

*Using Urban Planning to improve the quality of life of the residents of Puente Alto*



To start opening up the community, a park was created on 13 hectares of land that previously functioned as an illegal dump. The park now includes an outdoor church, soccer field, splash pads and children's games, exercise machines, picnic tables and various trails. When visiting the park, I noticed large poles throughout the park which were placed there to allow for the monitoring of garbage smells and deterioration of the illegal dump site still located underneath the park. An amazing community effort spearheaded by a group of women emerged: the women monitor the park and make sure that it is kept clean. They work in shifts so that the park is monitored, kept safe and clean for 24 hours. While they have done work increasing green areas and decreasing crime, the next step of the plan seeks to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants through addressing overcrowding.

While in Bajos de Mena, I also had the pleasure of interviewing a group of women and getting a view of a resident-perspective. Most of them arrived to Bajos de Mena because of a housing subsidy. The women, who not only are the leaders of the community, have made a

