Silver City
Recreation & Park Feasibility Study

Figure 1. Courtesy Murray Ryan Visitor Center
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**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

In January 2020, the Town of Silver City (“the Town”) secured $4 million in capital outlay from the State of New Mexico, which was matched by $4 million from the Town for a recreational facility (the “Facility”). The Facility will enhance recreation opportunities for youths, veterans, and seniors in Grant County and will be connected by trails to Penny Park, the Continental Divide Trailhead, the Visitors’ Center, the proposed waterworks building, and the CDT Trail Site. Gough Park will be the hub for these destinations. The proposed project will assess recreational needs to identify the programming opportunities for improving the quality of life within the Town of Silver City and Grant County.

The Town of Silver City, in partnership with Silver City MainStreet, Grant County, City of Bayard, Town of Hurley, Village of Santa Clara, Central Mining District, and other stakeholders, has looked for ways to develop the many untapped recreational assets in the County and create opportunities to diversify the economy and improve quality of life.

Previously, the Town has received grant dollars from various programs, such as appropriations through the State, Community Development Block Grant, and Colonias Infrastructure fund. These recreational infrastructure projects that have enhanced the quality of life within the Town and Grant County.

**TARGET POPULATION**

The proposed project will benefit all of Grant County. This project will assess the needs for programming to enhance the quality of life for youths, veterans, seniors, and families. This will attract...
visitors from other locations to visit the area, thereby increasing revenues and enhancing business opportunities.

**PROJECT PARTNERS**
- Priscilla Lucero, SWNM Council of Governments
- Charmeine Wait, Silver City Main Street
- Lee Gruber, SWNM Arts, Culture and Tourism
- Charlene Webb, Grant County
- Adam Mendonca, US Forest Service
- Alex Brown, Town Manager
- James Marshall, Assistant City Manager
- Jaime Embick, Community Development Director

**PROJECT ACTIVITIES**
The Town of Silver City will reach out to potential stakeholders to seek input on programming needs. Potential stakeholders for this effort include. Among others:

- Silver City Main Street
- SWNM Arts, Culture and Tourism
- SWNM Collaborative
- Alchemy Community Transformations
- Silver Schools
- Aldo Leopold Charter School
- Guadalupe Montessori School
- El Grito Head Start
- WNMU
- Cobre Schools
- Grant County
- City of Bayard
- Town of Hurley
- Village of Santa Clara
- Continental Divide Trail Coalition
- Silver City Trails and Open Space Committee

*Figure 6 Photo Courtesy of the Silver City Museum (ca 1920s)*

*Figure 7 Source: Silver City MRA Plan (2010)*
The Town of Silver City will develop a stakeholder group to determine how best to collect the data for filling the recreational gaps and needs for youths, veterans, seniors, and families in the County. The Town will conduct public input meetings to determine what programming is needed and justified to improve the quality of life in the County. The final plans will provide recommendations with proposed costs for implementation.

**Review of Prior Plans**

A review of recent studies and plans was conducted to ensure that ideas and suggestions from prior reports were included in this plan. A review of each plan is provided, along with key takeaways and important graphs, charts, or maps. The studies and their findings will be referenced throughout the document.

**Silver City Comprehensive Plan**

*Date Completed: 2017*

**Purpose of This Plan:** Update the 2004 Comprehensive Plan

- Land Use
- Housing (also see 2010 Silver City Housing Strategic Plan)
- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Water
- Hazards
- Implementation

**Seven Key Principles:**

1. Provide direction to both short-term and long-term economic sustainability as the Town seeks to collaborate with the County and other municipalities to develop a diverse and sustainable regional economy.

2. Follow principles and goals to guide the Town’s collaboration with Grant County for management strategies in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), including procedures for joint planning.

3. Protect the community’s historic downtown and neighborhoods, including the Town’s distinctive architecture and settlement patterns.

*Figure 8 Photo by Troy Harvey, The Star, Goebel Community Adult Center. Jean Corley plays a game of billiards.*
4. Preserve the quality of the natural environment, open space, water, and other resources.

5. Maintain and enhance community facilities and provide park, open space, and recreational opportunities to serve the entire community.

6. Protect Silver City’s small-town feel and character, and shape new growth to promote walkable, livable neighborhoods and districts with safe traffic flow.

7. Ensure that the Town’s cultural diversity is maintained, and historic traditions are protected and celebrated.

Since completion of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, the Town has made progress in developing a Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan. The following studies have also been prepared:

- 2002 Recreation Needs Assessment
- 2002 Trails and Open Space Plan
- San Vicente Arroyo Open Space Plan done by the Trails and Open Space Committee
- Updated Parks and Recreation Inventory for Silver City
- ADA Act Transition Plan for Facilities and Parks

Figure 9 Big Ditch Park. Photo courtesy of Murray Ryan Visitor Center

Figure 10 Downtown storefront, courtesy of Murray Ryan Visitor Center
• 2013 Silver City Greenways and Big Ditch Master Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan recognizes and celebrates Silver City's historic pattern of growth and development, and calls for a pattern of development, supported by revisions in the Land Use Code and planning initiatives (such as neighborhood and area plans) that promote best development practices. In so doing, land use and community design principles and programs offer a physical design direction to growth, conservation, and change.

A major goal for land use and community design in Silver City is to implement a future growth strategy that maintains and enhances the existing sense of place by strengthening and protecting those special qualities that make Silver City a unique community and a great place to live. Improving the aesthetic appeal of Silver City's streets, buildings, and public places can serve to strengthen and protect important qualities and enhance the perception and experience of the Town with a pattern of development organized around neighborhood structures which support themes for Silver City as a "town of neighborhoods," a "pedestrian friendly community," and "activity centers."

In 2016, Silver City had 22 acres of neighborhood parks, a large swimming pool on Silver Street, and a recreation center in the old National Guard Armory. A new sports complex has been constructed at Scott Park.

The Silver City 2016 Parks Survey completed by the Town's Community Development Department provides information for all parks facilities at the time of the 2017 Comprehensive Plan. Grants and donations, park dedications as required by ordinance, and the conversion of Town property remain the principal strategies for developing new parks.

To maintain Silver City's sense of place, the Town will create a Master Pedestrian and Recreation Trails Plan, in conjunction with a Master Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan, in order to create an interconnected trail system (integrated with the parks, recreation, open space and trails. These plans build on the work already done by bicycle and trails advocates and Town officials. Ultimately, a Master Pedestrian Recreation Trails Plan will complement efforts of the Master Parks, Recreation, Open Space
& Trails Plan and together serve to revitalize neglected areas of the Town and continue to improve the quality of life.

GREENWAYS AND BIG DITCH MASTER PLAN

Purpose of This Plan: Provide a guide for future development of Big Ditch Park and a greenways corridor trail network.

Key Findings: Extracts from Resolution No.2013-17, adopting the Silver City Greenways and Big Ditch Master Plan:

The 2004 Silver City Comprehensive Plan recommended encouraging public/private partnerships for the development and maintenance of park and recreation facilities.

The community group identified the following benefits of the Greenways Path System: fitness and wellness, family resiliency, economic development, increase in property values, increase in safety, and riparian protection.

The Town of Silver City is committed to the conservation and preservation of parks, open spaces, and trails to provide recreational opportunities and a high quality of life for residents and visitors.

Existing plans related to the greenway system:

The San Vicente Heritage District Plan consists of a conceptual land use plan that identifies potential locations for a number of desirable educational, historical, and cultural activities and uses to create economic benefit, revitalize the blighted areas, and protect the cultural and natural resources of this area.

The 2002 Trails and Open Spaces Plan recommended an interconnected trail system utilizing the creek as greenways to offer an attractive environment as well as a functional component of the downtown area.

Figure 12 Map of Parks & Open Space
The University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning conducted a study of a two-block radius within the Big Ditch Plan area. The foundation of the study was to investigate the potential of the Big Ditch Park and to look at economic vitality by increasing tourism and creating a more sustainable, central environment for the community. The design visions in this study are possibilities for the community to discuss for the future development of this area.

The Silver City Downtown Action/MRA Plan recommended several projects related to Big Ditch improvements, Main Street Plaza improvements, as well as signage and interpretive facilities, which were completed in March of 2020.

Goals of the Greenways and Big Ditch Master Plan relevant to the Recreation and Park Feasibility Study:

- Use the trail system to create access and economic and social opportunities for underserved populations: youths, veterans, and seniors and those physically impaired.
- Protect and enhance the health of the riparian corridors.
- Connect Silver City neighborhoods to downtown and public facilities by off-street paths and trails.
- Free and open to the public with drinking water, access, and parking facilities.
- Creates public open spaces and gathering places and links the existing community amenities, facilities, and businesses.
- Protect public health, safety, and welfare with properly designed and designated pathway alignments.

Funding Sources relevant to the Recreation and Park Feasibility Study:

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The LWCF Program is administered nationally by the U.S. National Park Service. Annual appropriations of federal funds are made to the states to provide 50% matching grants for general public outdoor parks, recreation, and conservation projects. The New Mexico State Parks Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) federal grant Program. These funds are awarded in a highly competitive process and are generally used for high-profile, expensive acquisitions. Projects with highly coordinated, assertive fundraising committees with the support of local Congressional representatives and Senators are most likely to be funded.
Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st century (MAP-21)

This program provides federal transportation funds to the states. There are funds-allocated projects that may be used for trails, bike paths and pedestrian infrastructure enhancements.

Local Funds

General Obligation Bond Issue. GO bonds can be used to fund trails and open space projects. New bond projects are usually for additional phases of a successful program.

Quality of Life Tax. The Town or County may approve and put to the voters a Quality of Life gross receipts tax increase to fund improvements and construction costs.

Public/Private Partnerships. There are several opportunities for partnerships to occur between various entities. Partnerships hold the highest potential for redevelopment opportunities to occur in the Big Ditch area.

NM MainStreet Capital Outlay Fund. The NM State legislature has allocated between $1.5 and $2 million the two past years for MainStreet communities in NM for master planning, design, engineering, and construction for projects identified in a community-based downtown master planning process.

Private Sector Grants and Corporate Contributions. These are grants of funds or in-kind materials or services by businesses.

THE BIG PARK PROJECT

Date Completed: 2020

Purpose of This Plan: Connect all three Silver City parks

Silver City, New Mexico is a historic mining town that was founded in 1870. Silver City is home to Western New Mexico University and has a population of approximately 10,000 people. In the last few years, the city has begun to engage new economic development opportunities that embrace creative commerce as an engine for the future of the community. The arts, culinary and cultural environment has become a draw to many people throughout the state and region.

The emergence of cultural events such as the Silver City Blues Festival and the Tour of the Gila International bike race has grown tourism to the Town annually. As many as 10,000 people visit Silver City for both these events and contribute to the local business in the community. These cultural activities and many other civic events are held at Gough Park.

Gough Park is the cultural heart of Silver City; however, it is located outside of the historic MainStreet District.

Program:
The Town of Silver City has three major parks: Gough Park, the Big Ditch Park and Penny Park. The city has expressed the need to grow the capacity for civic events and has purchased the property south of Gough Park with the goal of creating a series of new programmatic spaces that would include an amphitheater, splash park and sports facilities (basketball court, sand volleyball and mini golf).

**Design:**

The design team wanted to provide the opportunity to connect all three parks. The Big Ditch Park (a remnant from a flood in 1870) is a beautiful tree lined environment that suffers from a lack of civic engagement and visibility.

It is located east of the Mainstreet District. The team was inspired by the bridge vernacular of the Big Ditch Park and created an elevated bridge system that connects all three parks. The bridge becomes a poetic, nature-filled space that is a connector to create a more pedestrian activity for the Town of Silver City. The longtime asset of the Ditch becomes a major focal point for visitors in the future.
**SWNMACT REDI ACTION PLAN**  
**Date Completed:** 9 October 2019

**Purpose of Document:** To outline steps to develop the rural economy and support quality of life.

**Key Findings:**
- Population and economic growth have lagged.
- Resident welfare and talent capacity can be improved.
- Demographic, economic, and cultural distinctions between Silver City and the Mining District communities are stark.
- There is a wealth of tourism assets to leverage.
- There is a crisis in housing.
- Fort Bayard represents a transformative opportunity.

Southwest New Mexico (Grant County) was one of 47 rural U.S. regions in 31 states to win a competitive federal grant through a program called REDI to advance local economic competitiveness and growth. The recommendations outline steps to develop the rural economy and support quality of life.

**SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO REDI**
The Southwest New Mexico REDI region, comprised wholly by Grant County, is a community of just under 30,000 residents in a rugged part of the state featuring high deserts, rolling hills, and craggy, mineral-rich mountains. The region is home to the Chino and Tyrone copper mines operated by Freeport-McMoRan. It is a place of great natural beauty and compelling history, witness to formative events of the American frontier and legendary Apache chiefs. Its borders contain the world’s first designated wilderness area, the Gila Wilderness, and multiple crossings of the Continental Divide and its namesake trail.

Residents noted that the differences between Silver City and the mining communities extend into public and political life, with the two factions often at odds over key issues and efforts. However, cooperation has been improving in recent years. Grant County has invested significant resources into conducting studies and creating plans. The challenge has been translating these plans into action.

In September 2018, USDA awarded $1.2 million in cooperative agreements. The Freeport McMoRan Foundation provided the local match to the federal funds for the Southwest New Mexico process. McClure’s Alchemy and CO.STARTERS are the team selected by Grant County leaders to facilitate the REDI initiative.
In September 2018, Grant County engaged Better City, through a contract with the Town of Silver City to develop an Economic Diversification Implementation Project (EDIP). Better City reviewed prior plans and interviewed stakeholders to identify underlying conditions that have been impediments to economic diversification as well as areas of focus to improve quality of life. This includes optimizing Silver City’s Big Ditch as a destination amenity, pursuing a regional talent development strategy, and the creation of an economic development organization.

**RECREATION ASSETS AND DESTINATIONS IN GRANT COUNTY**
- Gila Wilderness, Gila River, and Gila National Forest
- Trail of the Mountain Spirits National Scenic Byway
- Fort Bayard Wildlife Refuge
- The Big Ditch
- Continental Divide Trail
- City of Rocks State Park

**EXISTING REPORTS**
Information, perspectives, and prescriptions from these reports helped inform the analysis in the REDI Capacity Assessment.
- Grant County Comprehensive Plan (2018)
- Grant County/Silver City Airport Assessment (2018)
- Silver City Comprehensive Plan (2017)
- 2016-2020 VIVA NEW MEXICO Strategic Plan (SCORP)
- SWNM Comprehensive ED Strategy (CEDS) (2015)
- Bayard Comprehensive Plan (2012)
- Town of Hurley Comprehensive Plan
- Grant County Economic Development Master Plan (2012)
- Grant County Regional Water Project
- Silver City Downtown Action Plan (2010)
- Southwest Renewable and Energy Efficiency Plan
- Santa Clara Comprehensive Plan Update (2013)
- Southwest Regional Broadband Plan

**THE FIVE POINTS PLAN**
This ongoing initiative is to redevelop historic properties in Grant County to support economic and community development and formalize linkages between the county’s population centers. By connecting these communities through a common narrative and tourism “trail,” existing divisions between Silver City and the Mining District could be addressed and improved.

In December 2019, Southwest New Mexico ACT, a Grant County nonprofit, presented a plan for restoration and development of five historic buildings located across the Mining District and Silver City, with green building techniques, job creation, creative and tourism economies, and cultural programming.

The organization has identified the old Hurley Schoolhouse in Arenas Valley as being a good candidate for development as an
arts and entertainment venue; the Bradley Hotel in Santa Clara as being suitable for an arts organization and accommodations; the Mine Mill Local 890 Union Hall in Bayard as a potential community and cultural center as well as an events venue; the train station in Hurley as a possible museum and visitors center; and the Silver City Water Works Building as a “Continental Divide Trail stop, museum and retail” shop, which is phase one of the initiative.

Funding sources will be pursued through foundations, State and federal grants, and through government and private investment. Each site is intended to be a collaborative, community-driven project.

CENTER FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS EDUCATION
This initiative would develop a high-profile center for arts and crafts education that could attract visitors from across the country. It would tap into Grant County’s existing arts community and enhance it through attraction of non-local artists.

The arts and crafts education center would offer extended workshops for visitors in media such as paper, clay, drawing, glass, metals, photography, textiles, wood, and other materials. The facility could also do local programming, house a gallery and/or museum space, and offer artists’ residences. A complementary Artist Relocation Program would develop a plan to attract working artists to the education center, potentially in partnership with WNMU.

For decades, the American economy has been centered around products we needed and wanted, or thought we needed. According to a recent study, 74 percent of Americans now prioritize experiences over products or things. We all seem to be entering a stage where “less is more.”

TRAILS AND OPEN SPACES PLAN
Date Completed: 2002
**Purpose of the Plan:** Establish an open space network with trail corridors for recreation, conservation of natural resources, education, and tourism. The recommendations in this plan implement the goals of the 1996 Comprehensive Plan as well as the recommendations of the 2001 Your Town workshop.

**Key Findings:** This Plan sets goals for establishing and protecting a trails and open spaces system within Silver City and the surrounding area. The objective is also to preserve Silver City’s rural and small-town character and linking public owned open spaces, which connect people to nature and provide natural, cultural, and historic resources. A trails and open spaces system will also contribute to the local economy by attracting tourists, businesses, and retirees while enhancing the quality of life for existing residents.

The goals of the Plan were as follows:
1. Complete the priority projects.
2. Develop an area-wide trail system.
3. Develop an open space system in Silver City by protecting existing public open spaces.
4. Develop, adapt, and implement regulations that encourage conservation of open spaces.
5. Develop a long-range trails and open spaces program.

*Figure 15 Source: SWNMACT*
**Silver City Cultural Plan**  
Date Completed: June 2009

**Purpose of Plan:** Develop a cultural plan for the Silver City Arts and Cultural District—one of two pilot projects for establishing downtown Arts and Cultural Districts across New Mexico.

**Key Findings:**
- Communities qualifying for designation of a New Mexico Arts and Cultural District gain significant benefits.
- There is a pressing need in Silver City for a community cultural center.
- The arts community desires professional development.
- Latinos are under-represented in the arts and cultural network.
- Tax incentives can encourage the development of vibrant, compact, mixed-use, well-branded arts and cultural districts.
- Need to identify and procure public and private funding sources on both the national and local levels for the purpose of sustaining the Silver City Arts and Cultural District.

The study recommended that the town recognize the value of supporting efforts to secure grant funds for indirectly related ED incentives such as open space protection and restoration, as well as parks and recreation improvements to enhance community character.

**Goals and Objectives** were established (each with three to nine sub-objectives – *not listed herein*)

- **Goal 1:** Support artists, cultural/arts groups, and cultural entrepreneurs in all disciplines.
- **Goal 2:** Foster sharing and appreciation across cultures, past and present throughout the region.
- **Goal 3:** Support the preservation, protection, and celebration of local historic resources.
- **Goal 4:** Support and encourage arts and cultural education throughout our communities.
- **Goal 5:** Identify, encourage, and promote marketable arts and cultural opportunities within the ACD and the larger Grant County community.
- **Goal 6:** Support the development and use of venues for the arts and cultural events.

Among recommendations specifically relevant to parks are to develop existing venues for arts education, performances, arts exhibitions, cultural events, and festival grounds, including Penny Park, viewed as a unique treasure, a community-initiated and community-built park that is managed by a non-profit organization.
INVENTORY OF ARTS AND CULTURAL ASSETS
Date Completed: June 2009

Purpose of Document: Create an extensive inventory and assessment of the assets of the creative economy of Silver City.

Key Findings relevant to the Recreation & Park Feasibility Study:

- Creating space within the A&C District that is welcoming to the Latino population and developing events that embrace their rich traditions should be part of a strategy to better integrate this large and historically important population in the District’s development.
- WNMU is recognized by many who participated in this study as an important asset in Silver City's creative economy, yet there remains a very significant social distance between the campus and the downtown area. A&C District leaders are likely to find the university very receptive to initiatives to 'shorten' this distance.
- Given that Silver City is relatively isolated and located some distance from principal highways, it is important that the town and the Arts & Culture District work strategically to establish Silver City as a destination for those with very specific interests: in the arts, local history, and the environment.
- To date, the arts and local history have been the centerpieces of the Silver City’s A&C economy, but the beauty and accessibility of the natural environment may be of equal value in the future development of the District. For those visiting the region, the Gila Cliff Dwellings and National Forest are by far the largest attractions.
- Those whose interests in Silver City are associated with arts and local history are likely to find a greater emphasis on the natural environment of the region to be highly compatible.

SILVER CITY MRA PLAN
Date Completed: 12 October 2010

Purpose of Document: Define the community's vision for the downtown and identify priority projects and programs to revitalize the downtown area.

Key Findings including recommendations in these categories:

- Foster business development
- Foster local market development.
- Foster cultural heritage tourism development.
- Improve ACD and downtown design and identity.
Previous Plans reviewed, relevant to the MRA study:

- Silver City Arts & Cultural District Plan (2009)
- Land Use Update (2009)
- San Vicente Heritage District Plan (2006)
- Town of Silver City Comprehensive Plan (2004)
- Your Town Final Report (2001)
- Town of Silver City Land Use Code (1999)
- Sanborn Insurance Maps (1880s – 1940s)

Key Ideas

- Use the green “spine” of vegetated creeks to tie together the Town’s resources.
- Create a Theater District
- Create unique public art focal points.
- Create a comprehensive system of wayfinding.
- Connect the Big Ditch to the original Main Street and to Bullard Street.
- Re-envision Pope Street as a “Boulevard.”
- Develop downtown gateways.
COLLABORATIVE/PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

GILA NATIONAL FOREST

Purpose of Presentation: Share existing collaborative and partnership opportunities occurring in the Gila National Forest and the greater Grant County area.

Trails Connect! Is a phrase the Forest Service is using to reflect the agency's increased emphasis on trails as a collective priority—with assistance of partners and volunteers—for connecting people to their public lands, benefitting communities, and fostering citizen stewards. The National Visitor Use Monitoring Program identified hiking/walking as the forest’s main activity.

- Through Gila National Forest Plan Revision community meetings, “trails” has been the number one topic in recreation.
- The Santa Clara Safety Corridor connects Santa Clara and Fort Bayard.
- 237 miles of trail on the Silver City RD, 688 miles on the Wilderness RD, 250 miles CDT.

The Gila National Forest wants to help increase and leverage its funding while promoting public land stewardship and economic development in local communities. Future opportunities include:

- Partnering for various grant opportunities, revenue, and other shared resources with our local communities
- Creating a collaborative vision to help promote tourism
- Use innovative approaches to help leverage partnerships and marketing
- Provide access to and help connect people with their public lands and our communities
- Help generate & foster the next generation of citizen stewards

Better City
DEMOGRAPHIC DRIVERS – SILVER CITY

In 2020, Silver City, NM has a population of ~9,283 people with a median age of 37 and a median household income of ~$35k. Between 1920 and 1990, the population grew at an average rate of 2% per year. For the past 30 years, the population has been declining, recently around 1% annually.

Median household income has remained relatively flat (2018) over the past ten years or so, about half of the national average.

The poverty rate is 31% compared to 12% nationally, which particularly affects children.

These income statistics indicate that youth services proposed for a recreation center might need to be subsidized so they are free.
Fortunately, **94%** of Silver City residents have health coverage.

More than half of Silver City's residents are recorded by the US Census Bureau as being of Latino descent. Design of a recreation center should, of course, reflect this rich Latino heritage.

Compared to the nation, Silver City has more people aged 20-29 and 60-79 than is the case for the U.S. population.
Compared to the U.S. average, more Silver City residents went on to college after high school, but fewer finished with a degree.

Compared to the U.S. average, Silver City has more moms as single parents and more non-family households.

Silver City’s occupancy rates and the percentage of housing that is owner-occupied are slightly lower than the U.S. average.
The economy of Silver City, NM employs over 4,000 people. The largest Silver City industries are Health Care & Social Assistance, Educational Services, Retail Trade, and Mining.

The highest-paying industries are Utilities ($80,104), Mining, Quarrying, & Oil & Gas Extraction ($58,681), and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, & Mining ($57,425).
A recent study shows a significant relationship between perceived park benefits and Sense of Community (SOC), which provides support for parks as catalysts to increase SOC in neighborhoods. Urban parks have provided residents and visitors with a place to relax and take a break from everyday life. People are increasingly returning to urban neighborhoods and it is important to provide parks to promote social interactions and connections. They are places where residents congregate for physical activity and social gatherings. Events can attract community members and allow them to create a space that is culturally enriching, which often engenders a stronger sense of belonging and engagement.

In 2017, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), in conjunction with the Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute, announced the “10-Minute Walk” campaign which partners with U.S. mayors to “ensure there’s a great park within a 10-minute walk of every person, in every neighborhood, in every city across America.”

According to NRPA, studies show that high-quality parks provide a wide range of benefits to individuals and cities: opportunities to be physically active and to interact with nature and helping to revitalize neighborhoods. They estimate that only 55% nationally, and 52% in Silver City can walk to a nearby park.
People seek high-quality park and recreation amenities when choosing where to live.

Baby boomers are more likely to simply visit parks and relax. Millennials and Gen Xers are more likely to play sports.

The reasons people visit their local park and recreation facilities track closely with what they identify as their favorite activities.

As much as people engage with their local parks and recreation facilities, 75% indicate some factors that prevent them from fully enjoying their community resources.
One researcher wrote: “Capitalize on informal social contacts sought out at the neighborhood park by creating recreation programming that focuses on bringing out the community to the park and encouraging them to stay longer. The programming should be more intentional and serve as a community ice breaker and turn the focus from “just” a recreation space to more of a neighborhood common space. Community gatherings, farmer’s markets, special events, and block parties are just a few examples of types of intentional programming.

The Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department call themselves “The Fun Experts.”

Now that’s important! Why? Because stress in the United States is at one of its highest points ever. According to a report by the American Psychological Association, over 60% of Americans are stressed about the future and money. In addition, 61% of Americans are also stressed about their work.

According to Wunderman Thomson, it is likely that the time has come for a kinder, more sustainable, healthier way of living.

That is the basis for this trend that brings together models for digital infrastructure, regenerative resources, and social well-being. IKEA’s SPACE10 project is one such example with lifelong, cross-generational living complete with public fitness facilities, urban gardens, and shared facilities and transportation.
Recreational Asset Development

A recent study by the National Recreation and Park Association shows that local parks and recreation is responsible for generating $140 billion in economic impact and 1 million jobs annually. This fact is borne out in a recent editorial in Virginia’s Roanoke Times, which details why Humm® Kombucha, a specialty health beverage brewer, chose the Roanoke Valley as the site of a new $10 million facility with 46 good jobs: The greenways, the bike paths — they aren’t frills. Those are actually economic development infrastructure, just in a different form."

The Austin Texas “Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of programs for youth and teens, adults and 50+ / seniors at our [20] Community Recreation Centers. Youth programs include camps, sports, art clubs, teen events, toddler sports, and youth sports hosted year-round. Adult and senior classes include anything from arts and crafts and aerobics to pickleball, citywide events and field trips. Recreation Centers provide a comprehensive menu of activities and events for all ages and abilities to come together, connect with each other and create community through various experiences.”

The current RFP for Conejo Community Park in Thousand Oaks, CA, notes that “Sense of Place is the most significantly cherished component of the current property. The Center and Park is an extension of the residents’ homes and an integral part of the neighborhood. Memories have been made as families have grown, adventures explored, and friendships made in the peaceful and simple place that is Conejo Community Park. The project aims to
provide even more opportunities for those to be gifted for future generations.”

Trends that will affect the provision of community centers include:

- A population that is living much longer
- A growing and diverse ethnic population
- Retirees with more leisure time who are committed to fitness
- A stronger cultural emphasis on health and exercise across all ages
- Increasing demand for pre-school, teen, veterans, and seniors

Typical objectives of community centers include:

- Residents enjoy increased health and fitness due to participation in recreation.
- Family-friendly facilities meet leisure, social, sport, fitness, and education needs.
- A sense of community develops as centers provide places for social interaction.
- Adequate facilities exist to meet current and future demand and changing preferences.
- Cost-effective programs and facilities allow managers to reach cost recovery goals.
- Best maintenance practices result in sustainable facility upkeep and programming.

Typical Programs and Offerings in a Vibrant Community Center and Recreational Park:
• Fitness exercise room, strength training
• Cycling
• Cardio & weight room equipment
• Exercise classes: Pilates, yoga, Barre, aerobics, dance, gymnastics, and SilverSneakers
• Pickleball indoor court
• Gym - Basketball, volleyball
• Adult recess – tetherball, hopscotch, kickball
• Climbing facilities
• Zumba, jazzercise classes

eSports events and tournaments have excellent potential for revenue generation and facility utilization
• Virtual-reality workouts
• Lumo Play or Lü Interactive
• Paintball

Multi-sports bubbles that have turf-play areas for baseball, lacrosse, football, soccer, and other field sports.
• eSports (Despite its sedentary nature, eSports is a form of recreation virtually guaranteed to draw crowds of young people into recreation facilities and venues.

Cultural events
  o More than four in five U.S. adults want their community to hold cultural events and celebrations during the holidays that everyone can enjoy
  o Seventy-one percent of adults identifying as Latino indicate the importance of their community holding cultural events and celebrations during the holidays that everyone can enjoy as "extremely" or "very" important
  • Splash pads in the park around the community center
  • Turning school playgrounds into parks
• A creative play area with safety surfaces & paved area around the site for wheeled toys
• Concessions
• Daycare with children’s play area
• Arts activities

SAMPLE FINDINGS
• The top five trends for veterans and their families are: job portability, STEM growth, entrepreneurship, veteran well-being, and further education. According to Pew Research, about half of post-9/11 veterans say readjusting to civilian life was difficult. A community center with a focus on veterans should help.

• Other settings and indoor activities that can provide a variety of experiences, such as:
  o Classrooms
  o Meeting rooms and community space (lounging, relaxation)
  o Pre-school rooms
  o Public gathering areas – lobbies, entrances, patios
  o Auditoriums and stages
  o Multi-purpose rooms and flexible spaces
  o Kitchens
  o Computer learning
  o Special classes: arts and crafts, drama, health issues, cooking, TOESL
  o Special Events – holidays, festivals, and family nights
  o Community theater

Figure 38 Figure 33 Interactive floor game - Lumo

Figure 39 Roanoke Parks & Recreation

• Among the top trends for “older adults” are: working retirement, living better and longer, a crisis of care, loneliness, increase in community service and volunteerism, skewing even more female, and striving to remain connected. A community center with a focus on older adults will require careful planning and flexibility.
• The second most significant barrier keeping people from enjoying park and recreation amenities in their communities is being unaware about the programs offered at those facilities. (The most cited barrier is a lack of time.) Nearly 3 in 10 respondents report that they are not aware of the park and recreation offerings available.

• The same survey data identifies three communication vehicles to learn about park and recreation offerings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How do we prefer to hear about recreation?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Email</td>
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<td>% of Respondents</td>
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<td>60</td>
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• Ninety-four percent of adults agree on the importance of their local government investing in infrastructure improvements that promote economic activity in their community.

Among other top trends for 2020, NRPA noted that recreation centers are becoming community wellness hubs. “The mission of parks and recreation is beginning to extend well beyond traditional community-based recreation programming. Park and recreation agencies stand on the front line of the opioid crisis, providing afterschool care, food and nutrition assistance and addressing impacts of homelessness.

“Far-sighted elected officials and innovative park and recreation agencies are joining other public-sector service providers to develop a unified approach to social services, law enforcement, health, nutrition and community recreation for all ages and abilities. These services are being offered in community wellness hubs and multiservice centers.”

Figure 40 Northwest Elementary students testing a splash pad, Manchester, NH
**Next Steps – Recreational Facility Study**

As noted in the Project Overview section, Gough Park is proposed as the hub of a recreational facility to enhance recreational opportunities for youths, veterans, seniors, and families in Grant County. The facility would be linked to Penny Park, the Continental Divide Trailhead, the Visitor’s Center, and the proposed waterworks building.

The Freeport McMoRan Foundation funded this Study. Alex Brown, Silver City Town Manager will lead in reviewing progress, proposing changes, and approving the final plan.

The steering committee, focused on fast decision-making and execution, will provide counsel, confirm progress, and assure achievement of the project's outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex Brown</td>
<td>Town Manager - Silver City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaime Embick</td>
<td>Community Development Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chon Fierro</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Youth representative</td>
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<td>Exec Dir. SC Museum</td>
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<td>Charmeine Wait</td>
<td>Exec Dir - Main St.</td>
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**Project Process Steps**

1. ✔ Review background information (see the prior section)
   i. ✔ Survey current assets in Silver City
   ii. ✔ Review existing plans, facilities, programs
   iii. ✔ Review existing studies
   iv. ✔ Understand demographic and market drivers

2. ✔ Organize steering committee, task force, calendars

3. ✔ Review trends in community centers for youths, veterans, seniors, and families:
   i. ✔ [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org)
   ii. ✔ [www.recmanagement.com](http://www.recmanagement.com)
   iii. ✔ [www.funoutdoors.com](http://www.funoutdoors.com)
   iv. ✔ New Mexico Recreation & Parks association
   v. ✔ New Mexico department of tourism

*Figure 41 Source: McClure*
4. ✓Hold kickoff meeting(s)
   i. Champion or sponsor organization
   ii. Steering committee
   iii. Task force

5. ✓Assess local and regional needs on behalf of youths, veterans, seniors, and families.
   i. ✓Interview key decision-makers and influencers (city & county governments, Chamber of Commerce, entrepreneurs, Freeport-McMoRan, WNMU, schools, healthcare, veterans services, DAV, American Legion, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Southwest Adolescent Group)
   ii. ✓Online survey of residents with questions specific for youths, veterans, seniors, and families

6. Facilitate public information & discussion meetings
   i. Conduct “town hall” meetings for 1- government, 2- key influencers
   ii. Conduct focus groups to confirm findings and plan
   iii. Conduct “town hall” meeting(s) for the public to comment

7. Develop a marketing & communication plan to gain and increase engagement

8. Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture (BRS) will assist with the development of programming and concept floor plans for a multi-use regional recreation center.

Figure 42 Gough Park

Figure 43 Courtesy, Murray Ryan Visitor Center
INTERVIEWS – SILVER CITY & GRANT COUNTY

A Steering Committee was formed to guide the process of designing and launching a new Community Recreation Center for Silver City and Grant County. An article was published 2 February 2021 in the Silver City Daily Press which describes the process of seeking ideas for the Center; it reads in part, “A new, $8 million recreation center is planned for Silver City, and residents are being asked to share their opinions about what should be included; the types of activities that should be available; how youth, seniors, veterans and families can best be served; and how it will connect to existing resources such as trails, parks, tennis courts and similar facilities.” A pdf copy of that article is attached in Appendix 1.

Members of the steering committee were each interviewed. They also suggested a list of other stakeholders, each of whom Better City contacted to gain their ideas and suggestions. An interview guide was sent to each stakeholder; a copy is attached as Appendix 2. A synthesis of the interviews follows below.

An online survey was provided for comments and suggestions to be provided by anyone. 550 people came online and responded to the survey. A copy of the questions is attached as Appendix 3. A summary of the responses is included below, following the synthesis of interviews.

INTERVIEWEES

Steering Committee

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Other Stakeholders

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<tr>
<td>Luis Alvarado</td>
<td>High school teacher &amp; wrestling coach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erich Bowen</td>
<td>Freeport-McMoRan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Burke</td>
<td>SW Adolescent Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Carter</td>
<td>Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance</td>
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In order of priority, the most important features of a new Recreation Center are:
- Multipurpose Basketball Courts
- Aquatic Center (*probably in phase 2*)
- Walking/Running Track
- Multipurpose Rooms
- A space for youth to gather after school

“Basketball courts would be huge – the most important thing we need to add.” “Basketball is the #1 need.”

“There is a real need for after-school programs.” “We really need a place for youth to gather.” “We are really missing stuff for teenagers. They have next to nothing to do.” “An after-school program is important.” “We need a safe place where children can go after school.”
Many of those interviewed stressed that the facility should be balanced. “Think broadly, outside the box, there’s more to the kids and families than just sports. Not 90% sports: maybe 70%.” “In my lifetime through travels, rec centers seem to be multi-purpose, but not multi-generational. Ours needs to be multi-generational.” “The rec center needs to be geared towards sports. But a portion needs to be heavy on the arts, on things that aren’t competitive.”

“It is very important that the facility be flexible. Multi-use is very important.”

“Whatever we come up with, we need to make sure we look at it from a phased perspective – what’s in each phase, what’s in later phases, and make sure there’s enough room to add them.”

“Missing is a destination for all ages, kids to seniors, a safe place to hang out.” “We need a place that is open to the public at all times.”

The interviews identified the following components. These are listed in order of priority based on the number and energy of comments made. The order is also confirmed by the online survey, as will be shown below.

**Multi-use courts**

Almost everyone agreed that basketball courts are the most critical need. However, stress was placed on the courts being multi-use for other sports and activities. Pickleball, volleyball, and indoor soccer were mentioned most often.

- “The floor should be of wood, not plastic.”
- “I’ve seen facilities with rubbery surface. Don’t need that and it’s not flexible.”
- “Lines on the floor for multiple sports.”
- “Nets to divide the courts to accommodate different teams and sports.”
- “Bleachers to accommodate parents and others watching games.”
- “Overwhelming need for indoor courts. Need to be multi-use courts & not just basketball.”
- “Courts that accommodate basketball, volleyball, pickleball, and indoor soccer.”
- “Wood works fine for indoor soccer.”

“We need to make sure there is space to expand and provide parking – we need to look 10-15 years down the road.”

Second to basketball is the desire for an indoor aquatic center. Respondents understood that it might have to be part of a second phase. “We all need a realistic view of what $8 million can buy.”
• People who play basketball have a hard time finding a place to practice
• “We have strong basketball leagues here.”
• “Basketball Youth basketball teams are having hard time scheduling. Courts need to be available from early morning through late evenning
• “I would love to have a place for line dancing. 400 people at once could dance in an area of adjacent courts.”
• “I like the idea of nets that drop from the ceiling to divide the courts to accommodate several groups.”

Pickleball:
“My hope would be indoor and outdoor pickleball courts, so that people of all ages have a game they can play in any type of weather. It is also one of the biggest lures we can offer people to move here. It has a very has a fast learning curve, is easy on the joints, social, and lots of fun.” “We must have pickleball. And lines need to be painted on the courts’ floors.”

Walking-Running track
There was nearly universal agreement on an indoor track. Several preferred an elevated track, if possible.

• “The indoor track is a no-brainer to have.”
• “I really liked the picture of several courts together with track around them.”
• “The track could surround the courts as long as bleachers are also provided.”
• “I loved the pictures of tracks circling the courts.”
• “People like walking but it’s tough to do outdoors during parts of the year.”
• I really liked the photos of courts surrounded by a track.”
• “I love that indoor track; we have a very good outdoor track, but we need one indoors.”
• “An indoor walking and running track is a priority.”
• “An indoor walking track would be awesome.”
• “We need an indoor walking track that can accommodate walkers, wheelchairs, and rollators.”
• “Loved the illustrations. The tracks are really appealing.”
• “The photo of the elevated track was great. We need courts where we can roll in bleachers.”
• “It would be great to have an indoor track up high.”

“Office spaces which can be rented out to other non-profits.”
• “An open dance, gymnastics, performance area.”
• “Zumba & Jazzercise classes.”
• “Dance, aerobics, Zumba, spinning room.”
• “Multi-purpose is huge, versatile so rooms can expand, and contract as needed, like a community room for up to 25 people.”
• “What I envision, if big enough, would have movable walls. Running water so it’s easy to clean up. Flexible tables and chairs. Track lighting would be great. Storage – for supplies for teachers, and lockable, simple cabinetry. Cubbies or locker for coats during winter.”
• “Good to have spaces allowing movement: dance, karate”
• “Have other facilities for small events – little parties, little training events (little = 20-40 people) where they could rent a room, for example, a small to medium-sized room where one could have a Saturday-afternoon arts show.”
• “Internet-capable, multi-media capable, convertible furniture. Tables & chairs that can nest and be put away. Versatility is the real key.”
• “People would love to have a place where a family could go and do something for everyone in the family.”
• “Banquet room that can be rented out for quinceañeras and marriages, tables and chairs for, say, 75-100 people.”
• “Interactivity would be great like Lumo® in a multipurpose room.”

**Multi-purpose rooms**
The building needs to be as flexible as possible. Particularly mentioned were:
- Pilates, yoga
- Childwatch
- arts & crafts
- spinning, cycling
- “Rooms that clubs can rent.”

“Place for youth to gather”
• “A tutoring room where students could go to get help. With computers, Wi-Fi, printers, where we could take Chromebooks®. Next to fun stuff to do.”
• “A tutoring space – college kids could really help out.”
• Everyone in the focus group agrees that the tutoring room is a great idea.
• “School is boring. We need a funner place. Lots better than school. A game room, air hockey, foosball, ping pong, things that get you active – you already sit by a screen at school. We need activity & not to be sitting in front of a screen.”

Figure 50 Courtesy, BRS
• “Going to the same place to study gets boring after a while. It’s good to have variety.”
• “Teens seem to need a place just to hang out; video games, pool table, tables to play games.”
• “This would really help youths who are not likely to go to college. A good rec center could bring a lot of those kids pride.”
• “The rec center could be where kids feel that they have a chance to get together, a place they consider theirs.”

• “Computer learning center where students can do after-school work and where the community can come in and use computers.”

Figure 51 Courtesy, Cleveland Public Library
• “Currently, there is not one good central facility for youth around which many age groups and services could coalesce.”
• “We absolutely need to accommodate a Wi-Fi area, which we don’t have, as well as computer stations.”
• A Wi-Fi lounge with workstations would benefit everyone.”
• “A place where teens can go to be creative – safe and supervised – a place where they can express themselves.”
• “A place for our youth to be at. A creative play area, Wi-Fi station; online gaming is really popular now.”
• “A Wi-Fi room with workstations. Snacks. Computer access would be very important. A place for after-school functions.”
• “Wi-Fi and a place for online gaming and board games.”
• “A place where kids feel safe. Set up some of that space for social & emotional well-being, including yoga and ways to
take care of themselves. After-school classes on physical fitness as well as emotional.”

- “No youth lounge. Yes, computers and workstations.”
- “A Wi-Fi lounge would be amazing. Important for kids who don’t have internet.”
- “We need to consider programming – teens need general enrichment activities. A game room, a place to hang out.”

- “We must have cardio equipment, weight room, classes, meeting rooms – it’s important for kids to be able to interact socially in non-stressful programs.”
- “Workout, exercise bikes for the parts of community who can’t afford gym memberships. And safe, so if a senior falls, someone will notice.”
- “Children need a room to exercise (weights & cardio) because they really don’t go to gyms.”
- “Fitness & exercise rooms for the 40% of town who don’t have means to join a club. Could be basic.”

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**Cardio, Weight Room**

- “We must not be perceived as competing with local gyms.”
- “Many of the kids can’t afford private gyms. Perhaps 40% of our kids live in poverty. Perhaps we can offer a basic setup that doesn’t really compete.”
- “Some of the local gyms are expressing concern about impact on them.”
- “Most of us are not hard-core and would prefer a simple, entry-level facility – basic weights and stretching, organized class for stretching, yoga, spin.”

**Childwatch Room**

- “A childwatch area is essential.”
- “Early childhood: a soft playroom where kids could explore. I loved the pictures that showed play areas. Play is fundamental to how we learn.”
- “A childwatch area so when families go, they can drop off their kids when they are involved in physical activities.”
• “An area for under-5 kids. It would be awesome if one could drop them off for a standard amount of time, say 1-2 hours.”
• “Provide a creative play area, especially a place to put young kids when parents are using the center.”
• “A baby gym for young families.”
• “Some kind of sensory area, particularly for children with disabilities, especially little ones.”
• “Provide large-motor activities – climbing, walking, balance. We have plenty of small-motor-skill activities in the city, so no needs there.”

• “I suggest an area like a classroom or an open environment like those I’ve seen at casinos where they have age-appropriate areas with well-trained staff.”
• “Also a story-time area. I saw the picture that had an assistant working with a child in a wall game. Parents love being engaged with their children at Gough Park – would be good to have that available indoors during cold weather.”
• “We have a lot of grandparents raising their grandchildren. It would be great to have a downtime place – a safe haven for them, a place to take a break while their kids play, vent, and leave energized. Just a small area would be fine.”

Figure 54 Courtesy, BRS

Figure 55 Courtesy, BRS

Figure 56 Courtesy, BRS
Climbing Wall

- “I’ve heard lots of people talking about a climbing wall. Some of those things one doesn’t see in small communities would really be nice if we had expert assistance and advice.”
- “I love the climbing wall idea.”
- “We absolutely must have a climbing wall complex, a really great one. Climbing teaches kids to take risks safely, which builds confidence. It’s a powerful tool, scary, but with wise supervision, it can be really transformative for at-risk kids.”
- “Access to an indoor climbing facility would enhance the status of Silver City and Grant County as a destination for outdoor recreation and adventure tourism.”
- Concerns were raised about risks, staffing, and insurance costs. Experts volunteered to help design walls and help train staff.
- “A climbing wall could even be on one side of the archery range.”

Batting Cages

- “Batting cages – Ah Ha! Yes.”
- “Batting cages – absolutely.”
- “Indoor batting should go over very big.”
- “Baseball is a big thing around here. Batting cages would be good.”
- “We have a need for batting cages.”
- “Indoor batting cages because baseball is huge here. Our girls’ softball team is awesome.”

Figure 57 Courtesy: BRS

Figure 58 Source: Performance FieldHouse
Archery

- “Archery is a big thing in the schools, and it might be good to do indoors.”
- “Archery is becoming very popular here.”
- “An archery range about 72’ long x 36’ wide, minimum - open to the public, with a fee and supervision. It could be open during specific times, and used for other purposes at other times.”

Arts & Crafts

- Focus group: “A painting room; classes would be great. 3-D printing. A drone-building program. What I really like is paint and I really like to draw; pottery, decorating stuff.”
- Focus group: “We’ve been thinking about crafts & other things people could make. Skill-building that would be fun.”
- “Arts are really important. The whole family can come. Good to have something people can do together.”
- “For students: a Rec and Arts center.”

“A craft center for all ages. With the right staff and training, it could be done well.

“Arts classes support the part of the brain STEM doesn’t help with.”

“STEAM = STEM + Art. These are needed make a STEAM space work:

- Natural light
- Cleanable surfaces
- Child accessible workspace
- Electrical outlets
- Water
- Ability to suspend things
- Storage Space to keep projects”

“A really flexible Center where people can come back and create an art piece or play, able to handle small project spaces.”
with tables, running water, public space where people can show off what they’ve done."
• “Drones, robot-building."

Seniors
• “Senior-friendly. Seniors have to feel comfortable coming to the center. We are looking at a considerable influx. They need to get out and have social interaction. We must include a walking track. I hope it will be well-rounded, not just for the youth. Look at senior-friendly equipment”
• “The Center must be multi-generational.”
• “Pickleball was a big request by seniors.”
• “Tutoring would be great. There are a lot of people who would be willing to tutor for free. We have a lot of retired people here and a lot of interesting people who would like to give back.”

• “Retirement is very different than 20 years ago – people really want to volunteer, to give back. People want to be engaged.
• “We need place for senior citizens to walk around in a climate-controlled area during winter.”

• “Knit together the old and young. Bring in programs to read and play with toddlers. Not-so-old folks (hearty) as mentors and monitors working as volunteers.”
• Youth: “Grandparents – bingo night! Yeah that would be fine!”

Figure 61 Courtesy: BRS

Lockers and storage
• “Among the top five is lots of storage space available for people to store items.”
• “We need to go as multi-purpose as we can, so lockers are really important for people using the facilities. We also need storage for art supplies and other things.”
• “Include classroom space with lockers so people could leave arts supplies.”
• “Big storage lockers as well as individual lockers for one to use to store one’s own supplies.”
• Focus group: “We would love a locker to store our stuff.”

Pricing and Operating
• “I can see youth benefitting from the rec center and the low-income families can really benefit.”
• “We need to have low prices because a large portion of our community is low-moderate income.”
• “This is a low socioeconomic area, don’t build an exercise facility they can’t afford.”
• “Open to the public where we can do things with no fee.”
• “Even if it’s a low cost membership fee, it will have buy-in the community. Lobby wholeheartedly to have some fee to make it sustainable. Behooves us to have some fee. We could also have scholarships.”
• “I personally hate daily fees. It should be okay to bring guests.”
• “The center needs to be open from early hours to at least 9:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.”
• “There is State money: community schools grants. We could contract additional staff to support an after-school program. Let’s develop a model in partnership with city and schools.
• “Staffing and programming will be critical. 5:00 a.m.-11:00 would be great.”
• “It works well if someone coordinates and schedules. There was a person who did the scheduling for baseball leagues; it worked well. Then it sort of fell apart when that person departed.”
• “We really need coordination of activities.”
• “We need to consider operating budgets. How are we going to fund operations?”

Staffing
• “I am worried about proper supervision. What will staffing look like; will they be qualified? Background checks?”
• “Fingerprint and background checks for all staff and volunteers. Training on CYFD procedures, first aid, and so forth.”
• “Really good oversight is needed.”
• “The rec center needs to have well-trained people. CYFD requires proper education and certification. The Center could provide mentorship and apprenticeship to train those who will work with children.”
• “I like the prospect of multi-generational staffing.”
• Focus group: “Make sure the rec center is designed where kids can have jobs.”
• “There are awesome kids at the university: nice, polite, and helpful. We also need to provide more teen jobs.”

Other amenities
• “Plenty of restroom facilities”
• “Needs to be aesthetically pleasing
• “I would love to see murals at the rec center.”
• Focus group: “Snack bar like the basketball games at SHS: a variety of options, nachos, small foods, popcorn.”
• “Feng shui: no square corners; round them off.”

• “I’d like to see us get all the property across from the high school.”
• “The Center needs to have adequate parking and easy access.”
• “Make sure it has the right amenities to begin with, set up to be a unifier and to be expandable. It’s smart to look 10-15 years out.”
• “Parking will be a huge issue.”

Pool, Aquatic Center
• “A splash pad would be great, but in phase 2 along with an aquatic center.”
• “Indoor swimming pools with lap lanes. Salt water”
• “We do need a year-round pool.”
• “My biggest desire is an aquatic center.”
• “We don’t need and aquatic center now.”
• “An indoor pool? Maybe that’s asking too much.”

Location
• “A place that kids can walk to”
• “We need a place for residents to be and to be safe. Supervised and safe.”
• “There is a huge dirt lot on Silver & 32nd streets, across the street from the high school and near the public pool and track for walking. It’s near the highway and also near trails. Nice tennis courts are nearby.”
• “If located near the high school, it would be less intimidating for people throughout the county.”
• “I would put it at the corner of 32nd & Silver – across from the schools and city pool.”
Racquetball

- “It would be great to have a racquetball court.”
- “Yes, racquetball.”
- *Senior*: “Racquetball is easy to learn and is a great way to disperse energy and aggressive forces. Many of the past and current handball champions are Hispanic young men and women, providing a great role model for Silver City youth.”
- *Mom*: “Racquetball would be great.”
- *Youth*: “Racquetball? What’s that?”

**ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS**

As noted previously, an online survey was provided for comments and suggestions to be provided by anyone. 550 people came online and responded to the survey. A copy of the questions is attached as Appendix 3. Here is summary of the responses:

**Responses to the online survey**

555 residents of Silver City and Grant County responded to the online survey, a reasonable number from all age groups. Overall, nearly half represent families. 60% of respondents are female.
Most of the respondents, 71%, live in Silver City. Nevertheless, most of the other communities in Grant County were represented.

4. Where do you reside?

Respondents reported a wide variety of levels of activity, indicating the need for the center to reflect a variety of needs.

5. How active are you?
Assuming that Basketball is a given, respondents were asked to pick their next five preferred activities. Swimming was the next most desired, followed by a walking/running track, a climbing wall, Pilates/yoga, arts and crafts, and spinning/cycling. Interest in other sports was balanced with the desire for arts, as was found in the interviews discussed previously.

6. What activities do we need most in a new rec center? Pick your top 5.
Computers and Wi-Fi rank highest among desired amenities, followed by a childwatch room, cubbies/lockers, a room specifically for youth, and a room oriented towards seniors.

Although preschool was desired by many of those who responded to the online survey, almost all those interviewed felt that preschool, if considered, could be added at a later stage. Showers, by the way, were also mentioned by some of the interviewees.

Both the interviewees and the respondents to the online survey felt that food service was not important in the first phase. However, snacks and drinks, possibly from vending machines, gained favor.
Question 6 asked: “What activities do we need most in a new recreation center? Pick your top 5.” Wordclouds display the activities desired by each age group, in order of frequency of mention.

- **Teens**
  - Swimming
  - Trampoline
  - Wall ball
  - Lanes
  - Batting

- **30s**
  - Swimming
  - Climbing
  - Track
  - Pool
  - Batting

- **40s**
  - Swimming
  - Walking
  - Art
  - Creative
  - Yoga
Question 8 asked “What did we miss?” More than half the respondents replied to that question. The replies are listed in Appendix 5. Responses to question 9, “List three or more words that describe your ideal rec center.” are summarized in this wordcloud across all age groups:
RECREATION CENTER DESIGN

PROGRAMMING AND CONCEPT FLOOR PLANS

Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture

Erich Bower, Tyrone Operations General Manager for Freeport-McMoRan recommended the firm. According to Erich, “they are well known in this line of work and have done most of the rec district facilities in Colorado...they have a really good public outreach process as they design the facility.” The firm was selected to help turn the citizen's desires into a preliminary plan, including programming and conceptual floor plans and options. An extract of the work process, extracted from the approved proposal from Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture for the preliminary plan is attached as Appendix 4.

Final report from Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture

- Conceptual design drawings including
  - Color floor plans
  - Generic color site plan
- Detailed building program with spaces, square footage and budget
- A detailed site program and budget
- A detailed total project budget
- The Conceptual Cost estimate report will include construction costs and soft cost estimates.

This section is to be constructed
APPENDIX 1: SILVER CITY DAILY PRESS ARTICLES

Diverse desires identified for new recreation center

By LISA JIMENEZ
Daily Press Correspondent

From court sports like basketball, racquetball and pickleball, to cycling, Wi-Fi-accessible multipurpose rooms, a new track, climbing wall and child care, Grant County residents have a wide-ranging wish list of amenities they would like to see included in Silver City’s planned $8 million community recreation center.

More than 400 responses have been counted thus far through interviews, questionnaires and online surveys, with broad representation from throughout the county, though the majority of responses have come from Silver City residents. All age groups and activity levels are represented, based on early survey results, and a top request so far is for an aquatic center. But with an estimated price tag upward of $20 million, a new swimming pool is on hold for now, though town staff and steering committee members overseeing the planning and design process hope to identify a location that will allow for future expansion as additional funding becomes available.

After basketball courts, which are considered “a given,” and a new pool, the most frequently requested activities mentioned in the early stages of this community input process are an indoor-outdoor track, climbing wall, yoga and Pilates studio and multipurpose rooms for senior activities and arts and crafts, which could also potentially be equipped for live performance, meeting rooms and other community needs.

Residents still have an opportunity to share their ideas and recreational preferences, said Ryan Englund, president of Better City, a planning consulting firm based in Ogden, Utah. Englund was hired to coordinate the planning process, which is funded by a grant from Freeport-McMoRan Inc. To complete the first of several online surveys designed to gather as much input as possible, recreation enthusiasts are asked to use the QR code on this page or on your smartphone, or contact Englund via email at ryan@bettercity.us.

Focus groups with people from all over the county of various ages, ethnic backgrounds, activity levels and interests will be organized this spring, while architectual firms are identified to offer preliminary design ideas, drawings and perhaps virtual tours as tools to help generate creative thinking and design innovation.

The steering committee includes elected officials from Silver City, Bayard, Hurley and Santa Clara, several countywide representatives and those from the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments and local civic, arts and cultural, educational and health care organizations.

Funding for the new center is made possible by $4 million in state funding secured by Lt. Gov. Howie Morales, to be matched by another $4 million from the town of Silver City. For more information or to provide input, contact Englund at ryan@bettercity.us.

Lisa Jimenez is conversed by the town of Silver City as a freelance writer.
APPENDIX 2: INTERVIEW GUIDE

Interview Guide – Recreation & Park Feasibility Study
PROJECT OVERVIEW

In January 2020, the Town of Silver City, Grant County, secured $4 million in capital outlay from the State of New Mexico, which was matched by $4 million from the Town for a recreational facility to enhance recreation opportunities for youths, veterans, and seniors in Grant County and will be connected by trails to Penny Park, the Continental Divide Trailhead, the Visitors’ Center, the proposed waterworks building, and the CDT Trail Site. Gough Park will be the hub for these destinations. We are in the process of assessing recreational and other community needs to identify the programming opportunities for improving the quality of life within the Town of Silver City and Grant County. The project to assess these needs has been funded by the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation.

We seek your input. Ryan Englund from Better City, a firm assisting the Town, County, and surrounding communities with this feasibility study, is contacting you to schedule a virtual interview. This interview guide is divided into three sections:

1. An initial discussion with you regarding broad topics
2. Examples of facilities and activities, the purpose of which is to stimulate ideas.
3. A list of facilities and activities. On the last page you will be asked to prioritize a list of activities or facilities that you would use if they were developed at a Silver City community recreation center – the top five you would use if they were created in a new community recreation center, the second five in priority, and the third five. Please feel free to add ideas that we might have missed.

INITIAL DISCUSSION

What do you like about living in Silver City and Grant County?

Considering the recreational assets that the town and County already have, which are underutilized? Which of them need to be improved? What would you do first, given a budget of $8M?
What recreational activities are missing?

1. To enhance recreational opportunities for youths, veterans, and seniors, and families

2. To improve the quality of life within the Town of Silver City and Grant County.

Specifically, what do you want to be included in a new Silver City and Grant County recreation center? Which are the most important features to you?

What else should a recreation center accomplish? (For example: arts education, performances, arts exhibitions, cultural events?)

Where should the recreation center be located? How big should it be?

What do we all have to do to make sure the rec center project succeeds? Any concerns?
THOUGHT STARTERS
To stimulate thinking and imagining, here are pictures of a variety of facilities and activities in new community centers. These are not suggestions. They are only examples to show the range of possible choices around a budget of $8M for Silver City/Grant County.
Minster, OH, Community Center $5.25M

The floor plan includes indoor basketball and volleyball courts, batting cages, pickle ball courts, a three-lane indoor track, two golf simulators, several community rooms, a warming kitchen, lounge area and bathrooms and showers.

FYI: Howie Morales, Lt. Gov, likes this layout
Leonhard Recreation Center, Champaign, IL - $5.2M

- two high school regulation size basketball courts
- four cross-courts for basketball
- four volleyball courts
- four recreational classroom
- raised three-lane running/walking track
- an indoor playground
- lounge area
- staff offices
- reception area
- Locker room (no showers; bring your own padlock).
Pontiac, MI, Community Recreation Center $3M

- designed to allow for multi-generational use throughout the day
- Three multi-purpose gymnasiums 200x115, striped for basketball, volleyball, and badminton with suspender divider curtains to split the gyms into six half-courts (2 hoops each for small court use). The gym floor is a maple design, Taraflex® synthetic material.
- Elevated track, 3 lanes, 1/10 mile
- Cardio equipment room with treadmills and ellipticals 22x32
- Weights & machines area 18x21
- Multi-purpose room that is netted for golf ball hitting as well as baseball and softball 23x20
- Racquetball court
- LesMills® Fitness Theater on first floor
- Two classrooms 26x30
- Activity room 50x40
- Fitness center
- Seniors’ community room and kitchen 28x38
- Six outside tennis courts
New: a large gymnasium with basketball courts, administrative offices, a lounge and concession area, and a multi-purpose room for boxing, wrestling, and dance functions. The second floor has an exercise center and three general classrooms. The facility also has an outdoor basketball court and is designed to make use of the Emerson Wight fields and playgrounds. “Community centers are not only places of recreation, but they provide a safe and positive space for families and individuals of all ages.”
Noblesville, IN, fieldhouse, $15M

- five hardwood courts (basketball, volleyball, pickleball, futsal)
- Batting and pitching tunnels
- Food service
- 75,000 ft² of indoor turf (baseball, softball, football, flag football, soccer, lacrosse)
- 10,000 ft² physical therapy area.

The Fieldhouse at Finch Creek Park

Floor Plan Concept
POTENTIAL ANCILLARY AMENITIES
YOUR PREFERENCES – PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR PRIORITIES

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Top five</th>
<th>Second five</th>
<th>Third five</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball gyms</td>
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<td>Batting and pitching lanes</td>
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<td>Netted room for golf or baseball</td>
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<td>Walking, running track</td>
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<td>Lockers, showers</td>
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<td>Seniors community room</td>
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<td>Youth lounge</td>
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<td>Hallway lockers</td>
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<td>Soft playroom</td>
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<td>Creative play area</td>
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<td>Child watch room</td>
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<td>Daycare</td>
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<td>Pre-school room</td>
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<td>Arts center</td>
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<td>Crafts center</td>
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<td>Lockers for supplies</td>
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<td>Multi-purpose rooms</td>
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<td>Culinary arts center</td>
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<td>Kitchen</td>
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<td>Film, theater room</td>
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<td>Performance stage &amp; backstage</td>
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<td>Lecture hall</td>
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<td>Wi-Fi lounge with workstations</td>
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<td>Rock climbing wall</td>
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<td>Roof top lounge</td>
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<td>Aerobics, martial arts studio</td>
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<td>Fitness, exercise rooms</td>
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<td>Exercise classes</td>
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<td>Zumba, jazzercise classes</td>
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<td>Cardio &amp; weights room</td>
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Activity

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<th>Activity</th>
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<td>Trampoline room</td>
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<td>Pickleball</td>
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<td>Indoor soccer</td>
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<td>Climbing wall - adults</td>
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<td>Climbing wall - children</td>
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<td>Indoor ropes course</td>
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<td>Volleyball</td>
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<td>Indoor Futsal</td>
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<td>Racquetball, squash courts</td>
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<td>Bocce courts</td>
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<td>Swimming pool – indoor</td>
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<td>Swimming pool - outdoor</td>
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<td>Splash area - indoor</td>
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<td>Splash park - outdoor</td>
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<td>Mini golf course – indoor</td>
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<td>Golf simulator room</td>
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<td>e-sports room</td>
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<td>Lumo or Lü interactive</td>
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<td>Paintball</td>
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<td>Meeting rooms</td>
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<td>Athletic training</td>
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<td>Offices for club sports</td>
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<td>Cycling studio</td>
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<td>wrestling</td>
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APPENDIX 3: ONLINE SURVEY

Community Recreation Center Survey

A new, $8 million recreation center is planned for Silver City, and residents are being asked to share their opinions about what should be included; the types of activities that should be available; how youth, seniors, veterans and families can best be served; and how it will connect to existing resources such as trails, parks, tennis courts and similar facilities. See the news story at https://www.scdailypress.com/2021/01/05/silver-city-seeks-ideas-new-rec-center/

Which group do you represent?

☐ Youth

☐ Seniors

☐ Veterans

☐ Families
Which age group do you belong to?

- Teens
- Twenties
- Thirties
- Forties
- Fifties
- Sixties
- Seventies
- Eighties plus

What is your gender identity?

- Female
- Male
- Other
4

Where do you reside?

- Arenas Valley
- Boyard
- Buckhorn
- Cliff
- Cobre
- Paywood
- Gila
- Hachita
- Hanover
- Hurley
- Lake Roberts
- Lake Roberts Heights
- San Lorenzo
- Santa Clara
- Silver City
- Trout Valley
- Tyrone
- White Sands
- Other

5

How active are you?

- 10 - Impact sports (basketball, skiing, backpacking)
- 8 - Very active events (pickleball, cycling, golf)
- 6 - Moderate activities (swimming, brisk walking, yoga)
- 4 - Mild activities (walking)
- 2 - Minimal activities of daily living
What activities do we need most in a new rec center? Pick your top 5.
Rank the amenities that should be in a new rec center? Move your choices higher or lower on this list.

What did we miss?

List three or more words that describe your ideal rec center
APPENDIX 4: BRS SCOPE OF WORK (EXTRACT)

Overview
Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture (BRS) will assist with the development of programming and concept floor plans for a multi-use regional recreation center. Our detailed scope of work is as follows: Phase 1
- A detailed program document with net and gross space requirements based on desired uses through the stakeholder and community input process by Better City. We anticipate developing a base program with prioritized spaces up to the established project budget along with a program for a future phase.
- A space use diagram developed to test fit the base program and future phasing program.
- A conceptual building floor plan showing the base program and future phasing.
- A conceptual site diagram test fit of 3-4 potential sites. All site information to be provided by Better City.
- Updated total project cost estimate at a conceptual level.

Scope of Services
The following outlines our work process:

1.0 Project Initiation
1.1 Project Background and Information Gathering
BRS will coordinate with Better City and Silver City on the program/concepts as needed to clarify project program, site details and overall conceptual design.

2.0 Program Development
2.1 Team Meetings
BRS will work closely with Better City to develop options and space requirements to meet the needs of various recreation programs. Meeting activities will include:
- Confirmation of desired recreation programs, services, and facility components
- Review of Owner provided site information.
- Review of Owner provided stakeholder input, public process input, and focus group meetings.
- Review construction costs and alternative approaches
- Refinement of existing space program based upon discussions.

This process will be documented in meeting minutes. Assume three (3) meetings for the project. All meetings will be held via video conference call. If desired, and pending the pandemic travel restrictions, we would prefer to make one trip to Silver City to meet with client, staff, and stakeholders as well as tour local projects.
- Meeting #1 - Kick Off Meeting – Introductions, history, and background.
- Meeting #2 - Program Review and Commitment
- Meeting #3 - Program Refinements, Concept Plans and Site test fits
- Meeting #4 - Review to finalize program, budget, and costs as well as the building concept design.

2.2 Cost Evaluation
Evaluate potential costs for various program alternatives and establish priorities. Seek opportunities for multiple or shared uses and spaces. Identify various construction methods and preliminary cost estimates for the recreation facility from traditional to pre-engineered construction. Develop conceptual budget for soft costs and construction costs to establish a total project budget.

2.3 Final Program Document
Establish program options, including stretch goals for additional programs and spaces as funds allow or for future phases. Summarize findings in an outline program indicating basic space requirements, net areas, functional requirements, space relationship diagrams and requirements of each space. Produce a final program document to summarize the program as part of the final deliverable.
3.0 Concept Design
Better City will gather all necessary background information and provide to BRS. BRS will analyze the site for the following criteria:

- Test fit program and building on 3-4 selected sites.
- Views and orientation
- Vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access
- Relationships to neighboring facilities
- Topography
- Access to utility infrastructure
- Master planning and future expansion opportunities
- A geotechnical, environmental or drainage review or analysis is not included in this scope of work.

The findings of the site evaluation process will be summarized in conceptual design recommendations depicted in the final site design and the relative cost to develop the site.

3.2 Project Program – List of included spaces and capacities
The first task in Phase 1 of the study involves expanding the provided program description into detailed space and use definitions. This involves establishing the scope of various amenities including area, support space, functional relationships, and general understanding of the intended function of the listed amenities. This will be established at the beginning of the design process and will influence the concept plans, cost, and function through the remainder of the project.

3.3 Preliminary Design Concepts.
Once all feedback and revisions have been incorporated into the building and site program, we will finalize the program, budget, and aesthetic approach, we will then develop a design concept. This will be provided electronically. These concepts will include:

1. Conceptual building plans
2. Conceptual site plan (this may be a photographic underlay for the project since the site work is being done by others.)

3.4 Final Design Concepts and Cost Evaluation
Once all feedback and revisions have been incorporated into the concept design, a final plan and illustrations will be produced.

3.5 Refined Conceptual Cost Estimate and Budget Assumptions
Once the final concept is developed, a more refined cost estimate including site infrastructure and development, appropriate land requirements, equipment and furnishing costs, construction costs and fees, non-construction soft costs including professional fees, survey and report costs, utility development fees, testing and inspection, and reasonable contingencies.

4.0 Final Report
4.1 Final Report
At the conclusion of the concept design process, a final report will be developed summarizing the work above. This report will contain the following information:

- Conceptual design drawings including:
  - Color floor plans
  - Generic color site plan
- Detailed building program with spaces, square footages, and budget
- A detailed site program and budget
- A detailed total project budget
- The Conceptual Cost estimate report will include construction costs and soft cost estimates.
- All information will be delivered electronically in .pdf, .jpg as appropriate.

5.0 Final Report
5.1 Schedule
We will develop a final schedule with Better City, however once we have all site information and confirmation of program elements, we anticipate our work to require approximately 6-8 weeks. This also assumes Better City’s and Community Participant’s schedules allow for consistent meeting times.
APPENDIX 5: REPLIES: “WHAT DID WE MISS?”

Free Weights Area
Gymnastics program would be great!
Indoor Basketball Court
Weight room, cardio equipment, cross fit area

I didn’t see basketball as an option above. I am an avid part of this community and have been all my life. I’ve coached every sport possible and have been involved with the youth in all aspects. I have directed Youth sports, especially basketball. It has been a huge struggle and not without the lack of trying to find our youth, the future of us placed where they can actually get into to play basketball. Practice, fun, games, learning, etc. It is so hard to find a "Basketball GYM" for these kids to practice and play games. Every facility we have in grant county has higher priority for the school kids rather than the youth and to find a place to practice is almost impossible & the minimal they do get and might get is not even a fraction of what these kids need to be successful. If you don’t have access or employed by the schools then it’s nearly impossible to get in here. Even for grown men and woman to play the game of basketball used to be the thing to do in the evenings/ nights in a gym. Now we have no access to play the sport that we all love so much.

Basketball courts.
I really would love a martial arts room with punching bags and mats. Maybe even craft skill classes
Childcare for up to age of 13.
Outdoor sports

This should be a basketball double court for youth and adults building. Batting cages and ball throwing area should be a must. Football practice area also for parents of talented kids can go. An indoor track would be nice. Classrooms for art, cooking, and a meeting area for groups associated for the community. I am a Referee/Umpire (Official) with NMOA/NMAA. It would be nice to rent a classroom for meetings, sometimes Schools will not lend their facilities. Having a recreational area for all Sports for kids to go, would help the community greatly. Kids cannot go practice on their own due to schools after hours, or vacations, and the facilities being used by teams represented. Having a place where the community to live a heathier life, would help the people that cannot pay for gym membership. Grant county used to have 2 recreational areas that kids can go. that has diminished. Grant county needs a recreational area. I would love one for my kids. YMCA Minded, Little League Minded, USSSA Minded, as an official, I have seen a lot of talented kids pass though. It would be nice to see more. WNMU needs a baseball team.

Basketball, multiple courts with adjustable height rims.
Basketball for Youth
music/DJ dancefloor
Indoor Water Slides
Social setting for people to meet
Badminton court, tennis court, indoor games room, pool tables.
Platform tennis courts and a weight room would be great.

Well-maintained basketball courts and baskets would be nice. The Gough Park court is always busy, so a basketball/tennis/pickleball complex would be a great way to
accommodate more community members. Also, an indoor pool would be great for kids.

"Indoor basketball court
Gym (weightlifting)
"

Basketball, hot tub, room to rent for b day parties

Please put pickleball lines on the indoor gym floor. Better yet, build indoor pickleball courts (as well as outdoor). With the wind here we're not always able to play outside. It is the fastest growing sport in America and any age can play. It's great for the community and tourists alike. We can have lessons, clinics, tournaments...The courts WILL get used!!

Pickleball is #1
Sauna
Board games for adults
Dancing
GOLF arcade beer

No

basketball courts, fitness/exercise machines, fitness classes, drop in team activities

Yoga, Tai Chi, and other classes should be available evenings as well as daytime for those employed

You missed a communal room for people of all ages to interact.

Arcade / Dance Hall

Hopefully, it would be a place that volunteers could share their talents...whether it be teaching Qi Gong, cooking, painting.

"Rental equipment for sports!
Including safety equipment."

Evening hours for those of us who are employed.

Sounds good.

Looks like I don’t have a big wish list for the rec center -- the present one serves my needs ok. But I’d say there was a value to a workout room with some weights and such as when we finally get out of the COVID era.

We don’t need to spend any money of a Rec center.

Looking forward to having a new recreation center.

Adult only areas.

The youth lounge should have an assortment of games (video and board/card) and books. Areas to sit on couches, floor, etc. Same for the Senior area, only more geared towards Seniors (no floor, plenty of space to spread out or be able to engage each other where they are handicapped.

nothing

Music/practice rooms for music

Nothing I can think of.

No

No
Some sort of large open space that could easily be changed into many different options. Like A place for RC electronics, sports, chairs, and tables that can move, and possibly movable obstacles on rollers for fitness and community activities!

An amphitheater for plays, movies, live music, etc. I think that would be an amazing thing to have in grant county

There exists a possibility of having pickleball tournaments someday. So a minimum of 6 marked courts (more if possible) would probably be sufficient. The outside pickleball courts (near the high school) should be increased to a total of eight courts for the same reason (tournaments).

Indoor pickleball for year around use - can be used by a wide variety of levels and ages. Don't forget an area for Table tennis/pong as it's good for all ages.

Given the University has a new exercise, swimming, racquetball courts inside at a nominal price those items should not be duplicated at a Rec Ctr. The growing number of people in Silver who participate in pickle ball in the above twenties groups is needed. An indoor four court facility would be ideal to allow for all year round use. In its stead an outdoor lighted six court facility would be good.

pickleball indoors for use all year - good activity for various ages and levels. Table tennis/Ping-Pong is a great one for all ages and levels (once they can see over the table ;)) too!

Possibly a decent size room dedicated for use by small organizations to use by the hour, or on certain days. I am instructor with a line dance group, and we always have difficulty finding spaces to dance (20 people or so, 2 hours, twice a week, all seniors).

indoor basketball courts

youth activity space - there are senior activities but none for teens. We need a place for gatherings, dances, etc. for teens more than anything else. Ask them.

"Should be oriented to the youth and children....our community desperately needs to pay attention to them. It will solve so many future problems....most of the activities listed sounded like adults only.

Also need community meeting rooms."

"Tutorial Services

"

indoor track. 2 basketball courts, pitching area, classrooms for kids and art

small spaces where two, three or four people could gather and chat

Ping pong. With moveable tables, this need not take permanent space except for storage. Players are willing to move and replace tables as they did before pandemic at the armory. I was surprised not to see basketball on the list. A pool table might be nice, although this is already provided at some bars.

Indoor swimming pool with slides and baby pool!!!

Weight room, general exercise classes. Swimming lessons

A community meeting room

no
Exercise room with weights. The jazzercise/Zumba and the Pilates/yoga should be all one category with 1 dedicated group exercise room for all 4 and more.

I placed seniors & cafe/snack bar low because Silver has a senior center and hopefully cafes and snack places will return to business "post" Covid. The top of the list is for our lower income neighbors. Wouldn't it be amazing to have a safe place to shower, cook a snack with friends, and get online business done! Wonderful :)

Just a very enthusiastic vote for a really useful climbing wall designed by one of the many companies that do installations of this nature. It should be in an area set aside just for climbing and tall enough to simulate climbing outdoors. It will be WELL worth the money invested in it. Indoor climbing is accessible across age, gender, and ability levels, I worked in the industry for years and saw over and over how it helped create community in diverse populations. It is especially good for teens and preteens as girls and boys both can excel, interact, and develop self-confidence and communication skills. In addition, it will be a great draw for tourists on their way to or from outdoor climbing areas. People who climb plan their trips around things like this!

Do anything that doesn't compete with services existing or planned soon in Silver City

Didn't see weight training as one of the options but I bet a lot of people would like that.

"Dedicated pickleball courts. That would be nice for possible future pb tournaments!"

On activities, you omitted ping-pong/table tennis; and for amenities there should be a hot tub for relaxing after recreating.

My number one activity is not on your list: Table Tennis (aka ping pong)

Public resource information available for those who are unfamiliar and/or overwhelmed with local services provided.

Treadmills & ellipticals

" Grant County is lacking facilities to keep our youth involved. All facilities are managed by the school district and priority is given to school activities. Recreation Center with a minimum of 4 basketball/volleyball courts, 2 football/soccer fields, game room(ping pong, pool, board games, card games, etc...), wrestling rooms, secure storage area for youth gear per sport/event.

I have been a part of youth activities for 20 years in Grant County and know firsthand providing the kids something to occupy their time is very beneficial. Lack of community support has made it challenging for volunteers to stay involved in youth activities.

Please contact me for more information 575-313-0260 Derry Bleich"

Basketball courts: something similar to what you have at the rec center now that is a multipurpose room including courts.

Perhaps integrate a community policing station as well??

Outdoor pool, walking river

Basketball courts accessible to youth leagues in the community.

Some sort of transportation from schools and senior centers to the rec center.

Good as is
Basketball court, swimming lessons, water exercises

"Resource Center to help with business ideas
Helping youth learn to be successful"

Some type of security measure upon entry. Membership of some type - for the sake of accountability for users to take care of equipment and materials, or pay for damages if there is negligent behavior. Perhaps a space or room for workshops or trainings - or that spaces for the activity classes could be used for such things. This is very exciting, and I am very supportive of all involved who are making this happen! Thank you! (I know I chose 6 items vs. 5...I couldn't help myself :) )

table tennis

Place outside for tent camping for CDT hikers and bottle filling water fountain, rest rooms

Class space, activity lists, hobbies, you don't even have gym space on this?! access to public transportation, after school programing, nature, gardening, family bathrooms, interactive instillations, science/nature facilities. This is a very sparse survey. Suggest you review or use YMCA assessments for facilities, We don't need another "gym" or sports track; we need a functioning community center positioned in a region that is highly accessible and safe for the community -- WITH sidewalks to it, unlike the one we have now. Seniors have a center already. This isn't an assessment. I hope tax dollars aren't paying for this "assessment".

veg gardens

We really need teenager activities and after school activities.

"Meeting rooms: 1-2 for small groups of 10-15, like for a book club, knitting group, or other small interest group that has no home; an all-purpose room for 15-35 people; and a room for 35-50 people for classes or larger meetings or what about introductory dance classes for kids?

Outdoor patio or upper outdoor terrace, connected to an indoor snack bar and beverage kiosk."

Basketball Court.

Low impact aerobics classes for seniors
Basketball courts

How about outdoor pickleball courts? Tennis courts? Basketball hoops? There is room to have outside activities. And it would be nice for the courts to be lighted.

"A training room, bean bag, shuffleboard, dancing, air gun, billiards, talent, archery, table tennis, bat mitten, basketball, disk gold or miniature gold, bingo, card games, snack bar, a divider in some rooms.

Could not mark higher or lower on #7."

I'm not sure what you mean by "creative play," but I think you should include an indoor playground/play structure

Mentorship, tutoring

"Indoor/year round swimming open for KIDS is needed, many families go out of county to get swim lessons and swim time for their children."
Several multi-purpose rooms for different classes and activities, Zumba, karate, yoga"

I lived a short time in a town that had a center, the snack/ cafe was run by the kids it was a huge success.

Not to be rude- but we already have a senior center and a plethora of things catering to retirees and the senior population. Can we please focus on services for the rest of the community like youth and people that actually need jobs and businesses to survive, not as hobbies? Make sure hours accommodate everyone. Encourage mental health group meetings. Free or low cost socializing and networking opportunities for all demographics.

Ample secure parking

Need a "lazy river" section in pool for walking against current and lap swimming for several hours every day.

8 lighted pickle ball courts - designated as such; not lines on tennis courts

looks good

I hope you are looking at the Genoveva Chavez Center in Santa Fe for inspiration. That place keeps kids off the street and gives regular folks some free/inexpensive activities. Basketball Courts seem to be missing! Also: I'd discourage childcare except for very short periods (90 minutes max), because of potential problems and insurance liabilities. Don't do food things (snack bar, kitchen, cafe), because it's not high-need; the space & development money could be put to better use on sport courts, lighting, security, etc. I like that more computers would be available to the public, but should they be at the Rec Center or at the Library?

Outdoor playground and rentable space for special occasions.

"New, improved bowling alley
Putt Golf"

People who don't have families. We matter too. We have opinions.

Sauna or steam room?

"Steam room
Salt room"

Chi Gong and Yoga
OPEN UP PENNY PARK!

Outdoor shaded seating area with public restrooms

Bicycle routes

Basketball court, playground, rec classes

No

Weight room gym equipment

I would like a mini golf like they have at the movie place in Deming

Don't overlap with other places of activities

Would love to see indoor heated pool water aerobics classes!

There needs to be a real effort to get this survey out to young people

Lots of different types of board games and active games

"skating
Live concerts, dances multi ages"
We need more family oriented and activities to keep kids active and out of trouble.

Studio room for Pilates, yoga, etc.

"Table Tennis as an activity. Pre Covid-19 a group of 6-10 played Table Tennis at the Santa Clara Armory twice weekly. This activity could be expanded with the proper facilities. It is a perfect activity for both young and old.

I hope that Table Tennis will be major activity that is included in this project."

Appears to have all bases covered. Additional thought might lend other items.

Table tennis/ping pong and Pickleball !!!!

How about a schedule of high school baseball games and football the city has the facilities just not the Management

It would be nice if there were a large space people could rent for parties and get togethers. Santa Clara has a space used by multiple groups and people in the community. Silver City needs a splash pad for the kids.

Basketball hoops and updated playground areas.

Room outside for huachas, horseshoes, etc.

More activities for families

Training facilities

No

Pickle ball courts would be GREAT if indoors...The winds here make it difficult to play much of the year, as with winter months.

Outside play area, fields in the middle, walking, easy biking around it

Outdoor bike trails.

Outdoor bike and walking paths.

"I'd love an indoor place for kids to play when weather is bad.

A track where I could run and still see my kids playing would be great"

Needs an indoor court that can be multipurpose with basketball hoops but could be divided or used for many sports-volleyball/gymnastics/pickle ball/indoor soccer. Also needs a gym/cardio equipment/and weights.

Indoor slides within the pool. It would be amazing to have a complete set up like Las Cruces Aquatic Center. It would keep local money going to our City instead of all of us having to travel to Las Cruces to visit the Aquatic Center.

Indoor archery lanes

Table Tennis!!!

"Yes. There should be activities such as darts or foosball or air hockey. The classics"

""

Your list indicates you are interested in a gym or YMCA type building. I was thinking more along the lines of a rec center for teenagers, pool tables, basketball, etc.

Public lounge
“Youth wrestling room
Sauna
Massage therapist on site
Hot tub?”
Meeting rooms
A kids hands on science museum/climbing/trampoline/creative play would be amazing!
Meeting Rooms
Dance!
Nothing I can think of
Outdoor tennis courts lap
Located closer to the Mining District
Basketball Courts
Indoor playground for inclement weather
none
Youth engagement

“This would be a great facility for Grant County. We should have had one a long time ago. My opinion things have failed before because it’s hard to maintain but as a community we should keep these facilities cleaned and maintained so it gives EVERYONE an opportunity to enjoy an area that families or individuals can enjoy.

Morenci AZ has a nice facility. (not saying it has to match that but similar would be nice)"

Dancing and live bands, all types, not just for teens or young adults. CW, Swing, etc.

Fly tying, arrow making, things an older man likes to do.

Hours and services should reflect the needs of a variety of community members (seniors, working parents, teenagers, developmentally disabled, and single parents). Security/community policing should be available for the peace of mind of all patron.

a safe place for kids to have dances, maybe incorporate 4H project rooms where the youth could learn life skills such as sewing, cooking, gardening.

Basketball Courts, weight room, cardio room & arts and crafts room

More services for young families, childcare etc.

You didn’t miss anything, but I want to stress the importance of having an indoor swimming pool! I am involved with our summer swim team, the Silver Swordfish, and there are countless families in our town that would be thrilled for an indoor pool. As of now, our youth can only swim during the very short swim season of the summer, and I see many kids flourish in this environment. They are hard working in practice, committed, and love the physical challenge of learning new skills and building endurance. It provides much-needed exercise, socializing with their peers, and builds confidence. I also know of examples of adults who would like to move here but lap swimming is such a huge part of their lives that they are worried the tiny pool at WNMU (or the city pool with a short season) isn’t going to cut it. Please include a pool!!

Please think carefully about the longevity of what you include. Youth just don’t hang out in “youth rooms.” If you’re going to
invest in a “childcare room” are you prepared for the huge amount of oversight? People like/need to come together and be active. Pool!!! Healthy snack bar/caf. Performing arts. But please don’t build a bunch of rooms to sit around in, or that end up locked up because there’s no one to staff them.

Music classes, swimming classes, art classes, senior exercise classes.

The current pool has footings that are ready for a cover.

Game room for cards, mai jong, chess, checkers
tennis
Hot Tub!
No thank you.
tennis courts with bathrooms
open long hours, including weekends
Nothing

This is a terribly designed survey. You needed professional help to design this instrument so that the information you obtain will be actually useful and credible.

Indoor basketball courts, lap swimming pool, free weights and machine gym.

hours convenient for working families who can only attend in the evening or early morning

Well since all the communities are listed will it not just be a city recreation center?

Indoor Swimming Pool with lap lanes for ALL AGES.

"Put this in a central location - not near downtown, but closer to the mining district, like in the Wal-Mart area of town.
"

Group exercise classes
None

Indoor pickleball so it can be used in all weather
Pickleball indoor courts for using in bad weather also with safety factor of plenty of room and safe floor and surrounding area.

besides, volleyball, basketball, pickleball and indoor soccer: mark the court areas for indoor racket sports, i.e.; badminton.

Nothing.

Office/workspace for parent’s to use while their children are doing activities or classes - maybe a room right beside or with a large window looking in?

no

Safe environment
Not that I can think of

Weight room

weight room

Basketball Court

should make it like Morenci rec center

Classroom training areas

Basketball courts, Weight Room, Treadmills
miniature golf??
kids classes
need for basketball courts
indoor drone racing
Indoor Drone Racing Track
The rec center should also provide a space for students to do homework, if they are coming directly from school and stay waiting for their ride/ can't study at home.
Indoor Basketball courts!!!

Security
Jacuzzi
Transportation accessible
N/A
No

We should have a number or service available in-case a child/teen/women ever feels uncomfortable or not safe. I wouldn't want to go work out and get scared by some guy, especially in a place like this.

Tutorial services for children and youth.

home trapped we need help.

please help

U need to combine the youth room and the snack bar but the cafe would be for everybody

Gym (workout room)

Weight room
The climbing wall is very important yes you have it on the list but there are lots of people in silver city and the area around it because of the Gila most of the population may put in a lot of other stuff but the population of us in silver city area when put in fractions we have a lot more people that climb compared to the number of climbers compared to their cities

weight room, rental space for special occasions,

Outdoor park area

Some classes on computer & cell phone use. I find every time I turn around I am lost & have no instruction on the updates.

basketball court isn't listed above. I'm guessing there's going to be a big push for senior activities, but we need the focus to be on youth way more than seniors. after school and summer programming is desperately needed.

Pool indoors and outdoors

Outdoor activities for youth, outdoor walking area for seniors, arts, and crafts for youth.

Weights room

Plant more trees, preference for shade AND food baring cultivars. The addition of several small orchards where natural watercourses exist or can be tailored for said orchards will provide many benefits including run-off remediation.

Tumbling, gymnastic and dance room
I’d like to state how important a swimming pool is. Currently the only place to swim is at WNMQ, and I think the town sees their summer pool as unprofitable. The way I see it, if you let people in for free on the busiest day of the week (Saturday), while that’s very generous, you’re losing a lot of revenue. Also, your target audience here isn’t bored teens hanging out on summer vacations. It’s athletes, triathletes and kids who swim as part of their work out schedules or disciplines. We might actually have a competitive swim team if the kids could swim all year round, but they can’t swim at WNMQ because they’re not old enough! If it were possible to have a splash Park for people who didn’t want to swim, and a competitive pool for those who do, that’d be ideal. Also, with a small, competitive pool, I believe there’d be the possibility of holding a sprint triathlon here in town. Show Low AZ currently holds one in a relatively small indoor pool and it’s a lot of fun! I’d love to talk more to the town about this.

Outdoor ropes course

Basketball court should be included in a multi-use court area where all those sports mentioned can be played. One room for exercise classes- yoga, Pilates, dance etc. One room for all the artsy type activities. Pool would be amazing and doesn’t need to be a separate splash area, could just include a small wading/warmer pool for young ones with parents.

There should be several multiple use courts for things like basketball and volleyball. Basketball was excluded and this is important to have. Additionally, rooms can serve as multiple use areas for yoga, Pilates, martial arts etc. With some creativity, many of the mentioned activities can be included. The town needs a rev center, and this is exciting.

Basketball courts, weight room/gym

Gymnastics Area

Hopefully, some options for indoor recreation, that isn’t a contact sport. More so for the youth that want something different

Basketball! We need basketball courts for our kids!

"appreciate the opportunity for input.

POOL please!"

Disc Golf. We missed disc golf courses.

Table tennis, Foosball, air hockey

You did not have basketball courts on your list of amenities, but they are essential because they constitute a large space that can be used for a multitude of activities, like indoor soccer, volleyball, martial arts, etc. We also need an outdoor pool for the spring, summer, fall when the weather is nice, but also heated year round with solar. The indoor and outdoor pools would provide space for more swimmers and community use.

An indoor swimming pool with children’s area would be a wonderful addition to Silver City

basketball, weight room

Tennis

No

Youth activities

Indoor basketball!

Need a good childcare service in town especially over summer months!!!
Basketball courts would be extremely useful here. Youth sports lack indoor facilities, and many teams are forced to practice outside on beat up school playgrounds and at times even with no rims available. The schools don't work well with allowing recreational teams to use their facilities and Western is also tremendously hard to get any court time, and you usually have to pay when you do. Courts for basketball and volleyball are much needed here!

Skating rink

It would be great to offer after school programs for children whose parents work till 5:00, also summer programs you school ages kids like the Y does.

Gymnastics

Kids really need a place to go, please make them the focal point, not the seniors.

Nada

The way the first question is worded I feel left out, as if the Recreation Center is not for me if I do not represent youth, seniors, family, or veterans. Single adults seem to have no place. I would like to see the chance for excursions into wilderness areas that do not require affiliation with the university. Programming that couples information about active and healthy lifestyle with activities. What is being done to capture the opinion of those without access to the electronic survey (elderly, children, rural, those across the digital divide due to economic status)?

Basketball courts

Pottery studio

Please make it easily accessible

"Children/youth programming (i.e. after school activities, summer activities)

Real swimming pool--NOT just a weird lazy river like in Las Cruces. Kids need to learn how to swim here."

I am 12 years old and I would like to train for swim team. I also compete in triathlon’s all year round. I’d like to be able to train in town, not out of state. please put a lap swimming pool in the new rec center, with a splash pool for people who want to relax (who do not want to lap swim).

N/A

Basketball and gym

Weight room, cardio equipment

if we do not invest in these things the youth will continue to turn to sex and drugs and our elderly will leave. I have a young family and I want to leave so my children can have better opportunities than I did. I want my son to be able to be in a swim club, gymnastics or play the cello if he wanted to. As an adult I miss these opportunities as well. A swimming pool and a climbing gym would be wonderful. A youth hang out that is open late as an alternative to being out doing drugs or being in an abusive home would be amazing.

Please bring back/expand your summer and spring break program for area kids. Working parents really need a great option for their kids besides depending on family and babysitters. At-risk youth really need a safe, positive place to be as well. School fills some of that need, but it would be great to have an alternative.

Basketball courts!!

People to teach after school actives for parents who work
No Archery for youth

"Some kind of security supervision with authority to oust troublemakers, thieves, loud disrupters, squatters, smokers, etc. Must have rules against smoking, booze, drugs, lewd behavior, etc. or it won't be a safe space.

A community room with tables for playing cards and games is good. Has to be larger than rooms at senior center.

Childcare is not appropriate since that will be a dumping station for toddlers, etc. I do not want the complications of the facility becoming a day care center. And who will watch kids in the child watch room? Will the parent pay for that attendent? If left unattended, the kids will get out of hand, running around into other areas.

I don’t see the need for anything more than a snack and drinks center. Dispensing machines will do. Serving food is highly regulated. Why add more worries? Let those who offer food now do that.

There are already plenty of venues for live theater and also there are movie theaters here. Please do not waste money on duplicating what already exists in this community.

Computers are at the Silver City Library now. Computers cost money to maintain and replace. They are attractive to thieves. And vulnerable to misuse.

I like swimming pools, but they are also a maintenance issues. The City Pool on Silver St. is okay. The Splash Park in Sta Clara is good. The university has an indoor pool, but it cost to go there. Not sure that the pool is a good idea.

Overall, thinking through original costs and maintenance costs is so important. Having security people and attendants is also a costs. There has to be a presence of officials and some oversight on behavior in a rec center. Add in those costs.

Thanks for your time."

Keep it basic. We need facilities, not elegance, like what was built into the convention center.

Cornhole play area, gym room with weights and machines

Weight room

Whatever is designed into the new facility should fit the larger picture for the area. Is the facility for local use or does it link to economic development. If it is built for locals I believe we should consider youth as a driving factor but if it’s also going to help with economic development we should consider the types of businesses the town wants to promote and link to them. In my opinion, activities at the facility that link to additional opportunities within the area but outside the facility have a higher potential for folks to engage and invest in them.

There should be an after school program for working families that need after school care for their children under 13. Having a safe and fun place for teenagers to be after school would be beneficial as well.

"OK everyone wants different ""stuff"" but what we feel you REALLY missed is ACCESS ! Choice of land to build is dependent upon whether you want to serve the majority of people in the community--ARE THERE ADA sidewalks ? are there bike lanes? Can there be adequate parking without costing a fortune? WILL THERE BE A BUS STOP SERVING THE FACILITY that has busses running more than once or twice a day ??
Please realize that these "amenities", that we consider REQUIREMENTS, will add a significant cost to the facility and need to be factored in at THE BEGINNING of the planning and budgeting process and NOT be left hanging as orphans at the end without any money to complete them! ALL plans need to include these in the early drawings (not just pretty pictures) and all budgets need to INCLUDE them in the preliminary plans, not ignore them until they become a problem. PLEASE PLEASE don't make us sorry down the road!

how do we ever know if you have received our comments???

Ping Pong Tables

APPENDIX 6: REPLIES: "LIST THREE OR MORE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOUR IDEAL REC CENTER."

- Indoor Swimming, Climbing Gym, Intramurals tournaments
- Fun
- Interactive
- Inviting
- Family Friendly, Clean, Professional
- Area to gather and provide healthy activities for youth
- accessible.
- Clean, long hours, affordable
- fun, educational, happy place.
- Fun, Clean, Upbeat
- Basketball gym
- Basketball gym
- Basketball gm
- Family fun activities
- Clean Safe Fun
- Clean, Fun, and Variety

- Clean, fun, exciting
- After school childcare with activities to keep them busy. Help with homework if needed.
- Relaxing, Fun, good and safe place to be.
- Bright, Open, Centered in Town.
- Fun, Clean, variety
- Workout (Health), Training(place for kids), Artistry(let the kids and elderly share the imagination)
- affordable, engaging, accessible
- safe, clean, accessible.
- A Place where Youths want to be Often (Bully Free Zone) Where Kid can play game have parties.
- Youth activities- Safe- community
- open 24-7
- area for teenagers to hang out
- Multi use facility
- Arcade, Dance Hall
- lively with young crowd, more activities for weekends. help not to miss city life!
- Fun for the whole family
- A diverse area that is easily accessed with convenient parking.
- A new community rec center would be a HUGE selling point for families moving to the area. Outdoor areas (basketball/volleyball/tennis) with an indoor option (day care, treadmills/track, pool, chess/board game room).
- Maintained, modern, availability/open schedule
- Community, give kids and adults something to do, BBQ grills, etc.
- Make it just like the Morenci, AZ rec center and it'll be perfect.
- Clean, maintained, comfortable, fun, safe, reasonably priced
- Clean, modern, good workers
- Full court basketball courts
- Clean, good equipment, plenty of playing courts
- open daily
- fun for all ages
- Multi-age space to recreate and relax
- More pickle ball courts designed for beg/interm. Current 2 are usually heavy hitters!
- Well-lit, comfortable, flexible use, with activities for all ages.
- Open long hours
- Golf, Beer arcade
- Location, parking, hours
- Clean, cheap, safe, inclusive
- Clean, welcoming, filled with natural light
- Windows, greenery, sound baffling
- Age appropriate activities for toddler to seniors.
- Exercise area, climbing wall, indoor track, basketball court
- Inclusive, organized play, clean, safe.
- Fun, safe (for both people and belongings), affordable.
- Pickleball and racquetball courts that are open for evening and weekend play.
- Look at the design of some of the rec centers in the Denver metro area. I spent 6 years there and very impressive.
- Racquetball, Wi-Fi, clean.
- Designated pickle-ball courts would be great!
- Indoor lap pool
- Easy central access
- Fun, learning, healthy
- Fun, Educational and exercise
- Welcoming, helpful, and fun.
- Safe, kind, active
- Fun, Relaxing, and Active
- Fun, Helpful to the community, Easily accessible necessities
- Comfortable, clean, friendly.
- Large, Buzzing, Active!
- Fun, Healthy, Happy
- Family friendly flexibility
- Big, convenient, entertaining
- A place to stay healthy
- Fun, educational and exercise
- Keep everything from the existing Rec it served us all well old and young. Indoor Pickleball was a much needed feature in existing Rec hope for more indoor courts in new facility. University gym membership is too expensive for many Seniors. Good luck making everyone happy
- Something for everyone and available long hours especially for working persons.
- Permanently marked Indoor pickleball courts with good footing and space for safety.
- Functional
- Available 7 days a week with evening hours
- Not a facility that duplicates other facilities in the Town of Silver City e.g. swimming, weights, running/walking track
- Safe place with activities for all open to the public all day every day
- Although the town is small, I believe plenty of people of all ages would participate in the center, therefore, plenty of space for each of the venues that are decided on.
- Various activities under one building and big enough to accommodate large groups
- Offline, outdoor, exercise
- Inviting to all, not an elite club.
- Youth center, sports activity center, space for gatherings
- Fitness classes
- Youth...Children...activity rooms
- Activities, relaxing, cooperative
- A safe, fun place to meet friends, learn new things, & share experiences,
- Fitness, training, working out.
- A safe and healthy environment for our community to convene and play!
- Well-lighted, quiet spaces, busy but not loud
- Clean, calm, motivating
- Fun exercise competition
- There is one in Prescott AZ that is awesome. It would be a great one to copy!!
- Inviting, friendly, informative
- multi-purpose spaces, indoor & outdoor spaces, exercise
- Open, free, safe
- Fun, Relaxing, and Convenient.
- Community fun for all ages
- affordable, accessible, convenient
- Family and community oriented space with year round
  recreational activities for health, wellness, and creativity
- Fun, SAFE, inclusive
- Open, diverse, community-oriented
- Safe from predators, user driven, open when other things are
  not.
- My ideal rec center would feature a climbing wall. Last year
  there was a conference held in Silver City on outdoor recreation
  as an economic stimulus for New Mexico and a local climbing
  wall would be a perfect example of that. It would be especially
  attractive for young people including WNMU students - where
  there is an outdoor adventure program but no potential for any
  kind of climbing. I am an American Mountain Guides Association
  certified rock climbing instructor with many years of experience
  working in both indoor and outdoor climbing instruction and I
  would be delighted to participate in planning, and design of a
  facility as well as programing and instruction issues.
- Availability, Well-lit and well managed with possible senior
  volunteers.
- clean, casual, inclusive
- Welcoming, clean, safe
- clean ventilated and the equipment works
- well-lit, well-used, well-cleaned
- Active social accessible
- Safe and accessible to all
- Fun entertaining and good for the community to keep kids out
  of trouble
- Youth, Homeless, Mental health.
- availability, fun, beneficial
- Available, safe, clean, varied use
- Fun for the whole family
- Affordable annual membership
- Safe, fun, modern
- fun, things to do, technology
- convenient, modern, clean
- clean, fun, modern
- family friendly, senior friendly
- A little something for everyone that they cannot get from the
  outdoors, somewhere latch key kids can go after school for a
  safe, fun, and learning environment. A place where seniors can
  go to have recreation the smaller senior centers do not have the
  capabilities or funding to do this.
- Activities that also appeal to handicap persons or persons
  undergoing physical therapy, an area for slower moving
  individuals like the elderly that want to participate, but at a
  slower pace
- Geared towards youth
- Entrepreneurship programs
- Inclusive. Welcoming. Adaptable to change when needed.
  Positive, upbeat atmosphere.
- accessible multi generation
- 6 pickleball courts
- Safe, accessible, and active
- youth learning children
- Inclusive
- Accessible
- Welcoming Atmosphere
- Select Management Team that includes people skills
- Engaging, multipurpose, well-staffed
- Welcoming, as many rooms as possible having natural light and
  windows, eye-catching, 2 or 3 floors, incorporate some methods
  of sustainability with solar panels and water harvesting.
- Family friendly
- Open 24/7
- Affordable
- Multi use spaces
- Go to place for fitness, recreation, and socialization. Welcoming to all ages.
- A place for the youth in our community to have something to do.
- multi use facility
- Look up the Core in Hobbs NM. Should give you great ideas!
- A great place for parents to leave their children and know they are carefully watched and monitored for safety. Sports areas that appeal to all age and preferences.
- Activities for all age groups
- Safe, maintained, fun
- Fun, active, engaging, and open to everyone.
- fun
- safe
- diverse
- community
- bright
- warm
- welcome
- family
- Accessible, affordable, and full of choices
- inclusive, accessible, multigenerational
- Benefit the community as a whole.
- Family friendly
- Safe
- Clean
- Large park play areas, indoor recreation areas and bringing our community together.
- Variety, friendly, bright
- Open morning, afternoon, evening Secure...Opportunity for feedback
- fun, kids, rich family life, community, health, all-abilities, safe, for all walks
- User friendly
- Do not spent a lot of money on a room that can only be used for one activity by a small group of people (racquetball)
- Outdoors, well lit; ample parking

- accessible, friendly, diverse
- Access for all
- Community gathering and recreational space
- Cheap, clean, convenient; safe inside and out.
- Climbing wall, swimming pool, computer room, kitchen and dining, outdoor playground, child’s room, youth room, and senior room. Rentable space for special occasions.
- Cleanly, reasonably priced, Theatre with screen size and layout (sloped seating) comparable to standard theaters in Las Cruces
- Affordable easily accessible
- Cheerful, clean, fun
- Hangout, cross generational activities/support, art
- Somewhere that can be community based. Seniors etc. in the morning, school aged kids in the afternoon and youth in the evening. A space that has multiple uses and parking.
- The old Agape school building would be a great space to use. It’s near the skate park and Penny Park, would be easy to convert into something usable for all ages and some community spaces.
- Inclusive all ages and cultures.
- For all citizens
- Apex Center Colorado
- SAFE, FUN, ENGAGING
- Kid friendly
- Cheap or free, yet somehow spa-like. Or adult playground with rock walls, ropes course. Or a good place to learn circus skills like juggling or trapeze.
- Lots of activities for teens.
- Welcoming to all ages
- Accessible, Safe and Clean
- Open to public, 8 am to 9 pm
- Creative Positive Happy space
- Community bonding friendliness
- Indoor pool tutoring available
- We need something for our kids!
- Fun, safe, clean!
- Clean, well-managed, open every day
- welcoming, accessible, clean
- Community, classes, place to gather
- Spacious
- Friendly
- Active
- Versatile for everyone
- Clean, accessible, safe
- BIG SWIMMING POOL!
- somewhere where my kids and I can go and do a variety of activities for both in and outdoor
- Open, community, active
- Accessible, inviting, popular
- Multi-purpose, able to change with the times
- Friendly
- Solar powered, open design
- community based
- Multi ages
- Pool
- The center should be in a convenient location that everyone can reach easily
- Family oriented, Safe, Fun,
- inviting, active, creative
- Open at times that fit when people are able to come.
- Easily accessible, long hours, something for all age groups
- Inclusion
- Adaptable
- Accessible
- Something for everyone
- A place we older citizens can go and watch a good local baseball, football, volleyball and soccer game even with a snack bar, the is nothing better attending a cool Autumn football game at night Cheering on your favorite with a warm cup of coffee in your hand
- Functional for all ages, men, and women
- Safe clean fun Community gathering place

- All ages.
- Fun for all
- Fun and safe for all children.
- Fun for youth
- all ages, inside/outside, tables/chairs, accessible, parking.
- Family Fun safe
- many activities, affordable, accessible
- Interactive, all age groups, fun
- Accessible for all
- Safe
- Fun
- Modern clean youth family senior centered no political agendas
- More activities for all ages kids to adults. This town needs something for our kids.
- Inclusion, clean, welcoming, safe,
- Safe family fun
- Safe, clean, maintained
- Secure safe and clean
- indoor area where people can be active
- Indoor winter activities.
- Multi-use facility that includes swimming, sports, and fitness center. Steam room and sauna would be wonderful too!
- Cruces Aquatic Center
- Flexible use, inviting, windows, SAFE, reasonable fees
- Large area with multiple things for a wide range of people. Also, numerous planned activities.
- For. The. Community
- keep teens busy
- Efficiency, low rates, personable, and availability.
- Open, full of light, everyone (all ages and backgrounds) feels welcome. Consistent offerings with consistent instructors, WELL-MANAGED and paid well enough to ensure accountability and keep the investment from falling into disrepair.
- Accessible, good parking, craft classes
- Something kid friendly from age 1 to teen family friendly.
- Location
- Hours
- Reasonable cost
- Well maintained
- Clean, professional, welcoming
- Activities for kids!!!
- Accessible and safe. Help when you need it and teachers. And most of all rules.
- A lil sumthin for all ages. Young to old
- Visually appealing, clean, free of excessive noise
- A place for people of all ages that’s open on a regular basis; must have indoor swimming pool.
- A center that can accommodate something for everyone if the money is an issue go back to the drawing board and form a committee to get the money if there a will it can be done
- Vibrant, user friendly, and pleasant atmosphere.
- a place to host tournaments and be able to utilize away from home
- Inexpensive inviting, family orientated
- State of the art!
- Family centered activity
- Something for Everyone
- A safe place for families in the community to create and attend fun and active events. Our community needs a place for the youth to look forward to!
- A great place for parents of young children
- safe, clean, accessible
- Welcoming, Safe. Clean.
- Family oriented
- Family Friendly. Offering Individual work out ability. Not too expensive (reasonably priced). Cleaned up and maintained.
- Safe, Secure, well maintained
- Clean, secure, well maintained
- Provides intergenerational opportunities/activities.
- a safe place for kids to receive positive youth development, while receiving tutoring, learning life skills that help our rural kids be more resilient.
- Fun, safe and entertaining
- Clean, Safe, Diverse
- welcoming, inclusive, user friendly, affordable.
- swim team
- inclusive
- supportive
- healthy
- safe
- Welcoming to all, indoor and outdoor options for activities, small and large group areas, good range of hours.
- Bright.
- Inviting.
- Energizing.
- Fun
- Enjoyable
- Relaxing
- year around swimming, swim team, affordable
- welcoming, comfortable, clean
- Indoor swimming would allow year round swimming for youth! The youth are our future and need this more than any other age group in this area! Please keep working on making this facility a reality! Thank you!!
- Clean, safe, and friendly
- clean
- not duplicating other venues
- low cost
- a place for everyone
- Hot Tub, group exercise, gyms
- It would have a 50 meter pool.
- lighted tennis courts
- nice place to spend time drinking coffee and exercising
- Well organized/managed.
- Open long hours.
Available to all ages.
- interactive, space, safe
- Community gathering location.
- The activities center on the NMSU campus is a great representation of my ideal rec center.
- convenient, accessible, versatile
- Depending on the funds available, all the listed activities would be awesome!
- swimming pools
- splash area.
- Trainers that will host classes for core exercises or be personal trainers. I don’t want the fluffy classes that do no good but CORE exercise classes that will make a difference no matter what your age.
- Indoor swimming/ splash pad
- large, clean, welcoming, open to all
- family friendly
- youth friendly
- safe
- Indoor pickleball with plenty of room and good flooring
- SAFE, WELCOMING, FUN
- I am willing to be on that committee
- Bright, clean, and accessible
- Available for everyone. Especially in the summer, not just for paying individuals.
- Safe, flexible, growth
- reoccurring funding, management physical plant
- Kid and family friendly
- Safe, welcoming, all ages
- Welcoming, no drugs, metal detector, safe for our children, and everyone
- no drugs
- accessible, well maintained, safe
- should make it like Morenci rec center
- Family
- Youth
- often open
- Clean, User friendly, Organized
- Clean, up to code, employees who don’t hate their jobs.
- Family-Focused, Modern, Clean
- Inclusive, Clean, Well staffed
- Well organized, great communication on what is available, and the availability of the services
- fun place to enjoy
- Clean, open, modern
- Family use facility with middle age use as well
- Drone Racing League
- Fun for the whole family.
- Fun competitive open
- clean, flexible, educative
- Rec center should have a lap/swimming pool, indoor track.
- Safe environment for all age groups to enjoy fitness and health related activities
- Interests for the whole family
- clean, accessible, fun
- Swimming pool, Jacuzzi, Sauna
- Inviting, Organized, Comfortable, Peaceful
- Welcoming, affordable, accessible
- Kids friendly swimming
- For the Kids/ Youth
- Fun, safe, big.
- Community outreach. I need friends.
- Safe, clean, fun
- safe, exhilarating, refreshing.
- Interactive, available, exercise
- Nice, Kept up, successful
- I want my recreational center
- my recreational center is in a hurry build fats
- Nice looking with inside decoration architecture is more important than inside decoration though but the most is climbing wall the most important thing
- Endorses physical exercises, lots of them
- Family oriented, everything handicap capable, outdoor picnic tables, pool tables and ping pong.
- Youth area has snacks
- climbing wall, bouldering wall, weight room, aerobic room, kitchen with rental area, snack bar. I would like to drop off my two teens and know they will be all right and have fun... Pool tables and ping pong
- Organized with labels and maps
- location easy to find
- good lighting outside
- close parking
- clean, bright, open
- Safe, active, engaging
- Reliably open indoor pool for all ages.
- Indoor swimming pool big enough to host a swim team and swim meets.
- fabulous, safe free
- safe space, full of kids, open to everyone regardless of ability to pay.
- Pools/ water feature for all ages
- Indoor pool
- Open
- Welcoming
- Accessible
- Available early and late
- Busy
- Affordable and clean
- Adequate parking and the design of the facility needs to have an ongoing assets-management plan with adequate funding to maintain the facility in the future. It needs to have competent management and needs to be accessible serve to all persons, meaning make it affordable to all, not just those who can afford it.
- multi-disciplinary and engaging.
- Clean
- Family friendly

- Accessible: disability, location, hours of operation
- Swimming, kid friendly for kids of all ages
- Swimming, Soccer, Welcoming
- Somewhere to swim.
- Safe family fun
- Multi use, open and airy, affordable, clean, safe, caters to people of all ages and abilities
- Pool! Pool! Pool!
- A place for our kids to do more activities
- Include everything listed.
- Year round swimming pool!!
- Family oriented
- Multi-use, innovative, fun, and affordable.
- Family-friendly, clean, welcoming
- Family oriented
- Indoor track, basketball courts, playrooms for littles ones, and computers access. Safe haven
- Track, basketball, youth activity.
- vibrant.
- community
- healthy
- Inclusive but more for children and teens
- Family, clean, resources
- Clean, consistently open, fun
- A safe, supervised, inclusive facility with a variety of activities and classes would be lovely!!!
- Swimming year round is vital for every community, every child needs to learn to swim and be safe around water. Swimming is great exercise, and we need a large pool or POOLS to accommodate serious swimmers and also children that are more interested in playing with friends or family. Solar heating the pool is critical to minimize facility utility costs. Great basketball courts that can also be used for volleyball or martial arts is essential. Well-designed shower and restroom facilities that are easy to keep clean are important for facility
- pool, fun, enjoyment  
- Welcoming... comfortable... safe  
- open,  
- Safe, clean, fun  
- After school activities  
- Variety, cleanliness, appeal to all age groups  
- inclusive, versatile, fun  
- Safe, fun, accessible  
- Indoor swimming pool & yoga  
- inclusive, multigenerational, safe  
- Youth  
- Fun  
- educational  
- We have enough stuff for seniors and others we need stuff for the younger people to keep them out of trouble.  
- A place to exercise Mind, Body, & Soul  
- Low cost, walking track, indoor swimming  
- fun and safe for all  
- Free  
- Accommodate youth first, seniors second.  
- Exercise  
- Games  
- Socialize  
- Multi use  
- Modern, Engaging and focused on the activities we want to promote. Can’t be everything to everybody so it needs to stay focused so it can be a center of excellence.  
- Family oriented  
- Community  
- Active  
- We need to be ABLE TO GET THERE EASILY!  
- Open to Everyone--nights as well as Saturdays. For those that work during the day.  
- Easy to get to and parking.

- maintenance and community health. Lounge areas/meeting rooms make a great community recreation center.
- Indoor swimming pool
- Pool, pool, pool...please.
- Tennis, pool, BBQ
- Appeal to a variety of ages with variety of activities.
- Clean, childcare, and indoor swimming
- A fun place for small kids to young adult to enjoy
- Family kid friendly
- For the whole community
- Fun, inviting and safe!
- Family fun safe
- Fun for kids and families!
- Family friendly activities
- Summer child learning activities
- Variety, spaciousness, adaptability
- Accessible, free, friendly
- I place for child to go and be safe, have fun, and work. Also offer swim lessons and youth sports.
- Welcoming, peaceful, and safe
- Open early in the mornings, well-staffed
- All ages, fun, lots of room
- In existence soon.
- Inclusive, inexpensive, variety
- Family friendly, indoor activities and childcare
- Not too expensive so that’s it’s within reach for everyone.
- Multiple yoga options. Inclusive and intentional programs for and by minority including LGBTQ+ community members.
- Something for everyone
- Variety, clean, options for times to participate in group sports, ability to make reservations for court times
- Fun, light filled, versatile
- Accessible, safe, fun
- Open a lot. Low cost. Serves all.
- Clean welcoming beautiful
- Easy access, fun