



Goal 4: Sustainable Community Development

Desired Community Condition: Parks, open space, recreation facilities, and public trails are available, accessible, and strategically located, designed and maintained.



Indicator: Number and Distribution of Parks

Progress Rating: Local Trend: POSITIVE National Comparison: NOT KNOWN

Indicator Description

This indicator is the acres of neighborhood and community parks within the City of Albuquerque, along with its geographical distribution. It also describes the amount of community parkland per 1,000 residents. City Ordinance mandates developed neighborhood park land within one-half mile of every home, where practical, for recreational opportunities and visual relief.

Neighborhood parks should have no major barriers that restrict pedestrian access. In Albuquerque’s early post-World War II development, built on a grid pattern, most one-half mile residential squares included a park, except for those with a school. Newer development forms typified by more insular subdivisions and curving streets and cul-de-sacs, bounded by high-speed arterial streets tend to limit access between neighborhoods, complicating the provision of appropriate neighborhood park space.

Community parks are larger multi-facility sites which provide for lighted nighttime use, have off-street parking, are generally larger than 15 acres, and are appropriate places for larger scale activities that generate noise, traffic, and late evening use. Since they are adjacent to residential areas, rather than surrounded by residential land, most community park users arrive by vehicle rather than walking.

Why are these indicators important?

Parks provide places for recreation and relaxation, adding to the quality of life of residents and visitors. Neighborhood parks attract parents and children enjoying play equipment, group barbeques and picnics, children’s birthday parties, older residents walking the perimeter, and workers from nearby businesses resting or eating lunch. Larger community parks provide space for more organized, active sports activities and events. Parks should be conveniently located and have sufficient land area for the needs.

Data Sources

City of Albuquerque Municipal Development Department

What can we tell from the data?

- The neighborhood park acreage per 1,000 residents has increased 12.1 percent from 1996 to 2003.

- The community park acreage has decreased slightly from 2001 to 2003; this is due to the Isotopes Park acreage being subtracted from the aggregate. Excluding the acreage of recreational facilities (category of Isotopes Park), the acreage of community parks increased three acres from 2001 to 2003.
- An overwhelming majority of Albuquerque residents are within 1/2 mile of a park.

City Park Acreage and Acreage per 1,000 Residents 1996, 2001, and 2003

