5 acre standard is 1.5 acres of neighborhood parks and one acre of community parks per 1,000 population.

Pre-established goals, objectives and policies are the direction provided to governing bodies, staff and the community alike. They justify decisions and bring organization to a system.

The “Recommendations” section, near the end of this document, specifically describes required actions to develop equity district wide by the year 2020.



Standard Park Ball Field

North Meadows Park



GOAL: PROVIDE A QUALITY RECREATION AND PARK SYSTEM EQUITABLE TO ALL NOR RESIDENTS.

Objective:	Develop local parks at a standard of 3 acres per 1,000 population.	
Policies:	1.	First priority park development is neighborhood and community parks.
	2.	Provide a park system at a standard of 3 acres/1,000 population through the requirements of the Quimby Act/Subdivision Fees.
	3.	Develop additional park acreage through acceptance of donated drill sites, sump areas, utility corridors, etc., to supplement adjacent park sites where limiting factors and development requirements allow recreational use of the land in addition to other uses or designations.
	4.	Distribute parks in a geographically equitable manner throughout the entire 215 square mile geographic area.
	5.	Priority park development will coincide with county/city approved residential growth.
	6.	Provide a system of neighborhood parks which meet close to home needs. Maximum service areas shall be a one mile radius with an optimum park size of ten acres.
	7.	Larger neighborhood parks are more labor efficient and less expensive to maintain and program; therefore, distance to NOR facilities will be maximized using fewer sites to serve the population in order to preserve tax savings to constituents.
	8.	Larger parks to serve intensive recreational programs will be provided to accommodate the population in each identified community area within NOR. Minimum size should be 20 acres with 30 acres or larger preferred. Development will include considerations to reduce long term operating and maintenance costs.
	9.	Areas of rapid growth will have highest priority for land acquisition and development.
	10.	Parklands will be purchased as early as possible to reduce land acquisition costs and ensure equitable distribution of open space.
	11.	Where possible, developers of residential projects will be involved in providing park development. If improvements are not provided by the developer, appropriate park development fees must be contributed to create usable park sites.
	12.	Mini parks may be developed in conjunction with higher density development and will generally be the responsibility of homeowners or apartment developers for construction and maintenance. Only in the case of isolated unserved areas will NOR be involved in mini park development and operation.
	13.	Regional recreation facilities will normally be provided by the county, city, state or federal governments. NOR facilities may be placed adjacent to regional sites to jointly serve and embellish recreational opportunities. NOR neighborhood and community parks may serve as staging and activity areas connecting to regional serving facilities.
	14.	Planning in this document anticipates the likely growth during the next ten years.

Objective:	Promote quality residential areas through NOR “Good Neighbor” park practices.	
Policies:	1.	Lighted playing fields will generally be developed at community park sites.
	2.	Major traffic generating activities will be developed at community park sites.
	3.	Community parks will be located with access from major traffic routes.
	4.	Swimming pools will generally occur at community park sites, preferably near high schools and with convenient access to elementary schools.
	5.	Variety in the design of park facilities should help enhance the lifestyle of residents to be served.
	6.	Vegetation, earth form and activity location will be arranged to help protect adjacent properties from noise and light glare. Parks will be maintained and developed with a high regard for safety and user satisfaction.
	7.	To the greatest extent possible, sites will be developed to enhance and blend with the community.
	8.	Neighborhood parks will generally not include playfield sports lighting. Lighting will be included for court games, group picnic shelters and playgrounds.
	9.	Neighborhood and community parks will be developed to encourage a wide range of active recreational venues that encourage active play; thus, helping address obesity issues among the populace.
	10.	Neighborhood parks are provided primarily for nearby residents, those within a maximum one mile radius.
	11.	Programmed activities at neighborhood parks will be considerate of the carrying capacity of parks based on available off-street parking and other park amenities.
Objective:	Maximize recreation and park opportunities through community/developer involvement.	
Policies	1.	Requirements for park fees will consider population density together with development and land acquisition cost escalation.
	2.	Pursue grants, donations and volunteerism to enhance opportunities to serve the populace.



Senior Health and Fitness Fair at the Rasmussen Center



Greenacres Park

GOAL: ADOPT STANDARDS FOR RECREATION AND PARK SERVICES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL NOR RESIDENTS.

Objective:	Provide a diversity of programs and facilities to meet the needs of varying interests using market analysis and public input to determine program emphasis.	
Policies:	1.	Highest priority will be given to offer programs which serve the highest number of NOR residents over long periods of time.
	2.	Programs will be categorized with NOR financial support decreasing as the user group becomes more specialized. Programs with greater participation levels will be eligible for higher NOR financial support.
	3.	Accommodate social, cultural and ethnic needs in programming.
	4.	Develop play areas which provide activities for both preschoolers and school age children.
	5.	Operate programs at times convenient to the users.
	6.	Establish both passive and active park development to accommodate programmed activities and drop-in use. A minimum of 25% of the useable area will be dedicated to spontaneous play uses.
	7.	Facilities will be designed to meet the needs of all population segments from children to seniors, fully active to disabled. All new development will accommodate the disabled. Older facilities will be upgraded to make services available to disabled persons. Program changes will be made to service challenged users.
	8.	Develop parks adjacent to schools to provide a wider range of programs at less cost to NOR taxpayers.
	9.	Collect public opinions to ascertain park and recreational needs of NOR residents. Meetings will be held at least yearly to present the capital budget. Hearings to receive input regarding park development will be held as needed.

GOAL: DEVELOP AND PRACTICE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION IN PROGRAMMING AND DEVELOPMENT.

Objective: Reduce relative resource consumption by improving design and performance through use of proven new products.

- Policies:**
1. Use energy efficient construction and light sources in all development and remodeling work.
 2. Design facilities which will uphold heavy use and require minimal maintenance.
 3. Follow practices of conservation in operating facilities.
 4. Establish methods of operation and development to conserve water.
 5. Use products that can be recycled and/or that have been constructed from recycled materials.

Objective: Preserve the environment of NOR.

- Policies:**
1. Assist in the preservation of key natural open space areas and prime agricultural lands through providing parks for new residential growth without inducing growth.
 2. Use alternative energy sources where possible to generate savings and for other environmental considerations.



Swim Lessons



Clothing Drives



Water Play



Facility Dedications



Education



Tennis Courts

NEEDS ANALYSIS



Silver Oak Park Picnic Shelter

NEEDS ANALYSIS

A needs analysis assists in measuring discovered data in relationship to established standards at the same time comparing them with attitudes and desires of the constituents being served. This analysis helps develop facilities and programs that will, to the greatest degree possible, provide opportunities to meet the expectations of the NOR population based on a comparison of social values, actual needs, historical and traditional services, economics and trends.

NOR has a long history of providing extensive recreation services. Recreation was the actual impetus that initially generated the desire to form a special district to provide recreation and park services. From the early beginnings it was the recreation programs that initiated and defined the required facilities to accommodate constituent expectations.

A realistic analysis of recreation and park services includes considerations related to trends, demographic, socioeconomic, financial, open space, conservation, circulation, marketing, recreation, maintenance, safety and security, and accessibility issues. Each issue is individually considered in the following discussion.

TRENDS

In 2004 the National Recreation and Park Association prepared a list of trends that will potentially impact the future use of recreation programs and park facilities. Many of these same trends can impact NOR services and facilities. A listing of some national trends that should be monitored includes:

- Preventive recreation, that is, recreation as an antidote for social problems.
- Recreation for groups limited by income, physical disability, language or cultural barriers.
- Collaboration among program and facility providers, partnering and cooperation between public, private, and non-profit sectors, especially social service agencies.
- Family recreation centers that offer a variety of services for each family member.
- Pressure to increase park capacity and infrastructure of existing parks and concern for adequate maintenance.
- Community volunteering opportunities, such as adopt a park projects, friends of the parks groups, and park watch programs.
- Increased demand for tiny-tot and pre-school programs and activities.
- Protective measures for open space.
- Provisions for aquatic programs and water safety instruction.
- Provisions for senior citizen programs and activities.
- A greater need for walking and biking on trails and/or sidewalks, in parks, along streets and within utility corridors.
- Collaboration between parks and schools to share construction, development, and the joint use of land and facilities can be positive and financially beneficial to all.

All trends potentially impact the park and recreation system and must be considered when planning for the future.

Some trends within the NOR area that may impact programs and facilities include several important shifts. Based on demographic and income profile information prepared by ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.) using 2000 Census data, the following patterns seem to be emerging:

- NOR population is growing over three times faster than the national average.
- Median household income in the entire NOR area is increasing slightly faster than the national average.
- Growth in median household income in the Oildale portion of NOR is behind the national average.
- Fastest NOR growth is west of Freeway 99.

- The percentage of children ages 0-4 years of age in NOR is increasing as a portion of the total population.
- Youth 5 to 19 years of age in NOR are decreasing as a percentage of the total population.
- NOR adults 45 to 64 years of age are increasing as a percentage of the total population.
- NOR households with incomes above \$75,000 are increasing.
- White constituents are declining as a percentage of the total NOR population.
- Hispanic NOR residents have almost doubled in the past ten years.

Trend information will influence recommendations formulated in this plan for the future of NOR.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Future planning must directly relate to population characteristics and statistics. These, when projected to the future, help determine the adequacy and need for facilities and programs to meet proposed measured goals.

The period between the year 2000 and 2010 has seen a major population increase from 79,249 to an estimated 123,300. With the current economic down turn it is anticipated that growth will continue, however, at a slower pace. This plan projects growth to increase by 30,800 people between 2010 and 2020.

Increasing Population Justifies Expansion of Facilities and Programs.

Population growth is shown here for the period from 1990 to the estimated population in the year 2020:

<u>Population Growth</u>			
<u>1990 Census</u>	<u>2000 Census</u>	<u>2010 Estimate</u>	<u>2020 Estimate</u>
50,255	79,249	123,300	154,100

Highest NOR Growth is West of Freeway 99.

Distribution of growth within the NOR boundary is identified in the following chart:

<u>Population Distribution</u>				
	<u>1990 Census</u>	<u>2000 Census</u>	<u>2010 Estimate</u>	<u>2020 Estimate</u>
East of Freeway 99	27,238	44,848	58,970	66,260
West of Freeway 99	23,017	34,401	64,330	87,840

Sometime between 2000 and 2010 the majority of the population within NOR shifted from the east side of Freeway 99 to the west side. Most of the readily developable land east of Freeway 99 has now been built out. Growth patterns are definitely moving west. After 2010, it is anticipated that the vast majority of growth will occur within the western portion of NOR and will generate demand for numerous new park facilities and expanded recreation programs.

Population Swings Initiate the Need for Program and Facility Re-Evaluation to Better Serve Needs of a Changing Population.

The population is aging within the NOR boundaries. For the age group between 45 years of age and 64 years the percentage share of the total population is expected to increase from just over 21% of the population in 2000 to almost 26% by 2010. During this same period, children between the ages of 0 and 4 years of age are expected to increase in their share of the total population by about 1%. The greatest reduction in its percentage

share of the total population is the age group from 35 years of age to 44 years which is expected to drop by 2.7% between 2000 and 2010. The greatest increase is for the age group 55-64 years of age with an expected 2.8% increase in its share of the total population.

The age group from 20 years to 34 years is increasing by less than 1% and represents the primary child bearing years. This growth is reflected in the 1% increase in the 0-4 year old population increase.

Decreases are shown in the population share of those between 5 years and 19 years, generally the elementary through high school age groups.

It would, therefore, appear that an increase in senior programs and programs for the very young may need to be considered in the future.

Single Heads of Households Compose a Substantial Portion of the Population and Create Some Special Considerations.

Because there are many households with only one adult at the helm, programs and facilities must consider some of their needs. Family style restrooms are an accommodation that can be helpful to single parent families. Emphasis on before and after school programs is also helpful to this population.

Special Populations Require Specific Accommodations.

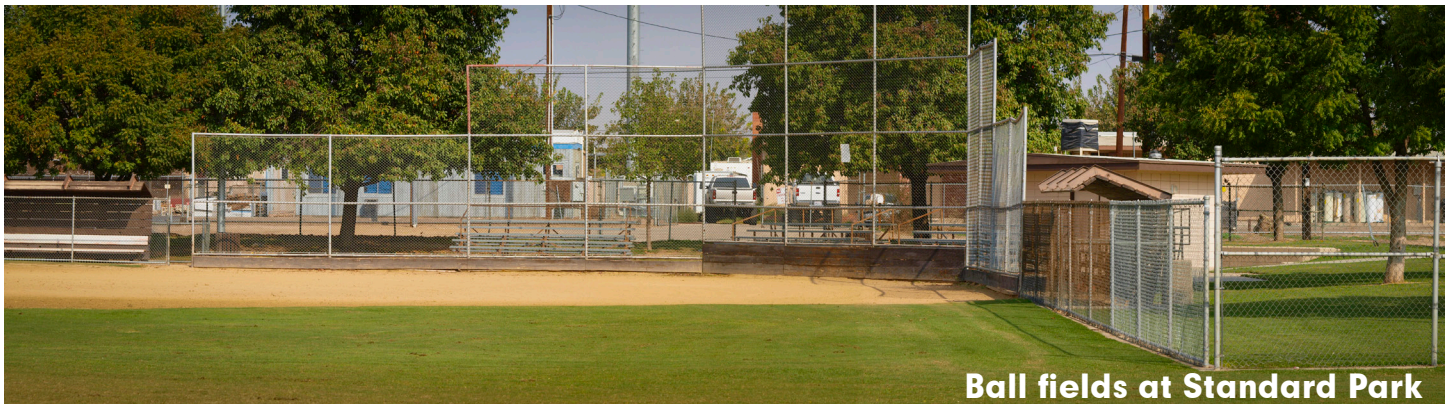
It is estimated that approximately 2% of households include disabled residents. While this population is small, the Americans With Disabilities Act requires that facilities and programs provide reasonable accommodations. Facility construction is being designed to meet the needs of this population and facilitate the opportunity for them to participate with others. Reasonable accommodations are made when those participating in programs identify special needs.

Minority Populations Are Small Within NOR, But Rapidly Expanding in Some Categories.

Census data in 2000 indicated the white only population to be 86.4% and all other races to be 13.7% (because of rounding, they don't total 100%). Currently, it is estimated that the white alone race has dropped to about 79% of the total population and all other races have increased to about 21% of the total population.

Those who identify as part of the Hispanic ethnicity group have increased from 12.8% in 2000 to an estimate of nearly 21% of the population by 2009.

While race and ethnicity don't necessarily substantially alter recreation patterns, Hispanic populations have greater participation levels in soccer, picnicking and playground activities. They participate more frequently in family gatherings.



Ball fields at Standard Park

SOCIOECONOMICS

Financial security directly impacts opportunities to participate in leisure and recreational ventures. Higher incomes allow flexibility in discretionary spending, such as that related to leisure pursuits. District-wide the average household income is slightly higher than the national average and potentially equates to greater freedom to participate in leisure activities.

The NOR population includes extremes in incomes from vast poverty levels in the southern Oildale area to much higher than average incomes in several areas west of Freeway 99. This could be a challenge to consistent delivery of recreational opportunities throughout NOR.

Periodic Evaluations of Changing Socioeconomic Factors Help to Focus Programs and Services.

Historically, national fads have long been changed based upon California lifestyles and leisure activities. California affluence is an impetus allowing the freedom to participate in many forms of recreational endeavors.

While the NOR average household income is slightly higher than national averages, NOR and the Central Valley are more conservative in attitudes than the state average which modifies leisure needs and expectations of the populace. Within the NOR area, pockets of poverty exist that substantially limit financial resources available for these constituents to participate in programs. Average household incomes of residents in zip code 93308 including the Oildale area, according to the 2000 Census, was \$46,854 with a per capita income of \$17,731. During the same period, the average household income in zip code 93312, the area generally west of Freeway 99, was \$71,636 or a per capita income of \$23,233. Between 2000 and 2007 the average household income west of Freeway 99 grew by over \$19,100 or about 27% compared to an increase of \$10,660 east of Freeway 99 or about 22%, thus, continuing the deviation in incomes between areas. This major variance in available financial resources creates the demand for substantial differences in program and leisure offerings.



San Lauren Park

FINANCIAL

Financial resources are mandated in order to provide facilities and services and, therefore, have the greatest impact to the provision of adequate facilities and programs within NOR.

Operating financial support for NOR comes from its tax base, grants and fees. Construction funding is available from in lieu and development fees and grants. An assessment fee has been established to offset a portion of annual maintenance costs.

Tax Trends Should Continuously Be Monitored to Understand Funding Trends.

The constitution of the tax base has changed over the years. Oil valuation continues to decline as a percentage of the total tax base. In 1993, petroleum accounted for 42% of the tax base, by 2000 it had dropped to 39% of the tax base and currently (2009-2010 fiscal year) it composes 20% of the total estimated NOR valuation. Today the tax base is less affected by volatile undulations in the petroleum market.

During the period between 2000 and Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the NOR total taxable valuation has substantially increased from \$6 billion to \$12 billion. Homeowner and commercial property assessments are paying an increasingly higher percentage of the total NOR tax base because of recent rapid increases in the value of homes and businesses. Budget appropriations from these sources have increased from 16% in Fiscal Year 2000-2001 to 19% in Fiscal Year 2009-2010. With the recent financial downturn and housing market crash, this is a statistic that should be carefully watched in the near future.

Property taxes composed almost 42% of the funding for operations in Fiscal Year 2000-2001 and increased to over 55% by Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

A comparison of all funding sources for operating NOR are shown in the following chart:

Revenue Source	Fiscal Year 2000-2001	Fiscal Year 2009-2010
Property Taxes	41.7%	55.5%
Grants	14.6%	17.0%
Program Fees	35.7%	20.6%
Interest	1.7%	1.2%
Other Revenues	6.3%	5.8%
	100.0%	100.1% (Because of rounding not 100%)

Operation Costs Should Be Controlled to Remain Within Available Financing.

All operating costs must be controlled to remain within available operating funds. Given evident financial woes within the state, nation and also locally, it is imperative to pursue expenditures in a prudent manner. To allow flexibility in the cash flow and a balance in reserves, proposed annual expenditures should remain conservative.

Operating expenditures have increased from \$8,473,059 in Fiscal Year 2000-01 to \$12,383,220 in Fiscal Year 2009-10. This is an average increase of approximately \$391,016 per year. During that period, the park acreage maintained has increased from 134 developed acres to 210 developed acres.

Grants are the major support of the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) and Neighborhood Place programs. Other grant funded programs support various activities sponsored by NOR. The continued

success of all grant supported programs is contingent upon ongoing funding. Expansion or contraction of all these programs is directly motivated by available grant revenues.

A Cash Reserve for Replacement and Improvement of Fixed Assets Should Be Maintained.

The reserve balance should increase proportionately to facilitate increasing needs for the expanding facilities system. As maintained park acreage increases, the reserve should follow. The reserve has been increased adequately to include added park acreage.

A Policy for Cost Recovery Related to Programs and the Use of Facilities Should Be Maintained.

NOR should continue to monitor its policy used to determine the amount of cost recovery expected from programs and its rationale for charging fees. Maintaining a cost recovery policy is part philosophy and part accounting. The Board of Directors will continue to determine those services that are to be provided by taxes, fees, or outside assistance such as grants. If the policy is to remain relevant, it will be subject to annual review.

Most cost policies used by public entities break recovery or pricing into three categories:

1. Those services that have been determined to be of substantial public benefit that are fully supported by tax funds. These services may relate to types of facilities, geographic segments of the service area, or a particular age group.
2. Services that have a public benefit element as well as some exclusive or capacity limitation attached to delivery. These services most generally relate to programs that have registration limitations and are subject to a quasi supply and demand. This mode would experience a mixed cost recovery policy, part from taxes and part from fees.
3. Services that have a high private utilization with fairly substantial limitations on participation. Most often this will include programs requiring very high levels of skill for entry as well as facilities that approach what may be offered in the private sector. Usually, full cost recovery through fees is anticipated.

A consideration related to cost recovery is the fact that financial security is vastly different throughout the NOR area. Looking at the eligibility for free and reduced school lunches for K-6 schools in NOR is only one telling factor. It becomes obvious from this information that a variety of programs is necessary to provide offerings which are universally available to all NOR residents. These offerings must take into account the given financial resource limitations of some residents.

Poverty is very high in schools east of Freeway 99 and must be a consideration when initiating programming options so that they more closely meet financial abilities of the respective constituents. From the most recent report of the 2006-07 database of the National Center for Education Statistics, proof is given that there is a great diversity of financial well being among school children. Looking at the specifics of the report calls for focused programming based on financial abilities. The following chart evaluates differences among elementary school districts within NOR.



Eligibility for Free/Reduced Lunches For K-6 Schools



Centennial Elementary

School District	School	Percent Eligible
Beardsley	San Lauren	61
	Beardsley	88
	North Beardsley	89
Standard	Standard	99
	Highland	57
	Wingland	76
Fruitvale	Columbia	37
	Endeavour	33
	Quailwood	34
	Discovery	18
Norris	Norris	12
	Olive Drive	14
	Bimat	13
	Veterans	26
Rosedale Union	Almondale	20
	American	25
	Centennial	15
	Del Rio	20
	Independence	21
	Patriot	21
	Rosedale North	33
Rio Bravo-Greeley	Rio Bravo-Greeley	35

In the entire state of California, 51% qualify for free and reduced lunches.

Looking at the statistics related to free and reduced lunches, it becomes clearly evident that offerings provided by NOR must be customized in order to include more children where financial resources don't allow flexibility to participate in traditionally sponsored programs. These differences will be considered in future options throughout NOR.

There is no scientific basis for making the decision regarding the category in which programs should be included. This public policy decision must be made by the Board of Directors. Staff will annually recommend a process to help the Board make this determination. A ranking system will annually be adopted to establish planned category distribution and proposed percentage of budgeted fee recovery. A cost accounting system that determines the total expenditures for services is used to justify the system. Central to this effort is the consideration of how to treat capital costs and maintenance operations associated with a particular program.

Policies Should Be Continued to Ensure That Developed Parkland Will Be Available for Residential Expansion.

Park in lieu fees are collected throughout NOR to facilitate purchase of land to meet the park acreage standard.

Development fees are required from all residential growth and will be used for park improvements so that the sites can be used for recreational pursuits.

New residential development throughout NOR is required to join the NOR Park Maintenance District that was established in December 2005 to help mitigate the growing cost of maintaining facilities.

Major recreation opportunities such as aquatic facilities, community centers and lighted sports facilities are not included as part of the park development fee so, to the extent possible, they will be financed through grants, public/private partnerships, cooperative agreements, financing or other sources.

OPEN SPACE

NOR does not control the preservation of open space within its boundaries, except to the extent that its parks aid in preserving open space. Both the City of Bakersfield and County of Kern have the authority and opportunity to control how and where open space will be maintained for future generations.

NOR Can Be Involved in Promoting Open Space to Benefit the Health, Safety and Welfare of Its Residents.

General plan provisions adopted by the City of Bakersfield and County of Kern help govern the provision and preservation of open space within the metropolitan Bakersfield area and boundaries of NOR.

While NOR does not have direct authority or responsibility to enact open space requirements, it can be involved in encouraging the provision of open space. There are opportunities for NOR to directly and indirectly provide and/or promote open space.

- All parks preserve open space where acreage is maintained in perpetuity as active and passive amenities in neighborhoods and communities.
- Some tower line easements and retention areas can be incorporated into parks, thus, providing dual uses and benefits to NOR constituents.
- Adjacent park and school juxtaposition creates larger preserved open spaces as a focus for neighborhoods and communities. These gathering spaces play important roles in establishing quality livable communities.
- The mix of religious and public/private facilities with parks creates a similar opportunity to expand open space(s) into neighborhoods and communities, thus, embellishing the complete experience.
- Canals and vehicle and rail corridors created with proper planning, programming, and administration can be incorporated with other community and neighborhood park open space to create a greater quality of life. Many of the great cities around the world have extensively incorporated such spaces and used them as assets rather than liabilities.

Advantage of Open Space Within NOR.

Open space provided in partnership with various other government and private entities helps to create a buffer for noise, potentially assists in cleaning and filtering the air, can provide safety buffers, and can add opportunities for various recreational venues stimulating activities such as jogging, bicycling and walking.

N. Highland Park



Open space is a major contributor to the quality of life in cities. Even the psychological impact of tree lined spaces and urban groves cause positive feelings and a sense of well being. Open space is truly a need in communities; it is not a luxury. Greater densities in residential development, and to a lesser degree commercial and industrial development, generate expanded demands for open spaces that promote quality living conditions.

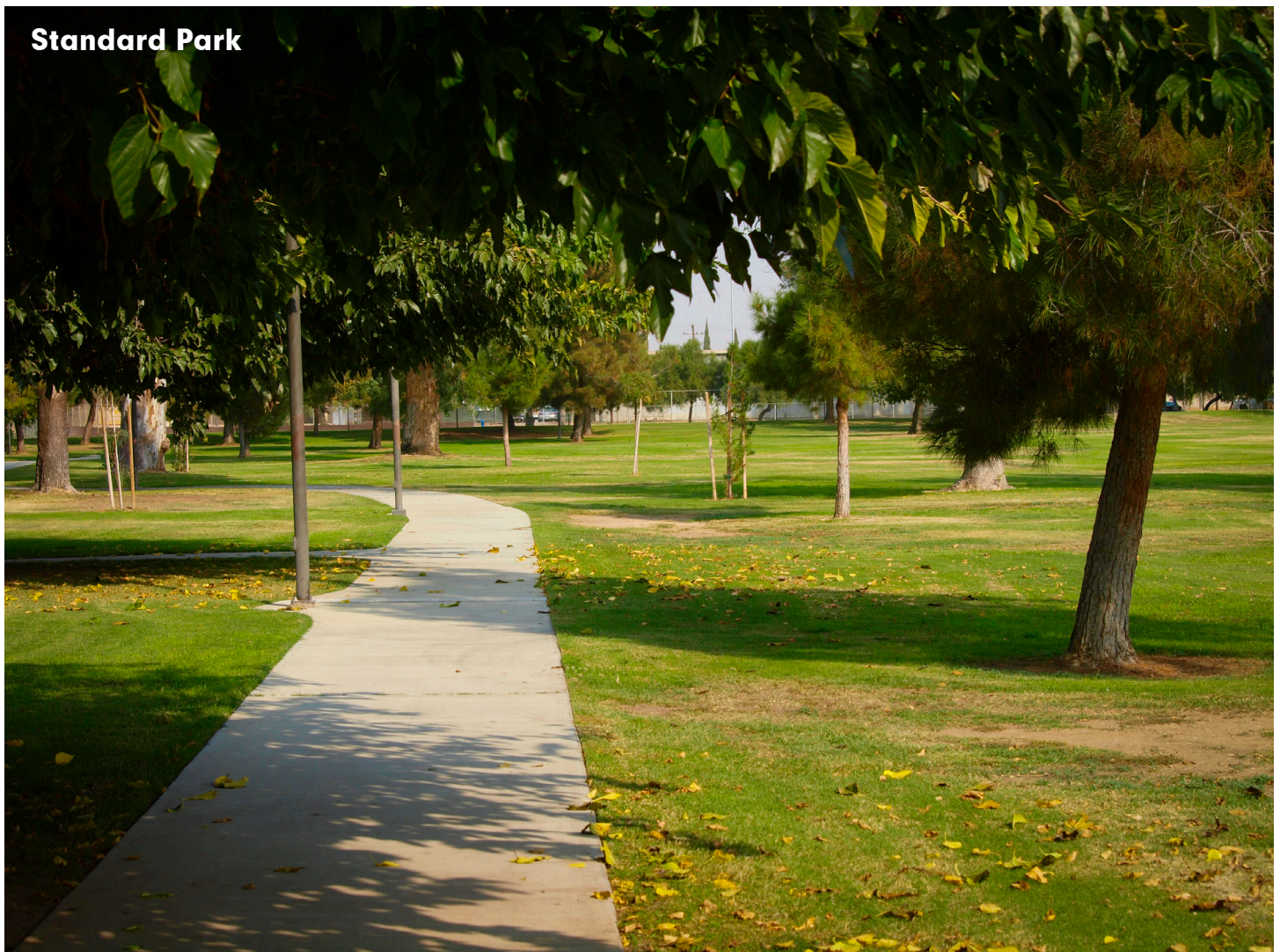
Habitat for wildlife, points of historical importance, flood control, water recharge, agricultural uses, etc., are beneficial additional providers to expand and preserve open space.

Preservation of the Kern River Corridor Provides a Major Source of Open Space.

The Kern River runs basically from the east to the west side of NOR on its southern boundary, and provides an immense open space opportunity for the metropolitan area. This regional facility is generally preserved by the City of Bakersfield and Kern County. NOR may have opportunities to connect with this important open space through park gateways. Riverview Park provides an excellent opportunity for access to this community amenity. In the future, other park opportunities may also avail themselves that can enhance the quality of life and access to this important river corridor.

Permanent Open Space Should Be Protected to the Greatest Extent Possible.

To the extent possible, existing open space for prime agricultural lands should be protected from urban growth. Parks will be placed only in developing areas and will not be planned in any method that creates growth or spotty development. Construction of parks will focus in those areas with the most rapid residential growth.



CONSERVATION

It behooves all to be prudent in the use of precious natural resources that are available to enhance the quality of life.

NOR Will Actively Conserve Natural Resources.

Placement of neighborhood parks will generally be no farther than one mile from the most distant home in the service area, thus, creating a greater opportunity to walk or bicycle to parks. Where possible, a three-fourths mile radius is preferred. This conscious placement effort can play a role in conserving petroleum products used in most forms of current transportation. Another benefit of this placement may be a reduction of auto emissions and the associated protection of air quality.

Each neighborhood park will include facilities to address the high priority recreational activities that were identified in a 2009 NOR survey including: playgrounds, picnicking, locations for outdoor relaxing and meeting, walking/jogging, softball/baseball (field sports at neighborhood parks will generally be unlighted), basketball, aquatic activities, team sports, bicycling and dog exercise. All activities listed are participated in by over 51% of the NOR population. Where possible, these activities will be accommodated at neighborhood parks to reduce the need for driving to distant locations to pursue activities. This will facilitate a conscious effort to reduce emissions from driving, thus, resulting in fuel savings and also helping to preserve air quality.

In developing parks, recycled and recyclable products will be employed where feasible.

Shade for parking areas around building structures and to benefit recreation venues will help reduce utility costs and reduce radiant heat that can be detrimental to comfortable use of park amenities.

NOR Will Be Prudent in Using Electrical Power.

Orientation of buildings to benefit from solar impacts will save utility costs and create more comfortable facilities. The actual construction of buildings will also include energy conscious design. Shade from trees is important for summer comfort and utility savings. Trees close to buildings should be deciduous to take advantage of changing winter versus summer solar impacts. This will help reduce both heating and cooling costs.

High technology will be used in lighting equipment and air conditioning accommodations.

Alternative electrical generating opportunities may also be included in park development.



Water Resources Will Be Conservatively Used.

Parks generally use considerable water to maintain the necessary green environment. To help reduce water use, plant species will be selected according to their intended purpose and will take into account specific water needs and will be grouped as clusters of similar water compatible plant communities.

Turf used in parks will be durable and generally low water using varieties.

Irrigation technology will be incorporated in park designs to ensure that the most prudent application of water will be the common practice. Use of weather data and other technology can reduce water volumes that are consumed versus those of previous practices.

Desirable Natural Flora and Fauna Will Be Protected.

As parks are developed, appropriate measures will be taken to protect and help conserve the natural environment. Development will be done using the expertise of trained individuals and government entities that can help guide improvements to reduce the risk to listed flora and fauna.

Park Development Will Not Induce Growth.

Park development will follow planned residential growth as approved by either the City of Bakersfield or County of Kern so as not to be growth inducing. Leap frog (spotty) development can be discouraged, thus, helping preserve prime farm land and other important natural areas.



McCray Park

CIRCULATION

As addressed in this plan, circulation relates most directly to types of movement within a particular park site and associated access to the site from the outside.

Circulation within NOR generally has three forms: vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle. Occasionally equestrian transportation is involved. Equestrian transportation is rare due to the fact that most properties no longer enjoy horse privileges. Such access is generally limited to areas along the Kern River and in the far eastern and western portions of NOR.

Convenience of Vehicular Access is Important in Park Placement.

Community parks should be located with easy access from major streets because activities at such sites invite greater driving distances. Bus transportation to or near these sites is also welcomed and encouraged.

Neighborhood parks may be more isolated from major streets as their focus is to be within walking and biking distance of the population they serve. Vehicular access in our society is necessary and, therefore, street access is required to all parks.

Bus transportation is greatly desired at or near community parks to afford those without vehicular access the ability to travel required distances to participate in organized activities in parks. Transportation by bus can also be beneficial for neighborhood parks.

Safety in Circulation To and Within the Parks is an Important Determinate.

Access to all parks should be the safest possible routes. When many children walk and ride bikes to the park, necessary signage and provisions are critical.

Separation of vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic within parks is important to the safety and well being of all park patrons. Parking and site circulation will be designed so that conflicts of bicycle, pedestrian and vehicular traffic will be minimized. Inside parks, the pedestrian and bicycle traffic will take precedence over vehicular sources.



MARKETING / PUBLIC RELATIONS

The role of marketing is very important especially to the success of recreation programs. The marketing department plays a major role in promoting programs, special events and new development projects. It is also very important in the process of evaluating needs and verifying satisfaction of programs and facilities. While this is not a marketing plan, it does provide guidance for parks and recreation.

Promotion of Programs and Facilities is of Prime Importance.

Promotion of existing and, more importantly, new recreation programs is instrumental to the success and expansion of opportunities for leisure involvement. In the 2009 NOR survey, a reason some people indicated why they do not participate in activities is a lack of knowledge regarding offerings. Promotions through various media outlets help increase community awareness of such offerings.

- Some promotion should be performed for all ongoing programs.
- Focused promotions should accent new programs to help ensure their success.
- New facility development should be promoted to inform residents of site amenities and locations. This promotion should focus on residents within the service area.
- Remodeled and expanded projects will require promotions and public relations information to address any inconveniences during development and to promote changes. This information should again be provided to residents within the service area.

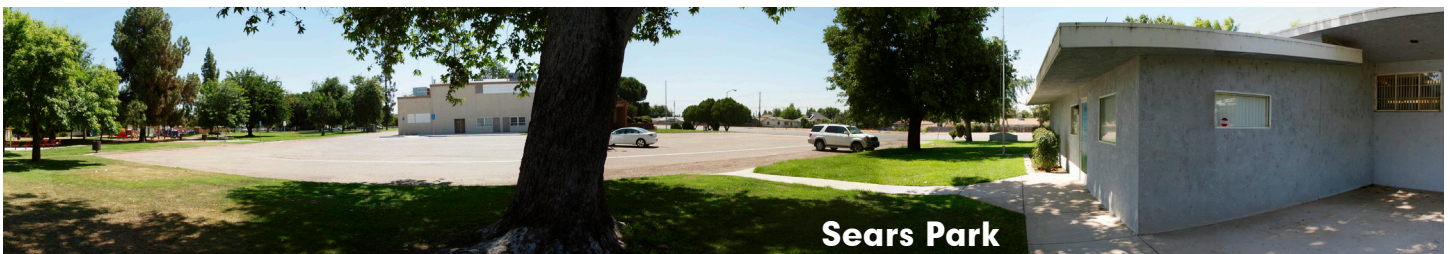
Evaluation of Programs and Facilities as Part of the Marketing Process Will be Important to NOR's Vitality and Viability.

Other factors impact whether residents will be involved in NOR programs and facilities. These factors should be used as marketing tools and should be included in the evaluation process of new programs and events.

Periodically, it is important to re-study and evaluate the success of programs and facilities through input regarding customer and resident satisfaction related to both programs and facilities.

- Evaluations should validate that programs are provided according to customer perceived need, value and importance.
- Old programs should be re-evaluated to determine their success in meeting the expectations of NOR constituents, all the while looking for opportunities to freshen programs so that people will want to continue returning as participants in the future.
- Special events that continue to be successful can serve as a handbook for the development of new major recreational offerings.
- Trends should be identified for possible incorporation in existing and future program development.
- Evaluation related to the satisfaction of developed sites may give guidance for future park development (i.e., Are activities no longer used by the current population? Are facilities too active, too passive? Is the quality of development meeting constituent expectations?).
- Evaluation should consider needs for new or additional/expanded park development.

With marketing assistance and the implementation of constituent recommendations, customer satisfaction will be enhanced and programs and facilities will more truly meet the needs and expectations of area residents.



RECREATION

Since NOR's inception, recreation programs have had the highest priority. When NOR was formed in 1955 it was named "North of the River Public Recreation District". This focus on recreation has continued through the decades and today remains the top priority.

Recreation programs are central to everything that NOR is involved with. These programs are broadly defined later in this section and include activities for both individual experiences and team involvements.

Programs for recreation and leisure are the life blood of this organization. They generate participation and justify the tax support used to provide this service. A need for unprogrammed and/or individual activities is also supported, but it is the programs that really create a base of continual use justifying the existence and substantial expense required to develop facilities and provide programs.

Over the years and as recently as 2009, surveys have been conducted among NOR residents to ascertain community desires and needs. This must be an ongoing process if programs are to remain fresh, inviting and provide the services expected by our changing NOR constituents.

General Program Categories Defined Herein Should Be Analyzed to Consider the Practicality of Providing a Full Range of Program Activities.

Core programs and activities exist and should be evaluated related to their success. This evaluation helps determine the parameters that create the greatest success in program offerings.

Broadly defined listed programs are summarized to show current offerings and areas of proposed further investigations for program expansion and enhancement:

Swimming and Aquatic Activities – Currently NOR offers swim classes for beginning through advanced students including tots through adults, diving, swim teams, water aerobics, junior lifeguard programs, lifeguard training and public recreational swimming. Water spray pads (cooling stations) to allow water play activity are now provided at seven sites and planned for two additional locations. Additionally, a major water park is planned near the center of NOR's boundaries. The potential need for more specialized classes, classes for the disabled, and a broader time schedule for classes to reach a wider variety of age groups should be explored. Studies should be made to investigate improvement in participation levels for recreational swimming. These may include additional features and/or new facilities for NOR constituents and may include slides, beaches, indoor pools, support pool facilities, and others.

Field Sports – This classification is very broad including programs for tots through seniors. In addition to the traditional field sports (i.e., baseball, soccer and football), it should be determined if some nontraditional offerings such as lacrosse, field hockey, bocce ball and fencing are desired by area residents and to see if sports camps may be successful.

Baseball / Softball – Traditional as well as modified baseball is offered for tots to adult participants. This category includes tee-ball, pitching machine, fast and slow pitch softball, senior's softball, and other programs such as baseball camps. This program offers low key fundamentals for the beginner to league play for the more advanced. Tournaments, individualized skills focus, and other more specialized opportunities may occasionally be provided. This continues to be a very strong program for NOR.

Exercise – Exercise has many names and faces in our country as well as in this recreation and park district. Offerings include jazzercise, low impact exercise, karate, Tai Chi, aerobic dance, open gyms and other athletic leagues. Other areas to explore are jogging and fitness trails, walking courses, weight training and body building.

Parks – Because of the recreation focus of its organizers, NOR parks have a tendency to be designed with activity in mind. Ball diamonds, hard court areas, tennis courts and children’s play areas are main functions of the parks. The 2009 community survey revealed that programs and programmable space were in demand by large majorities. Passive parks were in demand by smaller numbers, but still by a significant majority. Research should be done to determine the need for more passive parks and for passive park areas, as well as for open space within NOR. It appears a portion of the population is only interested in parks for unprogrammed activities requiring open space, maybe benches, conversation areas and other similar support facilities.

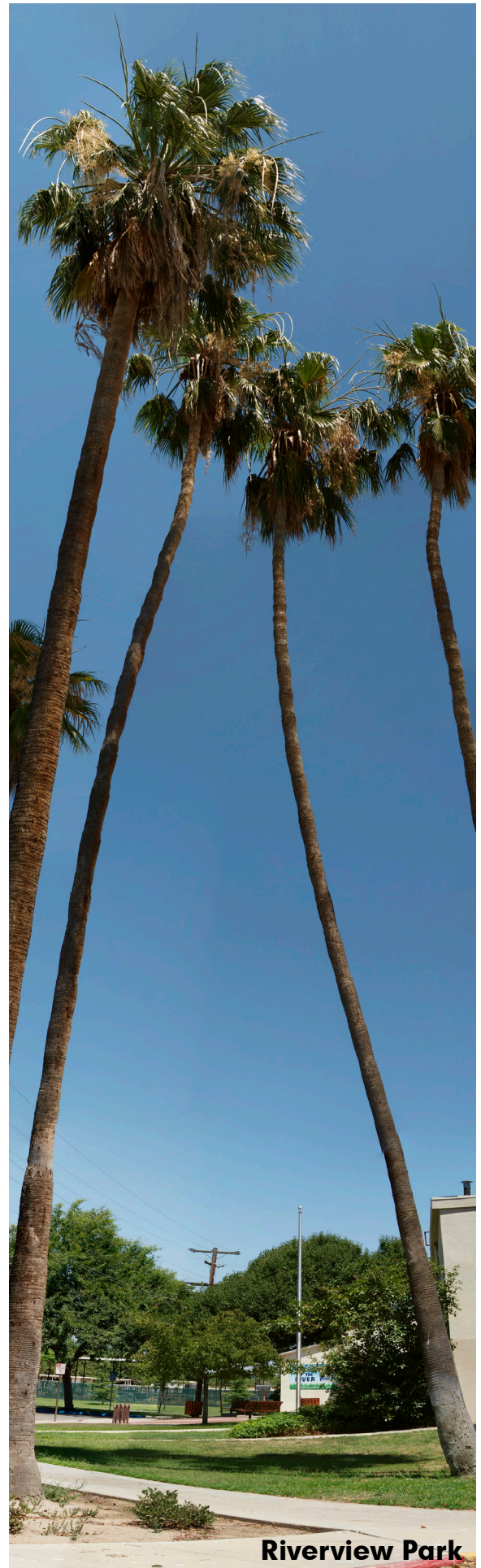
Crafts – This again is a broad activity classification. NOR has offered and currently offers a variety of arts and crafts classes. Because many of these types of offerings are faddish by nature, NOR must be on the leading edge to determine what is popular and then program to meet identified needs. This is an area of programming which NOR may consider substantially expanding in the future.

Tennis – Tennis courts, as well as classes, are provided by NOR. Investigation will determine if the community desires more classes, varied classes, tennis leagues, competitive events, private and/or semi-private courts and tennis clubs.

Basketball – Basketball leagues for elementary and junior high boys and girls, frosh-soph boys, high school boys and girls, men’s five-on-five leagues, and tot basketball, as well as open gym, provide many basketball alternatives for NOR constituents. Outside basketball courts for spontaneous play are currently offered at fourteen sites and planned for construction in three park developments by the end of 2011. Women’s basketball and tournaments are areas to study for potential future programming.

Youth Sports – This classification is open to broad interpretation. Many of the traditional sports such as basketball, baseball, softball, flag and tackle football, volleyball, cross country, soccer, and track are currently offered by NOR for elementary and junior high ages. Tot basketball and T-ball are offered for the very young. Study should determine if the needs of the high school age group are being met and if a broad range of non-traditional sports like dodge ball, handball, bocce ball, and badminton are desired by area residents.

Field Soccer – Field soccer, for all ages tots to adults and multiple skill levels, is generally provided through various soccer organizations. They need facilities for practice and games. Currently, Liberty Park, Emerald Cove Park, Standard Park and Beardsley Park provide most of this opportunity within NOR boundaries. Liberty Park is designed to accommodate five full sized regulation soccer fields, Standard Park has one



full sized field and two small fields, North Rosedale Park can have two fields. North Highland, Mondavi, Madison Grove, Emerald Cove, Almondale and North Meadows Parks each have one potential field; however, these don't get a lot of soccer activity because of the huge competition from other field sports for use of the same space. Polo Community Park is scheduled to have three lighted soccer/football fields as well as three lighted multi-use fields. Additional field soccer facilities should be considered to allow program growth and uniform facility access.

Indoor Soccer – Indoor soccer for adults is provided by NOR. Additional facilities will be needed to allow the program to expand. This activity may be included as part of an outdoor sports court complex. Multiple courts at one location would be excellent for tournament play. New gymnasium space should include provisions for this sport.

Dance – This broad category offers much future programming potential for NOR. Limited types of dance such as ballroom, country western, square, line, tap, ballet, aerobic and senior citizen's dances are currently offered in NOR facilities. NOR should consider opportunities to expand this program area to include more venues for tots through seniors. Offerings may also introduce and provide dance from worldwide cultures and ethnicities.

Drama – Theater productions are performed on a regular basis as continuing programs of NOR. With the lease of the NOR Veterans Hall with its stage, performing and other art productions should be considered for expansion. This may give opportunities for a broader age range of participants.

Racquetball-Handball – Feasibility studies need to determine what role NOR should take in providing this type of specialized facility. Options include joint programming in existing facilities, construction of a full service complex, and the addition of a limited number of courts in existing and future NOR facilities and teaming with private providers through promotions and partnerships.

Movies – Movies in the park are planned as family entertainment to bring neighborhoods together and meet the expressed desire for more neighborhood special events. This offering may be eligible for further expansion and more frequent showings. This may be a high consideration in impoverished portions of the NOR area where residents may not have financial means to attend movie theaters.

Volleyball – Leagues for elementary through adult ages are part of NOR's programs. Potential volleyball play can be accommodated at ten outdoor sites including six paved courts and twelve grass courts. Four lighted paved courts and two lighted turf courts exist. Further areas to investigate would be power volleyball, sand volleyball, turf volleyball and outdoor leagues. Type of facilities should be investigated further to ensure that they support the program direction. New gymnasium facilities should be designed to support volleyball play. Four additional grass volleyball courts are planned by the end of 2011.

Football – Flag and tackle football leagues for elementary and junior high age groups are current NOR programs. Potential future programming could include adult touch and/or passing leagues, powder puff, and punt pass and kick contests. Most football play is on multi-use playfields, often those with lights for night play in the fall when darkness comes earlier.

Bicycling – The development of bike trails and paths within NOR could compliment other programs provided by NOR as well as provide opportunities for bike hikes, senior citizen's bike clubs, individual cycling and commuting. Generally, bike paths/trails are under the jurisdiction of the City of Bakersfield or County of Kern; however, NOR can encourage their development and connection to NOR facilities. Needs for pleasure, competition, motocross, mountain biking, safety classes, rodeos and other bicycle riding activities should be pursued and offered where warranted.

Special Interest Classes and Workshops – Many interests not traditionally identified with recreation offer opportunities. Will writing, estate planning, languages, tailoring, woodworking, cooking, woodcarving, jewelry creation, computer skills, pottery making, furniture making, upholstering, and gardening are some of the potential areas for consideration. These programs tend to follow interests and fads, so periodic changes in offerings are critical. Staff will want to closely follow local opportunities and trends.

Child Programs – Ninety-three percent of respondents to the 2009 community survey want more programs to meet the needs of children. Additional research should identify the specific programs desired and the extent to which they can be offered. After school programs should consider expansion to include enrichment classes and activities that are outside the scope of traditional sports. NOR provides a grant funded learning center that furnishes early education programs in preparation for kindergarten. Parent and child involvement classes and parenting skills offerings help round out this program. Two parent participant co-op recreational preschool programs are offered; one east and the other west of Freeway 99.

Teen Programs – The 2009 community survey unveiled the fact that 91% of respondents favored a teen center and 94% wanted teen programs. Currently, teen specific programs outside traditional sports are in short supply at NOR. Exact program needs are being studied for possible future offerings to meet the identified expectations of teens.

Young Adult and Youth Activities – Many opportunities exist for NOR to offer programs within this category such as ski trips, dances, clubs, excursions, parties, contests, picnics, bike trips, equestrian opportunities, sports camps, adventure sports, and classes. Offerings should be an ongoing review in the annual budget process.

Senior Programs – The NOR community survey in 2009 identified the fact that 86% of respondents desired senior programs. This should be given more study and follow up to establish potential offerings. Existing programs include: congregate lunches, dancing, live music, billiards, bingo, computer classes, oil painting, fitness classes, senior softball, pinochle, quilting, and travel and destination trips throughout the country. Meals-on-wheels provides nutritious meals, daily social contact and supportive services to isolated homebound seniors in the NOR area to help prevent premature institutionalization. The Consolidated Transportation Service Agency, a grant funded program, offers transportation to seniors and disabled persons. As the population ages and the baby boomers reach retirement age, senior programs are expected to need expansion in quantity and scope.

Special Events – Over 94% of all survey respondents desired an expansion of events in neighborhoods. Currently, many special events are offered or facilitated by NOR including: Senior Health Fair, Daddy Daughter Dance, Community Yard Sale, Fun Fest, Easter Egg Hunt, Reel Fun Fishout, Dad/Son Campout, Movies in the Park, Celebrate America (concert, food, jump house), A Nite to Remember (concert, bounce house), NOR Christmas Parade, Talladega Frights, Music and Magic of Christmas (music, tree lighting ceremony, hot chocolate and cookies) and Santa visits. The high degree of interest among constituents for special events should act as impetus to expand these offerings and add new events.

Recreation Activities Should Provide Equal Opportunity for Participation.

Activities, to be most successful, must be inclusive related to accessibility, age, gender, socioeconomic and geographic variances. There are times when some of these factors unavoidably limit specific participants; however, greatest success comes when the most level playing field can be applied to the program. Opportunity gaps can often be minimized through minor to moderate program changes.

Often these may be resolved through modifications to fees, charges and subsidies, in-district versus out-of-district participation, program location, level of instruction/supervision, time/day/season of the activity, and the scope of programs/services.

Flexibility in addressing guidelines may help reach a more diverse and all inclusive level of participation.

NOR Should Coordinate and Team With Other Recreation Providers to More Efficiently and Fully Meet the Needs of the Metropolitan Bakersfield Area.

Utilization of all available resources in a community provides opportunities to fill programming gaps, eliminate struggling duplications, search for areas of mutual interest and future joint ventures. This brings a greater range of recreational venues to the populace in a more efficient and cost effective manner.

Formal policies and procedures should be formulated that allow, emphasize and encourage cooperative efforts with other agencies and providers. Isolationism and “in-district/out-of-district” restrictions should not limit NOR’s abilities for future program development, coordination and cooperation with other providers.

Continuing Evaluation of Programs Justifies New Programs and Services and Validates Expansion to Existing Programs.

A survey evaluation process that determines if participant’s needs are being met in the programs is essential to the success of programs and more importantly to the satisfaction of residents. The process is most successful when appropriate detail is considered including an evaluation of the leadership, physical surroundings, administration, preparation, reason(s) for dissatisfaction, suggestion(s) for improvement, program strong points and what attracted a participant to the program.

The evaluation process must be continual, taking place at specific periods and in a planned, predetermined manner. Input for the evaluation should be derived from three main sources, the participant, the program leader or supervisor, and surveys. Through analyzing the data, staff is able to compare the program expectations and objectives with those of the participant and determine any discrepancies that exist. Staff will then determine what, if any, limitations will preclude modifying or changing the program to address the user’s concerns. If needed, alternatives will be studied and new goals and objectives developed for the program. It is recommended that where feasible, user and community groups or committees be jointly involved with staff in developing program objectives and establishing criteria for evaluating the programs. The evaluation instrument and procedures will then be developed and adapted as part of the ongoing program planning, delivery, and evaluation process. Outside studies are also important to the evaluation process as they help validate the results of in-house studies and provide fresh perspectives. Local feasibility studies also help determine the criteria for new programs.

To grow programs it is essential to understand why those not participating are uninvolved, to seek points of common interest and to apply similarities of interest in a manner to convert non-participants to participants. The conversion may be as easy as more thorough promotion, more convenient locations, better instructors/leaders or other easily solved improvements.



NOR Easter Egg Hunt



N. Meadows Park

Use Surveys, Studies and Research to Determine What Recreation and Social Trends Provide Programming Potential.

Life expectancy is over 78 years. Women and men within NOR are quite evenly divided. (In 2000, males composed 49.8% of the population compared with females at 50.2%. In 2008, males made up 49.7% of the population compared with 50.3% females – source ESRI.) Most childhood diseases are no longer life threatening. Families are smaller, including single households making up 19.1% of all NOR households. More women are working and workers are earning less real income. In the United States, 9.2% of families live below the federal poverty level, while residents in the Oildale area include 13% of families below poverty level. For families living west of Freeway 99, only 3.8% fall in the below poverty range.

The analysis of changes and trends in America and its relationship to NOR deserves careful study and consideration. Along with a longer life expectancy comes the need to determine what leisure time activities, programs, and services NOR can provide to its aging population. Smaller family size offers some interesting programming needs to examine, such as the need or desire for more specialized activities, more mobility in pursuit of recreation, and greater family involvement in activities. The number of people living alone may indicate a need to determine if social recreation programs can fill the need for family type relationships and activities. A definite need for latch-key programs for children with working mothers exists and must be analyzed to determine the variances and flexibilities needed. Health needs of a community are as diverse as its people. Areas for further study by NOR should include health education classes, fitness classes and opportunities, nutrition classes, outdoor and indoor fitness facilities, industrial and commercial fitness programs, enrichment classes and activities, and promotions to educate the non-participant about available opportunities.

The issue of income level and discretionary income needs careful research and consideration. Fees, charges and the type of programs offered must directly relate to available discretionary income and ability to pay. Opportunities for recreation need to be available to everyone even though differences will exist in the type of recreation activity pursued. NOR needs to meet one of its greatest challenges: turning non-participants into patrons of programs and facilities by creating a desire in its populace to continue or begin spending discretionary time and financial resources involved in its offerings.

Major Events Should Be Considered as Opportunities to Involve Non-Participants and Increase Program Activity Levels.

Experience over the years verifies that there is great excitement for major recreational events: the children's Christmas parades, fishing derbies, Easter egg hunts and other community events. This could indicate potential for program expansion that can reach current non-participating residents in the NOR area. Possibly, marketing for other activities at such events can heighten awareness regarding NOR offerings, thus, involving more residents.



Major events should be scheduled periodically to appeal to a broad base of participants. Smaller neighborhood focused activities may also create some additional buy-in to other more localized recreational opportunities. All such activities may promote programs and facilities and introduce non-participants to NOR and its benefits to each resident of the area.

Findings of the 2009 NOR Community Survey Should Give Focused Direction for the Future.

During 2009, a master plan survey was conducted throughout the NOR area to obtain opinions and attitudes related to services provided by NOR. Survey responses were obtained by mail and also through emails. The survey evaluated satisfaction of existing activities and facilities, conditions of accommodations, frequency of programs and amenity usage, desires for future programs and improvements, and what physical recreational venues and activities were most frequently used.

Replies were based on collective use by all residing at the particular address of the respondent. Household survey responses were provided by over 76% females and almost 24% males. The ethnicity and race response is compared by percentage to the relative percentage of the population from the 2000 Census.

Responses to the survey were quite well balanced according to the actual composition of the race/ethnicity of the population established by the 2000 Census.

Master Plan Survey Participants

Race and Ethnicity	Population Percentage Per 2000 Census	Percentage Response to Survey
White Alone	86.4	73.6
Black Alone	1.5	0.8
American Indian Alone	1.4	1.7
Asian Alone	1.8	2.5
Pacific Islander Alone	0.1	0.0
Some Other Race Alone	5.9	0.0
Two or More Races	3.0	7.4
Hispanic Origin (any race)	12.8	14.0

Responses to the master plan survey were greater among households with annual incomes over \$50,000 than those with lower incomes.

Almost 45% of the respondents have lived at their current address for one to five years, which may support the need for more focus to educate this populace regarding programs and facilities available in the area.

Fifty-nine percent of respondents resided in households of four to five people.

Those who responded to the survey indicated they use NOR parks as follows: 63.2% use parks one to three times per week, 33.3% use parks once a month, and 3.4% use parks only once a year.

Almost 60% of the survey respondents indicated that they participate in two to five programs each year. The greatest reason for non-participation is that they were “too busy”.

Almost 36% indicated they don’t know what programs are offered, which validates the need to more extensively market NOR offerings. The vast majority of respondents to the survey, over 85%, indicated interest in NOR programs. This verifies that there is a strong market for programs and other NOR services.

When asked why people participate in programs and use parks; the number one reason by 58.8% was to encourage youth to be active, followed by 42.6% who wanted to enjoy nature and get outdoors. The third category for using parks and programs was to develop camaraderie and skills of team sports.

Survey respondents were given an opportunity to provide their top three priorities for park usage with the highest being Priority 1 and the lowest of the three ranking as Priority 3. The following chart indicates the responses to the top three priorities a household had for using parks and/or programs.

PARK USAGE

PURPOSE	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3
Encourage Youth to be Active	58.8%	31.8%	9.4%
Enjoy Nature/Get Outdoors	42.6%	26.5%	30.9%
Develop Camaraderie and Skills of Team Sports	29.4%	23.5%	47.1%
Develop Individual Skills	21.4%	39.3%	39.3%
Build Stronger Families	18.9%	48.6%	32.4%
Improve Health and Wellness	12.9%	38.7%	48.4%
Enhance Community Image/Sense of Place	12.5%	75.0%	12.5%
Connect Neighborhood Families	10.5%	21.1%	68.4%
Enjoy Competitive Outlet	7.7%	30.8%	61.5%
Help Older Adults Remain Active	0.0%	42.9%	57.1%

While “community image enhancement and the park role in developing a sense of place” rated somewhat lower in the Priority 1 category, its strong rating in Priority 2 indicates that parks play major and important parts in the lives of the populace.

People receiving the survey were asked what they felt were the greatest needed facilities and activities in NOR.

Needs, as seen by the respondents, included a broad range of facilities and programs. Of the 52 choices given to them to evaluate, when combining the greatest need and needed categories, only horticultural displays in parks did not receive support of a majority of votes that were cast.

Majority votes for the “greatest needs” included: Sports (baseball, football, soccer and other games) – 54.2%; Large Parks for Sports Activities – 52.3%; and Water Park – 51.4%. The ten highest priorities (including “Greatest Need” and “Needed”) are as follows: 1) Neighborhood Events (concerts, holiday events, etc.), Teen Programs; 2) Child Programs; 3) Playgrounds, Teen Center; 4) Water Spray Playgrounds, Water Park, Swimming Pools, Sports (baseball, football, soccer and other field games); 5) Special Events (concerts, dances, festivals); 6) Aquatic Programs (leisure); 7) Volleyball; 8) Senior Facilities, Senior Programs; 9) Large Parks for Sports Activities; and 10) Basketball.



Mondavi Park

In the survey, facilities were often listed separately from programs that can be offered at the respective park amenity in order to check whether programs and facilities really support each other. This acts to validate the assumed premise that programs are most important and that facilities are the support to allow these recreational offerings to exist and grow. Interestingly, facility and program priorities closely correspond. Of the ten highest priorities, all were requested by 85% or more of the respondents. This information is important in building new and expanding existing facilities to meet program needs. People were asked to consider whether a facility or program was, for their household, the “greatest need”, “needed” or “not needed”.

In the table below, all favorable responses in Column (a) “Greatest Need” and Column (b) “Needed” are summarized as Column (c) “Percent Greatest Need or Needed Combined.” This total in Column (c), all those in favor of programs and/or facilities, is then contrasted against those opposed who feel these are “Not Needed” as shown in Column (d). Only the last item, “Horticultural Displays,” shows a greater percentage of those opposed to it than those in favor. The table shows the perceived importance of the various facility and activity options that were listed in the 2009 NOR survey with corresponding responses expressed as percentages of all responses.





FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES NEED ANALYSIS

(Because of rounding, totals may not equal 100%)

Description	(a) Percent Greatest Need	(b) Percent Needed	(c) Percent Greatest Need or Needed Combined (Total a & b)	(d) Percent Not Needed
Teen Programs	41.1	53.3	94.4	5.6
Neighborhood Events (concerts, holiday events, etc.)	37.4	57.0	94.4	5.6
Child Programs	41.1	52.3	93.4	6.5
Playgrounds	43.0	47.7	90.7	9.3
Teen Center	34.6	56.1	90.7	9.3
Sports (baseball, football, soccer, and other field games)	54.2	35.5	89.7	10.3
Water Park	51.4	38.3	89.7	10.3
Water Spray Playgrounds	45.8	43.9	89.7	10.3
Swimming Pools	34.6	55.1	89.7	10.3
Special Events (concerts, dances, festivals)	30.8	57.9	88.7	11.2
Aquatic Programs (leisure)	26.2	61.7	87.9	12.1
Volleyball	19.6	68.2	87.8	12.1
Senior Programs	22.4	63.6	86.0	14.0
Senior Facilities	18.7	67.3	86.0	14.0
Large Parks for Sports Activities	52.3	33.6	85.9	14.0
Fitness Centers	25.2	59.8	85.0	15.0
Basketball	22.4	62.6	85.0	15.0
Drop-In Activities (gymnasiums, game rooms, computer lab, etc.)	30.8	53.3	84.1	15.9
Fitness Activities (yoga, aerobics, etc.)	23.4	60.7	84.1	15.9
Arts (drama, painting, sculpture, pottery, etc.)	23.4	59.8	83.2	16.8
Small Close to Home Parks	39.3	43.0	82.3	17.8

Court Games	13.1	69.2	82.3	17.8
Indoor Community Centers	24.3	57.9	82.2	17.8
Tennis	21.5	59.8	81.3	18.7
Skating/Skateboarding	25.2	55.1	80.3	19.6
Adaptive Sports/Activities	21.5	57.0	78.5	21.5
Outdoor/Environment Appreciation	20.6	57.9	78.5	21.5
Training Facilities (volunteers, internships, vocational)	17.8	60.7	78.5	21.5
Climbing Gym	15.9	62.6	78.5	21.5
Performing Arts Opportunities	14.0	64.5	78.5	21.5
Aquatic Programs (competitive)	25.2	52.3	77.5	22.4
Natural Water Features	25.2	52.3	77.5	22.4
General Interest (music, computer, etc.)	13.1	63.6	76.7	23.4
Bicycling	21.5	54.2	75.7	24.3
Self-Improvement Classes	17.8	56.1	73.9	26.2
Team Building/Leadership Programs	22.4	51.4	73.8	26.2
Amphitheater	18.7	55.1	73.8	26.2
Child Facilities (child care or other)	24.3	48.6	72.9	27.1
Extreme Sports (rock climbing, mtn. biking, snowboarding, etc.)	21.5	51.4	72.9	27.1
Therapeutic Activities	17.8	55.1	72.9	27.1
Dancing Accommodations	11.2	61.7	72.9	27.1
Martial Arts	7.5	64.5	72.0	28.0
Cooking Classes	12.1	58.9	71.0	29.0
Art in Parks	19.6	50.5	70.1	29.9
Handball	9.3	59.8	69.1	30.8
Hobby Related Programs (investing, scrap booking, etc.)	16.8	45.8	62.6	37.4
Bocce, Horseshoes, Shuffleboard, Lawn Bowling	11.2	51.4	62.6	37.4
Passive Parks (without organized activities or equipment)	15.0	46.7	61.7	38.3
Libraries in Parks	15.9	41.1	57.0	43.0
Equestrian/Animal Sports	11.2	44.9	56.1	43.9
Disc Golf	5.6	45.8	51.4	48.6
Horticultural Displays	8.4	29.9	38.3	61.7

All favorable votes, those from column (a) “Percent Greatest Need” and column (b) “Percent Needed” are combined in column (c) to show the total of those who feel each program and/or facility is needed.

NOR should review the survey results as programs and facilities are researched. Periodically, the survey should be reapplied to determine any changed priorities.

In an effort to validate the actual need for programs and facilities, it is critically important to review actual use patterns, the things people really do in their leisure time. If there is a close relationship among perceived needs and actual recreational patterns, it becomes obvious that needs are real in the minds of area residents. People were invited to choose whether they participate “often,” “occasionally” or “never” in the listed activities. Column three in the following chart summarizes participation expressed both as “often” and “occasionally.” A total percentage is given for this comparison when likened with participation expressed as “never.” Items listed are in order of their total ranking with the highest percentage first. The chart represents all responses related to the frequency in which respondents were involved in a given activity.



FREQUENCY OF PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	Percent Participation OFTEN	Percent Participation OCCASIONALLY	Total Percent Participation	Percent Participation NEVER
Playground	59.0	28.6	87.6	12.4
Outdoor Relaxing	45.7	39.0	84.7	15.2
Walking/Jogging	39.0	43.8	82.8	17.1
Picnicking	23.8	58.1	81.9	18.1
Socializing/Meeting People at Parks	26.7	51.4	78.1	21.9
Team Sports	40.0	34.3	74.3	25.7
Passive Park Activities	26.7	47.6	74.3	25.7
Softball/Baseball	28.6	32.4	61.0	39.0
Swimming/Other Aquatic Activities	19.0	41.0	60.0	40.0
Basketball	21.0	37.1	58.1	41.9
Bicycling	16.2	41.0	57.2	42.9
Dog Exercise	16.2	35.2	51.4	48.6
Football	20.0	24.8	44.8	55.2
Tennis	10.5	34.3	44.8	55.2
Skate Boarding/Skating	12.4	25.7	38.1	61.9
Soccer	14.3	22.9	37.2	62.9
Volunteering	9.5	27.6	37.1	62.9
Volleyball	13.3	21.9	35.2	64.8
Golf	11.4	19.0	30.4	69.5
Self Improvement	4.8	22.9	27.7	72.4
Crafts	3.8	21.0	24.8	75.2
Dance	2.9	19.0	21.9	78.1
Performing Arts	3.8	17.1	20.9	79.0
Martial Arts	2.9	16.2	19.1	81.0
Extreme Sports	7.6	10.5	18.1	81.9
Transportation	4.8	13.3	18.1	81.9
Disc Golf	2.9	10.5	13.4	86.7
Handball	1.9	11.4	13.3	86.7

Playground activity was the only activity participated in “often” by a majority of the population. Only a few activities are participated in by the majority of the population either “often” or “occasionally”. These include: Playground, Outdoor Relaxing, Walking/Jogging, Picnicking, Socializing/Meeting People at Parks, Team Sports, Passive Park Activities, Softball/Baseball, Basketball, Bicycling and Dog Exercise.

After reviewing the listing of activities that were participated in by survey respondents, the final analysis must compare relationships between the expressed needs and acknowledged involvement in the various venues. It is expected that needs and activity participation will not necessarily match line by line; however, if responses are valid, relationships should be relative (i.e., Child Programs and Playgrounds will be in close relationship with each other as priorities are compared). The exception is when needs can't be met because there are no available facilities to accommodate a leisure pursuit (i.e., Teen Programs are a high need priority but there are no Teen Facilities to engage in the described needed programs. Skating/Skateboarding is a relatively high expressed need, but NOR currently has no facilities to meet the need). The next chart compares side by side in order of priority the defined needs compared with actual recreational activity participation.

The survey identified fewer recreational activities for participation than needs, partly because needs included many duplicates expressed once as a facility and again as a program.

When using the next chart, only positioning of similar activities is relative to the final analysis, since all recreational activities are not currently offered through NOR programs and facilities (i.e., Playgrounds should be high on both lists while Handball would be expected to be low on both if the results are relatively valid).



NEED VERSUS PARTICIPATION ANALYSIS

Priority	Identified ACTIVITY NEED
1	Teen Programs
1	Neighborhood Events (concerts, holiday events, etc.)
2	Child Programs
3	Playgrounds
3	Teen Center
4	Water Spray Playgrounds
4	Sports (baseball, football, soccer & other field games)
4	Water Park
4	Swimming Pools
5	Special Events (concerts, dances, festivals)
6	Aquatic Programs (leisure)
7	Volleyball
8	Senior Programs
8	Senior Facilities
9	Large Parks for Sports Activities
10	Fitness Centers
10	Basketball
11	Drop-in Activities (gymnasiums, game rooms, computer lab, etc.)
11	Fitness Activities (yoga, aerobics)
12	Arts (drama, painting, sculpture, pottery, etc.)
13	Small Close to Home Parks
13	Court Games
14	Indoor Community Centers
15	Tennis
16	Skating/Skateboarding
17	Performing Arts Opportunities
17	Climbing Gym
17	Training Facilities (volunteers, internships, vocational)
17	Adaptive Sports/Activities
17	Outdoor/Environment Appreciation
18	Natural Water Features
18	Aquatic Programs (competitive)
19	General Interest (music, computer, etc.)
20	Bicycling

Priority	Identified RECREATIONAL PARTICIPATION
1	Playground
2	Outdoor Relaxing
3	Walking/Jogging
4	Picnicking
5	Socializing/Meeting People in Parks
6	Team Sports
6	Passive Park Activities
7	Softball/Baseball
8	Swimming/Other Aquatic Activities
9	Basketball
10	Bicycling
11	Dog Exercise
12	Football
12	Tennis
13	Skate Boarding/Skating
14	Soccer
15	Volunteering
16	Volleyball
17	Golf
18	Self Improvement
19	Crafts
20	Dance



Priorities of many needs when compared with participation levels may influence future recreational offerings. They can play important roles in future budgeting for programs and facilities.

It is important to periodically resurvey area residents to continue to synchronize recreation programs with the current “Recreational Participation” enjoyed by NOR constituents.

Frequent evaluation of program offerings will ensure success of NOR and the enjoyment of the representative population. Many recreational endeavors are somewhat faddish with interest peaking and waning. If programs are to remain viable, fresh and innovative for constituents, the successful programs must continue to follow these important trends.

Since recreation has been identified by area residents as a very important part of their lives and environment, it is of utmost importance to continue to improve the quality of the activities and experiences provided.

Survey respondents were asked to rank their top three choices in order of perceived importance with number one being the highest priority. The nine choices available are listed in the following chart including the top three priorities summarized for all respondents. Perceived importance is listed according to the summary of all responses.



IMPORTANT PARK AND RECREATION ASPECTS

Priority #	Description	Choice By % Of Respondents
1	Well Designed and Maintained Parks	64.2
2	Well Organized and Managed Recreation Programs	61.3
3	Improved Maintenance at Existing Parks	34.0
4	Development of More Small Neighborhood Parks	28.3
5	New Programs and Activities	27.4
6	Development of More Large Parks for Active Leisure Pursuits	25.5
7*	Child Services (i.e., preschools, after school care)	22.6
7*	Development of New Parks	22.6
8	Senior Services (i.e., transportation, nutrition)	8.5

* Two priorities tied as Priority 7.

Apparently, quality parks and recreational programs are of nearly the same interest. Both have a majority interest. Over one-third of respondents wanted improved maintenance at existing parks.

Development of large and small parks is important to over one-fourth of the respondents. Small park development rated slightly higher than large park expansion. This response is somewhat contradictory in comparison with the needs versus actual recreational involvement evaluated in other survey questions. Since this question is broader in scope, it is assumed that earlier more specific chart responses to the detailed specific questions are more accurate.

Similar questions should again be included in future surveys to ascertain if there are possible changing trends for small passive parks versus large active parks.



MAINTENANCE

Facility appearance directly influences perceived usability of parks. The image of NOR is largely established by the maintenance and appearance of its facilities.

Maintenance is a very important consideration to any park plan. A correct balance must be established between the ability to maintain facilities and the resources available to meet these needs. Operational efficiency and product durability promote or limit the capability to achieve anticipated maintenance quality standards.

When scheduling park maintenance the various factors that must be considered include the following high priority considerations: health and safety, function or purpose, pride of ownership, preventative maintenance, funding capabilities, aesthetics, community desires and participant convenience.

Maintenance standards are set to define the ideal operating park site and facility conditions. Budget limitations and other factors often impact the ability to attain the highest maintenance goals.

Overall standards for park and facility maintenance are outlined to ensure equal maintenance of all amenities. A few sites are maintained at a slightly higher standard because of the intensive site use and large participant base. These are defined as premium sites. Premium sites usually include more extensive care for turf and ornamental plants at sites of high impact.

Maintenance Standards Establish the Level of Care for All NOR Amenities.

North of the River Recreation and Park District standards define the ideal maintenance for various park amenities and facilities. The intent is to reach a quality level of maintenance throughout all facilities. Additionally, some sites and/or facilities have been identified to receive premium levels of turf and ornamental maintenance. Premium levels are set higher than the normal park maintenance standards.

Sites designated to have premium turf include: NOR Park, Fruitvale Norris Park baseball diamond area, Greenacres Park including the community center and senior center, North Beardsley Park softball diamond areas, North Rosedale Park, Riverview Park baseball diamond, Rasmussen Center, Standard Park and Standard School diamonds, and Liberty Park. Upon its completion, Polo Community Park athletic fields will also be classed as premium turf.

Maintenance standards are set as the ideal or goal to strive toward. Budget limitations or other factors may modify standards; however, they continue to describe the desired quality outcome for maintenance.

Park maintenance standards are listed below according to respective categories.

General park standards categories exist for the following: grounds, turf, irrigation system, ornamental plants, trees, drinking fountains, signage, walkways, trash receptacles, fencing, lights and parking lots.

Maintenance standards have been established also for: shelters/pavilions, restrooms, athletic courts, playgrounds, athletic fields, swimming and wading pools and water playgrounds, dog parks, undeveloped sites and park maintenance storage areas.

Very specific standards definitions are described in the NOR Policy Handbook and will not be outlined here in the same detail.

A brief overview of the standards is provided in this document. Major points are as follows:

- Grounds will be safe and free of deleterious materials.
- Turf will generally be green and safe for play. Premium turf will additionally be maintained at heights suitable for the designated use which may also require extra water, fertilization and other more advanced care techniques.
- Irrigation systems will be fully operational and programmed for the varying weather conditions throughout the year.
- Ornamental plants will be maintained in a healthy condition. In premium areas ornamentals may require added fertilization and water. Annual color may be displayed at high profile entrances to premium facilities.
- Trees will be maintained according to standards of the International Society of Arboriculture.
- Drinking fountains will be clean, accessible, and serviceable.
- Signage is to remain clean, identify the location and/or provide rules for park use.
- Walkways will be maintained for safety and accessibility.
- Trash receptacles are to be emptied as frequently as required to accommodate park patrons and promote sanitary conditions.
- Fencing is used in limited quantities and maintained to promote safety, security and control. It will be monitored for cleanliness.
- Lights will be maintained to ensure park safety both for active and passive recreational pursuits. Operation will be cognizant of use and utility costs.
- Parking lots are maintained for safety and accessibility. Aesthetics are also important because parking lots are often the entrance to the park or facility.
- Shelters/pavilions are maintained for cleanliness and patron service expectations. Maintenance of the accessible route is also important. Furnishings will be clean and repaired as needed for serviceability.
- Restrooms will be maintained for cleanliness, safety, serviceability and accessibility.
- Athletic courts will be maintained to offer safe surfaces for play, proper light functioning, well cared for fencing when used, well maintained equipment and furnishings, and accommodating access routes.
- Playgrounds will be clean, serviceable, in good repair, accessible and continuously checked for compliance with Consumer Product Safety Guidelines.
- Athletic fields will be maintained for safe surfaces, equipment and accessibility. Special surfaces and turf will be maintained for appropriate use related to the sport(s) included in the facility design. Any lighting will be monitored and repaired as needed for safe play.
- Swimming/wading pools and water play areas are to be maintained for safety, cleanliness, proper equipment serviceability and open access routes.
- Dog parks will be well maintained, clean and safe for patrons.
- Undeveloped sites will be maintained to keep litter controlled, weeds in check, hazards removed and promote appropriate on site fire safety.
- Park maintenance and storage areas will be kept clean, trash free and orderly.

Maintenance Financing for NOR Parks and Facilities.

Escalating maintenance costs and continuing extrapolation of local funds by the State of California initiated the need to offset the lost tax revenue stream that was previously used for park care. Adoption of a park maintenance district was the solution to balance the local park maintenance budget.

The NOR Park Maintenance District was approved in 2006 to supplant funding needed to continue maintenance of NOR parks at an acceptable level. Boundaries of the NOR Park Maintenance District follow the legal District boundary and require all new development after the 2006 adoption date to mitigate their park and recreation impact by joining the park maintenance district; thus assuring that new parks required to meet the park acreage adopted standard can also be maintained.

Revenue from the park maintenance district is intended to offset labor and materials costs, electrical, water and other utility costs and associated requirements to offset a portion of the total park care commitment. These fees equate directly to the provision of new park acreage to meet the needs of an expanding residential population. Fees are intended to assist in meeting maintenance standards described in this section of the Master Plan.

Maintenance of Street and Trail Landscaping Within NOR.

In addition to park maintenance, NOR is assisting with maintenance of street landscaping. Street landscaping within NOR is provided by Kern County, the City of Bakersfield and through a NOR administered lighting and landscaping district.

Through contractual relationships, NOR could maintain county and/or city and/or private homeowner street landscaping. Funding for this should be through assessment districts or other financing mechanisms. None of this maintenance will be financed by the normal NOR tax base. District maintenance of such improvements is beneficial to taxpayers because it eliminates the need to have crews from multiple entities serve the same area.

The Chevron North Meadows Landscape District is maintained by NOR through provisions of the 1972 Lighting and Landscaping Act. It is separately administered by NOR. NOR is committed to its maintenance as long as fees collected meet all costs. NOR will not subsidize any maintenance costs of the Chevron North Meadows Maintenance District.

By agreement, NOR maintains the center divider in North Chester Avenue from the Kern River north to China Grade Loop. It also maintains landscaping on the east side of the bridge at the north side of the Kern River as you enter Oildale from Bakersfield.

When trails extend into NOR's area, they may be maintained by NOR through funding similar to that which finances street landscaping.



Park Rangers

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Much of the success of park and recreation programs and facilities is the public perception of the safety and security they experience. Use increases as people become more secure in their perceptions of safety at park facilities.

Safety Standards Must Be Considered in the Construction of All Facilities.

The safe use of facilities will be of prime concern in preparing facility designs. While these will not be addressed individually in this document, the most current acceptable safety standards will be applied to new facilities and programs. Existing programs and facilities will be made to comply within a reasonable period and/or according to budget restraints. Examples of safety concerns are: equipment safety in children's play area development, separation of pedestrian versus vehicular circulation, safe playing fields and surfaces, clean conditions, non-slip paving, security lights, fencing and signing. This is not intended to be a complete listing but only examples. Potential safety considerations are limitless and depend largely on program designs.

All new playground development or replacement improvements are required to be certified by the playground equipment installer to meet the Consumer Product Safety Guidelines and Americans With Disabilities Act requirements. Companies providing playground equipment must warranty that all their products meet Consumer Product Safety Guidelines and Americans With Disabilities Act requirements.

Safety and Security Personnel Will Help Make Park Use More Attractive to District Residents.

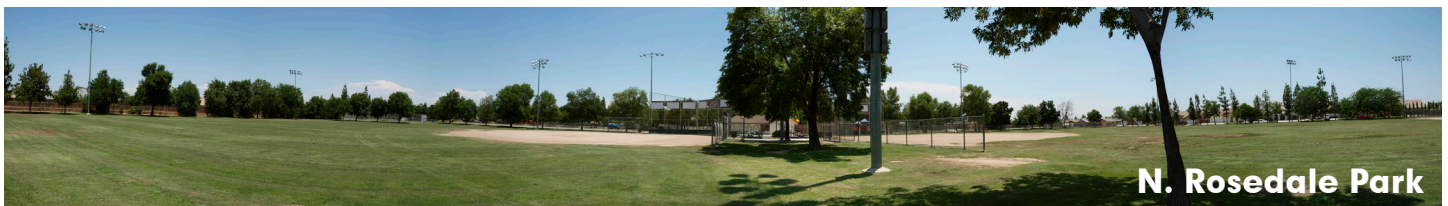
Currently, NOR includes risk management and safety and security functions to help provide safer conditions for the public use. Ongoing program and facilities review helps to correct unsafe conditions. Recommendations regarding changes, modifications, etc., are given to assist with development of plans, programs and conditions to ensure the safety of park patrons.

NOR security is the responsibility of park rangers. Although not endowed with police powers, they are a roving eye to watch for vandalism, abuse and misuse of owned or programmed facilities and improper activities taking place at NOR facilities. The rangers coordinate closely with the county sheriff and city police requesting additional surveillance and policing as needed.

Currently, NOR facilities are visited on a routine basis by the county sheriff and city police departments as dictated by areas of jurisdictional responsibility. They add additional support for major functions or when problem situations arise. This close working relationship between NOR and the sheriff/police departments is a major positive support to NOR.

Park rangers generally work during evenings and weekends when programming personnel are less available. This is also the time when facilities reach highest use. They are also available after hours for emergency purposes. Site visits are scheduled to eliminate predictable patterns so that the element of surprise always acts to favor the park security.

Parks are designed to allow ease of surveillance from streets and parking lots. Security lights are provided to improve conditions for use at night. Grading, planting and construction of facilities attempt to consider the security/safety of the public.



Safety Training is Provided to Help Staff Be More Aware of Concerns.

Staff safety committee meetings are held quarterly to allow opportunities to discuss issues of concern regarding facilities and programs. This includes training and discussion to improve services provided to the community.

Employees eligible to drive NOR vehicles are required to attend driver's training. This sharpens the awareness of safe practices in driving.

Supervisor's drug awareness training is required for all supervising staff. It helps supervisors recognize problems among staff and/or park visitors so that proper action and precautions may be initiated.

Training in first aid and CPR are required for all NOR employees.

Aquatic staff receives specialized CPR and first aid training, as well as, water safety, automated external defibrillator, lifeguarding and blood borne pathogens training.

Security Practices Help Decrease Loss, Damage and Abuse of Facilities and Programs.

All buildings within NOR are provided with security systems, "Sonitrol". This has improved security during off hours. Additional construction will also include this security system. Other security devices may be merited and beneficial in improving safety.

When programs are planned with especial focus for major events within NOR, arrangements are made to have security officers available. This may be private security, NOR personnel or assistance from county/city forces according to availability.

NOR should consider involving area residents in efforts to improve/maintain park safety. This could be organized as park watch groups. The neighborhood activities being promoted within NOR can play an important role in accomplishing the community sense of ownership that improves safety, security and also helps with maintenance issues.

Security is improved by the presence of NOR employees in uniform. All maintenance personnel are in uniform and many of our program supervisors wear shirts, jackets and/or caps with NOR logos. NOR vehicles are also well marked with the logo and name. NOR maintains high visibility to assist with security and for promotional purposes. Being readily identifiable allows more direct interaction and protection for residents of the community.

Communications are a Major Asset for Safe Programs and Facilities.

NOR has obtained an extensive communications system which assists in security, maintenance and general communications. This system includes cell phone access among maintenance personnel and other staff and outside sources. All sites except three mini parks have available phones. There is staff at all sites during the hours when facilities are programmed.

Emergency Planning is Important in Preparing for Crisis Situations.

NOR has worked to prepare an action plan for emergencies, a disaster preparedness plan. Its communication system is available for emergency use. Staff members will be available to assist during emergencies. Emergency evacuation plans are available in our buildings. Gas, electric and water turn-offs are marked on plans and posted at the sites for use in emergencies.

Most NOR employees have been certified in first aid and CPR and can be of assistance in emergencies. Employees are trained to address safety and security issues that help develop safe operational standards in all aspects of the business. Handbooks and instructions are provided which address safety and security concerns.

ACCESSIBILITY

New Facilities Will Be Constructed to Comply With the Americans With Disabilities Act.

All new facilities developed within NOR are required to be constructed with provisions to meet the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). This is monitored by NOR staff and further secured by either the City of Bakersfield or Kern County during the building permit approval process.

Existing Programs and Facilities Will Be Modified to Meet the Requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Most facilities within NOR were built recently enough or remodeled within recent years so that they meet the requirements of Title 24 of the California Building Code and, thus, achieve a large portion of the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act adopted in 1990. All development since approval of the ADA has been built to meet the respective outlined requirements for access.

A review of NOR facilities will periodically be conducted to evaluate improvements related to their accessibility. Any discovered inconsistencies with the law will be corrected as soon as funding can be found. Comments related to ADA compliance follow:

ADA OVERVIEW

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS – All existing playgrounds in NOR meet ADA requirements. Within recent years, since national adoption of the Americans With Disabilities Act, NOR has completely remodeled every existing playground to provide accessible equipment, surfacing and paths to meet compliance requirements. All new playgrounds built after adoption of the Americans With Disabilities Act have been built to be fully compliant. Since the playground surface in NOR parks is mostly engineered wood fiber, it must be adjusted daily to ensure that ramps into play areas remain accessible. To maintain and improve accessibility in the future, NOR may want to consider development of a universal playground. Because of their cost, supplemental funding will likely be required to cause such a project to come to fruition. At least annual replenishment of engineered wood fiber is required in all playgrounds.

COMMUNITY CENTERS IN NOR – Centers have been modified including their accessibility. The Rasmussen Center, Greenacres Community Center and Riverview Community Center all have accessible parking and accessible paths. Once inside, the centers are all accessible including restrooms and other public accommodations. The NOR Veterans Hall is leased by NOR from Kern County. It has an accessible route from the building's west side. With exception of the second floor, this facility is accessible once inside.



SITE OVERVIEW FOR EACH PARK

ALMONDALE PARK – This site was constructed after the Americans With Disabilities Act was approved and has been constructed to meet requirements of that law. Development includes designated parking spaces and accessible walks to all park facilities. Restrooms, picnic shelter, family picnic pads, gazebo, basketball court, playground, and multi-use playfield are accessible. The playground is accessible including the engineered wood fiber surfacing and equipment.

EMERALD COVE PARK – This site includes accessible walks and has designated parking spaces. It was developed after the ADA law was approved so all features are accessible including picnic shelter, restrooms, playground, family picnic pads, basketball court and water cooling station. Accessible paths are available around the field game area and to the turf volleyball facility.

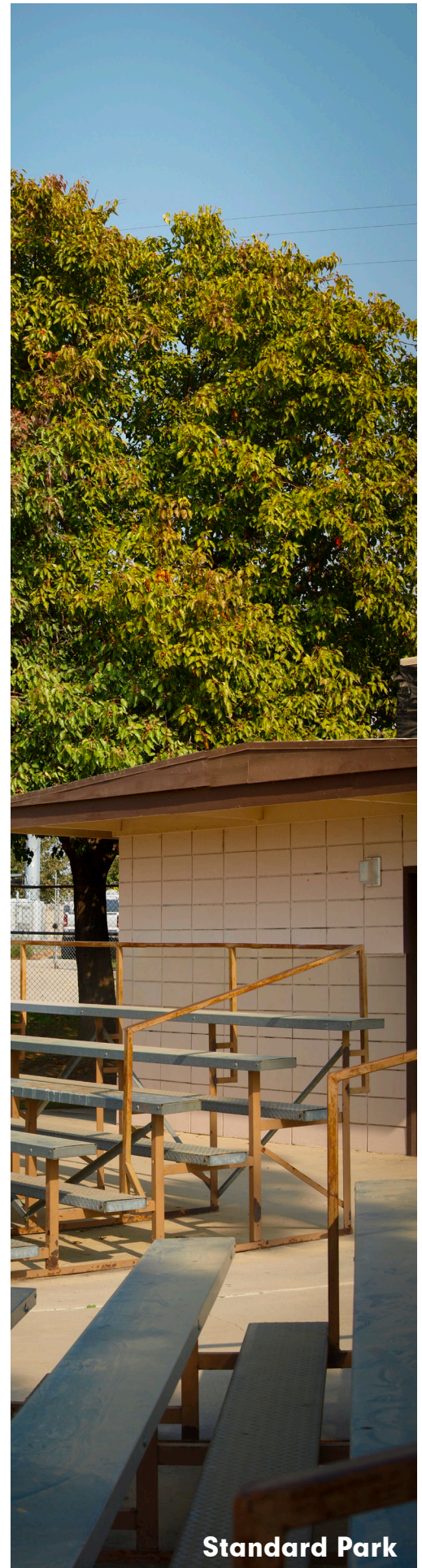
FRUITVALE NORRIS PARK – There are designated parking spaces and accessible walks in the park. The activity room and restrooms are accessible. Basketball and tennis courts are accessible. The group picnic shelter has access. Some family picnic tables are accessible from paved walk paths. Access is available to the ball diamond bleacher areas. The children's play area has a paved walk surrounding it and has accessible equipment and surfacing. Any new facility built on site will be accessible.

GREENACRES PARK – The swimming pool, community center, ball diamonds and picnic shelter are accessible. The playground has walks around it and has accessible equipment and surfacing. Tennis courts have no paved access. Designated parking spaces and access exist from the parking lot. Park restrooms meet a portion of the standards. They can only be made to totally comply through major work, possibly demolition and reconstruction. Accessible restrooms are available in the community center and at the pool. The pool has a chair lift to assist people into the pool.

LIBERTY PARK – This site is accessible from paved walks and has designated parking spaces. There are accessible paths to the areas of soccer/multi-use playfields and the turf volleyball courts. The playground including equipment and surfacing is accessible. The picnic shelter, family picnic pads, restrooms and basketball court are also accessible.

MADISON GROVE PARK – Development of this new park included accessible paths, designated parking spaces, accessible restrooms, picnic shelter, family picnic pads, tennis courts and basketball court. An accessible path connects the backstop on the multi-use playfield and the turf volleyball courts to other site improvements. The playground including surfacing and equipment is accessible. A water cooling station is also accessible. This site was built after the ADA law was approved.

McCRAVY PARK – This site is accessible by paved paths to the playground, to some picnic facilities, and to the edge of the open multi-use turf play area. Playground equipment and surfacing are accessible. While there is an accessible path from the street, much of the adjacent residential development does not include sidewalks, so access to the park is limited to street access until inside the park.



MONDAVI PARK – Designated parking spaces and paths are available at this site. Development includes access to the multi-use playfields and turf volleyball courts. Restrooms, picnic shelter, family picnic pads, basketball court and playground are accessible. The playground includes accessible surfacing and equipment. Park development was provided after the ADA law was approved.

NOR PARK – This site has accessible paths to the pool and office building. Walks surround turf activity areas. The pool building and office building are accessible. Parking areas include designated spaces. The pool is equipped with a chair lift to allow access into the pool.

NORTH BEARDSLEY PARK – Designated parking spaces and accessible paved walks are available. The ball diamond bleacher area is accessible. Restrooms have some access accommodations, however, to achieve full compliance they would probably need to be demolished and new restrooms erected. The swimming pool is accessible through the use of a chair lift. The picnic shelter and some family picnic facilities have access. The children’s play area has paved access and includes accessible play equipment and surfacing. A turf-mounded portion of the playground cannot be made accessible without destroying its design function and purpose.

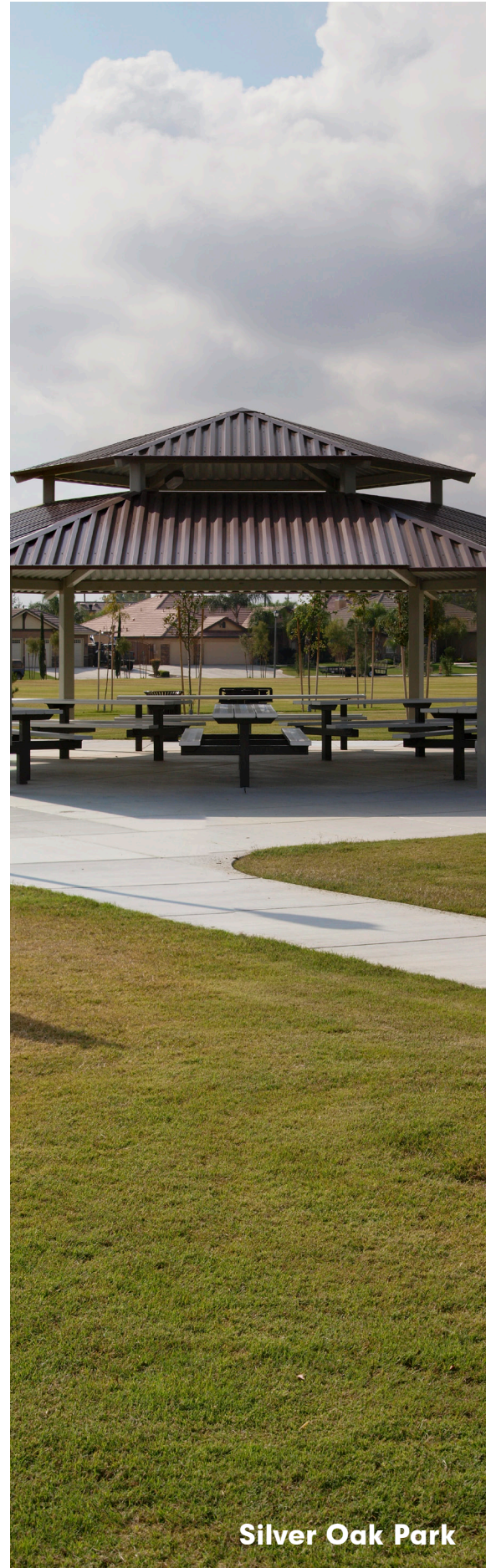
NORTH HIGHLAND PARK – This site has designated parking and paved access to all facilities. Access is available around the ball diamond. Children’s play area equipment, surfacing, and paved paths are accessible. Picnic shelters have accessible routes. Restrooms and basketball courts are accessible.

NORTH MEADOWS PARK – Improvements at this site are accessible including the basketball court, multi-use playfield backstop, picnic shelter, family picnic pads and restrooms. The site has designated parking spaces. Children’s play area development is accessible including surfacing, equipment and paths. A water cooling station is also accessible on site. There is a paved path to the site of the turf volleyball courts. This site has been developed since the enactment of the ADA law.

NORTH ROSEDALE PARK – Paved access is provided to all facilities at this site. Restrooms, picnic shelter and a family picnic facility are accessible. The playground has paved access and accessible surfacing and play equipment. Designated parking spaces exist. Access exists to the ball diamond bleacher pads, basketball/volleyball courts, and tennis court.

NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER – Accessible paths are available to the center. Designated parking spaces are available. The structure is fully accessible.

OLIVE PARK EAST – This site has accessible paths to picnic, playground and the turf volleyball area. All parking is on the



Silver Oak Park

street and there are accessible routes into the park. Playground development includes accessible equipment, surfacing and paths.

OLIVE PARK WEST – Development at this site includes paved paths to the basketball court, playground development, some picnic facilities and to the perimeter of the open turf area. Playground equipment and surfacing are accessible.

POLO COMMUNITY PARK – Development of this site includes designated parking spaces. Accessible paths create access to restrooms, picnic shelter, family picnic pads and the basketball court. Access is available to backstop areas, soccer/football bleacher areas and through the open turf area and to the proximity of the turf volleyball courts. Playground development has accessible paths, surfacing and equipment. The water cooling station is accessible. Most development should be complete in 2011. All facilities are accessible.

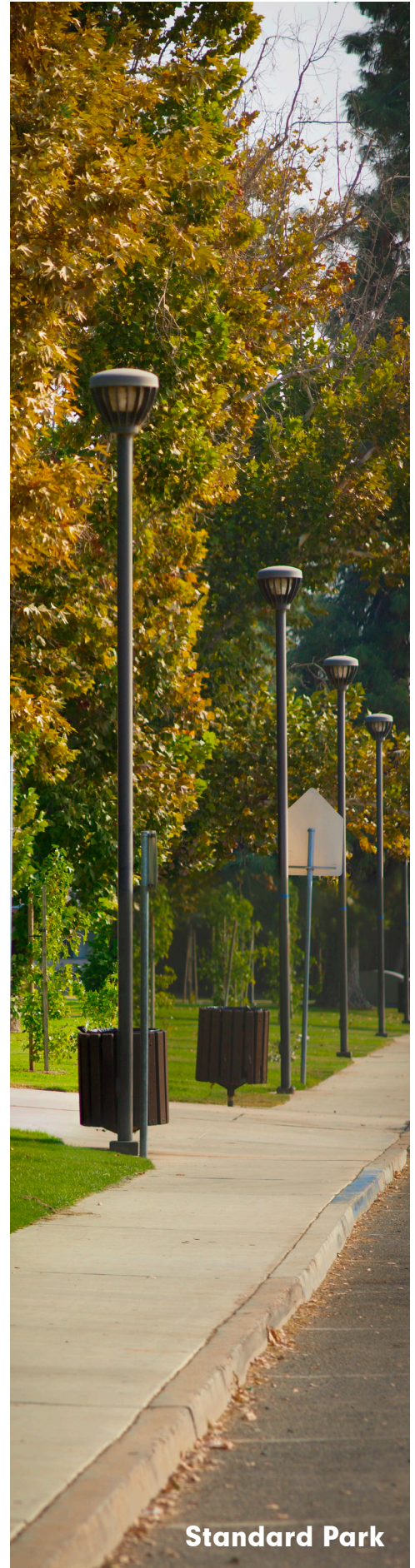
RASMUSSEN CENTER – This center is accessible. The large restrooms have some access although not totally in compliance with current standards. They cannot be made to comply except through major remodeling. Two fully accessible restrooms have been added to the center bringing it current with provisions of the law. Designated parking and access are available to the center and site.

RIVERLAKES RANCH COMMUNITY PARK – This park will be developed by the end of 2012 and will include designated parking spaces and accessible paths. The picnic shelters, family picnic pads, basketball court, restrooms, community center, children's play area including surfacing and equipment, and associated development will be fully accessible.

RIVERVIEW PARK – The parking lots have designated spaces and access is available to the center, preschool, ball diamond, picnic shelters, children's play areas, and restrooms. Some picnic tables meet current access standards. The water cooling station is accessible. The children's play areas have surrounding walks, an accessible surface and accessible play equipment. Disc golf is only partially accessible with walks connecting only some of the tees. No disc golf goals are accessible by paved surface. The multi-use court has paved access. Because of the terrain of the park, a portion of the walk system does not have an accessible slope.

SAN LAUREN PARK – Park development includes designated parking and accessible paths. Restrooms, picnic shelter, family picnic pads, playground, water cooling station, basketball court and associated improvements are accessible. There are access paths to the dog park and open turf areas. The disk golf course is partially accessible because much of the play is from turf grass. All goals and tees are placed in turf; however, accessible paths are located close to many of these. This park was developed after adoption of the ADA law.

SEARS PARK – Paved access is available to some picnic tables and to the playground and water cooling station. Accessible paths connect the office center and provide access to the open turf area of the park.



Standard Park

Designated parking spaces exist. Playground equipment and surfacing are accessible. The Veterans Hall is accessible from the parking lot on its west side.

SILVER OAK PARK – This park is totally compliant with accessibility standards. There are designated parking spaces. Accessible paths connect the picnic shelter, family picnic pads, playground, tennis courts, basketball facility, restrooms and water cooling station. Access is provided near the turf volleyball courts and open turf play areas. Playground surfacing, equipment and containment walks are accessible.

STANDARD PARK – The ball diamonds at Standard Park/School are accessible. The restrooms are accessible. Accessible paths connect the playground, picnic shelter, family picnic pads, water cooling station and basketball courts. Walks provide access to open turf soccer fields and other turf activities. Designated parking spaces are available. The joint use gymnasium on the school site is accessible.

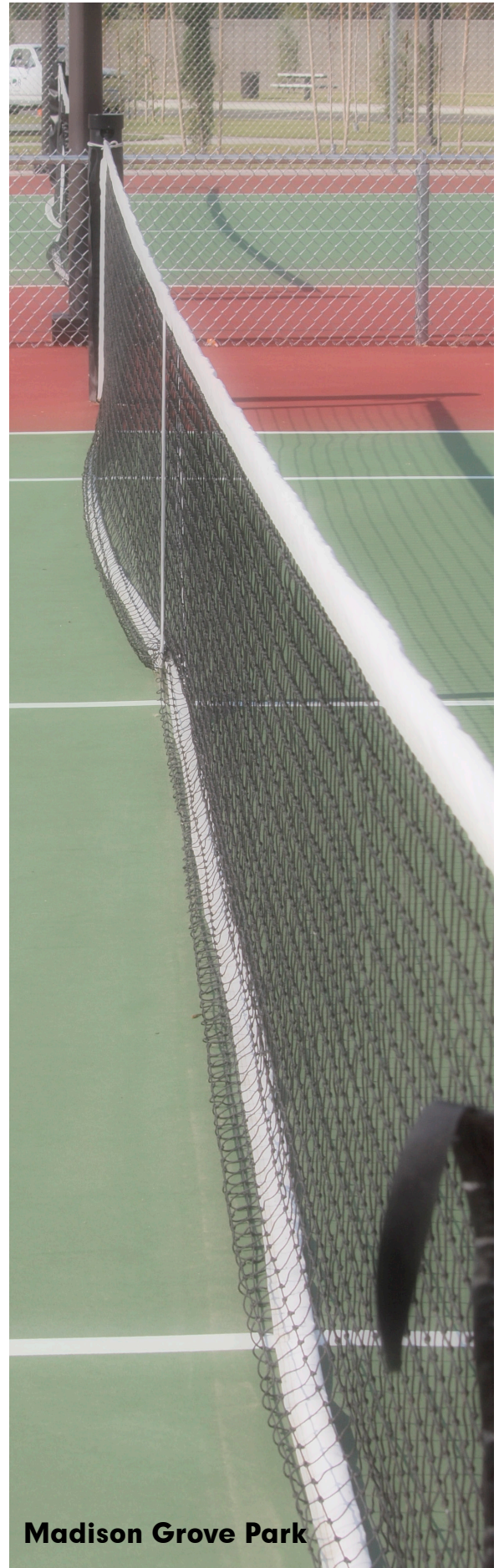
WESTDALE PARK – Designated parking spaces exist. Accessible paths are connecting the basketball court, tennis courts, restrooms, picnic shelter, family picnic pad and children’s play area. Equipment and surfacing in the children’s play area are accessible. Paths provide access to points near open turf playfields and turf volleyball courts.

As facilities are updated or remodeled they will be modified, where possible and reasonable, to comply with current standards. Facilities that require total demolition and reconstruction will continue to have limited accessibility until they are scheduled for major changes. NOR will continue to promote sites that are accessible to all people.

Many NOR programs and facilities are accessible. Several programs for disabled persons are currently offered. Where possible, the disabled participate in regular programs.

Purchase of some additional accessible picnic tables will make picnicking available at all sites. This can be fixed easily and should be a high priority when funds are available.

Major opportunities are equally open to all populations since recent modifications have done much to improve the quality of the recreational experience for individuals with disabilities. The major hindrance to accessibility is the lack of financial resources to accommodate all needs. Accessibility will continuously be a high priority and focus until each facility provides adequate service to all.



Madison Grove Park

STANDARDS



Fruitvale-Norris Park

STANDARDS

Standards are instruments required to measure the adequacy of facilities and evaluate outcomes and expectations desired by the populace in relationship to what is currently offered related to recreational opportunities available within North of the River Recreation and Park District (NOR). Standards define specifics to accomplish the desires of the people. Using standards, a determination is formulated that identifies how successfully the expressed needs are being met.

This plan establishes standards for park acreage as well as recreational facilities. Standards largely define park acreage requirements for various types of public park facilities.

Early development standards, those prior to the third NOR Master Plan update in 1986, did not give full consideration for the type of park proposed for development. Parks provided by NOR fall into three types as follows: community parks, neighborhood parks and mini parks. A “special facility” category is also used in some cases where a project doesn’t really match descriptions defined by type.

Some inconsistencies occur because of changes in recreational philosophies over the years. The inconsistencies will be minimized so that they do not control future planning efforts. Existing facilities will be incorporated in the most equitable manner possible to support standards described and adopted herein.

A combination of area and facility standards is used to determine the appropriate application of park and recreation programs and facilities throughout the entire service area.



Emerald Cove Park

PARK DESCRIPTIONS

Park descriptions focus on the area standards for each type of park and are discussed first followed by facility standards.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	
Area:	Minimum size six usable acres. Optimum size ten usable acres.
Standard:	2 acres/1,000 population.
Population Served:	3,000 – 5,000 (directly relates to park size).
Service Area:	Maximum one mile radius ($\frac{3}{4}$ mile radius is preferred).
Location:	Ideally located along residential streets and where possible adjacent to elementary school sites.
Limitations:	<p>Limit active recreational development to no more than 75% of total park acreage.</p> <p>Not suitable for major traffic generating recreational purposes.</p> <p>Development to meet the needs for nearby recreation. Should have access to public transportation routes.</p> <p>Playfields will generally be informal without sports lighting.</p>
Probable Recreational Venues:	<p>Family picnic pads and group picnic shelter.</p> <p>Children's play area with preschool and school age areas.</p> <p>Lighted multi-use play courts for basketball (may include full court plus half-court provisions and may be overlaid with volleyball, etc.), up to two lighted tennis courts. Turf volleyball courts with lights will be included.</p> <p>Multi-use play fields(s) with recreational backstops (playfields will not have sports lighting and usually will not include permanent bases, dugouts or bleachers).</p> <p>Restrooms are normally provided.</p> <p>Small water play areas will often be included.</p> <p>Development includes off-street parking, walks, security lighting, landscaping and park furniture.</p> <p>Potential specialty developments such as dog parks, exercise courses, disc golf courses, etc., may be considered.</p> <p>All improvements are built for durable use and development quality that can be funded by adopted park development fees. Showcase type development cannot be included without supplemental funding sources.</p>



COMMUNITY PARKS	
Area:	Preferred minimum size 20 usable acres. Optimum size 30+ usable acres.
Standard:	1 acre/1,000 population.
Population Served:	20,000 or more.
Service Area:	Approximately 12 square miles (two mile radius).
Location:	Should be located along major collector or arterial streets and where possible adjacent to high schools, junior high schools or elementary schools.
Limitations:	<p>Sumps, drill sites and easements may be included to increase park size while not increasing additional costs for land acquisition.</p> <p>Preferred location is near mass transportation routes.</p> <p>All large scale recreational activities should occur at these facilities.</p> <p>Major aquatic facilities, community centers and lighted sports facilities will generally be provided at these sites.</p> <p>Up to 25% of the site area should be maintained as open space for informal park activity.</p> <p>Subject to the availability of land and existing and/or proposed development at other sites within the same service area, community park needs may be provided from multiple sites.</p>
Probable Recreational Venues:	<p>Venues identified for neighborhood parks will apply universally to community parks.</p> <p>Additionally, development will generally include multiple lighted sports fields with tall (up to 120') poles. Light spill will not exceed .5 foot candles at any property line. Light design will include high quality technology to control spill, glare and provide efficiency.</p> <p>Sports fields will accommodate softball, baseball, soccer, football and other field game sports.</p> <p>Often outside court games will include more courts than neighborhood parks.</p> <p>Lighted sand volleyball courts can be included.</p> <p>Development will often include community centers (up to 100,000 square feet), aquatic facilities, and may include skating facilities and other specialty recreational venues.</p> <p>Development quality and durability are consistent throughout all park types. See additional information in neighborhood parks.</p>



MINI PARKS	
Area:	Standard subdivision lot to three acres.
Standard:	No standard is established for NOR mini parks.
Population Served:	500 – 2,000 people.
Service Area:	One block to ¼ mile radius.
Location:	If provided by NOR, they will be located only in areas where severe park acreage shortage occurs and when costs or availability of land to meet at least neighborhood park size is not feasible.
Limitations:	<p>Encourage development and maintenance by homeowner groups, apartment complexes and condominium developments. Provide in areas isolated from other park and recreation services.</p> <p>In new development, NOR will provide in areas of severe facility deficiency where needs can't be met by a homeowner's group or development project.</p>
Probable Recreational Venues:	<p>Family picnic pads, small picnic shelters and children's play areas.</p> <p>Open turf play areas, multi-use play courts, walks and security lights, and turf volleyball.</p> <p>Specialty recreational venues may be included.</p> <p>Development quality and durability are consistent throughout all park types. See additional information in neighborhood parks.</p>

SPECIAL FACILITIES:

This category includes all special needs such as seniors, teens and other groups with needs particular to age or limitations as well as specialty type recreational venues.

There is no standard for special facilities. They should be provided according to specific research that determines what is appropriate for the identified purpose.

REGIONAL PARKS:

Standards for regional parks are not addressed in this document since regional needs are not provided by NOR; but by the city, county, state and federal governments.

It does appear important to continue to develop the Kern River providing added opportunities to the Bakersfield urban population. This regional serving facility may receive enhancement through the juxtaposition of adjacent NOR facilities.

SUMMARY OF NOR ACREAGE STANDARDS

The NOR standard is to provide two acres per 1,000 population developed as neighborhood parks, and one acre per 1,000 developed as community parks for a total of three acres.

The Quimby Act limits the park requirement through subdivision development to three acres per 1,000 population, unless otherwise justified. This plan proposes to provide three acres of parkland per 1,000 population through the authority of the Quimby Act. No less than 2.5 acres per 1,000 people will be acceptable. Higher acreage is encouraged through land set aside as easements, sumps, etc., which can also serve park needs and is not being financed through the Quimby process.

A national park acreage standard developed by the National Recreation and Park Association suggests a nationwide standard of ten acres per 1,000 people. The proposed NOR standard falls very short of this national standard but is consistent with provisions included in the planning processes of both the City of Bakersfield and County of Kern. Implementation of standards are important to the development of a well planned and consistently developed community.

FACILITY STANDARDS

Facilities need to be supplied according to desirable program participation levels. To establish those standards within NOR, national standards have been customized using local input and constituent participation practices. Some proposed standards have no national standard.

Looking at some of the major recreation programs in NOR gives an idea of adequacy of facilities through the year 2020. Demand is assumed to remain constant and to grow proportionately with the population. To establish growth patterns, the anticipated population of the entire NOR district is based on the 2000 Census data. The 1990 Census data is provided to show the ten year growth between 1990 and 2000. The 2010 and 2020 populations are estimated.

	POPULATION PROJECTIONS						
	Population 1990	Population 2000	Population 2010 Estimated	Population 2020 Estimated	Percentage Change 1990-2010	Percentage Change 2000-2010	Percentage Change 2010-2020 Estimated
NOR Area	50,255	79,249	123,300*	154,100	245%	155%	25%

*Reflects an annexation population of approximately 8,000 people.



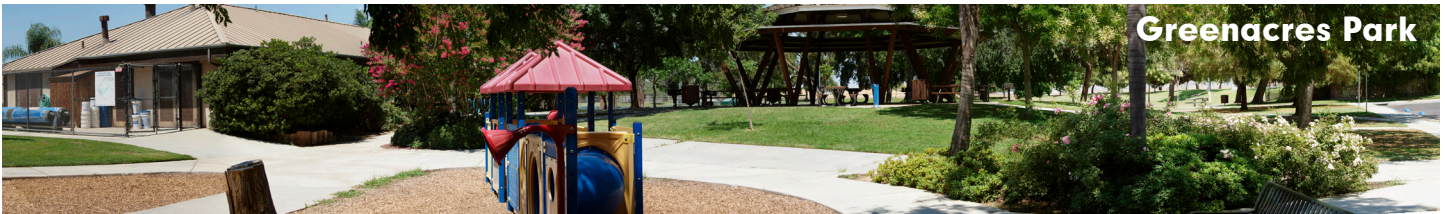
To complete the study of the adequacy of facilities, a standard to measure against is necessary. The NOR facility standards follow:

NOR FACILITY STANDARDS		
Facility	Standard / People	Comments
Regulation Lighted Baseball	1 / 30,000	
Combination Youth Softball / Baseball	1 / 5,000	
Tennis	1 / 8,000	
Basketball	1 / 5,000	Combination Court
Swimming Pool	1 / 30,000	
Football	1 / 20,000	
Volleyball	1 / 5,000	Combination or Grass Court
Gymnasium / Center	1 / 30,000	
Indoor Basketball	Minimum 1 / 30,000	
Indoor Volleyball	Minimum 1 / 30,000	
Indoor Soccer	Minimum 1 / 30,000	
Picnicking	1 Table / 500	
Children's Play Area	1 / 5,000	
Field Soccer	1 / 10,000	
Skating / Skateboard Facility	1 / 100,000	
Dog Park	1 / 50,000	

Using NOR adopted standards, the adequacy of facilities is calculated by comparing the number of existing recreational venues versus the number needed to meet population projections.

Recreation venue and acreage adequacy is described in this document's "Recommendations" section.





EXISTING PARK AND FACILITIES INVENTORY

This inventory includes only sites under the jurisdiction of NOR because of ownership, leases or through joint development/use agreements. Sites on this list include both developed and future sites. The term “future” used in the inventory description refers only to sites that are currently owned by NOR that are yet undeveloped. One of the three sites is in an early development stage and one is under a private lease.

Sites are identified as a neighborhood park, community park, mini park or special facility. Definitions of these facilities preceded this inventory listing under “Park Descriptions.”

Development of all NOR parks is guided by park acreage and facility standards identified in this plan. In many instances, one park serves a combined population of residents of the incorporated area of the City of Bakersfield and unincorporated Kern County area because park service areas have a geographic identity totally ignoring current legal jurisdictional boundaries of Bakersfield and Kern County. All sites are in the metropolitan Bakersfield area. NOR is fully located within Kern County, California.

NOR generally encompasses that portion of the metropolitan Bakersfield area north of the Kern River. NOR has the charge to provide, operate and maintain facilities and programs to serve the entire population within its boundaries irrespective of the overlaid City or County jurisdictional boundaries. The reason for indicating whether a site is incorporated or unincorporated is to identify the permitting agency for park development and associated purposes. The descriptions below identify whether the specific park site is located within an unincorporated area, Kern County, or a portion that has been annexed, incorporated, into the City of Bakersfield.

ALMONDALE PARK (neighborhood), 12.1 acres in size, is located at 5501 Verdugo Lane in an incorporated portion of NOR. Site development includes a picnic shelter, gazebo with a bermed seating area, two backstops and an open turf multi-use playfield area without sports lighting, a full lighted basketball court, two turf volleyball courts, two horseshoe pits, children’s play area with separate preschool and school age playgrounds, restrooms, three family picnic pads, security lights and off-street parking.

AUSTIN CREEK PARK (neighborhood), 9.31 acres in size (future), is located east of Jenkins Road at Austin Creek Avenue in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Future development will be consistent with normal neighborhood park improvements.

EMERALD COVE PARK (neighborhood), 12.4 acres in size, is located at 4303 Patton Way in an incorporated portion of NOR. Development includes a picnic shelter and three family picnic pads, a children’s play area with separate preschool and school age playgrounds, water spray pad, half-court for basketball, one turf volleyball court, one horseshoe pit, an open turf multi-use playfield area without sports lights, restrooms, security lights and off-street parking. Proposed future improvements include one tennis court and a backstop at the open turf multi-use playfield area.

FRUITVALE-NORRIS PARK (community), 17.6 acres in size, is located at 6221 Norris Road in an unincorporated portion of NOR. This undersized community park has been developed with two lighted little league baseball fields. Additional development includes two little league baseball fields without lights designed for multi-purpose playfield use, two lighted tennis courts, two lighted basketball courts with volleyball provisions, open turf areas, a children’s play area with separate preschool and school age playgrounds, two picnic shelters, restrooms, off-street parking, fifteen family picnic pads, small community center (1,400 square feet), security lighting and maintenance yard.

GREENACRES PARK (community), 13.5 acres in size, is located at 2014 Calloway Drive in an unincorporated portion of NOR. This is an undersized community park that has park acreage more consistent with NOR neighborhood park standards. Site development includes an 18,500-square-foot community center with provisions for multi-generational opportunities, two lighted softball diamonds, two lighted tennis courts, a group picnic shelter, three family picnic pads, one horseshoe court, a playground with separate preschool and school age areas, competitive swimming pool and tot pool, restrooms, security lighting, off-street parking and a maintenance yard. Approximately 3.3 acres of this site are leased from the school district which includes a portion of the two lighted softball diamonds.

LIBERTY PARK (community), 21.3 acres in size, is located at 11225 Brimhall Road in an incorporated portion of NOR. Development includes three lighted soccer fields, two multi-use playfields without lights, one lighted basketball court, two turf volleyball courts, a group picnic shelter and four family picnic pads, restrooms, a children's play area with separate preschool and school age playgrounds, security lighting and off-street parking.

MADISON GROVE PARK (neighborhood), 12.0 acres in size, is located at 10115 Norris Road in an incorporated portion of NOR. Development at this site includes a group picnic shelter and three family picnic pads, two lighted tennis courts, a lighted basketball court, a children's play area with separate preschool and school age playgrounds, a water spray pad, restrooms, off-street parking, a multi-use open turf playfield area with one backstop and no sports lights, two turf volleyball courts and security lights.

McCRAY PARK (mini), 1.8 acres in size, is located at 600 Linda Vista Drive in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Site development includes a children's play area with equipment for all age groups, six family picnic pads, and a small backstop in the unlighted multi-use open turf playfield area.

MONDAVI PARK (neighborhood), 9.3 acres in size, is located at 503 Mondavi Way in an incorporated portion of NOR. Development includes a group picnic shelter and three family picnic pads, a children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, a lighted basketball court, two lighted turf volleyball courts, an unlighted multi-use open turf playfield area with two backstops, off-street parking, restrooms and security lighting.

NOR PARK (special facility), 3.1 acres in size, is located at 405 Galaxy Avenue in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Development on this site includes a competitive swimming pool and tot wading pool. The site also includes an unlighted open turf play area, restrooms and off-street parking. A maintenance facility and a 6,530-square-foot administrative office are housed at this location.

NORTH BEARDSLEY PARK (neighborhood), 7.0 acres in size, is located at 901 Airport Drive in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Site development includes a competitive swimming pool with wading pool,



children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, lighted softball diamond, picnic shelter and seven family picnic pads, restrooms, off-street parking and security lights. The size is consistent for a neighborhood park; however, sports lighting for the ball diamond and the swimming pool generally are reserved for community park development.

NORTH HIGHLAND PARK (neighborhood), 10.5 acres in size (including a five-acre lease from the local school district), is located at 4010 Rio Del Norte Street in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Site development includes two group picnic areas, two basketball courts with volleyball court provisions, a children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, a softball diamond without lights, restrooms and security lights. Parking and an unlighted open turf multi-use playfield are available on the leased land from the school district.

NORTH MEADOWS PARK (neighborhood), 8.8 acres in size, is located at 3300 McCray Street in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Development includes a group picnic shelter and three family picnic pads, children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, water spray pad, an unlighted multi-use open turf area with backstop, lighted basketball court, two turf volleyball courts, restrooms, off-street parking and security lights.

NORTH ROSEDALE PARK (neighborhood), 14.4 acres in size (including a four-acre lease from the local school district), is located at 3635 Jewetta Avenue in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Size is consistent with neighborhood parks even though development is more compatible with community park development because the site has four lighted playfields. Development of the park includes three lighted softball fields with multi-use playfield provisions, group picnic shelter, children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, three family picnic pads, lighted basketball court with two half-court provisions and capacity for volleyball, one lighted tennis court, restrooms, off-street parking and security lighting. The leased land has one lighted softball field and parking.

NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER (special facility) is located at 1001 Roberts Lane on the Beardsley Junior High School campus. The center is located within an unincorporated portion of NOR. This joint venture project is developed with a 10,943-square-foot gymnasium and support restrooms.

OLIVE PARK EAST (mini), 2.5 acres in size, is located at 7509 Cecelia Court in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Development at this site includes a children's play area with equipment for all ages, three family picnic pads, one turf volleyball court, open turf play and a single disc golf goal.

OLIVE PARK WEST (mini), 2.5 acres in size, is located at 7901 Peanut Avenue in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Development at this site includes a children's play area with equipment for all age groups, a half basketball court, open turf play and three family picnic pads.

POLO COMMUNITY PARK (community), 40 acres in size, is located at 11801 Noriega Road in an incorporated portion of NOR. Development includes four lighted softball diamonds with multi-use playfield provisions, one lighted baseball diamond and three lighted soccer/football fields, off-street parking, restrooms, picnic shelter and four family picnic pads, a children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, a basketball court, two turf volleyball courts, water spray pad, security lights and maintenance yard. In the future a community center is planned for the site.

RASMUSSEN CENTER (special facility), 4.4 acres in size, is located at 115 East Roberts Lane in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Site development includes a 13,200-square-foot senior center, four shuffleboard courts, four horseshoe pits, a bocce ball court, off-street parking and security lighting.

RIVERLAKES RANCH COMMUNITY PARK (community), 28.1 acres in size (future), is located at 3825 Riverlakes Drive in an incorporated portion of NOR. Construction of planned development is expected to begin in 2011 and when all phases are complete will include a community center, picnic shelter complex and three family picnic pads, children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, outside half basketball court, open turf, off-street parking and security lighting. Development of the site also includes a 20-acre water park development to be provided with private funding through a private/public partnership. This partnership is also planned to assist in providing funding for the community center construction.

RIVERVIEW PARK (community), 20.9 acres in size, is located at 401 Willow Drive in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Site development includes a 14,600-square-foot community center, a 4,700-square-foot children's center and a 1,980-square-foot Neighborhood Place facility, two picnic shelters, water spray pad, children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, multi-use play court to accommodate basketball and volleyball, two horseshoe pits, ten family picnic pads, open turf play areas, 18-hole disk golf course, one lighted baseball diamond, off-street parking, security lights and maintenance yard.

ROSEDALE PARK (neighborhood), 19.6 acres in size (future), is located at 11811 Highway 58 in an unincorporated portion of NOR. This oversized neighborhood park could be developed either as a community park or neighborhood park. Site development plans are not prepared. It is anticipated that likely development will be similar to that in other neighborhood parks within NOR and will include improvements defined under the description of neighborhood parks in the "Standards" section of this document. It is possible that only a portion of this site will be used for park purposes.

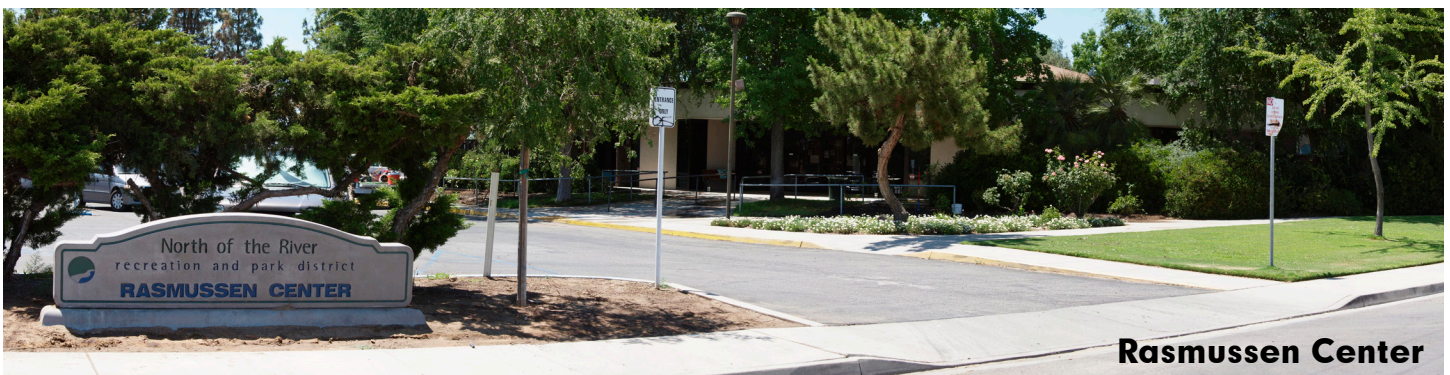
SAN LAUREN PARK (neighborhood), 8.1 acres in size, is located at 4101 Mohawk Street in an incorporated portion of NOR. Development includes a children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, water spray pad, picnic shelter and five family picnic pads, full lighted basketball court, nine-hole disk golf course, open turf play areas, restrooms, off-street parking, dog park and security lights.

SEARS PARK (mini), 2.0 acres in size, is located at 400 Norris Road in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Development includes a 1,990-square-foot office center, a water spray pad, children's play area with equipment for all ages, five family picnic pads, open turf play and security lights. The adjacent Veterans Hall has been leased by NOR for programming services to the area.

SILVER OAK PARK (neighborhood), 9.79 acres in size, is located at 15855 Opus One Drive in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Development includes a picnic shelter and three family picnic pads, a children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, a water spray pad, a lighted basketball court with half-court provisions, two lighted tennis courts, two turf volleyball courts, restrooms, unlighted multi-use open turf playfield areas with two minimal backstops, off-street parking and security lights.

STANDARD PARK (community), 16.5 acres in size, is located at 301 East Minner Avenue in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Site development includes a lighted softball diamond, group picnic shelter and ten family picnic pads, unlighted multi-use open turf playfields, children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, a multi-use play court including basketball improvements plus a half-court basketball facility, water spray pad, restrooms, security lighting and maintenance shop. NOR leases 1.5 acres of the 16.5 acres from the adjacent school district. The lease has been developed as a lighted softball diamond. The 22,000+ square-foot gymnasium facility located on the Standard Middle School campus was developed as a joint venture between NOR and the school district and is available for NOR recreation programs.

WESTDALE PARK (neighborhood), 9.3 acres in size, is located at 15400 Westdale Drive in an unincorporated portion of NOR. Development of this site includes a picnic shelter and three family picnic pads, a children's play area with separate preschool and school age areas, a lighted basketball court, two lighted tennis courts, an unlighted multi-use open turf area with a backstop, two turf volleyball courts, off-street parking, restrooms and security lighting.



RECOMMENDATIONS



Sack Races at the NOR 50 year Anniversary

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACREAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

With this master plan, a 3.0 acre per 1,000 population is being recommended in anticipation that the County of Kern and City of Bakersfield will enact requirements for its provision in the future so that a consistent standard is established within the metropolitan area. With adoption of a 3.0 acre per 1,000 population standard provided by Quimby and development fees, needed new parkland with development will increase from the identified need of 97 additional acres by 2020 to 174 additional acres. The provision of an additional .5 acres of parkland to meet the 3.0 acre per 1,000 standard would require a 77 acre park expansion that will take several years to accomplish. It becomes a goal for NOR to achieve this 3.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 people standard as soon as possible. This standard will only be attainable if the County of Kern and City of Bakersfield change the park acreage standards within the metropolitan Bakersfield area.

Because the current adopted park acreage standard is 2.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 population, park acreage standards of this master plan are formulated based on supplying a minimum of 2.5 acres per 1,000 people. The existing standard funded by residential development provides only 2.5 acres of public parkland for every 1,000 people. This 2.5 acre per 1,000 standard is funded through provision of a park in lieu fee required to purchase the parkland and the development fee needed to convert the undeveloped land to usable park facilities.

The recommendation compares existing park acreage with the population estimates to determine adequacy of existing parkland. If the ratio is at least 2.5 acres of usable parkland for every 1,000 people living within the NOR boundaries, park acreage is adequate and no additional parkland is needed. The current adopted mechanisms to provide parks automatically causes park development to lag behind residential expansion because park fees for development are not collected until residential building permits are obtained. From the time the first master plan was prepared, additional park acreage has always been needed to meet the adopted acreage standards approved in the community of NOR.

By the end of 2012, NOR is estimated to have 288 acres of developed parkland (including development of RiverLakes Ranch Community Park). It should have 308 acres based on the estimated NOR population. By 2020, 385 acres of developed parkland are required to meet this same NOR park acreage standard. This requires the development of the 28.9 acres of parkland currently owned but yet undeveloped, plus purchase and development of an additional 68.1 acres of land prior to the end of 2020. Total new park development between 2010 and 2020 should be 97 acres to meet the adopted standards.

The exact locations for new park sites are not currently known. Generally, they will be provided in conjunction with planned residential developments. Potentially, growth could continue on the north side of Oildale and will require additional parkland. Development is likely to continue west of Freeway 99 north of Snow Road requiring various park provisions. Residential growth will likely continue its march west, thus, requiring additional parkland west of Santa Fe Way as far west as Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School. Growth will likely occur south of Stockdale Highway west of Renfro Road requiring additional new parkland in that area, also.

Parkland, to the greatest extent possible, will be provided as part of residential development plans. Developers will be encouraged to build parks to NOR specifications in exchange for payment of park development fees. Such development may provide parks in a timelier manner, thus, coinciding more closely with actual residential growth. This development will benefit residents as well as NOR and cause facilities to be provided earlier than they can when fees have to be collected first in order to have sufficient funding to proceed with the traditional park construction process.

FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Consideration of the specific ability for certain park improvements to accommodate defined numbers of recreational participants, the carrying capacities of recreational venues, is an important concern in establishing facility recommendations.

Recommendations for park facilities are based on not exceeding carrying capacities of various recreational venues. Carrying capacities must take into consideration the need for facilities to be repaired and rejuvenated. Over use of facilities, especially turf grass type recreational venues, causes the quality of the recreational experience to diminish. Carrying capacities must be measured alongside population projections to ascertain whether adequate recreational venues will be available.

Facilities are evaluated based on the population needs and projections. Locations where specific facilities will be placed are not defined in this document except as described in the “Standards” section.

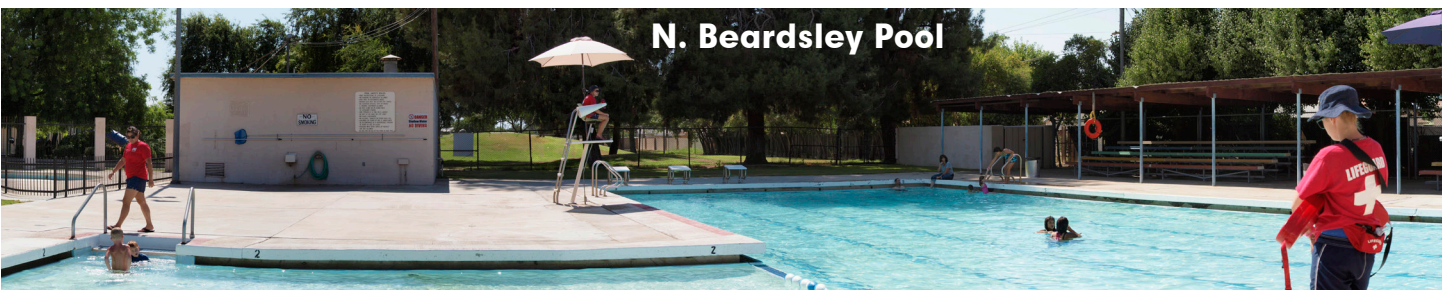
While facility recommendations don’t account specifically for passive recreational areas, the proposed increase in park acreage to three acres/1,000 people affords the opportunity to increase passive park areas, a high priority to many respondents of the 2009 NOR survey. This expanded passive recreational land improves the relationship between active recreational uses provided at specific facilities versus unprogrammed passive recreational opportunities.

Facility recommendations are generated to direct development primarily for neighborhood and community parks. Any potential development of mini parks would be minimal.

Mini park development usually consists only of picnic, playground and open turf play areas. Occasionally development could include court games. Rarely, if ever, will off-street parking or restrooms be included.

Neighborhood parks will usually include development of: children’s play areas (some with water spray areas), picnic facilities (both shelters and family picnic pads), basketball/multi-use courts with lights, multi-use playfield areas without sports lighting, restrooms, off-street parking, security lighting, and associated improvements including accommodations for passive recreational venues. This type of park development is focused for close to home participants and activities that generate less traffic.

Community parks encompass all development found in neighborhood parks and additionally include things like community centers, aquatic facilities, lighted sports fields and other recreational venues accommodated primarily by requiring many participants to use vehicular or public transportation to access them. These sites are more active and more heavily programmed than neighborhood parks.



The following chart identifies facility needs through the year 2020:

Facilities Needed Through 2020
(Based on Population Projections)

Facility	Existing Facilities Year 2000 (Pop. 79,249)	Existing Facilities Year 2010 (Est. Pop 123,300)	Needed Facilities Year 2010 (Est. Pop 123,300) 2.5 ac/1000 Standard	Needed Facilities Year 2020 (Est. Pop. 154,100) 2.5 ac/1000 Standard
Children's Play Area	11	19	25	31
Picnic Facilities (expressed as 3 picnic tables per 1000 people)	133	366	370	462
Basketball	8	20	25	31
Volleyball	9	26	25	31
Tennis	6	9	15	19
Baseball (regulation lighted)	1	1	4	5
Softball/Baseball (combination)	16	21	25	31
Football **	8	8	6	8
Field Soccer **	8	8	12	15
Swimming Pool	3	3	4	5
Gymnasium/Center (indoor basketball, volleyball, soccer, etc.)	4*	4*	4*	5*
Skating/Skateboard	0	0	1	2
Dog Park	0	1	2	3

* Includes two joint venture gymnasiums on school campuses.

** Multi-use facilities.

By the end of 2010, according to NOR established standards, several facilities will be in short supply. These include a shortage of: six children's play areas, five basketball courts, six tennis courts, three regulation lighted baseball diamonds, four softball fields, one swimming pool, one skating/skateboard facility, and one dog park.

Several projects are currently under construction which will help meet some facility needs. Two projects, Silver Oak Park and Polo Community Park, should be complete by mid 2011. RiverLakes Ranch Community Park will be complete about the middle of the following year. Considering these three park developments, the following additional facilities will be available to NOR constituents: three children's play areas, three group picnic areas, four and one half basketball courts, six volleyball courts, two tennis courts, one lighted baseball diamond, four softball fields, three soccer/football fields, three multi-use playfields that can accommodate soccer and football, and a community center.

The standards for basketball and volleyball are met with both outdoor and indoor facilities. The provision of the RiverLakes Ranch Community Center, Silver Oak Park and Polo Community Park will add five and one-half basketball courts and eight volleyball courts; thus, exceeding the number of facilities needed by 2010.

Provision of a skating/skateboard facility should be a high priority. According to the 2009 NOR facilities survey conducted among area residents, a greater percentage of households have members who participate in skateboarding and skating than in sports like soccer and volleyball. To date, NOR has no facilities for skating/skateboarding.

The water park at RiverLakes Ranch Community Park and water spray pads at various parks help alleviate the swimming pool demands. Construction of the water park is anticipated to be completed by 2011; it can meet the needs of one swimming pool facility.

During the ten year period between 2010 and 2020, several facilities for recreational activities should be provided. If the following provisions can be accomplished, NOR will meet its facilities standard for the first time by year 2020, including catching up for the shortages identified in 2010.



The following chart includes facilities that should be supplied between 2010 and 2020 to meet the projected population growth:

FACILITY DEMAND BY 2020

FACILITY	QUANTITY NEEDED
Children's Play Area	12
Picnic Facilities	56
Basketball	11½
Volleyball	13
Tennis	10
Baseball (regulation lighted)	4
Softball/Baseball (combination)	10
Football	3
Field Soccer	7
Swimming Pool	2
Gymnasium/Center (indoor volleyball, basketball, soccer, etc.)	1
Skating/Skateboard	2
Dog Park	2

Additional facilities will be needed by 2020. If the increased acres of parkland are purchased and developed to meet the 3.0 acre per 1,000 people standard by 2020, most of the needed facilities will automatically be met. The greatest challenges in facility development will be to meet the needs for swimming pools, gymnasiums/centers and skating/skateboard facilities. Various methods to finance these (i.e., grants, bond issues, donations, etc.) may be important considerations for the future.



SOURCES

- (1) North Bakersfield Recreation and Park District 2010 Park and Recreation Master Plan
- (2) North of the River Recreation and Park District Annual Budget 2010-2011
- (3) NOR Master Plan Survey 2009
- (4) Park Maintenance Standards A Cooperative Project of the American Park and Recreation Society and National Society for Park Resources, Professional Branches of the National Recreation and Park Association
- (5) Bakersfield Recreation and Parks Master Plan 2007
- (6) United States Census: Bakersfield and Kern County 2000
- (7) North of the River Recreation and Park District Fun Books
- (8) North of the River Recreation and Park District Capital Improvement Plan

EXISTING RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

Site	Group Picnic Capacity	Family Picnic Pads	BBQ Grills	Community Center	Activity Room	Gymnasium	Gymnastics	Softball Diamonds	Baseball Diamonds	Multi-Purpose Playfields	Soccer/Football	Basketball	Volleyball	Tennis	Swimming Pool	Wading Pool	Water Spray Pad	Children's Play Area	Disk Golf	Restrooms	Off-Street Parking	Bike Parking	Mature Shade	Open Turf	Dog Park	Drinking Fountain	Benches	Bleachers	Preschool	Walking/Jogging Path (paved)	Bocce Ball	Horseshoes	Shuffleboard	Gazebo	Water Park	Developed Acreage	Undeveloped Acreage	Future Development		
Almondale Park	110	3	5				2		•		1	2G					•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•							12.1					
Austin Creek Park																																				9.31	•			
Emerald Cove Park	110	3	5						•	•	½	1G				•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•								12.4				
Fruitvale-Norris Park	32/64	15	15	•	•			2L/2	•		2L	2LP	2L			•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	17.6		
Greenacres Park	96	3	4	•	•	•	2L		•		1C	2C	2L	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	13.5		
Liberty Park	110	4	6						•	3L/2	1L	2G					•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•								21.3			
Madison Grove Park	110	3	5				1		•		1L	2G	2L		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•								12.0			
McCray Park		6	4														•					•	•	•	•												1.8			
Mondavi Park	110	3	5				2		•		1L	2LG					•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•								9.3			
NOR Park					•									•	•				•	•		•	•	•	•											3.1				
North Beardsley Park	64	7	4				1L		•					•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•										7.0				
North Highland Park	32/96		2				1		•		2	2P					•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•										5.5 / 5A				
North Meadows Park	110	3	5				1		•		1L	2G			•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•								8.8				
North Rosedale Park	110	3	5				4L		•		1½L		1L				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•										10.4 / 4S				
Northside Community Center				S		S					1C	2C							•	•		•		•												S				
Olive Park East		3	3									1G					•	1				•	•	•	•			•								2.5				
Olive Park West		3	3								½						•					•	•	•	•			•								1		2.5		
Polo Community Park	240	4	6				4L	1L	•	3L	1L	2G			•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	40.0		
Rasmussen Center				•	•														•	•		•	•	•	•			•	1	2	4					4.4				
RiverLakes Ranch Com Park	330	3	7	•	•	•					2C/½	4C					•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•								PP	28.1		**			
Riverview Park	64/32	10	6	•	•	•	•	1L	•		1C/1L	2LP/2C			•	•	18	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	PP	•	2							20.9				
Rosedale Park																																				19.6	•			
San Lauren Park	110	5	7								1L				•	•	9	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•								8.1				
Sears Park		5	3	•											•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•											2.0				
Silver Oak Park	96	3	5						•		2L	2G	2L		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•								9.79				
Standard Park & School Gym	80	10	6		S		1L/1LS		•	3	1C/½/1L	2C			•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	15/1.5AS			
Westdale Park	80	3	5				1		•		1L	2G	2L				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•								9.3				

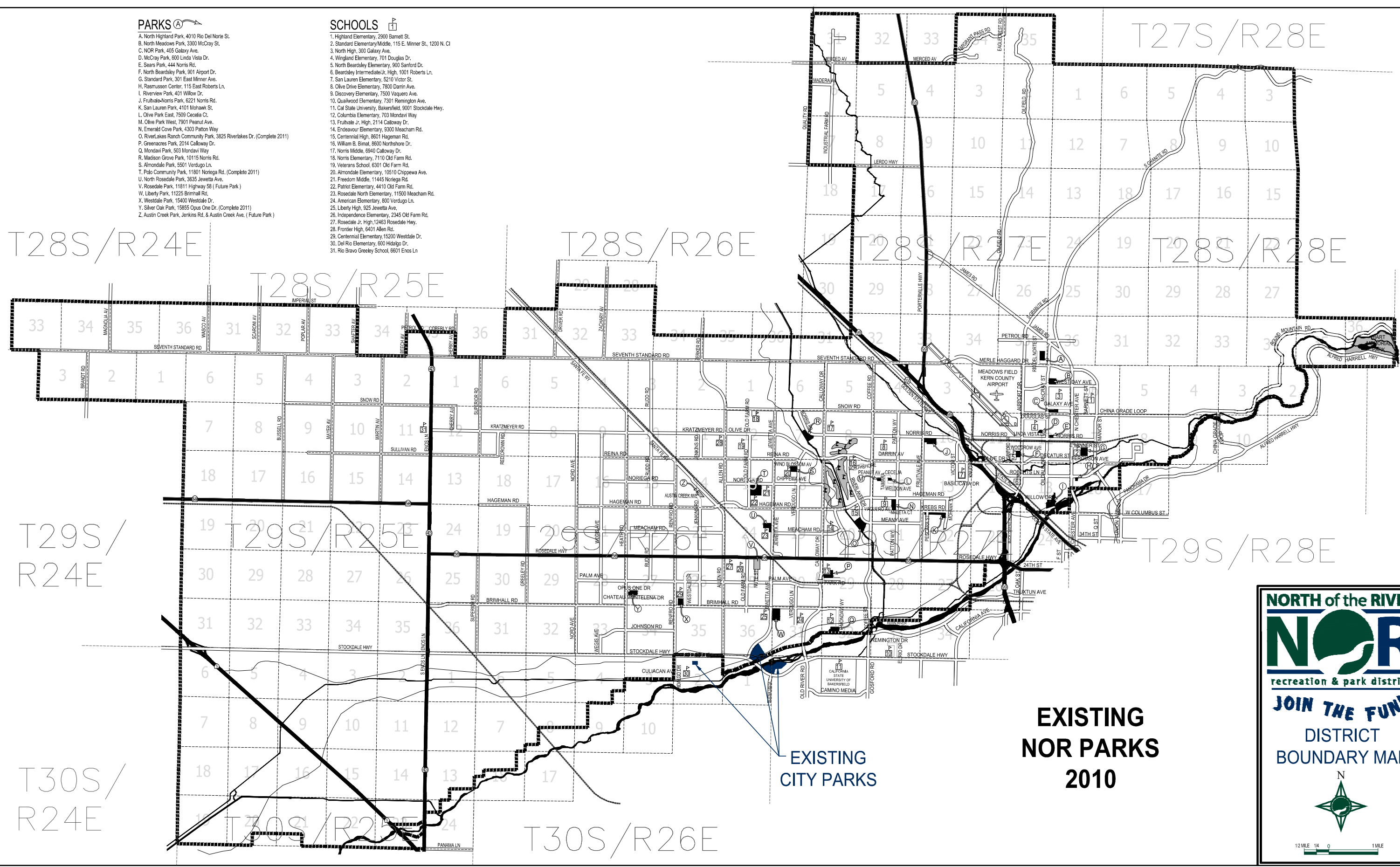
L = Lights P = Paved A = Lease Agreement C = In Community Centers
 G = Grass S = School PP = Private Partnership ** Development Planned for Completion by the End of 2012

PARKS

- A. North Highland Park, 4010 Rio Del Norte St.
- B. North Meadows Park, 3300 McCray St.
- C. NOR Park, 405 Galaxy Ave.
- D. McCray Park, 600 Linda Vista Dr.
- E. Sears Park, 444 Norris Rd.
- F. North Beardsley Park, 901 Airport Dr.
- G. Standard Park, 301 East Minner Ave.
- H. Rasmussen Center, 115 East Roberts Ln.
- I. Riverview Park, 401 Willow Dr.
- J. Fruitvale-Norris Park, 6221 Norris Rd.
- K. San Lauren Park, 4101 Morhawk St.
- L. Olive Park East, 7509 Cocolla Ct.
- M. Olive Park West, 7901 Peanut Ave.
- N. Emerald Cove Park, 4303 Patton Way
- O. RiverLakes Ranch Community Park, 3825 Riverlakes Dr. (Complete 2011)
- P. Greenacres Park, 2014 Calloway Dr.
- Q. Mondavi Park, 503 Mondavi Way
- R. Madison Grove Park, 10115 Norris Rd.
- S. Almondale Park, 5501 Verdugo Ln.
- T. Polo Community Park, 11801 Noriega Rd. (Complete 2011)
- U. North Rosedale Park, 3535 Jewetta Ave.
- V. Rosedale Park, 11811 Highway 58 (Future Park)
- W. Liberty Park, 11225 Brimhall Rd.
- X. Westdale Park, 15400 Westdale Dr.
- Y. Silver Oak Park, 15855 Opus One Dr. (Complete 2011)
- Z. Austin Creek Park, Jenkins Rd. & Austin Creek Ave. (Future Park)

SCHOOLS

- 1. Highland Elementary, 2900 Barnett St.
- 2. Standard Elementary/Middle, 115 E. Minner St, 1200 N. C.
- 3. North High, 300 Galaxy Ave.
- 4. Wingland Elementary, 701 Douglas Dr.
- 5. North Beardsley Elementary, 900 Sanford Dr.
- 6. Beardsley Intermediate/Jr. High, 1001 Roberts Ln.
- 7. San Lauren Elementary, 5210 Victor St.
- 8. Olive Drive Elementary, 7800 Darrin Ave.
- 9. Discovery Elementary, 7500 Vaquero Ave.
- 10. Quailwood Elementary, 7301 Remington Ave.
- 11. Cal State University, Bakersfield, 3001 Stockdale Hwy.
- 12. Columbia Elementary, 703 Mondavi Way
- 13. Fruitvale Jr. High, 2114 Calloway Dr.
- 14. Endeavour Elementary, 5300 Meacham Rd.
- 15. Centennial High, 8601 Hageman Rd.
- 16. William B. Bimat, 8600 Northshore Dr.
- 17. Norris Middle, 6940 Calloway Dr.
- 18. Norris Elementary, 7110 Old Farm Rd.
- 19. Veterans School, 6301 Old Farm Rd.
- 20. Almondale Elementary, 10510 Chippewa Ave.
- 21. Freedom Middle, 11445 Noriega Rd.
- 22. Patriot Elementary, 4410 Old Farm Rd.
- 23. Rosedale North Elementary, 11500 Meacham Rd.
- 24. American Elementary, 800 Verdugo Ln.
- 25. Liberty High, 925 Jewetta Ave.
- 26. Independence Elementary, 2345 Old Farm Rd.
- 27. Rosedale Jr. High, 12463 Rosedale Hwy.
- 28. Frontier High, 6401 Allen Rd.
- 29. Centennial Elementary, 15200 Westdale Dr.
- 30. Del Rio Elementary, 600 Hidalgo Dr.
- 31. Rio Bravo Greeley School, 6601 Enos Ln



**EXISTING
NOR PARKS
2010**

**EXISTING
CITY PARKS**

NORTH of the RIVER
NOR
 recreation & park district

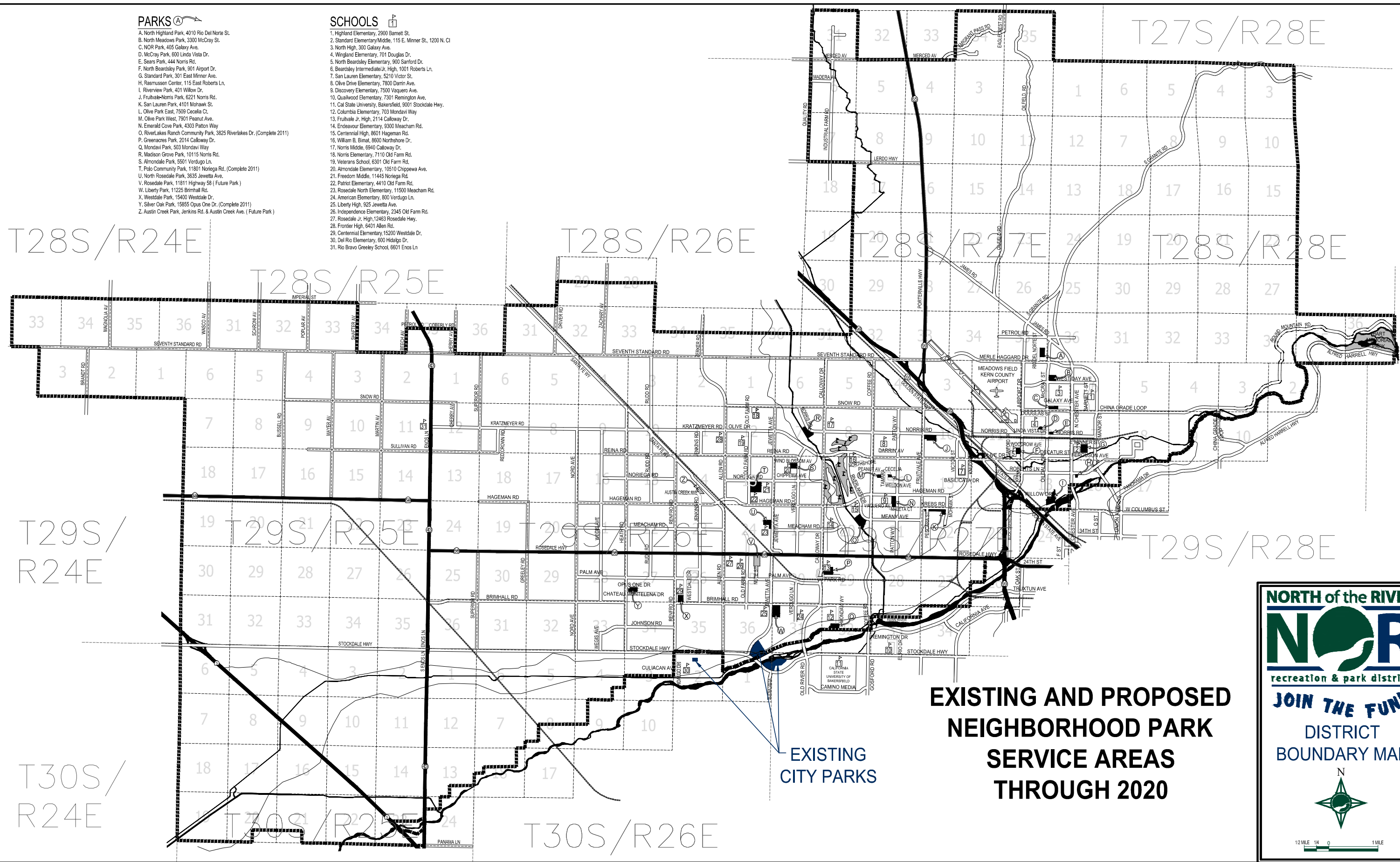
JOIN THE FUN!
 DISTRICT
 BOUNDARY MAP

PARKS

- A. North Highland Park, 4010 Rio Del Norte St.
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- 26. Independence Elementary, 2345 Old Farm Rd.
- 27. Rosedale Jr. High, 12463 Rosedale Hwy.
- 28. Frontier High, 6401 Allen Rd.
- 29. Centennial Elementary, 15200 Westdale Dr.
- 30. Del Rio Elementary, 600 Hidalgo Dr.
- 31. Rio Bravo Greeley School, 6601 Enos Ln



**EXISTING AND PROPOSED
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
SERVICE AREAS
THROUGH 2020**

EXISTING
CITY PARKS

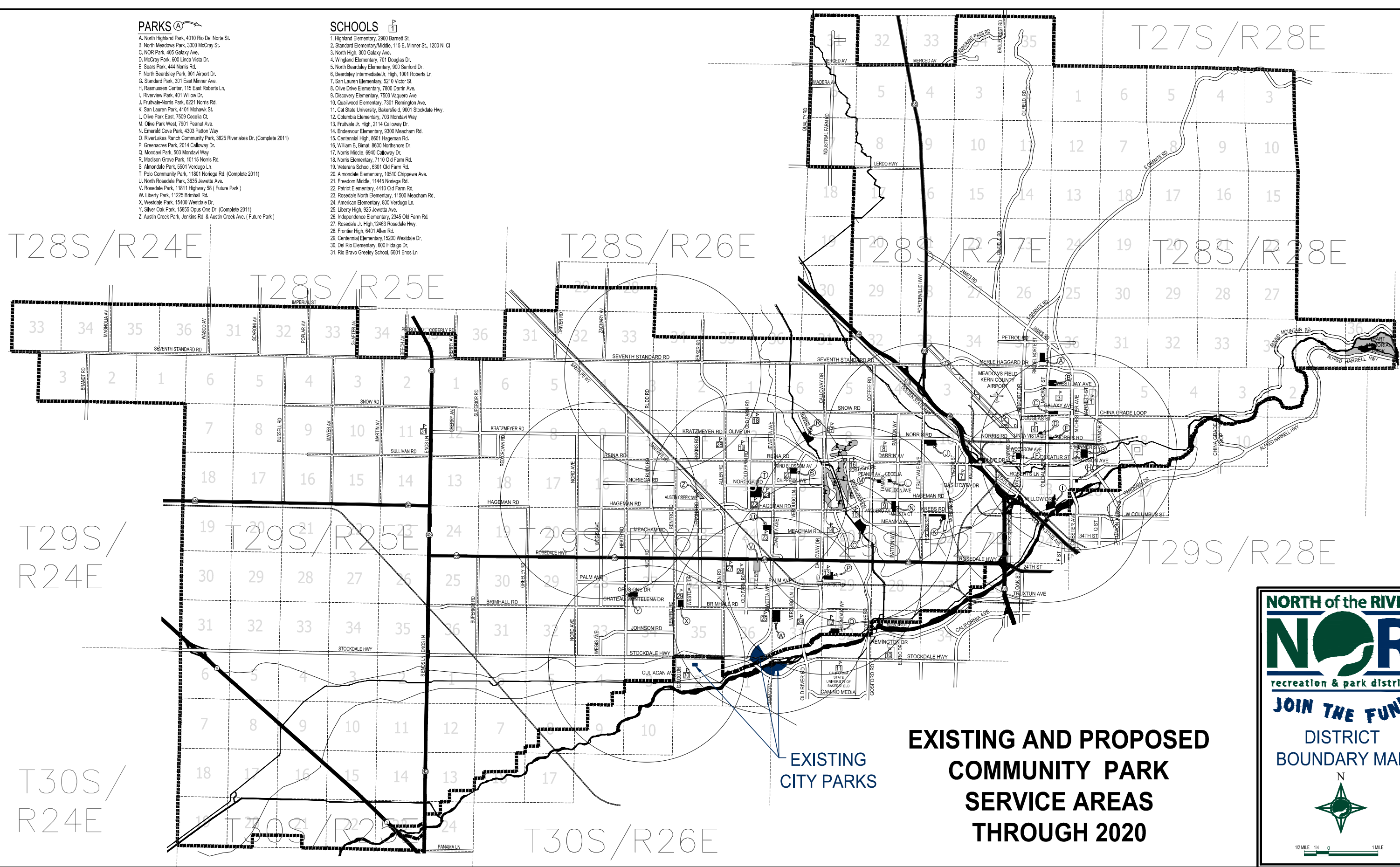
NORTH of the RIVER
NOR
 recreation & park district
JOIN THE FUN!
 DISTRICT
 BOUNDARY MAP

PARKS

- A. North Highland Park, 4010 Rio Del Norte St.
- B. North Meadows Park, 3300 McCray St.
- C. NOR Park, 405 Galaxy Ave.
- D. McCray Park, 600 Linda Vista Dr.
- E. Sears Park, 444 Norris Rd.
- F. North Beardsley Park, 901 Airport Dr.
- G. Standard Park, 301 East Minner Ave.
- H. Rasmussen Center, 115 East Roberts Ln.
- I. Riverview Park, 401 Willow Dr.
- J. Fruitvale-Norris Park, 6221 Norris Rd.
- K. San Lauren Park, 4101 Mohawk St.
- L. Olive Park East, 7509 Cocolla Ct.
- M. Olive Park West, 7301 Pleasant Ave.
- N. Emerald Cove Park, 4303 Patton Way
- O. RiverLakes Ranch Community Park, 3825 Riverlakes Dr. (Complete 2011)
- P. Greenacres Park, 2014 Calloway Dr.
- Q. Mondavi Park, 503 Mondavi Way
- R. Madison Grove Park, 10115 Norris Rd.
- S. Almondale Park, 5501 Verdugo Ln.
- T. Polo Community Park, 11801 Noriega Rd. (Complete 2011)
- U. North Rosedale Park, 3635 Jewetta Ave.
- V. Rosedale Park, 11811 Highway 58 (Future Park)
- W. Liberty Park, 11225 Btrnhill Rd.
- X. Westdale Park, 15400 Westdale Dr.
- Y. Silver Oak Park, 15555 Opus One Dr. (Complete 2011)
- Z. Austin Creek Park, Jenkins Rd. & Austin Creek Ave. (Future Park)

SCHOOLS

- 1. Highland Elementary, 2900 Barnett St.
- 2. Standard Elementary/Middle, 115 E. Minner St., 1200 N. Cl
- 3. North High, 300 Galaxy Ave.
- 4. Wingland Elementary, 701 Douglas Dr.
- 5. North Beardsley Elementary, 900 Sanford Dr.
- 6. Beardsley Intermediate/Jr. High, 1001 Roberts Ln.
- 7. San Lauren Elementary, 5210 Victor St.
- 8. Olive Drive Elementary, 7800 Darrin Ave.
- 9. Discovery Elementary, 7500 Vaquero Ave.
- 10. Quailwood Elementary, 7301 Remington Ave.
- 11. Cal State University, Bakersfield, 9001 Stockdale Hwy.
- 12. Columbia Elementary, 703 Mondavi Way
- 13. Fruitvale Jr. High, 2114 Calloway Dr.
- 14. Endeavor Elementary, 5300 Meacham Rd.
- 15. Centennial High, 8601 Hageman Rd.
- 16. William B. Bimat, 8600 Northshore Dr.
- 17. Norris Middle, 6940 Calloway Dr.
- 18. Norris Elementary, 7110 Old Farm Rd.
- 19. Veterans School, 6301 Old Farm Rd.
- 20. Almondale Elementary, 10510 Chippewa Ave.
- 21. Freedom Middle, 11445 Noriega Rd.
- 22. Patriot Elementary, 4410 Old Farm Rd.
- 23. Rosedale North Elementary, 11500 Meacham Rd.
- 24. American Elementary, 800 Verdugo Ln.
- 25. Liberty High, 525 Jewetta Ave.
- 26. Independence Elementary, 2345 Old Farm Rd.
- 27. Rosedale Jr. High, 12463 Rosedale Hwy.
- 28. Frontier High, 6401 Allen Rd.
- 29. Centennial Elementary, 15200 Westdale Dr.
- 30. Del Rio Elementary, 600 Hidsalgo Dr.
- 31. Rio Bravo Greeley School, 6601 Enos Ln



EXISTING CITY PARKS

EXISTING AND PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREAS THROUGH 2020

NORTH of the RIVER
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 recreation & park district

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DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP

