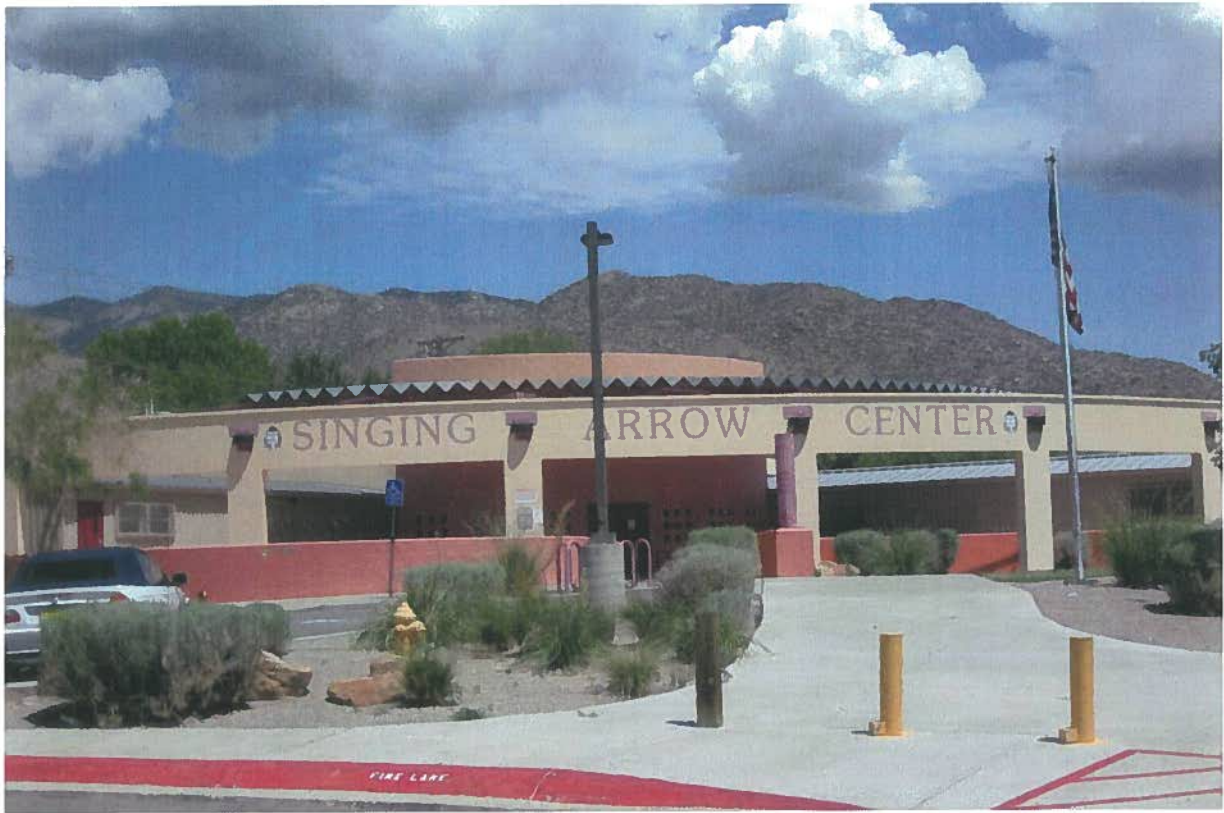


SINGING ARROW COMMUNITY CENTER



10/22/2013

Needs Assessment

Prepared for:



Prepared by:

sites
southwest

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I. Introduction

In 2013, District 9 City Council Don Harris identified a need to assess the availability of public and private services for constituents in the Singing Arrow area and determine whether a new community center was needed.

Community centers provide space for public and private meetings, classes, sports and recreational activities, wellness and fitness, arts, social and cultural activities and support groups. Many also offer before and after-school daycare for young students.

II. Existing Conditions

The existing Singing Arrow Community Center consists of two portable buildings connected by a CMU-constructed entrance hub and fronted by a partially uncovered portico. Located on the northwest edge of Singing Arrow Park, it provides 5,000 square feet of center space. This accommodates a multi-purpose room, a game room, and an office. A third attached portable houses a City Child Development Center and playground. Outside facilities include a multi-use path that crosses the park from west to east, a half basketball court, picnic tables, and recently planted trees and grass.



Existing Singing Arrow Community Center



Singing Arrow CC Viewed from the Air

The Singing Arrow Community Center offers a free before-school program and an after-school program. It serves four elementary schools in the district—Apache Elementary, Manzano Mesa Elementary, Eubank Elementary and the Native American Community Academy School—and provides transportation to two of the schools, Eubank and the NACA. (The other schools pick up the kids in their own buses or vans.) Programs encompass homework help, computer lab, games and arts and crafts. Serving primarily school-age youth ages 5-and-a-half to about 13, the center is open from 7:05 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The facility is old and in need of repair or replacement. The roof sometimes leaks. Its facilities are substandard compared to newer site built community and senior centers such as Holiday Park and Manzano Mesa.

The existing Singing Arrow facility is also located in an area that is far from major roads and awkward to access by those who are not immediate neighbors. Its current location is beneficial, however, to the residents of the surrounding apartment buildings who typically have less access to recreational space than owners of single-family homes and lots.

A. Criteria for Community Facilities

Currently, the City favors constructing and remodeling community centers that are multi-purpose and multi-generational. These centers range from very large to quite small. Among the larger centers are Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center, about two miles west of Singing Arrow, which is about 42,000 square feet, and North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, located north of Paseo del Norte, which will be about 45,000 square feet when completed. Mid-size centers include Holiday Park Community Center, located on Comanche east of Tramway, which is about 18,000 square feet, and West Mesa Community Center located west of Coors and south of I-40, which is about 20,000 square feet.



Whether small or large, multi-purpose, multi-generational community centers have the advantage of providing a range of services suited to all age ranges within the adjacent communities. Children participating in before- and after-school programs make use of gyms, computer centers, and game rooms. Seniors use fitness rooms, computer centers, and craft and exercise rooms. Young adults take advantage of fitness rooms and fitness classes that can be provided in exercise rooms. Neighborhoods schedule meeting rooms for coalition and neighborhood meetings. Warming kitchens serve both individual and neighborhood social events. Small or large, multi-purpose, multi-generational community centers have the same objective: to serve the entire community from the youngest to the oldest. Smaller centers with great facilities may have smaller program areas, but they are also more neighborly and intimate. Larger centers serve larger areas with first-class facilities but can be so big and busy that they may become intimidating to smaller communities and walk-in users.

As Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center is within two miles of Singing Arrow and well serves the nearby 50-plus senior population, the City seeks to model a new Singing Area Community Center on the recently built Holiday Park Community Center, targeting the immediate area as well as new residents to the west and south. A facility equivalent to Holiday Park would require about 18,000 square feet of

building space on 5 acres of land to house a meeting room, small service kitchen, small fitness room, exercise room, computer lab, game room and an indoor mini-gym with basketball facilities as well as outside facilities, including recreational space and parking.



Holiday Park Community Center and Grounds

According to the Long-Range Plan for Community Facilities multigenerational centers should be located according to the following criteria:

- Visible site (located adjacent to principal or minor arterial)
- Access to transit
- Access to trails
- Co-located with other facilities (existing library, school, pool)
- Proximity to parks
- Proximity to private service providers
- Surrounded by following land uses/zoning (public school, multi-family residential, single-family residential, commercial/office—in order of preference)
- Potential for expansion
- Existing facility (potential for reuse)

Ideally community centers need space for a large social hall, warming kitchen, performance space (sometimes coupled with an eating area or gym), multiple spaces of varying sizes for classes and meetings, weight or fitness room, game room, computer lab, gym, and outdoor recreational space.

B. Report Purpose

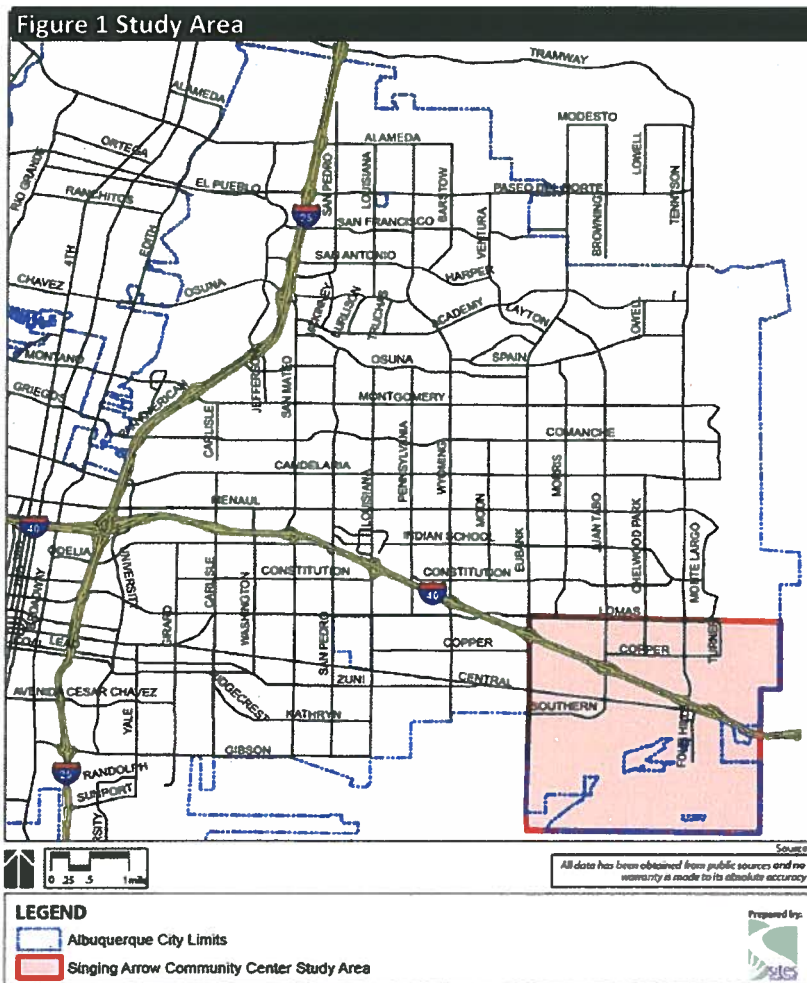
The purpose of this report is twofold: 1) to document the needs of the community to be directly served by a new Singing Arrow Community Center and 2) to identify potential properties that meet the City's criteria for siting a community or multigenerational center.

The study area was defined as encompassing an approximately two-mile radius around the existing Singing Arrow Community Center. It is bounded by Lomas on the north, Eubank on the west, and the city limits on the east and south.

As the study area spans many different neighborhoods with a variety of income levels and existing public facilities, a study of area demographics as well as existing public and private facilities and programs was undertaken to help determine the potential need for a new community center.

Need is estimated through an analysis of demographic characteristics and trends in the study area as well as the availability of nearby programs and facilities to serve area residents. The demographic data provide a profile of the residents to be served: the total number, their ages, income levels and household characteristics. Comparing the location of existing services to potential users uncovers potential locations for a new center for under-served residents.

Information was obtained from a number of sources: the US Census, the Mid-Region Council of Governments, facility websites and interviews in person and by phone. The analysis looked at both Census block groups and Census tracts to obtain information pertinent to the study area.



Summary of Findings

Need

- Population: 35,200-plus population in approximately 15,000 households
- Elementary and middle school-age residents: 3,977 (3,848 in surrounding schools)
- Adults: 18-64 years of age: 22,598
- Seniors 65-84: 3,985
- Income: 28.8 percent (4,289 households) have incomes of less than \$25,000 a year

Service Gaps

- **Seniors:** Well-served by Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center.
- **Adults:** Largest population but has fewest options for programs and activities in area, especially if lower income.
- **Children/ Youth:** Patchwork of before- and after-school and summer programs at varying costs offered in nearby community centers, some elementary schools, and by private providers. The greatest need appears to be affordable daycare for pre-school children, before-and after-school programs for elementary school children, and affordable summer camp.
- **Low Income:** Only options are free or inexpensive programs in community centers or some schools.

Potential Locations: (See evaluations in the report)

Publicly owned

- East end of Singing Arrow Park, near existing city park-and-ride lot—City of Albuquerque
- Central Avenue near Eubank—State of New Mexico

Privately owned

- 5-acre site along I-40 near Juan Tabo Boulevard

Recommended Location: East end of Singing Arrow Park. This site would work best if the City is able to acquire for access and parking the existing park-and-ride lot at the end of the road between the Four Hills and Smith's Shopping Centers, which ties into Central Avenue and I-40. This is a much more direct and visible route than exists to the current Singing Arrow facility. There is room for the new facility at the eastern end of the park, which is owned by the City of Albuquerque. Facility users would have access to the park and multi-use pathway, as well as trails that lead into the Tijeras Arroyo.

III. Demographic Analysis

A. Population Characteristics

According to the 2010 US Census, the Singing Arrow Study Area had a total population of 35,208 as shown in Table 1. This is a 2.4 percent increase—or about 800 people—from its 2000 population of 34,392. New growth has occurred primarily in the Manzano Mesa area and at the end of Juan Tabo Boulevard south of the Tijeras Arroyo. The study area’s population is projected to reach 36,793 by the year 2035.

Table 1. Study Area Population Growth, 2000 to 2035

	2000 Census	2010 Census	2035 Projection
Study Area	34,070	35,208	36,793

Source: US Census and Mid-Region Council of Governments

Age

The age distribution of the study area’s population is similar to that of the city as a whole and is detailed in Table 2. Compared with the city in general, the Singing Arrow Study Area has a slightly higher percentage of pre-school children and high school youth, as well as seniors, and a slightly lower percentage of elementary and middle school-aged children and adults.

Table 2. Study Area Population by Age, 2010

Age	Population	Percent	Albuquerque Percent
Preschool Age: 0-4 years	2,621	7.4%	7.0%
Elementary and Middle School Age: 5-14 years	3,977	11.3%	13.2%
High School Age: 15-17 years	1,536	4.4%	3.9%
Adult: 18-64 years	22,598	64.2%	66.9%
Senior: 65-84 years	3,985	11.3%	10.3%
Elderly 85+	491	1.4%	1.8%
Grand Total	35,208	--	--

Source: 2010 US Census

Race and Ethnicity

The study area has slightly more non-Hispanic whites (48%) than does the city at-large. Nearly 36 percent of the population is of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity of any race, less than the 47 percent in the city generally. The Native American, Asian, and African American populations are all slightly larger in the study area than in the city at-large, while other races/ethnicities are consistent with the city’s percentages.

Figure 2. Singing Arrow CC District Race and Ethnicity

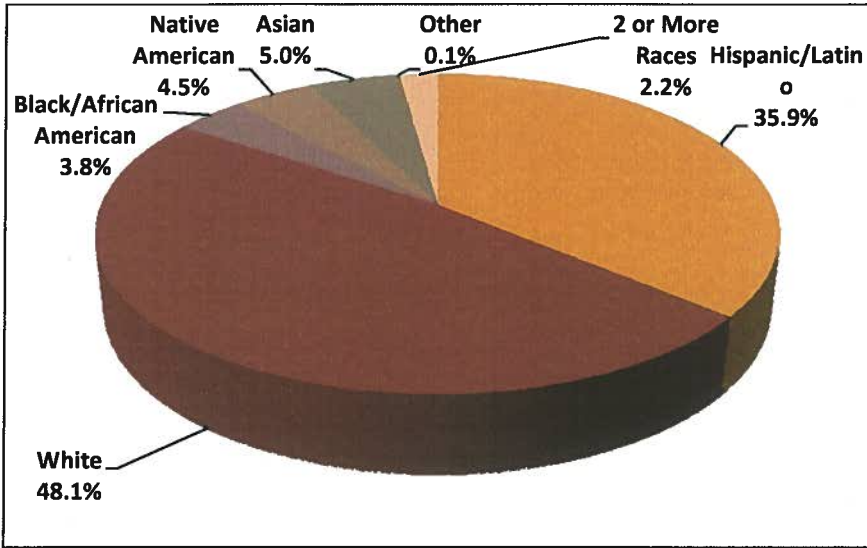


Figure 3. Albuquerque Race and Ethnicity

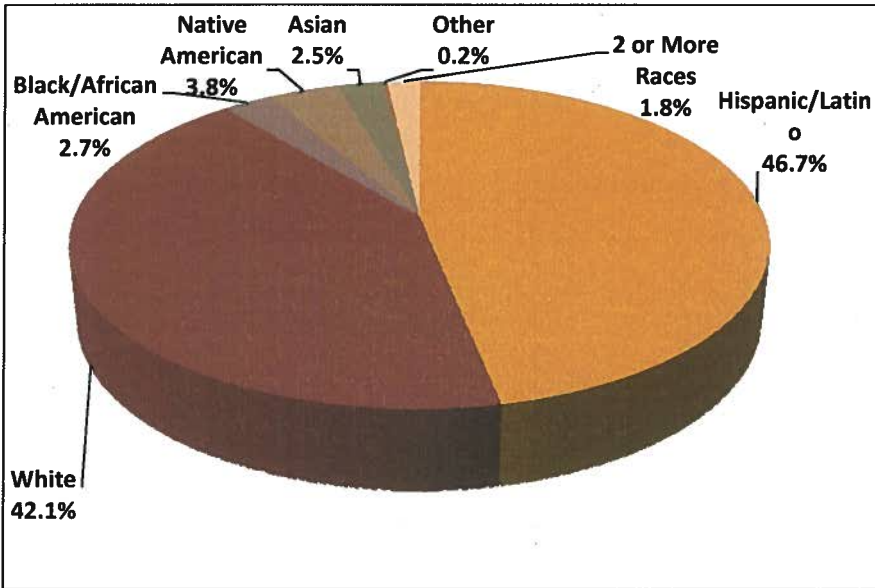


Table 3. Study Area Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

Population, Race & Ethnicity	Singing Arrow CC Plan Area		Albuquerque
	Number	Percent Total	Percent Total
White, Non-Hispanic	16,535	48.1%	42.1%
Hispanic, Any Race	12,334	35.9%	46.7%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	1,721	5.0%	2.5%
Black, Non-Hispanic	1,335	3.8%	2.7%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1,613	4.5%	3.8%
2 or More Races, Non-Hispanic	746	2.2%	1.8%
Other, Non-Hispanic	67	0.1%	0.2%

Source: 2010 US Census

Household and Family Characteristics

Household and family characteristics are summarized in Table 4. In 2010, the study area had some 14,999 households, with an average size of 2.33 persons. This was slightly lower than the household size of 2.40 persons in Albuquerque generally. Average family size was higher, 2.99, compared with 3.05 in the city at-large. Of 8,600 family households, slightly more than a quarter (27%) or 3,994, had children under the age of 18. The study area has a higher percentage than the city as a whole of female householders with children under 18. Single parent households often have a need for the types of day care and summer programs offered at the City's Community Centers, including the existing Singing Arrow Center.

Table 4. Household Characteristics

	Singing Arrow CC Study Area		Albuquerque
	Number	Percent	Percent
2010 Total Households	14,999	100.0%	--
Family Households	8,600	58.4%	59.7%
With Children under 18 years	3,994	26.9%	28.1%
Married Couple Family	5,064	34.9%	39.2%
With Children under 18 years	1,899	12.9%	16.4%
Female Householder	2,597	17.2%	14.3%
With children under 18 years	1,608	10.6%	8.3%
Male Householder	939	6.3%	6.2%
With children under 18 years	487	3.3%	3.4%
Non-Family Households	6,399	41.5%	40.3%
Householder living alone	5,198	33.6%	31.9%
Householder 65 years and older	464	2.9%	8.9%
Households with individuals 65 years and older	3,356	22.1%	21.7%
Average family size	2.99	--	3.05
Average household size	2.33	--	2.40

Household Income

A higher percentage of households in the study area receives less than \$25,000 in annual income (29%) than in the city as a whole (25%). A full 41 percent in the study area have household incomes of less than \$35,000. Income, however, varies by geographic area. The differences are apparent in Figure 4, which shows the median household income in each census block group. Census block groups with the lowest median incomes cluster in the center of the study area, near Central Avenue, and to the southwest and north. The highest median household incomes are found in census block groups to the southeast/Four Hills area, the northeast, and the far northwest of the study area.

Table 5. 2010 Household Income

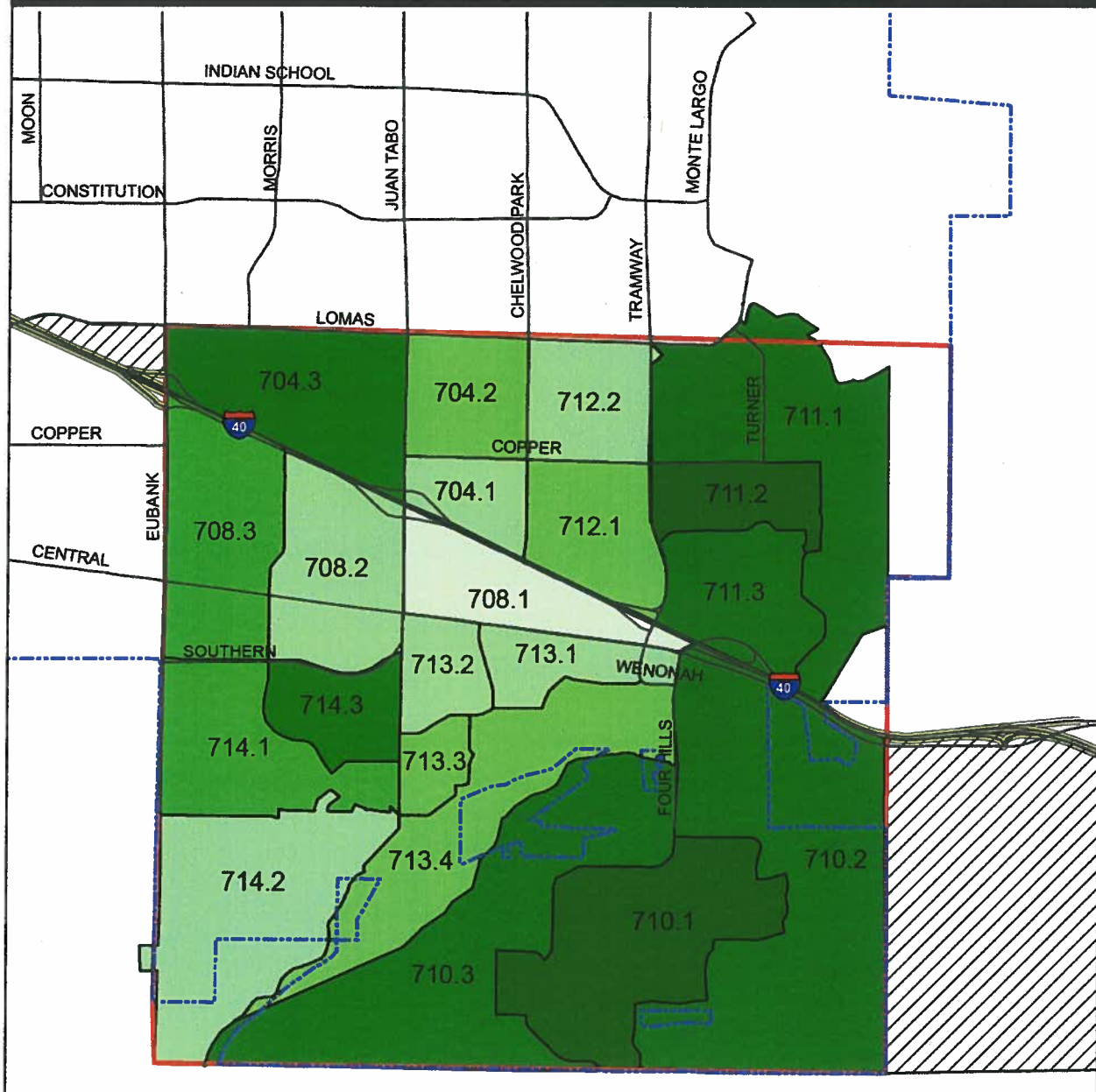
Household Income	Singing Arrow Study Area		Albuquerque
	Households	Percent of Total*	Percent of Total*
Less than \$15,000	2,488	16.6%	13.6%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,801	12.2%	11.4%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,724	11.7%	10.6%
\$35,000 to \$49,000	2,172	14.7%	13.9%
\$50,000 to \$74, 999	2,314	15.7%	18.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,000	1,888	12.8%	11.7%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,556	10.6%	12.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,000	904	6.0%	4.4%
\$200,000 or more	436	3.0%	4.3%
Total	14,737	100.0%	100.0%

Source: US Census 2010

* Percentages in these columns have been rounded

Figure 4. Median Household Income by Geographic Area

8-5-13



Source:
All data has been obtained from public sources and no warranty is made to its absolute accuracy

LEGEND

Median Household Income in Census Block Groups

- < \$18,850
- \$18,851 - 31,450
- \$31,451 - 50,300
- \$50,301 - 62,900
- \$62,901 - 75,480
- > \$75,481
- Singing Arroyo Community Center Study Area
- Albuquerque City Limits
- Part of Block Group outside Study Area



Student Characteristics

In 2010, there were more than 7,450 students attending elementary, middle or high school in districts that were a part of the study area, compared with a total school-age resident population of 882. The total enrollment at each school and number of students participating in the Kids Free Food and Kids Reduced Cost Food Programs are detailed in Table 6.

According to available data for the 2010 school year, over 67 percent of students received some assistance in purchasing food at school. The schools vary in the percentage of students served, ranging from 56 percent to 87 percent of enrollment.

Table 6. 2010 School Characteristics

Schools	Total Enrollment 2009-2010	Percent Receiving Free or Reduced Food
Elementary Schools		
Apache	438	72.8%
Collet Park	388	57.8%
Eubank	499	84.1%
Manzano Mesa	643	65.2%
Middle Schools		
Grant	764	56.1%
Kennedy	508	86.9%
Van Buren	608	85.0%
High Schools		
Highland	1,664	57.9%
Manzano	1,938	43.4%
Total:	7,450	67.6%

Source: NM Public Education Department 2010 School Year Enrollment Report; 2010 Free and Reduced Lunch Program Report

Jobs/Daytime Population

Employment in the Singing Arrow Study Area is primarily along major arterial streets and at such institutions as public schools and health facilities. People who work in the area during the day could use community center facilities during lunch or before or after work. Evening employees, such as retail and restaurant workers, and might use the facilities before going to work.

Table 7. Employment in Singing Arrow Study Area

	No. of Employees 2008	No. of Employees Projected in 2015
Employment	10,793	11,554
Basic Employment	2,374	3,007
Services	5,609	2,959
Retail	2,810	5,588

Source: Mid-Region Council of Governments

Basic employment is defined as jobs that bring income into a community and includes the job categories of agriculture, mining, construction, manufacturing, transportation, communication, utilities, wholesale

and military. Retail includes workers in eating and drinking establishments, while service employment includes the employment categories of finance, insurance, real estate, services and government.

Potential Users

Potential users of the center by 2015 include more than 37,000 residents and 11,554 area workers. The demographic data show that these users represent a wide range of ages, family types, and income or wage levels.

Of particular interest is the higher-than-average percentage of female-headed households with children under 18 and the lower-than-average income levels. The community center provides recreational options for these families that might not be available to them otherwise.

IV. Inventory of Public and Private Facilities and Programs

Ideally, the new Community Center will provide services that fill gaps in what is available in the study area. This part of the needs assessment determines what is already offered to residents and workers in the area through public and private facilities. The facilities were identified through internet directories and maps, websites, the telephone directory, and interviews with facility staff. Research was conducted on each facility to determine what programs are available, who they serve, and to identify any gaps in service that a new community center could fill.

A. Private For-Profit and Non-Profit Facilities

There are just a few private facilities located in the study area (see Figure 5 for their locations). Private sports and recreational activities are offered through the following organizations and facilities:

- **Mile High Little League** is a non-profit, volunteer organization associated with Little League Baseball of America. It provides opportunities for girls and boys ages 4 to 16 from all over the county to play baseball and softball. Teams and training begin with Tee Ball for those ages 4-6 and progress through Rookies Division (ages 7 and 8), Minors Division (ages 8-10), and Majors Division (typically ages 11 and up). It also provides a Challenger Division for youth 6 through 18 years of age who want to play baseball but because of a physical or special need is unable to play successfully in regular Little Leagues divisions. More than 400 kids are expected to participate in the 2013 season.
- **Roller Skate City** is a for-profit indoor roller rink that rents skates and time for roller and in-line skating to all ages and genders. The rink is dedicated to private parties (birthdays, schools) and roller hockey Monday through Thursday. Regular two-hours skate sessions for the general public start Friday evening and continue Saturday and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m., with Family Night and free pizza from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday and Adult Night for those 18 and older from 8 to 10:30 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is about \$5 and skate rental \$2. Skating classes are available Saturday mornings.
- **Akido Mastery/Both Hands Clapping Akido** is a for-profit studio whose instructors teach this spiritual Japanese martial art. Classes typically are offered in the evenings during the week and Sunday.
- **Four Hills Country Club** bills itself as an exclusive, private club that offers an 18-hole golf course, outdoor junior Olympic swimming pool and toddler area, and five year-round tennis courts and a clubhouse. Swimming, golf and tennis lessons and leagues are available for a fee. Facilities can host weddings, banquets, and meetings.

Private child care is available through the following for-profit and not-for-profit facilities.

- **Panorama Kinder Care** is a national child care and development center offering daycare and education for preschool children ages six weeks to five years and before and after-school programs for children ages five to 12. They are open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday

through Friday. Summer programs also are available for preschool, pre-kindergarten and school-age children. Costs range from \$448 per month for before- and after-school care to \$680 per month for all-day care. The summer program is \$620 per month.

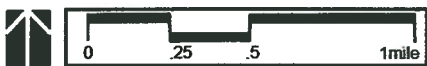
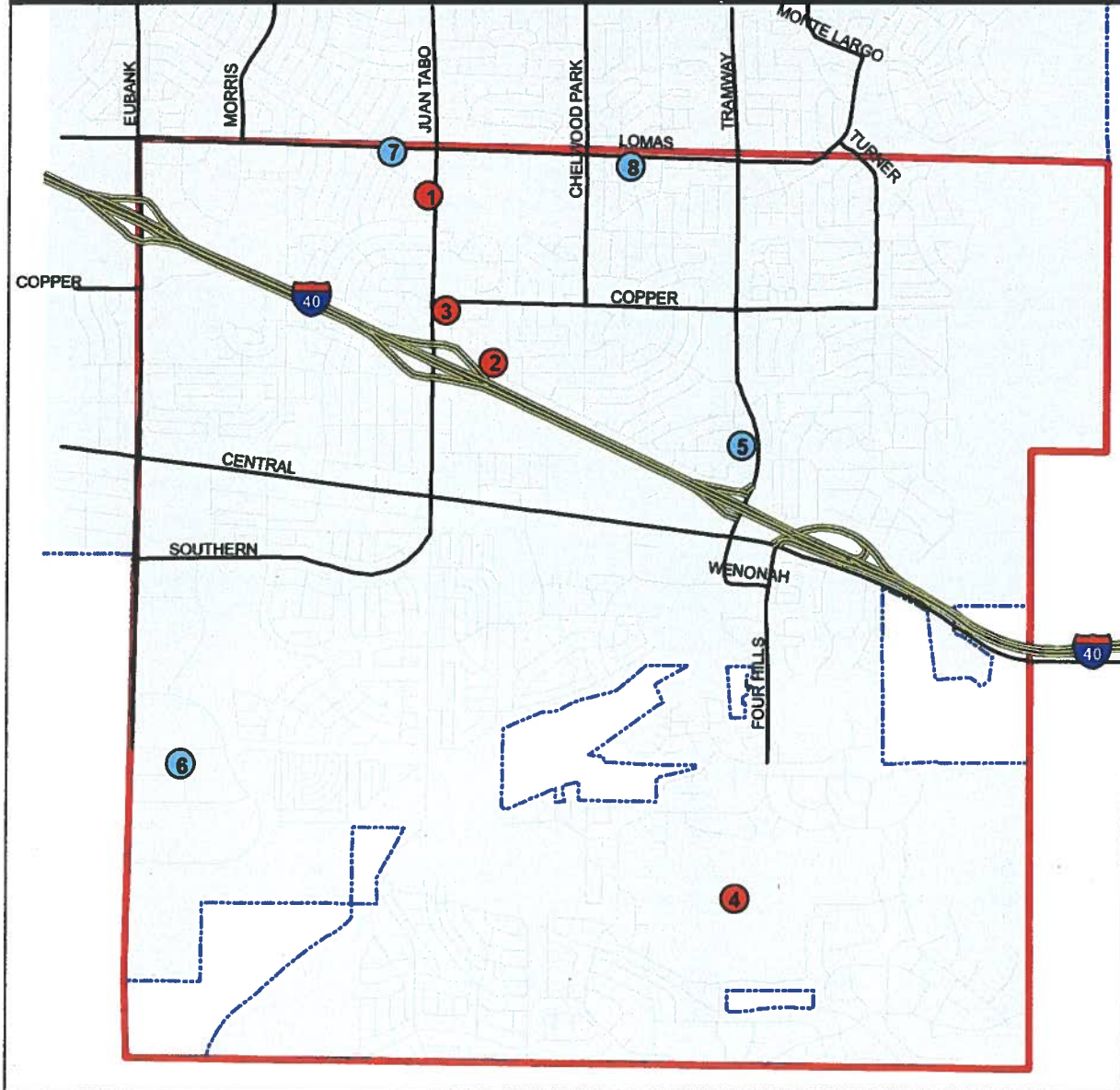
- **La Luz Early Childhood Center** is a not-for-profit early childcare center for children six weeks through five years of age. It was founded in August 2002 and still overseen by a board of directors affiliated with Sandia National Laboratory and the SNL Federal Credit Union “in response to the lack of quality childcare in the area,” according to its website. Housed within the Credit Union’s Tech Park Branch near Eubank and Gibson, it is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Monthly costs for full-time care ranges from \$848 for pre-kindergartners to \$1,194 for infants. Two- and three-day week rates are also available.
- **Southwest Childcare** is licensed to operate its centers for evening and overnight care all week long in addition to traditional child care programs for infants through pre-school and before- and after-school care. Its regular hours are 5 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. It also offers a free pre-k program for 4-year-olds for schools in Title I School Districts (Manzano Mesa, Tomasita, Chelwood, Apache, Acoma, and Collet Park). Its facility at Juan Tabo and Lomas, remodeled in 1986, has large classrooms housed in two buildings and two playgrounds that separate infant/toddlers and older children. Activities from balance beams to rock climbing are available as well as swimming. It transports children to and from a select number of schools in the area as part of its before- and after-school programs. In the study area these include Apache, Collet Park, Manzano Mesa, Albuquerque School of Excellence, and Tomasita. Monthly costs range from \$440 for before- and after-school care to \$745 for full day care, plus incidental costs.
- **Kid’s Castle** is a full-time childcare center serving children ages six weeks to 12 years. It is open from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm Monday through Friday on a year-round schedule. They offer an extensive before- and after-school program for school-age children for a monthly rate of about \$460. Swimming is available twice a week. Tuition ranges from approximately \$560 per month for four-year-olds to \$640 for infants and toddlers. The daylong summer program for children is school age is about \$580 per month. Ten and 20 percent fee reductions are available for qualifying families.

In addition, numerous city-wide after-school and summer programs are offered through such sponsors as the Albuquerque Academy, Sandia Prep/Summer Prep, the NM Jazz Workshop, the University of New Mexico, the Jewish Community Center, the Harwood Center and many others. Costs for these programs range from approximately \$60 to \$200 per class to from \$350 to \$800 for weekly camps. Activities range from sports such as soccer and aquatics to performing and visual arts and even academic classes and extended care.

As noted in the demographic analysis, the study area population includes households that likely cannot afford the programs and services offered by private facilities in the immediate area or city wide.

Figure 5. Private Community Facilities

8-5-13



Source:
All data has been obtained from public sources and no warranty is made to its absolute accuracy

LEGEND	
Singing Arroyo Study Area	
Albuquerque City Limits	
Sports & Recreational Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mile High Little League 2. Roller Skate City 3. Aikido Mastery / Both Hands Clapping Aikido 4. Four Hills Country Club 	
Child Care (Including preschools)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Panorama Kinder Care 6. La Luz Early Childhood Center 7. Southwest Childcare 8. Kid's Castle 	
Prepared by:	

B. City of Albuquerque Facilities

City facilities located in the Singing Arrow Study Area are shown in Figure 6 and listed here.

In addition, the area has a number of public parks, ball fields and courts, tennis courts, and general open space. Except for the open space, most of these amenities are located north of Central Avenue in the study area.

- Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center
- Singing Arrow Community Center
- Lomas Tramway Library
- Foothills Police Command
- Fire Station 12

Multigenerational Centers. **Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center** is the only center of its type within the study area. Its 42,000 square feet provides space for a gym, fitness room, game room, social hall, kitchen, a computer lab, three classrooms and sitting room/library with wifi access. Classes are sometimes scheduled in its large entrance hall. A long hallway leads to an enclosed outside spray ground for children, and adjacent facilities outdoors include ball fields, a park, and parking. Seniors tend to dominate the user population until 4 p.m. when young adults start to arrive. Of the 7,000 members on any one day about half are ages 50-plus and half under age 50. Children and youth make up the smallest proportion of users. The center is open from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Many of the activities are sponsored by the Department of Senior Affairs or offered by outside instructors and are geared to seniors or adults although some may be attended by teens. A sampling includes classes in computers, digital cameras, ballroom and belly dancing, zumba, line dancing, aerobics, singing, pickleball, volleyball, tai chi, and health assistance. They are held primarily during the day, with some evening and Saturday sessions. The center serves breakfast and lunch Mondays through Fridays for a small fee for seniors and larger fee for those under age 50.

For children, the center provides free before- and after-school care for Manzano Mesa Elementary School (about 65 children in both sessions). It also sponsors a summer youth program for some 120 kids from all over for between \$15 and \$25 per week, which usually has a waiting list of 200. A few year-round group classes for youth are offered by instructors in the community who pay a small fee to rent space in the center and charge attendees for materials and or instruction. Activities are listed on a volunteer-sponsored website and recently included hip-hop, karate, kendo kai, a Girl Scout troop, and community drum circle.

Community Centers. **Singing Arrow** is the only regular community center within the study area. Its 5,000 square feet of space is created by three portables connected by an entrance hall and portico. It has two main rooms—a game room and a multi-purpose room—an office and the entrance hall. The before-school program serves an average of 26 children daily while the after-school program has between 45 and 50 students on average. The number of children is limited by both the space (due to the fire code) and the number of staff, as the center maintains a ratio of one staff person to 15 children.

It serves four elementary schools in the district—Apache Elementary, Manzano Mesa Elementary, Eubank Elementary and the Native American Community Academy School—and provides transportation to two of the schools (Eubank and NACA).

The center receives more inquiries about services from parents than it is able to accommodate in the existing facility. The only recreational facilities available are a half-basketball court and the multi-use path and green space in Singing Arrow Park. Neighborhood residents and workers in the area could work out at a fitness center or play basketball in an inside gymnasium if they were available at the center.

The third portable at the site accommodates a City Child Development Center and small outdoor playground. This program serves 3- to-5 year old children of working or student parents who are income-eligible. They emphasize developmentally appropriate curriculum including early literacy in a safe, quality environment.

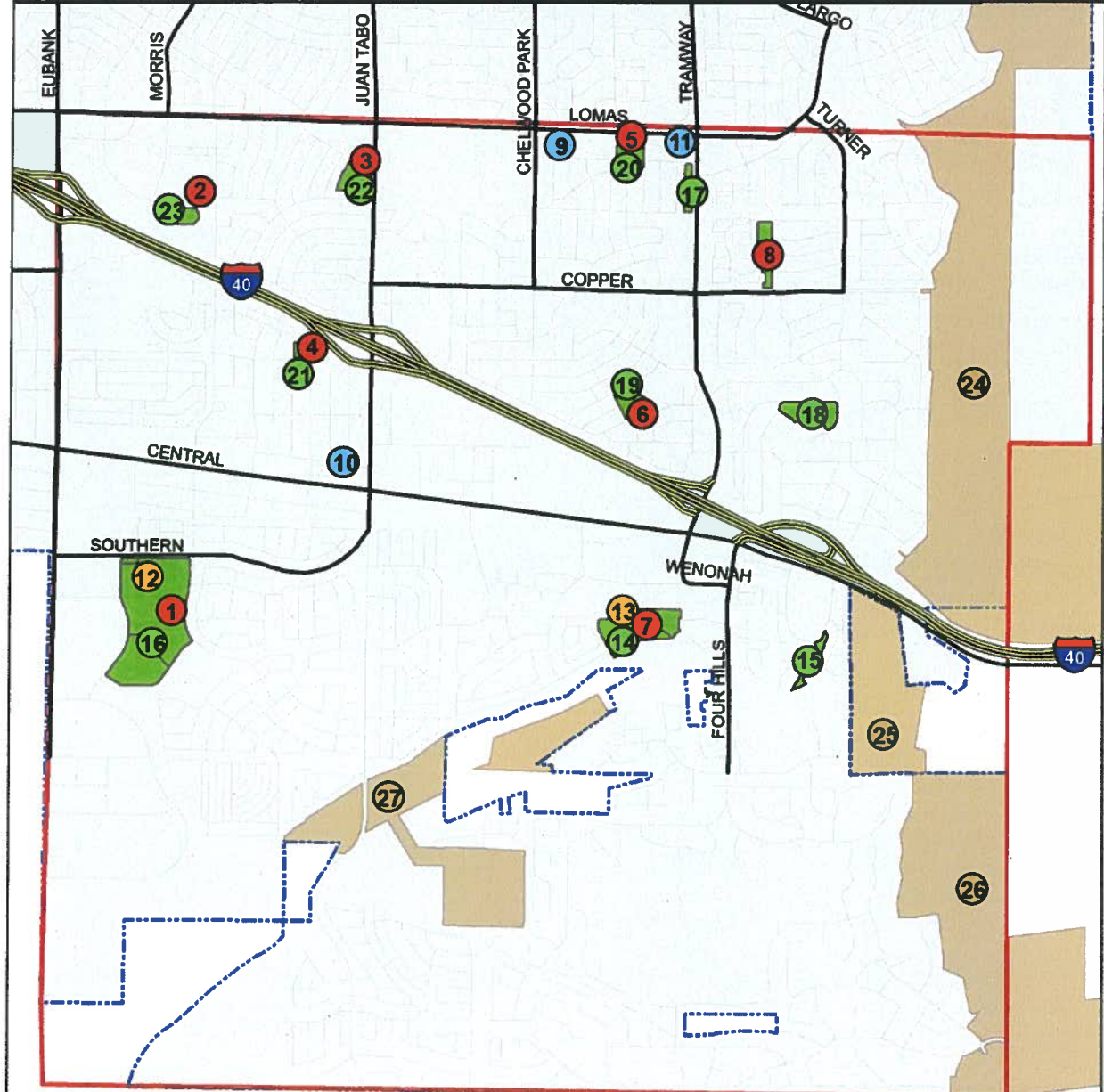
Libraries. The Singing Arrow Study Area is served by the **Lomas Tramway library**, which is on the northern edge of its boundary. It is open from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday; and closed on Sunday and Monday. It offers family story times during the week and varying programs on Saturdays such as Kids' Craft and Read to the Dogs. There is no programming for children that does not require a parent to be present.

Sports Fields and Facilities. The study area has nine youth ball fields in two different locations, two full basketball courts and two half-basketball courts, four tennis courts at Lauren C. Bolles Park, a volleyball court and several related play areas and picnic tables. The majority of these facilities are located north of Central Ave. The closest swimming pool is located at Los Altos Park near Eubank and I-40. (See Figure 6).

Public Safety Facilities. The area is served by Fire Station #12 at Central Ave. and Juan Tabo Blvd., and the Foothills Police Command at Lomas and Chelwood Park.

Figure 6. Public Community Facilities

8-5-13



Source:
All data has been obtained from public sources and no warranty is made to its absolute accuracy

LEGEND		Public Parks		Open Space			
Recreational Amenities 1. Manzano Mesa - 5 Youth Ballfields 2. Kennedy MS - 1 Soccer Field 3. Dale Bellemah Park - 4 Youth Ballfields 4. Sandia Vista Park - 1 Full BB Court 5. Chelwood Pk - 1.5 BB Courts, 1 Soccer Field 6. Lauren C. Bolles Park - 4 Tennis Courts 7. Singing Arrow CC - Half BB Court 8. City View Estates Park - Half BB Court		Public Services 9. Foothills Police Cmd 10. Fire Station #12 11. L.Lomas & Tramway Library		14. Singing Arrow Pk 15. Four Hills Ravine Pk 16. Manzano Mesa Pk 17. Tramway Linear Pk 18. Supper Rock Pk 19. Lauren C. Bolles Pk 20. Chelwood Pk 21. Sandia Vista Pk 22. Dale Bellamah Pk 23. Kennedy MS Pk		Singing Arroyo Study Area Albuquerque City Limits OpenSpace Open Space 24. Sandia Foothills 25. Route 66 26. Manzano / Four Hills 27. East Tijeras Arroyo	

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SOUTHWEST

Albuquerque Public Schools

The following public schools serve children in the study area. The locations and boundaries of these schools are shown in Figures 7, 8, and 9. Each elementary school that serves the area and the two middle schools closest to Singing Arrow was contacted to determine what programs are offered, with a focus on those programs that might duplicate programs typically available at a City community center.

Each school—primarily elementary— or the parents of children attending each elementary school, has a different arrangement for before- and after-school ranging from none to classes/clubs held at the school or use of nearby community centers or private facilities. Summer programs at the school are mostly restricted to academic summer school.

Elementary Schools

- **Albuquerque School for Excellence** is a math and science-oriented public charter school currently enrolling students from first through 9th grade. Students may be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m. School ends at 3:30 p.m. but students can enroll in after-school clubs until 4:20 p.m.
- **Apache Elementary:** This elementary school is in its first year of Project Seal, a community project that provides before-school (7 to 8:30 a.m.) and after-school care (3:02 a.m. to 6 p.m.) for approximately 100 of its 427 enrolled schoolchildren. The cost is \$60 per month. Before the 2013-2014 school year, these services were provided by Campfire. Approximately 16 children attend the Singing Arrow Community Center before or after school, or both, depending on the day. There were no children on the waiting list for the Project Seal program in Fall 2013. The only summer program offered is a City-funded therapeutic programs for children with disabilities. The district geographically straddles both sides of I-40 with a narrow connection along Tramway Blvd.
- **Chelwood Elementary:** Students at this school (608 enrolled) previously attended Jeanne Bellamah Community Center for before- and after-school programs. While that center is being renovated, they cannot access those services.
- **Collet Park Elementary** offers no before-school care (school begins at 7:53 a.m.) but provides an after-school enrichment program operated by the Rio Grande Educational Collaborative Group from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m., if needed. The charge is approximately \$250 per week.
- **Eubank Elementary:** Students at this school (495 enrolled) have the option of attending an after-school program at the school until 3:50 p.m. or going to the Singing Arrow or Snow Park Community Centers. The school-based program can accept up to 120 children on a first-come, first-served basis and is funded by the State. The Eubank school district is split geographically, with part encompassing an area south of Central Ave. and part located northwest of I-40. The Singing Arrow Community Center provides before- and after-school care close to home for about 42 students from the Singing Arrow neighborhood.

- **Manzano Mesa Elementary School:** A relatively new school, Manzano Mesa has hired a community-school coordinator to develop partnerships with community organizations, solicit grants and administer a variety of programs. While some students (of 736 enrolled) attend Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center or Singing Arrow before or after school, an average of 151 and 126 attend the school's on-site clubs and programs before and after school, respectively. The before- and after-school programs at Manzano Mesa are managed by Children's Choice, a not-for-profit childcare and enrichment provider, and are free of charge. Morning clubs include gardening, book club, dance, newspaper, and games; afternoon activities include sports, chess, math, flash mob, martial arts, computer lab, and Kiwanis service learning. Admittance is by lottery although balanced by grade level and sibling relationship. Approximately 112 were on the waiting list In Fall 2013. Approximately 14 children from Manzano Mesa Elementary attend Singing Arrow Community Center before or after school, or both, depending on the day.



- **Native American Community Academy School:** While this school has moved out of the study area to 1000 Indian School Road, SW, approximately six children still attend Singing Arrow Community Center before or after school, or both, depending on the day.

- **Tomasita Elementary School:** Students are supervised on school grounds from 7:45 a.m. to 2:10 p.m. A City Playground Recreation Program also operates at the school, which typically runs from 7 a.m. until school starts and from when school ends until 6 p.m. Cost is \$25 a week (\$100 a month) for before- and after-school activities or \$15 a week (\$60 a month) for only after school.

Middle Schools

- **Grant Middle School** (627 students) is located far to the west of Singing Arrow Community Center, but part of its district extends into the study area. It is a full-service community school under Youth Development Inc's Elev8 initiative. Community schools are a comprehensive strategy for meeting non-academic barriers to student success. Elev 8 coordinates the school-based health center, extending learning programming, family engagements and supports. Through the Elementary and Middle School Initiative (EMSI), the City funds a series of free teacher-facilitated programs for kids before school (7:10 a.m. to 8:10 a.m.) and after school (3:15 p.m. to about 4:30 or 5:00, depending on the program). Morning activities include intramurals, library and books while afternoon features math, yearbook, comic book club, soccer, choir, tennis and jam band. In addition, a Teen Outreach Program (TOPS) run by the YMCA and capped at 50 students focuses on healthy lifestyles and community service from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The school has had summer school and tutoring in the past but it was moved to other schools in 2013.

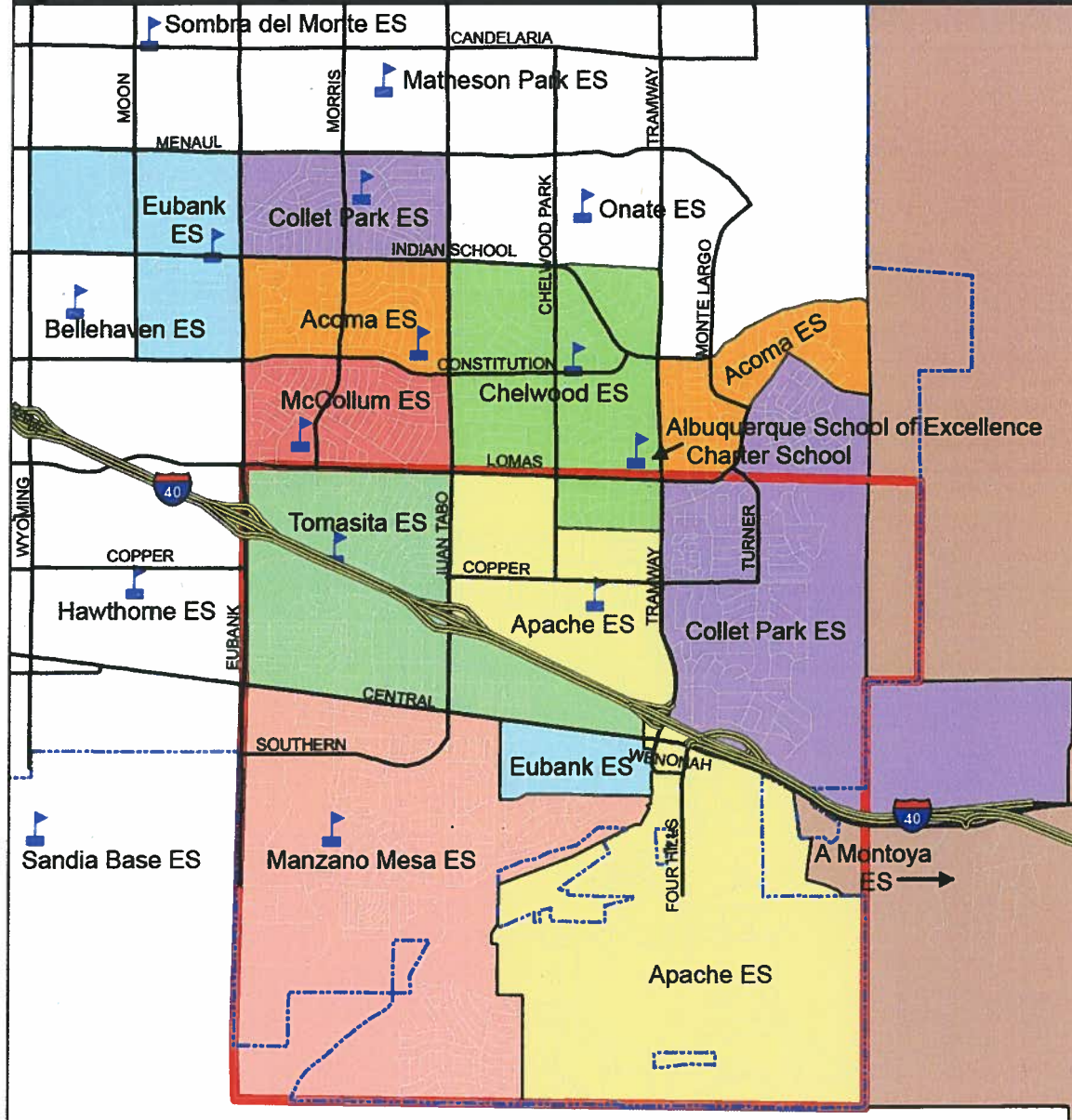
- **Van Buren Middle School** (604 students) offers 16 after-school clubs and sports until 4:15 p.m. every day. Students may then either walk home or wait for a 5:40 p.m. bus. Between 4:15 p.m. and the time the bus leaves, students participate in the 21st Century Program at the school. Funded by a grant, the after-school programs are free and typically attract about 100 youth. They have sufficient room for everyone who wants to participate; there is no waiting list. As school begins at 8:15 a.m., there is no before-school program. The school is putting together a grant-funded summer program. It has also hired a director of extended programs and community partnerships to coordinate these programs and grants.

High Schools

High schools in the area have a variety of sports, music and arts activities before and after school. Students in this age range would be most likely to use a fitness center, a computer lab, or a gym at a community center, to take specific classes not available in high school such as martial arts, or to hang out at an adjacent park.

Figure 7. APS Elementary School District Boundaries

8-5-13



Source:
All data has been obtained from public sources and no warranty is made to its absolute accuracy

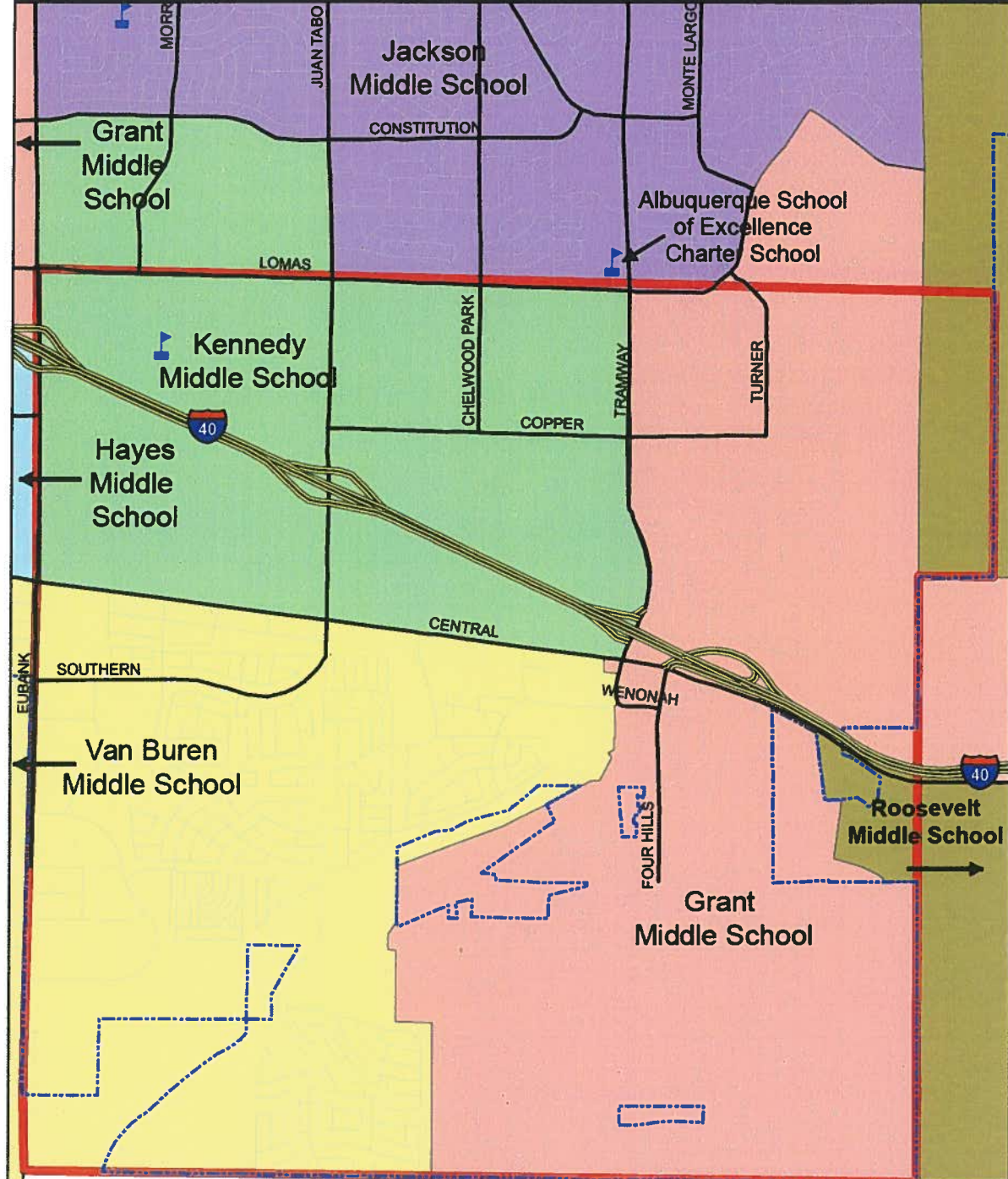
LEGEND

- Singing Arrow Study Area
- Albuquerque City Limits
- ▶ School Location

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Figure 8. APS Middle School District Boundaries

8-5-13



Source:
All data has been obtained from public sources and no warranty is made to its absolute accuracy

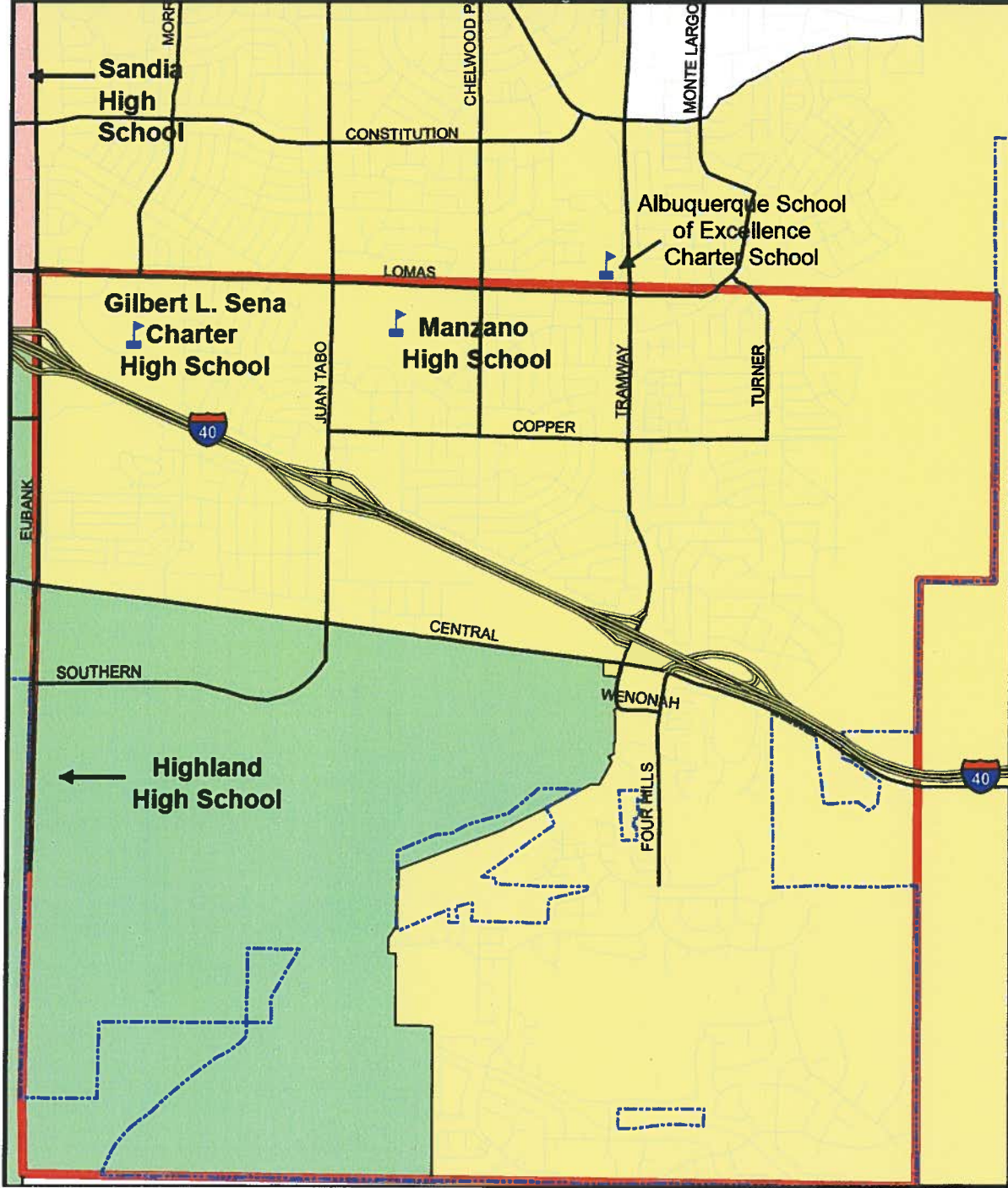
LEGEND

- Singing Arrow Study Area
- Albuquerque City Limits
- 📍 School Location

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Figure 9. APS High School District Boundaries

8-5-13



Source:
All data has been obtained from public sources and no warranty is made to its absolute accuracy

- LEGEND**
- Singing Arrow Study Area
 - Albuquerque City Limits
 - School Location



V. Land Availability within the Study Area

The scope of work for this project included identifying sites that might be suitable for a new community center. City criteria in its 1999 Long-Range Plan for Community Facilities include the size of the parcel (3 to 5 acres for a community center and 5 to 7 for a multigenerational center), proximity to other services, accessibility by public transportation, proximity to the main population to be served, and visibility. If modeled on Holiday Park, the new facility would require approximately five acres. Potential locations for a new community center were selected based on one or more of these criteria. Figure 13 shows potential locations of sites 5 acres and larger in red and locations less than 5 acres in yellow.

A. Vacant Land

A survey of vacant land within the study area boundary was conducted to find sites suitable for a City community center. Vacant parcels were mapped using aerial photography and parcel size, ownership and status information from the Bernalillo County Assessor. Parcels with limitations, such as drainage ways, utility easements, and private roads were eliminated, as were parcels not actually vacant. The map identifies parcels of five acres or larger, which is the most likely amount of land necessary for a new, expanded community center. It also identifies vacant parcels of approximately two acres in size.

Potential Sites for New Community Center

Three vacant parcels of five acres or more were located: 1) the eastern end of the existing Singing Arrow Park property, 2) a State-owned parcel near Central Avenue and Eubank Boulevard., and 3) a private parcel near I-40.

Potential Site #1—Singing Arrow Park, eastern end

The existing Singing Arrow Community Center occupies part of the western end of the 12-acre Singing Arrow Park. It has a few spaces for parking, a half basketball court, a multi-use pathway that spans the park from west to east, picnic tables and benches, grass, recently planted trees and a curvilinear sidewalk on the western end. Relocating a new community center on the eastern end of the park would give the facility more direct access to Central Avenue and I-40 through Tramway Boulevard and Wenonah Street, which runs south from Central Avenue between the Four Hills Shopping Center and Smith’s Supermarket and gas station. It might also be possible to purchase and share the adjacent City park-and-ride lot that serves the Four Hills Shopping Center overflow. Maintaining the location at the park would give users of the community center access to park facilities, access to the Tijeras Arroyo to the south, and access to restrooms near the park. The location is surrounded largely by apartment buildings, whose residents lack private open space, and is within or near the census block groups with the lowest median incomes in the study area. It also offers scenic views of the mountains and Tijeras arroyo.



Positive Features	Potential Drawbacks
Better direct access to Central Avenue/I-40 than existing facility	Essential to acquire park-and-ride lot for access and parking
Park-and-ride stop for Rapid Ride/ Route 1 Bus along Juan Tabo Boulevard	Closer to but not directly on a major route
Surrounded by apartments and population most in financial need	New center would replace some of existing park, newly planted trees
Co-located with existing park, trails, open space	
Little if any overlap with service areas of other city community centers	
Few affordable private providers in area	
Existing potable facility could be dismantled and returned to park space or parking	
Scenic views	
Site already owned by City	

Potential Site #2—Juan Tabo and I-40

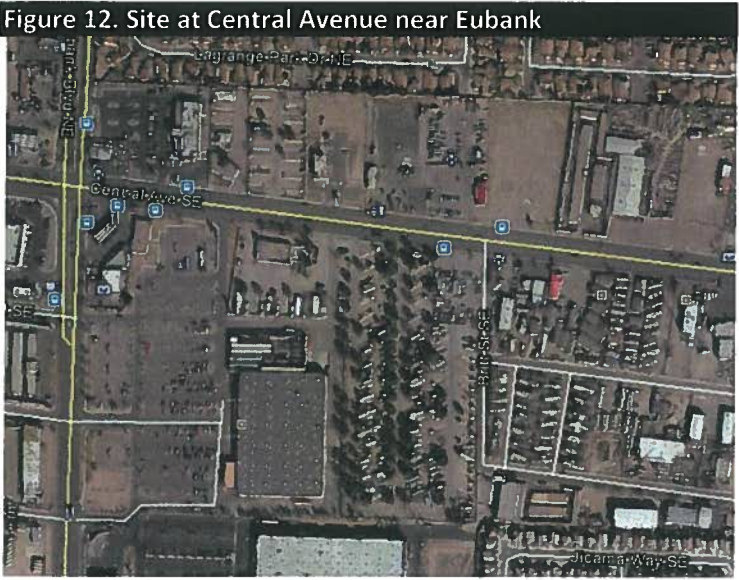
The 5-acre site near Juan Tabo Boulevard south of the I-40 freeway is privately owned and would have to be purchased if used for the community center, adding to the cost. It is located in a commercial / light industrial area in a corner of the census block group with the lowest median income but some distance away from the apartment buildings in the southeast. It is surrounded by a car wash and other auto care businesses on the west, a retirement apartment complex and ceramic and other art fabrication to the south, single family homes to the east and the freeway to the north. The parcel is zoned SU-2 for overnight camping and trailers and is currently unused. Access is from Juan Tabo via two smaller, perpendicular side streets, Skyline or Hopi Road. The parcel is somewhat visible from I-40 but not from other major roadways. There are no other public facilities nearby nor is there much potential for expansion. Transit access would be from Juan Tabo.



Positive Features	Potential Drawbacks
Vacant, five-acre parcel Visible from I-40 on ramp	Privately owned/ would have to be purchased Location in primarily commercial/light industrial area along I-40 freeway
Transit access from Juan Tabo Boulevard on Route 1 Bus	Far from apartment complexes Potential traffic issues with small trucks Not co-located with other public facilities

Potential Site #3—Central Avenue near Eubank

The final 7-acre site is located along Central Avenue near Eubank Blvd., just north of the existing Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. The site is a former mobile home park owned by the State of New Mexico and currently rents space to RVs on a weekly basis. It is visible from Central Avenue and is accessible to all the transit that runs on that street. It is adjacent to Home Depot on the west, Costco on the southwest. Locating the community center here would require purchasing the land from the State. Its proximity to Manzano Mesa would duplicate some community center programs in a nearby location. The size might allow room for a park, which was advocated by the community, but would probably require higher security to protect children in before- and after-school programs.



Positive Features	Potential Drawbacks
Seven-acre site	Owned by State of New Mexico whose mandate is to maximize return for state education
Visible site along Central Ave.	Located within commercial area
Accessible to transit on Central Ave., Eubank Blvd.	Potential safety concerns with Central pedestrians
On-site trees might be preserved	Just north of Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center—may duplicate programs nearby
Adjacent to shopping (parents could drop off kids)	Commercial use might better help area revitalization

VI. Findings and Recommendations

A. Need

The Singing Arrow Study Area has a total population of 35,200 persons in approximately 15,000 households. Nearly 4,000 of these residents are of elementary and middle school age while nearly 4,000 more are seniors ages 65-84. By far the largest group is adults ages 18-64. Nearly 29 percent or 4,289 households had incomes of less than \$25,000 per year.

B. Service Gaps

Seniors in the area are well served by the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center, which is sited at the west end of the study area. It also has some facilities and classes for younger adults in the evenings and some limited before- and after-school and programs for students of Manzano Mesa Elementary School.

Daycare for children ages six weeks to five years (or school age) is available in the area through private providers and ranges from \$560 to \$850 a month and more. There is a patchwork of before- and after-school care for older children ranging from programs offered by individual schools through the state or nonprofit providers to programs at the Singing Arrow Community Center and Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. Programs at the community centers are free or of minimal cost while those offered in the schools can be free or vary in cost according to who provides them. Private, non-profit centers also offer before- and after-school programs for prices averaging about \$450 per month. The greatest need appears to be affordable programs for pre-school children and before-and after school programs for elementary school children.

All-day summer programs range from a minimal cost at the City community centers to \$600 a month at private facilities. Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center sponsors an affordable summer youth program that typically has a waiting list twice as large as the number that can be enrolled.

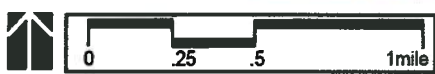
The existing Singing Arrow Community Center meets some of the needs for before- and after-school programs and summer programs for lower income school-age children in the area. A new, expanded facility could serve more families and also potentially offer facilities such as a fitness room and classes for adults and teens in the nearby area.

C. Recommended Location

The most promising location for a new Singing Arrow Community Center is at the opposite (eastern) end of the Singing Arrow Park. The parcel is already owned by the City, has sufficient space, and is more easily accessed by auto and transit. It would offer "eyes" on the park, contributing to safety, and provide restrooms to facility and park users. Its location is within or near the census blocks with the lower median household incomes in the study area. Community center users would have access to the Singing Arrow Park as well as the Tijeras Arroyo and scenic views of the mountains. This location would work best if the adjacent park-and-ride lot could be acquired and used for access and parking.

Figure 13. Potential Locations

9-11-13



Source:
All data has been obtained from public sources and no warranty is made to its absolute accuracy

LEGEND		Site No.	Acreage	Owner
	Singing Arrow Study Area	1	12.26	City of Albuquerque
	Albuquerque City Limits	2	3.88	Private
	Potential Site - 5 acres or larger	3	1.38	Private
	Potential Site - less than 5 acres	4	0.98	Private
	City Parks or Open Space	(4)	0.98	Private
		5	5.04	Private
		6	1.37	Private
		(6)	0.47	Private
		(6)	1.07	Private
		7	3.18	Private
		8	7.06	State of New Mexico
		9	4.64	Board of Education (APS)
		10	2.19	Private

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