



# CITY OF LAS CRUCES

## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

December 19, 2024

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on December 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 2007B, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

### Members Present:

- Fred Raish – At large member
- Laura Haas - District 6
- Charles Beard – District 2
- Miley Sarah Grandjean - District 1
- Kylie Aleja Jenkins - District 5
- Aracely Tellez – District 3

### Members Absent:

- Alana Bradley - District 4

### Others Present:

- Steven Bingham, Director, Parks & Recreation
- Robert Nunez, Deputy Director, Youth Services, Parks and Recreation
- Hazel Nevarez, Senior Office Manager, Parks & Recreation
- Joey Dominguez, Parks Administration
- Miguel Terrazas, Diversion Specialist, Parks & Recreation
- Carol Montoya, Diversion Specialist, Parks & Recreation
- Camica Ramirez, Diversion Specialist, Parks & Recreation
- Kenneth Coppedge

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of December 19, 2024, at City Hall Room 2007B, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM was brought to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Chair Raish and recognized the meeting as having a legal quorum.

### 1. Introductions:

Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent. Attending staff introduced themselves.

### 2. Conflict of Interest:

There was no conflict of interest.

### 3. Approval of the Agenda:

1 Vice-Chair Haas moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
2 Meeting Agenda for December 19, 2024, seconded by Board Member Beard.  
3 Motion passed unanimously.  
4

5 **4. Approval of the Minutes September 19, 2024:**  
6

7 Vice-Chair Haas moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
8 Meeting Minutes September 19, 2024, seconded by Board Member Beard. Motion  
9 passed unanimously.  
10

11 **5. Public Participation:**  
12

13 None.  
14

15 **6. Discussion Items:**  
16

17 **6.1 Presentation to Kenneth Coppedge:**  
18

19 Presentation to Kenneth Coppedge for his service on the Parks and  
20 Recreation Advisory Board. Vice-Chair Haas thanked him for all his work.  
21

22 **6.2 Presentation of Award to Youth Development and Diversion Program -**  
23 **Steven Bingham, Director of Parks and Recreation:**  
24

25 Steven Bingham stated they want to recognize the Youth staff as they won the  
26 New Mexico State Youth Program of the Year. Robert Nunez introduced the  
27 staff: Miguel Terrazas, with the City for over nine years; Carol Montoya with  
28 the City for two years; Camica Ramirez with the City for two years. They are  
29 the diversion specialists. They work with the youth in the educational aspect.  
30 In the field they visit with them, a lot of follow-ups are done with the youth after  
31 going through the program. There are others, Pat Acosta, the supervisor,  
32 Kiana Sandoval, intake specialist, and Samantha Armendariz, intake  
33 specialist. There is a staff of six, but budgeted for a staff of nine. They cover  
34 north to Hatch and south to Sunland Park, Chaparral, and Anthony. They work  
35 normally Tuesday through Saturday, and until 7:00 p.m.  
36

37 Originally were the Juvenile Citation Program as law enforcement was giving  
38 more citations. Those have been reduced and then they looked at  
39 preventative aspect, so now Development and Diversion Program. This  
40 program has been within the City of Las Cruces for 21 years.  
41

42 Steven Bingham offered lunch to the Youth staff. He also stated there is  
43 research about 15-20 years ago that talked about for every dollar spent  
44 working with youth you save seven dollars in juvenile delinquent system. This  
45 staff is hard working and deal with youth who need good influence, that value  
46 the youth. The City has some very committed people in this area.

1           **6.3 Board Orientation:**  
2

3           Vice-Chair Haas is proposing a work session for the Board Members to get an  
4           overview/orientation from the City Clerk as there are numerous new Board  
5           Members. January 30th is the only date the clerk has available, at 6:00 p.m.,  
6           which is the following Thursday after the board meeting. She will send an e-  
7           mail to confirm to attend.  
8

9           **6.4 Land use Assumption - Steven Bingham, Director of Parks and  
10          Recreation:**  
11

12          Steven Bingham stated this report was done by a consultant, TischlerBise, and  
13          they have done the previous two land use assumption reports and impact fee  
14          studies. This report is just the land use assumption and level of service. By  
15          state statute required to at least every five years perform this study. This is a  
16          45-year national practice. TischlerBise have done over 1,000 impact  
17          analyses, impact fee studies, economic impact analyses, real estate and  
18          market feasibility, and revenue enhancement options, all across the country.  
19

20          Impact fees are a onetime payment for level of service contributions at the time  
21          a building permit is pulled, which is charged to a residential unit. All new  
22          housing has to provide the same level of service as the previous housing has  
23          put in service. There are 500 acres of parkland for the first 100,000 people.  
24          The next 5,000 has to stay at the same proportions financially. This fee cannot  
25          be used for operations, maintenance, or repairs. It is not taxed. It is a land  
26          use regulation. Growth creates the need for the infrastructure, proportionality,  
27          growth pays it fair share of the cost and benefits, growth receives the benefit  
28          from the infrastructure.  
29

30          Land use assumptions look at the household sizes per unit, population  
31          estimates and projected growths, housing unit estimates and projections, and  
32          projection summary. The levels of service are neighborhood parks,  
33          community parks, athletic facilities, dog parks, trails, recreation centers, indoor  
34          and outdoor aquatic facilities.  
35

36          In the study found single-family housing 2.68 people per household but living  
37          in the unit only 2.44 people. As part of this study they used the Public Safety  
38          Impact Fee produced occupancy density which was done recently, rather than  
39          redoing information. Historical growth chart was shown from 2010 to 2021, an  
40          average of 1.25% growth per year, this is from the U.S. Census. Projected  
41          growth from 2023 to 2033 is 1.2% increase in population. Housing unit  
42          estimates and projected growth which looked at single-family and multifamily  
43          units. Projected units by the year were shown with a growth of 4,391 for single-  
44          family and 1,619 in multifamily. Residential projections were shown in housing  
45          units.  
46

1 Level of service, community park is greater than 10 acres with smaller being  
2 neighborhood parks are between three and 10 acres in the industry. Here in  
3 Las Cruces our parks are a bit smaller. Amenities in the park determine  
4 whether it is a neighborhood or community park. Level of service for every  
5 1,000 people there are 0.85 acres of neighborhood parks, 1.29 acres for  
6 community parks.  
7

8 Charles Beard asked if the parks had to be in the area of improvement. Steven  
9 Bingham stated impact fees have a seven year lifetime, so if not spent in seven  
10 years it has to be returned. The City of Las Cruces has one service area for  
11 Parks and Recreation, the whole City. Most communities only have one  
12 service area because the older sections will collect very little impact fee and  
13 never be enough to use. The national standard which is adopted in the Parks  
14 and Recreation Master Plan is everyone should be within a quarter mile  
15 walking distance. Speciality parks like dog parks, skate parks, airplane park  
16 is 38 acres but is 0.33. Butterfield shooting range is a park but was removed  
17 from speciality parks as it inflated too much. Trails per 1,000 people is 0.24  
18 miles. Recreation center for which there are three; East Mesa, Frank O'Brien  
19 Papen, and Meescheidt. There are 0.49 square feet per person. Aquatic  
20 center is 0.54 square feet per person, but level of service is set for population  
21 through 2043.  
22

23 Vice-Chair Haas asked who provides the data to the consultant. That would  
24 be the City. Time is not extensive in doing this as the data is kept and updated  
25 regularly.  
26

27 Aracely Tellez asked who this is reported to. That would be City Council. This  
28 report is an analysis of where we are and where we should be and what the  
29 national standards also. Also in preparation for impact fee study and proposals  
30 for adjusting impact fees to meet current cost to maintain the same level.  
31

32 Question on how impact fees are collected. They are collected as part of  
33 pulling the building permit.  
34

## 35 **7. Action Items:**

### 36 **7.1 Realize Las Cruces Endorsement:**

37 Steven Bingham stated this is a process that has been going on for a few  
38 years. The development code has not been updated since 2001. Realize Las  
39 Cruces is the development code update. This update includes roads, right-  
40 of-ways, landscaping, parks, trails, open space, tree preservation, screening  
41 and fencing, zoning and zoning map, subdivisions, drainage, signs, outdoor  
42 lighting.  
43  
44  
45

1 Section 5.5 is parks and trails. Going forward with the passing of this new  
2 code is require park dedication and construction of neighborhood parks.  
3 Proposing instead of collecting an impact fee for the City to build or contract  
4 with the developer to build a park and reimburse that, propose that there will  
5 be a park dedication requirement. There are a variety of ways to get parks, go  
6 for a bond. If you want the new housing that is creating the need for the park,  
7 then there are two methods, impact fees and park dedication. Park dedication  
8 has not been used by Las Cruces before. Park dedication has been around  
9 since the 1960s. The requirement would be the developers build a  
10 neighborhood park at their cost with no reimbursement, but pull it out of impact  
11 fees and it will a minimum of three acres with a few exceptions. It would three  
12 acres times the number of dwellings times the number of people per unit.  
13 Basically it is three acres per 1,000 people. A copy of the park section of  
14 proposed ordinance was given to the Board Members.

15  
16 The purpose of this is to ensure that new master plan or subdivision  
17 development allocates resources for accessible and usable parks and trails in  
18 accordance with the adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the  
19 Comprehensive Plan, the Active Transportation Plan, and any applicable  
20 adopted City plan. The Parks and Recreation department will be involved and  
21 make recommendations for these parks to be built and meet the needs of the  
22 community.

23  
24 It was recommended that the impact fee should be used within a mile of the  
25 residence. Recent study shows that people on average use between four and  
26 six parks regularly throughout the course of a year. There are regulations like  
27 the land must provide a minimum of 200 feet of street frontage. No parks  
28 located on a cul-de-sac, but this is still being debated between Community  
29 Development and City Council. Must be suitable to allow for convenient  
30 pedestrian and bicycle access. There is a 20% grade limit on a portion of the  
31 park to be built. Cannot be within 100 year flood plain, unless discretion of  
32 Parks and Recreation director. Also a fee in lieu is allowed. A trail master  
33 plan is in the works. Open space preservation to preserve natural  
34 environmental sensitive areas.

35  
36 Question about if lights are required. There is no requirement but that would  
37 come into the design process negotiations. Improvements to existing parks  
38 could also be discussed. Improvements must be completed no later than 50%  
39 build out, or two years after the subdivision plat is recorded, whichever comes  
40 first.

41  
42 Vice-Chair Haas asked about what is put in the parks. Steven Bingham stated  
43 the requirement is the land and the improvements. A negotiation will go on  
44 between the developer and the City. Vice-Chair Haas asked who determines  
45 the age appropriate infrastructure in each park. Steven Bingham stated there  
46 is data out there that the home builders are aware of that if they want to attract

1 an older demographic, there are certain amenities in building the house. Vice-  
2 Chair Haas asked Chris Faivre if there is anything that Community  
3 Development think the PRAB should take from this. Chris Faivre stated this is  
4 a completely different approach and the community will benefit from  
5 extensively. The intent is to create a structure that will allow Parks to not have  
6 to focus all their resources on the neighborhood parks and allow them to focus  
7 on other things. The new code makes it easier to build duplexes, triplexes,  
8 apartments to better accommodate the housing shortage. At any given time  
9 there is about a 5,000 units short in the housing market.

10  
11 Steven Bingham stated impact fees prohibit from charging to increase the level  
12 of service. If we are at 0.85 acres we cannot say we are going to charge new  
13 people to be at three as it is against the law. Impact fees keep the same level  
14 of service, but park dedication can raise to a higher level of service. One of  
15 the concerns from the developers is that they will have to add a couple of  
16 thousand dollars to the price of the home. The current impact fee is currently  
17 \$2,600, for a 30 year mortgage this would be \$16.86 per month. In 2022  
18 Clemson University did a study that said research shows the annual average  
19 healthcare cost was \$374 lower per person per year for those living near the  
20 most green space than for those living near the least green space. Areas with  
21 the most green space have the lower crime rates versus areas with least green  
22 space.

23  
24 Steven Bingham stated there is a tree preservation. This is unless a tree is  
25 dead, diseased, or nuisance, that you have to get a permit to cut it down if it is  
26 more than six inches. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved with  
27 two proposed modification, asking to delay that option 5.5, remove it, and to  
28 address it later and not include as part of this Realize Las Cruces, or to accept  
29 a proposal by the Home Builders Association to reimburse them 50% of the  
30 neighborhood park. City Council at their work session did not agree with P&Z.

31  
32 Vice-Chair Haas propose endorsing the Parks section of Realize Las Cruces  
33 as is; seconded by Board Member Tellez. Motion passed unanimously by  
34 each Board Member individually stating name and vote.

35  
36 **8. Staff Member Comments:**

37  
38 Joey Dominguez stated Parks does not have any comments at this time. The dog  
39 park rules will be on the agenda for January.

40  
41 Robert Nunez stated their out of school programs are registering for the holiday  
42 camp which starts on Monday. Last full school day is today. Keep Las Cruces  
43 Beautiful program is still doing monthly neighborhood dumpster days. Mr. Catanach  
44 could not attend the meeting but would like to thank everyone that participated and  
45 assisted with the tree lighting. Wished everyone happy holiday, happy new year.

1 **9. Board Member Comments:**  
2

3 Board Member Grandjean she met people in her district and shared their concerns  
4 in a smaller forum. A big concern was why are we letting the trees die in Cruces.  
5 Joey Dominguez stated the study for Apodaca was done for multiple parks. This  
6 study looked at the current trees and then what would be the proper trees to plant.  
7 Steven Bingham stated the City does have a forester who has a crew.  
8

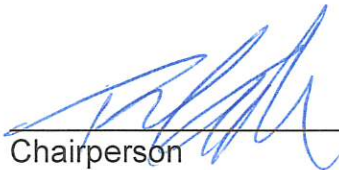
9 Vice-Chair Haas thanked the staff or all the hard work they do all year.  
10

11 Chair Raish thanked everyone.  
12

13 **10. Adjournment:**  
14

15 Vice-Chair Haas moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Beard. Motion  
16 passed unanimously.  
17

18  
19  
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22



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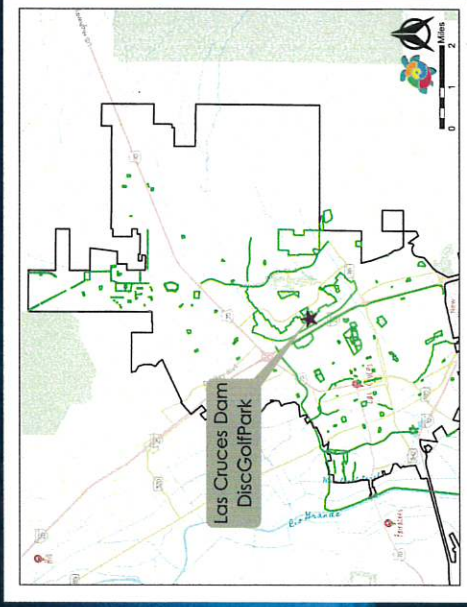
Chairperson

1

## PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

6.1 Disc Golf Update  
January 16, 2024

## Las Cruces Dam DiscGolfPark® Location



3

## Project History

- Budget ~\$40K
- Constructed FY 24
- Sign delay
  - Branding and Trademark Negotiations
  - Design Finalized in August 2024
  - Delivered January 2, 2025

## Las Cruces Dam DiscGolfPark® Tee Map 4



# Signs

5

**Las Cruces Dam DiscGolfPark®**  
Big Enchilada

**DiscGolfPark**  
AVERY JENNINGS

Number of Holes: 18  
Clubhouse: 1  
Bar: 1  
Bike Rack: 1  
Restrooms: 1  
Water Fountain: 1  
Scorecard: 1  
Tee Box: 1  
Green: 1  
Basket: 1  
Hole: 1  
Total: 20

Las Cruces Dam DiscGolfPark  
18 Holes  
Clubhouse  
Bar  
Bike Rack  
Restrooms  
Water Fountain  
Scorecard  
Tee Box  
Green  
Basket  
Hole

Las Cruces Dam DiscGolfPark  
18 Holes  
Clubhouse  
Bar  
Bike Rack  
Restrooms  
Water Fountain  
Scorecard  
Tee Box  
Green  
Basket  
Hole

**Las Cruces Dam DiscGolfPark®**

**#1**  
Par 3  
330 ft

Las Cruces Dam DiscGolfPark  
18 Holes  
Clubhouse  
Bar  
Bike Rack  
Restrooms  
Water Fountain  
Scorecard  
Tee Box  
Green  
Basket  
Hole

# Next Steps

6

- In house installation February/ March 2025



Hello

Home

Feeds

Account

Log Out



City of Las Cruces



Unfollow City of Las Cruces

## Proposed New Dog Park Rules

~1 min survey Expires on 12/20/2024

We are excited to announce some important updates to the rules at our community dog parks. These changes are designed to enhance the safety, enjoyment, and cleanliness of our facilities for all users. Help review these guidelines.

This survey closed on 12/20/2024

### ***Proposed and Current Dog Park Rules***

#### Proposed Dog Park Rules

- Use park at your own risk.
- Owners are legally responsible for the behavior of their dog(s) at all times.
- Dogs must be leashed while entering and exiting the park.
- Dog waste must be cleaned up by their owners IMMEDIATELY.
- Owners must be in the dog park and supervising their dog with leash readily available.
- Dog handlers must be at least 15 years of age.
- Bring children at your own risk. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.
- Aggressive dogs must be removed immediately.
- Dog owners are legally and financially responsible for any injury caused by their dog(s). If your dog gets in a fight, exchange contact information with the other dog owner(s) and leave the dog park.

#### PROHIBITED:

- Human & Dog food/treats
- Dogs in Heat
- Aggressive Dogs
- Glass Containers
- Sick Dogs
- Puppies (under 4 four months)

If any person is bitten by a dog in the park immediately report it to Las Cruces Animal Control office at 575-528-4100 between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-F. After hours to non-emergency dispatch at 575-526-0795.

#### Current Dog Park Rules

For your safety and the safety of your pet, please observe the following:

- Owners are responsible for their dogs and their children.
- Children under five years old are not permitted in the park.
- Owners must pick up their dog's waste.
- Immediately isolate or remove any aggressive, dominating, or over-excited dog.
- No food or treats allowed in the park.

If any person or dog is bitten by a dog in the park, report it to the Las Cruces Animal Control Office at 575-528-4100 or Dispatch at 575-526-0795.

Dog owners are legally and financially responsible for their actions and for the actions of their dogs.

Question 1

**Do you agree with these changes?**



**Proposed New Dog Park Rules**

Survey Results  
FINAL

01/16/2025

### If No, please tell us why?

Why would someone need to be 15 to enter a park? This seems like you want to punish young people instead of just banning aggressive dogs?

No Children INSIDE PARK!!! Only takes an instant for a child to be knocked down by playing dogs! Parents don't watch their children as it is!! NO CHILDREN UNDER 10.

What are we hoping to achieve with prohibiting human food/dog treats? Dog owners should understand the implications of bringing food/treats to a dog park. Some owners may want to use the environment for positive reinforcement/training and bring treats at their own risk. Dog parks are also places for humans to socialize which may include a snack after work, in the mornings, etc. Why do we need a rule for this? Consider adding rule that all vaccinations (especially rabies) are up to date.

It's close, but dog handlers/owners should be adults. What does a scenario where a 15 year old's dog attack or get attacked look like? Would also like to see unvaccinated dogs prohibited (regardless of whether they follow, it's less liability on the city) and more liability on owners with unvaccinated dogs.

Treats are an essential part of behavioral training for dogs. The other rules make good sense. Please also consider more shade for suffering dogs and people.

People should be able to enjoy any local free parks with their pets as you would if you take your child to the park. Dog owners should have existing legal responsibilities for their own dogs and no need of others.

I think you should also add required vaccinations. Distemper/Parvo and Rabies. Making sure that they don't just have them but that they are up-to-date

You need a better more specific definition of aggressive dog. Bigger dogs often get the blame even a smaller dog is the aggressor. The definition should be clear that it is truly the behavior of the dog, not the size.

Male dogs intact have caused problems with aggression. I have seen it at Rinconada park. Who is monitoring also, pups at 3 MN old have not had all their shots. Another party pup!!!

I've seen kids in the dog park around big dogs, and it seems unsafe.

But I would add or keep the part about the dominating dog and over excited dog part as well needs to be removed from park as well

I agree with the new rules entirely

Fine people who don't park on the parking area. Some park in the firefighter lane. Couldn't get to parking lot farthest from the dog park due to people parking at areas not meant for parking.

Too restrictive and we don't need more rules. As a person with a disability I don't have my dog on a leash going into the park and there is no reason to do this for me or others. The old rule covers it "owners are responsible". Also, if people are not following the current rules then they are not going to follow more rules. Finally, there are no consequences posted. But I would not use the dog parks anymore because my dog is not on a leash - that is why I enjoy going to an off leash park.

Agree with changes, but also need to add that all dogs must be up to date on vaccines; all dogs must be s/n, unless exempt by the city; than children under 7 are not allowed in the park at all (safety issue); and that children are not allowed to run and/or play games, throw balls, etc. - it's too dangerous.

I don't believe a dog park is a good place for children under 5. Too many parents don't watch their kids much less their dogs!

No reason to mandate leashes at entrance/exit - many dogs navigate those better off leash. Could be "advised" and at owner's discretion. I'm fine with the other changes

Sometime people bring treats and dogs are very well handled by each owner, sometimes dogs have incidents where they bite for their own safety reasons (if it's aggressive or done more than twice or more than 1 dog/ person understandable), teenagers can be responsible as early as 13 years of age.

The rules don't seem to differ, the. New rules are just a bit more broken down and defined

Because I see no enforcement of any of the rules now. Who is going to enforce the new rules. Like the lady who sits in her car on the phone while her dog roams the park. She says it is not a rule. Like the folks who don't leash their dogs getting in and out of the park and instead let them run the fence and get the dogs in the park running and barking. Like parents who come in with kids under 5. No one asks them to leave. The whole thing is a joke without enforcement.

I agree with the above but also suggest the following: 1. There should be a weight limit for dogs to be on the small dog side of 35 pounds or less. 2. The RULES sign lettering needs to be much bigger, specifically for not bringing any food into the park (human or dog treats) and for the weight limit on the small side. 3. There should be a contact name and number on the sign so people can report park issues. For instance, the small dogs and large dogs love running along the fence (especially my small dogs.) From all the fence running, the road base has become a trench and you can easily put your foot under it, meaning small & large dogs can be nose to nose. I was there one Thursday morning when staff was there cleaning and mentioned it. He said he had a shovel and would take care of it, but nothing has been done. This is at Rinconada dog park. Thank you!

N/A

I think we should still prohibit any child under 5 years old in the park. They just did not know how to interact with unfamiliar dogs. It is a huge risk to all.

N/A

Changes are vague and likely unenforceable. If I don't clean up after my dog, then what? And why aren't ALL dogs required to be neutered/spayed? I think more thought needs to be put into this. Not just a "survey".

Second rule and last rule about legal obligation overlap A little Could be combined into one rule.

Mostly standard rules

What would be nice is a shade tarp on the sun umbrella in the small dog park. No shade from the south in summer. Bloody hot!

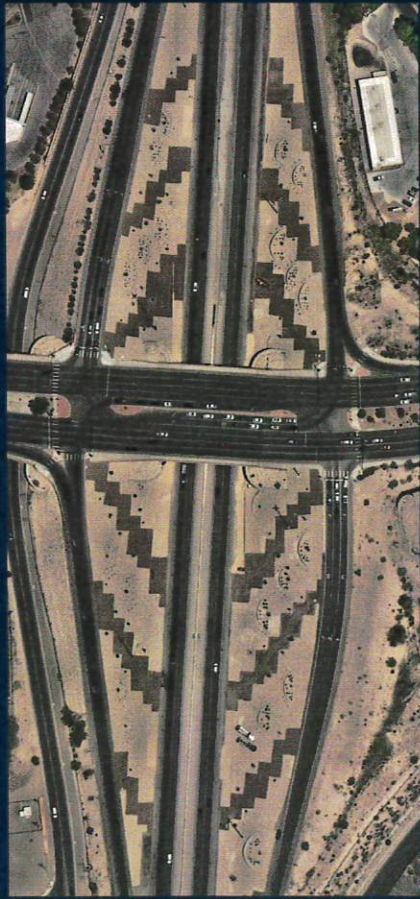
Seems reasonable

I agree with the new rules. ESPECIALLY picking up the dog waste immediately!



I-25/ Lohman Landscape Improvements

5



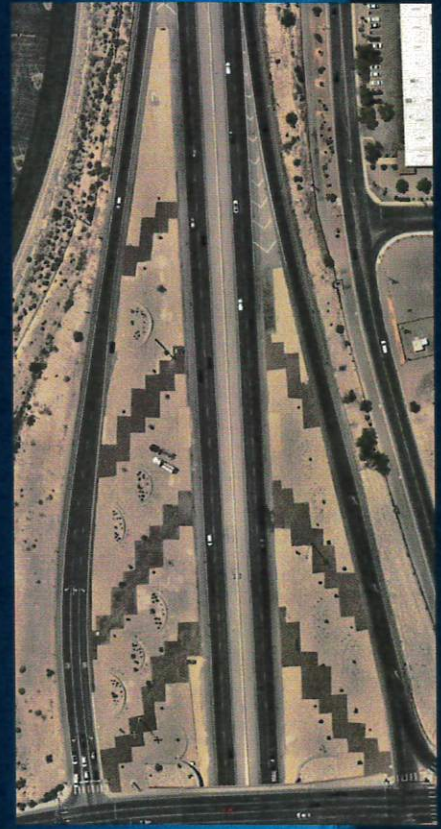
North Side

6



South Side

7

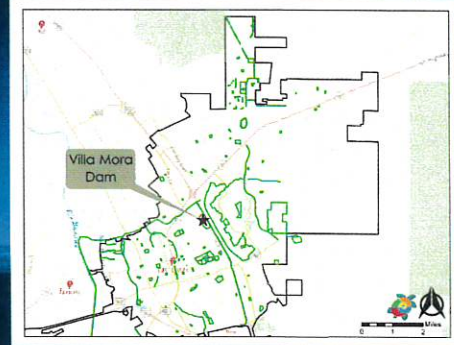


# Villa Mora Dam Park Conceptual Design

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board  
January 16, 2025

1

# Villa Mora Dam Location



2

# Villa Mora Dam Park Location



3

# Public Engagement Event

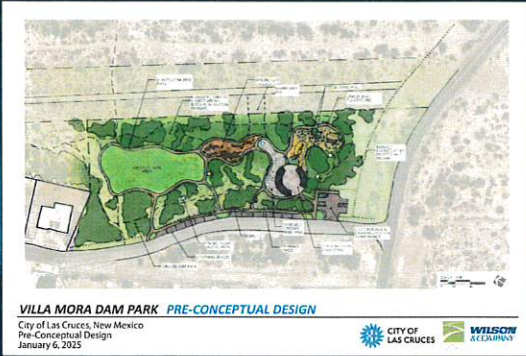
- Dec 3, 2024
- ~30 attendees



4

## Conceptual Design

5



## Options

6

- Approve
- Disapprove
- Amend
- Table