

## Neighborhood Parks Access

- In 2003, a survey by HOZHO documented complaints about excessive drinking and public drunkenness in parks managed by Isla Vista Recreation and Parks Department (IVRPD). In June, 2004, IVRPD instituted an alcohol permit requirement for all 21 parks in its system. A pre-post evaluation over 36 months found reductions in police events, decrease in public drunkenness, and public acceptance of park policy.
- A 2006 household survey of 99 residents who live near Children's and Estero Parks found alcohol and drug concerns did not discourage use of the parks. Just four responses cited alcohol/drug conditions in the parks among reasons not to use the parks.
- In the same household survey, 20 percent of respondents reported concerns about neighborhood-related AOD problems, including large loud parties, late-night activities and noise stemming from alcohol use. Eight percent were concerned about alcoholics and homeless people in the neighborhood. Nine percent were concerned about gangs and graffiti. These findings were reinforced by ASIPS data (see map).
- IV Teen Center meetings with Latino families in Fall, 2006, identified major concerns about gangs and related activities as major issues for the parks and neighborhood. The Teen Center also found Latino families reluctant to share their concerns directly with IV Foot Patrol or IV Recreation and Parks Department.
- IV Teen Center helped Latino families share their concerns, resulting in a trial dusk-to-dawn closure of Children's Park. Co-sponsorship of two major community events in the parks during 2007 has extended information-sharing and communication with the IV Foot Patrol. A six-month review of park closure experiences and related gang suppression activities suggest these efforts are meeting with success.