

**City of Calexico**  
**Draft Parks and Recreation Element**

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## **DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

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### **6.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Parks and Recreation Element is an optional general plan element. Public park and recreation facilities contribute to the quality of life in Calexico. The Calexico Recreation Department makes a fundamental point that ***PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER!***

The City's vision is ***ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH PEOPLE, PARKS AND PROGRAMS.***

Because parks and recreation play an important role in planning for ***a healthy city***, it is important to inventory existing facilities, identify gaps and efficiencies, and establish policies to guide future actions.

### **6.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### **6.2.1 Park Types**

The National Recreation and Park Association recommend "ideal" standards for park types. These standards, though, do not account for the historical development of parks within a given community. Calexico has several park types which differ primarily based on size, amenities and facilities.

***Small Parks:*** The *2007 Parks and Recreation Element* refers to parks less than two acres in size as "pocket parks." Cortez Park, Rio Vista Park, Border/Friendship Park and Kennedy Gardens #3 are very small parks: 0.45, 0.58, 0.91 and 1.22 acres in size.

Because of their small size, these parks are "passive" in that they do not have the space to accommodate facilities for "active" play. Cortez Park is an exception because it does have a basketball court.

These parks offer a place to sit and rest and children to play. Shade structures offer a refuge from the hot sun. Cortez Park and Rio Vista Park have picnic tables and benches and Border/Friendship Park has benches. Kennedy Gardens #3 is an undeveloped park at this time (June 2015).

***Neighborhood Serving Parks:*** Eight parks - ranging in size from 2.33 to 5.31 acres - are in effect neighborhood serving parks because they are located within or adjacent to residential neighborhoods. Since these parks are larger than the small or "pocket" parks they can accommodate more amenities or facilities and hence more people. The neighborhood serving parks typically have picnic tables and benches, children's playground equipment, swings, shade structures and some have baseball and soccer fields.

Neighborhood serving parks include: Heber Park, Kennedy Gardens Small, Kennedy Gardens Large, Meadows Park, Rockwood Plaza Park, Crummett Park, Rancho Frontera Park and Las Casitas Park. Meadows Park has a field and could enhance its neighborhood serving role with additional amenities and/or facilities.

***Community Center/Lioness Park:*** These facilities are located adjacent to one another. Lioness Park has four covered picnic tables and benches. The Community Center has a capacity of 320 persons and 21 on-site parking spaces.

## **DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

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**Parks/Fields:** Two locations have a large park and field adjacent to one another:

- Rodriquez Park (4.19 acres).and Field (4.85 acres)
- Nosotros Park (4.75 acres) and Field (2.08 acres)

Rodriquez Park has eight picnic tables, benches, basketball courts, and swings. Rodriquez Field has two picnic tables, benches, baseball field, and playground equipment. Rodriquez Field also has 45 parking spaces.

Nosotros Park has nine picnic tables, benches, basketball courts, playground equipment, and 20 parking spaces. Nosotros Field has a baseball field, soccer field, and walk/run trail.

**Fields:** The City has five additional fields: Rancho Elegante, Alex Rivera, American Legion, Daniel Gutierrez and Joel Riesen.

**Adrian C. Cordova Park:** This 15.1 acre park is Calexico’s largest park. It has play structures, a soccer field, walk/run trail, and 40 parking spaces. Approximately 10 acres of the park is undeveloped. The City Council on February 3, 2015 approved a park concept plan that contains three baseball fields, three basketball courts, a soccer field, water play structure, indoor basketball court, concession stand, play area, picnic area, parking lot, and restroom.

The Calexico Recreation Department also offers exciting recreation choices for the community’s youth, adults and seniors. These choices, for example, include youth karate, dodge ball and basketball; adult basketball and volleyball, and senior activities such as aerobics, health and wellness and nutrition classes.

### **6.2.2 Existing Parkland**

The City’s existing parks and fields and joint use facilities with Calexico Unified School District have a combined total of 128.55 acres:

- Existing parks           60.30
  - Existing fields           24.73
  - Joint use facilities      43.52
- 128.55

The following tables and exhibits describe the existing parkland:

- Table PR 6 shows the number of acres in each existing park
- Table PR 2 shows the number of acres in each existing field
- Exhibit PR 1 is the Park and Field Location Map
- Exhibit PR 2 City of Calexico Park Photographs
- Exhibit PR 3 Cordova Park Concept Plan
- Table PR 3 identifies the approximate size of the City of Calexico-Calexico Unified School District Joint Use Facilities
- Table PR 4 lists the Calexico Unified School District Facilities/Fields/Courts

## **DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

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**Table PR 1  
City of Calexico Existing Parks**

<b>Park</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Cortez Park	0.45
Rio Vista Park	0.58
Border/Friendship Park	0.91
Kennedy Gardens #3	1.22
Heber Park	2.33
Kennedy Gardens Small	2.58
Community Center/Lioness Park	2.96
Meadows Park	3.23
Rockwood Plaza Park	3.40
Kennedy Gardens Large	3.95
Rodriguez Park	4.19
Crummett Park	4.39
Nosotros Park	4.75
Rancho Frontera Park	4.95
Las Casitas Park	5.31
Adrian C. Cordova Park	15.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.30</b>

Source: Acres based on Google Earth Pro. Boundaries of each park were drawn on Google Earth Pro using the cursor and the program calculates the perimeter as well as the area.

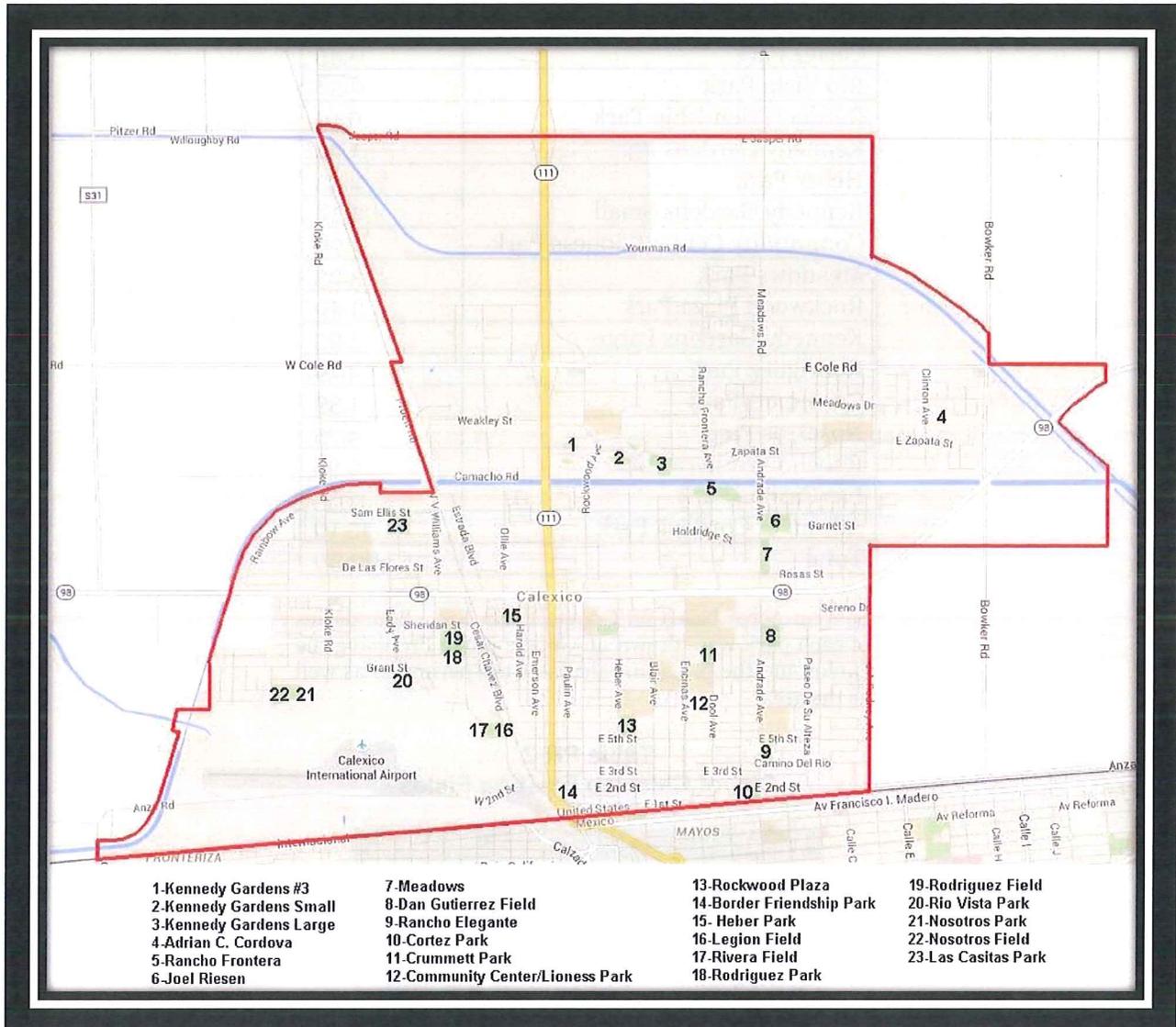
**Table PR 2  
City of Calexico Existing Fields**

<b>Field</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Rancho Elegante Field	3.02
Alex Rivera Field	1.72
American Legion Field	2.11
Nosotros Field	2.08
Daniel Gutierrez Field	4.60
Rodriguez Field	4.85
Joel Riesen Field	6.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.73</b>

Source: Acres based on Google Earth Pro. Boundaries of each field were drawn on Google Earth Pro using the cursor and the program calculates the perimeter as well as the area.

# DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

## Exhibit PR1 City of Calexico Park and Field Location Map



# DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

## Exhibit PR 2 City of Calexico Park Photographs



**Border Friendship Park**



**Rodriguez Park**



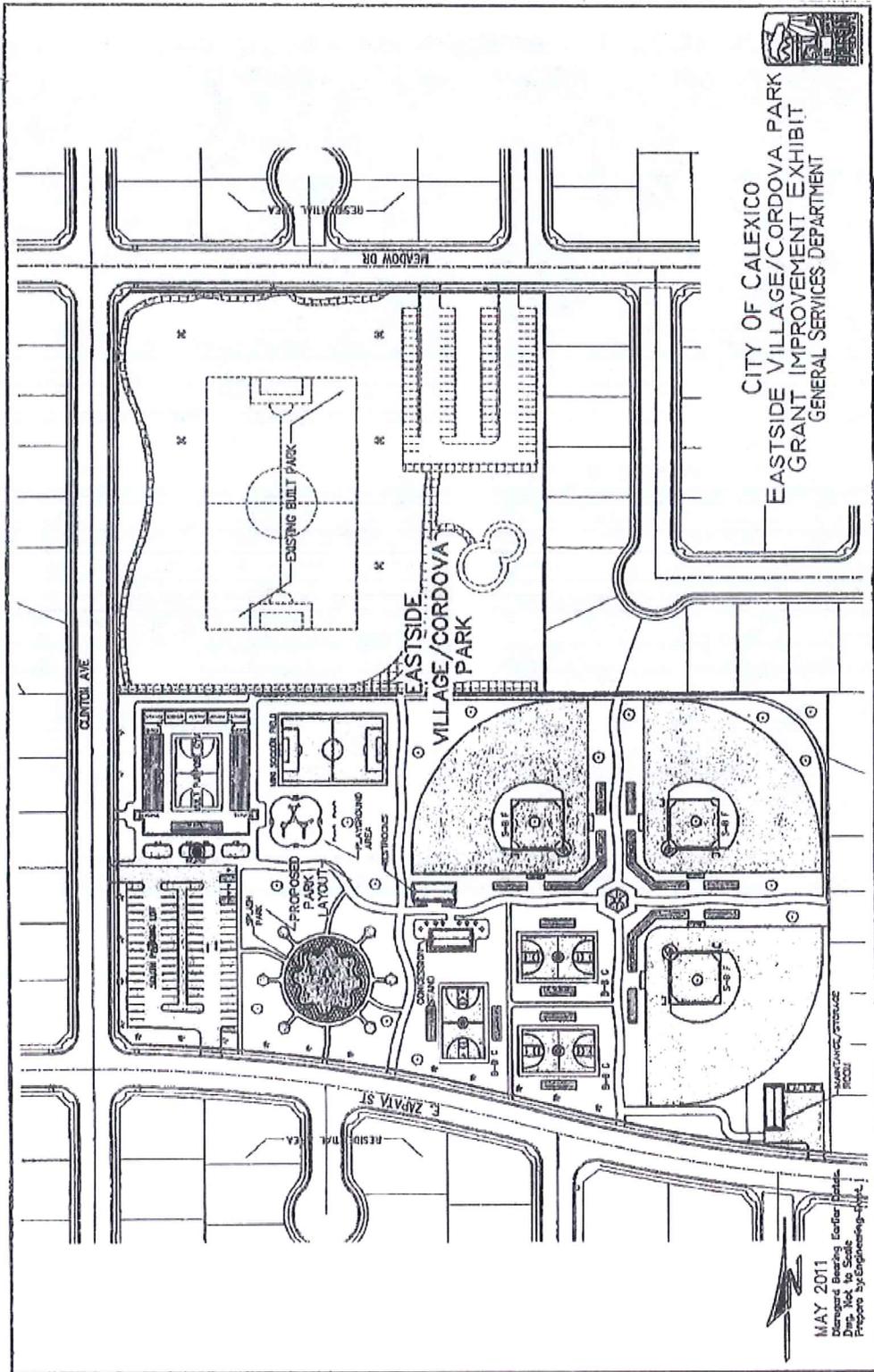
**Crummett Park**



**Rockwood Plaza Park**

# DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

## Exhibit PR 3 Cordova Park Concept Plan



## DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

**Table PR 3  
City of Calexico-Calexico Unified School District  
Joint Use Facilities**

Joint Use Facility	Acres
Emerson Field	1.39
Blanche Charles Elementary School	3.78
Cesar Chavez Elementary School	3.06
Dool Elementary School	2.22
Jefferson Elementary School	2.66
Kennedy Gardens Elementary School	2.48
Mains Elementary School	2.41
Rockwood Elementary School	2.88
Enrique Camarena Junior High School	2.99
De Anza Junior High School	3.66
William Moreno Junior High School	4.88
Calexico High School	11.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.52</b>

The exact square footage or acreage for each school facility is unknown. Therefore, 25% of school sites are credited to park acreage. This a rule of thumb of used by other cities.

**Table PR 4  
Calexico Unified School District Facilities/Fields/Courts**

School	Gymnasium	Fields	Outdoor Courts	Tennis Courts	Swimming Pool
Blanche Charles Elementary School		X	X		
Calexico High School	X	X	X	X	X
Cesar Chavez		X	X		
De Anza Jr. High		X	X		
Dool Elementary School		X	X		
Emerson Softball Field		X			
Enrique Camarena Jr. High		X	X		
Jefferson Elementary School		X	X		
Mains Elementary School		X	X		
Rockwood Elementary School		X	X		
William Moreno Jr. High	X	X	X		

Source: Joint Use Agreement Between City of Calexico and Calexico Unified School District for Cooperative Facilities, Construction Maintenance, and Operation, Exhibit A – Calexico Unified School District Facilities/Fields/Courts

## ***DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT***

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Table PR 5 is the Park and Recreation Facility Inventory. The park numbers in this table correspond to those in Exhibit PR 1. The inventory contains the following information:

- Park Name
- Size
- Characteristics (e.g., detention basin, grass/landscaping)
- Amenities (e.g., on-site parking, picnic tables, water fountains, restrooms)
- Facilities (e.g., baseball field, basketball courts)

A summary of the inventory is given below:

- 7 of the 23 parks and/or fields are located in detention basins
- 9 of the 23 parks and/or fields have on-site parking (233 total spaces)
- 16 of the 23 facilities have on-site grass/landscaping
- 13 of the 23 facilities have picnic tables (49 total tables)
- 13 of the 23 parks and/or fields have water fountains
- 10 of the 23 facilities have restrooms
- 11 of the 23 facilities have play structures

# DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

Table PR 5  
City of Calexico  
Park and Recreation Facility Inventory – April 2015

Park #	Park Name	Size Ac.	Characteristics										Amenities							Facilities					
			Retention Basin	Approximate Percentage Retention Basin	Grass/Landscaping	Drought Tolerant	Irrigation	Fencing	# of Parking Spaces	Parking Lighted	Sidewalks	Access/ADA Compliant	Picnic Tables/Covered	Water Fountains	Restrooms	Lighting	Trees/Shading	Vending Machines/Concessions	Baseball/Softball	Basketball	Football/Soccer Fields	Play Structures/Covered	Swing Sets/Covered	Track	Tennis
1	Kennedy Gardens #3	1.22	N	0%	N	N	N	N	CL	S	S	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
2	Kennedy Gardens Small	2.58	N	0%	Y	N	Y	CL	12	Y	Y	N	N	4/4	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	2/2	1/0	N	N	N
3	Kennedy Gardens Large	3.95	Y	100%	P	N	N	CL	S	S	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
4	Adrian C Cordova	15.10	N	0%	Y	N	Y	W	40	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	2/0	N	N	N	N
5	Rancho Frontera	4.95	Y	90%	P	N	Y	CL/W	S	S	S	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	3/3	1/0	N	N	N
6	Joel Riesen	6.35	Y	90%	P	N	Y	W	S	S	S	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	1/0	N	N	N	N
7	Meadows Park-North	1.00	Y	90%	P	N	Y	B	S	S	S	P	Y	N	P	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
	Meadows Park-South	2.23	Y	90%	P	N	Y	B	S	S	S	P	Y	N	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

# DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

Table PR 5-continued  
City of Calexico  
Park and Recreation Facility Inventory – April 2015

Park #	Park Name	Size Ac.	Characteristics										Amenities						Facilities					
			Retention Basin	Approximate Percentage Retention Basin	Grass/Landscaping	Drought Tolerant	Irrigation	Fencing	# of Parking Spaces	Parking Lighted	Sidewalks	Access/ADA Compliant	Picnic Tables/Covered	Water Fountains	Restrooms	Lighting	Trees/Shading	Vending Machines/Concessions	Baseball/Softball	Basketball	Football/Soccer Fields	Play Structures/Covered	Swing Sets/Covered	Track
8	Daniel Gutierrez Filed	4.60	Y	90%	P	N	Y	W	S	S	P	Y	2/2	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
9	Rancho Elegante Field	3.02	Y	90%	Y	N	Y	W	S	S	P	Y	N	N	Y	P	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
10	Cortez Park	0.45	N	0%	N	N	N	CL	5	N	Y	2/2	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	1/1	1/1	N	N
11	Crummett Park	4.39	N	0%	Y	N	Y	CL	S	S	Y	6/6	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
12	Community Center Lioness Park	2.96	N	0%	Y	N	Y	CL	42	Y	Y	4/4	N	?	Y	Y	Unk	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
13	Rockwood Plaza	3.40	N	0%	Y	N	Y	N	22	S	Y	6/6	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	1/1	1/1	N	N
14	Border Friendship Park	0.91	N	0%	Y	N	Y	B/WI	S	S	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

# DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

Table PR 5-continued  
City of Calexico  
Park and Recreation Facility Inventory – April 2015

Park #	Park Name	Size Ac.	Characteristics						Amenities						Facilities										
			Retention Basin	Approximate Percentage Retention Basin	Grass/Landscaping	Drought Tolerant	Irrigation	Fencing	# of Parking Spaces	Parking Lighted	Sidewalks	Access/ADA Compliant	Picnic Tables/Covered	Water Fountains	Restrooms	Lighting	Trees/Shading	Vending Machines/Concessions	Baseball/Softball	Basketball	Football/Soccer Fields	Play Structures/Covered	Swing Sets/Covered	Track	Tennis
15	Heber Park	2.33	N	0%	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	S	S	P	Y	1/1	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	1/1	1/0	N	N
16	Legion Field	2.11	N	0%	Y	N	Y	Y	CL	40	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	
17	Rivera Field	1.72	N	0%	Y	N	Y	Y	CL	28	N	N	N	Y	2/2	Y	Y	C	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
18	Rodriguez Park	4.19	N	0%	Y	N	Y	Y	N	S	S	P	Y	8/8	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	1/0	N	N	
19 <sup>A</sup>	Rodriguez Field	4.85	N	0%	Y	N	Y	Y	CL	45	S	Y	Y	2/2	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	1/1	N	N	N	
20	Rio Vista	0.58	N	0%	Y	N	Y	Y	CL/W/B	S	S	P	N	1/1	Y	N	N	N	N	N	1/1	1/0	N	N	
21 <sup>B</sup>	Nosotros Park <sup>2</sup>	4.75	N	0%	Y	N	Y	Y	CL	20	Y	Y	Y	9/9	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	2/2	N	N	N	
22	Nosotros Field	2.08	N	0%	Y	N	Y	Y	CL/B	S	S	N	Y	N	Y	Y	C	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	
23	Las Casitas	5.31	Y	90%	Y	N	Y	Y	N	S	S	P	Y	2/2	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	2/0	N	N	N	

## DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

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### Notes:

<sup>1</sup>This park has a performance stage

<sup>2</sup>The covered structures have just the structure and no covering

<sup>A</sup>This field has a potential for expansion at the eastern side. Three existing older SFDs

<sup>B</sup>This park could be expanded to the east as there is an adjacent existing vacant parcel

### Key:

Grass/Landscaping: Y=Yes; N=No, P=Perimeter Only

Fencing: CL=Chain Link; W=Wood; B=Block Wall; WI=Wrought Iron

# of Parking Spaces: #=Number of Spaces; S=Street Only Parking

Parking Lighted: S=Street Lighting Only

Sidewalks: P=Perimeter Only Trees/Shading: P=Perimeter Only

## 6.3 PARK DEMAND AND NEED

### 6.3.1 Existing Demand/Need Compared to Parkland Supply

Table PR 6 compares Calexico's parkland standards to those of Brawley, El Centro and Imperial. The City's 3-acres per 1,000 population standard is the same as El Centro's but less than the cities of Brawley and Imperial.

Based on Calexico's current (01/01/2015) population of 41,033 and 3-acre per 1,000 population standard, the City should have 123 acres of park and recreation land. As previously stated, the City's existing parks and fields and joint use facilities with Calexico Unified School District have a combined total of 128.55 acres. By counting the joint use facilities, park supply exceeds demand by 5.55 acres.

### 6.3.2 Future Demand/Need within the City Limits

By 2035, the City's population is projected to reach 63,800 or approximately 22,800 more persons than in January 2015. Thus, there will be a need for an additional 63+/- acres of park and recreation land. [ $22,800/1,000 = 22.8 \times 3 = 68.4 - 5.55 = 62.85$ ]

Table PR 7 shows that almost one-half of the need for additional acreage will be met by the Heber Park expansion (Exhibit PR 4) and parks located within several planned communities.

The Riverview Condominiums and Remington Condominiums will construct 624 condominiums and house a projected 2,184 persons. Both developments will provide private recreational facilities such as open space, children's play area, swimming pools and tennis courts. The *2007 Parks and Recreation Element* established a policy that allows the use of private parks and recreational facilities to satisfy parkland requirements.

The Riverview Condominiums and Remington Condominiums are near the following:

- Mains Elementary School and Blanche Charles Elementary School
- William L. Moreno Junior High School
- Nosotros Park/Field
- Rodriguez Park/Field
- Legion Field
- Rivera Field
- Rio Vista Park
- Las Casitas Park

## DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

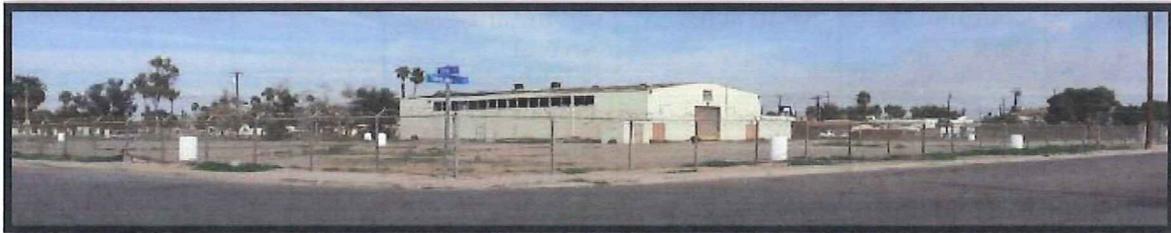
**Table PR 6  
Parks and Recreation Element  
Summary of Imperial County Park Classifications and Standards**

City Standard	Park Type	Size (Acres)	Service Population	Service Radius	Standard
<b>Brawley</b>					
5-acres developed per 1,000 population	Mini-Park	=/< 2 acres	--	< 1/4 mile	.25-.5 acres per 1,000 population
	Neighborhood Park	2-15 acres	5,000	<1 mile	1-1.5 acres per 1,000 population
	Community Park	15+ acres	---	1-2 miles	5 acres per 1,000 population
<b>Calexico</b>					
3-acres developed per 1,000 population	Pocket Park	<2 acres	---	---	---
	Neighborhood Park	5-10 acres (5 acres if next to a school)	---	1/2 to 1 mile	Depends on facility (soccer, basketball)
	Community Park	20-50 acres	20,000	2 miles	20 acres per 20,000 population
<b>El Centro</b>					
3-acres developed per 1,000 population	Neighborhood Park	5+ acres 3 acres minimum	---	1/4 to 1/2 mile	
	Community Park	20-40 acres	Communitywide Several neighborhoods	---	---
<b>Imperial</b>					
5-acres Per 1,000 Population	Neighborhood Park	5 acres	2,500	1/2 mile	2 acres per 1,000 population
	Community Park	20 acres	10,000	2 miles	2 acres per 1,000 population
	District Park	100 acres	50,000	3 miles	2 acres per 1,000 population

Source: City of Brawley General Plan Update, *Open Space/Recreation Element*, September 2008, page OSRE-17  
 City of Calexico General Plan, *Parks and Recreation Element*, 2007, page 6-6  
 City of Calexico, Service Area Plan, *Parks and Recreation Facilities*, 2006, page 9-1  
 City of El Centro, *Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan*, September 18, 2008, pages 25 and 26  
 City of Imperial General Plan, *Parks and Recreation Element*, 1988, pages 222-223 and 230

# DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

## Exhibit PR 4 Heber Park Expansion



## **DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

**Table PR 7  
City of Calexico: Inventory of Future Parks – May 2015**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Planned Uses</b>
Heber Park Expansion	2.07	Neighborhood	Expansion existing park
Riverview Condominiums	---	Private	Open space, swimming pool, tennis courts
Remington Condominiums	---	Private	Swimming pool, tennis court, children's play area
Las Palmas Mobile Home Park	---	Private	Not determined
Hearthstone Specific Plan	1.20	Park	Swimming pool, spa, tennis court, recreational building, playground and active recreational area
Estrella Subdivision	6.05	Neighborhood	Not determined
Palazzo Planned Community	17.35	Community Park	Neighborhood recreation center, landscaped park areas, athletic fields, picnic areas, pools and other uses
Palazzo Planned Community	1.96	Park space	Park space
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.63+</b>		

Source: Adopted specific plans and project approvals and City Council Resolution Confirming the City's Intent to Retain Heber Park Expansion Property per the Amended Long-Range Property Management Plan

The Las Palmas Mobile Home Community is projected to have 466 mobile homes and house 1,550 persons. This development is located on a triangular shaped property bounded by Cole Road, Bowker Road and Central Main Canal. The planned community includes a future private park.

The Hearthstone planned development is located immediately below the Central Main Canal and west of Meadows Road. The project is approved for 204 housing units and at build out will house a projected population of 678 persons. The Hearthstone Specific Plan includes a 1.2 acre park.

The Estrella Subdivision is situated between Jasper Road and the Central Main Canal just east of the approved MegaPark development. At build out it will have 771 housing units and a projected population of 2,565 persons. A 6.05 acre park will be located within the boundaries of the planned community.

The Palazzo Planned Community will have 1,207 housing units at build out and be home to a projected 4,000 persons. Two parks with a combined total of 19.31 acres are located within the boundaries of the planned community.

The residential developments discussed in the preceding paragraphs will have a projected combined total of nearly 11,000 persons.

Other vacant residential sites will provide housing for an additional 10,800 to 11,800 persons. A population this large will generate a need for 32.4+/- acres of park land. Table PR 8 shows that the vast majority of this population will be generated in a few large developments.

In the future, additional recreational opportunities will be provided by the development of the New River Parkway and Bike Path, implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan and completion

## **DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

of the Calexico Pool Facilities Project which is planned to consist of a new competition swimming pool, new recreation and wading pool, new shower and locker building and a multi-purpose recreation building.

**Table PR 8  
City of Calexico – Large Residential Sites**

General Location	Acres	Housing Units
Kloke Road/William L. Moreno Junior High/State Highway 98	9.85	236
Venezia – State Highway 98/All American Canal/Central Main Canal	40.01	249
Cole Road/Bowker Road/All American Canal/Central Main Canal	87.75	546
Previous El Portal Project	156.38	766
Below Central Canal/immediately west of Highway 111	33.09	794

Source: City of Calexico, *2013-2021 Housing Element*, adopted by the City Council on January 21, 2014

### **6.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES**

This part discusses goals, objectives and policies for the following:

- Existing Parks and Fields
- New Parks and Fields

Part 6.4.3 describes Implementation Measures.

#### **6.4.1 Existing Parks and Fields**

**Goal:** Improve existing parks.

**Objective:** Complete park improvements and park expansions.

**Policies:**

- Upgrade and improve existing parks and fields with restrooms shade, trees, drinking fountains, ADA access, paved parking and additional infrastructure, as needed and funding permits.
- Complete the planned improvements (e.g., baseball diamonds, basketball courts) to Adrian C. Cordova Park.
- Complete the Heber Park expansion and improvements including the skate park.
- Explore opportunities to expand existing parks.
- Create walking and biking links to parks and fields.
- Evaluate the potential to redesign existing detention basins to provide more useable parkland while maintaining their function.

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- Provide park and recreational programs to promote and support a healthy life style.
- Use drought-tolerant plant materials in future landscaping of existing parks.
- Evaluate recreational programming, parks and facilities on an on-going basis to ensure that the City's programs and facilities meet the needs of residents.
- Make existing parks as usable as possible by persons with disabilities.
- Establish cleanliness, landscape maintenance and safety standards for parks managed by City or private entities.
- Continue the Adopt-A-Park Program, a program that makes use of volunteer groups and organizations to help maintain parks.
- Increase staff maintenance of existing parks and fields.

**Goal:** Maintain joint use agreements.

**Objective:** Retain the availability of school facilities by residents.

**Policies:**

- Annually work with the Calexico Unified School District to analyze, plan and implement mutually beneficial joint use agreements.
- Annually review the agreement to ensure proper availability of facilities.

### **6.4.2 New Parks and Fields**

**Goal:** Develop new parks and recreational facilities to keep pace with population growth.

**Objective:** Three acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents.

**Policies:**

- Retain as a very high priority the development of the New River Parkway and Bike Path as a fundamental recreational asset for the Calexico community.
- Require new development to dedicate land or pay in-lieu fees to achieve park standards.
- Continue to require in the RC – Residential Condominium Zone, RA Residential Apartment Zone and R-2 Zone the following recreation facilities:
  - ✓ Landscaped park-like quiet area;
  - ✓ Children's play area;
  - ✓ Family picnic area; and
  - ✓ Swimming pool with cabana or patio cover
- No more than 50% of the total parkland requirements for new parks shall be met by land used for detention basins.
- Explore creating a Calexico Community Garden Park which would offer children and families the opportunity to grow healthy vegetables, fruits and plants in a park setting and to learn gardening and sustainable practices.
- Allow the use of private parks and recreational facilities to satisfy parkland requirements.
- Locate parks wherever feasible adjacent to school sites in order to provide the maximum level of useable park acreage and efficient use of recreational facilities.

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- Evaluate park locations and sizes when large residential developments submit development plans, parcel maps, or tentative tract maps.
- Encourage infill developments to provide, where feasible, private “mini” or “pocket” parks no less than 1/2 acre in size.
- Offer density bonuses to encourage small parks in infill developments.
- Review City and other publicly-owned properties to identify underutilized properties that could be used to provide additional park and recreational areas.
- Provide park and recreational programs that support a healthy lifestyle.

### **6.4.3 Implementation Measures**

To achieve the goals, objectives and policies, the following implementation measures will be undertaken by the City.

#### **6.4.3.1 New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Plan makes the development of the New River Parkway and Bike Path a very high priority. The City will continue to seeking funding for the Parkway and Bike Path as well as support the efforts of the New River Committee.

#### **6.4.3.2 Quimby Act**

The City will continue the implementation of the Quimby Act (Government Code 66477, City Ordinance 953) which requires the dedication of land (3 acres of park area for each 1,000 subdivision residents) or cash in-lieu fees or a combination of both as a condition of approval of a final map or parcel map.

#### **6.4.3.3 Parkland Funding**

The City will aggressively pursue all forms of federal, state, county, corporate, private foundation and endowment support to creatively obtain funding for the acquisition, maintenance, programming, and operation of park and recreational facilities.

The City will consider allocating Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to renovate, acquire and/or develop new parks (when it reaches a population of 50,000 and is eligible to receive such funding).

#### **6.4.3.4 Parks and Recreation Element Progress Report**

The Planning Division will prepare and transmit a *Parks and Recreation Element Progress Report* to the Planning Commission and City Council for review and discussion. This Report will be included as a key part of the General Plan Annual Progress Report.

#### **6.4.3.5 Commercial Recreation**

The City will add a Commercial Recreation (CR) land use designation to the Zoning Ordinance which then will allow the development of private recreational facilities that are opened to community residents for a fee. The CR designation will be considered as a component of the comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update.

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### **6.4.3.6 Healthy Parks and Healthy Lives**

The Public Works Department in partnership with the Imperial County Public Health Department will conduct a review of park and recreational activities to identify ways they could be utilized to promote healthy life styles and activities for all populations, including diet, exercise and mental well-being.

The Public Health Department has expressed interest in partnering with the City to create a Calexico Community Garden Park which would offer children and families the opportunity to grow healthy vegetables, fruits, and plants in a park setting and to learn gardening and sustainable practices.

