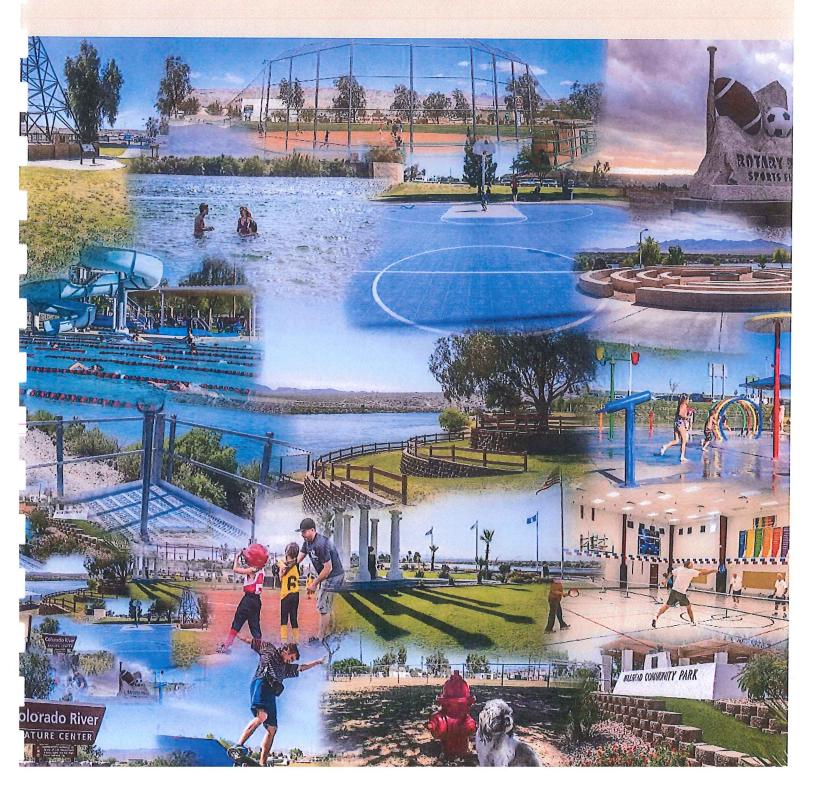
Bullhead City

Parks & Open Space Plan

November 3, 2015



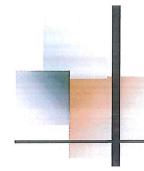
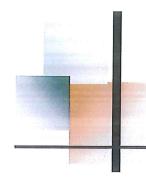


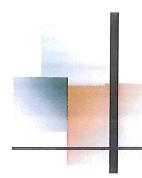
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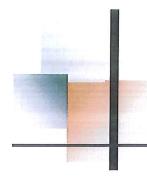
Parks & Open Space Plan

Regional Context

Bullhead City, Arizona was incorporated as the City of Bullhead City on August 28, 1984. The current incorporated area of the City is 59.7 square miles. Bullhead City is located in west central Mohave County, along the Colorado River. The City has an estimated resident population base of 39,540 people and a seasonal population of an additional 6,326 persons for a total population of 45,866.

Bullhead City elevation ranges from about 500 feet above mean sea level at the Colorado River to over 1,400 feet in the eastern portion of the planning area. Topographically, the area consists of alluvial fans and fan terraces emanating from the Black Mountains to the east and the Colorado River channel and associated floodplain areas. The alluvial fans are dissected by ephemeral drainages or washes that carry runoff from the Black Mountains to the Colorado River. These washes are flanked by steep side slopes (up to 50 percent slope), although the majority of the planning area is gently sloped (one to seven percent slope).





Bullhead City lies near the juncture of Arizona, Nevada and California. As such, it is greatly impacted by its neighbors, most notably Laughlin, Nevada, located directly across the Colorado River. A major rail line, established in 1883 passes through the near-by community of Needles, California.

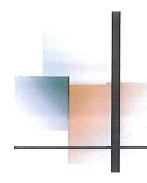
Bullhead City's historical growth has been built upon retirement housing, retail commercial uses, and a tourism relationship with Laughlin, Nevada. Laughlin has an active gaming and hospitality industry, which has been a catalyst for Bullhead City's economic growth. At the same time, Bullhead City provides services and housing for Laughlin. Physical and economic proximity requires Bullhead City and Laughlin to work closely together to take full advantage of the benefits of cooperation. As a result, a mutually beneficial relationship has developed between the two jurisdictions.

Davis Dam is located in the northwest corner of Bullhead City. Davis Dam is part of the Lower Colorado Dams Project. Its primary purpose is to re-regulate Hoover Dam releases to meet downstream needs. Parker Dam, Hoover Dam, and Davis Dam are operated integrally to control floods along the River and furnish hydroelectric energy through interconnections with Western Area Power Administration power systems. Davis Dam forms Lake Mohave, so named for the Mojave Indians.



In addition to its role as a major water reservoir, Lake Mohave provides recreation and habitat for fish and wildlife. The Lake also provides important flood control by capturing and delaying the discharge of flash floods from side washes below Hoover Dam.

Bullhead City and its environs provide a wide range of recreation activities for sports families, individuals, teams and outdoor enthusiasts. Due to its location and warm year round temperatures, recreation activities associated with the River attract retirees and visitors to Bullhead City. The City has been developed into the major recreation hub for the region.



Current Situation and Future Trends

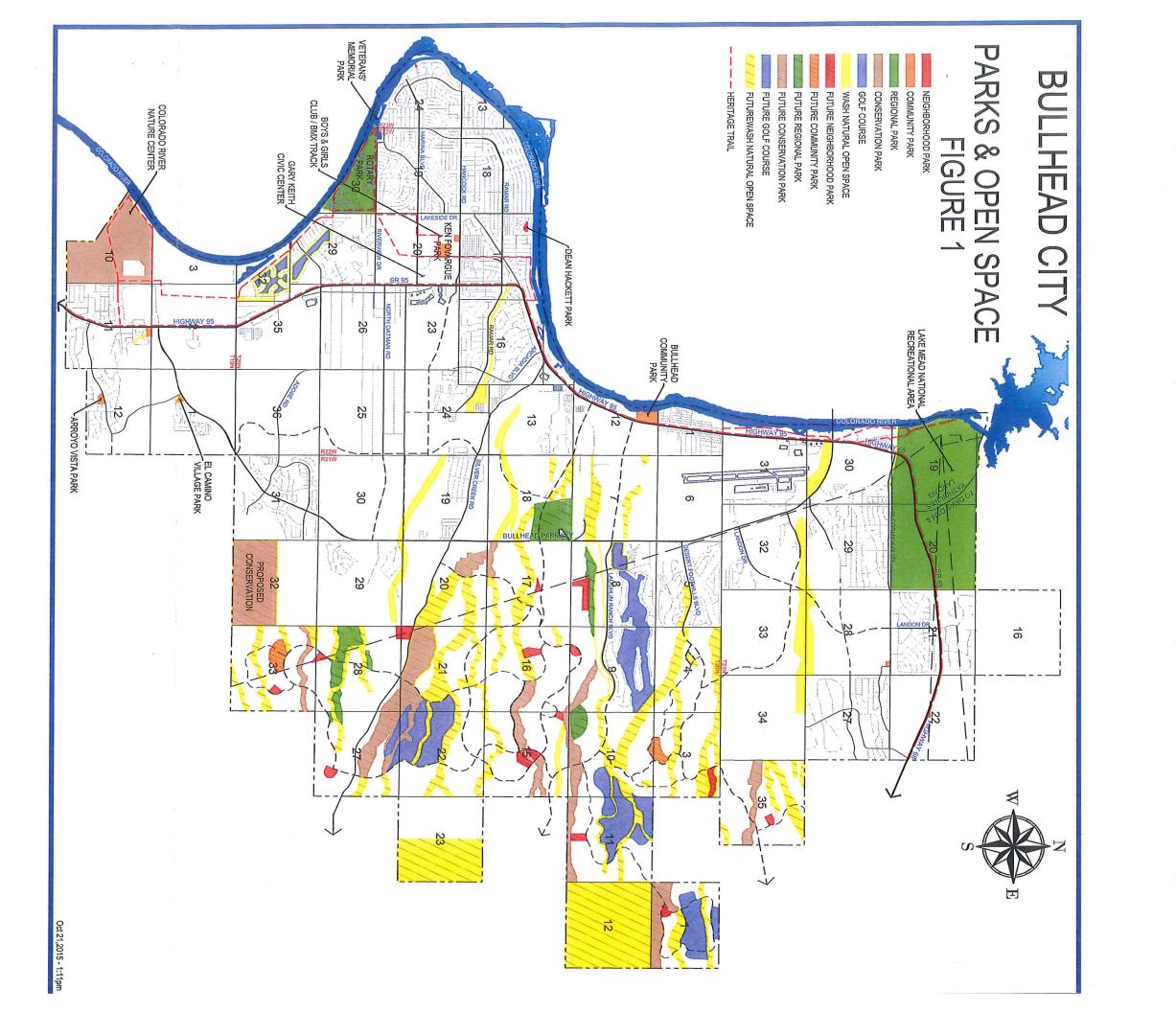
The Parks and Open Space Plan addresses the conservation of the City's open space and recreation resources in a manner that is in concert with its future development patterns and economic potential. This Plan contains an inventory of existing open space within the City, projections of future open space needs and goals, policies, and objectives to provide for the conservation of open space in a manner that is beneficial to Bullhead City and its residents.

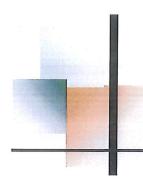
Bullhead City contains an abundance of open space. Over 27% or 6,920 acres of Bullhead City is designated 100-year floodplain and considered open space. This includes the 500 acre Colorado River Nature Center. Lands owned by Federal and State entities, steep slopes and other undeveloped land, and City Parks also contribute to the City's substantial inventory of open space.



The Colorado River, separating Bullhead City from Laughlin, Nevada, is a major open space attraction for Bullhead City residents and visitors alike. Bullhead City enjoys nearly fifteen miles of Colorado River shoreline along its western border. Open space and parks such as Mohave County's Davis Camp, Bullhead Community Park, Rotary Park, and the Colorado River Nature Center provide City residents with free access to the River.

In addition to the open space within the planning area, there are significant open space amenities surrounding the City. Just north of Bullhead City is the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA). The LMNRA includes nearly 1.5 million acres of federal land, and encompasses two reservoirs formed by the Colorado River, Lake Mead and Lake Mohave. Davis Dam, located immediately upstream from Bullhead City forms Lake Mohave. The lake, 67 miles long, offers water amenities at developed facilities (Katherine's Landing). In addition, the LMNRA offers hiking and four-wheel driving on approved roads.





Public Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities

The existing public facilities located in the Bullhead City incorporated area include the parks, open space and recreational facilities that are almost completely located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the National Park Service (NPS). In turn, these agencies have leased portions of their lands to local agencies, organizations and governments for recreation and public purposes. The National Park Service has leased Davis Camp to Mohave County (see Figure 1, Parks & Open Space Plan).

The public facilities are mostly operated on Sections 10, 12, 18, 20, 28, and 30 by the City and at Davis Camp by Mohave County. These facilities offer a variety of recreational opportunities throughout the City and are described herein. The City continues to seek funding from a variety of sources to support the facilities and the uses identified in this Plan.





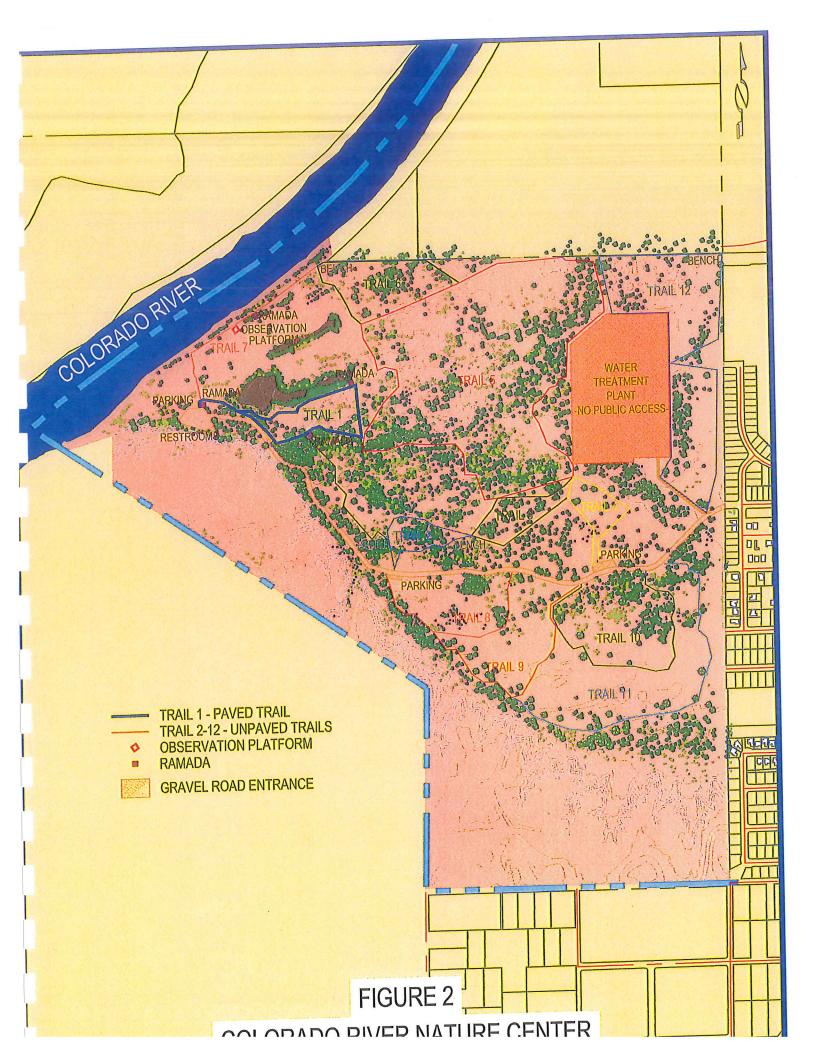


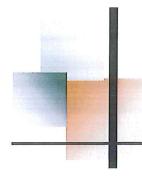
Colorado River Nature Center

The Colorado River Nature Center (CRNA) is located at the end of Richardo Avenue as it enters Section 10 and contains approximately 500 acres. This Center has been developed, operated and maintained through a "Cooperative Management Agreement" with the BLM, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the City. The intent of the park is to provide an indigenous environment for low impact and passive recreation uses. The Center has a walking path, informational kiosks, a viewing platform, and sandy beaches. Future plans for development of CRNC include recreational amenities such as improved beach access, parking, picnic facilities, ramadas, restrooms, and additional portions of the Heritage Trail (see Figure 2, Colorado River Nature Center).









Bullhead Community Park

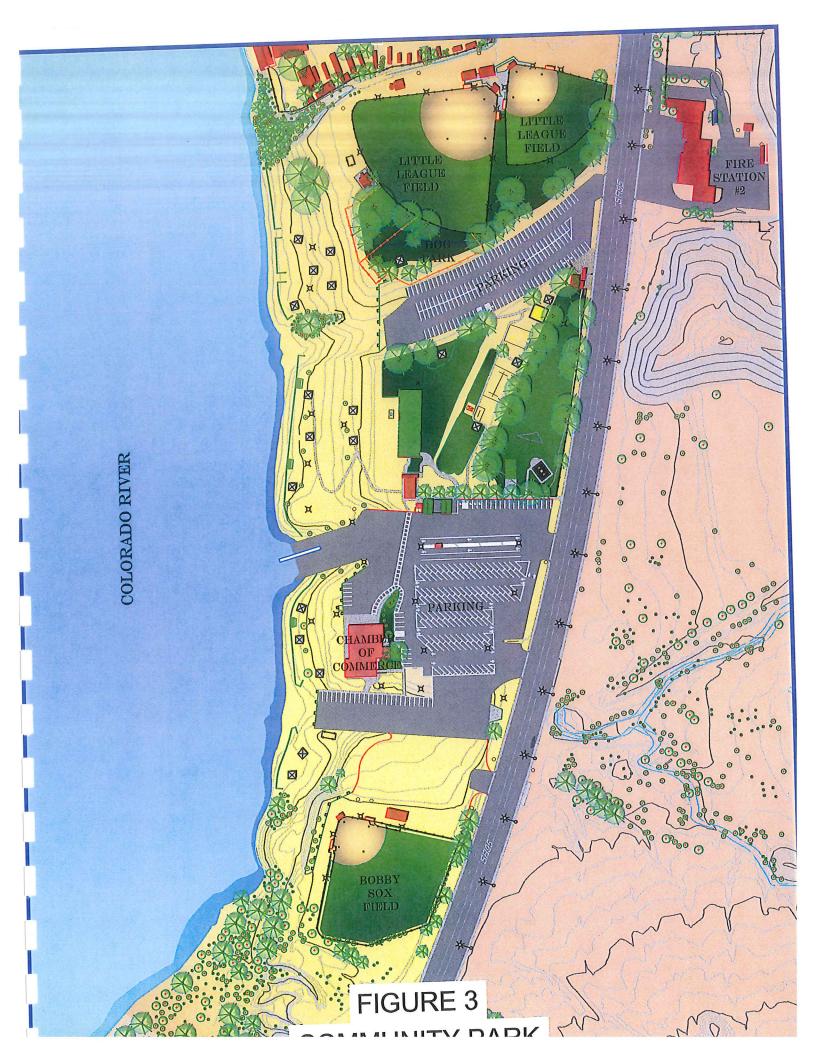
Bullhead Community Park is located at 1251 Highway 95 on 28 acres in Section 12. The Park currently includes softball fields with bleachers, covered dugouts and a concession stand that are used by several different leagues, beach areas, boat launching facilities, picnic facilities including the recently upgraded Rotary Ramada, dog park, playground equipment, parking, restrooms, and portions of the Heritage Trail.

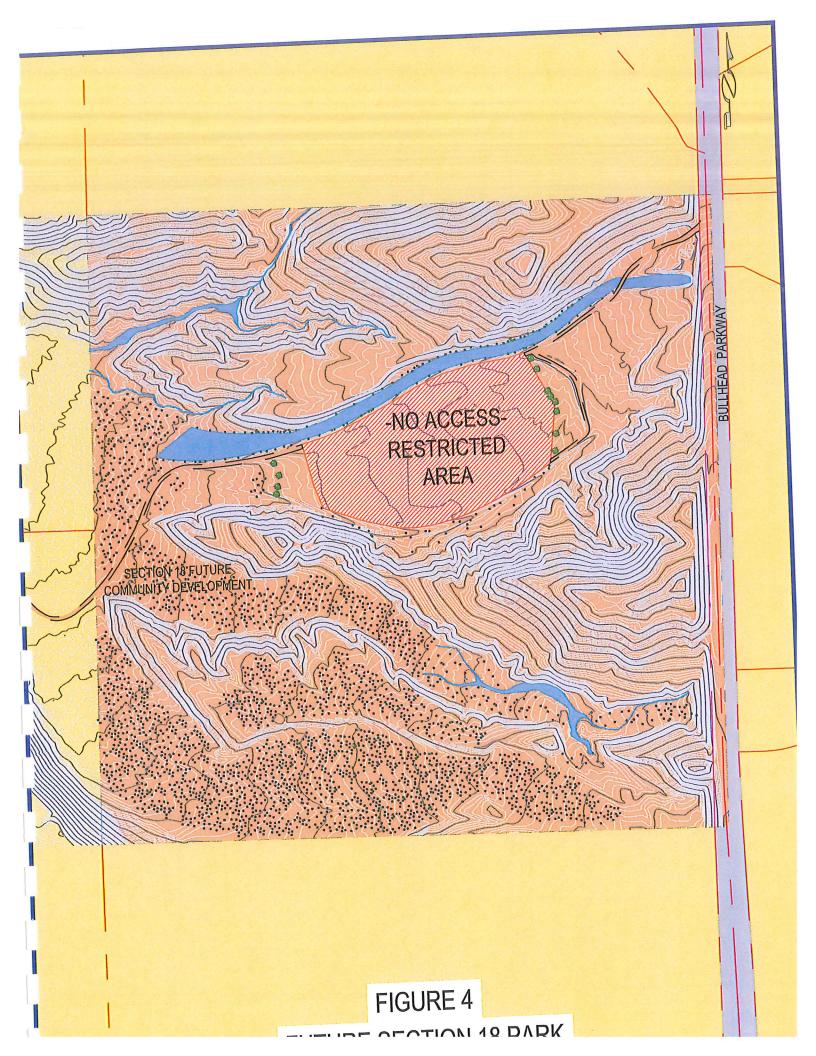
Development of the Colorado River Heritage Center is underway in the Park. To date the Moss Mine Head Frame and Little Red School House have been relocated to the site. Plans to move the American Heroes Museum and the Colorado River Museum to the Center are being considered. (see Figure 3, Bullhead Community Park).

Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce

The Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce, is also located at 1251 Highway 95 in Section 12. The Chamber provides tourist information. The Chamber subleases the land under its building from the City. The riverfront facility includes offices, conference rooms, restrooms, banquet room, bar and kitchen, within the main building.





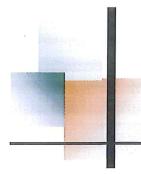


Ken Fovargue Park

Ken Fovargue Park is located at 2255 Trane Road in Section 20 on 11.6 acres. Currently the fully developed Park includes two regulation ball fields with bleachers, basketball court, horseshoe pits, playground equipment, snack bar, swimming pool and a splash pad. There are no additional plans at this Park for additional amenities. (see Figure 5, Ken Fovargue Park).



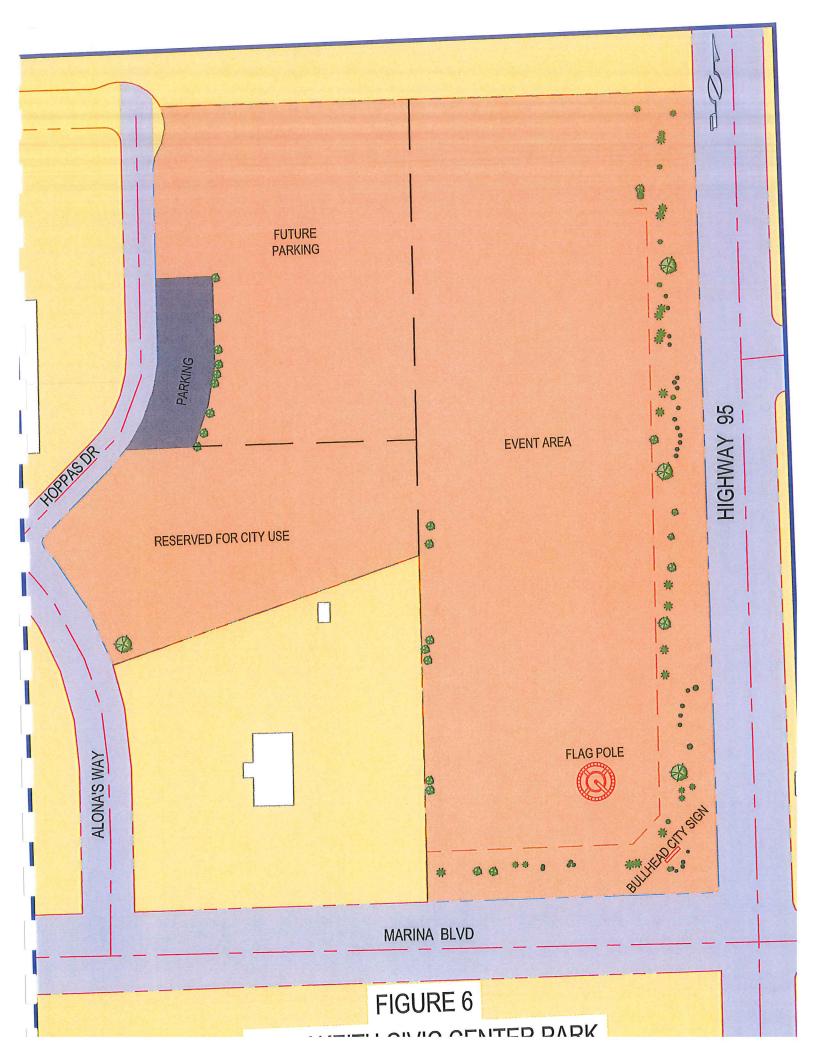




Gary Keith Civic Center Park

Gary Keith Civic Center Park is located at the northwest corner of Marina Boulevard and Highway 95 in Section 20. The Park contains approximately 50 acres and is mostly undeveloped except for a flag pole and some perimeter landscaping (see Figure 6, Gary Keith Park).





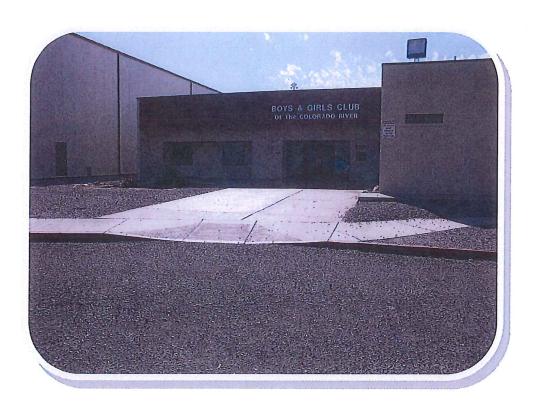


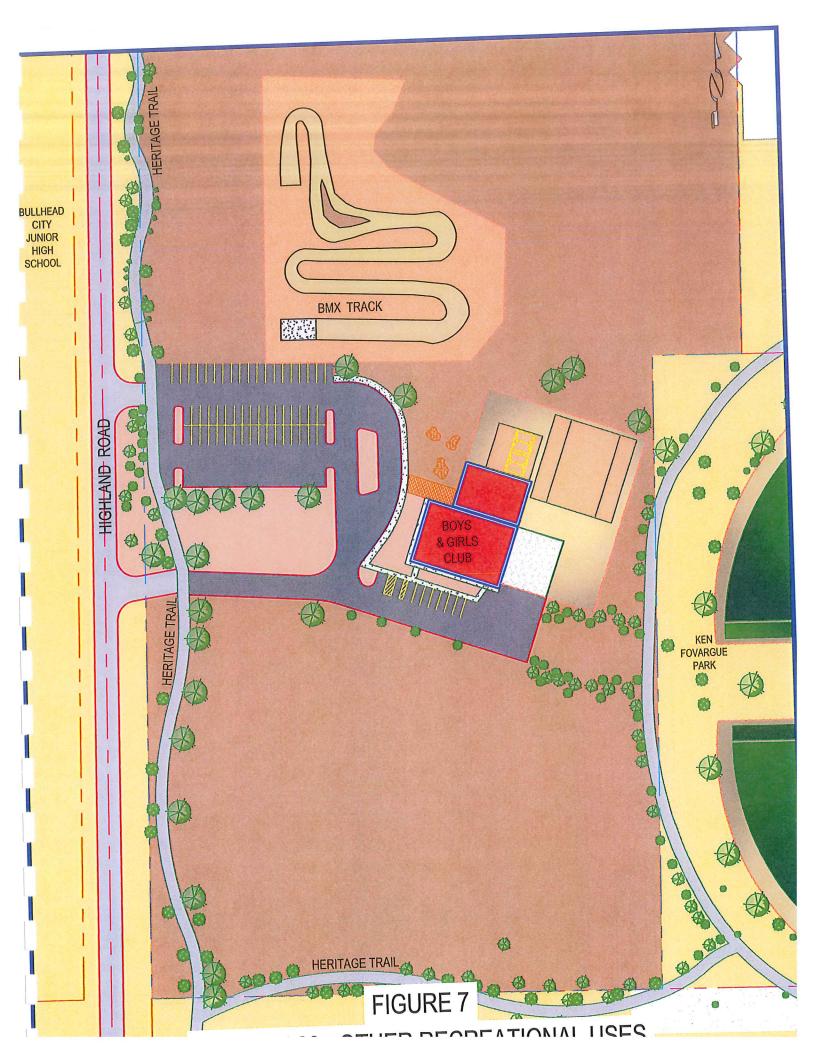
Boys and Girls Club of the Colorado River

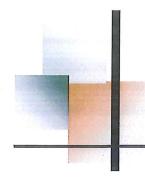
The Boys and Girls Club of the Colorado River is located at 2250 Highland Road in Section 20 on an 8.6 acre parcel. This facility is subleased to the Club by the City. The Club consists of a large room for recreation activities, office, kitchen, storage room and restrooms.

The Club is in the process of building a new gymnasium that measures approximately 13,000 sq.ft. The shell of the gymnasium will be constructed with the first phase. During the second phase offices, restrooms and other ancillary uses will be added.

The BMX Track, a portion of the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail, and the historic Beale Wagon Road are also located within Section 20 (see Figure 7, Section 20).





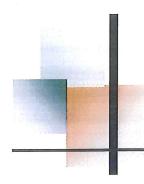


Bullhead Fire Station Park

Bullhead Fire Station #3 Park is located at the southwest corner of McCormick Boulevard and Mercer Road. The City acquired approximately five acres from the Bullhead City Fire District to develop a neighborhood park around their fire station. Plans for development of the park include basketball courts, parking, playground equipment, picnic facilities, ramadas, and restrooms (see Figure 8, Bullhead Fire Station Park).







Rotary Park

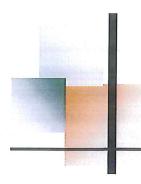
Rotary Park is a 212-acre triangular parcel bounded by Riverview Drive on the north, Lakeside Drive on the east and the Colorado River on the south and west. A master plan to guide the future development of this Park was completed in August 2006 and has been updated to meet the needs of the community. The park includes improved beach access locations, boat launching facilities, dog beaches, playground equipment, picnic facilities, ramadas, restrooms, sports fields, and portions of the Heritage Trail (see Figure 9, Rotary Park).







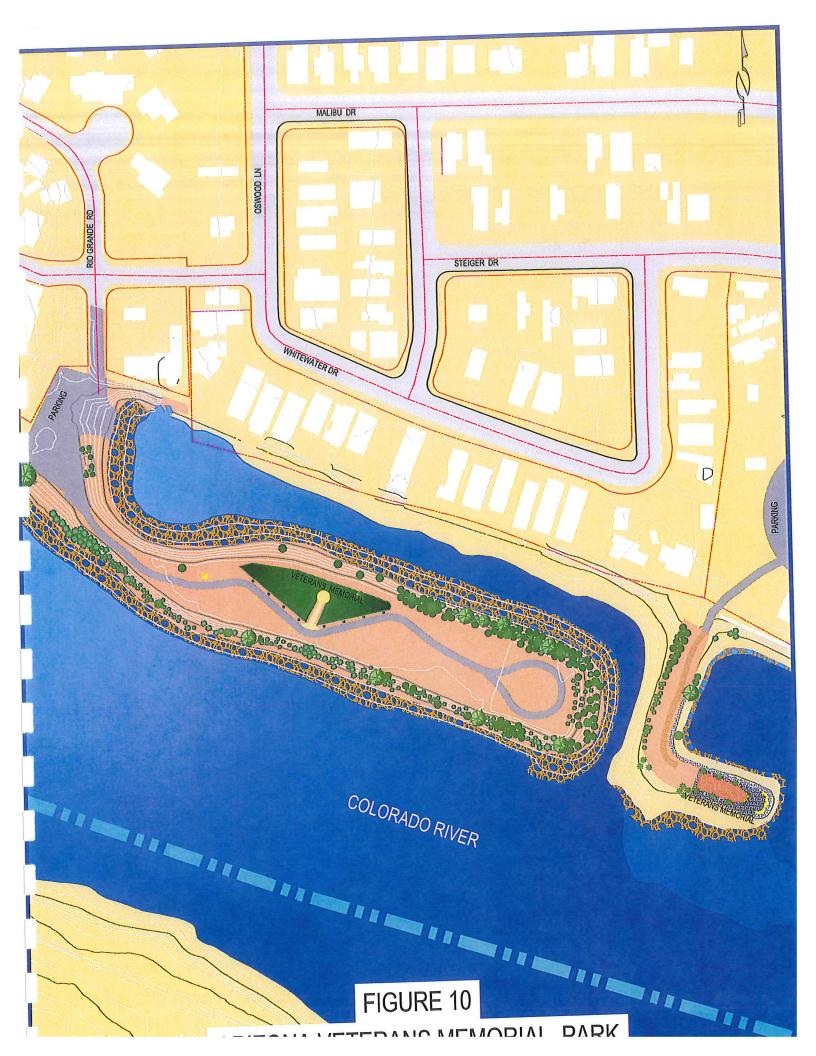




Arizona Veterans Memorial Park

Arizona Veterans Memorial Park is located on lands owned by the Arizona State Land Department and leased to the City through a right-of-way permit process. Access to the 11.3 acre sites is generally from 2170 Kaibab Avenue. The area includes several Memorials, beach areas, and Colorado River access with a paved boat launch, located along a narrow waterway, which adjoins with the Colorado River in Section 24 (see Figure 10, Arizona Veterans Memorial Park).

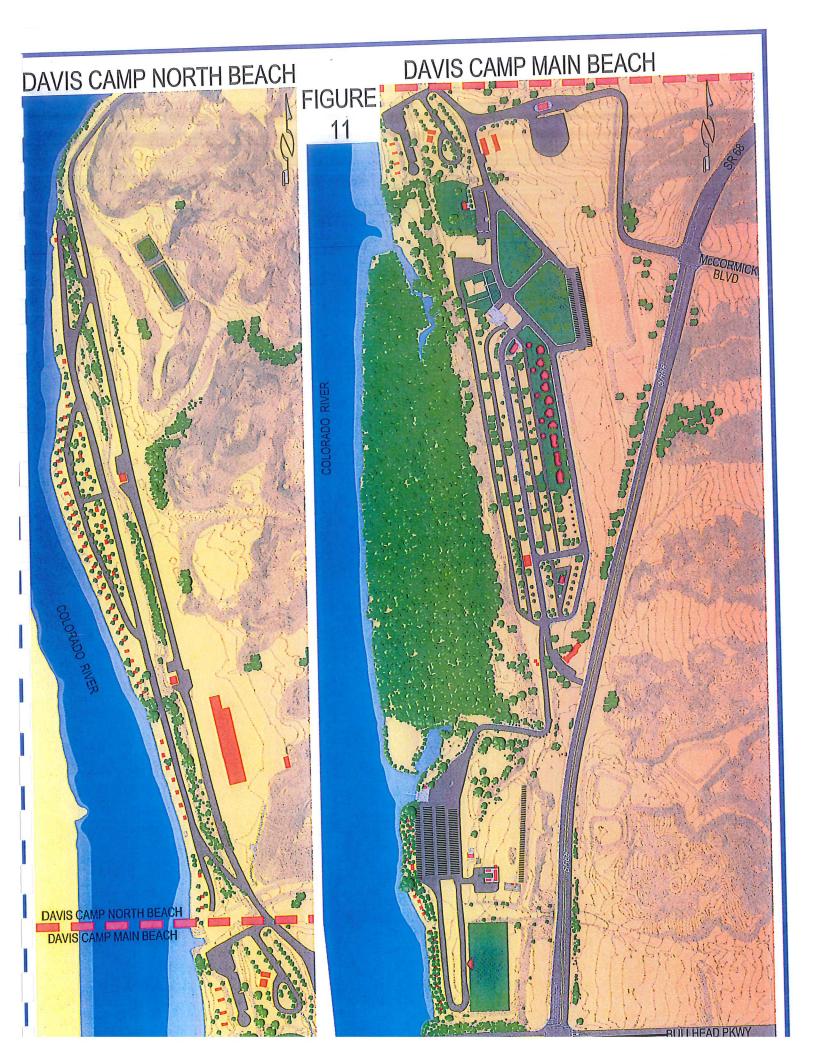




Davis Camp

Davis Camp, located adjacent to the Colorado River south of Davis Dam on land administered by the National Park Service, is a 150-acre riverfront park, operated and maintained by Mohave County Parks Department. Using an approved master plan, the park includes boat launching facilities, picnic areas, public beach access, fishing, camping, recreational vehicle campsites, restroom facilities with showers. (see Figure 11, Davis Camp).







Dean Hackett Park

Dean Hackett Park is located at 1275 Marina Parkway in the Colorado River Park subdivision. This Park was given to the City by the Colorado River Park Property Owners Association. It encompasses approximately two acres and includes barbeque pits, picnic tables and playground equipment (see Figure 12, Dean Hackett Park).







Suddenlink Community Center

Suddenlink Community Center is located at 2380 Suddenlink Way in the Original Bullhead City area. The Center operates out of the facilities that were formerly known as Mountain View Elementary School. On April 1, 2013 the City and Bullhead City Elementary School District #15 entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement that allowed the City to use the closed school as a community center.

The Center sits on approximately 16 acres at the east end of Suddenlink Way. The Center includes 25 rooms, a multi-purpose room, kitchen, and 10,000 sq.ft. gymnasium that can be rented. A number of local entities use the classrooms for various purposes and the gymnasium is home to a number of sport leagues.







Summary

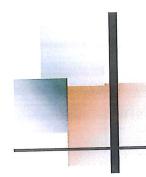
Existing and proposed public parks total approximately 1,319 acres (see Table 1, Publicly Owned Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities).





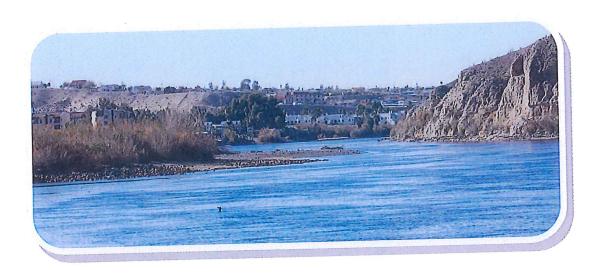
Table 1	
Publicly Owned Parks, Open	n Space, and Recreation Facilities

Park	Location	Acres	Facilities/Description
Arizona Veteran's Memorial Park	2170 Kaibab Drive	11	Memorial Park, beaches, and river access
Boys & Girls Club	2250 Highland Road	9	Recreation rooms, office, and kitchen
Bullhead Community Park	1251 Highway 95	28	Lighted regulation softball fields, beach areas, concession stand, boat launching facilities, picnic facilities, playground equipment, ramadas, and Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce facilities
Bullhead Fire Station Park	McCormick & Mercer Road	4	To Be Determined
Colorado River Nature Center	West end of Richardo Avenue	500	Passive recreation opportunities
Dean Hackett Park	1375 Marina Parkway	2	Barbecue pits and picnic areas
Davis Camp	2251 Highway 68	150	Boat launching facilities, camping areas, picnic areas, beach areas, and recreational vehicle campsites
Gary Keith Park	Highway 95 & Marina Blvd	50	To Be Determined
Ken Fovargue Park	2255 Trane Road	12	Ball fields, bleachers, basketball court, horseshoe pits, playground equipment, swimming pool, and a splash pad
Rotary Park	2300 Balboa Drive	212	Ball fields, barbecue areas, basketball court, beach access, boat launching facilities, bleachers, dog park, Frisbee golf course, picnic areas, playground equipment, ramadas, and soccer fields
Section 18 Park	1601 Bullhead Parkway	120	To Be Determined
Suddenlink Community Center	2380 Suddenlink Way	16 1,319	Gymnasium, kitchen and room rentals
Total Acreage			



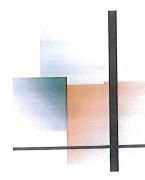
Colorado River Access

The Colorado River is the focal point of the community and river access is an important issue to residents. Bullhead Community Park, Colorado River Nature Center, and Rotary Park, as well as Mohave County's Davis Camp Park provide the community with access to the River. There are currently several streets that dead-end into the Colorado River that are also used as river access points. Integration of these parcels into the City's Park System could serve as continued Colorado River access points for the community.









Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail

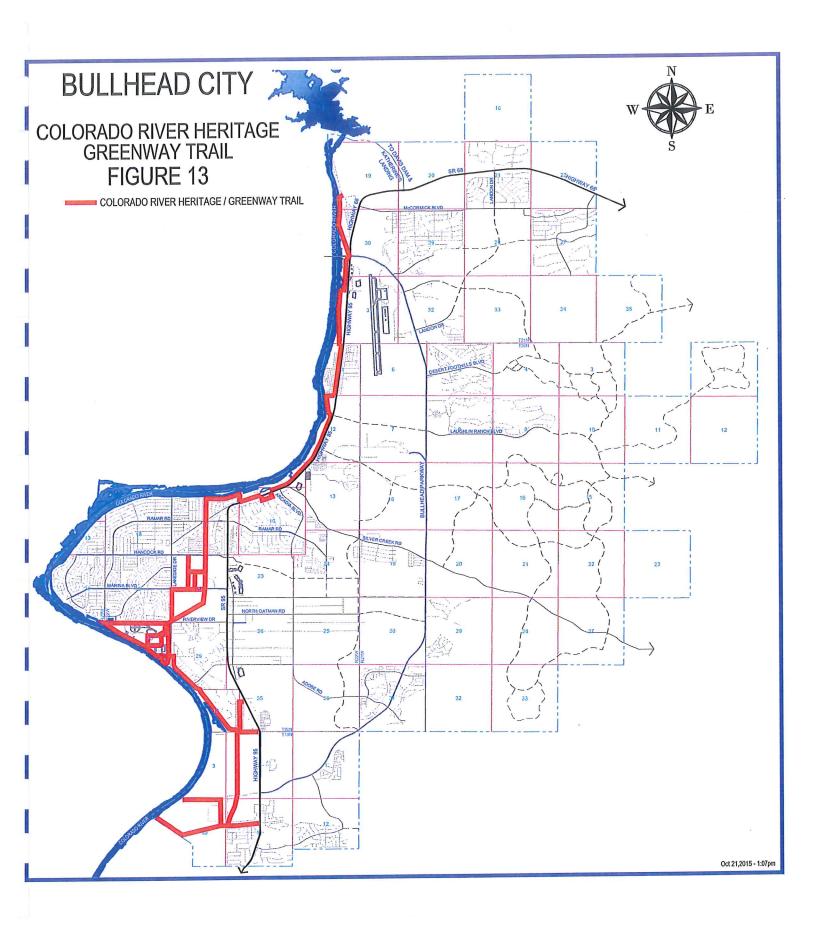
In January of 1999 the City of Bullhead City received a planning grant from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. The grant's purpose was to study the feasibility of a multiple use land and river trail from Lake Mead National Recreation Area to the Colorado River Nature Center. The alignment of the approximately 30 mile multiple use trail is collectively called the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail.

The Trail will link five parks (Davis Camp, Bullhead Community Park, Ken Fovargue Park, Rotary Park, and the Colorado River Nature Center) in the City. These five parks include a national recreation area, a County park, three City parks, and a nature center. Some sections of the Trail linking these five parks will utilize existing urban transportation corridors. Trail improvements vary depending on the setting and use. Improvements may include the addition of trailhead amenities, drinking water and restroom facilities, bicycle racks, landscaping, new trail construction, paved shoulder widening, and/or construction of a sidewalk. Conservation and restoration are important overall goals of the project. The Trail represents an important north-south non-motorized link through the community. (See Figure 13, Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail).

The purpose of the project is to treat the Colorado River within the boundaries of Bullhead City as an urban greenway that will provide residents and visitors with an educational, recreational, and scenic experience on a network of paths and trails. The objectives of the project are to:

- Increase conservation activities to enhance and protect greenway resources.
- Identify greenway educational opportunities.
- Encourage private and public collaboration in all aspects of greenway development.
- Promote the benefits of a heritage greenway project to the community.
- Provide interconnected multiple use paths and river access points for non-motorized watercraft in the greenway corridor.

The City is currently coordinating with the Town of Laughlin, Clark County, Mohave County, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation to add a loop to the Trail that would connect to a portion located in Laughlin.





Parks and Open Space Standards and Criteria

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), an organization whose mission is to "Advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people" establishes park and recreation standards. The standards and criteria developed by Bullhead City for determining the City's future park needs have been modeled after NRPA standards. The City's standards and criteria are discussed below.

Standards

NRPA standards are regularly used as general guidelines when considering current and future park and open space needs for a community. A commonly suggested standard suggest that 6.25 to 10.50 acres of park land should be provided for every 1,000 residents. These park development standards can provide a useful benchmark for analysis. Using a current resident population base of 39,540 people and a seasonal population of an additional 6,326, Bullhead City would require approximately 287 to 482 total acres of park land. The City has 4,315 acres of private and public parks and open space, an amount well above the NRPA standard.

Future Open Space and Developed Park Needs

Open Space

While established standards exist for active park facilities, the NRPA does not explicitly recommend a level of service standards for open spaces. The NRPA states that the objective of these lands is to enhance the livability and character of a community by preserving as many of its natural amenities as possible. With regards to Bullhead City, these resources define much of the character of the City and are widely recognized as a public amenity. A commonly accepted standard used by many communities is a figure of 10 acres of open space per 1,000 population.

Currently, approximately 2,812 acres of public open space exist in Bullhead City. This amount provides approximately 61.2 acres per 1,000 population. This is far in excess of the standard cited earlier of 10 acres per 1,000 population. Even with the growth projection of 54,806 people for 2025, there are still approximately 51 acres per 1,000 people of open space. These numbers do not even reflect the thousands of acres of floodplain in Bullhead City, which will likely develop at very low density, if at all.



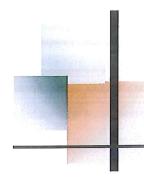
Developed Parks

The City's forecast resident (45,954) and seasonal (6,663) population for the year 2025 is 52,617, which would require a total of approximately 330 to 550 acres. At the present time, the City has approximately 265 acres of developed park land and approximately 690 acres of planned and undeveloped parks and open space for a total of 955 acres. When applying the 6.25 to 10 acres per 1,000 population standard, it would appear the park and open space acreage will adequately serve the future population of the City to the year 2025, as long as development of approximately 20 to 48 percent of the 690 acres occurs within this time frame.

Standards Application

Facility standards aid in planning the number of each type of recreation facility required to meet existing and projected activity demands. In the development of a park facility, standards determining dimensional and spatial requirements for a specific recreational activity should also be identified in order to effectively fulfill the intended recreational function.





Parks and Open Space Definitions

The following definitions represent a description of designated current or future park and recreational facilities within Bullhead City according to the classification system (see Table 2, Bullhead City Parks Classifications).

Paseos

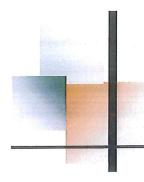
The term "paseo" is used due to the Spanish Mission influence in the Southwest to define an off-street, park-like trail system that serves both as a recreational element and a link between other recreational elements and/or public facilities of the City.

Pocket Parks

Pocket parks typically do not exceed two acres and are not recommended unless park space is significantly lacking in an existing developed area, or a plaza-like treatment is appropriate. These small spaces have a tendency to create additional administrative and maintenance difficulties for the City unless they are maintained by a private entity. Although a potential maintenance burden, these small specialized facilities can effectively serve a concentrated or limited population or specific user group such as young children or senior citizens. Desirable site characteristics include neighborhoods in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development or housing for the elderly where a population ranging from 500 to 2,500 persons can be adequately served.

Table 2 Bullhead City Parks Classifications

Type of Park	Desirable Size	Population	Driving Time
ocket Parks	Up to 2 acres	500-2,500	1/4 mile radius
leighborhood Parks	2-10 acres	2,000-10,000	1/4 -1 mile
ommunity Parks	10-25 acres	10,000-50,000	1/2-3 miles
egional Parks	25-200 acres	5,000+	30 minutes
onservation Parks	250-1,000 acres	50,000+	30 minutes
olf Course/18 Holes	160+ acres	125,000	30 minutes
wimming Pools	25 or 50 meters	10,000-25,000	1/2-3 miles



Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks range in size from two to 10 acres and are programmed for areas of intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, etc. Desirable characteristics include relatively flat, well drained sites suited for intense development, which are easily accessible to surrounding neighborhoods and within safe and accessible walking and biking distance. These neighborhood parks serve a population ranging from 2,000 to 10,000 citizens.

Community Parks

Community parks supplement the neighborhood parks in providing the near-at-hand recreation facilities needed by the urban population utilizing a site size ranging from 10 to 25 acres. These larger sites encompass the activities included in neighborhood parks.

While the neighborhood sites should be designed to attract and serve the entire neighborhood populations, there are certain recreational facilities recommended which utilize more space than the neighborhood sites could accommodate. Community park facilities may include a tennis complex, aquatic facilities, multi-purpose courts, community center and should provide adequate off-street parking, etc. Parks of this type should be easily accessible by both vehicular and non-vehicular modes of circulation. Community parks should be located within three miles of those neighborhoods to be served and provide adequate facilities for a population ranging from 10,000 to 50,000 citizens.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are large parks, which range from 25 to 200 acres that provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities and facilities to serve 50,000 or more people. Service areas should not exceed 30 minutes driving time between these facilities. A regional park should provide multiple sports fields, courts and group picnic areas along with facilities typically contained within community parks. Regional parks may accommodate the preservation of unique historical, cultural or natural areas and other public facilities such as libraries or fire stations. The parks may contain special features, which attract visitors from the entire incorporated area. These larger parks are primarily natural, developed for recreational activities, or a combination of both depending upon the needs of the population.



Conservation Parks

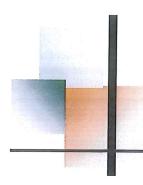
Conservation parks preserve unique areas from encroachment by residential or commercial developments and uses, and provide natural settings for passive recreational uses. They are provided as an escape from urban views, noise congestion, and preserve unique historical, cultural or natural areas. These areas of natural quality are for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitat conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping and trail uses. Generally, 80 percent of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20 percent used for recreation development.

Desirable site characteristics include diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes, river, washes, flora, fauna, archaeological resources and topography. A conservation park should not take the place of a regional park. Conservation parks should be accessible within a 30 minute drive and located within or just outside City limits. Conservation parks are recommended for parcels ranging between 250 to 1,000 acres in size, but could be as small as 40 acres.

Open Space

Open space denotes those open areas that will be located within the incorporated area. Although the definitions for a park and open space are sometimes used interchangeably, the two designations denote differing but related uses. A park is a highly developed parcel of land that includes a variety of active (i.e., baseball/softball diamonds, football/soccer fields, court sports, etc.) and passive (i.e., seating areas, walking paths, viewpoints, etc.) recreational areas. Open space or an open area constitutes any space or area whose existing openness, natural condition or present state of use, if retained, would maintain or enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources.





Parks and Open Space Implementation Policy

The responsibility to construct and maintain park and open space facilities within the incorporated area is based on the size and type of facility to be constructed (see Table 3, Parks and Open Space Responsibility Matrix). This Matrix will serve as a guide to determine the responsibility for construction and maintenance with a high priority placed on funding, including future maintenance costs. The City may deviate from this guide when the best interests of the residents would be served.

Park Facility	Design	Development	Maintenance
Pocket Parks	P	Р	P
Neighborhood Parks	P	P	P
Community Parks	PorC	PorC	С
Regional Parks	C	c	c
Open Space	PorC	P or C	P or C
Conservation Parks	G	G	G
Notes:	P-Private Sector		
	C-City		
	G-Government Coope	erative	