

SCREEN CHECK - SECOND DRAFT  
JULY 2008

town of  
**yucca valley**  
parks & recreation master plan update



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town of  
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parks & recreation master plan update

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) is based on the vision that recreation facilities, programs, and open space are important resources within the Town of Yucca Valley, enhancing community health, enriching the lives of residents, and contributing to a unique community identity and quality of life.

The Master Plan is an implementation tool of the General Plan, providing strategies for addressing the General Plan's set of goals and policies based on current analysis and community input.

What recreational facilities and programs does Yucca Valley have? Who uses Yucca Valley's facilities and programs? What role do parks, facilities, open space, and recreation programs have in the lives of residents? What type of facilities and programs does the Town need? Where will these facilities and programs be placed and how will they be funded?

These are the key questions discussed and answered by this Master Plan. To some, parks are active sports fields; others have images of passive open spaces with walking trails and view points; still others may envision parks as places for community gatherings and events. In actuality parks and recreation facilities are used for all of these purposes.

There are many important organizations such as the California Park and Recreation Society and the National Recreation and Parks Association that describe the many important ways recreation facilities and programming can help in creating healthy lifestyles and livable communities. Some of these ways are:

- ◆ Strengthen community identity and sense of place.
- ◆ Protect important places (environmentally, historically, aesthetically, and culturally).
- ◆ Encourage human contact and education.
- ◆ Support economic development.

- ◆ Preserve cultural unity.
- ◆ Encourage fitness and health.
- ◆ Provide social meeting places.
- ◆ Support families.

Through a comprehensive inventory of the recreation resources available in Yucca Valley, and an understanding of resident demand, the Master Plan provides a blueprint for how to meet the recreation needs of the community and to enhance quality of life for all Yucca Valley residents and visitors.

## PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

The purpose of the Master Plan is to provide a realistic guide for the creative, orderly development and management of recreation facilities and programs for Yucca Valley. This Master Plan builds on previous planning efforts including coordinating with concurrent Master Plan projects (*Facility Space Needs Master Plan* and *Old Town Specific Plan*) while obtaining new community input that has resulted in an up to date understanding of current and future recreation and park needs and opportunities specific to Yucca Valley.

The Master Plan provides data and analysis that lead to recommendations that establish how Yucca Valley should maintain and develop recreation facilities and programs throughout the Town now and into the future. The Master Plan covers a time period from 2008 through 2020 and is intended to be a flexible document, presenting findings and recommendations that will be evaluated, validated, and/or modified periodically as the Town responds to unforeseen issues and opportunities as well as changes in residents' needs and demands.

It is anticipated that Master Plan recommendations will be considered on an annual basis in the context of other Town projects and, as appropriate, Park and Recreation projects will begin the process of implementation through incorporation into the Town's budget.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF EACH CHAPTER

The following presents the highlights of each chapter of the document. While the reader is encouraged to read each individual chapter in the document, this overview will provide a quick reference to what the key findings were in each chapter and offers a summary for a speedy review of the document.

### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

This chapter summarizes the purpose and process of the Master Plan. It details the scope and purpose of the Master Plan, describes the planning process, outlines the public involvement and presents how the report is organized.

### **Chapter 2 – Planning Context**

This chapter provides an overview and description of the study area for the Master Plan. It is important to understand both the regional and local context of the planning area in order to determine its specific needs for park and recreation services. Some of the planning context highlights are:

- ◆ Yucca Valley is a Southern California high desert community (elevation 3,300 ft.) in San Bernardino County that lies conveniently between the San Bernardino Mountains and the Joshua Tree National Park.
- ◆ It is located about 25 minutes from Palm Springs; the town is characterized by moderate temperatures, clean air and amazingly starry nights.
- ◆ It is situated on State Highway 62 where it is intersected by State Highway 247; Yucca Valley is the hub of the Morongo Basin communities and plays host to a number of recreational opportunities and tourist attractions.

This chapter also presents the demographic composition of Yucca Valley and its implications and impacts on future recreation needs. Some highlights of the demographic characteristics include the approximate population distribution by age category:

Children 5 or under	2,000
Youth 6 to 17	4,000
Adults 18-65	14,500
Seniors 65 and over	5,000

The number of both youth and seniors is projected to grow larger as new residential development is designed to attract young families and senior citizens.

Demographic trends, both national and local, are presented in this chapter, highlights of local trends include:

- ◆ The Town is primarily a middle class community with limited discretionary income
- ◆ It is desirous of protecting their “small town atmosphere” and is concerned about too much growth
- ◆ Residents want to protect their open space and environment
- ◆ The Town is increasing in population, especially in family residential and senior citizens.

One of the key findings in this chapter that impacted the planning context was the fact that although the Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department primarily provides facilities and recreation services for residents of Yucca Valley, the actual service area extends beyond the town’s limits due to the fact that there are no park and recreation agencies providing facilities and services comparable to the Town of Yucca Valley in Morongo Valley, Joshua Tree, and the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County adjacent to the Town.

### **Chapter 3 – Existing Parks and Facilities**

Understanding the existing conditions in the community is an essential step in the Master Plan process. Chapter 3 provides an inventory of Town recreation facilities as well as other recreation facilities open to the public and includes discussion of public school facilities, private recreation facilities and a listing of other publicly owned lands (opportunity sites) within and surrounding the Town limits.

This chapter defines the characteristics of community parks, neighborhood parks, regional parks, natural open space and special use areas. An inventory of current park and recreation facilities serving the community along with an aerial photograph of each site is also included.

There is a discussion of the non-profit organizations that both offer their own programs and activities and share facilities with the Town enabling it to offer needed programs and activities.

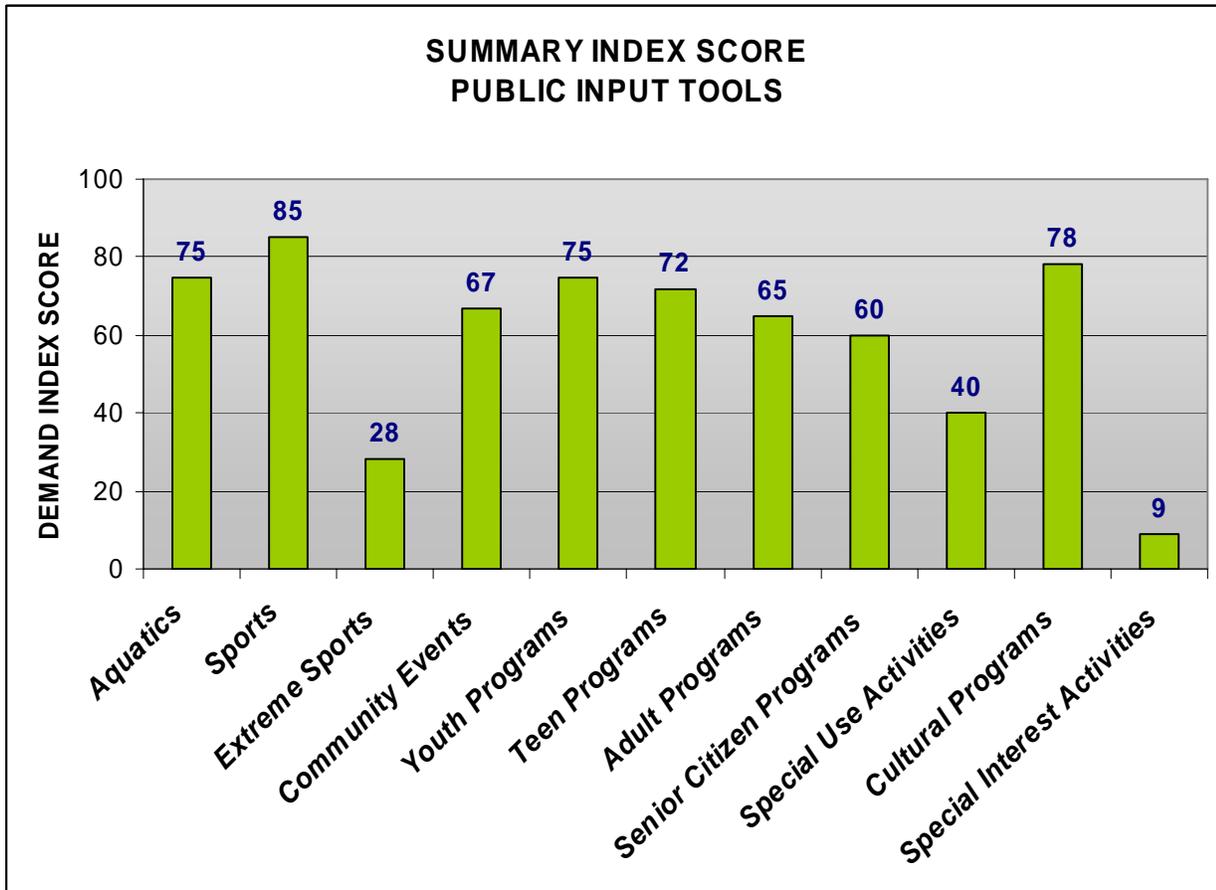
## **Chapter 4 – Recreation Programs and Services**

Yucca Valley residents enjoy a variety of recreation activities, programs and services. The Town along with various nonprofit organizations and community groups offer many recreation pursuits to the community. Neighboring areas provide regional and national recreation opportunities such as the Joshua Tree National Park. Human and social services are offered through local nonprofits along with Town, County and State offices.

Chapter 4 summarizes the recreation program analysis which included a review of the current level of recreation program and services offered by the Town of Yucca Valley Recreation Division. The program needs assessment was completed by using the community input given and the demographic trends analysis done in Chapter 2. Recommendations to address the identified recreation program needs are included in both Chapter 4 and in Chapter 9, where both facility and program recommendations are contained.

They are presented by program/service category in order to address the concerns and input received during the community outreach and public input process. This method of presentation should allow the community to see that their desired areas of importance for programs and services will be met in the future. The program categories include Aquatics, Sports, Extreme Sports, Community Events, Youth Programs, Teen Programs, Adult Programs, Senior Citizen Programs, Special Use Programs, Cultural Programs and Special Interest Programs.

The following graph summarizes the most requested programs/services as a result of the community input process.



As indicated on the above graph, the community’s perception of the most needed program categories are: sports; aquatics; cultural programs; youth, teen, adult, senior citizen programming; community events; followed by special use programs, extreme sports; and special interest programs.

### Chapter 5 – Cultural Component

The Cultural Component to the Master Plan provides an overview of cultural services, programs, and facilities available to Yucca Valley residents and visitors and provides recommendations for meeting the community’s future cultural needs.

Some of the cultural planning context highlights in this chapter include:

- ◆ Yucca Valley has a rich and diverse cultural environment.
- ◆ There is a significant population of artists and musicians in the Morongo Basin.
- ◆ There is a very high interest in the programs, events and exhibits presented by the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, the Yucca Valley Branch Library, the Community Services Department and various cultural groups and organizations.

The Cultural Component provides an updated look at conditions of existing cultural facilities; analyzes the need and demand for cultural facilities and programs; and presents strategies for the Town's consideration to address future needs. There are a number of key issues related to providing cultural arts including:

- ◆ The effect of two concurrent planning projects (*Public Facilities Master Plan* and *Old Town Specific Plan*) has on the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and the San Bernardino County Branch Library in Yucca Valley.
- ◆ Residents and visitors to Yucca Valley enjoy a number of cultural activities throughout the year. A variety of festivals, concerts, exhibits and events contribute to an emerging cultural image.
- ◆ Over the past five years, the Town has developed a public art program which is complimented by a growing number of private galleries.

While Yucca Valley's art organizations do face financial challenges, public support for the arts has confirmed a community interest in expanding a diverse range of cultural opportunities.

The Cultural Component provides Town leaders with a vision for developing and expanding these cultural opportunities in Yucca Valley and strategies and options to accomplish that vision.

An analysis of Yucca Valley's cultural strengths and assets, confirmed by the stakeholder interviews and surveys conducted during the Master Plan process are:

- ◆ The abundance of local creative talent
- ◆ The popularity and awareness of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum
- ◆ The high attendance and use of the Branch Library
- ◆ The large community support for festivals and town wide events
- ◆ A population interested in arts education
- ◆ A vibrant music and art scene in the region
- ◆ Local leaders with a desire to enhance cultural programming
- ◆ A diverse number of private sector commercial art establishments

One of the key findings was the economic benefits of pursuing cultural facilities and programs in Yucca Valley:

- ◆ Increased Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT) from visitors attending festivals and events
- ◆ Spending by non-profit arts businesses and industry
- ◆ Employment in both public and private arts related jobs
- ◆ Event related spending (meals, lodging, souvenirs, retail)
- ◆ Admission fees
- ◆ Increased donations

A summary of recommended strategies for meeting future cultural needs presented in this chapter include:

- ◆ Support cultural groups with facilities in which to work, perform, exhibit, and teach.
- ◆ Plan comprehensively for cultural facility development
- ◆ Pursue development of a new Hi-Desert Nature Museum and Branch Library, along with a amphitheater/activities plaza in the Old Town Specific Plan
- ◆ Pursue development of a Yucca Valley Show Grounds and Events Center to provide a venue for large scale community events, equestrian activities, exhibitions, and specialty shows and festivals

- ◆ Include smaller amphitheater/activity plazas in the design of the future community centers and community parks
- ◆ Position Yucca Valley as a major center known for quality arts offerings
- ◆ Increase media participation in marketing cultural arts in Yucca Valley
- ◆ Promote multi-cultural expression and participation in the arts through support of diverse ethnic and life style cultures
- ◆ Act as an advocate on behalf of Art in Public Places and take steps to expand the Art in Public Places Program to compliment Yucca Valley's natural beauty
- ◆ Continue to expand online event's calendar for cultural arts programs and activities
- ◆ Promote Old Town when it is developed as a "Cultural Corridor"
- ◆ Work to increase public awareness of the value of arts and culture in Yucca Valley and the region
- ◆ Build participation in cultural arts programs and activities
- ◆ Increase collaboration with the schools and library to provide targeted education programs and educational outreach designed to be engaging and tied to broad themes of natural science, history, math, and art
- ◆ Work to coordinate organizational development efforts of community art's organizations
- ◆ Pursue development of a Cultural Arts Commission with representation from the many cultural organizations now established in Yucca Valley whose mission should be to oversee and encourage collaboration between public arts and community arts organizations
- ◆ Pursue development of a Yucca Valley Cultural Foundation as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the specific purpose of raising funds for implementation of the Cultural Component recommendations.

Finally, this chapter concludes that the key to successfully implementing the Cultural Component will be the Town's ability to develop greater resources within public and private sectors to support the arts. The Town will have to broaden partnerships beyond Town boundaries to become a part of a regional arts community. The Town will need to work to support the efforts of Yucca Valley's Arts Organizations to help them sustain each other through collaborations and by sharing information, resources, and facilities.

## **Chapter 6 – Needs Assessment**

Chapter 6 provides a detailed assessment of the recreation facility needs of the Yucca Valley community. Data from the community was obtained to develop an understanding of the demand for various facilities. The Needs Assessment utilizes the following needs identification tools to generate this understanding:

Community Outreach: Information gathered from the community through a series of workshops, stakeholder interviews, community organization questionnaires, and a sports organization survey.

Townwide Telephone Survey: The Citywide survey provides current statistically valid information specific to Yucca Valley that provides detailed information for the types of recreation facilities most often utilized by Yucca Valley residents. A total of 300 randomly selected, geographically distributed telephone interviews were completed with households in the Town of Yucca Valley.

Demand and Needs Analysis: An evaluation of selected current and future facility needs was developed using results from the telephone survey, sports organization survey, facility inventory, and relevant demographic projections.

Service Area Analysis: An evaluation of how parks and recreation facilities are distributed throughout residential areas in Yucca Valley.

Acreage Analysis: An evaluation of parkland acreage needs in the Town based on established standards and on identified need for specific recreation facilities such as sports fields, gyms, pools, etc.

### **Key Findings:**

The Townwide Telephone Survey results indicated some very important facts that were used in the needs analysis:

- ◆ Satisfaction with park maintenance was 95%.
- ◆ Recreation program needs were ranked as follows:
  - ◆ Open Space Preservation and Enjoyment
  - ◆ Cultural Arts, Museum, and Performing Arts
  - ◆ Active Sports Facilities and Programs
  - ◆ Community Events and Activities
- ◆ More than half the families surveyed participate in Town events
- ◆ The Hi-Desert Nature Museum is well known among residents
- ◆ Nearly 75% of residents would support at least a \$12 annual tax increase to build new community park facilities
- ◆ Nearly 75% of residents would make frequent or moderately frequent visits to a new performing arts or event center

Using the above methodology the key findings from the needs assessment indicates that the following facilities are the Towns highest priorities for the future:

- ◆ Multi-Generational Community Complex to serve all ages for recreation classes, meeting rooms and community events
- ◆ Aquatics Complex
- ◆ Trails for fitness and recreation access
- ◆ Fair/Show Grounds/Equestrian Center
- ◆ Neighborhood Parks with fields, tot lots, spray pools, family picnic areas, and informal open space

- ◆ Community Parks with sports fields, dog parks, group picnic areas, tennis and basketball courts, trails, tot lots, rest rooms and open space
- ◆ Nature Parks with educational/interpretive trail systems
- ◆ Cultural Facilities, including Museum, Library, Performing Arts Center, Outdoor Amphitheater, Community Events Plaza
- ◆ Special Use Park for Extreme Sports

This chapter also concludes that through the surveys and interviews obtained from the community, it is apparent that people expect the Community Services Department to provide essential recreation opportunities.

## **Chapter 7 – Park Land Dedication, Park Impact Fee Ordinances and Other Strategies**

This chapter looks at the Town’s park dedication requirements, park fee requirements and analyzes their effectiveness in securing the five acres of park land per one thousand population that is required in the Towns General Plan. It also analyzes the amount of park land that will be needed in the future to meet this standard and provide enough space to implement the facility recommendations contained in Chapter 9. In addition, it outlines potential strategies for the Town to consider for acquisition of park land and development of new facilities, including:

- ◆ Joint venture projects
- ◆ Multi-agency agreements
- ◆ Working with non-profit organizations
- ◆ Strategies for obtaining land donations
- ◆ Facilitating commercial recreation facility development
- ◆ Funding and financing methods used by public agencies
- ◆ Pursuing grants and establishing public foundations

A summary of the key findings in this chapter include:

- ◆ Yucca Valley Park Dedication and In-Lieu Fee Ordinance is up to date and reflects current law
- ◆ Yucca Valley Park Impact Fee Ordinance is also up to date and reflects current costs for providing park and recreation services
- ◆ There is a deficit of parkland now and it will continue to grow in the future if the Town does not acquire more park land as the population grows
- ◆ The Town will have to plan and be diligent in its efforts to protect open space to reinforce the communities rural character
- ◆ Given the limited tax dollars available for parks and recreation, the Town will have to look for new ways of raising revenue to support development of needed facilities and delivery of recreation programs, such as new fees and charges and use of facilities for asset management (leases, advertising, naming rights, concessions, etc.)

## **Chapter 8 – Policy Recommendations**

This chapter covers general guidelines and policies that will provide groundwork for decision making to meet the recreation programming and facility needs of Yucca Valley residents. The chapter contains suggested policies and guidelines to follow when negotiating with developers for park dedications or in-lieu fees; when accepting park property as a dedication requirement; guidelines for park development; operating policies that will help provide direction for staff; and guidelines for locating new parks and developing new programs.

Some of the important policy and guideline highlights include:

- ◆ During the annual budget process, review the community’s recreation program and facility needs.
- ◆ Evaluate existing parks on a regular basis and identify the need for enhancement, renovation and/or improvements.

- ◆ Develop general location criteria and guidelines for new community and neighborhood parks.
- ◆ Establish criteria for selecting land for new parks and adopt a strategy for land acquisition
- ◆ Establish and apply criteria to provide new Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks that complement the Town’s existing facilities in the fulfillment of a well-conceived, functional overall park system.
- ◆ Ensure that there are accessible parks and recreation facilities and programs that provide a positive experience and meet community needs.
- ◆ Support and facilitate the growth of the arts and cultural opportunities in Yucca Valley.
- ◆ Design, develop, promote and conduct a year-round schedule of quality programs, events and services that respond to the recreational and cultural needs and interests of the community.
- ◆ Commit to the development of an accessible, functional, expandable, and effectively connected local trails system in Yucca Valley.

Chapter 8 contains many more general and specific policies and guidelines that should help both staff and elected officials in their decision making process regarding parks, recreation, cultural, trail and open space issues.

## **Chapter 9 – Facility and Program Recommendations and Implementation Strategies**

Chapter 9 presents recommendations and strategies for the implementation of recommended new recreation facilities and programs. Recommendations address the recreation facility needs and recreation program needs identified in the Needs Analysis section and are the result of the assessment of existing inventory and demand; the community outreach process; and consideration of the Town’s needs with respect to the *Old Town Specific Plan* and the *Public Facilities Master Plan*

being done to determine the best option for bringing Town administration functions together at a Civic Center Complex.

Funding, design, and implementation will be determined as a result of the capital improvement project budget process conducted by the Town each year. Item 9.5 provides a proposed time line from 2008 through 2020 with necessary actions for a work program to implement the proposed recommendations.

Facility recommendations are organized according to key findings identified throughout the community outreach and needs analysis process, as follows:

- ◆ Reconfiguration of existing Community Center Complex for a Civic Center and Neighborhood Park
- ◆ Old Town Specific Plan Cultural Corridor containing the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, Yucca Valley Branch Library, and Amphitheater/Activities Plaza
- ◆ Multigenerational Community Center Complex that serves as the focal point for the community to address the need for a Community Center/Gymnasium, Senior Center, and Teen Center
- ◆ Performing Arts Facility in coordination with Yucca Valley High School
- ◆ Yucca Valley Events, Showground & Equestrian Center.
- ◆ Aquatics Center Complex in coordination with a new Boys & Girls Club and West End Community Park with Sports Fields
- ◆ East End Community Sports Park in coordination with La Contenta Middle School
- ◆ Sunnyslope Extreme Sports Park containing a new skate park, improved BMX course, a new rock climbing facility and a dog park designed for both passive and active pet uses
- ◆ Trail Head and Self-Guided Nature Trails at North Park and South Park
- ◆ A new community park in the Yucca Mesa area

- ◆ A new neighborhood park in the area formerly called the “Southside Community Center Property”
- ◆ Implementation of the Yucca Valley Trails System
- ◆ Improvements to Existing Parks
- ◆ Options regarding Blue Skies Golf & Country Club
- ◆ Potential Development of Burnt Mountain Park

Funding and implementation strategies and options are also presented in this chapter. Key themes the recommendations address include:

- ◆ Preventive recreation, that is, recreation as an antidote for youth/teen social problems
- ◆ Recreation for groups limited by income, physical disability, language, or cultural barriers
- ◆ Collaboration among program and facility providers, partnering and cooperation between public, private, and non-profit sectors, especially cultural organizations
- ◆ Increased demand for Tiny-Tot and Pre-School programs and activities
- ◆ Provision for aquatics programs and water safety instruction
- ◆ Provision for Senior Citizen programs and activities
- ◆ Opportunities to gather and socialize with others
- ◆ Learning opportunities for hobby, self-improvement or career development
- ◆ Opportunities to give back to the community through volunteer work
- ◆ Opportunities to participate in music, drama or performing arts
- ◆ Opportunities for both indoor (Gymnasium) and outdoor (Fields) sports activities
- ◆ Opportunities for cultural enrichment
- ◆ Opportunities for attending concerts, events and festivals

- ◆ Equestrian opportunities for riding, showing, competing and learning

Chapter 9 also explains the concept of “Asset Management” and other ways for the Town to generate revenue to pay for parks and recreation services by designing and using its assets (facilities) for revenue producing purposes.

In summary, the recommendations and strategies presented in Chapter 9 are proposed to meet the identified needs, benefit the community, and align with the Town of Yucca Valley’s General Plan goals and policies.





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**CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**



## 1.0 – INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope and Purpose

In Spring 2007, the Town of Yucca Valley entered into an agreement with Moore, Iacofano, Goltsman Inc. (MIG) to initiate a study that would assess the community's parks, recreation and cultural needs and update the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

This document will address the following subjects:

- ◆ Describe current and future demographic projections and regional context;
- ◆ Examine the current conditions of parks and facilities;
- ◆ Study and analyze current public demand and needs for parks, recreation and cultural facilities and programs;
- ◆ Develop goals based on future needs expressed by the staff and the community;
- ◆ Recommend improvements of existing parks and facilities;
- ◆ Examine and analyze current policy documents;
- ◆ Propose future recreation, parks and cultural facilities locations and developments;
- ◆ Describe financing strategies and funding actions to enable the Town to reach goals set by this document.

### 1.2 Planning Process

This Plan was developed by a collaboration of the MIG team with active involvement of staff from the Yucca Valley Community Services department, Parks and Recreation staff, Public Works, elected and appointed officials, and community participation.

Information used in this document was gathered from several resources including federal, state, county and town documents and materials supplied by Yucca Valley staff, the Internet and through primary research conducted by the MIG team. The MIG team with the assistance of town staff also

made several site visits in and around the Town of Yucca Valley.

In addition, community input was solicited through public workshops, in-person interviews, a telephone survey, community task force meetings and feedback from a local radio call in program “Up Close” broadcast on Z107.7.

### 1.3 Public Involvement

In order to gain feedback from the community, several forums were employed to engage the public in the process.

Three community workshops were held at which participants were asked to give their opinions on needed facilities, programs or services.

A telephone survey was conducted among the residents of Yucca Valley, the results of which are reported in Chapter 6.

In person and telephone interviews with key stakeholders were conducted in order to understand the direction community leaders feel the Town is or should be headed in the future.

Questionnaires were circulated to community service groups for their insight into their particular views about the Town’s future needs.

Several community task forces were formed to provide information about the needs of special interest groups including the business community, equestrians, youth and adult sports organizations, dog park proponents, and environmental groups, to name a few.

The variety of tools used to gain information for this document enabled the team to get a balanced and wide range of outlooks and opinions on which to base its recommendations for the future direction of Yucca Valley.

Meeting reports and workshop results can be found in *Appendix C*.

### 1.4 Report Organization

This Master Plan is designed to lead the reader through the process the team used to make its findings.

The first chapter sets the stage for the path the team took in assembling information contained within these pages.

Chapter Two gives an overview of the Town location, demographics, context and profile which forms the basis for the future growth of the Town.

Chapters Three, Four and Five report on the current conditions of existing recreation and cultural facilities, parks and programs, which gives the Town a measurement of where to begin to meet the needs of its residents.

Chapter Six summarizes and highlights key information gained from the several public input tools employed by the team to determine the needs of the community.

In Chapter Seven, the Plan examines and evaluates the state of the Town's current land dedication and fee ordinances for potential changes and improvements.

Chapters Eight and Nine provide a practical roadmap for the Town by making recommendations for future development, proposing policies and goals, and recommending implementation strategies to make those goals a reality.

Following the body of the document are the Appendices which contains materials referenced throughout the Master Plan, including a glossary of terms, original forms and questionnaires submitted to individuals and groups, unedited input from the various workshops, presentation materials, telephone survey results, plus more.

The complete telephone survey results will be presented as a separate document due to its size.





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**CHAPTER 2: PLANNING CONTEXT**



## 2.0 – PLANNING CONTEXT

### 2.1 Regional Context

Yucca Valley is a Southern California high desert community (elevation 3,300 ft.) in San Bernardino County that lies conveniently between the San Bernardino Mountains and the Joshua Tree National Park. Located about 25 minutes from Palm Springs, the town is characterized by moderate temperatures, clean air and amazingly starry nights. Situated on State Highway 62 where it is intersected by State Highway 247, Yucca Valley is the hub of the Morongo Basin communities and a host of recreational opportunities and tourist attractions. The community is a frequent stop for travelers en route to the Colorado River vacation destinations.

With its rich western and mining heritage, Yucca Valley has maintained its small town atmosphere while experiencing recent residential and commercial growth. Voters approved incorporation in 1991 and the community has thrived ever since.



### 2.2 Service Area

The Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department primarily provides facilities and recreation services for residents of Yucca Valley. However, the actual service area extends beyond the town's limits due to the fact that there are

no park and recreation agencies providing facilities and services comparable to the Town of Yucca Valley in Morongo Valley, Joshua Tree, and the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County adjacent to the Town.

*Exhibit 2.1* is a map of the Town of Yucca Valley showing the Town limits as well as the surrounding areas that utilize the Community Service Department facilities and programs.

## 2.3 Demographic Characteristics

A quick look at the Town of Yucca Valley shows a current population of approximately 25,500 people. Future residential development will ultimately increase the population to around 60,000.

The male and female distribution is approximately 49% male and 51% female. The median age in Yucca Valley is 41 years of age, which is older than the national average of 36 years.

The number of persons five years of age or younger makes up 7% and the number of persons 6 to 17 makes up 15% of the Town’s population. This is the same as both the state and national average for under five population, which is approximately 7% and slightly higher than the state and national average of 11% for 6 to 17 year olds.

The population between the ages of 18 to 65 makes up 58% of the population and the remaining 20% are senior citizens, which is higher than the 12% national average.

The approximate population distribution by age currently looks like this:

Children 5 or under:	2,000
Youth 6 to 17:	4,000
Adults 18-65:	14,500
Seniors 65 and over:	5,000

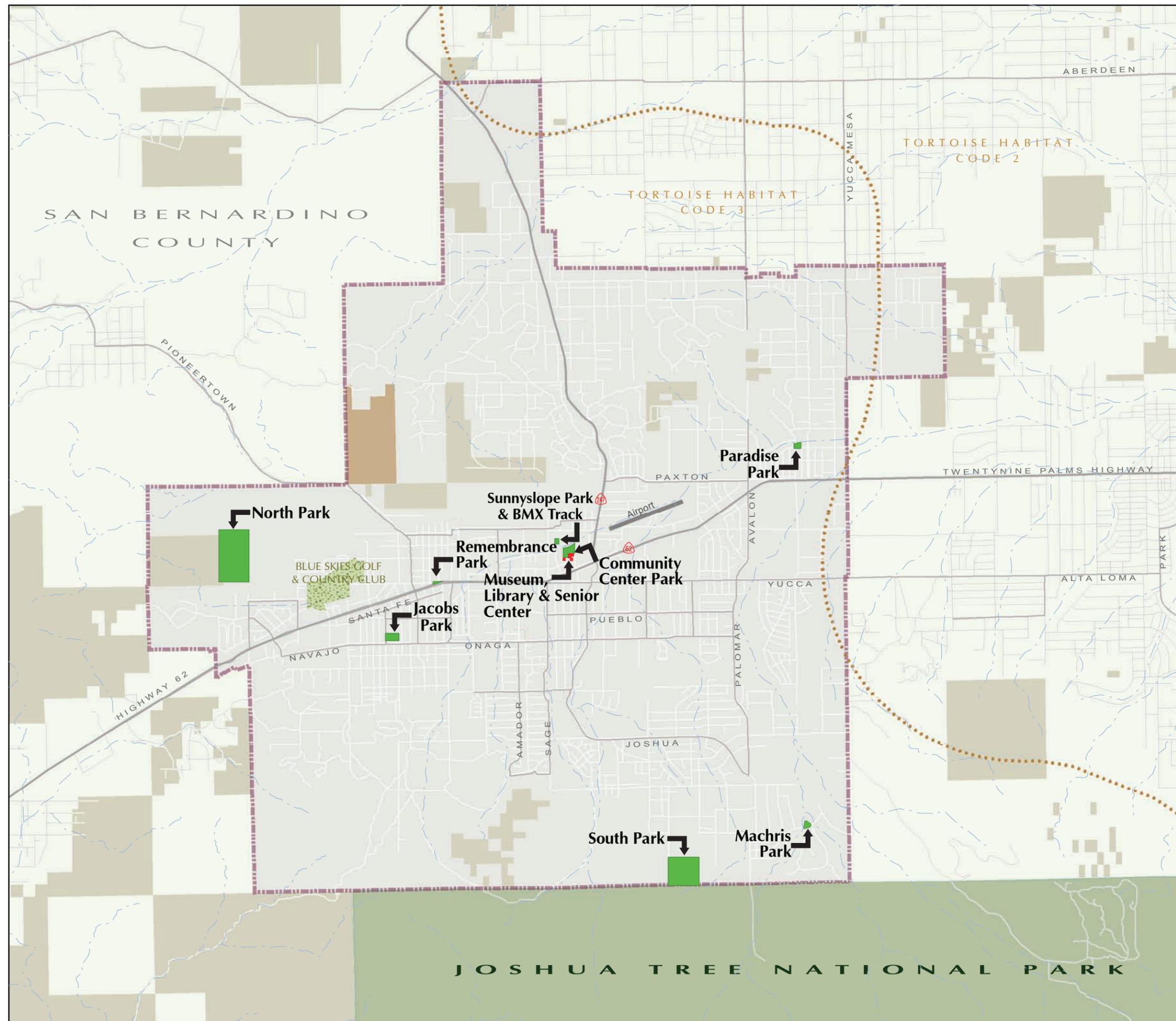
The number of both youth and seniors is projected to grow larger as new residential development is designed to attract young families and senior citizens.



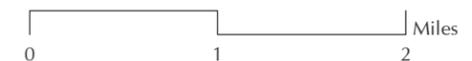
# Park & Recreation Master Plan

Town of Yucca Valley, California

## Existing Parks, Recreation Areas and Facilities Exhibit 2.1



-  Facilities
-  Park Land
-  Golf Course
-  Joshua Tree National Park
-  US Bureau of Land Management
-  State Lands Commission
-  Tortoise Habitat Boundary
-  City Limits
-  Highway
-  Major Roads
-  Intermittent Streams / Rivers



## Yucca Valley, California



MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN, INC.

December 2007



According to the U.S. Census, the average household size in 2005 was 2.4 persons per household. However, the average family size was 3.0.

There are approximately 8,000 current housing units in Yucca Valley.

Owner-occupied housing makes up about 70% of the households, and rental-occupied housing makes up the remaining 30% of the households.

The percentage of owner-occupied housing units is right in line with the national average for cities with a population the size of Yucca Valley, and so are the renter-occupied housing units.

Thirteen percent of the population in Yucca Valley has a four-year college degree or higher. This is lower than the national average of 27% with a four-year college degree or higher for cities with a population the size of Yucca Valley.

Fifty-six percent of the population is married, and 10% of the population speak a language other than English at home.

In the labor force the average travel time to work is 29 minutes. This means that the average worker in Yucca Valley spends approximately one hour a day traveling to and from work.

The median family income in 2005 was \$37,000 and the per capita income in 2005 was \$18,000. This indicates that a significant number of families have more than one income in the household.

## 2.4 Demographic Trends

In the coming years national trends in the perception of the environment, socio-economics, technology, and in urban development will affect the need for and use of recreation and park recreation facilities. In 2004 the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed a list of trends which will cause the greatest impact on local agencies planning for recreational facilities. The NRPA's list of pertinent trends that will affect the Town of Yucca Valley's

planning efforts for developing recreation facilities and programs are as follows:

- ◆ A greater need for walking and biking on trails, sidewalks, within parks and along streets, and utility corridors.
- ◆ Collaboration between parks and schools to share construction, development, and use of lands and facilities.
- ◆ Preventive recreation, that is, recreation as an antidote for social problems.
- ◆ Recreation for groups limited by income, physical disability, language, or cultural barriers.
- ◆ Collaboration among program and facility providers, partnering and cooperation between public, private, and non-profit sectors, especially cultural organizations.
- ◆ Family recreation centers (Intergenerational Campuses) that offer a variety of services for each family member.
- ◆ Pressure to increase park capacity and infrastructure of existing parks and concern for adequate maintenance.
- ◆ Community volunteering opportunities, such as adopt a park projects, friends of the parks groups, and park watch programs.
- ◆ Increased demand for Tiny-Tot and Pre-School programs and activities.
- ◆ Protective measures for open space.
- ◆ Provision for aquatics programs and water safety instruction.
- ◆ Provision for Senior Citizen programs and Activities.
- ◆ The need for financial sustainability in order to deliver quality recreation services and facilities.

In addition to these national trends, the future socio-demographic make up of Yucca Valley will also influence the planning for recreation and parks.

In summary, planning for recreation services and park facilities should take into account the following:

- ◆ The Town is primarily a working class community with limited discretionary income
- ◆ It is desirous of protecting its “small town atmosphere” and is concerned about too much growth
- ◆ Residents want to protect their open space and environment, including Joshua Tree National Park
- ◆ The Town is increasing in population, especially in family residential and senior citizens. (See *Chapter 6* for a more detailed demographic analysis.)





town of  
yucca valley

parks & recreation master plan update

## CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES



## 3.0 – EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES

### 3.1 – Introduction

This Chapter provides a description of the Town’s existing parks and recreation resources. This includes maps showing the locations of the Town’s parks and schools, the Park Amenities Inventory, along with an overview of recreation facilities offered by other organizations for the community.

The Community Services Department currently oversees the use of six built parks and recreation areas and two undeveloped open spaces encompassing more than 174 acres within the Town limits. These sites range in size from 80 acres to 0.2 acres and offer a variety of passive and active recreation opportunities including organized sports, informal play, hiking, picnicking or group gatherings. (See *Exhibit 2.1 – Existing Parks, Recreation Areas and Facilities* and *Exhibit 3.1 Existing Schools*.)

### 3.2 Park Land Definitions

In order to address specific planning needs for park, open space, and recreational areas, park classifications have been used. Each park class provides a distinct type of recreational opportunity. The ideal community park system is made up of several different types or classifications of parks. Design guidelines for each park type are found in Section 4.3. The classification system used in this document is as follows:

Neighborhood Parks: Neighborhood parks are designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size (3-15 acres) and serve people living within approximately one-half mile of the park. Since these parks are located within walking and bicycling distance of most users, the activities they offer serve the entire neighborhood, including children. Typical facilities found in a neighborhood park include: playgrounds, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use open grass areas for practice field sports.

Community Parks: A community park (15-40 acres) is planned primarily to provide active and structured recreation opportunities for young people and adults. Community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Community parks can also provide indoor facilities to meet a wider range of recreation interests. Community parks serve a much larger area and offer more facilities. As a result, they require more support facilities, such as parking, restrooms, and covered play areas. Community parks usually have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park. Their service area has roughly a 2-3 mile radius.

Regional Parks: Regional parks are large recreation areas designed to serve an entire region beyond the city limits. Often they are acquired to provide a specific and sometimes unique recreation opportunity. Most frequently they are owned and maintained by a County agency.

Special Use Areas: Special use areas are sites often occupied by a specialized recreation facility. Some uses that fall into this category include waterfront parks, boat ramps, botanical gardens, community gardens, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, or sites occupied by recreation buildings.

Natural Open Space: Natural open space is defined as undeveloped land primarily left in its natural form with recreation uses as a secondary objective. It is usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. This type of land may include wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered open space and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species.

Undeveloped Land: This land is undeveloped and has not yet been designated for a specific park use.

### 3.3 Inventory of Yucca Valley Park & Recreation Facilities

An inventory of park and recreation facilities for this Master Plan was developed using information provided by the Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department, from site visits by the MIG team, and from private and non-profit agencies that also provide recreation facilities and programs for the community. The Park Amenities Inventory is a matrix showing total amenities in each of the parks in the Town and total acreage for each park as well as additional facilities available through the schools, private, public or non-profit agencies.

Following the inventory is an overview of each Town park including an aerial or other photo identifying the site, a description of size, classification, development status, existing amenities, its overall condition and any proposed improvements.



**Town of Yucca Valley  
Park Amenities Inventory**

	Town Parks						Schools						Churches		Other Institutions				TOTAL OF ALL ORGS										
	North Park	Community Center Park	South Park	Machris Park	Sunnyslope	Jacobs Park	Paradise Park	Remembrance Park	TOTAL	Yucca Valley Elementary	YV High School	Onaga Elementary	Yucca Mesa Elementary	Sky High School	Joshua Springs Christian School	La Contenta Middle	TOTAL	Evangelical Free Church		Calvary Baptist	TOTAL	Joshua Tree National Park	Brehm Youth Sports Park	Boys & Girls Club	Tri-Valley Little League	TOTAL			
Acreage	80.0	22.2	40.0	12.0	10.0	5.0	5.0	0.2	174.4	15.1	37.6	16.4	3.8	29.0															
<b>Ball Field Sports</b>																													
Baseball Fields									0					1											1	1	2		
Baseball Fields-Junior									0																	1	1	2	
Football Field									0	1																	0	2	
Multipurpose Field	1								1																		0	2	
Rugby Field									0																		0	0	
Soccer Field									0														1				0	0	
Soccer Field, open space									0																		0	1	
Softball Fields									0					1												1	1	2	
Softball Fields w/ backstop	1		1						2																	1	0	3	
T-Ball Field							2	1	3																	1	1	4	
<b>Hard Court Sports</b>																													
Basketball Full Court	2								2				2		8												0	12	
Basketball Half Court				2		2	1		5																		0	5	
Handball Walls/Court									0																		0	0	
Tennis Courts						2			2				6														0	8	
Tetherball									0																		0	0	
Volleyball – Sand/Grass	1								1					1													0	2	
Volleyball Hard Court									0																		0	0	
<b>Buildings/Structures</b>																													
Amphitheater/Stage									0																		1	0	
Community Center	1								1																		0	1	
Computer Lab									0																		0	0	
Concession Bldg	1			1					2																		0	2	
Equipment/Storage Bldg.	1					1			2																		0	2	
Gymnasium									0	1				1													1	4	
Maintenance Building/Yard									0																		0	0	
Meeting Rooms	5					1	1		7																		0	8	
Neighborhood Center	1						1		1																		0	1	
Picnic Shelters - Family	1						1		2																		0	2	
Picnic Shelters - Group	1			1					3																		0	3	
Restroom Building	1			1					4																		0	4	
Senior Center	1								1																		0	1	
Dugouts, Bleachers	1					2			3					1												4	9		
Shade Coverings									0																		0	0	
Play Areas									0																		0	0	
Trash Enclosures	1						1		2																		0	2	
<b>Other/Passive Facilities</b>																													
Bike Path									0																			0	0
BMX Track					1				1																		0	1	
Campgrounds									0																		0	1	
Equestrian Facilities									0																		1	1	
Fishing Lake/Pond									0																		0	0	
Fitness Par Course									0																		0	0	
Frisbee Golf Course									0																		0	0	
Horseshoe Pit	3								3																		0	3	
Open Space Area	1	1	1						3																		0	3	
Dog Park									0																		0	0	
Shuffleboard Court									0																		0	0	
Skatepark	1								1																		0	1	
Splash/Water Play									0																		0	0	
Sump/Lake									0																		0	0	
Swimming pool									0																		0	0	
Trails	x								0																		0	0	
<b>Furnishings/Amenities</b>																													
BBQ - Group	2								0																			0	0
BBQ w/sinks									2	2																		0	2
BBQs	2								4	4	1																	0	4
Benches	8								11																			0	11
Bicycle Racks/Lockers	1								8																			0	8
Drinking Fountains ADA	1								4	1	1																	0	4
Drinking Fountains non/ADA	2								2																			0	2
Picnic Tables	10			4					18																			0	18
Picnic Tables – ADA Access	5								14	3	6																	0	14
Security Lighting	y								0	y	y																	0	0
Signage – Info, Direct, Monument	8	2	1						3	1	1	1																0	3
Trash Receptacles	2								24	8	4	1																0	24
Vending Machine	2								2																			0	2
Walkways - Concrete/A.C.	x								0																			0	0
<b>Playground Facilities</b>																													
Tot Lot (2 to 5 years)				1		1	1		3																			0	3
Tot Lot (2 to 5 years) w/ADA compliant structure	1								1																			0	1
Tot Lot (5-12 years)									1																			0	1
Tot Lot (5-12 years) w/ADA compliant structure	1								1																			0	1
<b>Parking Facilities</b>																													
Parking Lot - lighted	1								3																			0	3
Parking Lot - unlighted	1			1																									



# COMMUNITY CENTER PARK

built in 1973



Size:	22.2 Acres
Address:	57090 Twentynine Palms Highway
Classification:	Community Park
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	Community Center w/meeting rooms; Library; Senior Center; large parking lot; softball field with turf outfield, 2 sets of bleachers; 2 full lighted basketball courts; covered group picnic shelter w/3 ADA tables and 4 non ADA tables; 2 BBQs; 2 sinks; 1 non ADA drinking fountain; lighted sand volleyball court; 9-element skatepark; 2-5 & 5-12 accessible tot lots; swings; turf multi-use open space; family picnic shelter; 3 horseshoe pits; doggie waste stations; grass area near playground; restroom bldg. The site is also the location of Town Hall, the Hi Desert Nature Museum, and a public safety substation.
Conditions:	Facilities well-maintained and clean; turf areas very well kept; skatepark needs improvement; picnic shelter needs upgrading and more ADA tables needed.
Planned Improvements:	Complex redesign recommended.

## MACHRIS PARK

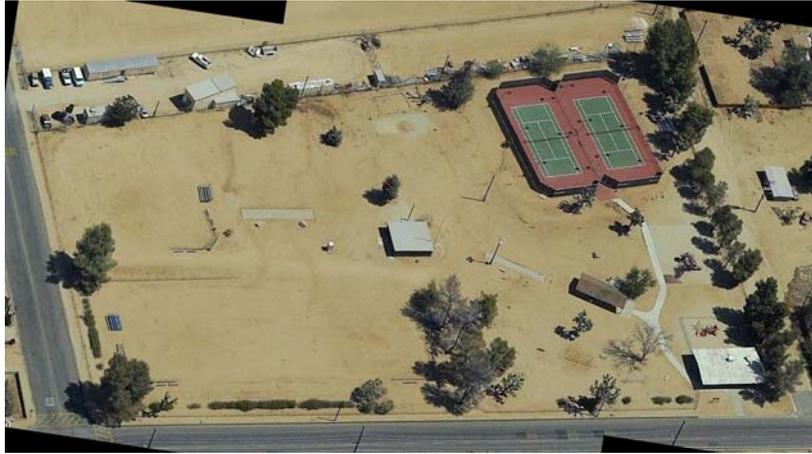
built prior to 1970



Size:	12 Acres
Address:	59100 Santa Barbara Drive
Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	26 parking spaces + 3 ADA; restroom/concession bldg.; tot lot and swings; fenced and lighted softball field w/turf outfield; group picnic shelter, drinking fountains, doggie waste station, community meeting room
Conditions:	Well-maintained grounds; tot lot surface filled with wood chips needs ADA upgrading
Planned Improvements:	No improvements planned at this time

## JACOBS PARK

built prior to 1970



Size:	5 Acres, leased from Morongo Unified School District
Address:	55680 Onaga Trail
Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	Dirt ball fields with 2 backstops; group picnic shelter w/3 ADA tables; 4 non-ADA picnic tables in open area; 2 BBQs; 1 ADA drinking fountain; restroom bldg.; 2-5 tot lot on sand base; 5-12 tot lot on sand base; 2 basketball half-courts; 2 fenced lighted tennis courts; shuffle board court; small meeting room/bldg.; small parking lot
Conditions:	Clean and well kept; no turf; little shade; entire park needs ADA upgrading; adjacent to Yucca Valley Elementary school
Planned Improvements:	Two additional lighted tennis courts planned

## PARADISE PARK

first phase built prior to 1970



Size:	5 Acres
Address:	58938 Barron Drive
Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	small parking lot; security lighting; basketball half-court; picnic shelter w/2 tables; 2 BBQs; 4 permanent picnic tables; restroom; recreation building; backstop with dirt t-ball field and 4 benches; 2-5 tot lot with partial ADA access; high/low drinking fountain; swings
Conditions:	Well-maintained; sparse landscaping and trees; large unimproved areas with little shade and no turf; needs ADA accessibility improvements.
Planned Improvements:	No improvements planned at this time

# SOUTH PARK



acquired circa 1960

Size:	40 Acres, on patent from Bureau of Land Management
Address:	End of Black Rock Canyon Road
Classification:	Natural area
Status:	Undeveloped
Existing Facilities:	Trail head with .7 mile loop trail; 2 benches; 8 dirt parking spaces
Conditions:	Un-maintained
Planned Improvements:	No improvements planned at this time

## REMEMBRANCE PARK

originally built prior to 1970, re-constructed 1995



Size:	.2 Acres
Address:	Highway 62 at Yucca Trail and Apache Trail
Classification:	Mini Park (landscaped island)
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	Pathway; veterans memorial; saber tooth tiger sculpture; flagpole
Conditions:	Well-maintained landscape and hardscape
Planned Improvements:	No improvements planned at this time

## SUNNYSLOPE PARK

acquired in 1994



Size:	10.53 Acres
Address:	Sunnyslope Drive at Sage Avenue
Classification:	BMX Track and undeveloped park area
Status:	2.53 Acres Developed; 8 Acres Undeveloped
Existing Facilities:	Fenced BMX track with bleachers, snack bar, and announcer booth. Thirty dirt parking spaces
Conditions:	Well-maintained
Planned Improvements:	No improvements planned at this time

## NORTH PARK

acquired for local use prior to 1970



Size:	80 Acres on patent from Bureau of Land Management
Address:	Near the terminus of Fairway Drive
Classification:	Open Space
Status:	Undeveloped, rustic hiking trail
Existing Facilities:	None
Conditions:	Natural, access rights under review
Planned Improvements:	No improvements planned at this time

### 3.4 Facilities and Services Provided by Others

In addition to the facilities offered by the Town of Yucca Valley, federal and county agencies along with private and non-profit groups provide recreation facilities, activities and programs to local residents. These programs and facilities sometimes offer unique recreation experiences for participants or visitors to the area.

#### **Joshua Tree National Park**

Running along the southern boundary of the Town of Yucca Valley is the 794,000 acre Joshua Tree National Park which boasts approximately 1.4 million visitors per year. Cared for and maintained by the National Park Service, the park offers year-round interest for hikers, rock climbers, equestrians,

campers, birders, photographers, biologists, naturalists and fun seekers from around the world.

**County of San Bernardino**

Yucca Valley is surrounded by unincorporated County land, some of which is protected habitat for endangered flora and fauna such as the desert tortoise and Joshua Trees which conservationists and environmentalists are keen to preserve and study. These same remote locations also attract those who like riding off road vehicles.

The County of San Bernardino also runs a public library located at the Community Center complex.

**Public Schools**

The Morongo Unified School District (MUSD), with headquarters located in neighboring Twentynine Palms, provides K-12 public education to nearly 9,300 students throughout the Morongo Basin. The MUSD runs five\* schools in the Town of Yucca Valley; they are listed in the table below. (See *Exhibit 3.1: Existing Schools.*) (\*Yucca Mesa Elementary School is not within Town limits, but serves some of the Yucca Valley population.)

**MUSD Schools In Yucca Valley**

School	Education Level
Yucca Valley Elementary School 7602 Hopi Trail	K-6
Yucca Mesa Elementary School 3380 Avalon Road	K-6
Onaga Elementary School 58001 Onaga Trail	K-6
La Contenta Middle School 7050 La Contenta Road	7-8
Sky Continuation High School 59273 Sunnyslope Drive	
Yucca Valley High School 7600 Sage Avenue	9-12

## Colleges and Universities

Several higher educational campuses are within a two hour drive of Yucca Valley. The closest campus is Copper Mountain College in the adjacent community of Joshua Tree. Copper Mountain College, founded in 1966, is a member of the California Community Colleges and has its own district.

The college offers transfer curricula, two-year degrees and certificate programs in 24 fields of study. It operates on a semester system with sessions in fall, spring, and summer. Though its main campus is in Joshua Tree, it also operates satellite campuses in various locations.

There are two California State University campuses within an hour's drive from Yucca Valley: San Bernardino and its rapidly developing extension campus in Palm Desert. The University of California, Riverside campus is also within 70 miles. Transfer credits can be applied from Copper Mountain College to four-year degrees at these universities.

## Local Nonprofit Organizations

Three local non-profit entities have developed recreational facilities in the area of Palm Avenue and Little League Drive. The facilities vary in purpose, but all contribute to meeting the public's recreational needs.

The Boys & Girls Club of Yucca Valley has played an active role in the lives of local children since the early 1980's. Its gymnasium and meeting rooms are a well-used resource to the community. The Club provides a well-attended after-school program during the week as well as a summer youth program. Through an annual agreement, the Town of Yucca Valley has use of the facility during off-peak times for a boxing program, youth basketball league, and other occasional activities and events.

The Brehm Youth Sports Park is a multi-use athletic field maintained by the Youth Sports Park Coalition and the Town of Yucca Valley. This sports park hosts organized and informal soccer and softball play.

Pop Rauch Park is owned and operated by Tri-Valley Little League, one of the few such organizations in the country that

owns their own facilities. The park consists of a baseball field, a junior baseball field, a softball field and a t-ball field. The site also has restrooms, a snack bar, batting cages, bleachers and parking. Pop Rauch Park is the home of all local Little League and T-Ball games and some regional tournaments.

The softball field at Calvary Baptist Church is used for practice and game play by local leagues, however, the Calvary Baptist Church field is rarely, if ever, available for public use. The gym at the Evangelical Free Church hosts several town events during the year. The Community Services Department also rents space at the Evangelical Free Church gymnasium for youth basketball leagues. However, this facility is not available for drop in public use. The Town's recreation program also rents space in the Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel gym when available and the La Contenta Middle School multi-purpose room for its youth basketball program.

### 3.5 Conclusions

The overall impression of Yucca Valley Park facilities is that they are maintained at a high level and have a neat and clean appearance. Despite a comment from maintenance staff that there is a problem with vandalism and graffiti, it is apparent that these occurrences are dealt with quickly.

It is evident that all the parks are showing their age in terms of level of equipment, amenities and compliance with ADA accommodation.

Because Yucca Valley is located in the high desert both the residents and Town official have a strong concern about water usage. However, there are also issues with regard to providing public green spaces and shelter from the sun during warm season months. Both those issues must be given equal weight in making recommendations regarding upgrading or improving existing facilities.

Recommendations regarding existing facilities are covered in detail in Chapter 9.





# Park & Recreation Master Plan

Town of Yucca Valley, California

## Existing Schools Exhibit 3.1

- High School
- Elementary School
- Park Land
- Golf Course
- Joshua Tree National Park
- US Bureau of Land Management
- State Lands Commission
- Tortoise Habitat Boundary
- City Limits
- Highway
- Major Roads
- Intermittent Streams / Rivers



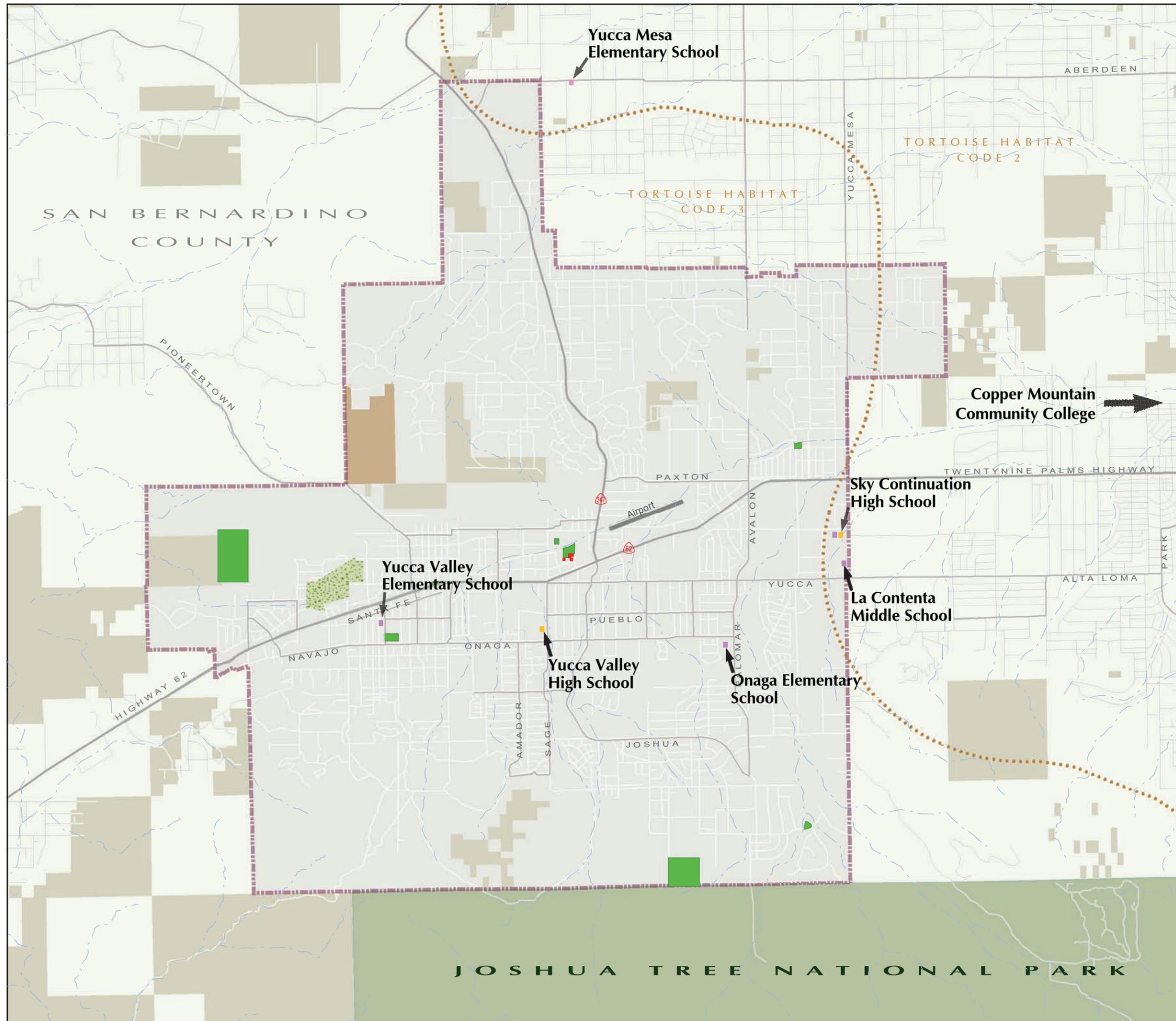
0 1 2 Miles

## Yucca Valley, California



MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN, INC.

November 2007







town of  
yucca valley

parks & recreation master plan update

## CHAPTER 4: RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



## 4.0 – RECREATION ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### 4.1 Introduction

Yucca Valley residents enjoy a variety of recreation activities, programs and services. The Town along with various nonprofit organizations and community groups offer many recreation pursuits to the community. Neighboring areas provide regional and national recreation opportunities such as the Joshua Tree National Park. Human and social services are offered through local nonprofits along with Town, County and State offices.

This section summarizes the recreation program analysis which included a review of the current level of recreation program and services offered by the Town of Yucca Valley Recreation Division, program needs assessment and demographic trends analysis. Recommendations to address the identified recreation program needs are included at the end of this section.

### 4.2 Recreation Benefits

In addition to residents having access to recreation facilities, trails and open spaces, the availability of a wide range of recreation programs and leisure opportunities is a major component to the quality of life in any community. Recreation programs benefit individuals, families, businesses, neighborhoods and households of all ages, income levels, cultures and abilities by creating environments that engage people in positive activities. Recreation programs and services that have been developed, designed and delivered effectively can provide the following benefits:

- ◆ Unique sense of place
- ◆ Sense of belonging
- ◆ Healthy lifestyles
- ◆ Advance lifelong learning
- ◆ Professional growth
- ◆ Safety and security
- ◆ Youth development

- ◆ Strong family units
- ◆ Cultural unity
- ◆ Economic development
- ◆ Environmental stewardship
- ◆ Fun and celebration

Recreation pursuits normally provided by public recreation agencies range from organized pursuits such as sports, classes, youth activities, family programming and community events, to more passive endeavors such as picnics, hiking, bicycling, and walking. Effective recreation programs promote the constructive use of leisure time and a lifelong commitment to a healthy lifestyle, personal development and a strong community.

During the community outreach effort, Yucca Valley residents identified the most important benefits of recreation programs and facilities that support the quality of life in Yucca Valley:

- ◆ Building stronger families and sense of community
- ◆ Promoting security and safety
- ◆ Involving people in the community
- ◆ Ensuring open space is maintained and increased
- ◆ Creating opportunities that increase fitness and wellness for all residents
- ◆ Programs for all age groups

### **Role of Parks and Recreation**

The Town of Yucca Valley is committed to the delivery of quality, affordable and accessible recreation programs. In general, the Town sees its role as a direct provider of recreation programs and services. The Town collaborates with local sports organizations to deliver a variety of outstanding, quality sports programs, leagues and tournament play. These non-profit sports organizations serve thousands of Yucca Valley and surrounding area children annually in sports, including soccer, Little League baseball, football,

basketball, etc. The opportunity to play a larger role as a facilitator or partner in the delivery of services is somewhat limited as a result of the few non-profit organizations in the area.

There is, however, the possibility of partnering with the Yucca Valley Boys & Girls Club to expand the recreation and leisure activities delivery system.

As is the case with most municipal recreation departments, Yucca Valley does employ the efficient and effective practice to provide many of their special interest classes through contractual arrangements with local instructors or private businesses, such as Jazzercise, Stretch-N-Tone, Tai Chi Chuan, Wood Carving, Sewing, Western Line Dance, Art Workshops, Language Classes, Music Lessons, Gardening, Yoga, and Dog Obedience.

The types of recreation programs and activities offered by the Town of Yucca Valley are determined through customer interest; input from local users, residents and employees; and input from the Recreation and Parks Commission.

### 4.3 Existing Town Programs and Services

Programs are currently provided for targeted age groups, from pre-school through active adults and seniors. They are designed to serve a wide variety of needs and interests, including the arts, physical fitness, health, sports, dance, computers, academic support, field trips, and special interest workshops. In addition, very popular community events are provided throughout the year, as are seasonal activities, trips, and tours.

The Town's Recreation Division provides most recreation activities and programs at the current community center complex.

The High School is also utilized for programming activities in the gym and pool. Joint usage or provision of facilities by other agencies includes the Boys & Girls Club and community churches.

A wide variety of experiences and opportunities are available to the community through the programs and services provided by the Recreation Division.

While all recreation programs are open and accessible to any interested participants, specific recreation opportunities for residents with disabilities are not readily available at this time.

The most pressing program concern for the Town of Yucca Valley is the lack of programmable facilities and the need for program space due to the high volume of use in current facilities. Yucca Valley has not built or added any new recreation facilities for over 30 years, and the existing community center, senior center, museum, library, sports fields and neighborhood park facilities are at capacity. Thus, it is almost impossible to add new or expand existing programs and services. The new facilities recommended in Chapter 9 are desperately needed in order to meet future programming demands. Until new facilities are developed, staff can use the following recommendations and action items as guidelines when faced with the difficult decision of allocating facility space for program use.

An overview of the programs offered show that year-round programs and activities for youth include boxing, basketball, baseball, flag football, soccer, softball and tennis. Activities that provide socialization and skill development opportunities such as leisure, arts and cultural and fitness classes are also offered all year. The aquatic programs are very popular with people of all ages, however, they are limited to summer months as the Town does not have a year-round aquatic facility. Swim lessons, water fitness, lap swim and recreation swim make up the existing program offerings.

Drop-in programs are offered every day at the Paradise Park Center. There is no charge for children to participate in arts and crafts, movies, and indoor and outdoor activities. A game room with a pool table, ping pong table, air hockey and other activities make this a safe and desirable place for youth to hang out.

Teen programs are also available for a nominal cost, including dances at the Yucca Valley High School pool.

Free after school programs are available for children in grades K-6 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays at Jacobs and Paradise Parks.

Summer Day Camp, Summer Music Festival and Sizzlin' Summer Fun provide community summer activities. Other annual events include Grubstake Days, the Town Anniversary Celebration, Shakespeare Under the Moon, the Buzzard 8k/15k Run, Full Moon and Grubstake Runs, the Old Town Light Parade and Holiday Concerts. Family events for all major holidays are well attended throughout the year.

Yucca Valley Recreation staff produces four quarterly Activity and Events Guides each year to promote recreation activities and services and provide residents with valuable community information by serving as a community resource guide.

### **Hi-Desert Nature Museum**

In addition to offering recreation activities and services, Town staff also manages the Hi-Desert Nature Museum. More than 28,000 visitors attend programs and activities on an annual basis at the museum. The facility houses temporary and permanent exhibits designed to offer attendees a wealth of information about the history, art, culture and natural wonders of the area. The museum also provides meeting space for the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council which gathers every other month.

Special events such as Earth Day draw crowds of 2,000 strong from around the Morongo Basin. A Brown Bag Lecture Series brings in speakers on topics of special interest for residents twice a month during the summer.

### **Boys & Girls Club of the Hi Desert**

Traditional drop in programs are offered at the Club Monday through Friday. Homework assistance and a place to study are also provided. The Club is the home of the Yucca Valley Boxing Club.

### **Other Recreation Activity Opportunities**

Youth soccer leagues are offered August through November by the Morongo Valley Youth Soccer Association.

Tri Valley Little League offers a family oriented program for children ages 4 through 16. Baseball, girls softball and T-ball programs and leagues are available for residents February through June.

Hi Desert Aquatics/Sandsharks Swim Team provides training and competitive swim opportunities for children ages 4-18 years. The season runs April through August.

Bicycle motocross racing is held at the Coyote BMX Track Mondays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m.

Gymnastics programs are held at the Yucca Valley Gymnastics Training Center. Classes are offered for children ages three and older all year-round and include artistic gymnastics, trampoline and tumbling.

The following is a broad description of the types of recreation activities available in Yucca Valley by age group:

## **YOUTH**

- ◆ Sports leagues, classes, tournaments and clinics – amateur boxing, BMX bike track, basketball, baseball, flag football, gymnastics, soccer, swimming, tennis and volleyball
- ◆ Special interest classes – art, science, crafts, dance, music, fitness and self defense
- ◆ Drop in programs – fitness, basketball, pool, air hockey, and ping pong
- ◆ Day camps- summer and during holiday breaks
- ◆ Homework assistance
- ◆ Swim lessons and recreation swim

## **TEENS**

- ◆ Dances and drop in programs
- ◆ Special interest classes
- ◆ Homework assistance and other special interest activities

## **ADULTS**

- ◆ Sports leagues, tournaments and classes – basketball, horseshoes, slow pitch softball and tennis
- ◆ Fitness classes – aerobics, Jazzercise, and stretch and tone
- ◆ Special interest classes – dance, dog obedience, arts and crafts, self defense and sewing
- ◆ Excursions and day trips
- ◆ Literacy classes

## **SENIORS**

- ◆ Daily nutrition program and homebound meals
- ◆ Bingo and card games
- ◆ Excursions

## **4.4 Program Needs Assessment**

A number of tools were used in gathering information from residents regarding their recreation needs and wants. The data derived from the public input process were the foundation upon which the program analysis and recommendations were developed and included the methods explained below.

### **Community Outreach**

Information gathered from Yucca Valley residents and stakeholders through a variety of methods, including: a series of three workshops; workshop participant questionnaires; focus groups; stakeholder interviews; community organization questionnaires; radio call-in show, on-site interviews at existing park locations, receipt of correspondence from interested parties, and a sports organization survey.

### **Townwide Telephone Survey**

A telephone survey provided current, statistically valid information specific to Yucca Valley regarding detailed information of the types of recreation facilities and programs most often used by Yucca Valley residents.

In addition to the community outreach effort, the current and future demographic composition of the Town was analyzed. Demographic trends were obtained through a variety of resources that included national, state, regional and local demographics. Emerging and future population trends and their implications for parks and recreation for the Yucca Valley community were evaluated.

Trends, current program inventory, and enrollments were included in the overall analysis for the development of recommendations for programs and services.

### **Program Needs Summary**

*Exhibit 4.1* shows graphically which public input tools provided information to determine community demand for recreation and cultural programs. If a program or service was requested, mentioned as desirable to have or was indicated as a need in Yucca Valley it was noted and recorded. (The complete list of needs and demands can be found in *Appendix C*.) In an ideal world, if the Town wanted to provide every recreation and cultural program and service the community wanted, the Town could use this list to determine the programs and services to provide to the community which would satisfy just about everyone in Town.

However, due to space and financial limitations, the Town cannot practically deliver every program and service on the list and, therefore, needs a way to ascertain which requested programs and services are most desired and would serve the greatest needs in the community.

Consequently, the team used the list to provide a picture of the most requested areas of programming and services that came out of the public input process. The programs and/or services mentioned in five or more of the tools identifying demand were considered to be indicative of the community's most requested programs and services, because they appeared in a wide cross section of community input tools. This is not to say that programs and services that were identified in four or fewer of the tools are not important to the community and should not be considered for implementation, but if resources are limited, the programs and services that were

**Programs Requested from Public Input - Exhibit 4.1**

	Workshop # 1	Workshop # 2	Workshop # 3	Water Cooler Exercise	Stakeholder Interviews	Community Phone Survey	Community Questionnaires	Radio Call In Show	E-Mails & Letters	Town Staff Interviews	Sports Organization Surveys	Site Visit Intercepts	Total # of Tools Identifying Demand
<b>Aquatics</b>													
Swim Lessons	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	11
Recreational Swim	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	11
Splash/Water Play Pool	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	10
Zero Depth Entry Pool	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			9
Mommy & Me Swim	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x			8
Aquatic Birthday Parties	x	x	x	x	x		x			x			7
Competitive Swim	x		x	x	x		x			x			6
Lap Swimming			x	x						x			3
Water Polo			x	x						x			3
Water Exercise			x	x						x			3
Therapy Pool	x	x		x									3
Senior Citizen Water Exercise Classes			x										1
<b>Sports</b>													
Youth Soccer	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	12
Basketball	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	10
Tennis	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	10
Baseball	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x		8
Softball	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x		8
Off Road Vehicle Park	x	x	x		x	x	x			x		x	8
Youth Football	x	x	x	x	x					x	x		7
BMX	x	x	x		x					x		x	6
Skateboarding	x	x	x							x		x	5
Adult Soccer		x	x		x					x			4
Boxing		x	x		x					x			4
Golf			x		x	x	x						4
Rock Climbing	x		x	x	x								4
Gymnastics		x				x				x			3
Cross Country	x				x					x			3
Volleyball	x		x							x			3
Horseshoes	x	x								x			3
Lawn Bowling	x	x	x										3
Par Course/Obstacle Fitness Course			x				x					x	3
Track	x				x								2
Shuffleboard		x											1
Paint Ball												x	1
Laser Tag												x	1
<b>Extreme Sports</b>													
<b>Community Events</b>													
Festivals	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	10
Concerts	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	10
Art Fairs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	10
Expositions	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	10
Holiday Events	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x			8
Outdoor Movie Nights	x	x	x		x		x	x		x			7
Starry Nights	x	x	x		x								4
Farmers Market			x	x	x								3
Environmental Events	x		x				x						3
Memorial Programs		x			x								2
<b>Youth Programs</b>													
Youth Fitness Programs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	11
Children's Play Equipment	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	11
Boys & Girls Club Programs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	10
After School Programs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			10
Tiny Tots Pre School Program	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			9
Kids Craft Classes	x	x	x	x	x	x				x			7
Kids Dance Classes	x	x	x	x	x	x				x			7
Parent & Baby Exercise Classes	x		x				x			x			4
Church Youth Programs				x			x			x			3
Kids Gymnastics	x	x								x			3
<b>Teen Programs</b>													
Safe Place for Teens to Hang Out	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					8
Equestrian Activities	x	x	x		x		x	x				x	7
Teen Dances	x	x			x		x	x		x			6
Teen Dance Lessons	x	x			x		x	x		x			6
Academic/Homework Assistance	x		x	x	x	x							5
Teen Concerts		x			x		x	x		x			5
Computer Lab				x	x		x	x					4
After School Drop In Programs		x	x		x					x			4

Town of Yucca Valley  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan

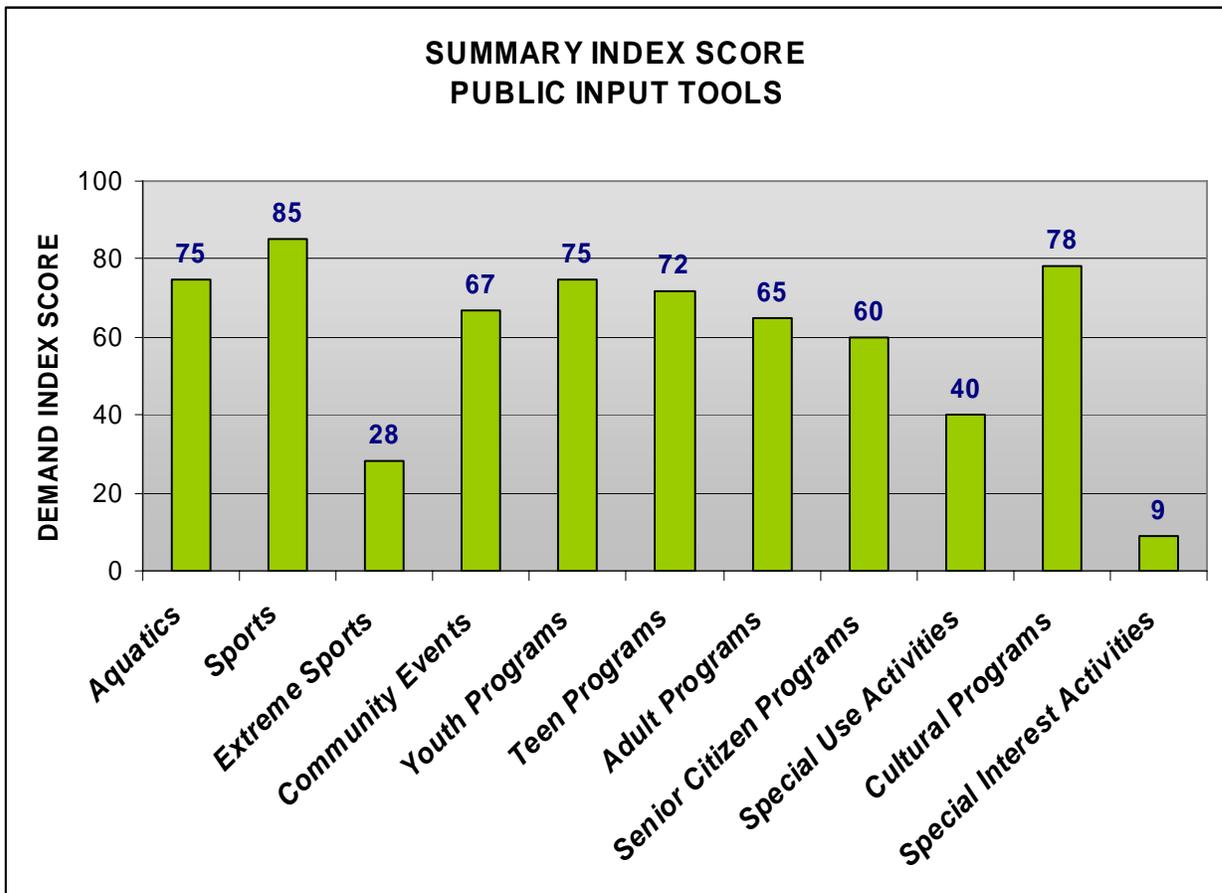
**Programs Requested from Public Input - Exhibit 4.1**

Teen Talent Shows	✗				✗	✗				✗			4
Gang Diversion Programs	✗		✗	✗	✗								4
Teen Fitness Programs	✗			✗	✗					✗			4
Scouting	✗	✗	✗		✗								4
4-H Club Programs	✗				✗		✗						3
Teen Environmental Activities	✗				✗								2
Special Needs Programs		✗		✗									2
Teen Employment Help Programs		✗			✗								2
Teen Transportation	✗			✗									2
<b>Adult Programs</b>													
Hiking	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗			9
Bicycling	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗					8
Off Road Activities	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗	✗		✗			8
Meeting Room Space/Clubs/Organizations	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗					✗			6
Aerobic Classes	✗	✗						✗		✗			4
Fitness Programs	✗			✗				✗		✗			4
Dance Lessons	✗			✗				✗		✗			4
Wellness Programs	✗			✗						✗			3
Jogging	✗			✗	✗								3
Yoga Classes	✗									✗			2
Arts & Crafts Classes	✗				✗								2
Golf Lessons					✗		✗						2
Self Defense for Women	✗				✗								2
Cooking Classes	✗												1
Sewing Classes	✗												1
Self Improvement Classes	✗												1
Music Lessons	✗												1
Photography	✗												1
Scrapbooking	✗												1
T'ai Chi	✗												1
Pilates	✗												1
<b>Senior Citizen Programs</b>													
Self Improvement Classes	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗					✗			6
Arts & Crafts Classes	✗		✗	✗	✗					✗			5
Indoor & Outdoor Lounge/Relaxing Area	✗	✗	✗		✗			✗					5
Dances	✗				✗					✗	✗		4
Dance Classes	✗		✗	✗	✗								4
Holiday Parties	✗		✗		✗								3
Excursions	✗		✗		✗								3
Weekly Movies	✗				✗					✗			3
Meals/Nutrition	✗				✗								2
Exercise Classes					✗					✗			2
Senior Transportation	✗				✗								2
Computer Training	✗				✗								2
Financial/Retirement/Investing Counseling					✗								1
Cards					✗								1
Pool Table					✗								1
Senior Employment Services					✗								1
Socializing Programs			✗										1
Music Classes	✗												1
Support Groups	✗				✗								1
Discussion Groups					✗								1
Singles Outings					✗								1
Bingo	✗				✗								1
Lawn Bowling	✗				✗								1
Guest Speakers					✗								1
Flu Shots					✗								1
Senior Expo					✗								1
Game Room					✗								1
Crafts Studio					✗								1
<b>Special Use Activities</b>													
Nature Trails	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗		10
Dog Parks	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗		✗		9
Equestrian Competition/Boarding	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗					7
Trail Rides	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗					7
Hiking Programs	✗	✗	✗		✗		✗						5
5K/10K Runs		✗		✗									2
<b>Cultural Programs</b>													
Museum Programs	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗		10
Library Programs	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗		10
Performing Arts	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗		9
Visual Arts	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗		9
Concerts	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗		9
Places to Perform	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗	✗		✗			8
Outdoor Education	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗			✗			7
Art in Public Places			✗	✗	✗		✗			✗	✗		6
Science Programs	✗	✗		✗	✗					✗			5
Places to Display	✗	✗	✗		✗		✗						5
<b>Special Interest Activities</b>													
Opportunities to Volunteer			✗	✗	✗	✗	✗						5
Adopt-A-Park Program			✗	✗	✗	✗				✗			4

most requested by the greatest cross section of input tools would naturally meet the greatest community demand.

The following graph provides a comparison of the demand for programs and services by program category. It was obvious during the public input process that the community identified certain program/service categories that they felt the Town should concentrate on when determining where programming resources are allocated. These categories were then used to organize the list of identified program demands. The total numbers of identifying tools were determined and an index score was developed to provide a comparison of requested programs/services.

Again, the purpose of this chart is to provide a graphic display of the most requested programs/services as a result of the community input process.



As indicated on the above graph, the community’s perception of the most needed program categories are: sports; aquatics; cultural programs; youth, teen, adult, senior citizen

programming; community events; followed by special use programs, extreme sports; and special interest programs.

## 4.5 Program Recommendations

Taking into consideration the above analysis of what programs and services the community deems important, the consultant team developed the following recommendations and action items (also included in Chapter 9 of the Master Plan) for the Town to consider when planning for future recreation and cultural programs and services.

They are presented by program/service category in order to address the concerns and input received during the community outreach and public input process. This method of presentation should allow the community to see that their desired areas of importance for programs and services will be met in the future.

### **Aquatics**

Aquatics programs are especially valued by the community. Currently, the only aquatic facility available for lessons, recreational swim and competitive programs is the swimming pool at Yucca Valley High School. This pool only operates during the summer months for community aquatic activities. The community is desirous of having a year-round full service aquatics complex for swim lessons, recreational swim, competitive swim, lap swimming, water polo, parent-child classes, and water exercise activities and for birthday parties.

The community also would like to have water play/splash pools located at either neighborhood or community parks.

### **Action Items**

- ◆ Continue with existing programming at the pool at Yucca Valley High School and strive to add additional aquatic programming in the areas of parent-child classes, water exercise, and recreational swim.
- ◆ Work with the School District, Boys & Girls Club and other interested agencies and organizations to insure that the design of a new aquatics facility proposed in the facilities recommendation section of the Master Plan

meets the community needs and demands for future lessons, recreational swim, competitive swim, and special interest aquatic programs like scuba lessons, kayaking instruction, etc.

## Sports

Sports fields and sports programs garnered the most number of requests and identified demand during the community outreach and public input process. For example, youth soccer was rated as a high priority need in the community with all 12 input indicators.

However, soccer was not the only requested sports activity. Youth baseball, youth basketball, youth football, as well as, boxing programs, softball, golf, gymnastics, and track were identified by the community as desired.

Expanding tennis programs was also a persistent theme throughout the public input process. Junior tennis leagues, junior instruction and tennis competitions were consistently requested.

It is evident that sports programming is very important to the community, not only for youth but for positive family involvement. The community equated youth sports activities as providing youth with self-esteem, a sense of purpose, instilling responsibility and providing for social interaction.

## Action Items

- ◆ Continue to collaborate with youth sports organizations to both encourage their development and expansion and to help them meet their field needs for both practice games and league competition.
- ◆ Continue to provide youth basketball and expand the program when additional facilities become available.
- ◆ As facilities permit continue to expand the opportunities for junior tennis including lessons, clinics, events and junior tennis league. Consider offering a tennis program for special needs youth including development of special needs tennis Olympics.

- ◆ As facilities permit increase the offerings for youth volleyball. Consider offering volleyball clinics prior to the volleyball season to introduce new participants to the sport.
- ◆ Work with the School District to expand both track and cross-country program offerings. Work to ensure that the design and implementation of the Townwide Trails Program will accommodate various configurations for cross-country meets.
- ◆ Consider establishing a Spring track meet for elementary aged youth preceded by workshops or clinics for track events.
- ◆ As facilities permit, work to establish a girls softball program either directly or through a community youth organization.
- ◆ Continue to collaborate with the Boys & Girls Club to expand their sports opportunities, particularly the youth boxing program.
- ◆ Work with the Boys & Girls Club to expand aquatic opportunities for low-income youth.
- ◆ Continue to collaborate with the School District to expand after-school sports activities for elementary school-age youth for flag football, volleyball, basketball, softball, and track.
- ◆ Continue to provide and seek gym space or underutilized commercial space to increase the number of classes and activities for tumbling, gymnastics, dance, and exercise programs for youth.
- ◆ Continue to provide opportunities for self-programmed recreation activities such as horseshoes, shuffleboard, ping-pong and other individual sports.
- ◆ Explore ways to offer both organized and drop-in sports programs for adults and seniors. Youth sports should have the priority for field and gym space, however, adult and senior sports should be initiated when space and time permit.

- ◆ Track the ongoing redevelopment of the Blue Skies Golf Course. Set a reasonable time limit to consider alternative actions presented in the Master Plan if the facility is not reopened for public play.

## Extreme Sports

In today's world of electronic games and media marketing, so-called "extreme sports" are very popular among both youth and young adults. Many extreme sports centers are being developed across the country and provide not only individual opportunity for participation but also outlets for families to join in these activities. Extreme sports include skateboarding, bicycle motor cross, rock climbing, paint ball, laser tag, par course/obstacle fitness courses, and off road vehicle parks.

During the community outreach and public input process, it became apparent that there is a high degree of participation and demand for extreme sports activities. Numerous cross sections of the community indicated that they currently drive great distances to facilities that offer extreme sports programming. Providing an opportunity to participate locally in such activities will satisfy a major segment of the community's recreation outlet needs.

## Action Items

- ◆ Continue to improve and expand the BMX course to meet the increasing demand for both informal and formal programming at the facility.
- ◆ Look for ways to provide "field trips" to off road vehicle parks particularly for youth and families who would like the opportunity to participate in off road activities in a group situation.
- ◆ Consider working with the Boys & Girls Club in developing an indoor rock climbing facility where instruction and clinics can be offered. Consider negotiating to provide a commercial rock climbing facility in town. Work with local rock climbing clubs to offer rock climbing field trips to Joshua Tree National Park.

- ◆ Look for ways to develop a par-course/obstacle fitness course either within an extreme sports park (see facilities recommendations) or along a designated off road trail where the area would be appropriate for such use.
- ◆ Consider the alternative of facilitating the commercial development of an extreme sports park that would include a paint ball course, laser tag, and other team challenge opportunities.

### **Community Events**

Yucca Valley and surrounding area residents benefit from a variety of community special events. These events have promoted a strong sense of place and a family friendly environment that is enjoyed by all Morongo Valley residents. Throughout the public input and community outreach process these events were pointed to with great pride.

Trends and surveys statewide indicate these events are extremely important in connecting people to their community, promoting safety and instilling a unique sense of place for residents. According to the California State Parks surveys done in 2002 and 2003 relative to outdoor participation rates of Californians, 82.6% had attended a local outdoor community event during the prior year. The public outreach process indicated that residents consider these events a very high priority and are interested in expanding them.

### **Action Items**

- ◆ Continue to expand and add community and population specific special events.
- ◆ Consider creating an intergenerational health and wellness event, with an emphasis on physical activities and nutritional education.
- ◆ Explore opportunities to expand environmental education events for families.
- ◆ When new show grounds and exhibition space are developed, work to create regional events that attract a wide variety of special interests.

- ◆ Continue to expand program offerings for concerts in the park and other outdoor events that cater to families, such as Farmers Markets, Art Fairs, local talent performances, movies, plays, hobby shows, etc.

## Youth Programs

Yucca Valley Recreation provides a wide array of youth activities. This age group would be characterized by those that are under 12 years. The trends indicate that this age group will continue to grow as the population grows. The philosophy of the Town is to provide enrichment and recreational activities rather than child care. The community will continue to attract residents with young families. It is anticipated that expansion of this area will be important in order to respond to this population trend.

## Action Items

- ◆ As space permits at the Museum and Library expand after school programming with an emphasis on social skills, the arts, environmental education, experiences and physical fitness.
- ◆ Continue to contract with and/or partner with individual instructors as well as private agencies to provide existing and new programs for youth at the community center.
- ◆ Provide more tiny tot programs that help preschoolers grow socially and as well as physically, while preparing them in concert with educational goals of the local schools.
- ◆ As space permits, expand parent/child programming.
- ◆ Integrate youth development strategies into the development, design, and delivery of youth programs and services.
- ◆ Expand youth programs and services with an emphasis on the following activities:
  - Aquatics
  - Sports
  - Academic and homework assistance

- The arts
- Civic involvement and volunteer opportunities
- ◆ Enhance interactive family programming, including intergenerational programs. Explore, expand and establish opportunities for youth to participate in the ongoing identification, development and delivery of programs, services and events.
- ◆ Continue to collaborate in the delivery of programs and services for youth, including special interest class instructors, private agencies and non-profit organizations (Boys & Girls Club).

### Teen Programs

Recreation programs that act as a deterrent to teen anti-social behavior was a prevalent theme throughout the community input process. Positive activities for teen participation, safe places for teens to socialize, and programs to provide physical outlets and competition all ranked high among the program demand identifying tools.

In addition, places for academic/homework assistance, computer labs, and employment help programs also ranked high among requests for teen activities.

Providing programs and outlets for Scouting, 4-H Clubs, equestrian activities, concerts, places to perform, and drop in programs were indicated as important areas for the Town to be involved. Teens have a variety of needs and interests. Some of these needs can be met by the Town providing direct programming while others can be met by providing facilities for community organizations and clubs to present programs and activities aimed at the teen population.

### Action Items

- ◆ Develop special events for this age group including the continuation and expansion of teen dances.
- ◆ Establish and expand programs and services for this age group on school sites as well as off school sites when possible during non-school hours. Program considerations include:

- Recreational sports
  - Aquatics experiences and lessons
  - Academic and homework assistance
  - Arts activities
  - Physical fitness and nutritional education
- ◆ Explore the creation of “extreme” sports programming that is of interest to youth in this age group, examples include laser tag and rock climbing.
  - ◆ Look for ways to develop mentoring and volunteer programs that provide opportunities for youth to mentor youth, business mentoring youth, and youth connecting with seniors.
  - ◆ Explore opportunities to expand excursion programs that provide highly interactive experiences for youth. An example identified in the community outreach included traveling to off-road recreation sites.
  - ◆ Work to establish a teen advisory group or committee to help design the amenities for a new teen center that would meet the programming needs for that age group.

## Adult Programs

A variety of activities are currently available for residents of 18 years and over in Yucca Valley. Physical fitness, the arts, excursions, community events, sports and dance are included in the menu of activities programmed through the Recreation Division for adults. This population group is projected to continue to grow with individuals many of whom will be employed outside of the area. Market reports as well as trends suggest that golf, swimming, walking, hiking, cooking, surfing the Internet, reading, and dining out are leisure time activities that will receive the highest rates of participation within this age group. The public outreach process suggested that adults 18 years and above are looking for programs that promote health and wellness, aquatics, intergenerational programs and the arts.

## Action Items

- ◆ Expand special interest classes with an emphasis on:
  - The arts
  - Environmental education and awareness
  - Physical fitness
  - Walking, bicycling and hiking
  - Aquatics activities
  - Reading/book clubs
  - Cooking classes
  - Financial planning
- ◆ Consider expanding the Town’s role to support and promote career and job development programs and services.
- ◆ To promote increased outreach and participation, consider increased “niche” marketing for the various target markets that exist in this age group.
- ◆ Expand physical fitness and all other health and wellness activities, threading these themes throughout other programs such as community events, hiking, dancing, etc.

## Senior Citizen Programs

Currently Yucca Valley seniors often travel beyond the Town limits to communities such as Twentynine Palms and the Coachella Valley to participate in or take advantage of senior programs and services. Reports indicate that although this is a community of many young families and adults, seniors are and will continue to be a major sector of the population.

All demographic reports for the region and state indicate this number will greatly increase with the aging of baby boomers. The public outreach process identified senior services as a high priority.

## Action Items

- ◆ Establish a comprehensive Senior Services program area that includes recreational, educational, and socially targeted activities.
- ◆ Develop programs that include more active recreational activities for the growing population of baby boomer seniors. Specific program areas could include:
  - Aquatics
  - Senior sports
  - Health and wellness
  - Social clubs
  - Physical fitness
  - Computer education
  - Environmental education and awareness
- ◆ Develop a Senior Services resource and referral program while the Senior Services program area is being developed.
- ◆ Work with a group of varied aged seniors to determine and develop senior services.
- ◆ When possible, search out and create collaborative relationships to establish partnerships in the development of the senior services delivery system.

## Special Use Programs

Special Use Programs are defined as those activities that require a specialized facility for participants. For example, hiking programs require hiking trails; equestrian competition require an equestrian center; dog parks require an enclosed area; fairs and exhibitions require a venue for such activities.

When special use facilities are developed, the Town can determine the degree of involvement in organized activities at these facilities and the role it needs to play in providing and coordinating the facilities for informal or community based organization use.

For example, holding an annual 5k/10k Run in collaboration with community organizations and in coordination with a holiday event or other community event can be an example of a special use activity. Sponsoring an Adopt-a-Pet day or a pet vaccination clinic at a Town dog park would be another example of a special use activity.

### **Action Items**

- ◆ Make physical fitness activities a part of community events, such as, adding a walk or a stretching class, or 10k run, or specialty footraces as a warm up to concerts in the park.
- ◆ Hold monthly community hikes for beginning hikers. People who are avid hikers have local hiking clubs that organize group outings, however, these sometimes advanced hikes are intimidating to those who have never hiked in a group situation, and so introducing newcomers to the sport of hiking is a valuable service.
- ◆ When dog parks are established in Yucca Valley, facilitate dog obedience classes, adopt-a-pet days, pet vaccination clinics, and pet shows at the site.
- ◆ When equestrian facilities are established, either by a concession or management contract, facilitate lessons, shows, and competitions, especially for youth and teens, as well as a therapeutic riding programs for the special needs population.
- ◆ Work to make sure there are multipurpose trails that equestrians can use when implementing the Town's trail system.

### **Cultural Programs**

The demand for cultural programs and activities scored very high on the demand index and are highly valued by the community. This was evident among all age categories from youth thru senior citizens. The community perceives it to be very essential to provide places for people to perform, display art, learn and to attend cultural activities and events.

The Cultural Component (Chapter 7) of the Master Plan addresses the high degree of interest in the arts in Yucca Valley and the facilities that are needed to provide programs and services to satisfy those needs.

The Town of Yucca Valley puts a significant amount of its resources into cultural programming, mainly through the Hi Desert Nature Museum, Yucca Valley Branch Library and culturally themed community events. These programs provide the community a sense of place, a feeling of comradeship, social acceptance and enjoyment. Yucca Valley's reputation as a center for arts and culture is growing; the Town should capitalize on the talent and interest in the community to further that identity.

### **Action Items**

- ◆ Continue programs that protect artistic, historic, scientific and cultural heritage in Yucca Valley. This can be done by expanding both permanent and temporary exhibitions, permanent collections, educational programs, and cultural events.
- ◆ Continue to work with the schools to implement K-12 education programs for both indoor and outdoor education activities.
- ◆ Continue to explore alternative ways for the public to access collections of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum including new technologies to allow virtual access.
- ◆ Work to provide and maintain creative spaces for community rentals and places for programs put on by community cultural groups. Examples would be small and large amphitheater space, performing arts venues, art display venues, festivals, art fairs, etc.
- ◆ Consider offering more cultural excursions to regional cultural facilities.
- ◆ Continue to work with the schools, the County of San Bernardino, and Joshua Tree National Park to expand opportunities for outdoor education.

- ◆ Within facility limitations, expand after school program opportunities by increasing partnerships with teachers and instructors in math, science, and the arts.
- ◆ As space permits, expand contract classes in the areas of dance, music, and arts.
- ◆ Continue to build on the successes of existing community events. Work with community organizations to provide additional community events to enhance and expand the year-round events calendar that would serve a variety of interests in the community.
- ◆ Until a performing arts venue is developed, look for innovative ways to present performances to the community, i.e., use ball fields, parks, and community center space for local talent shows, concerts, movies, and cultural events.
- ◆ Continue to support the “Art in Public Places” concept and expand this program as resources and funding permit.

### **Special Interest Programs**

Special interest programs are those programs that serve a small but active segment of the community. They are usually requested by community organizations or clubs who want to get involved in some kind of community service or have a common interest in a subject and need a place or outlet for their interest.

Examples of such programs include providing opportunities for people or organizations to volunteer in their community, mentoring programs, service organizations, opportunities to raise funds for a special purpose and opportunities to serve on public committees or commissions.

It is important for the Town to offer such programs and opportunities, both to take advantage of the benefits these programs can provide and to offer outlets for residents who want to be involved.

### Action Items

- ◆ Consider establishing a bi-annual “Park Improvement” or “Park Clean-Up Day” to allow clubs and organizations and individuals to provide community service in improving existing park facilities.
- ◆ Consider establishing an “Adopt-A-Park” program whereby local community organizations, service clubs, scouting groups, school groups, etc. can raise funds for their organizations by adopting a park to keep clean for one year. For example, a local business would sponsor the “Adopt-A-Park” program by providing a \$500 donation to a local service club or organization in exchange for on site signage for a year that the business adopted this park in coordination with the local service club or organization. This program provides opportunities for community service as well as the opportunity for local service clubs and organizations to raise funds for their charitable purpose. It also gives local businesses a chance to support community charities and gain local exposure for their efforts.
- ◆ Continue to provide residents with opportunities to participate on committees and commissions. Consider establishing a youth commission or committee, a cultural commission, and possibly a senior advisory committee to help with the design and implementation of the facility recommendations for a new multi-generation campus complex.
- ◆ Collaborate with the Boys & Girls Club, Yucca Valley Branch Library, Hi-Desert Nature Museum, School District, and service clubs to develop mentoring programs for youth and teens.
- ◆ Seek to dedicate space for community clubs, hobby groups, Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and other special interest groups to meet and hold activities.





town of  
yucca valley  
parks & recreation master plan update

## CHAPTER 5: CULTURAL COMPONENT





## 5.0 – CULTURAL COMPONENT

### 5.1 Introduction

The Cultural Component to the Yucca Valley Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan is intended to provide an overview of cultural services, programs, and facilities available to Yucca Valley residents and visitors and to provide recommendations for meeting the community's future cultural needs.

Yucca Valley has a rich and diverse cultural environment. There is a significant population of artists and musicians in the Morongo Basin, as well as, a very high interest in the programs, events and exhibits presented by the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, the Yucca Valley Branch Library, the Community Services Department and various cultural groups and organizations.

The Cultural Component provides an updated look at the condition of existing cultural facilities; analyzes the need and demand for cultural facilities and programs; and presents key findings for the Town's consideration to address future needs. There are a number of issues related to providing cultural arts in Yucca Valley, including the effect of two concurrent planning projects (Public Facilities Master Plan and Old Town Specific Plan) on the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and the San Bernardino County Branch Library in Yucca Valley.

Residents and visitors to Yucca Valley enjoy a number of cultural activities throughout the year. A variety of festivals, concerts, exhibits and events contribute to an emerging cultural image. Over the past five years, the Town has developed a public art program which is complemented by a growing number of private galleries.

While Yucca Valley's art organizations face financial challenges, public support for the arts has confirmed a community interest in expanding a diverse range of cultural opportunities.

The goal of this section is to provide Town leaders with a vision for developing and expanding these cultural

opportunities in Yucca Valley and strategies and options to accomplish that vision.

### 5.1.1 Hi-Desert Nature Museum Overview

As the Morongo Basin’s museum of natural history, culture, and art the Hi-Desert Nature Museum is the institution most directly charged with preserving, interpreting, and fostering stewardship of these resources. The Hi-Desert Nature Museum has served this purpose for more than 40 years.



The museum’s natural history and cultural collections number over 3,000 specimens and artifacts. These represent a library of Morongo Basin culture, history, art, animal life, and geology. The Hi-Desert Nature Museum offers a full schedule of natural history programs related to the High Desert’s unique natural elements. The museum features educational opportunities for visitors of all ages, including natural history dioramas displaying wildlife in the desert, an interactive “Kids Corner” with plenty of hands-on activities, a mini-zoo with live desert creatures, a gem and mineral collection, a Native American artifacts exhibit and a fossil collection.

The museum collaborates closely with the Joshua Tree National Park and plays a key role in supporting heritage organizations, educational programs, and community arts organizations throughout the high desert region.

### 5.1.2 Overview of Culture, Arts & Music in Yucca Valley

In addition to the exhibits and programs at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and Yucca Valley Branch Library, several community organizations offer a wide variety of concerts, performing arts, festivals, and cultural events to the community.

It became very apparent during the public input process of this Master Plan that there is a vibrant art and music scene throughout the basin. And the need for venues for cultural events was widely expressed. Cultural arts activities scored

very high as a response to resident survey and interview questions regarding what they like about living in Yucca Valley and what they would like to see more of in the future.

Most respondents felt that it is important for Yucca Valley to be a year-round center for the arts, with “arts” defined to encompass all visual, literary, performing, traditional, dance, music, festivals, and cultural social events. Residents also felt that the arts should be sustained through increased collaborations between the Town, schools, library, local businesses, and community art organizations. Finally, residents surveyed felt that cultural facilities and programs are a key factor in Yucca Valley’s economic future and vital to the success of the Old Town Specific Plan.

### **5.1.3 Art in Public Places Program Overview**

Public art is an important element in defining the quality of life in a growing community. The Yucca Valley Town Council adopted its first public art policy in the fall of 2002 and appointed the Public Art Advisory Committee shortly afterward. The Committee has cataloged the Town’s inventory of public art, identified locations for future placements and initiated dialogue with potential donors and contributors. The Committee continues to work with staff and the community to promote public art and to identify potential funding sources.

The open spaces, changing seasons and natural beauty of the high desert all provide inspiration for a growing community of exceptional artists who have chosen to make their homes in Yucca Valley and the other Morongo Basin communities.

This treasury of artistic talent has advanced Yucca Valley’s awareness that public art is vital in defining the values and image of the community. A fledgling but well-crafted public art program is positioned to assist in promoting the town’s unique atmosphere and thus to heighten the local quality of life.

When Yucca Valley incorporated in 1991, the public art inventory consisted of three sculptures:

- ◆ Sabre-Tooth Tiger (Antoine Martin) – displayed at Remembrance Park
- ◆ Angel of Flight (Antoine Martin) – displayed in the Community Center rose garden
- ◆ Owls (Howard Pierce) – displayed in front of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum



Since the adoption of the Public Arts Policy in 2003, eleven additional pieces have been acquired through donation or commission:

- ◆ “Sunburst” 10-06-01 (Simi Dabah) – displayed on the California Welcome Center north-facing wall
- ◆ Unnamed sculpture 05-12-01 (Simi Dabah) – displayed at the Park and Ride facility
- ◆ “Gecko” steel sculpture (John Gleason) – donated by Hi-Desert Nature Museum Association, displayed on Museum wall
- ◆ Unnamed sculpture 4-4-04 (Simi Dabah) – displayed at the Community Development building
- ◆ “Eagle” metal sculpture (Ric Vigallon) – displayed on the east-facing wall of the Town Hall building

- ◆ “Nautilus” paper sculpture (Keith Anderson) – displayed in the Community Development building lobby
- ◆ Untitled Oil Painting (Irene Scoggins Bertrand) – on display in the Mesquite Room, Yucca Valley Community Center
- ◆ “Bloom Hill” Digital Photograph on Canvas (Geoffrey Fennel) – displayed in the Community Services Office
- ◆ Boys & Girls Club Statuette (Howard Pierce) – on display in the Yucca Valley Town Hall
- ◆ “Together We Can” sculpture (John Fisher) – temporarily displayed in the Yucca Valley Branch Library
- ◆ Unnamed sculpture 11-28-01 (Simi Dabah) – installation pending

The goals of the program are to create an artistic harmony between the buildings, land and open spaces in Yucca Valley, as well as, provide permanent, outdoor art work accessible to the general public throughout the Town in order to bring art into the community's daily life.

## 5.2 Existing Conditions

### 5.2.1 Hi-Desert Nature Museum

The Museum is currently housed in a 5,300 square-foot, single-story, reinforced concrete block and masonry building that is part of the Town of Yucca Valley’s Community Center Complex.



The museum building is over 30 years old and in need of upgrades to accommodate the long-term preservation of its collections. There is currently a need for environmental controls, additional office and work space, and modern collection storage facilities.

The museum has out grown the exhibition spaces which are not large enough to accommodate displays and exhibits requested by museum audiences. The museum offers permanent collection exhibits, which are rotated on a periodic basis in order to ultimately display all of the Museum’s permanent collection; and temporary or traveling exhibits, that present short-term, topical education opportunities for all ages.



Additional storage space with environmental controls is needed for the permanent collection. There is currently a need for a receiving and shipping area so that traveling exhibitions can be inventoried and staged prior to installation.

The museum offers a multitude of education programs independently and also in cooperation with the Morongo Unified School District and the library. Additional rooms for educational programs are needed. The children’s discovery and

educational corner is often filled to capacity and could benefit from additional space. It often doubles as a workshop, demonstration and lecture area.

In addition to providing indoor space for exhibitions and programs, the museum also does periodic outdoor events and programs in the available space adjacent to the facility.

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum staff is currently working on a five-year Strategic Plan, which will attempt to synchronize museum growth and activities with the master plans being developed for the Town. The Strategic Plan will articulate goals and objectives for the future that will allow it to increase its educational offerings, public programs, exhibits, storage of its collections, interactive technologies, marketing, and revenue development. The Museum Strategic Plan will recommend an expansion of the existing building to increase

in size from its current 5,300 sq. ft. to a final build-out of 15,000 sq. ft. The additional square footage is contemplated to provide a 5,000 sq. ft. gallery space for traveling and temporary exhibits; a 3,500 sq. ft. exhibition space for permanent collection display; a 1,000 sq. ft. of meeting room space; 2,000 sq. ft. of multi-purpose performance and event space; and the remaining 3,500 sq. ft. for offices, controlled climate storage, lobby/reception, and restrooms.

While the existing site at the Community Center Complex could accommodate an expansion of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum to the 15,000 sq. ft. required, the Strategic Plan will incorporate the flexibility to relocate to another site if necessary.

### **5.2.2 San Bernardino County Library - Yucca Valley Branch**

The Library is located in the Town Hall building within the current Community Center Complex. In addition to typical library services, the library offers a number of cultural activities and coordinates education programs with the Hi-Desert Nature Museum. The library offers themed activities for children, youth, and adults and coordinates with the museum when school tours are scheduled through the Morongo Unified School District and other agencies.

The Public Facilities Master Plan currently being conducted by the Town indicates that the library should be a 20,000 square-foot facility at the town's build-out population. In its current location there is not enough room for expansion to accommodate a 20,000 sq. ft. facility. The library is in the same situation as the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, in that a different site might be necessary to accommodate future needs.

### **5.2.3 Festival & Events Space**

The Community Services Department, several community organizations, and various community groups conduct a wide variety of cultural activities year round in Yucca Valley. From Holiday events to the annual Grubstake Community Faire, Starry Nights Festival, equestrian events, to the annual

Summer Music Festival, Yucca Valley residents and visitors can participate in community events all year long.

Because of the growth that has taken place over the past several years, the sites that the Town has traditionally used to stage community events have become less available. During the community input process it became very apparent that there is a great need for venues that can hold both small and large events within the Town.

A number of events are equestrian-related or otherwise draw large attendance for shows or festivals. The Needs Analysis contained in Chapter 6 indicates that a “Yucca Valley Show Grounds and Events Center” should be developed to accommodate these large scale events. The second type of facility needed for community events are places for small concerts/music presentations, local performing arts activities, art shows, community organization activities, and outdoor show space. If the Town does not create these two kinds of venues then its ability to continue to host large scale events and smaller community cultural activities will be severely hampered.

## 5.3 Facility Analysis

### 5.3.1 Hi-Desert Nature Museum

The ultimate goal for the Hi-Desert Nature Museum should be a 15,000 sq. ft. facility containing a permanent exhibit hall, traveling exhibition gallery, youth discovery/events space, secure patio exhibit/performance space, conference/meeting rooms, reception/lobby, secure climate-controlled storage, administrative offices, and restrooms.

There are two possible scenarios for obtaining this square footage requirement. The first scenario would be to expand existing museum at the Community Center Complex. There is space to the north of the existing museum building to accommodate the additional square footage. There has been discussion about adding a second floor to the existing building; but the financial feasibility of meeting retrofit requirements of the building is questionable.

A two-story museum building would allow exhibition and event space to have higher ceilings to accommodate taller exhibits and would provide sufficient wall space to project film and other media on. If the museum is expanded in its current location a two-story building should be designed to compliment the existing single story building and create the ceiling height necessary to implement the Museum's planned programming.

The second scenario would be for the Town to relocate the Hi-Desert Nature Museum into the area considered in the Old Town Specific Plan. This option would allow the design and development of a 15,000 sq. ft. museum building to specifically provide the type of spaces needed to allow the museum to implement its vision and mission. It would also put the museum in a desirable location to attract people into the Old Town District thus creating pedestrian traffic for adjacent Old Town commercial uses. Finally, moving the museum to the future Old Town area would allow the museum to coordinate with other planned cultural arts uses, such as private galleries, artist in residency development projects, and local businesses.

The ideal scenario would incorporate both the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and the San Bernardino County Branch Library in a single project whereby the two entities would have separate facilities but share common amenities, such as reception/lobby area, conference/meeting rooms, receiving areas, restrooms, outdoor plaza/amphitheater area, and staff parking. This would promote visitation to both the library and the museum, allow for joint programming and joint marketing, and decrease both capital and overhead costs for development and operation of both facilities.

By combining the museum, the library, and an amphitheater/activities plaza space in the Old Town Specific Plan, the Town would not only realize an economic benefit for the Old Town commercial district but would also gain a venue that would enable the Town to implement its vision for establishing its cultural image.

### **5.3.2 San Bernardino County Library – Yucca Valley Branch**

As stated above, the ideal scenario for the future of the Branch Library would be to combine it with the Hi-Desert Nature Museum in an Old Town Specific Plan project.

If the combined building scenario in Old Town cannot be implemented for the museum and library, it should be considered important that the two facilities continue to be located within a short walking distance of each other so that the two agencies can continue to coordinate education programs, lecture series, and themed events.

### **5.3.3 Yucca Valley Events Show Grounds**

Yucca Valley has a strong sense of community ownership of the Town's special events. The annual Grubstake Parade and Community Faire, Rodeos & Equestrian Events, Summer Music Festivals, Art Shows, Shakespeare in the Park, Collector's Shows, and other events that attract regional audiences are an important part of the fabric that makes up the social and cultural environment throughout the Morongo Basin. Town leaders, community organizations and residents all recognize the importance of having a venue to host major events. Yucca Valley's location and climate allow for a year-round events schedule in a desirable weekend destination. By developing a facility specifically designed to host a variety of shows, festivals, and cultural events the Town can continue its tradition of community events and enhance the opportunities for increased tourism and economic benefit.

The ideal design for such a facility would accommodate equestrian events including rodeos, shows, and competitions; summer music festivals and concerts; outdoor performing arts; specialty collector shows; and holiday celebration events. This facility should also contain support amenities such as an RV Park, group picnic facilities, adequate restrooms, food concessions, and covered exhibition space. Such a facility would require 100-200 acres and should be located in an area of town that is easily accessible but does not impact residential neighborhoods.

The show grounds facility would be intended primarily for weekend events; however, it could also serve as meeting and activity space for local 4H Clubs, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and other community organizations during the week. The RV Park could also serve in-transit visitors traveling to and from other areas in addition to those attending planned events.

Another use for this facility would be as a staging and/or sheltering area in the event of a local disaster or other emergency.

### **5.3.4 Performing Arts Center**

During the community input process, particularly in the resident phone survey, there was a high degree of support and interest in developing a Performing Arts Center in Yucca Valley for both school related performing arts and community based performing arts programs. A large auditorium/performing arts facility in Yucca Valley could serve the entire Morongo Basin and become a visitor destination that would positively affect the local economy.

Performing Arts (i.e. plays, concerts, cabaret, lectures, etc.) were highly requested during the community workshops and stakeholder interviews conducted as part of the Master Plan process. The music scene in Yucca Valley and the Morongo Basin would be enhanced tremendously with the development of a Performing Arts Center.

The ideal scenario for developing a Performing Arts Center would be for the Town and the School District to partner together for the development and operation of a performing arts facility adjacent to Yucca Valley High School.

Other options could include a Performing Arts Center within the Old Town Specific Plan or a joint development project with the Copper Mountain Community College.

### **5.3.5 Amphitheater/Activities Plaza**

In addition to large scale destination events, the Needs Analysis clearly indicated that residents are desirous of less formal venues for smaller events associated with the

performing arts, visual arts, music, social activities, and family-oriented cultural programs.

This trend is growing in popularity nationwide. Towns and cities are incorporating small amphitheater/activity plazas in the design of their downtown redevelopments, community center projects, and within community park development. These venues primarily serve local neighborhoods or business districts and allow outlets for local performing and visual artists to present their talents to the community. These amphitheater/activity plazas also serve as a community gathering space, a place to relax and contemplate, and usually contain public art and unique landscaping to visually enhance the environment that they are located in. While design of these types of venues varies widely, the common elements include a seating area surrounding a platform or stage; a level plaza area that can be used for displays or activities; and public art, usually commissioned from local artists to enhance the cultural environment.

Within the recommendations in Chapter 9 of the Yucca Valley Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan there are three sites where it would be appropriate to include an Amphitheater/Activities Plaza. The first would be in conjunction with the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and Library in the Old Town Specific Plan. The second venue could be designed into the Multi-Generational Community Center Complex; and the third venue could be included in the Community Park Design for the Yucca Mesa area.

These versatile, programmable spaces not only add to the ability to increase the number and frequency of community events, but also serve as passive open space in a cultural park-like setting. The amphitheater/activity plazas should also incorporate shade structures so that programming can take place during the warm summer months. Themed landscaping and public art can be added to discourage anti-social behavior and provide a comfortable upscale environment. Given the tremendous number of musicians, artists, and cultural organizations in Yucca Valley, these spaces will provide programming opportunities on a continuous year-round schedule.

## 5.4 Key Findings

### 5.4.1 Yucca Valley's Arts Strengths and Assets

An analysis of Yucca Valley's cultural strengths and assets, confirmed by the stakeholder interviews and surveys conducted during the Master Plan process are:

- ◆ The abundance of local creative talent
- ◆ The popularity and awareness of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum
- ◆ The high attendance and use of the Branch Library
- ◆ The large community support for festivals and town wide events
- ◆ A population interested in arts education
- ◆ A vibrant music and art scene in the region
- ◆ Local leaders with a desire to enhance cultural programming
- ◆ A diverse number of private sector commercial art establishments

### 5.4.2 Greatest Challenges

From the information gathered through the public input process and the consultant's analysis of the current cultural conditions in Yucca Valley, the following are the major challenges facing the arts community in Yucca Valley:

- ◆ Lack of sufficient funding for cultural facilities and programs
- ◆ The need for performance venues
- ◆ Insufficient space at the Museum & Library facilities to accommodate programs and events
- ◆ Lack of a dedicated staff position for marketing, promotion and audience development.
- ◆ Need for greater involvement from local media
- ◆ Need for collaboration among community arts groups

- ◆ Consensus building among the diversity of lifestyles in the town
- ◆ Involving young people in arts and culture
- ◆ Enhancing Yucca Valley's cultural image in the region and beyond

### **5.4.3 Culture & Arts Contribution to Yucca Valley's Economic Growth**

Measuring the impact of cultural and arts from a financial perspective is difficult and can be subjective; however, recent studies conducted on a national and local level by the Americans for the Arts shows that nationally, the art industry spends approximately \$134 billion annually. Federal tax revenue from these expenditures amounts to over \$10.5 billion dollars per year.

On a more local level, the revenue generated by restaurants, hotels/motels, retail stores, art galleries, and other businesses has a major impact on the economy in Yucca Valley. The impact is not only by patrons attending cultural facilities, Town events, and private galleries, but also by organizations that spend hundreds of thousands of dollars locally in pursuit of their cultural interests.

Cultural facilities and events are a key to the economic growth of tourism in the Morongo Basin. Quality of life issues, including a community's cultural image, contribute significantly to businesses' site selection decisions. Cultural facilities available in the community act to attract and retain a creative work force and to generate pedestrian traffic that bring people into an area that who in turn partake of other retail opportunities. Finally, tourists who attend cultural events, museums, and performing arts functions spend nearly twice as much traveling as those who do not travel for cultural reasons.

It is apparent that the economic success of the Old Town Specific Plan will be tied to the Town's ability to develop and implement cultural facilities and programs as a key component of the overall development plan for Old Town.

The economic benefits of pursuing cultural facilities and programs in Yucca Valley include:

- ◆ Increased Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT) from visitors attending festivals and events
- ◆ Increased sales tax revenue from spending by non-profit arts organizations and art related businesses for supplies, equipment and promotions
- ◆ Employment in both public and private arts related jobs
- ◆ Event related spending i.e. meals, lodging, souvenirs, retail, etc.
- ◆ Admission fees
- ◆ Donations and other financial support for the arts

**5.4.4 Cultural Facilities and Venues Development Vision Plan**

The results of the community surveys and interviews provide concrete evidence of the importance of cultural arts in Yucca Valley. The vision for Yucca Valley is to enhance its cultural image, provide quality of life cultural experiences for its citizens, and use cultural facilities and programs as an economic strategy for future financial health.

Therefore, the following objectives and strategies for reaching this vision should be pursued by the Town as funding and resources permit.

**5.4.4a Cultural Facilities Development**

- ◆ Support cultural groups with facilities in which to work, perform, exhibit, and teach. Examples would include a multi-purpose performing arts center with classroom and studio space, open amphitheaters in parks, use of lobby areas at the museum and library for galleries for local artists.
- ◆ Plan comprehensively for cultural facility development including the following:
  - Pursue development of a new Hi-Desert Nature Museum and Branch Library, along with a

amphitheater/activities plaza in the Old Town Specific Plan area

- Pursue development of a Yucca Valley Show Grounds and Events Center to provide a venue for large scale community events, equestrian activities, exhibitions, and specialty shows and festivals
- Include smaller amphitheater/activity plazas in the design of the future Multi-Generational Community Center Complex and the Yucca Mesa Community Park

#### **5.4.4b Positioning, Marketing, and Promotion**

- ◆ Position Yucca Valley as a major center known for quality art offerings by developing superior cultural facilities, hosting a variety of cultural events and including public and private art venues in the Old Town Specific Plan.
- ◆ Increase media participation in marketing cultural arts in Yucca Valley by establishing better relationships with regional and local press, getting sponsors to pay for radio spots, and working with local press and local businesses to develop a weekly or monthly advertising supplement promoting cultural activities with a calendar of events and offerings.
- ◆ Promote multi-cultural expression and participation in the arts by holding art fairs and festivals for local and regional artists; including native and ethnic food and dance in community events; hosting talent competitions open to all types of ethnic talent; and by hosting traveling exhibitions at the museum and library depicting cultural customs of different peoples.
- ◆ Advocate on behalf of Art in Public Places and take steps to expand and refine the Yucca Valley Art in Public Places Program to compliment Yucca Valley's natural beauty, involve local artists and promote tourism.

- ◆ Continue to expand online events calendar for cultural arts programs and activities by including non-profit and private art activities in the listings.
- ◆ Promote Old Town when it is developed as a “Cultural Corridor” by locating the Hi Desert Museum, Library, “Henge” amphitheater, private art galleries, art studios, restaurant/entertainment establishments and “artist-in-residency” housing projects within the Old Town corridor. Develop a cultural theme for advertising the Old Town area, such as, “Old Town Yucca Valley, the Cultural Corridor for Art Creation, Exploration and Collection” Consider devoting .05 percent of TOT tax to promoting cultural opportunities in Old Town. Define both east and west entries into Old Town with Public Art pieces. Consider establishing a Cultural Business Improvement District (CBID) to generate revenue and oversee cultural development and promotion in the Old Town area.

#### **5.4.4c Arts Education: Audience Development and Advocacy**

- ◆ Work to increase public awareness of the value of arts and culture in Yucca Valley and the region
- ◆ Build participation in cultural arts programs and activities
- ◆ Increase collaboration with the schools and library to provide targeted programs and outreach tied to broad educational themes

#### **5.4.4d Organizational Development**

- ◆ Support the organizational development efforts of community arts organizations.
- ◆ Consider facilitating the evolution of the current Public Arts Advisory Committee into a Cultural Arts Commission with representation from the many cultural organizations now established in Yucca Valley. The Commission should be responsible to oversee and encourage collaboration between public arts and community arts organizations, and to facilitate the acquisition and care of public art

- ◆ Pursue development of a Yucca Valley Cultural Foundation as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the specific purpose of raising funds for implementation of the Cultural Master Plan

#### **5.4.5 Community Arts Partnerships**

The key to successfully implementing the Cultural Master Plan will be the Town's ability to develop greater resources within public and private sectors to support the arts. The Town will have to broaden partnerships beyond Town boundaries to become a part of a regional arts community. The Town will need to work to support the efforts of Yucca Valley's art organizations to help them sustain each other through collaborations and by sharing information, resources, and facilities.

Keeping arts leaders in the community together and focused will be a challenge for the Town. In addition to the establishment of a Cultural Arts Commission and non-profit Arts Foundation, the Town should formalize its intent and future direction by developing and adopting a Public Arts Master Plan. With a Master Plan in place, the Town can work through the Commission and Foundation to pursue collaborative grants, develop re-granting programs, develop a sense of community ownership of the arts, create a strong arts representation in educational settings, strengthen communication among cultural groups, and create effective partnerships between arts organizations and the business community.

Two specific ways to accomplish the above would be to strengthen partnerships with higher education, arts educators and arts resource providers such as colleges, universities, libraries, and other regional cultural institutions; and to recruit local artists as resources for art curriculums and activities. Although there are currently limited resources for this, expansion of Copper Mountain College, greater partnerships with the National Park Service and possible satellite operations from regional agencies, such as California State University San Bernardino, should be explored.

Expansion of Yucca Valley’s Art in Public Places program will make it possible for talented artists of local and national renown to enhance public spaces throughout the Town with works of art ranging from outdoor sculptures and murals to functional works integrated into architecture. Art in Public Places can create cultural landmarks that will become cornerstones of Yucca Valley’s cultural identity and it can promote Yucca Valley’s image as the premier arts community of the high desert.

In summary, the emerging cultural themes developed from this planning process include:

- ◆ Yucca Valley is uniquely defined by its history of diverse lifestyles, natural beauty, high desert terrain, desirable climate, small town atmosphere and community support for the arts
- ◆ Arts and culture, as part of the mix of “quality of life” factors, can be a powerful tool for economic development
- ◆ Arts and culture are key to passing on traditions. Involving young people in arts and culture can build audiences, enhance learning and communication skills, build self esteem, foster community involvement, and train potential artists and arts appreciators
- ◆ Building a dynamic program to raise the awareness of Yucca Valley’s cultural offerings throughout the Morongo Basin will not only build audiences in Yucca Valley but will enhance Yucca Valley’s image in the region and beyond
- ◆ A “state of the art” Hi-Desert Museum, Branch Library, Amphitheater/Activities Plaza and Show Grounds/Events Center will provide the following benefits:
  - Cultural and artistic resources that enhance the quality of life for individuals living in, working in and visiting the city

- A balanced development of cultural and artistic resources for programming the diverse cultural demands of the community
  - Improved image of Yucca Valley making it a marketable commodity as a destination place
  - Facilities that will promote the general welfare through balancing the community's physical growth and revitalization and its cultural and artistic resources
- ◆ It will be critical to the success of the Old Town Specific Plan to include development of both public and private arts and cultural venues
  - ◆ Significant effort will be required to resolve the space and facility requirements of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and the Branch Library
  - ◆ Little of this plan will be implemented without additional human and financial resources

Strategies for funding and implementing the Cultural Component are contained in *Chapter 9* of this document.



town of  
yucca valley

parks & recreation master plan update

# CHAPTER 6: NEEDS ASSESSMENT



## 6.0 – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### 6.1 Introduction/Methodology

The purpose of a Demand and Needs Analysis is to quantify and understand both the facility and recreational program needs of the community. In order for the Yucca Valley Community Services Department to develop a long range plan for providing the right recreational facilities and programs it must understand the nature of the community, its recreational desires, its actual needs, its social makeup, and its ability to provide the services that are determined necessary through the Demand and Needs Analysis.

Demand and Needs is sometimes difficult to quantify. A numerical standard may not reflect the makeup of a community, its economic situation, history, traditional recreation uses, or political environment. This report assesses the recreational programming and park facilities needs of the Town of Yucca Valley starting with national and state trends, past levels of service, public involvement, and identified community demands and desires.

### 6.2 Socio-Demographic Analysis and Projections

In the coming years national trends in the perception of the environment, socio-economics, technology, and in urban development will affect the need for and use of recreation and park recreation facilities. In 2004 the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed a list of trends which will cause the greatest impact on local agencies planning for recreational facilities. The NRPA's list of pertinent trends that will affect the Town of Yucca Valley's planning efforts for developing recreation facilities and programs are as follows:

- ◆ A greater need for walking and biking trails, sidewalks, within parks and along streets, and utility easements.
- ◆ Collaboration between parks and schools to share construction, development, and use of lands and facilities.

- ◆ Preventive recreation, that is, recreation as a means to engage youth in productive and entertaining pursuits that enhance growth and encourage good citizenship.
- ◆ Recreation for groups limited by income, physical disability, language, or cultural barriers.
- ◆ Collaboration among program and facility providers, partnering and cooperation between public, private, and non-profit sectors, especially cultural organizations.
- ◆ Family recreation centers (Intergenerational Campuses) that offer a variety of services for each family member.
- ◆ Pressure to increase park capacity and infrastructure of existing parks and concern for adequate maintenance.
- ◆ Community volunteering opportunities, such as adopt a park projects, friends of the parks groups, and park watch programs.
- ◆ Increased demand for Tiny-Tot and Pre-School programs and activities.
- ◆ Protective measures for open space.
- ◆ Provision for aquatics programs and water safety instruction.
- ◆ Provision for Senior Citizen programs and Activities

In addition to these national trends, the socio-demographic make up of the community will also influence the demands and needs for recreation and parks. A quick look at the Town of Yucca Valley shows a current population of approximately 25,500 people, taking into consideration the Town's sphere of influence. Future residential development will ultimately increase the population to 40,000 to 60,000.

Using US Census Bureau statistics and updating them with growth information from the Town of Yucca Valley Planning Department we find that the current male and female distribution is approximately 49% male and 51% female. The median age in Yucca Valley is 41 years of age, which is older than the national average of 36 years. The number of persons five years of age or younger makes up 7% and the number of persons six to 17 makes up 15% of the City's population.

This is the same as both the state and national average for under five population, which is approximately 7% and slightly higher than the state and national average of 11% for six to 17-year-olds. The population between the ages of 18 to 65 makes up 58% of the population and the remaining 20% are senior citizens, which is higher than the 12% national average of senior citizens in a community. The approximate population distribution by age currently looks like this:

Children 5 or under	2,000
Youth 6 to 17	4,000
Adults 18-65	14,500
Seniors 65 and over	5,000

The number of both youth and seniors is projected to grow larger as new residential development is designed to attract young families and senior citizens.

According to the U.S. Census, the average household size in 2005 was 2.4 persons per household. However, the average family size was 3.0. There are approximately 8000 housing units in Yucca Valley. Owner-occupied housing makes up about 70% of the households, and rental-occupied housing makes up the remaining 30% of the households. The percentage of owner-occupied housing units is right in line with the national average for cities with a population the size of Yucca Valley, and so are the renter-occupied housing units.

Thirteen percent (13%) of the population in Yucca Valley has a four-year college degree or higher. This is lower than the national average of 27% with a four-year college degree or higher for cities with a population the size of Yucca Valley.

Fifty-six percent of the population is married, and 10% of the population speaks a language other than English at home.

In the labor force the average travel time to work is 29 minutes. This means that the average worker in Yucca Valley spends approximately one hour a day traveling to and from work.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Fact Finder website, the median family income in 2000 was approximately

\$37,000 and the per capita income in 2000 was \$16,000. This indicates that a significant number of families have more than one income in the household. Data acquired during the telephone survey shows a significant increase in household income since the 2000 census. (See *Appendix C4* for the Telephone Survey statistics.)

In summary, the demand and needs for recreation services and park facilities should take into account that the Town is primarily a working class community with limited discretionary income that is increasing in population, especially in family residential and senior citizens.

## 6.3 Public Opinion Surveys

### 6.3.1 Introduction

Research Network Ltd. conducted a resident survey for the Town of Yucca Valley. The resident survey was done as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. The purpose of the survey was to obtain statistically valid, community-wide input on a variety of issues related to the Master Plan.

The resident survey is one of several methods being undertaken to involve the community in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update process. Other methods included public workshops, stakeholder interviews, and surveys with organized sports and community group organizations. The purpose of gathering community input through a variety of methods is to ensure that the Park and Recreation Master Plan Update is as inclusive as possible and that it reflects the views, preferences, and recreating patterns of Yucca Valley residents.

Below is a snapshot of the results of the telephone survey. The report summary is contained in *Appendix CA*.

### 6.3.2 Methodology

A total of 300 interviews were completed with adult household heads living in the Town of Yucca Valley. These respondents were contacted through the use of a random

digit dial sample. This sample methodology compensates for the incidence of unlisted telephone numbers.

Such a methodology, however, introduces to the sample telephone numbers of non-residential locations as well as residential locations not in Yucca Valley, since telephone prefixes do not respect jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore, within the design of the survey instrument, a screening question was implemented to eliminate those contacts that did not constitute residents of the Town of Yucca Valley.

The subject areas of interest within the resident telephone survey included:

- ◆ One Feature that Makes Yucca Valley Desirable
- ◆ One Improvement Wanted in Yucca Valley
- ◆ Recreation Information Sources Used
- ◆ Recreation Benefits Desired
- ◆ Frequency of Recreation Facility Usage
- ◆ Frequency of Joshua Tree National Park Usage
- ◆ Park Most Often Used in Last Year
- ◆ Frequency of Recreation Activities Participation
- ◆ Frequency of Recreation Program Participation
- ◆ Rating Town Recreation Facilities Maintenance
- ◆ Preferred Type of Area Improvements
- ◆ One New Recreation Facility Desired
- ◆ One New Recreation Program Desired
- ◆ Willingness to Pay Additional Annual Funding
- ◆ Awareness of Name Hi-Desert Nature Museum
- ◆ Reported Visitation of Hi-Desert Nature Museum
- ◆ Reason Not Visited Hi-Desert Nature Museum
- ◆ Propensity to Use Performing Arts Center
- ◆ Propensity to Use Art Galleries, Art Festivals
- ◆ Propensity to Use New Museum/Interpretive Center

- ◆ Age Distribution of Population
- ◆ Tenure in Yucca Valley
- ◆ Employment in Yucca Valley
- ◆ Ethnicity
- ◆ Household Composition
- ◆ Household Income

### 6.3.3 Highlights

After a careful review of the responses to the Yucca Valley resident survey, Research Network Ltd. has gleaned the following highlights.

### 6.3.4 One Desirable Feature

- ◆ Three of every 10 residents polled (28%) identified “Small Town Atmosphere” as the one feature that makes Yucca Valley a desirable place to live
- ◆ An additional 21% reported “Climate.”
- ◆ Similarly, an additional 7% of households polled volunteered the feature “Air Quality”
- ◆ Six percent 6% more cited “Open Space.”
- ◆ One of every 20 respondents (5%) volunteered “Quiet/Peaceful” as the feature
- ◆ “No Traffic” (4%) and “Affordable Housing” (3%) were also reported.

### 6.3.5 One Desired Change

When asked what improvement they would make in Yucca Valley:

- ◆ Fifteen percent (15%) of the households polled stated that they would “Create New Parks and Recreation Facilities”
- ◆ While 10% of respondents would “Repair Streets”
- ◆ An additional 8% of those interviewed stated they would “Increase Street Signalization”
- ◆ Eight percent (8%) would “Limit Growth.”

- ◆ “Preserve Open Space” was a volunteered response by 7% of the households polled
- ◆ One in 20 respondents (5%) stated that they would “Add More/Better Shopping”
- ◆ Five percent (5%) would “Widen or Connect Streets.”

### 6.3.6 Recreation Sources

- ◆ Nearly four of every 10 residents polled (39%) stated that they get their recreation program and facility information from the Town of Yucca Valley
- ◆ While an additional 24% reported using the Newspaper.
- ◆ Nearly one of every 10 respondents (9%) stated that they use Postings at Recreation Sites as their information source.
- ◆ Eight percent (8%) reported using the Telephone Book.
- ◆ The Town of Yucca Valley Website was reportedly used by 7% of respondents as their information source.
- ◆ Six percent (6%) reported using the Internet.
- ◆ An additional 5% refer to the Town Brochure; and
- ◆ Four percent (4%) stated that such information is gathered from the library.

### 6.3.7 Recreation Benefits

- ◆ More than one-third of the households polled (35%) stated that they seek physical fitness, health and well being benefits from their recreation choices.
- ◆ An equal share of respondents (35%) replied that an opportunity to gather and socialize with others is the primary benefit they seek from recreation.
- ◆ The benefit of learning opportunities for hobby, self-improvement or career development was cited by 18% of those polled.
- ◆ While the benefit from recreational opportunities to give back to the community through volunteer work was a priority for 13% of the Town’s responding residents.

### 6.3.8 Recreation Facility Use

- ◆ One third (33%) of the sample of telephone respondents described themselves as a “Frequent User” of parks and recreation facilities (patrons of facilities at least three times per month).
- ◆ Four of every 10 residents (40%) were “Moderate Users” (patrons of facilities at least two to 24 times annually) of recreation facilities during the past year.
- ◆ The remainder (27%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (patrons of facilities once per year and non-users).

### 6.3.9 Joshua Tree National Park Use

- ◆ Frequent users of Joshua Tree National Park represented 4% of the sample of telephone respondents
- ◆ While an additional 28% were “Moderate Users” (patrons at least two to 24 times annually) during the last year.
- ◆ The remainder (68%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (patrons once per year and non-users.)

### 6.3.10 Most Used Facility

The recreation facilities reportedly most often used by households polled included:

- ◆ Yucca Valley Community Center (Including Community Center, Senior Center & Hi-Desert Museum) (42%)
- ◆ Joshua Tree National Park (12%)
- ◆ Yucca Valley High School (4%)
- ◆ Machris Park (4%)
- ◆ Jacobs Park (2%)
- ◆ Boys and Girls Club (2%)
- ◆ South Park (2%)
- ◆ Yucca Valley Branch Library (2%)
- ◆ Big Bear Lake (2%)

### 6.3.11 Recreation Activities

The tested activities cited as being undertaken by the largest portion of Yucca Valley residents surveyed were:

- ◆ Biking, walking, running, horse riding, and hiking on unpaved trails for recreation or fitness (46%);
- ◆ Picnicking in developed sites (43%);
- ◆ Swimming in public pools for recreation or lessons (20%);
- ◆ Use of senior and mature adult services and programs (20%);
- ◆ Use of play equipment/tot lots in public parks (16%);
- ◆ Outdoor basketball/ informal play for youth or adults (12%);
- ◆ Tennis: adults or youth (10%);

The remaining activities tested were reportedly conducted by less than one of every 10 resident households.

### 6.3.12 Programs Use

When asked about frequency of recreation program use:

- ◆ Fifteen percent (15%) of the sample of telephone respondents described themselves as a “Frequent User” (patrons of programs at least three times per month.)
- ◆ Less than one of every five residents (17%) was a “Moderate User” (patrons at least two to 24 times annually) of recreation programs during the past year.
- ◆ The remainder (68%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (patrons of programs once per year and non-users).

### 6.3.13 Program Participation

The tested programs cited as being undertaken by the largest portion of Yucca Valley residents surveyed were:

- ◆ Special Community Events (25%)
- ◆ Music, Drama or Performing Arts Classes (15%)
- ◆ Arts, Crafts, or Cooking Lessons (14%)

- ◆ Fitness, Gymnastic or Wellness Classes (13%)
- ◆ Parenting, Early Childhood Development Lessons or Classes (8%).

#### **6.3.14 Facilities Maintenance**

When asked to describe their satisfaction with the maintenance of recreation and parks facilities in the Town of Yucca Valley, ***95% of those polled stated they are either “very” or “somewhat satisfied.”***

#### **6.3.15 Preferred Improvement**

The tested type of improvement receiving the largest responses were:

- ◆ Open Space Preservation and Enjoyment, chosen by more than one-third of households polled (34%)
- ◆ The next most often chosen category, “Arts and Cultural, Museum, or Performing Arts Facilities and Programs,” was chosen by nearly three of every 10 households (29%)
- ◆ Active Sports Facilities and Programs was the selection of more than one in five residents (22%)
- ◆ Classes, Lessons, and Community Events garnered a 14% response rate.

#### **6.3.16 One Desired Facility**

The recreation facilities cited as most desired by Yucca Valley residents surveyed were:

- ◆ Swimming Pool for Recreation or Lessons (11%)
- ◆ Golf Course/Driving Range (5%)
- ◆ Bike Trails (4%)
- ◆ Walking/Running/Jogging Paths (4%)
- ◆ Gymnasium (3%)
- ◆ Picnic Facilities (3%)
- ◆ More/Better Parks (3%)
- ◆ Performing Arts Center (3%)

- ◆ Off-Road Vehicle Facilities (3%)
- ◆ Dog Park (3%)
- ◆ No desire for new facilities (19%)

### **6.3.17 One Desired Program**

The recreation programs respondents most often desired included:

- ◆ Arts or Crafts Instruction or Lessons (10%)
- ◆ Dance Instruction or Classes (6%)
- ◆ Swimming Lessons (3%)
- ◆ Aerobics, Spinning, or Fitness Instruction or Classes (3%)
- ◆ Cooking Instruction or Classes (3%)
- ◆ Yoga, Meditation, or Stress Relief Instruction or Classes (3%)
- ◆ Gymnastics Instruction or Classes (3%)
- ◆ No desire for new recreation programs (24%)

### **6.3.18 Propensity to Pay**

- ◆ Three of every four households polled (75%) stated they are “somewhat” or “very” willing to support a \$12 per year tax increase to fund new parks and recreation facilities and programs.
- ◆ Nearly one in five respondents (18%) stated they are “not at all” willing to support such an increase.
- ◆ Seven percent (7%) were undecided

### **6.3.19 Museum Awareness**

- ◆ Two of every three Yucca Valley respondents polled (66%) reported having visited the Hi-Desert Nature Museum.
- ◆ Eight percent (8%) of those surveyed had heard the name, but had not visited the Museum
- ◆ Thirteen percent (13%) of households stated they had never heard the name “Hi-Desert Nature Museum”

### 6.3.20 Reasons Not Visited

- ◆ Nearly three of every four respondents (74%) of the respondents that stated they had not visited the Museum stated that they either had no time or were not interested in visiting the Museum.
- ◆ An additional 8% of those responding to this inquiry stated their disability or illness prevented such a visit
- ◆ Five percent (5%) volunteered “don’t know what’s there.”

### 6.3.21 Visits in Last Year

When asked how frequently they had visited the Hi-Desert Museum in the past year:

- ◆ 2% of the sample of telephone respondents described themselves as a “Frequent User” of the Hi-Desert Museum (patrons at least three times per month)
- ◆ Three of every 10 residents (30%) was a “Moderate User” (patrons at least two to 24 times annually) of the Hi-Desert Museum during the past year
- ◆ The remainder (68%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (patrons once per year and non-users). Half of the polled Yucca Valley household stated they had not visited the Museum in the past year.

### 6.3.22 Proposed Facility Use

Respondents polled reported high likelihood of using all of the tested types of facilities:

- ◆ The highest share of residents (85%) stating they would use a Performing Arts Center
- ◆ The smallest share (78%) stating they would visit Art Galleries, Art Festivals and Events.

### 6.3.23 Demography

Key demographic characteristics (household composition and ethnicity) of households interviewed were compiled and reviewed against comparable benchmark data from the 2000 Census to conclude that the sample of respondents polled is a

statistically reliable representation of the Town of Yucca Valley as a whole.

## 6.4 Focus Groups & Community Interviews

### 6.4.1 General Comments

All of the stakeholder groups and individuals interviewed were very supportive of the Community Services Department. For the most part they understood the major issues facing the department were growth, funding, and community perception of what Yucca Valley actually deserves or should have compared to other communities. The following comments are arranged by issue, facility, or perceived need in Yucca Valley.

### 6.4.2 Programs and Facilities for Youth

The most recurring theme throughout the interviews as far as facilities and programs were concerned, programs for youth was the most often mentioned. From the need for youth sports fields; the need for before and after school programs; the need for children enrichment programs; the need for teen programs; and the need for places and facilities for youth that are clean and safe was the most predominant issue brought out in the interviews.

### 6.4.3 Sports Fields

There are both immediate and long-term needs for sports fields. Boys and Girls high school fields are in fair to poor condition and need improvement. Field amenities such as bleachers, lights, and synthetic turf were suggested. Scoreboards, shade shelters, and concession stands were also requested. All school and town fields are pretty much used on a year round basis. There is a need for more game fields that can host tournaments. Youth sports such as soccer, softball, baseball, and football have different age divisions using fields at different locations, which makes transportation a problem. All youth sports organizations reported that they are running out of field space for both practice and games. More lighted fields were requested by both youth and adult organized sports groups.

#### 6.4.4 Facilities Currently Being Used

According to the interviewees the facilities most used by the community are the current Community Center; Gyms at the High School and Boys & Girls Club; Swimming Pool at the High School; Hi-Desert Nature Museum; Senior Center and the Library.

#### 6.4.5 Coordination with Other Agencies

The Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department seems to work well with the School District and staff interviewed seemed to have the perception that the Town and the School District shared facilities and made joint use of facilities. Further investigation needs to be completed regarding Town, School District relationship and what potential opportunities there may be for joint facility development and use of school facilities for recreation programming. The Community Services Department also works well with the Boys & Girls Club, Churches and Organizations in the community to coordinate and meet both program and facility demands.

#### 6.4.6 Miscellaneous Comments

The following are quotes and or comments made by the interviewees that pertain to a variety of issues:

- ◆ There should be a dog park on both the West and the East end of the Town
- ◆ Competitive swimming opportunities need to be expanded with a new swim complex
- ◆ More senior activities especially for handicapped seniors are needed
- ◆ It would be nice to have a “Side by Side” facility that offers ice and roller skating rinks
- ◆ A commercial family fun center with miniature golf and activities would be good to have
- ◆ There should be more parks like in Europe where there are trees, fountains, walkways and places to sit

- ◆ Drag racing on streets in Yucca Valley is a problem, maybe there should be a drag strip for locals to race their cars
- ◆ The senior citizen population is growing and we need an expanded senior center with more socializing activities for seniors
- ◆ The Town needs more tot lots with children play equipment that are covered with a shade structure
- ◆ There should be a community park with a lake for fishing and operating remote controlled boats
- ◆ Parks should contain more native trees for shade
- ◆ There should be a lawn bowling facility for senior citizens
- ◆ New neighborhood parks are needed in the outlying areas so that residents don't have to drive long way to visit a park
- ◆ There is a grass roots music and art scene in Yucca Valley and venues for music and art need to be developed
- ◆ There should be a connection between our environment and the arts in the design and development of future parks
- ◆ The Town needs a new fair grounds/events space as people here love outdoor events that they can attend year around
- ◆ The Community Services Department needs a better marketing campaign to let people know what facilities and programs are available to them
- ◆ New facilities need to be thought about differently and designed to pay for themselves. Fee based activities and activities that draw from a larger area should be considered
- ◆ The Town and School District should partner together on a new swim complex and gymnasium
- ◆ The surrounding open space needs to be appreciated, respected, and conserved for future generations and this should be a priority in the Master Plan

- ◆ More soccer fields, baseball fields, and tennis courts are needed to meet the growing demand for these activities
- ◆ A multi-purpose gymnasium that can host all types of sports and cultural activities should be the Town's number one priority for new facilities
- ◆ More activities for youth and for senior will be needed in the future
- ◆ More music venues and places for outdoor concerts are needed
- ◆ The Town needs to host more art shows and festivals
- ◆ A large museum complex centrally located and easily accessible to attract tourist is needed
- ◆ Places for walking and jogging, i.e., a trail system that is convenient for families should be included in all new park development
- ◆ The current community center is booked to capacity. A new community center with more classrooms and multi-purpose space is needed.

## 6.5 Summary of Workshop #1

The following is a summary of the comments and input made by attendees at the first community input workshop.

Attendees were divided into two groups and asked to discuss their priorities for the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. The groups presented the following comments:

### GROUP 1

#### 6.5.1 Desired Programs:

Soccer, basketball, swimming, baseball, bridge, summer arts, art programs, concerts in park, Grubstake Community fair/parade, exercise classes, Earth Day volunteer programs, drop in adult programs, Farmers Market, Kite Day, 5k/10k runs, snow day, Starry Nights Festival.

**6.5.2 Sites/Facilities (new/needed):**

Dog Park, Senior Park (shuffle board, checkers, shade benches, walking paths), basketball courts, soccer fields, bike trails, gym space, water park/splash pool.

**6.5.3 Open Space/Trails:**

Improve upon existing areas, botanical garden, equestrian trails, bike trails, hiking trails, fair grounds, more park space/playgrounds, open space to retain desert environment.

**GROUP 2****6.5.4 Desired Programs:**

Tennis (youth/adult, wheelchair tennis; cardio workout with tennis) Table Tennis, Softball, Earth Day, Starry Nights, Kites Over Yucca Valley, Christmas parades, Senior trips, Summer concerts, Sport/Fitness, Maintain cohesive community, cultural activities including Amphitheater, art, music, performing arts, and dance. Public Art, sidewalk competitions. Hands on exhibits, desert ecology is an asset, Environmental education, Senior citizen educational programs, Programs for tots – mommy time, Adult night school, woodshop, crafts etc.

**6.5.5 Sites/Facilities (new/needed):**

Art Park, meditation memorial, Library, class room facilities, Miniature golf, water park, Pool, Playgrounds, Handicapped baseball field, tennis courts, Cultural Center, amphitheater, Community Hall/Dining, Synergy between facilities, Equestrian facilities/Fairgrounds, Dog Park, Skate Board Park, indoor skate rink, Tennis courts – 4-court groupings to run programs, Tennis Center

**6.5.6 Open Space/Trails**

Acquire more land, save wildlife corridors, save the tortoise, Conserve open space, pedestrian friendly walking and bike trails, no development on Ridgeline/Hillside, enforcement of Light Ordinance, strict enforcement/expansion native plant

ordinance, horse trails into pioneer town, rock climbing, Save the Joshua trees.

### 6.5.7 Ranking

Participants were asked to rank their priorities and the groups attending ranked the following items:

1. Gym/Pool/Sports Complex
2. Teen Center
3. Senior Center and park
4. Splash pools/water parks
5. Dog Parks
6. Fair Grounds, Equestrian Center
7. Open Spaces, Wildlife Corridor/Preservation area
8. Bike/Walking trails
9. Community Center
10. Soccer Fields
11. Tennis Courts

### 6.5.8 Comments Regarding Current Operations

Finally, the Water Cooler board enabled the workshop participants to express additional thoughts about current operations by writing comments on post-its:

- ◆ More green areas
- ◆ Lights at night in the parks
- ◆ More swings in the parks
- ◆ Develop North Park
- ◆ We need Dog Parks
- ◆ The Town needs a YMCA
- ◆ More advertising of programs and services is needed
- ◆ Connect areas of town – Old Town, Southside Community Center, Shopping, Campgrounds, Library

- ◆ Rock climbing wall
- ◆ Provide Side Walks in the town
- ◆ Take care of existing facilities
- ◆ Better parking situation at community center
- ◆ Flood zone parks
- ◆ South Park needs better parking and trail identification
- ◆ Cover over the playgrounds at parks
- ◆ Fair Grounds/Event Facility
- ◆ More Meeting rooms
- ◆ We need more fields
- ◆ Rehabilitate and make use of tennis courts at Burnt Mountain
- ◆ Re-aim ball field lighting and BMX lighting downward
- ◆ Flying school
- ◆ Reopen the Yucca Valley Golf Course
- ◆ Develop trails in the Washes
- ◆ Develop joint use facilities: School District, College, Unincorporated area with County
- ◆ Build a Cultural Center
- ◆ Sculpture Garden/Public Art
- ◆ Handicapped youth baseball field / Rubberized for wheelchair use / ¼ sized / Low maintenance
- ◆ Indoor soccer facility
- ◆ Provide transportation for kids
- ◆ Need year round aquatics program
- ◆ Cash in by selling south side park land and build now
- ◆ Keep North Park for open space and trails
- ◆ Catering to the youth in the community by way of activities to keep them away from harm and out of trouble

- ◆ Bicycle Paths: Designated and well defined, Protected and fenced, Wide enough to accommodate runners, bikes, strollers, etc.
- ◆ Entertainment Center
- ◆ Alternative energy and “green” architecture may open up grant opportunities and alternative funding
- ◆ Grass is the key to meeting most of the demands for youth programs

### 6.6 Summary of Workshop #2

The second community workshop conducted as part of the Master Plan input process was another opportunity for the community to express its desire for facilities and programs.

Participants were asked if they thought centralizing community facilities was a better approach to serving all residents or if decentralizing and putting some facilities in each area of the town made more sense. The group attending came up with the following chart:

#### Pros & Cons of Centralization vs Decentralization

Centralizing New Facilities	
Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Economically better</li> <li>◆ Ecologically better</li> <li>◆ Less Travel Time</li> <li>◆ Easier for Families to Transport Kids</li> <li>◆ Easy Maintenance</li> <li>◆ Able to Host Tournaments</li> <li>◆ Multi-Use Facilities</li> <li>◆ Promotes Meeting Diverse Cultures</li> <li>◆ Water Limitations</li> <li>◆ Easier for Kids to Get From One Program to Another                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Better safety control</li> <li>▪ Easier Police Enforcement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Events could conflict with one another</li> <li>◆ Separate Uses need separate areas</li> <li>◆ Possible Parking Impacts</li> </ul>
Decentralizing New Facilities	
Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Don't need as large a piece of property</li> <li>◆ Local Use More Convenient</li> <li>◆ Provides for Specialty Parks</li> <li>◆ Play Area That Kids Can Access Locally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Separate Venues makes travel harder</li> <li>◆ Increased Maintenance costs</li> <li>◆ Increased security costs</li> </ul>

Participants were asked to give input on possible locations for new facilities and provided the following insight:

Possible Locations for New Facilities	
Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Hi Desert Water District Land</li> <li>◆ Center of Town</li> <li>◆ Boys and Girls Club</li> <li>◆ South Side Community Center-Dense Area (Low Impact Use)</li> <li>◆ Section 11 – Old Woman Springs Road for Fairgrounds</li> <li>◆ Flood Control Areas</li> <li>◆ Pioneer Town Land</li> <li>◆ Waymego Trail (Equestrian Uses)</li> <li>◆ Current Community Center</li> <li>◆ Land on Yucca Mesa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Land Along HWY 247</li> <li>◆ South Side Park (Joshua Lane)</li> <li>◆ North Park</li> </ul>

Participants were asked what they would spend their dollars on in the community and the following is a summary of that exercise ranked in order of number of responses:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Gymnasium                      | 11. Senior Center                        |
| 2. Soccer Fields                  | 12. Teen Center                          |
| 3. Dog Park                       | 13. Open Areas                           |
| 4. Bike Trails                    | 14. Festival/Event/Amphitheatre Facility |
| 5. Community Parks                | 15. Cultural Center                      |
| 6. Neighborhood Parks             | 16. Public Art                           |
| 7. Tennis Courts                  | 17. Sports Fields                        |
| 8. Swimming Pool                  | 18. Golf Course                          |
| 9. Multi-purpose Community Center | 19. Fitness/Exercise Center              |
| 10. Walking/Jogging Trails        | 20. Water Play Parks                     |

### 6.7 Summary of Workshop #3

Workshop 3 concentrated on community input as to possible locations for new facilities as requested from Workshops 1 and 2. Participants were given large maps of Yucca Valley (See *Appendix C8* for Sample Map) along with disks that represented all types of facilities including community centers, senior centers, dog parks, skate parks, swimming pools, neighborhood parks, community parks, equestrian centers, etc.

Participants were divided into several groups and asked to glue the disks onto the maps at the locations within the Town that their group believed was the best location for each of the facilities represented by the disks.

Some of the groups felt that all of the new facilities should be developed adjacent to the Highway 62 Corridor while other groups felt the facilities should be decentralized into various areas of the Town and the remaining groups felt facilities should be centralized in areas North, East, South and West within the Town.

Several groups felt that in addition to traditional facilities there should also be an area designated for extreme sports such as skate boarding, BMX, rock climbing, etc.

In summarizing all eight groups providing input on the maps the following were common themes:

- ◆ The Old Town Master Plan should contain a cultural center/art center/community plaza.
- ◆ Equestrian uses/rodeo/events area should be located where it does not impact residential developments.
- ◆ Multiuse community center/senior center/teen center/gymnasium/aquatics facility should be centrally located.
- ◆ More neighborhood parks are needed in residential areas.
- ◆ Community parks with sports fields, dog parks, informal play areas, tot lots, and splash pools should be located on both the East and West sides of Town.
- ◆ Public art should be included wherever new public facilities are built.
- ◆ The Town should pursue joint development of facilities with the School District.
- ◆ Street rights of way, flood control channels, washes, and pathways within parks should be used to develop a connecting town wide trail system.

## 6.8 Special Interest Input

In addition to providing input at the Community Workshops there were two special interest groups that provided the consultants with additional public input.

### 6.8.1 Old Town Specific Plan

The first was a group of interested citizens that provided a concept plan to the consultants for their idea to centralize a number of needed facilities adjacent to the “Old Town” specific plan.

Their idea to place community facilities on the North side of the proposed realignment of SR62 would connect the Old Town area with North Park via a linear park along the potential future alignment of Pioneer Town Road. By including a new community center, aquatics facility, arts and entertainment center, community park, festival and show grounds area, equestrian and rodeo arenas, and trail heads they believe that it would create a major destination attraction that would be convenient for the community and would allow the recreational uses and Old Town commercial uses to coordinate activities and generate pedestrian traffic for both venues.

### 6.8.2 Dog Parks

The second group of interested citizens submitted a petition with over 2,000 signatures requesting that the Master Plan include “Dog Parks” for the Town of Yucca Valley. The consultants received a letter from the group’s organizer listing the reasons people signing the petition believe are the positives for including “Doggie Parks” in the Master Plan.

## 6.9 Sports Organization Survey Questionnaires

A questionnaire was sent to each of the youth and adult sports organizations in the Town that use Town, School District, and Non-Profit Organization fields for their practices and games. (See *Appendix C2*.)

The purpose of the questionnaire was to solicit the perceived needs of community sports organizations and achieve the objective of outreach to these community sports groups. The questionnaire was designed to provide valuable information regarding facility usage, team size, recreation season, and player volume. This data was then used in the demand analysis for future sports field needs.

Questionnaires were sent to all sports organizations within the Town. Six organizations responded, including Yucca Valley High School Sports, Morongo Basin Youth Soccer Association, J T Kids Club, Tri-Valley Little League, Morongo Basin Tennis Association and Yucca Valley Youth Football, with the requested information. The results of these surveys show that:

- ◆ There are approximately 900 kids involved in youth soccer
- ◆ Approximately 600 kids involved in youth baseball
- ◆ There are also over 175 kids involved in youth tennis
- ◆ About 80 kids in youth football
- ◆ Over a 100 girls softball; and
- ◆ Over 340 boys and girls involved in High School level Soccer, Softball, Baseball, Football, Track and Cross Country sports activities

The following table is a summary of the completed surveys, a copy of which is contained in *Appendix C2*. The common standard for practice fields is one field for every 10 teams and the common standard for game fields is one field for every six teams.

Sport	# Teams	# Players	Std # Practice Fields Req	Std # Game Fields Req
Jr Football	4	80	1	1
Girls Softball	8	100	1	1
Youth Baseball	48	600	5	8
Youth Soccer	80	250	8	12

These participation figures show that ideally, Yucca Valley should have a total of twelve soccer practice/game fields and one football practice/game field to accommodate the current number of teams participating in football and soccer. Based on future population growth these participation figures should grow about 6% per year.

Currently the Town has two soccer fields that are used for both practice and games. Therefore, the Master Plan should call for a minimum of at least 10 more soccer fields based on these standards.

There is currently sufficient number of football, softball and baseball fields, however the projected population growth will necessitate more fields in the future.

## 6.10 Key Findings

The Town of Yucca Valley has not built any new community recreation facilities for over 30 years, although it has purchased park property and has had park property acquired through land dedication by developers. It also is considering future land dedications and donations for future parks and facilities.

Park acreage standards are generally established through an acreage requirement per 1,000 residents. The Subdivision Map Act and the Quimby Act (Section 66477 of the Govt. Code) relating to parkland dedication allows a city or town to adopt a local ordinance establishing a citywide park standard and the requirement of parkland dedication or fair market value in-lieu fees when there is residential development.

Several years ago the National Recreation and Parks Association established guidelines for park facilities for both urban and rural communities. They also defined a number of issues that affect the demand for park facilities, including: environmental trends, social trends, economic trends, demographic trends, technology trends, and trends in urban development. The Project Team has identified a number of these issues that affect the demand for facilities in Yucca Valley:

- ◆ Disappearing resources such as open space and natural habitats.
- ◆ Cost of available land within the City limits to acquire for parkland.
- ◆ Environmental regulations regarding water quality, runoff, and hazardous waste.
- ◆ Reduction in number of vehicle trips mandated by states and communities.
- ◆ Poverty – homelessness and unemployment.

- ◆ Crime and violence in homes and school, drugs, vandalism, and social tension.
- ◆ Increased number of children at risk.
- ◆ Increased desire for citizen participation and involvement.
- ◆ Social service networking – organizing community organizations and resources to attack social problems.
- ◆ Increasing concern for personal and family safety.
- ◆ Increased public cost for maintenance and upgrading aging infrastructure.
- ◆ Increased labor and energy costs.
- ◆ Aging of the community.
- ◆ Fewer “traditional” family households, i.e.: single-parent families, families sharing living units, extended families living together, etc.
- ◆ Increasing cultural diversity.
- ◆ Increased residential density.
- ◆ Increased contact with computers in the home or the workplace.
- ◆ Increased media overload.
- ◆ Revitalization and retrofitting both residential and commercial development.
- ◆ Increased traffic congestion.
- ◆ Political pressure for parks, open space and recreation facilities.

Through the surveys and interviews obtained from the community, it is apparent that people expect the Community Services Department to provide essential recreation opportunities.

There was a strong demand for additional park space, open space, trails and recreation facilities for soccer, basketball, softball/baseball, children’s play areas, picnic facilities, aquatics, and public meeting room space. It was a unanimous consensus that additional land and facilities are needed in

Yucca Valley for sports fields and community center expansion.

These preferences reflect an increased demand and appreciation for parks, open space, and facilities and the community’s desire to have them easily accessible. There was a strong consensus that the Town needs to work with the school district and non-profit organizations to “partner” in meeting facility demands.

Based on the interviews and surveys obtained through the input process, the project team has developed a list of facilities most requested by the community and that reflect the trends in park and recreation facility development. Table 6.9 shows these facilities and compares the current number of facilities in the Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department Service Area with facility guidelines developed by the project team based on the number of each facility that is recommended in Table 4.3 for Community Parks and Table 4.4 for Neighborhood Parks. The Town’s desired standard for Community Parks is one Community Park each 4-mile radius and one Neighborhood Park each 1-mile radius. The total number of square miles within the Yucca Valley Town limits is 40. Consequently, there are eight (8) 4-mile radius areas within the Yucca Valley Community Services Departments service area. Thus, the desired number of facilities in the total service area would be as follows:

<b>Type of Facility</b>	<b>Desired Number</b>
Walking/Jogging Paths (One each area)	8
Child Play Area/Tot Lots (One each area)	8
Dog Parks (One for each 4 areas)	2
Family Picnic Facilities (One each area)	8
Group Picnic Facilities (One for each 4 areas)	2
Community Center/Gym (One for each 4 areas)	2
Informal Open Turf Areas (One each area)	8
Soccer Fields (One for each area)	8
Softball Fields (One for each 2 areas)	4
Baseball Fields (One for each 2 areas)	4
Aquatics Complex (One for each 8 areas)	1
Water Play Pools (One for each 2 areas)	4
Basketball Courts (One each area)	8
Tennis Courts (One each area)	8
Cultural Center/Museum (One for each 8 areas)	1

**TABLE 6.10 – Difference Between Currently Available Community and Neighborhood Park Facilities and the Desired Number of Facilities per Guidelines from Tables 4.3 & 4.4.**

Facility Type	Facilities Currently Available in Yucca Valley Service Area	Desired Number of Facilities for Yucca Valley Service Area	Difference
Walking/Jogging Path	1	8	-7
Child Area/Tot Lots	6	8	-2
Dog Parks	0	2	-2
Family Picnic	2	8	-6
Group Picnic	3	2	+1
Community Center/Gymnasium	0	2	-2
Informal Turf Areas	1	8	-7
Soccer Fields	2	8	-6
Softball Fields	6	4	+2
Baseball Fields	3	4	-1
Aquatics Complex	0	1	-1
Basketball Courts	12	8	+4
Tennis Courts	2	8	-6
Cultural Center/ Museum	1	1	0

Note: The “Currently Available” column only includes facilities that the Town has access to for programming and community use. If a facility exist in the Town, but the Community Services Department does not have access to use it for either scheduling reasons or cost reasons, the facility was deemed unavailable and not included in this analysis.

### 6.10.1 Summary of Table 6.10

Table 6.10 is an indication of what facilities the Town of Yucca Valley should include when developing future Neighborhood and Community Parks. By addressing the deficits shown in Table 6.10 when the Town designs and builds future parks the Town will begin to provide the facilities most requested and desired by the community.

### 6.10.2 Methodology for Determining Key Findings

The methodology used to develop the key findings included:

- ◆ Survey questionnaires distributed to sports organizations and individuals associated with various user groups
- ◆ Individual interviews with stakeholders
- ◆ Review of Standards and Trends established by the National Recreation and Park Association adjusted to

reflect the size, social economic makeup, ethnicity, and population density of Yucca Valley

- ◆ Review of facilities and programs available to Yucca Valley residents in the surrounding areas of Yucca Valley.
- ◆ Review of the Yucca Valley General Plan and associated documents
- ◆ Project Team site tour of all existing Yucca Valley recreation facilities and possible future sites that may be potential areas for future facility development
- ◆ A statistically valid citywide phone survey

Using the above methodology the Project Team believes the data, analysis and key findings regarding facility needs and demands reflect the desires of the Yucca Valley community.

### **6.10.3 Findings for Facility Requirements**

The consultant team reviewed and analyzed all of the community input obtained through the various public input processes and in terms of community demand and needs the facilities that would best meet the desired demand for the future in Yucca Valley are:

- ◆ Multi-Generational Community Complex to serve all ages for recreation classes, meeting rooms and community events
- ◆ Aquatics Complex
- ◆ Multi-Purpose Gymnasium/Events Center
- ◆ Festival/Show Grounds/Equestrian Center
- ◆ Neighborhood Parks with fields, tot lots, spray pools, family picnic areas, and informal open space
- ◆ Community Parks with sports fields, dog parks, group picnic areas, trails, tot lots, rest rooms and open space
- ◆ Nature Parks with trail systems
- ◆ Cultural Facilities, including Museum, Library, Performing Arts Center, Art Center, Outdoor Amphitheater, Community Events Plaza
- ◆ Special Use Park for Extreme Sports

### 6.10.4 Findings for Space Requirements

The following represents the approximate space requirement the Town would need for the above desired facilities:

<b>Recreational Facilities</b>	<b>Space Needed</b>
Multi-Generational Community Complex	20 Acres
Aquatics Complex	10 Acres
Multi-Purpose Gym/Events Center	5 Acres
Festival/Show Grounds/Equestrian Center	200 Acres
Neighborhood Parks	3-15 Acres
Community Parks	15-40 Acres
Nature Parks with trails	Varies

<b>Cultural Facilities</b>	<b>Space Needed</b>
Museum	15,000 s.f.
Library	20,000 s.f.
Performing Arts Center	10,000 s.f.
Amphitheater	20,000 s.f.
Art Center	5,000 s.f.
Community Events Plaza	10,000 s.f.
Extreme Sports Park	20 -30 Acres

Note: Some facilities could be centralized and combined and therefore could require less space.



town of  
yucca valley

parks & recreation master plan update

**CHAPTER 7: PARK LAND  
DEDICATION, PARK  
IMPACT FEE ORDINANCES  
AND OTHER STRATEGIES**



## 7.0 – PARK LAND DEDICATION AND PARK IMPACT FEE ORDINANCES AND OTHER STRATEGIES

### 7.1 Introduction/Methodology

Park acreage standards are generally established through an acreage requirement per 1,000 residents. The Subdivision Map Act and the Quimby Act (Section 66477 of the Government Code) relating to parkland dedication allows municipalities to adopt a local ordinance establishing a townwide park standard and the requirement of parkland dedication or market value in-lieu fees when there is residential development.

Municipalities can also adopt ordinances requiring the payment of a Park Impact Fee which offsets the cost of the impact new residential development has on the Town's existing park and recreation system.

Towns, Cities, Counties and Park Districts can also adopt ordinances that establish Assessment Districts for Park and Recreation improvements and operations.

As part of the Yucca Valley Park and Recreation Master Plan, the consultant team reviewed all of Yucca Valley's ordinances pertaining to park dedication and park fee requirements in order to insure that the ordinances reflect up to date language and requirements to best position the Town for implementing its Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

### 7.2 Evaluation of Existing Ordinances

The Town of Yucca Valley last updated its Park Dedication and In-Lieu Fee Ordinance, as well as, its Park Impact Fee Ordinance in 2005. The Park Impact Fee is adjusted annually when all Development Impact Fees are reviewed and adjusted to reflect current costs. A review of Yucca Valley's Park Dedication and In-Lieu Fee Ordinance shows that it is up to date and current in terms of language and requirements to insure the dedication of 5 acres per 1000 population or the payment of fair market value in-lieu fees per the Town's General Plan when new residential development occurs within the Town limits.

Unfortunately, Yucca Valley does not have an agreement with the County of San Bernardino for the same park dedication requirements or Park Impact Fees, so when development takes place in unincorporated areas within the sphere of influence of Yucca Valley, no parkland is dedicated or in-lieu fees paid, but it is widely acknowledged that the residents of those outlying areas use Yucca Valley parks and recreation facilities.

The Yucca Valley Park Dedication and In-Lieu Fee Ordinance, adopted under the authority of the Subdivision Map Act and the Quimby Act (Section 66477 of the Government Code) is specifically designed to provide the Town with sufficient parkland to meet its Parkland Standard of 5 acres per 1,000 population as the Town’s population grows. Currently, Yucca Valley has 194.4 acres of total parkland, counting 54.4 developed acres, 20 usable currently undeveloped acres and 120 acres of open space natural areas that cannot be used for developing traditional parks because they are either inaccessible due to terrain or location, or they are BLM properties that have to remain open space. The following two charts present an analysis of current and future parkland needs. Chart 7.1 analyzes parkland needs based on the Town’s parkland standard of 5 acres per thousand population, counting both developed and undeveloped parkland the town processes that is accessible and usable for traditional park uses (74.4 acres). Chart 7.2 analyzes parkland needs based on future parkland acreage totals after the loss of 15 acres of the current Community Center Park for the development of a new Civic Center Complex (59.4 acres).

**Chart 7.1**

Town of Yucca Valley	Analysis of Current and Future Park Acreage Requirements	
	Current	Projected 2020
Population	Approx. 21,500	Approx. 35,000
Current Park Dedication Requirement	5 Acres/1000	5 Acres/1000
Acreage Required	107.5	175
Park Acreage	74.4	74.4
Surplus (Deficiency) of Park Acreage	-33.1	-100.6

**Chart 7.2**

Town of Yucca Valley	Analysis of Current and Future Park Acreage Requirements	
	Current	Projected 2020
Population	Approx. 21,500	Approx. 35,000
Current Park Dedication Requirement	5 Acres/1000	5 Acres/1000
Acres Required	107.5	175
Park Acreage	59.4	59.4
Surplus (Deficiency) of Park Acreage	-48.1	-115.6

Chart 7.1 shows that the Town has a park deficit of approximately of 33 acres which will grow to more than 100 acres by the year 2020 if additional parkland is not acquired. If the proposed reuse of 15 acres of the existing Community Center Park site for a Community Center Complex comes to fruition the current parkland deficit shown in Chart 7.2 is 48 acres and will grow to more than 115 acres if additional parkland is not acquired.

The town should begin planning efforts to acquire at least 115 acres of accessible usable parkland by the year 2020 to ensure it meets its parkland standard and to provide parkland for implementation of the recommendations for new parks and facilities contained in Chapter 9. Specific locations for future parkland acquisition to enable the Town to build the recommended new facilities are also contained in Chapter 9.

Working with future residential development projects, the School District, Boys and Girls Club, County of San Bernardino, potential land donors and potential concessionaires to insure that acquisition of future parkland fits the needed size and location for implementing future park development recommendations is a top priority.

In addition to the requirement of parkland dedication or payment of in-lieu fees when new residential development takes place, the Town also requires the payment of Park Impact fees to off set the impacts new development has on its existing park system.

The Development Impact Fee is intended to recover from each new development its reasonable share, as determined in accordance with Government Code section 66000, of the cost of each type of public park facility and infrastructure improvement that is needed to serve the additional

population of that development. This is done to ensure implementation of and consistency with the Town's General Plan and to protect the public health, safety and welfare by ensuring that adequate public park facilities and related improvements will be constructed and made available to serve new development concurrent with the need. The fees imposed under this ordinance are in addition to any other fees, dedications, construction requirements or other exactions imposed as a condition of approval for a development projects.

Both the Town's Park Dedication and In-Lieu Fee Ordinance and its Park Impact Fee Ordinance are current at this time; however, the Town needs to review and update the ordinances on a periodic basis to ensure the ordinances remain relevant for current conditions.

### 7.3 Strategies for Future Parkland Acquisitions

Yucca Valley will need additional parkland in the future for neighborhood parks, community parks, specialty parks and trails. In addition to acquiring parkland through dedication requirements placed on future residential developments and collecting park impact fees, there are a number of other strategies the Town can use to meet its future parkland needs. The following are some strategies the Town may wish to consider:

- ◆ Joint venture projects with public and private entities can be a way of obtaining parkland, particularly for specialized facilities such as sports parks, aquatic centers, performing arts facilities, trail systems, nature parks, etc. Working with other government agencies the Town of Yucca Valley can possibly expand its recreational opportunities. For example, Yucca Valley can work with the Water District to make use of property containing water wells or retention basins for park purposes. The Town can work with the Flood Control District to long-term lease or license right of way acquisition for trail systems. The Town already has a good relationship with the Bureau of Land Management and could continue to pursue joint

ventures for preservation of open space and development of nature parks.

- ◆ Pursuit of agreements with the County of San Bernardino to establish pass through parkland dedication and park in-lieu fees when development takes place within the sphere of influence Yucca Valley has on unincorporated County land. This would provide funding for future park acquisition. Also, Yucca Valley should pursue County interest and participation in providing regional park facilities, particularly with regard to the development of a Yucca Valley Show Grounds and Events Center.
- ◆ Acquiring property or expanding regional off road vehicle park prospects by working with State and Federal agencies could be a strategy to meet the community demand for off road vehicle park opportunities.
- ◆ During the community input process, there were a number of residents and stakeholder groups who supported the Town working with the Boys & Girls Club to acquire and develop more property near its current location to develop a community park which would give the Boys & Girls Club more programming opportunities.
- ◆ Consideration could be given to negotiating the donation of Pop Rauch Park (land containing the Tri-Valley Little League fields) into the Town's park system as a means of providing for long-term maintenance of the fields for Little League baseball and increasing the inventory of public sports fields.
- ◆ A number of cities and park districts in California have been successful in establishing non-profit 501(c)3 Community Park Foundations whose purpose is to solicit parkland donations and provide donors with a charitable tax deduction by donating property for public park purposes. The biggest area of parkland donations have come from people gifting property to Community Park Foundations as part of their *Last Will and Testament*. Community Park Foundations can provide both tax benefits and legacy benefits (i.e., naming rights) to individuals who leave property to the Foundation for

future park uses. While it is true that municipalities can accept tax exempt donations without establishing a non-profit foundation, history shows that donors tend to donate more readily to a group of their peers who are volunteering to raise funds for specific park purposes than they do to an agency they pay taxes to support. However, the Town should still establish a policy and procedure to accept donations as there is always the possibility that someone will want to donate to the Town directly.

- ◆ Joint Venture and Joint Use Agreements with the Morongo Unified School District can be another way of developing park facilities to meet community demands and needs. Working with the School District and future developers of residential projects to situate future schools adjacent to future parks will provide opportunities for both the Town and the School District, while making the developers' projects more economically feasible. The sharing of fields, courts, play equipment, etc. can allow for both schools and neighborhood parks to be built on less land than would be required if the school and neighborhood park were built separately.
- ◆ Other examples of joint ventures with the School District include the town pursuing the building of a new Performing Arts Complex in the vicinity of Yucca Valley High School. Joint acquisition and development of a Performing Arts Center to benefit both school district performing arts programs and community performing arts programs would split the financial burden between two agencies and thus could make the facility more economically feasible.

The Town could pursue joint venture opportunities for commercial recreation facilities whereby the Town acquires property through the use of lease-purchase financing which is then paid for by a Development and Operating Agreement with a commercial recreation entity. Extreme Sports Parks, Side by Side Skating facilities, golf courses, family fun centers, etc. are examples of joint ventures that could be pursued through this strategy.

In addition to the above strategies for possible acquisition and development of parkland and recreation facilities, the Town may want to consider one of several funding or financing options to acquire property and build park facilities. The following is a list and description of funding and financing methods local agencies can use if there is community support for specific acquisitions or park developments:

### **7.3.1 Use of Bonds to Finance Parks**

General Obligation Bonds make sense when a Town has several different types of facilities it needs to develop and there is strong community support. For example, if a Town wanted to build a new police station, community park and library it may bundle all three into one General Obligation Bond. Hopefully this would create a wider voter support to get the two-thirds approval required by General Obligation Bonds. General Obligation Bonds usually do not succeed for special interest facilities. For example, a General Obligation Bond to build a new aquatics facility or sports complex would probably not receive the two-thirds voter approval necessary to issue the bonds.

Some agencies that need to develop a number of Recreation and Park facilities have had success in forming a Park District and selling General Obligation Bonds to support the district's implementation of its facility development plan. When voters know that the bonds will only go to the implementation of a Park Master Plan that they have approved, they tend to be more willing to support such initiatives.

General Obligation Bonds are paid for out of the Town's General Fund. So the allocation of dollars to a General Obligation Bond for park purposes will compete with the Town's needs for ongoing operations and other types of needed improvements, such as, public safety facilities, roads, and other infrastructure. Only agencies with excess general fund capacity are really able to use General Obligation Bonds for Park Facility Development.

### 7.3.2 Paying for Bonds

The most common method for implementing Recreation and Park facility development by the use of bonds is to gain voter approval for an additional property tax assessment to pay for the debt of the Park Bonds. The bond issuing method is the same as General Obligation Bonds; they require two-thirds voter approval. However, along with the voter approval to issue the bonds, the voters need to approve an additional annual tax assessment to pay for the debt service on the bonds.

This approach is successful if there is strong community support for park facilities and implementing the Master Plan. The key to a successful Park Bond and tax assessment approval campaign is to work with a community foundation to build support for the tax assessment and to educate the voters that the additional tax assessment can only be used for development of the approved park facilities.

Most agencies have found that Park Bonds with a tax assessment are most successful when placed on a general election ballot rather than a special election ballot. It usually takes at least two years to develop a community support foundation, educate the voters, and develop enough community support to get two-thirds approval. Consequently, agencies are most likely to be successful doing a Park Bond with a tax assessment only once every 10 to 20 years. Before this financing approach should be undertaken, the Town should allocate some resources to conducting a statistically valid community survey on how the community perceives the importance of implementing the elements of the adopted Recreation and Parks Master Plan, if they would be willing to pay additional taxes to implement it, and if so, how much additional taxes would be acceptable.

The public's perception of value is the most important element of generating a two-thirds voter approval. For example, the community may be willing to pay an additional \$30 a year on their property taxes to implement a number of facilities they believe they will use, but not \$100 a year. A statistically valid random phone survey is the only reliable way to find out what the community's acceptance might be. This

is absolutely necessary if the Town wishes to finance park facility development by going to the voters for approval of a Park Bond with a tax assessment.

### **7.3.3 Revenue Bonds**

Revenue Bonds are a popular way for local agencies to finance capital improvements, especially Recreation and Park facilities, when the facility being developed will generate the necessary revenue to pay the debt service on the bonds. This method is common for development of sports arenas, convention centers, show grounds and other facilities that generate revenue through admission, concessions, and rentals. Revenue Bonds require the agency to provide collateral equal to one and half times the value of the bond issue. An agency must provide collateral in the form of property, or properties it owns that have a market value of at least one and a half times the amount of revenue bond it wishes to issue. Revenue Bonds do not require voter approval but do require a four-fifths vote of the Town Council. Revenue Bonds are usually combined with the establishment of an assessment district under AB1600 and Asset Management programs which are explained later in this section.

If the Town can design capital improvements with revenue generating components so that the debt service and the cost of maintenance and operations do not impact the Town's general fund, Revenue Bonds are a good approach to funding facilities where there is strong Council and community support and political motivation to develop the facilities.

### **7.3.4 Certificates of Participation (COPs)**

Certificates of Participation (COPs) are similar to Revenue Bonds in that they do not require voter approval, just a four-fifths Town Council vote. And they require the Town to provide collateral in the form of property equity one and a half times the market value of the proposed issue. The advantage of COPs is that they are issued in script of \$5,000 or \$10,000 which allows for smaller investors to invest, and they are tax exempt, so interest rates are lower. Again, the key

to this type of financing is to design the proposed facilities with revenue generating components and/or combine it with an AB1600 assessment district so that there is no impact on the Town's existing general fund to issue the COPs.

### 7.3.5 Assessment Methods

There are two main methods for establishing assessments to pay for Recreation and Park acquisition and facility development; these are:

- ◆ Lighting and Landscape Assessment Districts, Mello-Roos, and other state legislation allowing local agencies to create assessment districts for capital improvements. Each of these requires approval by the property owners who are within the district and are subject to paying the assessment.
- ◆ State Law AB1600 allows local agencies to impose an assessment on properties within an improvement area when the Town can show a nexus that the improvements being made are a benefit to the properties being assessed. Under this method of assessment the Town sends a direct mail ballot to the property owners, if fewer than 50% of the property owners vote "No", the assessment could be implemented.

Agencies typically use enabling legislation for assessment districts for facility improvements that impact or benefit the whole Town or a specific area, such as for street lighting, storm drain improvements, sidewalks, etc. Some agencies have had some success using this legislation to fund large community or regional park developments where there is broad community support for the improvements. Newer agencies and park districts have had the most success in setting up assessment districts, because they can be established when only a few property owners are within the proposed assessment district.

Established areas where there are thousands of property owners within the proposed assessment district have had trouble getting 50% approval. This legislation requires the assessing agency to do an engineering study to determine the

proportionate benefit to each property within the proposed district.

AB1600 has several benefits over other assessment legislation in that it is an impact fee. Unlike the benefit assessment districts, the Town does not have to do an engineering study to proportion the cost according to benefit. The Town simply has to make a finding that there is a need for recreation and park facilities based on the impact of the proposed development, and the proposed development is not contributing to mitigate the impact. This is accomplished by preparing a nexus study showing the relationship between the proposed development and the facility or facilities that will be impacted.

For example, if the Town wanted to use AB1600 to impose an impact fee on new commercial and industrial development, it would need to do nexus studies to determine if existing commercial and industrial properties have an impact on its recreation and park facilities. If the Town finds that employees in commercial and industrial businesses use the Town's recreation and park facilities, employers use the park system and/or recreation programs as recruiting tools, and as a result commercial and industrial property increases in value due to a well developed and maintained park system, the Town could use the authority under AB1600 to impose a park fee on new commercial and industrial development.

### **7.3.6 Lease Purchase Financing**

A newer concept in financing Recreation and Park improvements being used successfully by local agencies is a form of lease/purchase financing. Under the lease/purchase financing method the Town would contract with a financial institution that would put together an investment group. The Town would then lease the proposed site and facility to the investment group who would provide the funding for the development of the site and facility. The investment group then leases the site and facility back to the Town at a lease rate equal to the cost of the financing the investment group provides to the Town for the development of the site and facility.

The lease serves as the collateral for the financing, not other real property, as is the case in issuing revenue bonds or COPs. If the Town defaults on the lease payments, the investment group would own the lease and could operate the facility or contract the operation of the facility to a third party. The Town owns the site throughout the lease purchase period, and at the end of the lease period, the Town owns the improvements free and clear. This form of financing currently has very attractive interest rates, is tax exempt for investors, and does not impact the Town's bond indebtedness or credit rating.

This type of financing is best used for facility development whereby the facility generates revenue. Municipal parking structures are one type of facility that local agencies have been very successful in using this financing method. It can be used for non revenue producing facilities whereby the lease payments are paid from the agency's general fund; however, with competing needs it may be politically difficult to dedicate general funds for lease payments. The term of the lease is set by the agency and can be any length. Another attractive feature of this form of financing is the low cost of issuance compared to Bond issues.

The Town could also use non tax exempt lease purchase financing to acquire commercial or industrial property. As a lessee, the Town could lease to a commercial recreation developer/operator for the development and operation of major commercial recreation facilities, such as, batting cages, sports complexes, dance studios, fitness/health centers, community theatres, skateboard parks and off-road vehicle parks.

### **7.3.7 Asset Management**

Besides raising revenue through bonds, assessment districts and impact fees, several local agencies in California are developing and implementing Asset Management Plans to generate income to pay for facility development and maintenance. Asset Management is defined as using the Town's facilities and other assets for business purposes in order to generate revenue without raising taxes. The

recommendations for this method of raising revenue are explained in Chapter 9.

### **7.3.8 Grant Programs**

The Town should apply for and make use of both state and federal grant programs. Per capita grant programs such as Roberti-Z'berg and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) can provide the Town with funding for both improvement of existing facilities and acquisition and development of new facilities. Most of these grant programs are based on a per capita distribution and some require matching funds by the Town. Federal grant programs such as CDBG and Urban Recreation and Park Programs (URPP) can provide funding for specialized facilities that meet the criteria for these particular grant programs.

The Town should also consider a combination of several different grant programs for the development of a single project. For example, the Town could apply for several different beautification grants, trails grants, storm drain improvement grants, urban park development grants, open space grants, and per capita grants to accomplish the funding necessary for developing a trails system through out the town.

### **7.3.9 Community Park Foundations**

A key element of funding Recreation and Park facilities is community support. Whether the funding method is bonds, assessment districts, asset management, or joint partnerships, it will be necessary to build community support in order to implement facility development. The best way to build community support for facility development is by establishing a non-profit community foundation made up of concerned volunteers to support the Town's implementation of its Recreation and Parks Master Plan. In addition, a Community Parks Foundation can also provide the following:

- ◆ An organization that can accept donations that are tax deductible to the donor.
- ◆ An organization that can apply for grants that are not eligible for government application

- ◆ An organization that can put on fundraising campaigns and recruit a large volunteer base to implement donation campaigns
- ◆ An organization that can partner with other non-profits, such as churches, service clubs and organizations and private companies to jointly develop Recreation facilities

The key to developing a successful Community Parks Foundation is in the development of by-laws establishing the foundation, recruitment of board members and training of volunteers. The by-laws should be developed so that they are very specific about the role and duties of the foundation. Board members should represent all segments of the community and not be controlled by any one special interest group.

In summary, the Town should continue to monitor its Parkland Dedication or In-Lieu Fee Ordinance requirements and its Park Impact Fee requirements to insure they are kept current and provide the Town with the ability to acquire the parkland it will need to meet its future demand. The Town should also review the strategies and funding/financing methods presented herein when it wishes to pursue acquisition and development of the recommendations in the Park and Recreation Master Plan.



town of  
**yucca valley**  
parks & recreation master plan update

## **CHAPTER 8: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**



## 8.0:- POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

This section provides a policy framework for the Town Council and staff as they make decisions about meeting the recreation and cultural needs of Yucca Valley residents in the future.

The chapter is presented in five sections:

- ◆ Parks and Facilities
- ◆ Recreation Programs and Services
- ◆ Cultural Programs and Services
- ◆ Operating Procedures
- ◆ Trails

The policies recommended in this chapter are key to understanding and implementing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Specific policy recommendations address the Town's Park Land Dedication and In-Lieu Fee Ordinance (per the Quimby Act Requirements), existing park site enhancement; park site selection criteria, park acceptance criteria, park classification and design criteria, parkland credit, special community recreation facilities, joint use agreements, and park acquisition and development financing.

Joint development opportunities are directed primarily toward meeting specific community needs which have been identified by means of interviews, phone surveys, questionnaires, and community workshops. Some of the desired amenities expressed by the community that are candidates for joint development and shared use include swimming pools, performing arts venues, gymnasiums and meeting room space.

The public input indicated a desire for increased maintenance and repair of existing facilities, increased and better security for parks and recreation facilities, more opportunities for artistic and cultural pursuits, opportunities to attend community events, indoor and outdoor sports programs, and services and activities for seniors and teens.

The Town of Yucca Valley offers a variety of special interest recreation programs. Some activities are conducted by other organizations in the community with support from the Town. The policies contained herein are recommended to enhance the provision and coordination of existing programs and development of new programs for the community.

The Community Services department staff currently implements many of the identified policies as a matter of practice. Some may not be possible to implement until the Town supplements its heavily scheduled resources with new facilities. The benefits of additional recreational facilities will result in a greater feeling of community while meeting the residents' recreation needs.

The following Recreation and Park Policies should be reviewed, modified and updated on a periodic basis to reflect future changes in community needs and financial capabilities.

## 8.1 PARKS AND FACILITIES

The policies in this section are intended to provide guidance to the Town of Yucca Valley in planning, designing and building new parks and recreation facilities, renovating existing parks and recreation facilities, financing new parks and recreation facilities, and continuing ongoing maintenance and operations. These policies and guidelines are general enough to allow flexibility, while being specific enough to provide the Town staff, sports organizations, and community groups with clear direction.

In order to meet future parkland needs and provide the community with its desired recreation facilities, Yucca Valley will have to adopt policies and take actions that will provide for the acquisition of additional parkland. This may be accomplished by a number of methods including parkland dedication by developers, joint-use agreements with other agencies, regional park development in coordination with the County or State, acquisition of parkland through the use of redevelopment, state grants, and fund raising, and the acquisition and development of usable trail systems throughout the Town.

The Town’s General Plan includes policies relating to park locations:

- ◆ Provide parks and recreation facilities to meet Yucca Valley’s diverse needs
- ◆ Supply neighborhood parks at a minimum of 5 acres per 1,000 persons
- ◆ Coordinate development of park facilities and trail systems throughout the area which enhance the community centers concept and complement unique visual or natural resources
- ◆ Ensure that all recreation and park facilities are adequately designed, landscaped, and maintained
- ◆ Provide safety, accessibility, and compatibility between parks and adjacent residential areas through “good neighbor” park practices.

To further define the perceived intent of the General Plan and to reflect the community needs identified in this study, the following park policies and guidelines are recommended and should be put into practice:

**Policy 1: During the annual budget process, review the community’s recreation program and facility needs.**

Item 1.1 Evaluate the existing and anticipated recreation patterns in the community as well as participation in organized and informal recreational activities and events.

Item 1.2 Analyze the capability of existing facilities and resources to meet the recreational needs of the community.

Item 1.3 Prepare a report from staff, with review by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission, with recommendations expanding recreational services and reducing the deficit of parks and recreational facilities.

**Policy 2: Evaluate existing parks on a regular basis and identify the need for enhancement, renovation and/or improvements.**

Item 2.1 Assign high priority to improvement, rehabilitation and renovation of existing parks and school facilities to accommodate safety, activity levels and changing community needs.

Item 2.2 Create a team recreation staff and parks maintenance staff to prepare a bi-annual report for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission detailing the condition of existing parks and other joint-use facilities, and making specific recommendations for improvements.

**Policy 3: Develop general location criteria and guidelines for new community and neighborhood parks.**

Item 3.1 Use the following criteria and guidelines in locating and orienting new parks:

3.1.1 Require proposed park locations to be reviewed by Town staff, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission and the Planning Commission prior to Town Council action on acquisition, dedication or acceptance of land for parks, open space and/or trails.

3.1.2 Community parks should be located at the juncture of major and/or collector streets to provide for safe, efficient, and convenient vehicular access, and to allow for easy surveillance by law enforcement.

3.1.3 Locate neighborhood parks adjacent to collector streets for safe, efficient, and convenient access. Access (vehicular access) off arterial streets should be discouraged.

3.1.4 Locate community athletic field complexes adjacent to arterial streets and close to middle schools or high schools whenever possible.

3.1.5 Use Community Parks and Neighborhood Parks as focal points for community development. Locate Community Parks to be highly visible and easily accessible.

3.1.6 Provide appropriate buffers between Community/Neighborhood Parks and adjacent residential development to help minimize the impacts of traffic, noise and field lighting.

3.1.7 Encourage local non-profit organizations to develop social and recreational facilities in areas underserved by Town neighborhood parks.

3.1.8 Locate Community Parks based on a 3- to 5-mile service radius to ensure even distribution of park facilities throughout the community. (See *Exhibit 8.1 – Park Service Areas*)

3.1.9 Locate Neighborhood Parks based on a 1- to 2-mile service radius to ensure even distribution of park facilities throughout the community. (See *Exhibit 8.1 – Park Service Areas.*)

3.1.10 Recognize other factors that are used to determine the location of new parks, including landform and usability, compatibility with surrounding land uses, and ease of access for residents.

3.1.11 Orient Neighborhood Parks to facilitate and encourage convenient and safe pedestrian access.

Item 3.2 Make the development of athletic fields within Community Park facilities a priority.

3.2.1 Support partnership projects that develop facilities for organized youth sports programs whenever feasible.

3.2.2 Explore athletic field financing options, which include shared cost facilities (land and improvements), matching fund scenarios, and leased land.

#### **Policy 4: Establish criteria for selecting land for new parks and adopt a strategy for land acquisition**

Item 4.1 Require that any land identified for park development possess the following attributes:

4.1.1 Land acquisition for park purposes must be of minimum size to serve the purpose it is intended to

serve, i.e., if a neighborhood needs sports fields the park size should be large enough to accommodate the fields and necessary appurtenances without sacrificing area for standard Neighborhood Park amenities.

4.1.2 Parcels should preferably be vacant and undeveloped, although redevelopment or reconstruction opportunities should be considered as well. (Example: Burnt Mountain Ranch area)

4.1.3 Land should not require extensive hazardous material clean up. (However, land that has already been satisfactorily cleaned up may be highly desirable for park uses.)

Item 4.2 Determine if any structures on the identified sites could be re-used or retrofitted to meet Town recreation needs. It is often economical to make use of existing buildings. All structures should be evaluated for seismic and structural safety.

**Policy 5: Establish and apply criteria to provide new Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks that complement the Town's existing facilities in the fulfillment of a well-conceived, functional overall park system.**

Item 5.1 Ensure that new parks provide needed activity centers and are strategically distributed throughout the Town.

Item 5.2 Require that neighborhood parks be developed at a minimum ratio of 5 acres per 1,000 population. (The Town may allow credit for developments such as Planned Unit Developments to meet the neighborhood parks requirement.)

Item 5.3 Allow the formation of special assessment districts that exceed the Town's minimum park standards.

Item 5.4 Require developers to dedicate land, provide improvements and/or in-lieu fees to serve the needs of the population in newly developing areas.

Item 5.5 Require developers of new subdivisions to comply with the criteria defined in the Town's General Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Item 5.6 Adopt the following minimum site size standards in planning and acquiring parks:

Neighborhood Parks 3 usable acres

Community Parks 25 usable acres

(Variations may be allowed based on constraints such as land availability, natural obstacles, financing, funding and projected maintenance costs.)

Item 5.7 Review potential park land for its usability and capacity to support active and passive recreation for individuals and groups. The land should be essentially flat land that can be developed for facilities and activity areas. The slope ratio should not exceed 4:1; land with unusually poor soil conditions, adverse flood water impacts, or land impacted adversely by adjacent land uses should not be accepted.

Item 5.8 Pursue opportunities to acquire or lease publicly-owned lands and utility rights-of-way for use as recreational facilities including trails, fields and/or picnic/tot-lots.

Item 5.9 Encourage development and maintenance of regional parks and recreational facilities by the County of San Bernardino Regional Parks Department and the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Item 5.10 Encourage the inclusion of parks as a component of proposed groundwater recharge areas.

Item 5.11 Plan for and expand recreation opportunities in connection with the development and conservation of appropriate areas along natural washes and flood control channels. Allow the physical integration of washes and canals in park design if feasible.

Item 5.12 Designate multiple purpose areas for recreation and park use within Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

property in accordance with the goals and policies of the BLM.

Item 5.13 Accommodate social, cultural and ethnic needs in the design and programming of recreational spaces and facilities.

Item 5.14 Consider the needs of all population segments including children, seniors and disabled when planning, designing and developing parks.

Item 5.15 Provide facilities for both active (play areas and courts) and passive (turf, walk-ways, trees and picnic facilities) recreational activity in the design and development of parks.

Item 5.16 Incorporate recreational features such as plazas, event space, gardens, public art, walking tours, and museums in the development and implementation of the Old Town Specific Plan.

Item 5.17 Consider the potential for revenue generation in addition to functional recreational use when planning and designing new park facilities.

Item 5.18 Optimize the use of public funds by coordinating the development and use of parks and recreational facilities with schools and other providers.

Item 5.19 Encourage the private development of commercial recreation facilities under leases or concession agreements where such facilities are consistent with planned development and offer expanded recreation opportunities to the public.

Item 5.20 Pursue the development of more lighted playing fields to offset the current deficit of such facilities.

Item 5.21 Consider the use of synthetic turf for sports fields as a way to provide safe fields while conserving water and decreasing maintenance costs.

Item 5.22 Coordinate the location, planning, and functional uses of all recreation and park facilities with affected local governmental entities and where feasible,

promote joint acquisition and/or development to assure effective coverage of all needs.

**Policy 6: Develop a consistent system for determining credit for private parks and recreation expenditures, and acceptance of new parks by the Town.**

Item 6.1 Follow the guidelines and standards contained in the Yucca Valley Park Dedication & In-Lieu Fee Ordinance for determining what credit shall be given to developers for private parks and recreation expenditures made to improve public parks in conjunction with proposed developments.

Item 6.2 Deny park credit for community or subdivision design features which do not provide recreational functions. Design features not eligible to receive park credit may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Planning area edges
- b) Landscaped community or subdivision entries or medians
- c) Meandering streams, fountains or other water features
- d) Paseos, greenbelts, trails, walkways, setbacks and other similar features that are used for transportation and are not destinations in and of themselves
- e) Streetscapes
- f) Slopes greater than 3:1
- g) Easements
- h) Sites with an average gradient of more than 5% (rough grade)
- i) Sites with drainage structures (box channels, swales, etc.) designed for less than a ten year storm event

Item 6.3 Require the developer of each new turn-key park to maintain the newly completed park for a one-year

period. At the end of this mandated period, the Town may accept responsibility for maintenance and operation of the new park, or issue a detailed letter to the developer that identifies all items requiring replacement, adjustment or improvement within a specified time period.

**Policy 7: Strive to implement an efficient park planning and review process.**

Item 7.1 Develop procedures for reaching consensus during the park planning and review process.

Item 7.2 Expedite the processing of park plans. In general, the total review and permitting period should take four to six months. Delays may occasionally be necessary for controversial or extremely complicated projects; however, the Town should strive to review and approve park plans in less than six months.

**Policy 8: Develop general requirements and procedures for planning, designing and constructing new parks.**

Item 8.1 Prepare accurate site plans of existing parks and conceptual master plans for each planned park.

Item 8.2 Establish policies and procedures for the design and construction of new parks with input from Town departments including Planning, Building and Safety, Community Services and Park Maintenance/Public Works.

Item 8.3 Review the advantages of Town staff managing the construction of new parks versus hiring a specialized project management firm and determine the optimum strategy to be employed by the Town.

Item 8.4 Establish capital cost estimates for future park facilities as part of the annual Park Impact Fee schedule process with staff input from the Community Services Department, Planning Department, Building & Safety Department, Public Works and the Finance Department.

Item 8.5 Plans for future parks should undergo a safety review by Town staff. Potential safety or health concerns should be identified and correction required before plans are approved.

Item 8.6 Require that all proposed parks and park improvements include adequate and creative accessibility features for disabled and elderly patrons.

**Policy 9: Employ established park planning principles in the design of improvements to existing parks and in planning new parks and recreation facilities.**

Item 9.1 Ensure that the placement of buildings, open air facilities, and landscape plantings are unified, functionally-related to, and compatible with adjacent uses.

Item 9.2 Coordinate the locations and the species of plants with architectural and site design.

Item 9.3 Consider the context of local history and culture when developing a park theme. Utilize available historic artifacts and other resources where possible.

Item 9.4 Design and build parks and recreation facilities to be fully accessible to all park users and ensure they meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Item 9.5 Develop site plans that ensure optimum utility, comfort and security for all park users.

Item 9.6 Achieve a creative balance of functional and aesthetic criteria in the design of each park.

Item 9.7 Ensure that the design of new parks is environmentally conscious and financially sustainable.

Item 9.8 The design of park facilities should explore opportunities to generate revenue from admission, asset management, user fees and concessions in order to offset operating costs.

Item 9.9 Prior to development, identify the staffing requirements and operational and maintenance costs of recreation facilities to ensure adequate budget planning.

## **Policy 10: Establish Community Park Guidelines and Development Standards**

Item 10.1 Purpose: Community parks are intended to serve the entire community with a variety of recreation opportunities. Community parks can include swimming pools, athletic fields, community recreation centers, cultural centers, picnic areas, dog parks and gardens. Community parks can serve neighborhood park needs within a radius of five miles.

Item 10.2 Size: Community Parks should be at least 15 to 40 acres, subject to land availability, budget constraints, topography, and location.

Item 10.3 Base level development standards for Community Parks:

10.3.1 When feasible, Community Parks should be developed adjacent to or near existing or proposed school sites and existing or proposed trails.

10.3.2 Access should be provided in close proximity to public transportation or make provisions for public transportation.

10.3.3 Community Parks should have full street improvements and utility connections including curbs, gutters, grading, automatic irrigation systems, turf, lighted walkways, street paving, traffic control devices, street trees, and sidewalks.

10.3.4 Community Parks should have fencing or walls, where appropriate, along the property line of the portion of a residential subdivision contiguous to the dedicated land.

10.3.5 Community Park sites should have enhanced drainage systems for the sports fields.

10.3.6 Sports fields and hard court facilities should be lighted for evening use.

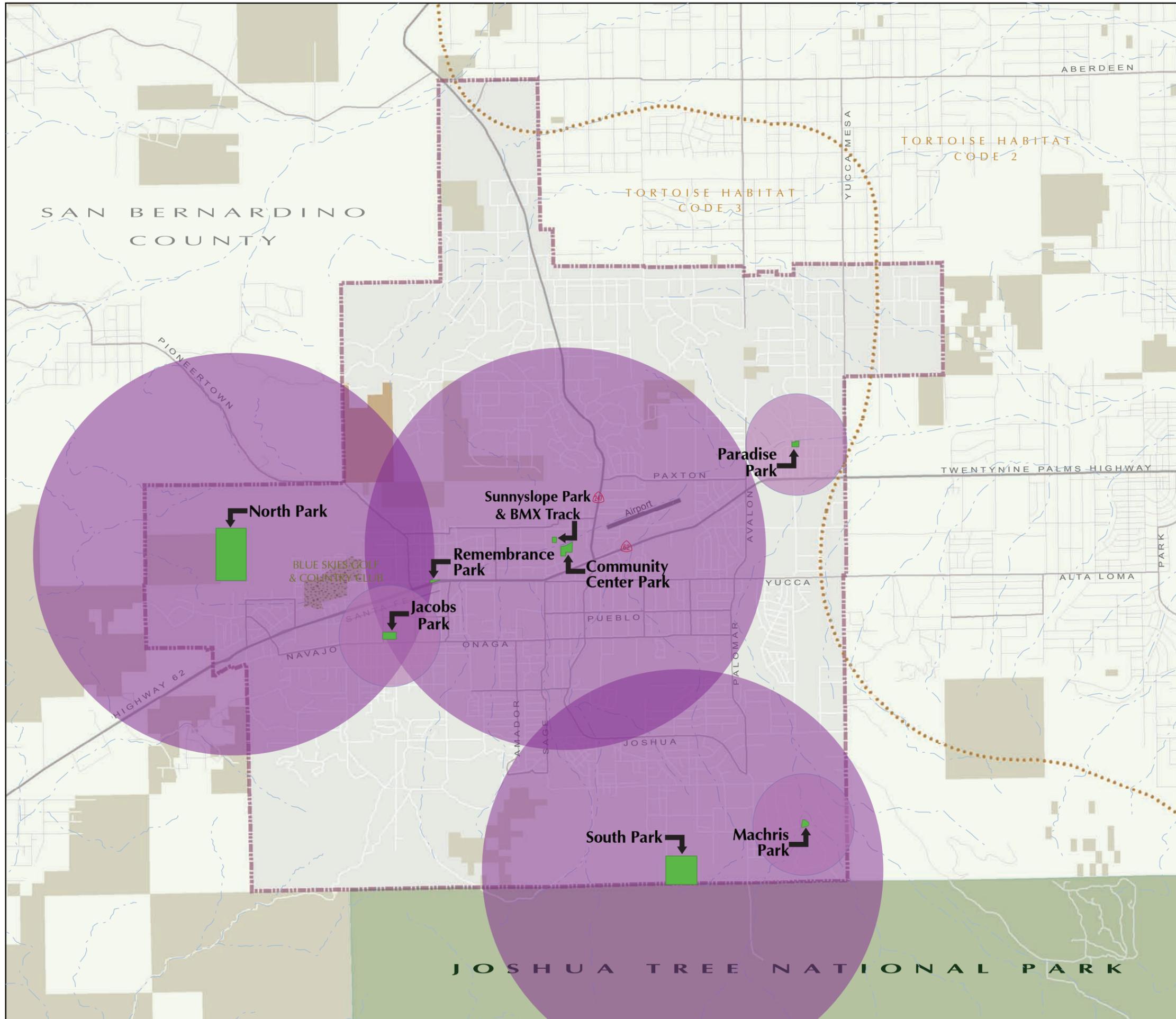
10.3.7 Community Parks should be designed to promote public security and facilitate surveillance by law enforcement.



# Park & Recreation Master Plan

Town of Yucca Valley, California

## Park Service Areas Exhibit 8.1



-  2-Mile Service Radius
-  1/2-Mile Service Radius
-  Park Land
-  Golf Course
-  Joshua Tree National Park
-  US Bureau of Land Management
-  State Lands Commission
-  Tortoise Habitat Boundary
-  City Limits
-  Highway
-  Major Roads
-  Intermittent Streams / Rivers



## Yucca Valley, California



MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN, INC.

December 2007



Park Type	Min. to Max. Size	Minimum Base Recreation Facilities	Support Facilities	Optional Facilities
Community	15-40 acres	Tot Lot/Playground 1 Informal/Open Space <sup>1</sup> 12 Open Picnic Tables 4 Picnic Shelters <sup>2</sup> 16 Barbecues 2 Basketball: informal 2 Lighted Soccer Fields (practice and game) <sup>3</sup> 2 Lighted Tennis Courts Volleyball	Public Restrooms Trash Receptacles Maintenance Building Concession Building (3,000 to 5,000 s. f.) On-site parking for 150 – 200 cars	Lighted Baseball Fields (practice and game) <sup>3</sup> Lighted Softball Fields (practice and game) <sup>3</sup> Performing Arts Center Senior Center Gymnasium Community Center Swimming Pool or Aquatics Complex, Skate Park Horseshoes or Shuffleboard Jogging/Exercise Course Historical and/or Cultural Facilities Teen/Multipurpose Center Dog Park
Notes: <sup>1</sup> All Informal/Open Space areas should have a maximum 2% gradient. <sup>2</sup> Picnic shelters for group-type structures should accommodate six to ten picnic tables beneath the shelter. <sup>3</sup> Practice fields can be accommodated in the informal/open space area(s)				

**Policy 11: Establish Neighborhood Park Guidelines and Development Standards**

Item 11.1 Purpose: Neighborhood parks are intended to serve the daily recreation needs of residents in the immediate vicinity of the park (1-2-mile radius). Primary uses can include passive open space areas, active play areas, picnic areas and practice play fields with limited lighted facilities.

Item 11.2 Size: Desirable usable size for Neighborhood Parks is between 3 to 15 acres, unless there are substantial reasons for accepting less acreage.

Item 11.3 Base Level development standards for Neighborhood Parks:

11.3.1 In some cases, if a satisfactory joint use agreement is in place, elementary schools can serve

the function of a neighborhood park for utilization of sports fields with limited lighted facilities.

11.3.2 The minimum size of a Neighborhood Park site may be lowered if the site is adjacent to an elementary or middle school, and there is a joint use agreement to share facilities. However, this guideline does not apply to giving park credit to developers.

11.3.3 The service area of a neighborhood park should not be encumbered by natural or man-made barriers such as thoroughfares, irrigation canals, or drainage channels.

11.3.4 Neighborhood Parks should be located centrally to the residential development served whenever possible.

11.3.5 Neighborhood Park sites should allow for public streets to surround the park site whenever possible. Fencing or walls should be provided along the property line of the portion of a residential subdivision contiguous to the dedicated land.

11.3.6 Whenever possible, new neighborhood parks should be developed adjacent to special community facilities such as Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA's, etc.

11.3.7 Neighborhood Parks should have full street improvements and utility connections including curbs, gutters, grading, automatic irrigation systems, turf, lighted walkways, street paving, traffic control devices, street trees and sidewalks, where feasible.

11.3.8 Minimum amenities for Neighborhood Parks include multi-use turf play area, restroom building, security lighting, covered picnic shelter, drinking fountains, landscaping, accessible playground area, and paved parking lot.

11.3.9 Neighborhood park sites should have enhanced drainage systems and other off site improvements which are essential to the acceptance of the land for recreational purposes and complement community park facilities.

Table 8-4 Base Level Park Development Guidelines for Neighborhood Parks				
Park Type	Desirable Size	Minimum Base Recreation Facilities		Support Facilities
Neighborhood	3-15 acres	Tot Lot/Playground	1	Public Restrooms
		Informal/Open Space	1	Tennis Courts (fenced)
		(minimum two (2) acres open space field at 2% gradient	4	Sand Volleyball
		Open Picnic Tables	1	Jogging Path
		Picnic Shelters <sup>1</sup>	5	Water Spray Pool
		Barbecues	1	Softball: Practice Only <sup>2</sup>
		Basketball	1	Baseball: Practice Only <sup>2</sup>
		Volleyball	1	On-site parking for 15-20 cars
		Paved /walkways	1	
		Trash Receptacles	1	
		Notes:	<sup>1</sup> Picnic shelters for group-type structures must accommodate six to ten picnic tables beneath the shelter <sup>2</sup> Practice fields can be accommodated in the informal/open space area(s)	

**Policy 12: Establish criteria for Special Purpose Park amenities.**

Item 12.1 Facilitate a design review by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission to insure that proposed Special Purpose Park amenities will serve the purpose it is intended to serve, i.e. spray/water play parks, skateboard parks, dog parks, show grounds, amphitheater/activity plazas, etc.

**8.2 Recreation Programs and Services**

Recreation programs and events are widely recognized as a key component of Yucca Valley’s desirable quality of life. Staff has done an excellent job providing programs and services, often with limited resources. The special events and enrichment classes have been particularly popular with the public. The future challenge will be to continue to respond to the increasing demands of a very diverse community and provide the necessary facilities and services efficiently and effectively within budgetary constraints.

The following policies and guidelines are offered to enhance the provision and coordination of existing programs and develop new programs to meet community needs. The

Community Services Department staff has been very proactive in addressing the community's recreation needs, and has already implemented some of the suggested practices at least in part.

After reviewing these policies, staff may find it beneficial to re-evaluate some of the current methods of delivering services as it works through its annual work program and establish consistency with the policies contained herein.

**Policy 13: Ensure that there are accessible parks and recreation facilities and programs that provide a positive experience and meet community needs.**

Item 13.1 Continually identify opportunities to promote the development of new community centers that include such facilities as gymnasiums, multi-purpose facilities for large gatherings and banquets, and performing arts venues in order to expand program opportunities for all areas of the community.

Item 13.2 Make optimum use of available facilities throughout the town for programs and activities. Coordinate use of facilities with the local school district. Explore the use of off-site facilities for recreation classes and activities including use of vacant commercial or industrial sites.

Item 13.3 Maintain an awareness of current trends in rendering recreational services. Collaborate with other agencies and professional organizations to provide innovative programming.

Item 13.4 Review and revise operational policies to ensure that programs and services are provided effectively and efficiently.

Item 13.5 Respond to community needs by providing quality service to the community through the Department's management philosophy, structure and staff.

Item 13.6 Provide formal and on-the-job training for staff members. Encourage professional development whenever possible.

Item 13.7 Develop and implement procedures that ensure that services are available to all residents without barriers or limitations.

Item 13.8 Continue to improve the quarterly activity brochure. Continue to offer space to other service providers in the community whenever feasible.

Item 13.9 Continue to expand recreation class offerings for all ages, including the elderly, disabled, and economically disadvantaged, especially in the areas of physical health and the cultural arts.

Item 13.10 Create more family oriented intergenerational events that emphasize participation, socialization and skill development over competition.

Item 13.11 Create more activities that appeal to the "between" ages: 16-30 and 45-60. Those age groups are typically classified as pre-teens or older adults.

Item 13.12 Explore innovative means of revenue development to offset the cost of delivering recreation services.

Item 13.13 Continue to build and maintain community partnerships. Encourage the participation of all recreation and community service providers in the quarterly meetings of the Yucca Valley Sports Council and other collaboration forums.

Item 13.14 Encourage schools to make playgrounds, sports courts and playfields available to local residents after normal school hours and on weekends.

Item 13.15 Build and maintain the commitment of developing community partnerships to effectively provide programs and services that respond to community needs and avoid duplication of services.

Item 13.16 Continue to support and work with Tri-Valley Little League, Morongo Basin Youth Soccer Association, the Boys & Girls Club, Hi Desert BMX, Hi Desert Aquatics and other non-profits to fill programming gaps and effectively provide services.

Item 13.17 Continue to form mutually beneficial opportunities for local businesses to co-sponsor events and community activities.

Item 13.18 Meet with local youth sports groups at least quarterly to coordinate schedules and use of facilities.

Item 13.19 Continue to utilize Town’s website to promote programs and services and to facilitate on-line registration for activities. Provide links to other local service providers whenever feasible.

### 8.3 Cultural Programs and Services

Yucca Valley’s image as a community has become intricately linked to the growing popular appreciation for its expanding arts and cultural heritage. A number of culturally focused community organizations and entrepreneurial ventures have sprung up in recent years. There are a significant number of artists and musicians living in Yucca Valley and its neighboring communities. The Community Services Department has reported steady attendance and participation increases in the programs offered by the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and the growing momentum of the Town’s Public Art Program.

Interest in the numerous cultural programs offered by the Town, local library and various cultural groups and organizations was noted repeatedly during the public input process. The following policies and guidelines will help elected officials and staff to keep pace with this trend and provide the facilities, programs and cultural image desired by the members of the community.

#### **Policy 14: Support and facilitate the growth of the arts and cultural opportunities in Yucca Valley.**

Item 14.1 Include the development of cultural venues in planning future public facilities.

Item 14.2 Plan for an expanded Art in Public Places program by developing a formal Arts and Culture Plan.

Item 14.3 Pursue the development of a Cultural Arts Commission with representation from the many local

cultural organizations whose mission should be to facilitate the growth of the arts and encourage collaboration between community arts organizations.

Item 14.4 Pursue development of a Yucca Valley Cultural Foundation as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the specific purpose of raising funds for implementation of the Arts and Culture Master Plan.

Item 14.5 Pursue the re-location and expansion of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, Yucca Valley Branch Library, and an amphitheater/activities plaza in the Old Town Specific Plan area.

Item 14.6 Pursue development of a Yucca Valley Show Grounds and Events Center to provide a venue for large scale community events, equestrian activities, exhibitions, and specialty shows and festivals.

Item 14.7 Include smaller amphitheater/activity plazas in the design of the future Multi-Generational Community Center Complex and the Yucca Mesa Community Park

Item 14.8 Participate in supporting projects initiatives that position Yucca Valley as a community known for quality arts offerings.

Item 14.9 Identify opportunities to increase media participation in marketing cultural arts in Yucca Valley.

Item 14.10 Promote multi-cultural expression and participation in the arts through support of programs that celebrate diverse interests, ethnicities, and cultures.

Item 14.11 Increase collaboration with the schools and library to provide targeted education programs and educational outreach designed to engage interest in the broad themes of natural science, local history, music and art.

Item 14.12 Where appropriate and feasible, provide support for the programs and events provided by the various community art organizations.

Item 14.13 Continue to collaborate with Joshua Tree National Park to expand outdoor education and natural history programs.

Item 14.14 Continue to improve the Town’s Summer Music Festival by establishing seasonal themes and scheduling talent that supports those themes.

Item 14.15 Increase cultural programming by offering recreation classes for performing arts, music, dance, visual arts and craft making.

## 8.4 Community Services Operating Policies & Standards

Among other responsibilities, the Community Services Department designs and delivers recreational programs and services, manages the use of public facilities, and oversees the coordination of services with community organizations and various non-profit groups. The following policies and guidelines can be used by the department when making decisions to ensure consistency with sound professional practices in the delivery of recreation and cultural services.

**Policy 15: Design, develop, promote and conduct a year-round schedule of quality programs, events and services that respond to the recreational and cultural needs and interests of the community.**

Item 15.1 Participate in the provision of clean, safe parks and facilities for recreational and cultural programs and events.

15.1.1 Conduct an annual review of parks use ordinances and ensure that rules and regulations are relevant, fair and enforceable.

15.1.2 Provide training for all program and event staff regarding the procedures for identifying and reporting safety hazards or other concerns at program sites.

15.1.3 Maintain communication with local law enforcement agencies regarding ongoing, developing and potential problems at public recreational facilities.

Item 15.2 Identify the needs and interests of the community for recreation and cultural programs and maximize

the use of resources to conduct programs and events that address these needs and interests.

15.2.1 Develop and utilize ongoing and periodic survey instruments that collect public input regarding desired and needed programs, events and services.

15.2.2 Work within established Town guidelines to recruit and develop volunteer leadership that assists with the provision of programs, events and services.

15.2.3 Consider the formal development of a Youth Master Plan that identifies needs and facilitates the short and long-term provision of programs and services for youth and teens.

Item 15.3 Participate proactively in community efforts that identify and recognize the Town’s historical heritage, the heart of historic Yucca Valley, and enhance the urban environment of the downtown area with plazas, walkways and outdoor event space.

Item 15.4 Monitor existing agreements, pursue new agreements, and maintain communications that maximize the public’s access to public school facilities for recreational purposes.

15.4.1 Review existing joint use agreements with the school district to identify opportunities for expanding the Town's ability to provide recreation programs for the community.

15.4.2 Through periodic review, identify and address problematic issues with existing joint use agreements and ensure that each joint use agreement is specific relative to times and days of facility use. The agreement should specify the waiver of rental fees and identify each group’s responsibility for the costs of maintenance, security, utilities and repairs. The agreement should also set forth a procedure for quick arbitration of possible conflicts.

- 15.4.3 Coordinate with the school district to ensure that planned capital improvements on school campuses minimize the impact on fields and other shared recreational facilities.
- 15.4.4 Where feasible, consider developing Site Agreements or Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) under which community groups can make use of specific school facilities under the umbrella of existing agreements between the Town and the school district. This could clarify responsibility when there is third party use of school facilities.
- 15.4.5 Meet quarterly with school district staff to discuss maintenance and operational issues. Meeting minutes should be prepared and distributed to summarize the discussions and provide reminders of items requiring further follow up.
- 15.4.6 Encourage school district participation in the quarterly meetings of the Yucca Valley Sports Council to facilitate discussion of mutual interests and concerns, ways of coordinating services and avoiding duplication, ways to reach underserved populations, possible program collaboration, and possible joint facility development.

Item 15.5 Seek opportunities to satisfy field space demands of sports leagues by installing artificial turf so that increased use does not further impact park and school fields.

Item 15.6 Review and revise operational policies to ensure that programs and services can be offered effectively and efficiently. Develop policies that ensure that service is available to all residents without barriers or limitations to program access.

## 8.5 Trails

A local trail system that provides for non-vehicular travel through Yucca Valley will tremendously enhance the local recreation opportunities. That this system will connect to a larger regional trail system is a bonus feature that presents some very special opportunities. (See *Exhibit 8.2, Proposed Trails as Shown in 2002 Trails Master Plan*)

Requests for trails ranked very high in the community surveys and workshops that were conducted. Residents indicated that they use or would use trails for fitness, transportation, as family activities, and for passive recreation.

The following policies and guidelines should provide a basis for the Town to make decisions when implementing its trails program.

**Policy 16: Commit to the development of an accessible, functional, expandable, and effectively connected local trails system in Yucca Valley.**

Item 16.1 Enforce dedication requirements and the development of the Town of Yucca Valley's Trails Plan. (*Appendix D*)

Item 16.2 Consider the lease of utility easements for recreational trails and trail links.

Item 16.3 Encourage pedestrian and bicycle linkages between residential and commercial uses by developing and designating both on-road and off-road bicycle trails.

Item 16.4 Encourage the establishment of equestrian trails where they link residential development by way of natural washes and flood channels.

Item 16.5 Design equestrian trails, hiking and bicycling rights-of-way to minimize user conflicts between these user groups.

Item 16.6 Provide for quality transportation alternatives appropriate to existing and future land uses, including walking, biking, and equestrian access.

Item 16.7 Strive to improve access to trail systems by including trailheads and access points within

neighborhood and community parks that are adjacent to planned trail systems.

Item 16.8 Commit to having public safety monitor the trail systems to ensure participants safe use of the trail system.

Item 16.9 Make it a priority to develop and maintain trail systems in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

Item 16.10 Promote the connections from local trails to regional trails and strive to create a functional cross-town trail system.

Item 16.11 Design and enforce trail use regulations to ensure that trail systems are safe for pedestrians.

Item 16.12 Promote intergovernmental coordination to implement the trails specific plan.



# Park & Recreation Master Plan

Town of Yucca Valley, California

## Proposed Trails as Shown in 2002 Trails Master Plan Exhibit 8.2

### Yucca Valley Trail System

-  Riding Trail
-  Pedestrian & Bike Trail
-  Multi-Use Trail (Riding, Pedestrian & Bike)
-  Bike Routes - Class III
-  Bike Lanes

-  Park Land
-  Golf Course
-  Joshua Tree National Park
-  US Bureau of Land Management
-  State Lands Commission
-  Tortoise Habitat Boundary
-  City Limits
-  Highway
-  Major Roads
-  Intermittent Streams / Rivers

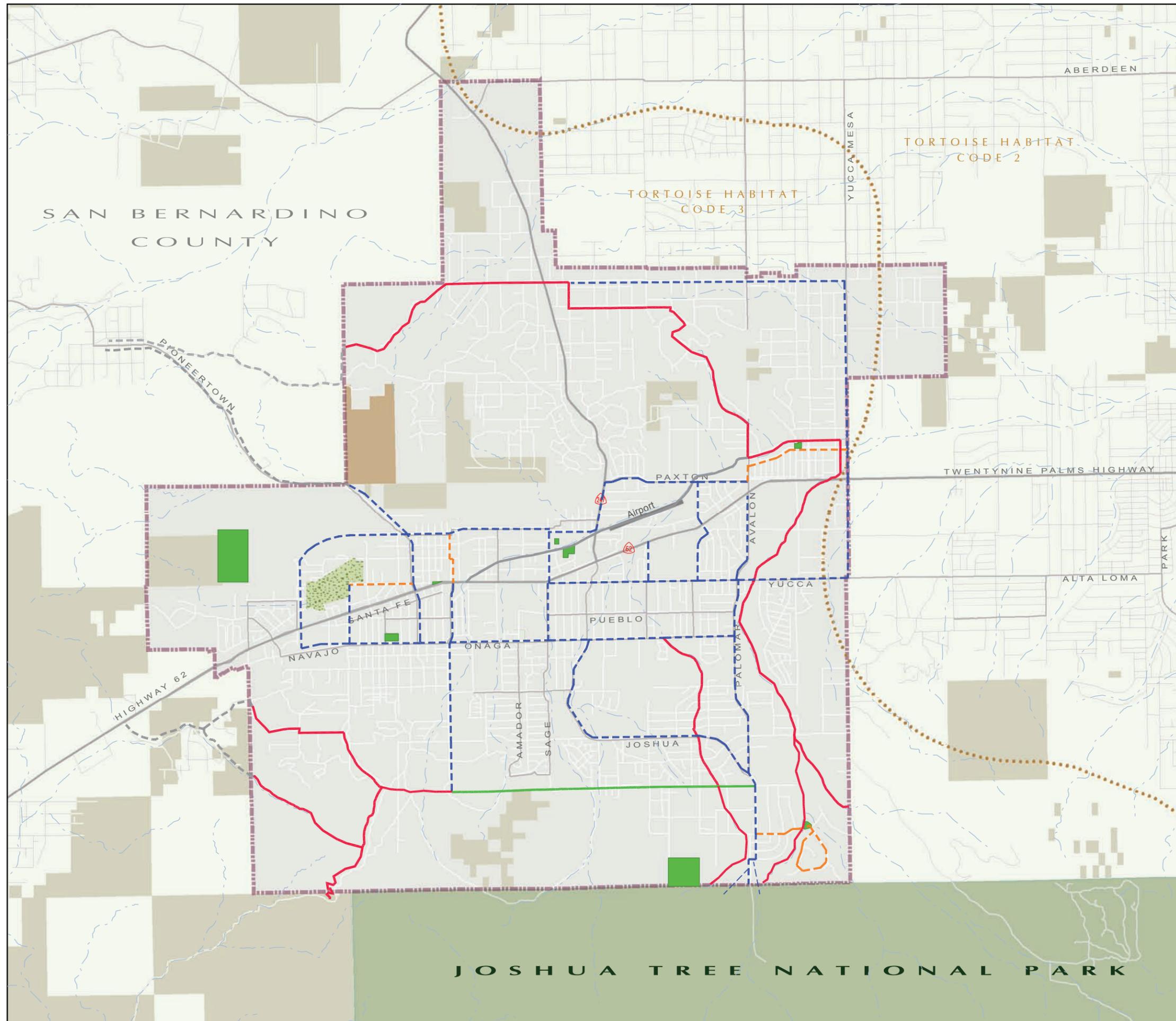


## Yucca Valley, California



MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN, INC.

December 2007







town of  
yucca valley

parks & recreation master plan update

**CHAPTER 9:  
RECOMMENDATIONS AND  
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**



## 9.0: RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

### 9.1 Introduction

This section presents recommendations and strategies for the implementation of proposed new recreation facilities and programs. Recommendations address the recreation facility and program needs identified in the Needs Analysis section, and are the result of the assessment of existing inventory and demand; the community outreach process; and consideration of the Town's needs with respect to the Old Town Specific Plan and the Facilities Master Plan being done to determine the best option for bringing Town administration functions together at a Civic Center Complex.

Funding, design, and implementation will be determined as a result of the capital improvement project budget process conducted by the Town each year. Item 9.5 provides a proposed capital improvement program timeline covering the time period of this Master Plan which is 2008 through 2020.

Facility recommendations are organized according to key findings identified through the community outreach and needs analysis process, as follows:

- ◆ Reconfiguration of existing Community Center Complex for a Civic Center and Neighborhood Park
- ◆ Old Town Specific Plan Cultural Corridor containing the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, Yucca Valley Branch Library, and Amphitheater/Activities Plaza
- ◆ Multigenerational Community Center Complex that serves as the focal point for the community to address the need for a Community Center/Gymnasium, Senior Center, and Teen Center.
- ◆ Performing Arts Facility in coordination with Yucca Valley High School
- ◆ Yucca Valley Events, Showground and Equestrian Center

- ◆ Aquatics Center Complex in coordination with a new Boys & Girls Club and West End Community Park with sports fields.
- ◆ East End Community Sports Park in coordination with La Contenta Middle School
- ◆ Sunnyslope Extreme Sports Park containing a skate park, improved BMX course, new rock climbing facility and a dog park designed for both passive and active pet uses.
- ◆ Trail Head and Self-Guided Nature Trail at North Park and South Park
- ◆ A community park in the Yucca Mesa area.
- ◆ A neighborhood park in the area formerly called the “Southside Community Center Property”.
- ◆ Implementation of the Yucca Valley Trails System.
- ◆ Improvements to Existing Parks
- ◆ Options regarding Blue Skies Golf and Country Club
- ◆ Potential development of Burnt Mountain Park

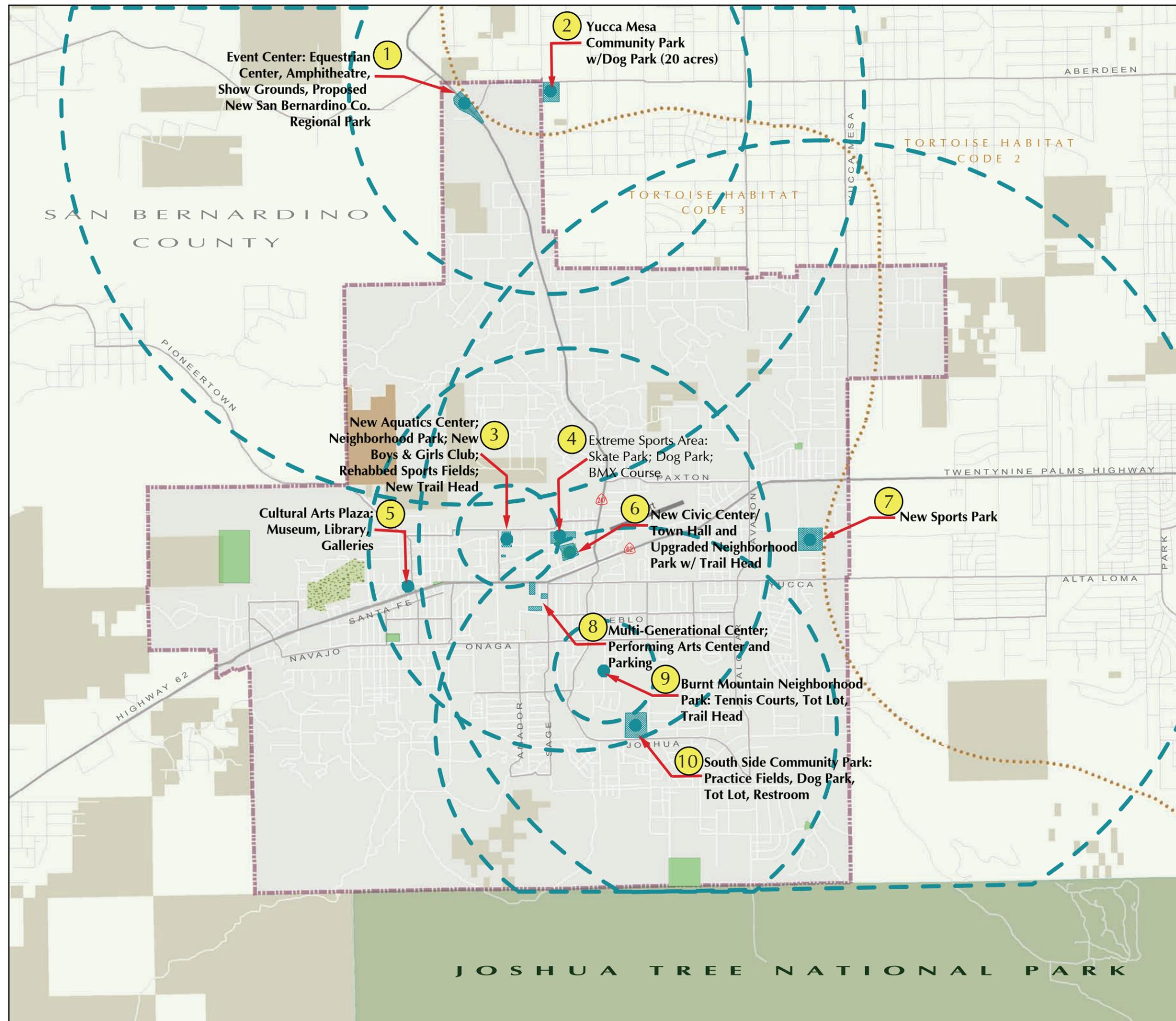
The recreation program recommendations and strategies provide a roadmap for the Community Services Department in its efforts to service the community in the future. Some existing programs will grow in the future as new facilities are developed to accommodate the growing demand, while other programs will be phased out to provide space for new programs demanded by the community. Recreation program recommendations and strategies are not tied to any specific timelines, but rather to when available space can be allocated to accomplish their implementation. Program recommendations were developed as a result of the needs analysis and the community outreach process, especially the community workshops and resident phone survey, which provided the consultant team with specific data of the types of recreational programming desired by the community. The dominant themes derived from the community input process regarding the need for recreation programs and services were as follows:



# Park & Recreation Master Plan

Town of Yucca Valley, California

## Proposed New Facilities Exhibit 9.1



- Facility Referenced in Chapter 9 of Master Plan
  - New Facilities Proposed Locations
  - New Facilities Service Areas\*
  - Golf Course
  - Joshua Tree National Park
  - US Bureau of Land Management
  - State Lands Commission
  - Tortoise Habitat Boundary
  - City Limits
  - Highway
  - Major Roads
  - Intermittent Streams / Rivers
- \* Neighborhood Park 1-mile radius  
Community Parks 2.5-mile radius  
Regional Parks 5-mile radius



## Yucca Valley, California



MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN, INC.

December 2007



- ◆ Preventive recreation, that is, recreation as an antidote for youth/teen social problems.
- ◆ Recreation for groups limited by income, physical disability, language, or cultural barriers.
- ◆ Collaboration among program and facility providers, partnering and cooperation between public, private, and non-profit sectors, especially cultural organizations.
- ◆ Increased demand for Tiny-Tot and Pre-School programs and activities.
- ◆ Provision for aquatics programs and water safety instruction.
- ◆ Provision for Senior Citizen programs and activities.
- ◆ Opportunity to gather and socialize with others.
- ◆ Learning opportunities for hobby, self-improvement or career development.
- ◆ Opportunities to give back to the community through volunteer work.
- ◆ Opportunities to participate in Music, Drama or Performing Arts Classes.
- ◆ Opportunities for both indoor (gymnasium) and outdoor (fields) sports activities.
- ◆ Opportunities for cultural enrichment.
- ◆ Opportunities for attending concerts, events and festivals.
- ◆ Equestrian opportunities for riding, showing, competing and learning.

Because of the geographic nature and layout of the Town there was much discussion during the community outreach and public input regarding centralization of facilities. The sentiment was that centralizing facilities would make it easier for families to attend activities and programs since most everyone in Yucca Valley must drive to recreation sites, as the Town is not currently pedestrian friendly in providing access to recreation facilities.

Others felt that, while there is value in centralizing some facilities, they strongly supported having certain neighborhood and community recreation facilities located in areas close to their residential developments to provide localized recreation facilities and program opportunities.

The consultant team looked at both approaches to providing park, recreation and cultural facilities and programs and determined that it would be best for Yucca Valley to centralize facilities like Community Centers, Senior Centers, Performing Arts Centers and Teen Centers, but also locate neighborhood and community parks in strategic areas throughout the Town to serve residents in a convenient location for them to access.

With this strategic approach in mind the consultant team toured the entire Town to determine the most desirable locations for the new park, recreation and cultural facilities that are recommended in the Master Plan for Yucca Valley.

The consultants consider the locations shown in the recommendations to be the most desirable to meet the strategic approach of providing the benefits of centralizing like facilities while also providing parks close to all residents in the community. However, the proposed locations are conceptual and represent the areas the recommended facilities should be located, but not necessarily the exact locations the Town should pursue for development.

There could be multiple locations the Town could consider for locating the recommended facilities based on financial considerations, acquisition possibilities and community demand. In the consultants' opinion, the potential locations shown in the Master Plan provide the most convenient access for the potential users, are located in areas that minimize impacts on surrounding uses, are placed adjacent to other uses that complement each other, were considered in light of traffic and circulation that would not over impact any one area and are situated to attract the most community participation. However, it is important to note that centralizing the future facilities as recommended is more important than placing them in the exact locations shown in the Master Plan.

In developing potential costs estimates for the recommendations in order to determine future funding and budget requirements, the consultants used construction cost data compiled by the construction industry as of July 2007 for “Green Construction” that is LEED compliant. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, provides a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. The cost estimates represent the following LEED compliance:

- ◆ Sustainable sites
- ◆ Water efficiency
- ◆ Energy and atmosphere
- ◆ Materials and resources
- ◆ Indoor environmental quality
- ◆ Innovation and design process

The cost estimates are for high quality “green” construction for the recommendations, of course there are less expensive ways of implementing the recommended facilities if political and financial concerns limit the ability to be LEED compliant.

In summary, the recommendations and strategies presented herein are proposed to meet the identified needs, benefit the community, and align with the Town of Yucca Valley’s General Plan goals and policies. If implemented they should provide the community with the provision of adequate recreation facilities and programs to meet citizen expectations and maintain the Town’s image as one of the most desirable place to live, work and retire.

## 9.2 Facility Recommendations, Estimated Capital Costs, and Facility Implementation, Funding and Financing Strategies

### 9.2.1: Reconfiguration of existing Community Center Complex for a Civic Center

The Facilities Master Plan, being conducted in coordination with the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, but as a separate study, is being done to address the current space and coordination issues associated with the decentralized functions of the Town's administrative departments.

The preferred option for centralizing these functions is to transform the current Community Center Complex, where Town Hall and Town Council are now located, into a civic center complex so that the Engineering Department, Planning Department, and Public Safety Administration; along with the existing Town administrative functions can be centralized in a single facility that would meet the space needs necessary for the Town to efficiently operate. This plan would necessitate the relocation of the Yucca Valley Branch Library, Hi-Nature Nature Museum, Senior Center, and conversion of the existing Community Center.

To provide adequate parking and support facilities for the proposed civic center complex the current park facilities located at the community center site would have to be reconfigured and some even relocated.

The recommendations contained in this Chapter provide options and alternatives for relocation of facilities to sites that were determined to be the most practical places to develop new facilities for these programs that would best serve the community.

With the redevelopment of the existing Community Center Complex into a Civic Center Complex there will still be room for some green space and neighborhood park amenities along the Yucca Creek Wash. It is recommended that the specific design plan for the new Civic Center Complex contain these neighborhood park amenities to compliment the Civic Center Complex and provide some activity spaces for people to

enjoy when they visit the Civic Center Complex. The specific park amenities to be included will have to be determined when it is known how much space will be available after the space needs for the Civic Center functions are finally determined. (Refer to *Facilities Master Plan Study* for proposed Civic Center layouts.)

### **9.2.2: Old Town Specific Plan Cultural Corridor**

To make room for and remodel facilities at the existing Community Center/Library/ Museum/Senior Center site for a centralized Civic Center/Town Hall Complex, it is recommended to relocate the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and the Yucca Valley Branch Library to property within the “Old Town Specific Plan.”

The preferred plan would be to build a “Cultural Corridor” venue in the Old Town Master Plan area that would contain the Hi-Desert Museum, the Branch Library and an amphitheater/activities plaza that would serve both residents and visitors. If possible, a single facility should be built to house both the Hi-Desert Museum and the Branch Library which could share common facilities, such as, entry/lobby area, rest rooms, meeting rooms, conference/training rooms, receiving area, kitchen facilities and staff parking. The facility could be designed as a “V” or “L” or “Z” shaped building with two wings, one housing the Museum and the other containing the Library with shared amenities in between.

According to the Facilities Master (being developed concurrently by another consultant) the proposed space needs for the Museum and Library are as follows:

- a) 15,000 s.f. Hi-Desert Nature Museum
  - Permanent Exhibits Hall,
  - Traveling Exhibition Space,
  - Youth Discovery/ Events Space,
  - Secure Patio Exhibition/Performance Space,
  - Gift Store,
  - Secure Controlled Storage, and

- Administrative Offices.
- b) 20,000 s.f. Library
- Public Library Area,
  - Children’s Library Area,
  - Reading Rooms,
  - Computer Stations,
  - Reference/Research Area,
  - Storage and
  - Administrative Offices.
- c) Shared Facilities
- Reception/Lobby,
  - Rest Rooms,
  - Conference/ Meeting Rooms,
  - Receiving Area,
  - Kitchen/Lounge and
  - Staff Parking

Both wings could then surround or be adjacent to an amphitheater/activities plaza that would be designed to accommodate special events and performing arts programming. The Amphitheater/Activities Plaza is envisioned to be a covered outdoor amphitheater with a shade structure, a stage area and landscaped with a desert theme. This venue could host events to attract people into the Old Town area.

When the amphitheater/activities plaza is not being used for programming, it would be a seating area for people to have lunch outdoors, read outdoors or just relax downtown. This area could also include an Art in Public Places Program.

Through history, communities have developed public spaces that met their needs, whether these were markets, places for celebrations, or sites for locals to gather. Public spaces often come to symbolize the community, society or culture. It is envisioned that the Yucca Valley cultural corridor would be a

destination attraction that would define Yucca Valley as a cultural community.

Specific places acquire meaning through their functions, further deepening their roles in people’s lives. The proposed functions for the Amphitheater/Activities Plaza are:

- a) Concerts
- b) Farmers’ markets
- c) Art shows
- d) Drama performances
- e) Town meetings
- f) Festivals
- g) Sitting
- h) Reading
- i) People-watching
- j) Eating
- k) Walking
- l) Relaxing

The Town needs to secure enough property in the Old Town Specific Plan to develop the entire venue; however, the development could be phased with the Museum and Library being built first so that the Civic Center Complex could take over their current space.

### **9.2.2a Estimated Costs**

Both the Museum and Library are specialized facilities requiring significant architectural design, climate control and special equipment. The following cost analysis is based upon doing the entire project in one phase; obviously, the project could be phased if funding cannot be allocated all at one time. For cost estimating purposes the Master Plan uses 2007 construction cost estimates for quality “Green” design and construction that is LEED compliant. There are less expensive building methods available and the town may wish to consider them if funding or financing for this project is limited. The current 2007 “Green” construction cost figure of

\$400 per square foot, plus a 20% architectural and engineering (A&E) and Building Contingency was used to develop estimated costs for budgeting purposes.

Based on a combined Museum/Library building with shared space totaling 35,000 square feet the estimated cost would be \$16.8 million including the 20% A&E and Contingency.

The Amphitheater/Activities Plaza is estimated to be approximately 200 feet by 300 feet for a total of 60,000 square feet. The estimated cost for both hardscape and landscape using 2007 estimated “Green” construction costs estimates of \$75 per square foot (including A&E and contingency) is \$4.5 million.

Property acquisition is estimated at \$12 per square foot for a total of \$1.14 million. Thus, the total estimated projected cost for the above project would be just under \$22.5 million.

### **9.2.2b Implementation Strategies**

There are a number of approaches the Town could take to build a new Museum, Library and Activities Plaza within the Old Town Specific Plan. The following are some options for consideration:

Acquire the necessary property to build the facilities described above through the redevelopment agency with the use of either Revenue Bonds or COPs and negotiate with the County of San Bernardino to jointly fund the development and operation of the combined Museum and Library facility. Revenue from space rentals, events, admissions, concessions, and sponsorship agreements could offset the Town's portion of the debt service.

Acquire the necessary property, but only proceed with the Museum building and let the County of San Bernardino pursue a new Library through its normal Capital Improvement Project schedule. This approach would mean that the Museum and Library would have to be separate facilities.

Find an existing building or buildings within the Old Town Specific Plan that could accommodate the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and Library on an interim basis and lease them so

that the Town can proceed with the redevelopment of the proposed Civic Center site; then work to secure the funding or financing and joint development agreements necessary to implement the combined facility concept in the future.

### 9.2.3: Multigenerational Community Center Complex



In addition to moving the Museum and Library to the Old Town area, the operations of the existing Community Center and Senior Center will need to be relocated so those facilities can become part of the Civic Center Complex. The recommendation to accomplish this would be to build a Multi-Generational Community Center Complex on the property located between the California Welcome Center and Yucca Valley High School. The proposal for this site includes developing a three wing complex, one housing a community center/gymnasium; one housing a senior center; and the third housing a teen center. The three wing complex could be designed to surround another outdoor amphitheater/plaza area for extended program opportunities for each of the three centers.

The following is a description of each venue within the Multi-Generational Complex:

- ◆ 16,000 Square Foot Community Center/Gymnasium containing a large Multi-Purpose Room with a stage and kitchen; a Multi-Purpose Gymnasium; Class Rooms; Craft Center; Meeting Rooms; and Administrative Offices.
- ◆ 12,000 Square Foot Senior Center with large Multi-Purpose Room and Kitchen; Class Rooms; Game Room; Fitness/Exercise Room; Counseling Offices, Card Room; Lounge and Gift Shop.
- ◆ 10,000 Square Foot Teen Center with Multi-Purpose Recreation/Game Room; Computer Room; Band Practice Room; Study Hall; Malt Shop or Food Concession; and a Theater Room.

**9.2.3a: Estimated Costs**

The following cost analysis is based upon building all three wings at one time; obviously, the project could be phased if funding cannot be allocated all at one time. For cost estimating purposes the Master Plan uses 2007 construction cost estimates for quality “Green” design and construction. There are less expensive building methods available and the town may wish to consider them if funding or financing for this project is limited.

The current 2007 “Green” construction cost figure of \$300 per square foot, for community centers, plus a 20% A&E and Building Contingency, and \$75 per s.f. for hardscape and landscape was used to develop estimated costs for budgeting purposes. Using these figures the estimated cost for each center is as follows:

16,000 s.f. Community Center/Gym.	\$5,760,000
12,000 s.f. Senior Center	\$4,320,000
10,000 s.f. Teen Center	\$3,600,000
Parking, Plaza Area & Landscaping	\$2,500,000
Property Acquisition 13 Acres	\$3,900,000
Estimated Total Funding Required	\$20,080,000

**9.2.3b: Implementation Strategies**

The Town could use Park Fees, Grants and General Fund revenue to develop just the Community Center/gymnasium building and support facilities as a first phase of the multi-generational complex. Or it may wish to consider a Park Bond with a tax assessment for building all three centers at one time. The debt service on a 30 year \$21 million Park Bond at current tax exempt interest rates is approximately \$1.2 million per year.

Based on an assumed tax assessment rate of .001 of assessed evaluation and an annual property appreciation rate of 6% the average residential property would receive a \$20 assessment the first year of the Bond. The Town could write down the assessment by using Park Impact Fees collected on recent new residential development. The resident phone survey conducted as part of the Master Plan process showed that

78% of the residents surveyed would be willing to pay at least an additional \$12 per year for these recreation facilities.

Passing a Park Bond, which requires two thirds voter approval, will not be easy, especially if the economy continues to decline. If this approach is going to be considered then the Town needs to spend some time and resources developing the specifics of the project and building community support. The total cost of the project could be less if property acquisition could be obtained through donation or other below market value means. Fund raising, naming rights and other Asset Management opportunities may also be used to generate revenue to offset debt service and decrease the amount of assessment necessary.

#### **9.2.4: Performing Arts Facility in coordination with Yucca Valley High School**

The preferred scenario for developing a Performing Arts Center in Yucca Valley would be for the Town and the School District to partner together for the development and operation of a performing arts facility adjacent to Yucca Valley High School.

##### **9.2.4a: Implementation Strategies**

An Auditorium/Performing Arts Center jointly developed by the Town and School District capable of being programmed for both High School Performing Arts Productions and for Community Theater would benefit both agencies financially and meet each agencies programming needs. The size of municipal performing arts centers in Southern California varies greatly from a seating capacity of a few hundred to several thousand. For Yucca Valley community theater purposes, including being able to accommodate touring performances, 300 to 500 seats will suffice. For School District performing arts programming and assembly usage there is a need for 500 to 700 seats. It is recommended that the design contain a lower level and upper level with a total capacity of 700 seats; whereby, smaller audience performances only need the lower level so that the theater

feels more intimate when only a few hundred attend a function. The facility should also contain rehearsal space, storage space, and administrative office space, meeting room, lobby/reception and rest rooms. The square footage required for these spaces varies on the size desired for such spaces.

#### **9.2.4b: Estimated Costs**

In general, quality construction for multi-functional performing arts facilities average \$12,000 per seat to build; including parking, landscape, A&E and contingency. This cost does not include property acquisition, public art, or theater equipment. Consequently, the estimated funding needed for this project would be \$8.4 million plus the cost of property acquisition and theater equipment.

If the proposed location property could be obtained by donation or other acquisition means; and the Town and School District could each fund \$5 million, a quality performing arts center could be built for both agencies to share; including furnishing the theater with the permanent sound and lighting equipment necessary to operate the facility. Each agency then would have to purchase its own individual sound and lighting equipment unique to their production requirements.

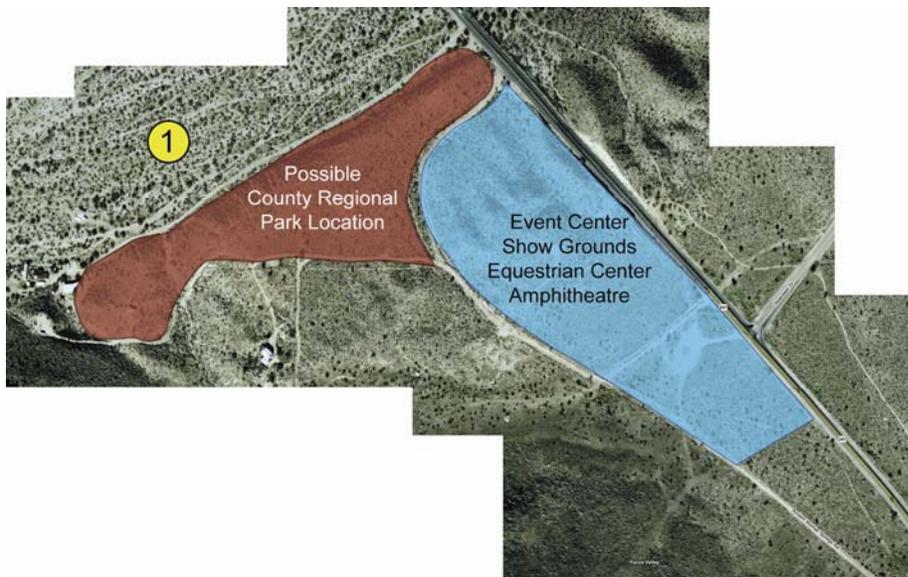
#### **9.2.5: Yucca Valley Events, Showground & Equestrian Center**

In the far north section of Town along Hwy 247, it is recommended that the Town pursue develop of approximately 100 to 200 acres for the Yucca Valley Events Showground and Equestrian Center consisting of venues for Rodeos, Community Festivals, Concerts, Promotional Events, Equestrian Activities, and Specialty Shows and also containing an RV Park. This facility could also serve as the Town's Disaster Emergency Response Staging Center and Emergency Shelter Area.

#### **9.2.5a: Implementation Strategies**

This area of Town would also be an excellent site for a San Bernardino County Regional Park. If the Town could provide

the property for both a County Regional Park and an Events Showground and Equestrian Center, the Town may be able to negotiate a joint development agreement with San Bernardino County Regional Parks and Recreation Department, whereby the County funds and builds both a Regional Park and Events Showground and Equestrian Center. The Town would then deed the portion of the property the Regional Park was built on to the County for their ownership and operation, while the Town would keep and operate the portion of the property that the Events Showground and Equestrian Center was built on.



If the Events Showground and Equestrian Center facility is designed properly the revenue generated from operations and Asset Management should cover the costs to operate and maintain the facility, thus this project has the potential of not needing funding or financing from the Town, if it can bring the

property to the table in negotiations with the County of San Bernardino.

There is also the possibility for the Town to bring in private concessionaires for the development and operation of some of the amenities, such as, the equestrian center, amphitheater, RV/campground and show grounds. The State of California Department of Parks and Recreation may also be interested in developing and operating some of these amenities. A joint meeting with County, State and Town officials is recommended to explore development possibilities.

### 9.2.5b: Estimated Costs

If the Town of Yucca Valley were to decide to proceed on its own with the development and operation of the Events

Showground and Equestrian Center it would have to explore ways to fund an estimated \$300,000 per acre construction cost. This figure includes the necessary on site and off site improvements and the proposed facilities for the Events Showground and Equestrian Center, but does not include highway improvements to SR247 that may be required to accommodate the increased traffic the facility would bring to the area. The amount of acres required for the facility would have to be determined in the specific design process and would depend on the anticipated attendance for each of the amenities that are ultimately included in the project.

This project would require significant environmental study and economic feasibility studies during the specific design phase, which is why it would be advantageous to involve the County and State early in the process if the Town decides to pursue it.

**9.2.6: Aquatics Center Complex in coordination with a new Boys & Girls Club and West End Neighborhood Park with Sports Fields**



The vision for this recommendation is for the Town to acquire the northeast corner of Palm Ave and Little League Drive in order to develop an aquatics complex along with a new Boys & Girls Club facility. The Town should work with the Boys & Girls Club to replace their existing building with a new facility adjacent to the aquatic complex containing a gym, computer room, game room, meeting rooms, reading room/study area and administrative offices. As part of this development there would be expanded turf areas to accommodate multi-use fields for practice and play.

The year-round aquatics facility should consist of a 25 Meter by 25 yard competitive pool, recreational swim/lap pool, zero depth tot pool, lounging area, meeting/training rooms, locker/changing rooms and administrative offices.

In addition to Community Services Department Aquatic Programs, the facility could be used by the School District, Boys & Girls Club, Churches, and Competitive Swim Clubs and also be rented for private parties. These facilities would provide an opportunity for shared locker rooms with the gym and pool.

In the area where the existing Boys & Girls Club is located the Town should pursue development of a neighborhood park that would incorporate the existing Little League baseball fields and soccer fields and would add picnic facilities and a Tot Lot for the west end community.

### **9.2.6a: Implementation Strategies**

The Town would have to acquire the 10 acre site on the northeast corner of Little League Dr. and Palm Ave. The new Aquatic Center and Boys & Girls Club should be built on this site, thus allowing the Boys & Girls Club to continue in their existing building while the new building is under construction. When completed the area where the existing club is would be transformed into a neighborhood park area to buffer and support the little league fields and soccer filed. The Town should work with the owners of the fields to take title to those properties so that proper annual field renovation can be performed by the Town and the youth organizations can continue to provide game day maintenance and use the fields in perpetuity.

### **9.2.6b: Estimated Costs**

If the property on the northeast corner of Little League Dr. and Palm can be acquired then the Town should consider funding the development of both the aquatic center and Boys & Girls Club with either park fees or a Revenue Bond.

When the Boys & Girls Club building is completed then the Boys & Girls Club should deed over their existing site to the Town in exchange for a \$1 per year lease in perpetuity (as long as the Boys & Girls Club stays in existence) which would allow the Boys & Girls Club to have use of a new modern facility for the value of their existing property and the town to have a site for a neighborhood park to complement the

existing adjacent fields. The actual costs and funding needed to accomplish this project will have to be determined during the specific plan process if the Town decides to proceed with the project. The cost will be dependent on both the size and number of amenities designed into the aquatic complex and the new Boys & Girls Club facility.

The following is an estimated cost to implement this recommendation based on the site amenities listed above for the new aquatics center and new Boys & Girls Club plus the demolition of the existing Boys & Girls Club and reconfiguration of that site into a neighborhood park.

These estimated costs are presented to provide the Town with probable funding requirements if it decides to proceed with this project. Actual funding required can only be determined after a specific plan is developed for the proposed project.

The following cost estimates presented for the three components of the recommendation, aquatic center, new Boys & Girls Club and new neighborhood park on the existing Boys & Girls Club site:

### **Aquatics Center**

- a) Facility designed to include two fuel cells to supply all electrical power needs, heat pool water and send excess power back to utility company.
- b) The facility contains a retractable roof with programmable louvers and rain sensors.
- c) Three pools including:
  - ◆ 10-lane 25-yard x 25-meter lap swimming pool and competition pool
  - ◆ 8,300 square foot recreational pool
  - ◆ 1,500 square foot therapy pool.
- d) Recreational pool features include:
  - ◆ Zero depth entry
  - ◆ Four-lap swim lanes

- ♦ 125-foot two-flume waterslide
- ♦ Wet-play structure with multiple splash features.
- ♦ 6000 square foot building to house locker rooms/ showers, meeting rooms and administration

A total 16,000 square foot aquatic facility is estimated to cost \$400 per square foot plus the cost of land, infrastructure improvements, A&E and project contingency. Therefore, the estimated funding needed for the aquatic facility as described above would be as follows:

Land Cost with Infrastructure Improvements	5 Acres	\$225,000 per acre	\$1,125,000
Construction Costs	16,000 s.f.	\$400 per/s.f.	\$6,400,000
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$7,525,000</i>
Architectural & Engineering		10%	\$752,500
Project Contingency		20%	\$1,505,000
<b>Total Estimated Funding Required</b>			<b>\$9,782,500</b>

**New Boys & Girls Club**

To build a new Boys & Girls Club with the spaces and amenities described above will require the following estimated funding:

Land Cost with Infrastructure Improvements	5 Acres	\$225,000 per acre	\$1,125,000
Construction Costs	12,000 s.f.	\$400 per/s.f.	\$4,800,000
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>5,925,000</i>
Architectural & Engineering		10%	\$592,500
Project Contingency		20%	\$1,185,000
<b>Total Estimated Funding Required</b>			<b>\$7,702,500</b>

**Neighborhood Park**

Demolishing the existing Boys & Girls Club and building a five acre neighborhood park adjacent to the existing sports fields is estimated to cost \$400,000 per acre. There would be no land costs and the infrastructure improvements are already in place, so the projected funding needed to build the park improvements is \$2,000,000.

**Summary of Funding Required**

Aquatic Center	\$9,782,500
New Boys & Girls Club	\$7,702,500
Reconfigured Neighborhood Park	\$2,000,000
<b>Total Estimated Funding Required</b>	<b>\$19,485,000</b>

The Town could use revenue bonds or lease purchase financing for the aquatic center and Boys & Girls Club and pay for the debt service through admission fees, concessions and lease revenue. There may also be naming rights and other Asset Management opportunities to help offset operating costs. A complete expense and revenue pro-forma will have to be prepared when a specific plan is developed for the project to determine the actual funding required and what the net costs to the Town will be after both capital costs and operating costs are determined.

### **9.2.7: East End Community Sports Park in coordination with La Contenta Middle School**

To meet the current and future need for sports fields it is recommended that the Town develop a Community Sports Park (Soccer Fields, Softball Fields and Tennis Courts) adjacent to La Contenta Middle School.

#### **9.2.7a: Implementation Strategies**

There are two possible locations adjacent to Yucca Valley Middle School that the Town could acquire for a community sports park. The Needs Analysis shows that there is a current demand for six additional soccer fields. While softball fields will be needed in the future, as well as tennis courts, the first phase of the community sports park should be to develop multi purpose soccer fields. The fields can be designed so that they can be configured to accommodate all divisions of soccer from youth through adult.

It is recommended that the fields at the community sports park be synthetic turf. Because of the weather conditions in the hi-desert turf maintenance for field use is very difficult and expensive. Artificial turf is cost efficient and would allow for year round play. The Town should try to negotiate a joint development and use agreement with the Morongo School District so that each agency can share both the cost and use of the facility. The school district has been considering a gymnasium for this site which could also be included in the plans for a community sports park. The school district should

be contacted to see if there is interest in sharing softball fields and tennis courts in the future for its programming needs.

**9.2.7b: Estimated Costs**

The estimated cost for synthetic turf soccer fields is approximately \$400,000 per field. This price does not include site grading; site preparation; or support amenities, such as, parking, restrooms, etc. Synthetic turf fields can be lease purchased, as explained Chapter 8. The Town should try to acquire enough acreage to accommodate a community sports park that would eventually contain eight soccer fields, four tennis courts, and four softball fields with necessary support amenities. This would require a minimum of 40 acres, and if a gymnasium was included a 50-acre site would be needed.

If the Town were to start with four synthetic turf soccer fields with parking and restrooms, the estimated funding required for building this phase, not including property acquisition costs, would be \$3.5 million. By completing this phase the town could meet its needs for soccer programs, youth football, and have a synthetic turf facility for non-vehicle community events.

A cost comparison between natural turf and synthetic turf for a four field complex (turf area only, does not include site prep, infrastructure or amenities) is as follows:

<b>Natural Grass</b>	<b>Average Cost</b>	<b>Synthetic Turf</b>	<b>Average Cost</b>
Cost for 4 Fields	\$1,000,000	Cost for 4 Fields	\$1,600,000
Capital Equip Cost	\$100,000	Capital Equip Cost	\$10,000
Contractor Maintenance Period	\$120,000	Contractor Maintenance Period	0
<b>Total Capital Costs</b>	<b>\$1,220,000</b>	<b>Total Capital Costs</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>
<i>5-Year Capital Costs</i>		<i>5-Year Capital Costs</i>	
5-Yr Equipment Replacement	\$40,000	5-Yr Equipment Replacement	\$2,000
5-Year Irrigation Replacement Costs	\$30,000	5-Year Irrigation Replacement Costs	0
5-Yr Maintenance Cost		5-Yr Maintenance Cost	
Turf Maintenance Materials	\$150,000	Turf Maintenance Materials	\$3,000
Turf Maintenance Labor	\$220,000	Turf Maintenance Labor	\$5,000
<b>Sub-Total 5-Yr Capital and Maintenance Cost</b>	<b>\$440,000</b>	<b>Sub-Total 5 Yr Capital and Maintenance Cost</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
Water Cost (includes 3% increase per year)	\$233,600		
<b>Total Cost for 5 Years</b>	<b>\$1,893,600</b>	<b>Total Cost for 5 Years</b>	<b>\$1,710,000</b>

Current brands of synthetic turf have a 10- to 12-year lifespan, even longer if proper access is controlled. As one can see, synthetic turf fields pay for them selves in approximately five years. The estimated maintenance cost savings over a 10-year period would be over \$400,000, thus making synthetic turf fields more cost effective than natural turf, in addition to the advantages of year round use potential and multiple size field capability.

Synthetic turf does have some limitations, you can't drive heavy vehicles on them, high heels should be prohibited, and you cannot drive stakes into them to hold tents or awnings.

### 9.2.8: Sunnyslope Extreme Sports Park

During the community workshops and interviews there was a number of requests and comments that youth, especially teens, needed positive recreation facilities where they could

“hang out”. Extreme sports are trendy and popular with today’s youth and teens. It is recommended that on the property known as the Sunnyslope Drive corner, the Town pursue developing an “Extreme Sports Center”, consisting of a new skate park, BMX park, rock climbing facility; along with group picnic/party rental facilities, Frisbee golf course and a fitness course around the Water District’s adjacent area. This site could also contain a Dog Park possibly developed and operated by a non-profit coalition of dog industry/enthusiasts which could conduct vaccination clinics, adoption events, shows, etc. in addition to making the dog park available to the general public.



#### 9.2.8a: Implementation Strategies

This facility could be developed and operated by the Community Services Department or it could be leased and developed/operated by a commercial recreation operator. Each component of this master plan area could be developed and operated by either a single developer/operator or several

developer/operators. The idea is to create an extreme sports area that is centralized and that contains a variety of so called extreme sports that are trendy and attractive to youth and teens.

### **9.2.8b: Estimated Costs**

The costs to develop such a facility would depend on how many of the different amenities are included in the design and if the Town or private developers/operators actually build the site. The Town currently owns the property so there is a number of funding and development options that could be pursued for the project. The Town would have to budget for on-site and off-site infrastructure improvements. There should be a pedestrian and vehicle bridge across the Yucca Creek Wash to provide access from the proposed civic center and neighborhood park and to serve as a secondary regress for public safety.

### **9.2.9: Trail Head and Self-Guided Nature Trail at North Park and South Park**

It is recommended that the Town pursue development of a Trail Head and Self-Guided Nature Trail at Both North Park and South Park, keeping the parks passive. Amenities should include a secured individual unisex restroom facility within a fenced area, small picnic areas with shade shelters, shade covered benches at view points, and a decomposed granite trail system with information stations that explain the local geology, native history, and flora and fauna of the region.

#### **9.2.9a: Implementation Strategies**

A portion of the South Park area sits on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property and North Park is adjacent to BLM land also, therefore, the Town should work with BLM to master plan the nature trails and passive design for both of these park sites. Although BLM probably cannot provide direct funding for the nature trails and passive development of the sites, a joint grant application could be used whereby BLM's design services can count as part of the matching requirement for some of the available trail grants. The town should also work with representatives of Joshua Tree

National Park in developing the educational component of the two nature parks. The Hi-Desert Nature Museum should also be involved in the design process so that outdoor education components of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum can be included.

### 9.2.9b: Estimated Costs

There are a number of environmental grant opportunities that could be pursued for trail development and nature park



purposes for North and South Parks, however, most grants require matching funds, so local funding will be needed to implement this recommendation. A 20 acre site with nature trails, two or three bench and shade structure view point locations, rustic unisex restrooms, a picnic facility and off street parking is estimated to cost a minimum of \$500,000 for each location.

These sites could provide some naming rights and other Asset Management opportunities to offset this cost. The

Yucca Valley regional trails plan should provide a trails connection between North Park and South Park that would transverse the Town using washes, flood control channels and street right-of-ways.

### 9.2.10: Yucca Mesa Community Park

To serve the fast growing Yucca Mesa area it is recommended that the Town pursue the development of a minimum 20-acre Community Park in the Yucca Mesa; consisting of Family and Group Picnic Facilities, Tot Lots, Splash/Water Play Facility, Soccer Fields, Dog Park, Informal Open Play Area, Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Small Outdoor Amphitheater, and Restrooms.

### 9.2.10a: Implementation Strategies

There is vacant property along Aberdeen Drive that could be acquired for a community park to serve both current town

residents and residents within the Town’s sphere of influence which may be annexed in the future. There may be some joint development opportunities for courts, fields, and play equipment with the Morongo School District so discussions with the School District on this location should be pursued prior to initiating the acquisition and design process.

**9.2.10b: Estimated Costs**

Parkland dedication, park in-lieu fees, and park impact fees along with State Park Bond money would be the appropriate funding sources to develop this community park. The amount of acreage needed for the community park amenities described above is 20-30 acres. The current average cost per acre to develop community parks of this type is approximately \$600,000, thus, the range of funding needed to develop a community park in this area is \$12 million to \$18 million plus the cost of land acquisition. The entire park could be designed with all the desired amenities but then developed in phases over the next fifteen years as funding becomes available. Once the design is completed there should be community input into prioritizing the phases of development if funding cannot be obtained to build the park all at one time.

**9.2.11: Southside Neighborhood Park**



In the previous Yucca Valley Park and Recreation Master Plan the proposed Southside site was designated as a potential community center and sports complex site. However, over the past several years properties adjacent to this 80 acre site have developed into upscale residential and the impact that a large scale community center complex and sports park would have on these residential areas now makes the site less desirable for such development.

However, there is a need for a typical neighborhood park with neighborhood park amenities to serve all of the

residential development that has taken place, so 15-20 acres should be designated for such a purpose.

### **9.2.11a: Estimated Costs and Implementation Strategy**

The average cost for developing typical neighborhood parks is approximately \$300,000 per acre; so a 15-acre neighborhood park is estimated to cost \$4.5 million. Since the Town owns 80 acres at this location, it should deem at least 60 acres as surplus and consider selling this acreage to generate revenue to pay for the neighborhood park in this area and to fund the other priority recommendations in the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. There are some legal restrictions on selling park property, depending on the funding sources used to acquire the property originally, so this option needs to be studied further in order to ascertain its viability.

### **9.2.12: Yucca Valley Trails System**

To insure the accessibility and connectivity of the Town's parks and cultural sites improving both on street and off street trails, paths, and bikeways is very important. These improvements will enable Yucca Valley residents to not only access recreational facilities but to use the trails for fitness and other recreational pursuits.

Although Yucca Valley has a diverse set of facilities spread throughout the Town historic development patterns and natural topography has lead to the fact that residents must transport themselves to park and cultural sites by motorized transportation. There is also a lack of sidewalks in town and even where there is existing walkways or pathways it is not always possible for the public to access the array of public recreational opportunities available.

Naturally, the Town should strive to complete its program of trails and bikeways; however, funding for this program is limited.

The Town has developed a Trails Master Plan complete with trail standards (*See Appendix D*). Implementation of this



# Park & Recreation Master Plan

Town of Yucca Valley, California

## Proposed Trails Shown with Connections to Proposed New Facilities Exhibit 9.2

### Yucca Valley Trail System

- Riding Trail
- Pedestrian & Bike Trail
- Multi-Use Trail (Riding, Pedestrian & Bike)
- Bike Routes - Class III
- Bike Lanes
- Proposed New Trail Connection

- Proposed New Facilities Locations
- Park Land
- Golf Course
- Joshua Tree National Forest
- US Bureau of Land Management
- State Lands Commission
- Tortoise Habitat Boundary
- City Limits
- Highway
- Major Roads
- Intermittent Streams / Rivers
- Proposed Trail Head Locations



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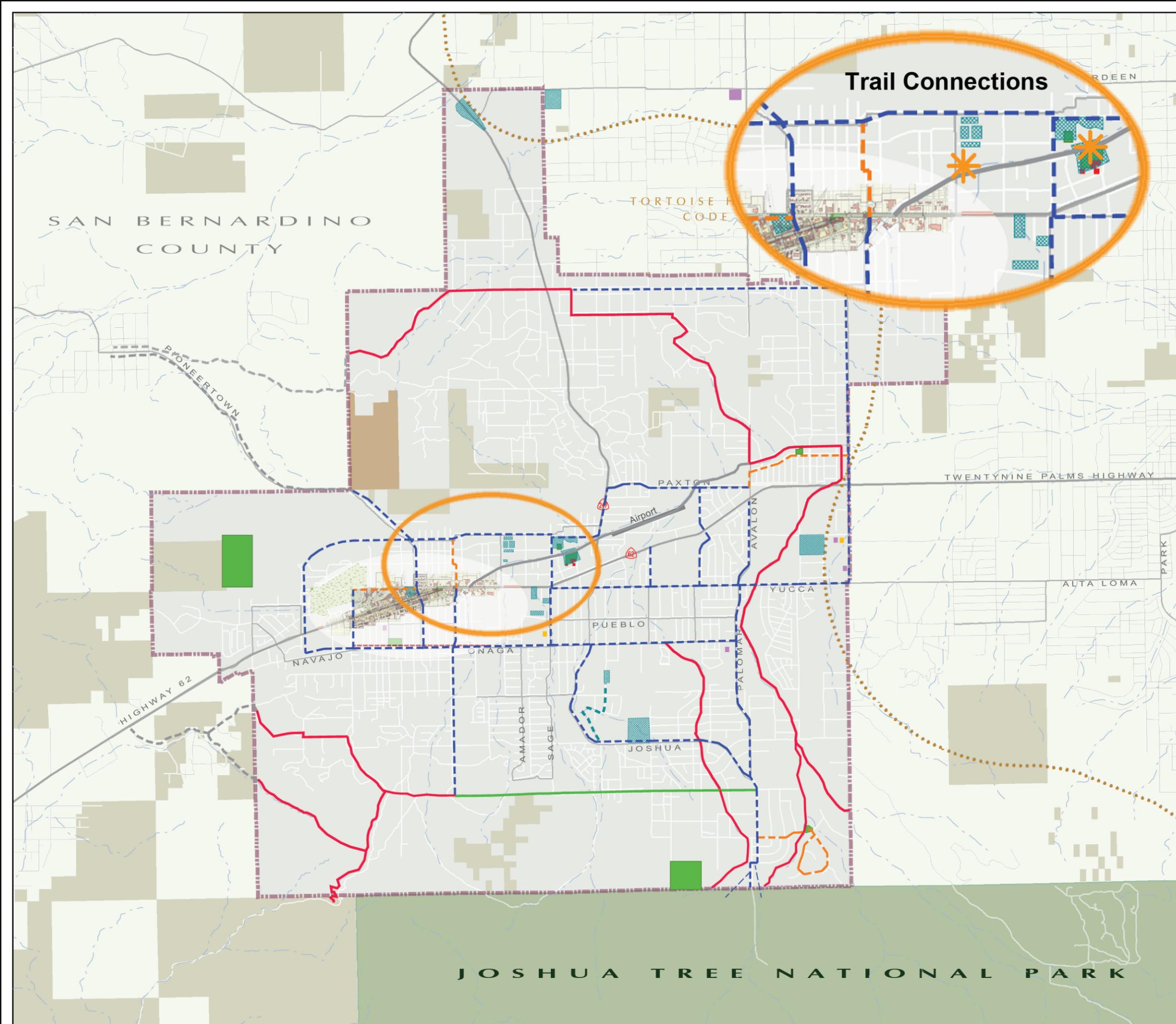
## Yucca Valley, California



MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN, INC.

July 2008

### Trail Connections



JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK



Master Plan is an important aspect of delivering not only transportation but recreational services to the community.

Specific recommendations for trails within existing and future parks are contained in each of the park recommendations above. General recommendations regarding trails are as follows:

- 9.2.12a: Close gaps in the regional trail system and local trail systems within the Trails Master Plan.
- 9.2.12b: Work with the County of San Bernardino to improve and create links for access to the regional trail system.
- 9.2.12c: Insure that the trails and bikeways Conditions of Approval in developer agreements and approved specific plans are being fulfilled.
- 9.2.12d: Establish sustainable funding levels for maintenance of existing trails and bikeways.

### **Trail Head Amenities**

The several recommended facilities in this Chapter include trail connections and trail heads. The extent of the development of each site will depend on the context in which it is built. However, the following elements and amenities should be included when designing these trail connections and trail heads.

- ◆ Signage: wayfinding and interpretive
- ◆ Seating/benches
- ◆ Shaded rest area(s)
- ◆ Trash receptacles
- ◆ Animal watering stations
- ◆ Drinking fountains
- ◆ Pet waste facilities
- ◆ Gateway planting and irrigation at portals
- ◆ Decomposed granite pathways with concrete band edging
- ◆ Closable pathway barrier or gate.

- ◆ Gazebo, arbor or covered seating at entryway to create impact at major trail heads such as Community Center Park.



The costs for developing trail heads varies greatly depending on the topography of the intended site, existing infrastructure availability (utilities, water, sewer) and the size and amenities to be included. Trailhead sites can be enhanced with public art, interpretive stations, public restrooms, and other visitor serving amenities which naturally would increase the cost for such facilities.

The Master Plan suggests that a total of five potential sites be considered for development as trailheads. They include the East end of the Yucca Creek Wash Trail at the current community center park site; the West end of the Yucca Creek Wash Trail adjacent to Pop Rauch Park; at an entry location at North Park and South Park; and at the site where Burnt Mountain Neighborhood Park may be potentially developed.

The estimated cost to provide a trailhead at each of these proposed sites that would contain the amenities described above (without public art, interpretive stations, and public restrooms) would be between \$75,000 - \$125,000 for each site. The Town could seek sponsors for the sites and offer naming rights opportunities or designed kiosk advertising to offset the cost. Service clubs and organizations could also be contacted with regards to having them develop the trailhead sites as a community services project.

### 9.2.13: Improvements to Existing Parks

The recommendations for existing parks in Yucca Valley were developed by visiting each park site and assessing what improvements are necessary to make the parks safe and usable for their intended purpose and perhaps more attractive and inviting. These recommendations should serve as a list of capital improvements the Town can place in its capital improvement program. The individual priorities for improving parks should be determined through recommendations developed by Town staff and reviewed by

the Parks and Recreation Commission during the Town's annual budget process.

Yucca Valley parks are heavily used and thus require constant maintenance and improvement to keep them in a safe and usable condition. Consequently, this list is based on what the project consultants consider are the most important improvements or replacements needed at this time. The Town should continue to monitor existing parks and adjust the annual capital improvement program based on current conditions of the parks and funding available for capital improvements.

Park development fees and park impact fees cannot be used for on-going maintenance of existing parks. However, they can be used to provide new amenities, reconfiguration, or major refurbishment at existing parks. For example, the Town could use park development fees or park impact fees to add additional tennis courts at a park site. However, the Town could not use these fees to resurface existing tennis courts at a park site.

While there is no clear dividing line between what is considered deferred maintenance and what is major refurbishment, the Town needs to be sure that it spends park development fees and park impact fees in a manner in which the fees were intended, i.e., to offset the impact that new development has on the Town's Park and Recreation system.

If the proposed project at an existing park will benefit the new residential development that will be using the park then the fees collected from the residential development can be used for the project.

Otherwise, park improvements must be paid for by the Town's General Fund (tax income) or from donations, grants or revenue derived from operations (fees and charges).

The following sections present each existing park site and the recommended improvements or additions to the site followed by the potential estimated cost for providing these improvements along with suggested funding methods or strategies.

## Community Center Park

Community Center Park is being considered as a site for a future Civic Center. See Section 9.2.1 for a description of the proposed redesign and recommendations for development of a neighborhood park at this location.

## Machris Park

Machris Park is located in the southeast area of town and its intended use is for neighborhood park purposes. The following suggested improvements should be considered to comply with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and to make the park more user-friendly and comfortable:

- ◆ Improve ADA access to tot lot play equipment and swings by installing a rubberized playground surface.
- ◆ To make the Tot Lot more usable and comfortable in the summertime add a shade element over the existing play equipment.
- ◆ A fabric shade shelter should be provided at the bleacher area to make it more comfortable to watch games in the summertime.
- ◆ Adding trees and landscaping throughout open areas of the site would provide shade and an enhanced visual impact.
- ◆ If additional land is acquired, future development could include additional sports fields to help meet demands for both practice and game facilities.
- ◆ Add two tennis courts to area east of the concession building (to replace one that was removed).
- ◆ Install a ramp from upper building to lower park area.
- ◆ Install security lighting throughout the park.
- ◆ The recommended shade shelters could be funded by the Town or could be included in an asset management plan whereby advertising is allowed on the shading fabric in exchange for paying for the cost of the shade structure. Grants and donations could also be pursued for shade shelters. Shade shelters for tot lots, as pictured in the

example below, tend to run between \$30,000 to \$50,000 for the shelter and installation depending on the size and design.

- ◆ Additional trees and landscaping could be accomplished through a tree donation program, environmental grants, or through an annual landscape improvement program funded by the Town. The costs for additional landscaping will depend on the design and extent of the landscaping.
- ◆ Future sports fields could be paid for by Park In-Lieu Fees, Park Impact Fees, or through monetary and in-kind donations from sports groups. Sports fields generally cost an estimated \$300,000 for natural turf fields and \$400,000 for synthetic turf fields.

### **Jacobs Park**

Jacobs Park is located in the central west section of town and is intended to be a neighborhood park to serve local residents. The following suggested improvements and additions are recommended to enhance both the existing amenities and to add amenities that the community indicated they would like to have during the community input process:

- ◆ Upgrade group picnic shade shelter to add space for more tables.
- ◆ Install ADA compliant rubberized surfacing at tot lots and add shade structures to play equipment.
- ◆ Improve paths/walkways to enhance circulation throughout the site.
- ◆ Add two new lighted tennis courts to existing facilities. (\$150,000 in CDBG Funds has already been allocated toward this project.)
- ◆ Consider redesigning the park in order to include turf practice fields (traditional turf or synthetic turf) with shaded seating and ADA access from parking and building facilities.
- ◆ Consider adding a spray/splash water play area
- ◆ Increase number of trees on site to provide shade and a greener environment.

- ◆ The recommended shade shelter for the group picnic area could be funded by the Town or could be included in an asset management plan whereby advertising is allowed on the structure in exchange for paying for the cost of the shade structure. Grants and donations could also be pursued for group picnic shade shelters. Quality group picnic shade shelters run in the range of \$50,000 including purchase and installation.



Rubberized ADA compliant surfacing for tot lots cost approximately \$55 per square foot installed. To provide the surface for a typical 1600 square foot tot lot would cost \$88,000. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds or other grant funds could be used for this purpose, as well as, town funds and donations.

Paths and walkways are an important user amenity that also needs to be ADA compliant. Paths and walkways can be cement, asphalt or decomposed granite surfaces and generally cost between \$10 and \$30 per linear foot depending on the width and materials chosen for the surface.



The recommended considerations for future additions, including sports fields, tennis courts and a spray/splash pool, could be funded with park fees, grants, donations or a combination of all three. Costs for these additions are dependent on the size and design of the facilities.

Increasing the number of trees on the site could be accomplished through a tree donation program, a community fund raising effort, environmental grants or by tax dollars allocated from the Town's General Fund.

### **North Park and South Park**

Both North and South Parks are being recommended as locations to remain passive and open space with trails and possibly a Nature/Education Center with an improved trail head and self guided nature walk. See Section 9.2.9 for more details on these recommendations.

## Paradise Park

Paradise Park is a neighborhood park located in the eastern part of town. It was developed prior to 1970 and is heavily used by the community. Although it is well maintained there are improvements that could be made to both the existing amenities and additions to the site to make it more functional and attractive for residents.

- ◆ Improve ADA access to tot lot and swings by installing rubberized playground surfacing.
- ◆ Add shade element to existing play equipment structure
- ◆ Install new play equipment specifically for 5-12 year olds
- ◆ Add a new group picnic shade shelter and two new BBQs
- ◆ Develop the existing open space area to include a water/splash play area, along with a seating and additional trees and landscaping.
- ◆ Consider redesigning the park to include two turf ball fields (traditional turf or synthetic turf) with shaded bleacher seating and ADA access from parking and building facilities.



Implementation strategies for the suggested improvements and recommended additions are the same as those for Jacobs Park. In fact the Town should consider bundling similar improvements for several existing parks together, such as tot lot improvements or field development and pursue funding and construction of all sites as one package project. This could result in lower overall costs, more timely completion of improvements and positively impact several areas of town at one time.

## Sunnyslope Park

Sunnyslope Park consists of 2.53 acres that currently contains a Bicycle Motor Cross (BMX) track/course and eight undeveloped acres. This site is being recommended for future

development as an Extreme Sports Park. See recommendations in Section 9.2.8.

**Remembrance Park**

Remembrance Park is a special use facility consisting of a memorial to the country’s veterans and containing a public art piece. It has yet to be determined if the memorial and public art piece will need to be relocated when the Old Town Specific Plan is implemented. If Remembrance Park does have to be relocated due to the realignment of SR 62 there are two possible locations where it could be accommodated. The first is to include it in the design and development of the Old Town Specific Plan as an entry mode for either the west end or east end of Old Town. The second suggestion would be to include it in the redesign and development of the civic center complex and neighborhood park at the current community center site when that site is developed.

**9.2.13a: Estimated Costs for Improvements to Existing Parks**

The costs for the suggested recommendations for additions to existing parks will have to be determined when the specific plans for each of the parks are developed and the exact number of additional amenities is determined.

The following is an estimate of the costs for improving existing amenities at two of the park sites for the Town to consider when budgeting for its capital improvement program.

**Machris Park**

<u>Rubberized surface for Tot Lots</u>	<u>\$120,000</u>
<u>Shade Structure for Tot Lot</u>	<u>\$55,000</u>
<u>Bleacher Shade Structure</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>
<u>Additional trees/landscaping</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
<u>Two tennis courts</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>

**Jacobs Park**

<u>Group Picnic Shade Shelter</u>	<u>\$35,000</u>
<u>Rubberized Surface for Tot Lots</u>	<u>\$85,000</u>
<u>Additional Trees/Landscaping</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
<u>Two tennis courts</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>

**Paradise Park**

<u>Rubberized Surface for Tot Lots</u>	<u>\$80,000</u>
<u>Shade Structure for Tot Lot</u>	<u>\$45,000</u>
<u>New Play Equipment</u>	<u>\$40,000</u>
<u>Group Picnic Facility</u>	<u>\$85,000</u>

The estimated total funding needed for the suggested recommended improvements at these three park sites is \$670,000. This amount could be offset by allowing shade shelter advertising or by community donation efforts for additional park trees. The Town could pursue CDBG or other grant funds for these improvements also.

The extent the Town wishes to pursue expenditures for improvements to these parks versus adding amenities to these parks or developing new parks will have to be a decision of its elected officials during their annual strategic planning process.

**9.2.14: Options Regarding Blue Skies Golf & Country Club**

The Town should continue to monitor the redevelopment of the Blue Skies Golf and Country Club and work with them to develop youth and adult golf programs through the Community Services Department when the facility is reopened.

If the current owners do not continue with the redevelopment of the golf course the Town should consider pursuing one the following options in order to insure that the golf course is not lost for public recreation:

Option 1: Acquire the golf course by entering into a contract with a Golf Course Development and Management Company (such as Arnold Palmer Golf, Landmark Golf, National Golf, etc.) to lease the property to them for development and operation, whereby the Town would use Revenue Bonds to purchase the property and lease income from the Golf Development and Management Company to pay for the Revenue Bonds.

Option 2: Provide “pass through” financing to the existing owners to finish the golf course by use of “Lease Purchase Financing” using the property as collateral if the owners default on the lease purchase payments.

Under this option the Town would lease the golf course from the owners by entering into a lease purchase agreement, then lease the golf course back to the owners along with funding to complete the agreed upon golf course improvements. The owners would pay lease fees to the Town until the lease purchase agreement amount is paid off. If the owners default on the lease payments the Town would then own the golf course property without any further expense.

Option 3: Submit a referendum to the voters to increase taxes in order to sell a Park Bond for the acquisition of the golf course property and development and operation by the Community Services Department either directly or by contracting with a golf management company. This option would require considerable community support for the Town purchasing the golf course as it would require a two thirds voter approval.

Hopefully, the owners of the golf course will be able to obtain private funding or financing and will complete the redevelopment of the golf course. However, the golf course is an important recreation facility for Yucca Valley and the high desert communities so the Town should be prepared and have a contingency plan for preserving the golf course if the owners are unable to complete the improvements and reopen the course.

The primary attraction and use of the golf course is for youth and seniors, consequently, the golf course is an important facility in the overall master plan for providing recreational activities that deter anti-social behavior and contribute to active lifestyles. The golf course is also a key component for marketing Yucca Valley as a tourist destination, along with the “Old Town Cultural Corridor,” Joshua Tree National Park, and Yucca Valley Show Grounds, Events and Equestrian Center. Loss of Yucca Valley’s only golf course would have a negative impact on the Town and thus its redevelopment should be monitored closely.

**9.2.15: Potential Development of Burnt Mountain Park**



The Burnt Mountain area is the site of an abandoned resort that currently contains three tennis court and the remnants of a swimming pool and buildings of the former retreat/resort. During the community workshops and interviews several of the participants suggested that this site would be good to preserve as a neighborhood park and trail head for trails leading into the adjacent hills that could connect to the future South Side Neighborhood Park location.

The site is located in the south part of Town within a residential neighborhood and does possess a viewshed worth preserving. Besides developing a trail head and some view points; the park amenities should include preserving the tennis courts, adding tot lot/children’s play equipment, and a picnic area.

**9.2.15a: Implementation Strategy**

The amount of acreage in the Burnt Mountain area to be acquired for park purposes would have to be determined after further study as to what amenities should be included in a specific plan for the area. The concept of a possible land exchange could be explored with the current owners of the property whereby the Town may be able to trade property of equal value in order to secure property in the Burnt Mountain area for the above described recreation purposes.

If a land exchange is not feasible then acquiring the property through park fees or grants is another option. The Town should also consider bundling the acquisition and development of this site into a package development option; whereby, the Town would seek a park bond to develop several of the recommendations listed above.

### 9.3 Work Program 2008-2020

The following time line is a suggested work program plan based on the demand and needs analysis and the projected timelines for planning, negotiating and funding the various facility recommendations listed above. Obviously, trying to determine time frames and funding requirements is difficult and somewhat subjective; however, the suggested plan should serve as a starting place for Town staff to proceed with future facility development.

RECOMMENDATION	2008-2012	2013-2017	2018-2020
Reconfiguration of existing Community Center Complex for a Civic Center and Neighborhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plan</li> <li>▪ Determine Costs</li> <li>▪ Develop Funding</li> <li>▪ Bid Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construct Project</li> <li>▪ Move In &amp; Operation</li> </ul>	
Old Town Specific Plan Cultural Corridor containing the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, Yucca Valley Branch Library, and Amphitheater/ Activities Plaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Determine location(s)</li> <li>▪ Acquire Property</li> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plan</li> <li>▪ Develop Funding</li> <li>▪ Bid Project</li> <li>▪ Begin Construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finish Construction</li> <li>▪ Move In &amp; Operation</li> </ul>	
Multigenerational Community Center Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acquire Property</li> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plan</li> <li>▪ Determine Costs</li> <li>▪ Develop Funding</li> <li>▪ Determine Phasing</li> <li>▪ Bid Project</li> <li>▪ Construct Project</li> <li>▪ Move In &amp; Operation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If project was phased proceed with Phase 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If project was phased proceed with Phase 3</li> </ul>
Performing Arts Facility in coordination with Yucca Valley High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Negotiate Agreement</li> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plan</li> <li>▪ Develop Funding</li> <li>▪ Bid Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construct Project</li> <li>▪ Move In &amp; Operation</li> </ul>	
Yucca Valley Events, Showground & Equestrian Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meet w/County/State</li> <li>▪ Determine Acq. Req.</li> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plan</li> <li>▪ Develop Agreements</li> <li>▪ Secure Funding</li> <li>▪ Determine Phases</li> <li>▪ Prepare EIR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acquire Property</li> <li>▪ Provide Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ SR 247 Improvements</li> <li>▪ Bid Project</li> <li>▪ Construct Project</li> <li>▪ Begin Operation</li> </ul>	
Aquatics Center Complex in coordination with a revitalized Boys & Girls Club and West End Community Park with Sports Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plan</li> <li>▪ Negotiate Agreements</li> <li>▪ Secure Funding</li> <li>▪ Acquire Property</li> <li>▪ Determine Phases</li> <li>▪ Bid Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construct 1st Phase</li> <li>▪ Move In &amp; Operation</li> <li>▪ Bid 2nd Phase</li> <li>▪ Construct 2nd Phase</li> </ul>	

East End Community Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plan</li> <li>▪ Negotiate Agreements</li> <li>▪ Secure Funding</li> <li>▪ Acquire Property</li> <li>▪ Determine Phases</li> <li>▪ Bid Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construct 1st Phase</li> <li>▪ Move In &amp; Operation</li> <li>▪ Bid 2nd Phase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construct 2nd Phase</li> <li>▪ Complete Project</li> </ul>
Sunnyslope Extreme Sports Park with a Skateboard, BMX, Climbing, Exercise Course and Dog Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plan</li> <li>▪ Negotiate Agreements</li> <li>▪ Secure Funding</li> <li>▪ Bid Project</li> <li>▪ Construct Project</li> </ul>		
Trail Head and Self-Guided Nature Trail at North Park and South Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meet with BLM</li> <li>▪ Negotiate Agreements</li> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plans</li> <li>▪ Pursue Grants</li> <li>▪ Secure Funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bid Both Projects</li> <li>▪ Construct Projects</li> </ul>	
Yucca Mesa Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Determine Location</li> <li>▪ Explore JPA</li> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plan</li> <li>▪ Secure Funding</li> <li>▪ Acquire Property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bid Project</li> <li>▪ Construct Project</li> <li>▪ Move On &amp; Operation</li> </ul>	
Southside Neighborhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plan</li> <li>▪ Determine Surplus</li> <li>▪ Secure Funding</li> <li>▪ Bid Project</li> <li>▪ Construct Project</li> </ul>		
Yucca Valley Trails System starting with the Yucca Creek Wash Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plans</li> <li>▪ Pursue Grants</li> <li>▪ Determine 1st Phase</li> <li>▪ Secure Funding</li> <li>▪ Construct 1st Phase</li> <li>▪ Decide Future Phases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proceed w/Phases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proceed w/Phases</li> </ul>
Improvements to Existing Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Determine Priorities</li> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plans</li> <li>▪ Secure Funding</li> <li>▪ Begin Improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue Priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue Priorities</li> </ul>
Options regarding Blue Skies Golf & Country Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitor Progress</li> <li>▪ Determine Options</li> <li>▪ Proceed If Needed</li> </ul>		
Potential Development of Burnt Mountain Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Determine Priority</li> <li>▪ Prepare Specific Plan</li> <li>▪ Secure Funding</li> <li>▪ Pursue Acquisition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bid Project</li> <li>▪ Construct Project</li> </ul>	

The total estimated cost to implement all of the suggested recommendations can seem overwhelming; however, if the project recommendations are approached on an individual basis and the strategies and funding suggestions are pursued, it will be quite possible that the recommendations can be accomplished over the projected timelines.

The recommendations have not been put in any priority order due to the vast array of facility needs and the different implementation strategies that can be pursued for each recommendation. While some groups in the community may want immediate results on one particular project, the reality is that Town staff will have to divide its efforts and pursue all of

the projects in the Master Plan as the opportunities for planning, land acquisition, and funding become available. Positioning the Town to take advantage of potential joint development agreements, funding opportunities and other agency participation is the best strategy to eventually accomplish all of the recommended projects.

## 9.4 Recreation Program Recommendations and Strategies

Chapter 4 summarizes the recreation program analysis which included a review of the current level of recreation programs and services offered by the Town of Yucca Valley Recreation Division. The analysis of program needs was done pursuant to the needs assessment and community input tools and in consideration of the demographic trends analysis in Chapter 2. Recommendations to address the identified recreation program needs are included in Chapter 4 and summarized here also.

They are presented by program/service category in order to address the concerns and input received during the community outreach and public input process. This method of presentation should allow the community to see that their desired areas of importance for programs and services will be met in the future.

### **Aquatics**

Aquatics programs are especially valued by the community. Currently, the only aquatic facility available for lessons, recreational swim and competitive programs is the swimming pool at Yucca Valley High School. This pool only operates during the summer months for community aquatic activities. The community is desirous of having a year-round full service aquatics complex for swim lessons, recreational swim, competitive swim, lap swimming, water polo, parent-child classes, and water exercise activities and for birthday parties.

The community also would like to have water play/splash pools located at either neighborhood or community parks.

## Action Items

- ◆ Continue with existing programming at the pool at Yucca Valley High School and strive to add additional aquatic programming in the areas of parent-child classes, water exercise, and recreational swim.
- ◆ Work with the School District, Boys & Girls Club and other interested agencies and organizations to insure that the design of a new aquatics facility proposed in the facilities recommendation section of the Master Plan meets the community needs and demands for future lessons, recreational swim, competitive swim, and special interest aquatic programs like scuba lessons, kayaking instruction, etc.

## Sports

Sports fields and sports programs garnered the most number of requests and identified demand during the community outreach and public input process. For example, youth soccer was rated as a high priority need in the community with all 12 input indicators.

However, soccer was not the only requested sports activity. Youth baseball, youth basketball, youth football, as well as, boxing programs, softball, golf, gymnastics, and track were identified by the community as desired.

Expanding tennis programs was also a persistent theme throughout the public input process. Junior tennis leagues, junior instruction and tennis competitions were consistently requested.

It is evident that sports programming is very important to the community, not only for youth but for positive family involvement. The community equated youth sports activities as providing youth with self-esteem, a sense of purpose, instilling responsibility and providing for social interaction.

## Action Items

- ◆ Continue to collaborate with youth sports organizations to both encourage their development and expansion and

to help them meet their field needs for both practice games and league competition.

- ◆ Continue to provide youth basketball and expand the program when additional facilities become available.
- ◆ As facilities permit continue to expand the opportunities for junior tennis including lessons, clinics, events and junior tennis league. Consider offering a tennis program for special needs youth including development of special needs tennis Olympics.
- ◆ As facilities permit increase the offerings for youth volleyball. Consider offering volleyball clinics prior to the volleyball season to introduce new participants to the sport.
- ◆ Work with the School District to expand both track and cross-country program offerings. Work to ensure that the design and implementation of the Townwide Trails Program will accommodate various configurations for cross-country meets.
- ◆ Consider establishing a Spring track meet for elementary aged youth preceded by workshops or clinics for track events.
- ◆ As facilities permit, work to establish a girls softball program either directly or through a community youth organization.
- ◆ Continue to collaborate with the Boys & Girls Club to expand their sports opportunities, particularly the youth boxing program.
- ◆ Work with the Boys & Girls Club to expand aquatic opportunities for low-income youth.
- ◆ Continue to collaborate with the School District to expand after-school sports activities for elementary school-age youth for flag football, volleyball, basketball, softball, and track.
- ◆ Continue to provide and seek gym space or underutilized commercial space to increase the number of classes and

activities for tumbling, gymnastics, dance, and exercise programs for youth.

- ◆ Continue to provide opportunities for self-programmed recreation activities such as horseshoes, shuffleboard, ping-pong and other individual sports.
- ◆ Explore ways to offer both organized and drop-in sports programs for adults and seniors. Youth sports should have the priority for field and gym space, however, adult and senior sports should be initiated when space and time permit.
- ◆ Track the ongoing redevelopment of the Blue Skies Golf Course. Set a reasonable time limit to consider alternative actions presented in the Master Plan if the facility is not reopened for public play.

## Extreme Sports

In today's world of electronic games and media marketing, so-called "extreme sports" are very popular among both youth and young adults. Many extreme sports centers are being developed across the country and provide not only individual opportunity for participation but also outlets for families to join in these activities. Extreme sports include skateboarding, bicycle motor cross, rock climbing, paint ball, laser tag, par course/obstacle fitness courses, and off road vehicle parks.

During the community outreach and public input process, it became apparent that there is a high degree of participation and demand for extreme sports activities. Numerous cross sections of the community indicated that they currently drive great distances to facilities that offer extreme sports programming. Providing an opportunity to participate locally in such activities will satisfy a major segment of the community's recreation outlet needs.

## Action Items

- ◆ Continue to improve and expand the BMX course to meet the increasing demand for both informal and formal programming at the facility.

- ◆ Look for ways to provide “field trips” to off road vehicle parks particularly for youth and families who would like the opportunity to participate in off road activities in a group situation.
- ◆ Consider working with the Boys & Girls Club in developing an indoor rock climbing facility where instruction and clinics can be offered. Consider negotiating to provide a commercial rock climbing facility in town. Work with local rock climbing clubs to offer rock climbing field trips to Joshua Tree National Park.
- ◆ Look for ways to develop a par-course/obstacle fitness course either within an extreme sports park (see facilities recommendations) or along a designated off road trail where the area would be appropriate for such use.
- ◆ Consider the alternative of facilitating the commercial development of an extreme sports park that would include a paint ball course, laser tag, and other team challenge opportunities.

## Community Events

Yucca Valley and surrounding area residents benefit from a variety of community special events. These events have promoted a strong sense of place and a family friendly environment that is enjoyed by all Morongo Valley residents. Throughout the public input and community outreach process these events were pointed to with great pride.

Trends and surveys statewide indicate these events are extremely important in connecting people to their community, promoting safety and instilling a unique sense of place for residents. According to the California State Parks surveys done in 2002 and 2003 relative to outdoor participation rates of Californians, 82.6% had attended a local outdoor community event during the prior year. The public outreach process indicated that residents consider these events a very high priority and are interested in expanding them.

### Action Items

- ◆ Continue to expand and add community and population specific special events.
- ◆ Consider creating an intergenerational health and wellness event, with an emphasis on physical activities and nutritional education.
- ◆ Explore opportunities to expand environmental education events for families.
- ◆ When new show grounds and exhibition space are developed, work to create regional events that attract a wide variety of special interests.
- ◆ Continue to expand program offerings for concerts in the park and other outdoor events that cater to families, such as Farmers Markets, Art Fairs, local talent performances, movies, plays, hobby shows, etc.

### Youth Programs

Yucca Valley Recreation provides a wide array of youth activities. This age group would be characterized by those that are under 12 years. The trends indicate that this age group will continue to grow as the population grows. The philosophy of the Town is to provide enrichment and recreational activities rather than child care. The community will continue to attract residents with young families. It is anticipated that expansion of this area will be important in order to respond to this population trend.

### Action Items

- ◆ As space permits at the Museum and Library expand after school programming with an emphasis on social skills, the arts, environmental education, experiences and physical fitness.
- ◆ Continue to contract with and/or partner with individual instructors as well as private agencies to provide existing and new programs for youth at the community center.
- ◆ Provide more tiny tot programs that help preschoolers grow socially and as well as physically, while preparing

them in concert with educational goals of the local schools.

- ◆ As space permits, expand parent/child programming.
- ◆ Integrate youth development strategies into the development, design, and delivery of youth programs and services.
- ◆ Expand youth programs and services with an emphasis on the following activities:
  - Aquatics
  - Sports
  - Academic and homework assistance
  - The arts
  - Civic involvement and volunteer opportunities
- ◆ Enhance interactive family programming, including intergenerational programs. Explore, expand and establish opportunities for youth to participate in the ongoing identification, development and delivery of programs, services and events.
- ◆ Continue to collaborate in the delivery of programs and services for youth, including special interest class instructors, private agencies and non-profit organizations (Boys & Girls Club).

### **Teen Programs**

Recreation programs that act as a deterrent to teen anti-social behavior was a prevalent theme throughout the community input process. Positive activities for teen participation, safe places for teens to socialize, and programs to provide physical outlets and competition all ranked high among the program demand identifying tools.

In addition, places for academic/homework assistance, computer labs, and employment help programs also ranked high among requests for teen activities.

Providing programs and outlets for Scouting, 4-H Clubs, equestrian activities, concerts, places to perform, and drop in

programs were indicated as important areas for the Town to be involved. Teens have a variety of needs and interests. Some of these needs can be met by the Town providing direct programming while others can be met by providing facilities for community organizations and clubs to present programs and activities aimed at the teen population.

### Action Items

- ◆ Develop special events for this age group including the continuation and expansion of teen dances.
- ◆ Establish and expand programs and services for this age group on school sites as well as off school sites when possible during non-school hours. Program considerations include:
  - Recreational sports
  - Aquatics experiences and lessons
  - Academic and homework assistance
  - Arts activities
  - Physical fitness and nutritional education
- ◆ Explore the creation of “extreme” sports programming that is of interest to youth in this age group, examples include laser tag and rock climbing.
- ◆ Look for ways to develop mentoring and volunteer programs that provide opportunities for youth to mentor youth, business mentoring youth, and youth connecting with seniors.
- ◆ Explore opportunities to expand excursion programs that provide highly interactive experiences for youth. An example identified in the community outreach included traveling to off-road recreation sites.
- ◆ Work to establish a teen advisory group or committee to help design the amenities for a new teen center that would meet the programming needs for that age group.

## Adult Programs

A variety of activities are currently available for residents of 18 years and over in Yucca Valley. Physical fitness, the arts, excursions, community events, sports and dance are included in the menu of activities programmed through the Recreation Division for adults. This population group is projected to continue to grow with individuals many of whom will be employed outside of the area. Market reports as well as trends suggest that golf, swimming, walking, hiking, cooking, surfing the Internet, reading, and dining out are leisure time activities that will receive the highest rates of participation within this age group. The public outreach process suggested that adults 18 years and above are looking for programs that promote health and wellness, aquatics, intergenerational programs and the arts.

## Action Items

- ◆ Expand special interest classes with an emphasis on:
  - The arts
  - Environmental education and awareness
  - Physical fitness
  - Walking, bicycling and hiking
  - Aquatics activities
  - Reading/book clubs
  - Cooking classes
  - Financial planning
- ◆ Consider expanding the Town’s role to support and promote career and job development programs and services.
- ◆ To promote increased outreach and participation, consider increased “niche” marketing for the various target markets that exist in this age group.
- ◆ Expand physical fitness and all other health and wellness activities, threading these themes throughout other programs such as community events, hiking, dancing, etc.

## Senior Citizen Programs

Currently Yucca Valley seniors often travel beyond the Town limits to communities such as Twentynine Palms and the Coachella Valley to participate in or take advantage of senior programs and services. Reports indicate that although this is a community of many young families and adults, seniors are and will continue to be a major sector of the population.

All demographic reports for the region and state indicate this number will greatly increase with the aging of baby boomers. The public outreach process identified senior services as a high priority.

## Action Items

- ◆ Establish a comprehensive Senior Services program area that includes recreational, educational, and socially targeted activities.
- ◆ Develop programs that include more active recreational activities for the growing population of baby boomer seniors. Specific program areas could include:
  - Aquatics
  - Senior sports
  - Health and wellness
  - Social clubs
  - Physical fitness
  - Computer education
  - Environmental education and awareness
- ◆ Develop a Senior Services resource and referral program while the Senior Services program area is being developed.
- ◆ Work with a group of varied aged seniors to determine and develop senior services.
- ◆ When possible, search out and create collaborative relationships to establish partnerships in the development of the senior services delivery system.

## Special Use Programs

Special Use Programs are defined as those activities that require a specialized facility for participants. For example, hiking programs require hiking trails; equestrian competition require an equestrian center; dog parks require an enclosed area; fairs and exhibitions require a venue for such activities.

When special use facilities are developed, the Town can determine the degree of involvement in organized activities at these facilities and the role it needs to play in providing and coordinating the facilities for informal or community based organization use.

For example, holding an annual 5k/10k Run in collaboration with community organizations and in coordination with a holiday event or other community event can be an example of a special use activity. Sponsoring an Adopt-a-Pet day or a pet vaccination clinic at a Town dog park would be another example of a special use activity.

## Action Items

- ◆ Make physical fitness activities a part of community events, such as, adding a walk or a stretching class, or 10k run, or specialty footraces as a warm up to concerts in the park.
- ◆ Hold monthly community hikes for beginning hikers. People who are avid hikers have local hiking clubs that organize group outings, however, these sometimes advanced hikes are intimidating to those who have never hiked in a group situation, and so introducing newcomers to the sport of hiking is a valuable service.
- ◆ When dog parks are established in Yucca Valley, facilitate dog obedience classes, adopt-a-pet days, pet vaccination clinics, and pet shows at the site.
- ◆ When equestrian facilities are established, either by a concession or management contract, facilitate lessons, shows, and competitions, especially for youth and teens, as well as a therapeutic riding programs for the special needs population.

- ◆ Work to make sure there are multipurpose trails that equestrians can use when implementing the Town's trail system.

## Cultural Programs

The demand for cultural programs and activities scored very high on the demand index and are highly valued by the community. This was evident among all age categories from youth thru senior citizens. The community perceives it to be very essential to provide places for people to perform, display art, learn and to attend cultural activities and events.

The Cultural Component (Chapter 7) of the Master Plan addresses the high degree of interest in the arts in Yucca Valley and the facilities that are needed to provide programs and services to satisfy those needs.

The Town of Yucca Valley puts a significant amount of its resources into cultural programming, mainly through the Hi Desert Nature Museum, Yucca Valley Branch Library and culturally themed community events. These programs provide the community a sense of place, a feeling of comradery, social acceptance and enjoyment. Yucca Valley's reputation as a center for arts and culture is growing; the Town should capitalize on the talent and interest in the community to further that identity.

## Action Items

- ◆ Continue programs that protect artistic, historic, scientific and cultural heritage in Yucca Valley. This can be done by expanding both permanent and temporary exhibitions, permanent collections, educational programs, and cultural events.
- ◆ Continue to work with the schools to implement K-12 education programs for both indoor and outdoor education activities.
- ◆ Continue to explore alternative ways for the public to access collections of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum including new technologies to allow virtual access.

- ◆ Work to provide and maintain creative spaces for community rentals and places for programs put on by community cultural groups. Examples would be small and large amphitheater space, performing arts venues, art display venues, festivals, art fairs, etc.
- ◆ Consider offering more cultural excursions to regional cultural facilities.
- ◆ Continue to work with the schools, the County of San Bernardino, and Joshua Tree National Park to expand opportunities for outdoor education.
- ◆ Within facility limitations, expand after school program opportunities by increasing partnerships with teachers and instructors in math, science, and the arts.
- ◆ As space permits, expand contract classes in the areas of dance, music, and arts.
- ◆ Continue to build on the successes of existing community events. Work with community organizations to provide additional community events to enhance and expand the year-round events calendar that would serve a variety of interests in the community.
- ◆ Until a performing arts venue is developed, look for innovative ways to present performances to the community, i.e., use ball fields, parks, and community center space for local talent shows, concerts, movies, and cultural events.
- ◆ Continue to support the “Art in Public Places” concept and expand this program as resources and funding permit.

### **Special Interest Programs**

Special interest programs are those programs that serve a small but active segment of the community. They are usually requested by community organizations or clubs who want to get involved in some kind of community service or have a common interest in a subject and need a place or outlet for their interest.

Examples of such programs include providing opportunities for people or organizations to volunteer in their community, mentoring programs, service organizations, opportunities to raise funds for a special purpose and opportunities to serve on public committees or commissions.

It is important for the Town to offer such programs and opportunities, both to take advantage of the benefits these programs can provide and to offer outlets for residents who want to be involved.

### **Action Items**

- ◆ Consider establishing a bi-annual “Park Improvement” or “Park Clean-Up Day” to allow clubs and organizations and individuals to provide community service in improving existing park facilities.
- ◆ Consider establishing an “Adopt-A-Park” program whereby local community organizations, service clubs, scouting groups, school groups, etc. can raise funds for their organizations by adopting a park to keep clean for one year. For example, a local business would sponsor the “Adopt-A-Park” program by providing a \$500 donation to a local service club or organization in exchange for on site signage for a year that the business adopted this park in coordination with the local service club or organization. This program provides opportunities for community service as well as the opportunity for local service clubs and organizations to raise funds for their charitable purpose. It also gives local businesses a chance to support community charities and gain local exposure for their efforts.
- ◆ Continue to provide residents with opportunities to participate on committees and commissions. Consider establishing a youth commission or committee, a cultural commission, and possibly a senior advisory committee to help with the design and implementation of the facility recommendations for a new multi-generation campus complex.

- ◆ Collaborate with the Boys & Girls Club, Yucca Valley Branch Library, Hi-Desert Nature Museum, School District, and service clubs to develop mentoring programs for youth and teens.
- ◆ Seek to dedicate space for community clubs, hobby groups, Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and other special interest groups to meet and hold activities.

## 9.5 Asset Management Recommendations and Strategies

The Town of Yucca Valley Park and Recreation facilities have a history of being heavily used by the community. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommends several new facilities including regional park facilities; a civic center complex; a community center complex; a cultural corridor in old town; new community and neighborhood parks; and a new aquatic center, all with potential value for asset management programs.

Through the community input process and surveys the consensus was that the community understood the need for revenue development and would be generally accepting of some commercialization of these proposed facilities in order to insure quality programming and proper maintenance.

However, there was concern expressed regarding aesthetics and too much commercialization of public facilities.

The three components to developing an asset management plan are:

- ◆ Revenue from facility rentals, fees, and charges.
- ◆ Leases or licenses for private concessions.
- ◆ Advertising/vending/sponsorship opportunities.

Based on the recommended future projects outlined in the master plan the project team has developed the following list of advertising/vending/sponsorship opportunities for consideration by the Town to help it generate additional revenue for which to use in operating and maintaining these new facilities:

- ◆ Parking lot and walkway banner programs.

- ◆ Shade shelter advertising.
- ◆ Information and advertising kiosks.
- ◆ Trash receptacle advertising.
- ◆ Telecommunication tower leases.
- ◆ Naming rights and/or facility sponsorship.
- ◆ Soda/water/juice/snack vending.

Several of these revenue categories are advertising programs and the potential revenue is dependant upon the number of impressions that can be generated on the proposed site. In advertising terms, there are two types of impressions, repeat impressions and one-time impressions. Repeat impressions are those exposures to the same people over and over and one-time impressions are those that people see passing by just once. Companies who are trying to establish a brand identity like to advertise at locations that provide repeat impressions, while established brands prefer one-time locations that provide for brand reinforcement.

The facilities proposed for Yucca Valley have the potential to offer both types of advertising locations. The value of these locations is determined by the number of visits and the amount of participation at each site. It is best to “bundle” the sites and offer potential contracts for each category at all sites.

The extent of advertising programs the Town wishes to use to offset maintenance and operational costs will have to be a policy decision made by elected officials. The key is to design the facilities with these programs in mind so that they fit in and look a part of the environment instead of looking like after thoughts that stand out and are unsightly additions. They need to be attractive structures, located for maximum exposure and have control as to content, so as not to create public controversy or opposition. The extent of commercial advertising should not be offensive to visitors or participants or it will defeat the purpose and turn people away from using the facilities.

In preparing the market analysis for using Town facilities to raise revenue in order to offset the cost of operating and

maintaining the facilities the town will have to consider several factors:



- ◆ The economic makeup and image of the Town.
- ◆ The types of facilities, their projected use and attendance.
- ◆ The community’s perception and acceptance of commercialization.
- ◆ Income levels, race, ethnicity, and age demographics.
- ◆ The town’s ordinances and regulations regarding signage, advertising, and use of public property for private commercial purposes.
- ◆ The demand in the market place for commercial exposure in Yucca Valley.
- ◆ The town’s ability to manage asset management contracts.
- ◆ The political environment for balancing the need for revenue versus commercialization of public facilities.
- ◆ Aesthetics, logistics, and the cost versus revenue benefits of asset management programs.



Generating revenue from the use of public facilities is a business venture and thus requires good business decisions and good business practices when implementing asset management programs. For example, an agency cannot decide to implement an information/advertising kiosk program at its parks and facilities but then decide to hide the kiosk in an obscure location because it doesn’t want to appear that it is commercializing its facilities. By designing the kiosk to be attractive and fit into the theme of the facility the kiosks actually become an integral part of the facility environment and an essential amenity to provide information to site visitors.



It is recommended that when the Town proceeds with the design of new facilities that the design process contains an analysis of potential asset management opportunities to generate revenue to offset operation and maintenance costs. By doing this the town can develop attractive quality new facilities that have financial sustainability in the future.



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**APPENDICES**







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## APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY



## GLOSSARY

**Benefit Assessment District** – A district created to fund public improvements such as parks and recreation facilities and purchase and maintain open space. Homeowners within the district are assessed a fee to finance the needed public improvements. The owners must be beneficiaries of the parks, recreation facilities, and/or open space and the size of individual assessment levies must be strictly proportional to the amount of per-parcel “special benefit” which the property receives. Assessments must not exceed the project’s total cost.

**Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** – A planning instrument for mapping out short- and long-term capital acquisition and development costs.

**Certificates of Participation (COP)** – Investor- owned shares of a lease payment revenue stream from a lease obligation signed by a local government entity on a new or renovated public facility. The title to the facility is eventually transferred to the government entity at the end of the lease period at nominal cost.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDGB)** - Funds allocated from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provide for upgrading of parks in compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements, as well as for other limited program funding.

**Community Park** - A park with a usable size of 15-40 net acres that provides community-wide recreation facilities, offering a variety of recreation opportunities and serving several neighborhoods within a one- to two-mile radius.

**Demand Analysis**- An estimation of the number of facilities required to accommodate the demand level based on the participation rates at those facilities.

Development Impact Fees (DIF) - Contributions from developers in the form of in-lieu fees for major facilities (e.g., community centers, senior centers, gymnasiums, etc.) or improvements to the parkland requires by the Quimby Act in order to meet the needs of residents in new development Under California law, unused and uncommitted fees must be refunded if not obligated in five years.

Facility Needs Ratio- The measure of the population level in a given area which creates the demand for one recreation facility.

General Obligation Bonds – Bonds that are issued by cities and counties for the acquisition and improvement of real property, including open space. Issuance of bonds is premised on a two-thirds voter approval. General Obligation bonds are secured primarily by ad valorem property taxes at whatever rate is required to service the debt. Cities and counties may increase property taxes beyond the normal Proposition 13 limit to pay the principal and interest on the bonds. Since investors often perceive property taxes as being less risky than the security for other types of indebtedness, General Obligation bonds may be issued at relatively lower interest rates.

Joint Use Agreement – An agreement that provides for shared use, operation and maintenance of properties owned by all parties entering into the agreement. For example, joint-use agreements often exist between cities and school districts.

Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act (Government Code section 53311 et seq.) – The Act authorizes local governments to establish community facilities districts (CFDs) within which they may levy special taxes and issue bonds to finance open space acquisition, maintenance and other programs. Approval of the special tax and related bond issue requires approval by two-thirds of the

district electorate. When there are fewer than 12 registered voters within a CFD, approval must be by two-thirds of the district's landowners. CFD boundaries need not be contiguous.

**Needs Analysis** – A comparison of the current facility needs and the existing public and private facilities to determine whether the existing facility inventory is adequate in terms of demand conditions.

**Neighborhood Park** – A park with a usable size of 3-15 net acres and a service area of ½ mile that provides for the daily recreation needs of residents within the immediate vicinity.

**Park Acquisition and Development (PAD) Fees** – The primary source of capital improvement funding exacted under the Quimby Act; they also provide for development of improvements on dedicated parkland.

**Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477)** – A provision of the Subdivision Map Act that enables a city, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land or payment of fees, or a combination of the two, for park or recreation purposes as a condition to map approval. The dedication or payment shall not exceed a proportionate amount necessary to provide three (3) acres of park area per one thousand (1,000) subdivision residents.

**Redevelopment Agency Funding** – Funds necessary to acquire property and make improvements in an area of blighting conditions are obtained by accepting financial assistance from public or private source, borrowing money, and issuing bonds. Tax allocation bonds secured by tax increment revenues, which is the increase in annual property taxes attributable to redevelopment improvements, are commonly used to finance development of parks and recreation facilities.

Revenue Bonds – Bonds that are secured by a pledge of revenues from a particular tax or non-tax source such as assessments or fees; usually carry a higher interest rate than general obligation bonds.

Special Community Facility – A recreation facility that provides special community-level recreation function such as a gymnasium, community center, senior center or dog park.

Special Purpose Amenities - One of more facilities with a particular use that is not identified in the Needs or Demand Analysis. These amenities may service a community or the entire city. The size of special use amenity shall be no less than three acres and may include facilities and features such as gardens, golf courses, commercial skate park venues and other amenities with a special purpose or use.



town of  
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**APPENDIX B:  
COMMISSIONS PRESENTATIONS**



## Town of Yucca Valley

### Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Presentation to the Parks, Recreation &  
Cultural Commission and Planning Commission



January 8, 2008



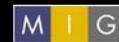
## Introduction

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is based on the vision that recreation facilities, programs, cultural resources, open space and trails are important to the residents of the Town of Yucca Valley. . . enhancing community health, enriching the lives of the community and contributing to a unique identity and quality of life.



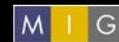
## Key Questions to Answer

- What recreational facilities and programs does Yucca Valley have?
- Who uses Yucca Valley's facilities and programs?
- What role do parks, facilities, open space, trails and recreation programs have in the lives of residents?
- What type of facilities and programs does the Town need?
- Where will these facilities and programs be placed and how will they be funded?



## How Does Parks & Recreation Create Healthy Lifestyles & Livable Communities?

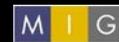
- Strengthens community identity/sense of place
- Protects important places (environmentally, historically, aesthetically, and culturally)
- Encourages human contact and education
- Fosters cultural growth and creativity
- Supports economic development
- Encourages fitness and health
- Provides social meeting places



## Purpose of the Master Plan

Provide a realistic guide for recreation facilities and programs for Yucca Valley based on:

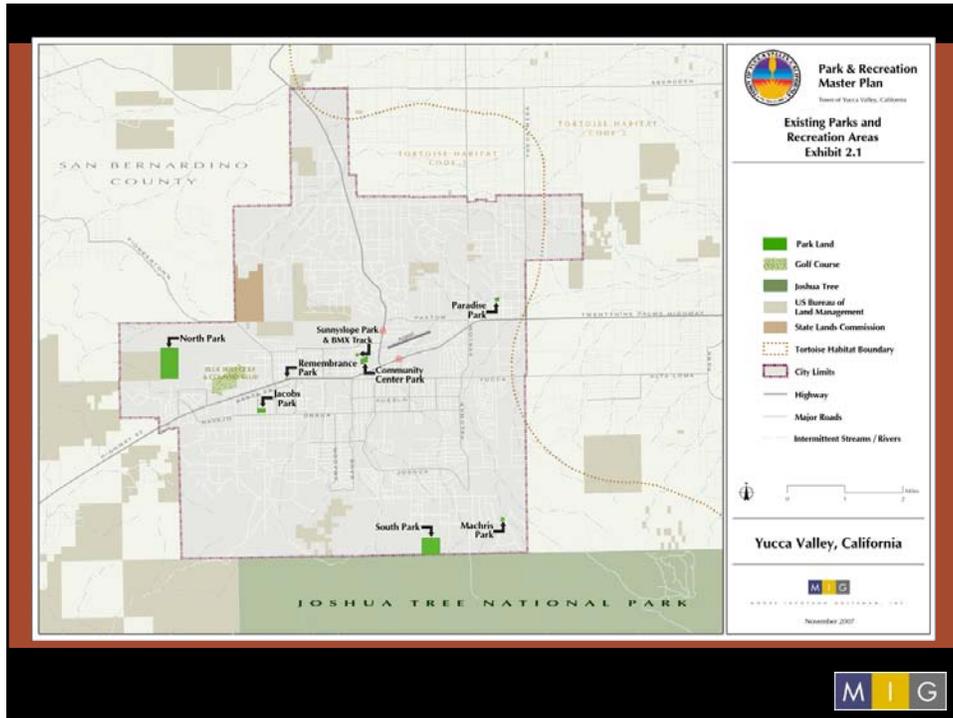
- Previous and future planning documents including:
  - Master Plan of Public Facilities
  - Old Town Specific Plan
- New community input that gives the team an understanding of current and future recreation and park needs specific to Yucca Valley.



## Existing Parks and Facilities

- Evaluating existing conditions
- Obtaining an inventory of current park and recreation facilities
- Defining regional and national characteristics park facilities





## Recreation Activities, Programs and Services

- Analysis of existing programs and recommendations for future programming

## Cultural Component

Focused evaluation of the nature of the cultural community of Yucca Valley

- Evaluation of existing facilities and programs
- Goals for future growth
- Needs of the region
- Financial and social impact
- Resources within the Town
- Recommendations for the future



## Cultural Component

Economic Benefits:

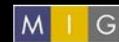
- Increased Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT) from visitors attending festivals and events
- Spending by non-profit arts businesses and industry
- Employment in both public and private arts related jobs
- Event related spending
- Admission fees
- Increased donations



## Cultural Component

### Team Recommendations

- Support cultural groups
- Plan for cultural facility development
- Position Yucca Valley as a major arts center
- Increase media participation in marketing
- Advocate on behalf of Art in Public Places
- Continue to include cultural arts programs online
- Promote Old Town as a "Cultural Corridor"
- Develop a collaboration with the schools and library
- Pursue development of a Cultural Art's Commission



## Needs Assessment

### Based on:

- Existing conditions
- Current use
- Community input
- Projected needs as Town grows
- Available land
- Financial capability



## Needs Assessment

Tools used to get community input on recreation and cultural needs:

- Public Workshops
- Special interest task forces
- Stakeholder interviews
- Community questionnaires
- Sports organization survey
- Radio call in program
- Citywide Telephone Survey



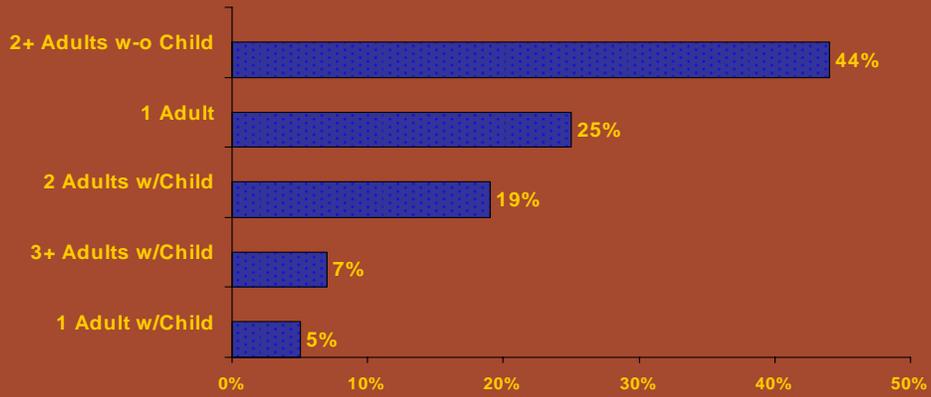
## Telephone Survey

Methodology:

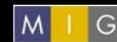
- 300 households were surveyed representing 750 residents
- Interviews were conducted in August 2007
- Respondents were selected at random yielding at least a 94% accuracy level
- Demographic profile of respondents was comparable to 2000 Census benchmark data.



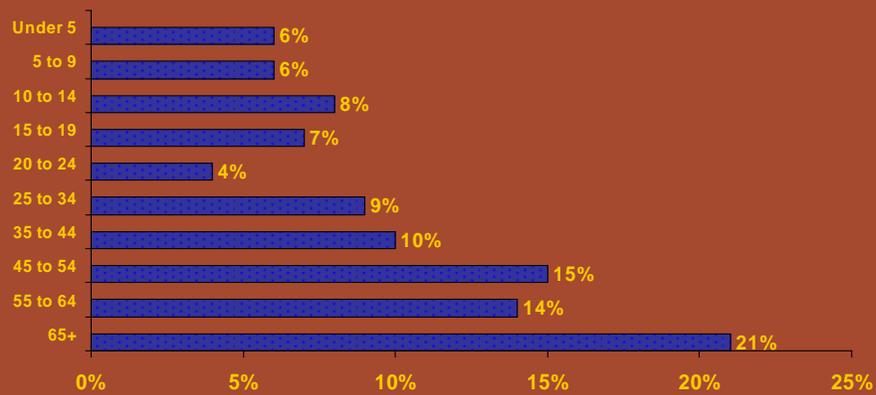
## Household Description



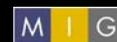
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



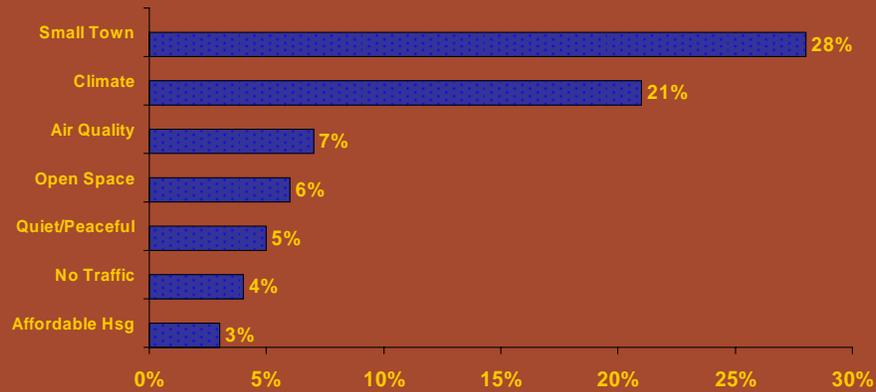
## Resident Population by Age



Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



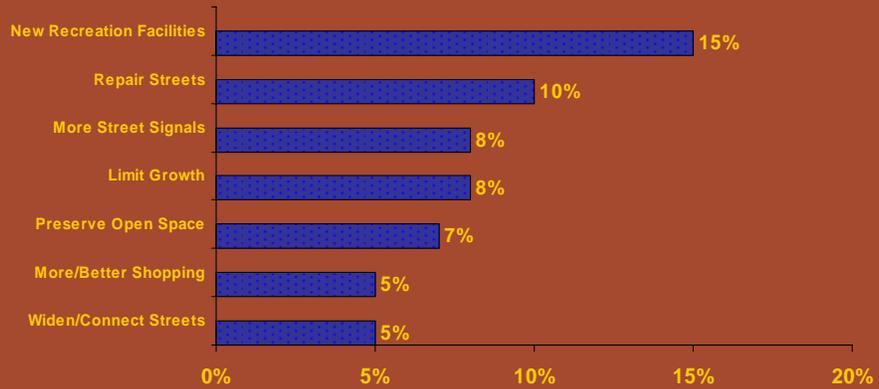
## One Feature That Makes Town Desirable



Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



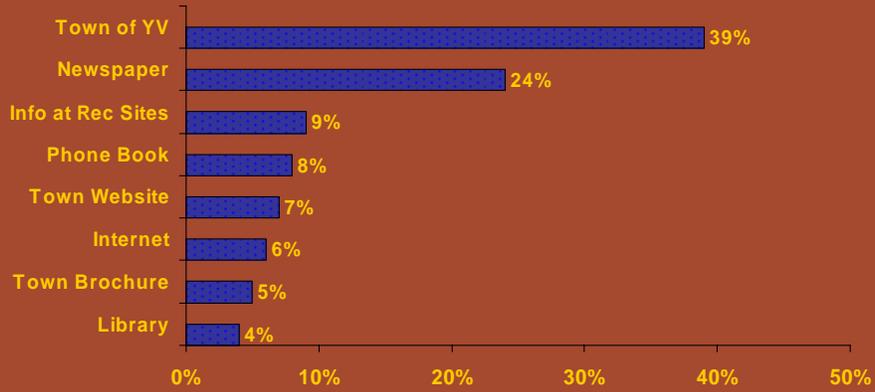
## One Improvement Wanted In Yucca Valley



Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



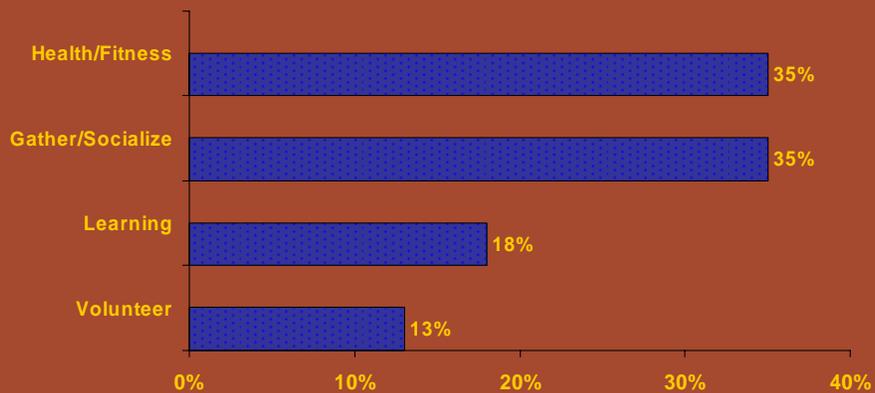
## Recreation Facility/Program Info Sources



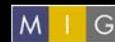
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



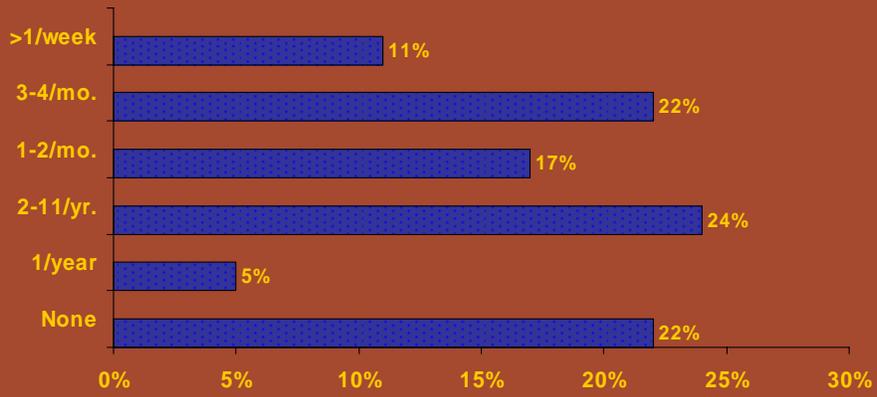
## Most Important Recreation Benefits



Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



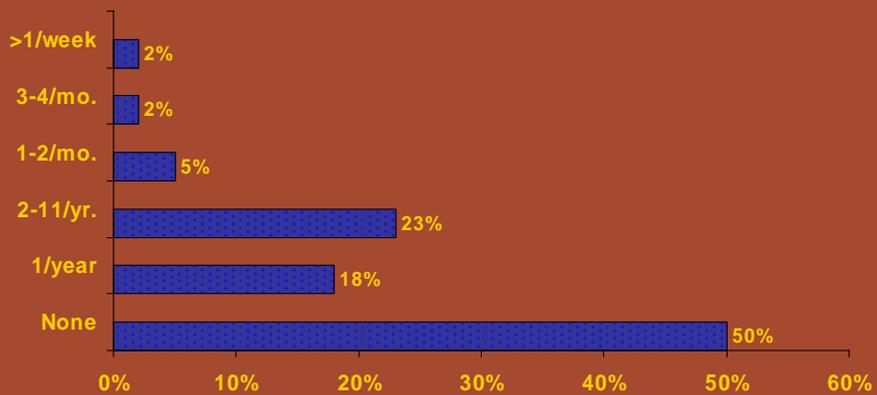
## Frequency of Recreation Facility Usage



Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



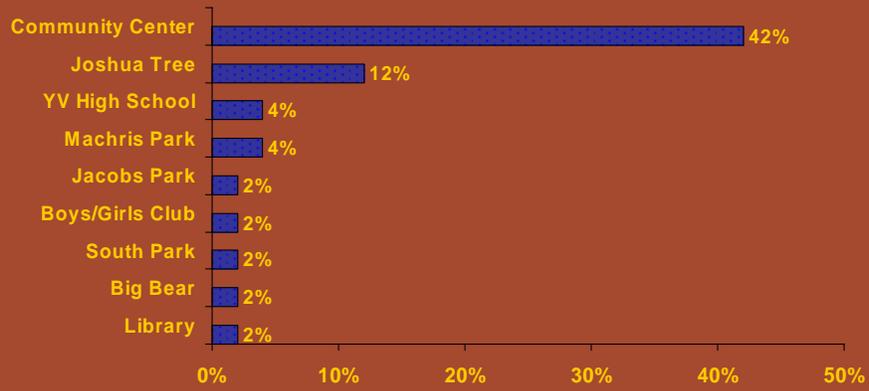
## Frequency of Joshua Tree National Park Usage



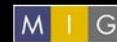
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



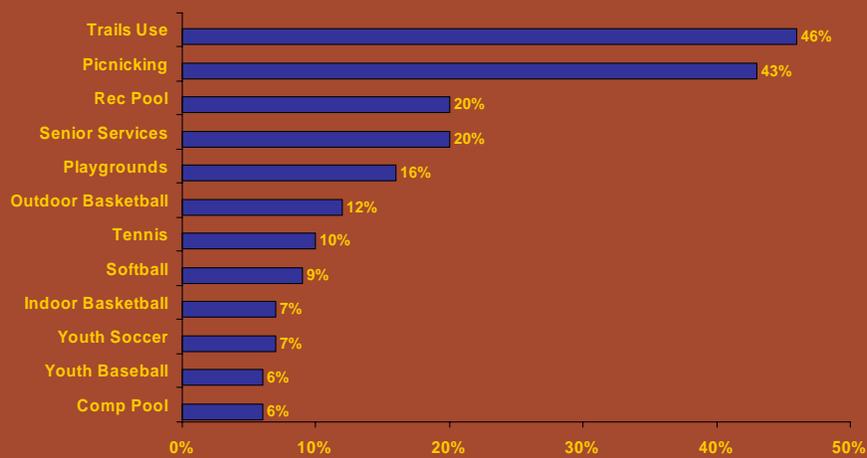
## Recreation Facility Most Often Used in the Last Year



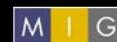
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



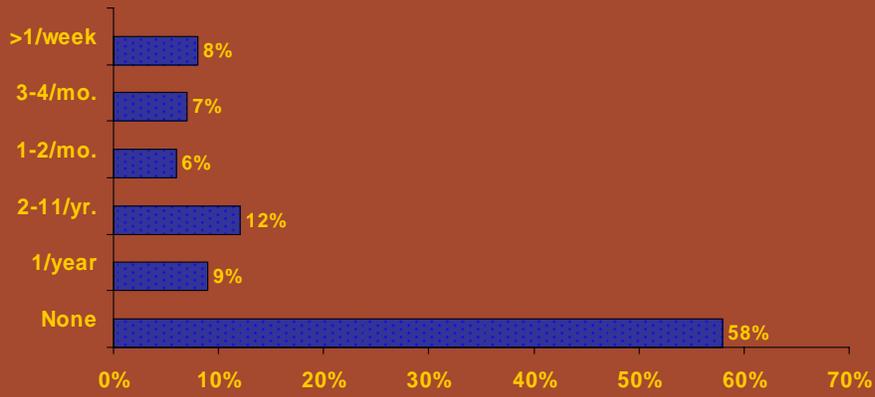
## Town of Yucca Valley Recreation Activity Share of Households Participating



Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



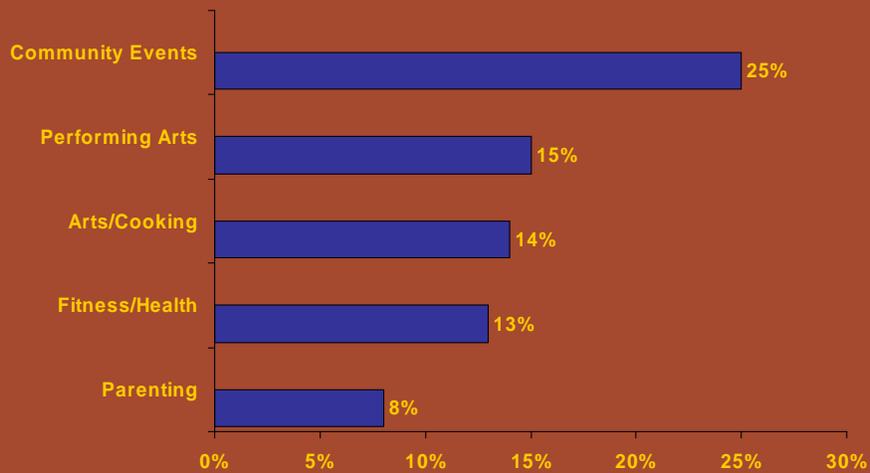
## Frequency of Recreation Program Usage



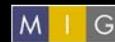
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



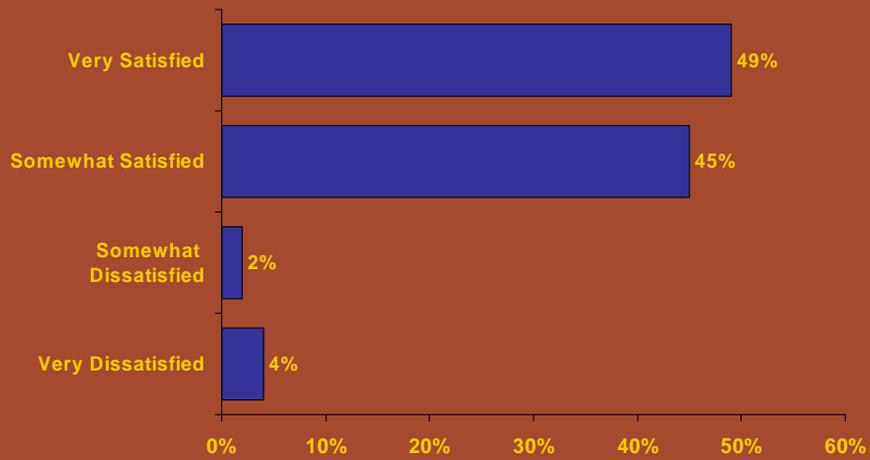
## Town of Yucca Valley Rec Program Participation Percent of Households Participating



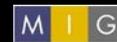
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



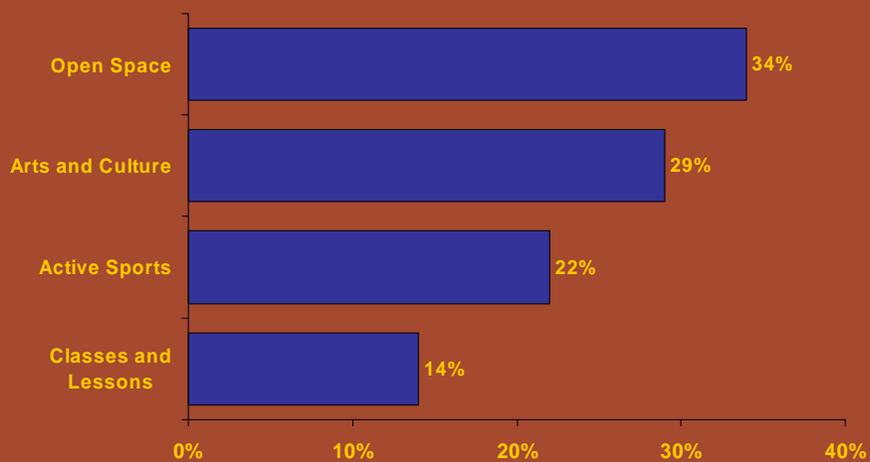
## Satisfaction with Recreation Facilities Maintenance



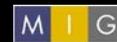
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



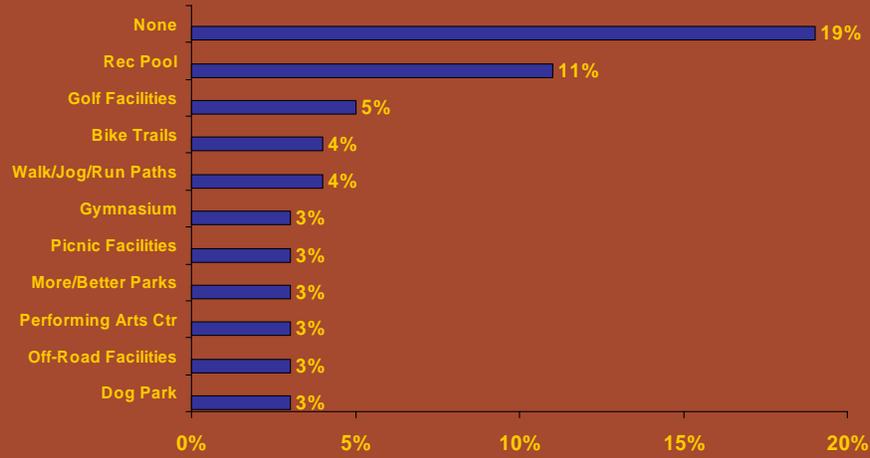
## Preferred Type of Area Improvement



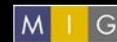
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



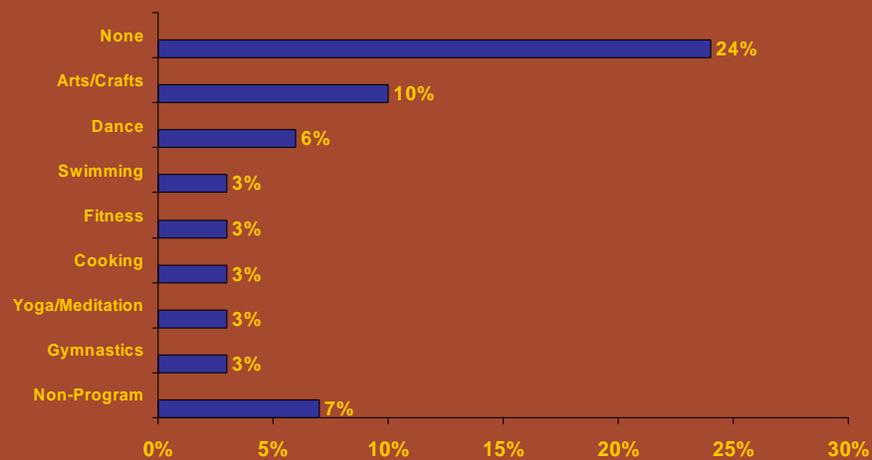
## One Recreation Facility Wanted Most



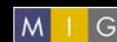
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



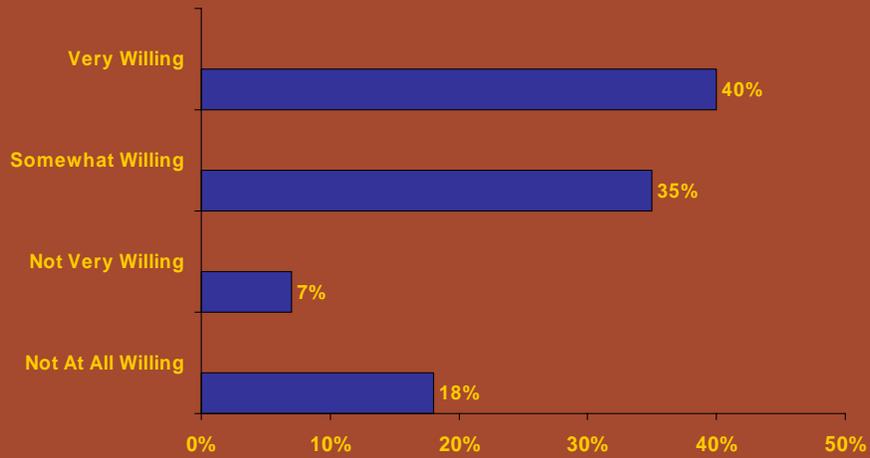
## One Recreation Program Wanted Most



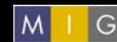
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



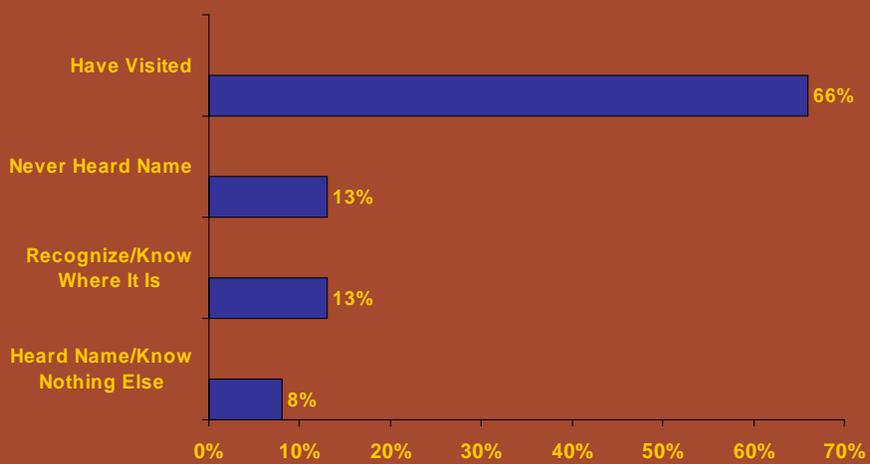
## Willingness to Pay Additional \$ 12 Annually



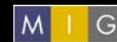
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



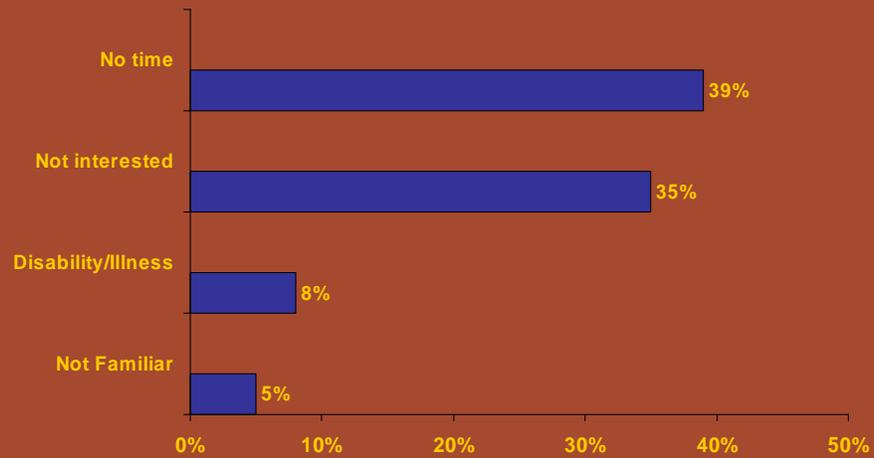
## Awareness of Hi-Desert Nature Museum



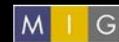
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



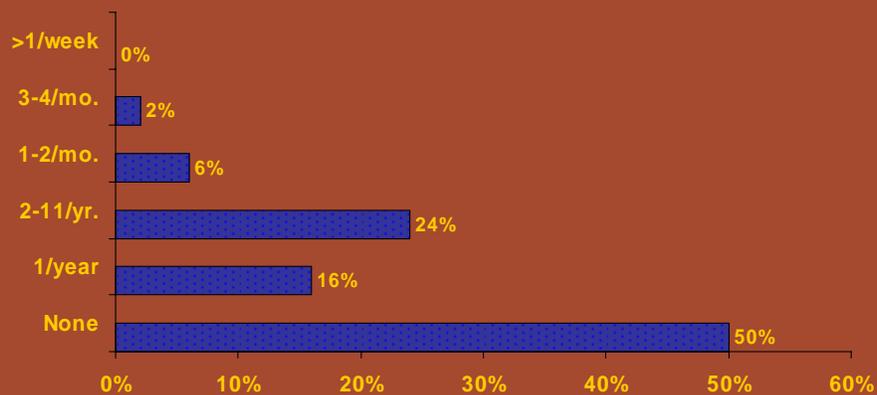
## Reason Not Visited Hi-Desert Nature Museum



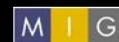
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



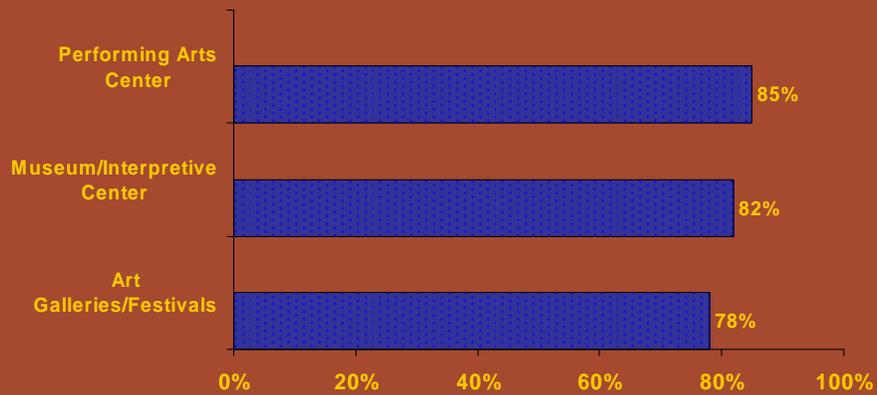
## Frequency of Museum Visitation in Past Year



Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



## Share of Households Planning to Use Proposed Cultural Facilities



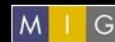
Source: Research Network Ltd. 10/07



## Park Land Dedication and Park Impact Fee Ordinances

Key findings include:

- Existing Park Dedication and In-Lieu Fee Ordinance is up to date and reflects current law
- Existing Park Impact Fee Ordinance is up to date and reflects current costs for providing park and recreation services
- There is an existing parkland deficit that needs to be addressed now and for future growth
- The Town must protect open space to maintain the community's rural character
- Acquiring funds will require asset management



## Developing Revenue to Off-Set Maintenance & Operations Costs

- Asset Management and Financial Sustainability Design Planning



- “Designing public facilities with revenue producing programs in mind so that they fit in and look a part of the environment”



Cell tower Leases



Three-sided kiosk



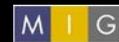
## What is Asset Management?

- 3 Basic Components of Asset Management
  - Revenue from facility rentals, fees and charges
  - Revenue from leases or licenses for private concessions
  - Revenue from advertising/ vending/sponsorship and naming rights opportunities



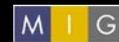
## Policy Recommendations

- During the annual budget process, review the community's recreation program and facility needs
- Evaluate existing parks on a regular basis
- Develop general location criteria and guidelines for new community and neighborhood parks
- Establish criteria for selecting land for new parks and adopt a strategy for land acquisition



## Policy Recommendations

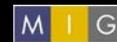
- Establish and apply criteria to provide new Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks
- Support and facilitate the growth of arts and cultural opportunities
- Conduct a year-round schedule of quality programs, events and services
- Commit to the development of a connected local and regional trails system





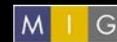
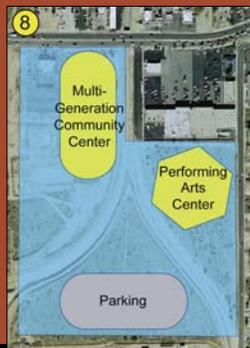
## Facility Recommendations

- Reconfiguration of existing Community Center Complex for a Civic Center and Neighborhood Park
- Old Town Specific Plan Cultural Corridor containing the Hi Desert Nature Museum, Yucca Valley Branch Library, and Amphitheater/Activities Plaza



## Facility Recommendations

- Multigenerational Community Center Complex that serves as the focal point for the community to address the need for a Community Center/ Gymnasium, Senior Center, and Teen Center



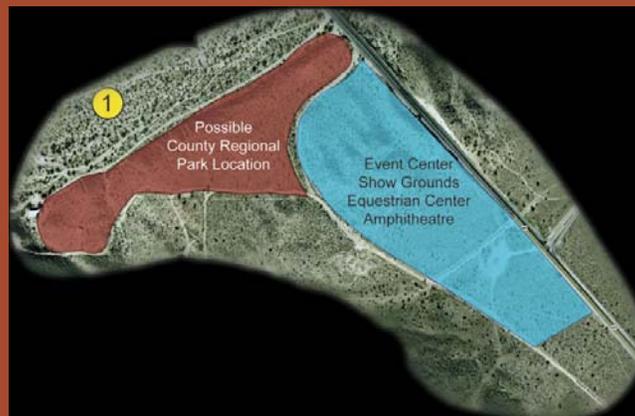
## Facility Recommendations

- Aquatics Center Complex in coordination with a new Boys & Girls Club and West End Community Park with Sports Fields



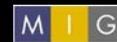
## Facility Recommendations

- Yucca Valley Events, Showground & Equestrian Center



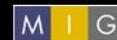
## Facility Recommendations

- East End Community Sports Park in coordination with La Contenta Middle School



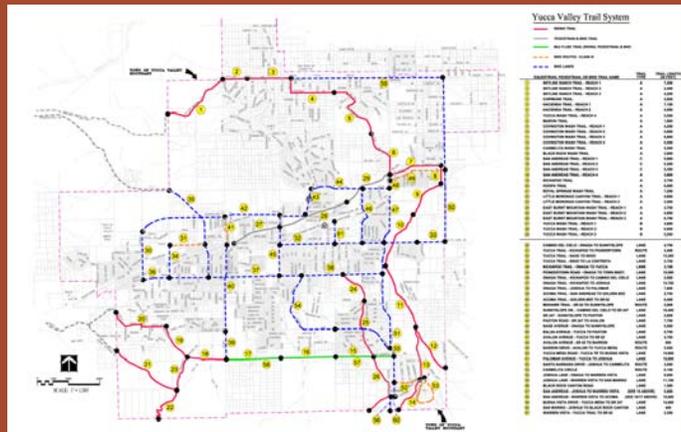
## Facility Recommendations

- Sunnyslope Extreme Sports Park containing a new skate park, improved BMX course, a new rock climbing facility and a dog park designed for both passive and active pet uses



## Facility Recommendations

### ➤ Implementation of the Yucca Valley Trails System

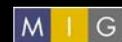


## Facility Recommendations

➤ A new community park in the Yucca Mesa area



➤ A neighborhood park in the area formerly called the "Southside Community Center Property"



## Facility Recommendations

### Improvements to Existing Parks

#### ➤ Machris Park

- Improve ADA access to tot lot play equipment and swings by installing a rubberized playground surface
- To make the Tot Lot more usable and comfortable in the summertime add a shade structure over the play equipment
- A fabric shade shelter should be provided at the bleacher area to make it more comfortable to watch games in the summertime
- Adding trees and landscaping throughout open areas of the site would provide shade and an enhanced visual impact
- Future development could include additional sports fields to help meet demands for both practice and game facilities.



## Facility Recommendations

### Improvements to Existing Parks

#### ➤ Jacobs Park

- Upgrade group picnic shade shelter
- Install ADA compliant rubberized surfacing at tot lots and add shade structures to play equipment
- Improve paths/walkways to enhance circulation
- Consider adding two new tennis courts to existing facilities
- Consider redesigning the park to include two turf sports fields (traditional turf or artificial turf) with shaded seating and ADA access from parking and building facilities
- Consider adding a spray/splash water play area
- Increase number of trees on site

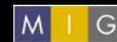


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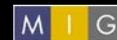
#### ➤ Paradise Park

- Improve ADA access to tot lot and swings by installing rubberized playground surfacing
- Add shade element to existing play equipment structure
- Install new play equipment specifically for 5-12 year olds
- Add a new group picnic shade shelter and BBOs
- Develop the existing open space area to include a water/splash play area, a seating area, and additional trees and landscaping
- Consider redesigning the park to include two turf ball fields (traditional turf or artificial turf) with shaded bleacher seating and ADA access from parking and building facilities.



## Other Facility Considerations

- Potential Development of Burnt Mountain Park
- Options for Blue Skies Golf & Country Club
- Possible need to relocate Remembrance Park
- Future of North and South Parks



## Town of Yucca Valley

### Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Presentation to the Yucca Valley Town Council



January 10, 2008



### Policy Recommendations

- During the annual budget process, review the community's recreation program and facility needs
- Evaluate existing parks on a regular basis
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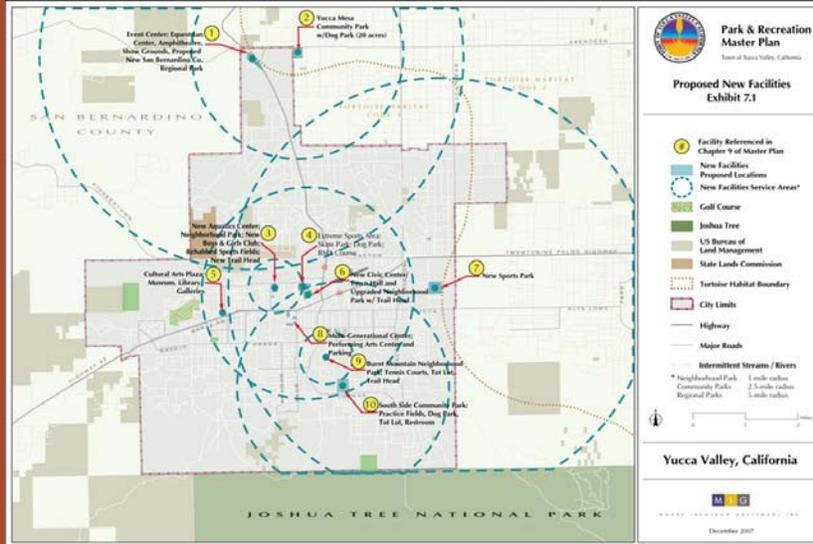
## Facility and Program Recommendations and Implementation Strategies

### Guiding Principles:

- Recreation as an antidote for youth/teen social issues
- Collaboration and cooperation between public, private, and non-profit sectors
- Opportunities for participants to partake of
  - both indoor and outdoor activities
  - aquatics programs
  - programs and activities of all age groups
  - artistic growth
  - cultural enrichment and involvement
  - attending entertainment venues
  - equestrians
  - extreme sports



## Proposed New Facilities Map



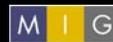
## Facility Recommendations

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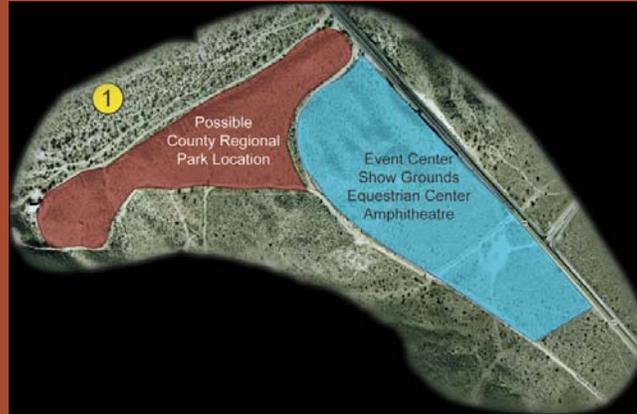
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## Facility Recommendations

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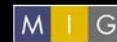


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## Other Facility Considerations

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- Options for Blue Skies Golf & Country Club
- Possible need to relocate Remembrance Park
- Future of North and South Parks





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**APPENDIX C:  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH**





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**APPENDIX C1:  
COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE**



**Town of Yucca Valley  
Parks Recreation Master Plan Update**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES QUESTIONNAIRE**

**IMPORTANT:**  
**This questionnaire must be completed and returned to Yucca Valley Community Services  
Department no later than October 22, 2007**

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather input from organizations in the Town of Yucca Valley that provide non-for-profit, educational, recreational, volunteer and charitable services to its citizens.

Typical respondents to this questionnaire will be associated with the following groups:

- ◆ Community Organizations and Clubs
- ◆ School District Staff and Support Groups
- ◆ Youth and Adult Sports Organizations
- ◆ Not-for-Profit Organizations (not previously included in other interviews)

As a member of one of the organizations listed above, you have an important role in helping to provide input for the development of Yucca Valley's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is designed to be a working document to serve as a roadmap for the future development and growth of the Town's recreational facilities and programs. Your responses will provide an important source of information for the consultant team as they draft the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Please feel free to add any comments or opinions that are not directly covered in the questionnaire. Results will be included in the Master Plan document without reference to individuals.

***Some of these questions may not directly relate to your particular role in the community; but you may still respond if you have an opinion or insight. If you have no response, please mark no response and move on to the next question.***

1. What do you think are the key issues concerning parks and recreation in Yucca Valley?
2. What are your or your organizations recreation priorities for the community?
3. We all have an idea what we think a well-balanced community should have in regards to park & recreation programs and services. What is your perception of Yucca Valley? Are there adequate programs and services available to all?

**Town of Yucca Valley  
Parks Recreation Master Plan Update**

4. Do you hear complaints about parks, facilities and programs? If so, what are they?
5. Do you participate in programs offered by other communities? If so, what types of programs and in which communities?
6. Are there other groups or agencies, besides Yucca Valley Community Services Department, meeting the community's recreational program needs? If Yes, which ones?
7. What role do you see the Town having in providing programs and facilities in the community?
8. Do you feel there are adequate recreation facilities available to Town residents? If not, please explain.
9. What facilities do you think are most used in the community? Are there any problems related to the over use or lack of use of these facilities?
10. Do you know of any problems with facility or program coordination? Do you have any suggestions or solutions to these problems?

## Town of Yucca Valley Parks Recreation Master Plan Update

11. Does the Town have enough parks for picnics and other passive uses?			
12. In general, are there enough sports facilities in the Town? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe <input type="checkbox"/> No Are there enough <i>lighted</i> sports facilities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe <input type="checkbox"/> No			
13. Which of the programs currently being offered do you think are the most popular?			
14. What type of programming do you think is needed in the community? Right now? In the future?			
15. How great is the need for the various types of programs listed below. Rate them as adequate services already exist, some need exists or a great need for additional programs exists.			
	Adequate	Some Need Exists	Great Need Exists
Senior Citizens?			
Teens?			
Arts and Cultural Activities?			
Events that Celebrate Cultural Diversity?			
Community Services/Human Service Programs?			
After School or Extended Day Care?			
Educational or Enrichment Classes for Adults?			
Educational or Enrichment Classes for Children?			
Adult Sports Opportunities?			
Alternatives to Youth Sports Programs?			
Preschool-age Activities?			
Community Events?			
Volunteering Opportunities?			
Youth Sports Programs?			
Tutoring or Homework Assistance?			
16. Is there a need or is it important to provide programs that bring the community together? If so, do you have any suggestions?			

**Town of Yucca Valley  
Parks Recreation Master Plan Update**

17. Are local businesses encouraged to sponsor or participate in community events? If so, how?
18. Do you think that local residents would be willing to pay additional taxes or higher participant fees in order to fund and maintain new parks or recreational facilities in the community?
19. Do you know of any active community foundations that provide funding for programs? Please list them.
20. Please list any issues of special concern or particular importance that you may have or feel need to be addressed in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
21. What role do you see your organization playing in the development of Recreational and Community Services for the Town of Yucca Valley?

Please return the completed questionnaire to

Community Services Department  
57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

If you have any questions regarding this questionnaire or the Master Plan, you may call Community Services at (760) 369-7211.

We thank you very much for taking the time to share your opinions with us.



town of  
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parks & recreation master plan update

**APPENDIX C2:  
SPORTS QUESTIONNAIRE**



**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Instructions For Completing Sports Organization Survey

The survey is divided into two parts.

Part 1 asks for general information regarding the overall organization or league. Only one response for Part 1 is requested from each organization.

Part 2 asks for more detailed information for each division or level within the organization or league.

Please return all completed questionnaires to:

**Community Services Department**  
57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

If you have any questions or need help filling out this form, please call Community Services at (760) 369-7211

**Please complete questionnaires and return by: October 22, 2007**

Date:		
Name of League or Sports Organization:		
Contact Person:	Phone #	E-mail
Address:		
Which Months of Year is MAIN Season Played:	Pre-Season	Regular Season
Current # of Teams (Indicate Year of Season)	Total Current # of Players	Approximate % of players living in Yucca Valley:

LEAGUE DIVISIONS	# PLAYERS	AGE RANGE OF PLAYERS
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

Does this league play games as traveling teams outside Yucca Valley? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	a. If Yes, Where do they play?
Does your sports organization/league participate in tournaments? If yes, number per year:	b. What % of games are outside Yucca Valley? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Where do you play the tournaments you conduct?	We conduct <input type="checkbox"/> We conduct <input type="checkbox"/> Conducted by Others <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you conduct any of these tournaments to raise funds? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, # per Year:

How would you rate the maintenance of the sports facilities your organization uses in Yucca Valley?

Excellent Good Fair Poor

If Fair or Poor, why?

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How would rate the fees you pay for use of the fields?

Very High Somewhat High About Right Somewhat Low Very Low

Describe the current situation for your organization regarding scheduling and coordination of field use. Indicate who is responsible for scheduling and if procedures are satisfactory.

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---

What other comments do you have concerning field usage?

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What is the total PROJECTED # of players in organization/league next season (state year)?

What % of increase (+) / decrease (-) do you expect in league enrollment in the next 5 years?

\_\_\_\_\_2007 \_\_\_\_\_2008 \_\_\_\_\_2009 \_\_\_\_\_2010 \_\_\_\_\_2011

What type of facility or facilities (size/amenities) does your organization currently have the greatest need for?

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---

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---

---

What amenities do you require (i.e. lights, seating/bleachers, team benches, storage, concessions, restrooms, backstops, surface materials, fencing, parking, etc.)?

---

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---

---

---

What type of facilities do you expect the organization to have the greatest need for in the future?

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**INDIVIDUAL DIVISION INFORMATION SHEETS (Part 2)**

**IMPORTANT:** PLEASE COMPLETE ONE INDIVIDUAL DIVISION INFORMATION SHEET (Part 2) FOR EACH DIVISION IN YOUR SPORTS ORGANIZATION. IF YOUR ORGANIZATION ONLY HAS ONE DIVISION, COMPLETE THE DIVISION INFORMATION SHEET FOR THE ENTIRE ORGANIZATION.

Name of Organization:	Date	
Division:	Total # of Teams in Division	Total # Players
Average # of Players per Team	Total Number of Games Played per Year	
Type/Size of Field Required:		

**GAMES** Length of Time Per Game Slot

Where are games CURRENTLY played? (Please indicate # of fields used at each location and IF those fields have lights)

What days and times are games played?

On Weekdays: List each field used by day of week and # Games per Day/Evening, per field.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

On Weekends: List each field used and # Games Played per Day, per Field.

Saturday	Sunday

**PRACTICES** Length of Time Per Practice Slot

# of Practices/Week (Pre-Season)	# of Practices/Week (Regular Season)
----------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Where are Practices Held? (Please indicate # of fields used at each location and IF those fields have lights)

What Days and Hours are Practices Held?

On Weekdays: List each field used by day of week and # Practices per Day/Evening, per Field.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

On Weekends: List each field used and # Practices Held per Day, per Field.

Saturday	Sunday

Date

Contact Name  
Organization  
Address  
Town

Dear :

As part of the preparation of a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Town of Yucca Valley, you are being asked to complete the attached Sports Organization Survey. This will provide input to the Parks and Recreation Needs Analysis. Please complete this survey in detail; it is important to accurately show your organization's current field usage.

The Recreation and Parks Needs Analysis is used as a basis for preparing a long term Master Plan to include programs for upgrading, expanding and possible renovation of existing parks and recreational facilities (including ball fields) within the Town. The Master Plan will also establish guidelines and standards for the orderly development of future parks and recreation facilities in Yucca Valley. It will be a policy document to provide guidance to the Town in developing and implementing comprehensive recreation programs that meet the needs of all residents within the Town of Yucca Valley as well as provide parks and recreation facilities that are aesthetically pleasing and functional, and result in a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Please fill out Part 1 regarding the overall organization of your league. You will need to fill out the Part 2 questionnaire for each and every division you offer within your organization. If you have seven age divisions, you'll turn in seven Part 2 questionnaires. All completed questionnaires should be either mailed or faxed to me. Your prompt response is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jim Schooler  
Director of Community Services

*Thank you for your help and cooperation.*



town of  
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**APPENDIX C3:  
STAKEHOLDER INPUT**



**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY**  
**Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Master Plan**  
**Stakeholder Interview Questions**

From your perception, or the perspective of the group you represent:

1. What do you believe are the most important recreational or cultural programs and events currently provided in Yucca Valley?
2. What do you feel are the most pressing needs in Yucca Valley related to providing successful recreation and cultural programs and services?
3. If funding was available for the construction of new recreational facilities, what projects do you feel should be the top priorities in Yucca Valley?
4. Do you think that local residents would be willing to pay additional taxes or higher participant fees in order to fund and maintain new parks or recreational facilities in the community?
5. Do you think the community would support limited commercial advertising in public parks and facilities in order to provide funding for maintenance of the parks and facilities?
6. What do you think would be the advantages and disadvantages of partnering with schools to share use and maintenance of facilities?
7. Do you feel that there is currently a sufficient balance of active and passive recreation areas in Yucca Valley? Does the town need more of one than the other?





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**APPENDIX C4:  
TELEPHONE SURVEY**



# **Research Network Ltd**

Facts for Business Decisions

## **RESIDENT TELEPHONE SURVEY YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

**OCTOBER, 2007**

Prepared for:

**The Town of Yucca Valley**

Prepared by:

Research Network Ltd.  
2224 87<sup>th</sup> Street Ct NW  
Gig Harbor, Washington 98332  
Telephone: (253) 514-8578  
FAX: (253) 514-8579



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## I. INTRODUCTION

Research Network Ltd. offers for your review the results of the resident survey conducted for The Town of Yucca Valley, California. The resident survey was conducted as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. The purpose of the survey was to obtain statistically valid, community-wide input on a variety of issues related to the Master Plan.

The resident survey is one of several methods being undertaken to involve the community in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update process. Other methods include public workshops, and interviews with organized sports organizations. The purpose of gathering community input through a variety of methods is to ensure that the Park and Recreation Master Plan Update is as inclusive as possible and that it reflects the views, preferences, and recreating patterns of Yucca Valley residents.

This document is presented in ten sections. Sections four through nine include analysis and graphics for each of the following subject areas.

### ***Executive Summary***

The Executive Summary includes a review of key findings from the survey.

### ***Methodology***

The Methodology section details the methods used to design and implement the survey.

### ***Community Opinions***

The Community Opinions section presents a detailed analysis of each survey inquiry. This discussion includes analysis and graphics for each of the following subject areas:

- One Feature that Makes Yucca Valley Desirable
- One Improvement Wanted in Yucca Valley

### ***Recreation Use/Benefits***

The Recreation Facilities or Programs Usage section presents a detailed analysis of each survey inquiry. This discussion includes analysis and graphics for each of the following subject areas:

- Recreation Information Sources Used
- Recreation Benefits Desired
- Frequency of Recreation Facility Usage
- Frequency of Joshua Tree National Park Usage
- Park Most Often Used in Last Year
- Frequency of Recreation Activities Participation
- Frequency of Recreation Program Participation

- Rating Town Recreation Facilities Maintenance

**Recreation Needs**

The Recreation Needs section presents a detailed analysis of each survey inquiry. This discussion includes analysis and graphics for each of the following subject areas:

- Preferred Type of Area Improvements
- One New Recreation Facility Desired
- One New Recreation Program Desired
- Willingness to Pay Additional Annual Amount

**Museum Awareness/Use**

The Museum Awareness/Use section presents a detailed analysis of each survey inquiry. This discussion includes analysis and graphics for each of the following subject areas:

- Awareness of Name Hi-Desert Nature Museum
- Reason Not Visited Hi-Desert Nature Museum
- Reported Visitation of Hi-Desert Nature Museum

**Cultural Facility Needs**

The Cultural Facility Needs section presents a detailed analysis of each survey inquiry. This discussion includes analysis and graphics for each of the following subject areas:

- Propensity to Use Performing Arts Center
- Propensity to Use Art Galleries, Art Festivals
- Propensity to Use New Museum/Interpretive Center

**Demography**

The Respondent Demography section presents the results of the following demographic questions included in the survey:

- Age Distribution of Population
- Household Composition
- Tenure in Yucca Valley
- Employment in Yucca Valley
- Ethnicity
- Household Income

**Appendices**

Included in the Appendix to this report are two Appendices:

- The survey questionnaire
- The tabulations of the responses to the survey

## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Highlights

After a careful review of the responses to the Yucca Valley resident survey, Research Network Ltd. has gleaned the following highlights.

- One Desirable Feature** Three of every ten residents polled (28%) identified “Small Town Atmosphere” as the one feature that makes Yucca Valley a desirable place to live while an additional 21% reported “Climate.” Similarly, an additional 7% of households polled volunteered the feature “Air Quality” and 6% more cited “Open Space.” One of every twenty respondents (5%) volunteered “Quiet/Peaceful” as the feature while “No Traffic” (4%) and “Affordable Housing” (3%) were also reported.
- One Desired Change** When asked what improvement they would make in Yucca Valley, 15% of the households polled stated that they would “Create New Parks and Recreation Facilities” while 10% of respondents would “Repair Streets”. An additional 8% of those interviewed stated they would “Increase Street Signalization” and an equal share would “Limit Growth.” “Preserve Open Space” was a volunteered response by 7% of the households polled. One in twenty respondents (5%) stated that they would “Add More/Better Shopping” and an equal share would “Widen or Connect Streets.”
- Recreation Sources** Nearly four of every ten residents polled (39%) stated that they get their recreation program and facility information from the Town of Yucca Valley while an additional 24% reported using the Newspaper. Nearly one of every ten respondents (9%) stated that they use Postings at Recreation Sites as their information source while 8% reported using the Telephone Book. The Town of Yucca Valley Website was reportedly used by 7% of respondents as their information source while 6% reported using the Internet. An additional 5% refer to the Town Brochure and 4% stated that such information is gathered from the library.
- Recreation Benefits** More than one-third of the households polled (35%) stated that they seek physical fitness, health and well being benefits from their recreation choices. An equal share of respondents (35%) replied that opportunities to gather and socialize with others is the primary benefit they seek from recreation. Together, these two benefits were identified by 70% of those polled. The benefit of learning opportunities for hobby, self-improvement or career development was cited by 18% of those polled while the benefit from recreational opportunities to give back to the

community through volunteer work was a priority for 13% of the Town's responding residents.

**Recreation Facility Use** One third (33%) of the sample of telephone respondents described themselves as a "Frequent User" of parks and recreation facilities (patrons of facilities at least three times per month). Four of every ten residents (40%) were "Moderate Users" (patrons of facilities at least two to twenty-four times annually) of recreation facilities during the past year. The remainder (27%) was labeled "Light/Non Users" (patrons of facilities once per year and non-users).

**Joshua Tree Use** Frequent users of Joshua Tree National Park represented 4% of the sample of telephone respondents while an additional 28% were "Moderate Users" (patrons at least two to twenty-four times annually) during the last year. The remainder (68%) was labeled "Light/Non Users" (patrons once per year and non-users.)

**Most Used Facility** The recreation facilities reportedly most often used by households polled included the Community Center (42%), Joshua Tree National Park (12%), Yucca Valley High School (4%), Machris Park (4%), Jacobs Park (2%), Boys and Girls Club (2%), South Park (2%), Big Bear (2%), and the Library (2%).

**Recreation Activities** The tested activities cited as being undertaken by the largest portion of Yucca Valley residents surveyed were Biking/Walking//Running/Horse Riding/Hiking on Unpaved Trails for Recreation or Fitness (46%), Picnicking in Developed Sites (43%), Swimming in Public Pools for Recreation or Lessons (20%), and Use of Senior and Mature Adult Services and Programs (20%). Use of Play Equipment/Tot Lots in Public Parks was reported by 16% of respondents followed by Outdoor Basketball: Informal Play for Youth or Adults (12%) and Tennis: Adults or Youth (10%). The remaining activities tested were reportedly conducted by less than one of every ten resident households.

**Programs Use** When asked about frequency of recreation program use, 15% of the sample of telephone respondents described themselves as a "Frequent User" (patrons of programs at least three times per month.) Less than one of every five residents (17%) was a "Moderate User" (patrons at least two to twenty-four times annually) of recreation programs during the past year. The remainder (68%) was labeled "Light/Non Users" (patrons of programs once per year and non-users).

**Program Participation** The tested programs cited as being undertaken by the largest portion of Yucca Valley residents surveyed were Special

Community Events (25%), Music, Drama or Performing Arts Classes (15%), Arts, Crafts, or Cooking Lessons (14%), Fitness, Gymnastic or Wellness Classes (13%), Parenting, Early Childhood Development Lessons or Classes (8%).

**Facilities Maintenance** When asked to describe their satisfaction with the maintenance of recreation and parks facilities in the Town of Yucca Valley, 95% of those polled stated they are either “very” or “somewhat satisfied.”

**Preferred Improvement** The tested type of improvement receiving the largest response was “Open Space Preservation and Enjoyment, chosen by more than one-third of households polled (34%). The next most often chosen category, “Arts and Cultural, Museum, or Performing Arts Facilities and Programs,” was chosen by nearly three of every ten households (29%). “Active Sports Facilities and Programs” was the selection of more than one in five residents (22%) interviewed while the final tested category, “Classes, Lessons, and Community Events” garnered a 14% response rate.

**One Desired Facility** The response most often reported was a desire for no additional new recreation facilities, volunteered by nearly one of every five respondents (19%). The recreation facilities cited as most desired by Yucca Valley residents surveyed were Swimming Pool for Recreation or Lessons (11%), Golf Course/Driving Range (5%), Bike Trails (4%), Walking/Running/Jogging Paths (4%), Gymnasium (3%), Picnic Facilities (3%), More/Better Parks (3%), Performing Arts Center (3%), Off-Road Vehicle Facilities (3%), and Dog Park (3%).

**One Desired Program** The response most often reported was a desire for no new recreation programs, volunteered by nearly one of every four respondents (24%). The recreation program types most often mentioned included Arts or Crafts Instruction or Lessons (10%), Dance Instruction or Classes (6%), Swimming Lessons (3%), Aerobics, Spinning, or Fitness Instruction or Classes (3%), Cooking Instruction or Classes (3%), Yoga, Meditation, or Stress Relief Instruction or Classes (3%), and Gymnastics Instruction or Classes (3%).

**Propensity to Pay** Three of every four households polled (75%) stated they are “somewhat” or “very” willing to support a \$12 per year tax increase to fund new parks and recreation facilities and programs. Nearly one in five respondents (18%) stated they are “not at all” willing to support such an increase.

**Museum Awareness** Two of every three Yucca Valley respondents polled (66%) reported having visited the Hi-Desert Nature Museum. An

additional 13% of households stated they had never heard the name “Hi-Desert Nature Museum” and an equal share cited they recognize the name and where the museum is located. The smallest response category, 8%, was for residents who had heard the name and knew nothing else.

**Reasons Not Visited** Nearly three of every four respondents (74%) stated they either had no time or were not interested in visiting the Museum. An additional 8% of those responding to this inquiry stated their disability or illness prevented such a visit and an additional 5% volunteered “don’t know what’s there.”

**Visits in Last Year** When asked how frequently they had visited the Hi-Desert Museum in the past year, 2% of the sample of telephone respondents described themselves as a “Frequent User” of the Hi-Desert Museum (patrons at least three times per month). Three of every ten residents (30%) was a “Moderate User” (patrons at least two to twenty-four times annually) of the Hi-Desert Museum during the past year. The remainder (68%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (patrons once per year and non-users). Half of the polled Yucca Valley household stated they had not visited the Museum in the past year.

**Proposed Facility Use** Respondents polled reported high likelihood of using all of the tested types of facilities, with the highest share of residents (85%) stating they would use a Performing Arts Center and the smallest share (78%) stating they would visit Art Galleries, Art Festivals and Events.

**Demography** Key demographic characteristics (household composition and ethnicity) of households interviewed were compiled and reviewed against comparable benchmark data from the 2000 Census to conclude that the sample of respondents polled is a statistically reliable representation of the Town of Yucca Valley as a whole.

### III. METHODOLOGY

**Purpose of the Survey** Research Network Ltd. was retained to design and implement a resident telephone survey among current households of The Town of Yucca Valley to assess resident attitudes and opinions relevant to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. The subject areas of interest within the resident telephone survey included:

- One Feature that Makes Yucca Valley Desirable
- One Improvement Wanted in Yucca Valley
- Recreation Information Sources Used
- Recreation Benefits Desired
- Frequency of Recreation Facility Usage
- Frequency of Joshua Tree National Park Usage
- Park Most Often Used in Last Year
- Frequency of Recreation Activities Participation
- Frequency of Recreation Program Participation
- Rating Town Recreation Facilities Maintenance
- Preferred Type of Area Improvements
- One New Recreation Facility Desired
- One New Recreation Program Desired
- Willingness to Pay Additional Annual Funding
- Awareness of Name Hi-Desert Nature Museum
- Reported Visitation of Hi-Desert Nature Museum
- Reason Not Visited Hi-Desert Nature Museum
- Propensity to Use Performing Arts Center
- Propensity to Use Art Galleries, Art Festivals
- Propensity to Use New Museum/Interpretive Center
- Age Distribution of Population
- Tenure in Yucca Valley
- Employment in Yucca Valley
- Ethnicity
- Household Composition
- Household Income

**Sample Design** A total of 300 interviews were completed with adult household heads living in The Town of Yucca Valley. These respondents were contacted through the use of a random digit dial sample. This sample methodology compensates for the incidence of unlisted telephone numbers.

Such a methodology, however, introduces to the sample telephone numbers of non-residential locations as well as residential locations not in Yucca Valley, since telephone prefixes do not respect jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore, within the design of the survey instrument, a screening question was implemented to eliminate those contacts that did not constitute residents of The Town of Yucca Valley.

When contact was made with a respondent, the interviewer confirmed eligibility for participation in the survey with a question confirming that their home was located within one of the zip codes present in The Town of Yucca Valley.

These ten-minute interviews were conducted via telephone by professional interviewers during the August 2007 fielding of the resident telephone survey using direct-entry computer technology. Skilled supervisors of the field organization edited all interviews conducted among Yucca Valley residents and 10% were validated for accuracy.

**Margin of Error**

A random sample survey is designed to interview a fraction of the households in a community with the desired outcome being that this survey group represents the opinions of those who were not surveyed. Such a random sample may, however, produce results that differ from those responses that would have been received if all households were interviewed. These differences are primarily generated as a result of what is known as “sample error.” The degree of sample error is primarily determined by:

- The total number of completed interviews
- The number of possible responses to each question
- The distribution of responses to each question

The sample error for a sample size of 300 ranges from  $\pm 2.5\%$  (for a question with two response categories, distributed 5%/95%) to  $\pm 5.8\%$  (for a question with two response categories, distributed 50%/50%) at the 95% confidence level. This means that if we were to survey every household in Yucca Valley, we are confident that, 95% of the time, the results for a question (with two potential responses and a 50%/50% response distribution) would differ by less than 5.8 percentage points from the results derived from this sample.

The margin of error accrues to produce an answer range. For example, if a question derives a “blue” response from 50% of those asked the question, a random sample assumes that, 95% of the time, the actual percent of the entire population from which the sample is taken who would respond “blue” is between 44.2% and 55.8%.

It should be kept in mind that the margin of error may increase when subgroups of the full sample are being considered. This becomes important when comparing data for population subgroups based on categories such as sub-area, age, presence of children, or income. For example, the 95% confidence interval for a subgroup of 100 respondents yields an error range from  $\pm 4.4\%$  to  $\pm 10\%$ . Results for subgroups

are only highlighted when we have a high degree of confidence that the differences that distinguish a subgroup from the overall sample are statistically reliable.

**Questionnaire Design** The objectives of the design of the questionnaire not only accommodated those subject areas discussed previously, the questionnaire design included question wording and question order or rotation to mitigate bias in the inquiries. For example, the order of questions in a series can influence the responses given. To mitigate this, the order or position of such questions in a series was rotated.

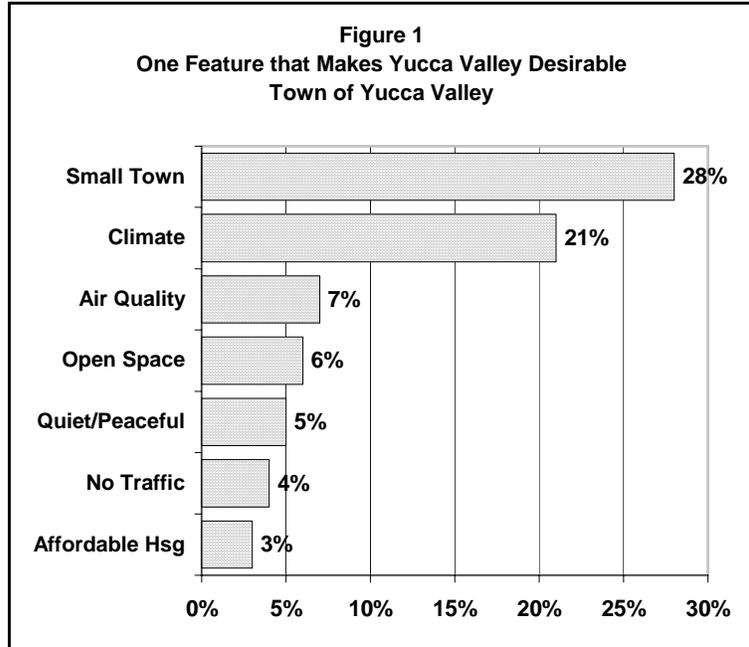
All responses collected during the interviews were computer-processed and tabulations between question answers and selected subgroups were made. These tabulations are included in the Appendix to this report.

Within the following analysis, the responses to each question by the entire sample of residents will be discussed and presented. In addition, the analysis will provide insight into those subgroups of the total sample that provided responses that differed significantly from the total sample. Only those subgroups with response differences that are deemed statistically significant will be highlighted.

## IV. COMMUNITY OPINIONS

### ONE FEATURE THAT MAKES YUCCA VALLEY DESIRABLE (Appendix Table 10)

To develop an understanding of the characteristics that residents value in Yucca Valley, respondents were asked to volunteer what one feature makes Yucca Valley a desirable place to live. No prelisted responses were provided. The response categories with the largest share of responses are presented in Figure 1.



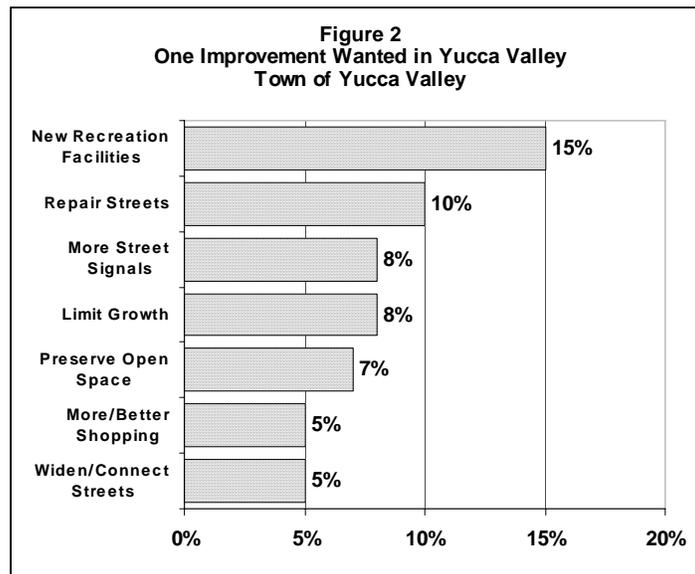
As Figure 1 reveals, nearly three of every ten residents polled (28%) identified “Small Town Atmosphere” as the one feature while an additional 21% reported “Climate.” Similarly, an additional 7% of households polled volunteered the feature “Air Quality” and 6% more cited “Open Space”. One of every twenty respondents (5%) volunteered “Quiet/Peaceful” as the feature while “No Traffic” (4%) and “Affordable Housing” (3%) were also reported. Remaining responses garnered less than a 3% response rate.

Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted:

- ✓ Residents of the Town less than 7 years or for more than 20 years were most likely to report “Small Town Atmosphere” (32% and 35%, respectively vs. 18% among residents of the Town for 7 to 20 years).
- ✓ “Climate” was a feature more often reported by households with a head 65 years or older (29% vs. 17% among those with a younger head), resulting in this response being the largest among such households.

ONE IMPROVEMENT WANTED IN YUCCA VALLEY (Appendix Table 11)

To amplify our understanding of the valued community characteristics and concerns in Town, a question was posed to identify what one improvement or change each respondent would make in Yucca Valley. No prelisted responses were provided. The response categories with the largest share of responses are presented in Figure 2.



As Figure 2 reveals, 15% of the households polled stated that they would “Create New Parks and Recreation Facilities” while 10% of respondents would “Repair Streets”. An additional 8% of those interviewed stated they would “Increase Street Signalization” and an equal share would “Limit Growth.” “Preserve Open Space” was a volunteered response by 7% of the households polled. One in twenty respondents (5%) stated that they would “Add More/Better Shopping” and an equal share would “Widen or Connect Streets.”

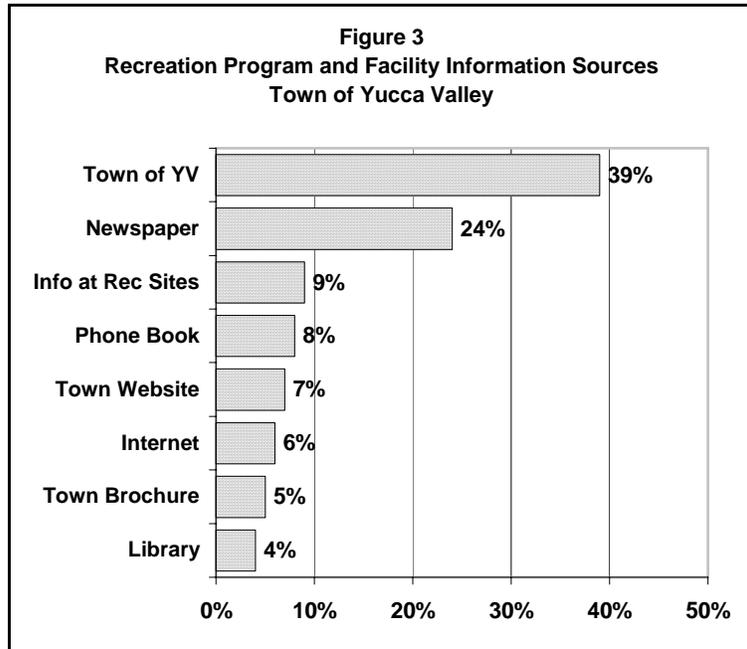
Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted:

- ✓ Respondents who most often stated they would “Create New Parks and Recreation Facilities” were those households with a head under 45 years of age (26% vs. 4% among those with a head 65 years or older.)
- ✓ Those interviewed who stated they would “Limit Growth” were most often found among households with a head 45 years or older (10% vs. 0% among those with a head under 45 years.)

## V. RECREATION FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS USAGE

### RECREATION INFORMATION SOURCES (Appendix Table 12)

To document how residents obtain information about Yucca Valley recreation or parks programs or facilities, a question was posed to identify where they get that information. Respondents were required to volunteer a description of the information source that they use. No prelisted responses were provided. The response categories with the largest share of responses are presented in Figure 3.



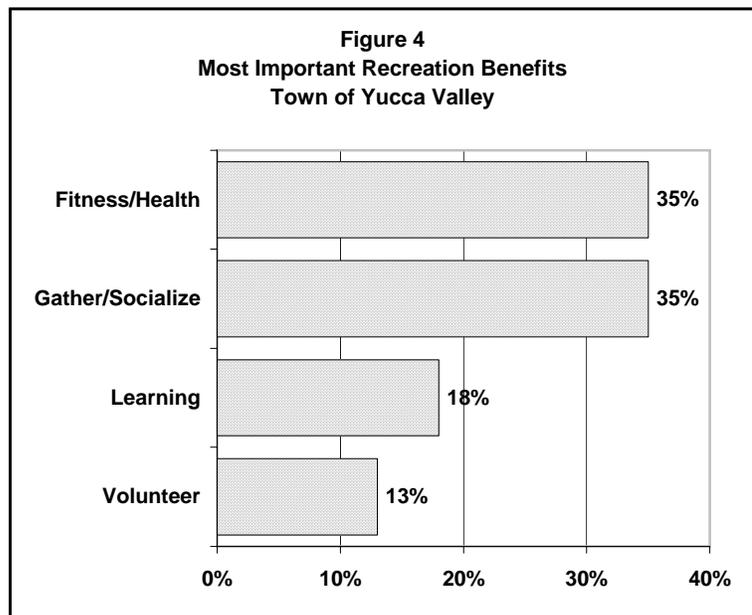
As Figure 3 reveals, nearly four of every ten residents polled (39%) stated that they get their recreation program and facility information from the Town of Yucca Valley while an additional 24% reported using the Newspaper. Nearly one in ten respondents (9%) stated they obtain their information from Postings at Recreation Sites and a comparable share of households polled (8%) reported use of the Telephone Book. The Town of Yucca Valley website was reportedly used by 7% of respondents as their information source while 6% reported using the Internet. An additional 5% refer to the Town Brochure and 4% stated that such information is gathered from the library. Remaining responses garnered less than a 4% response rate.

Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted:

- ✓ Residents of the Town for seven to twenty years were most likely to report use of the Town of Yucca Valley as an information source (46% vs. 35% among remaining respondents).
- ✓ Residents living North of Hwy. 62 were more likely to report use of the Newspaper as an information source (28% vs. 19% among those living South of Hwy. 62). Reported users of the Newspaper were also more likely to be found among households with a head 45 years or older (28% vs. 11% among those with a younger head.)

**RECREATION BENEFITS DESIRED** (*Appendix Table 13*)

To amplify our understanding of recreating patterns in the Town, a question was posed to identify the reasons residents choose the recreation activities they do. These reasons or benefits are aimed at understanding why the residents choose the recreation activities by identifying the benefits they seek from such activities. Yucca Valley residents polled



were asked to identify which of the four prelisted benefits they felt is most important when they or their household members seek recreation or leisure opportunities. The four benefit categories and the share of responses each received are presented in Figure 4.

As Figure 4 reveals, more than one-third of the households polled (35%) stated that they seek physical fitness, health and well being benefits from their recreation choices. An equal share of respondents (35%) replied that opportunities to gather and socialize with others is the primary benefit they seek from recreation. Together, these two benefits were identified by 70% of those polled. The benefit of learning opportunities for hobby, self-improvement or career development was cited by 18% of those polled while the

benefit from recreational opportunities to give back to the community through volunteer work was a priority for 13% of the Town’s responding residents.

The text table that follows compares these recreation benefit responses from Yucca Valley residents to statistics derived from eleven other California municipalities where similar work has been conducted by Research Network Ltd.

Most Important Benefits in Recreation Opportunities Yucca Valley vs. Eleven Selected California Municipalities				
	Yucca Valley	Eleven Selected California Municipalities		
		Lowest Response	Highest Response	Median
Health/Fitness	35%	31%	54%	45%
Gather/Socialize	35%	19%	36%	29%
Learning	18%	13%	28%	17%
Volunteer	13%	7%	16%	9%

As the table illustrates, the residents polled in Yucca Valley identified health and fitness benefits as most important to their recreation choices less often than the average (35% vs. 45% on average among other cities surveyed.) The proportion of Yucca Valley respondents polled that cited opportunities to gather or socialize as their most important recreation benefit was above the norm of other cities polled on this subject (35% vs. 29% on average among other cities surveyed.)

Yucca Valley residents interviewed were more likely to seek opportunities to give back to the community through volunteer work than the average of other cities polled (13% vs. 9%). Similarly, Yucca Valley residents are more likely to seek learning opportunities for hobby, self-improvement or career development (18% vs. 17% average).

Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted:

- ✓ Motivation to derive health and fitness benefits from recreation activities was most often reported by households with a head less than 65 years (38% vs. 27% among those with a head 65 or older).

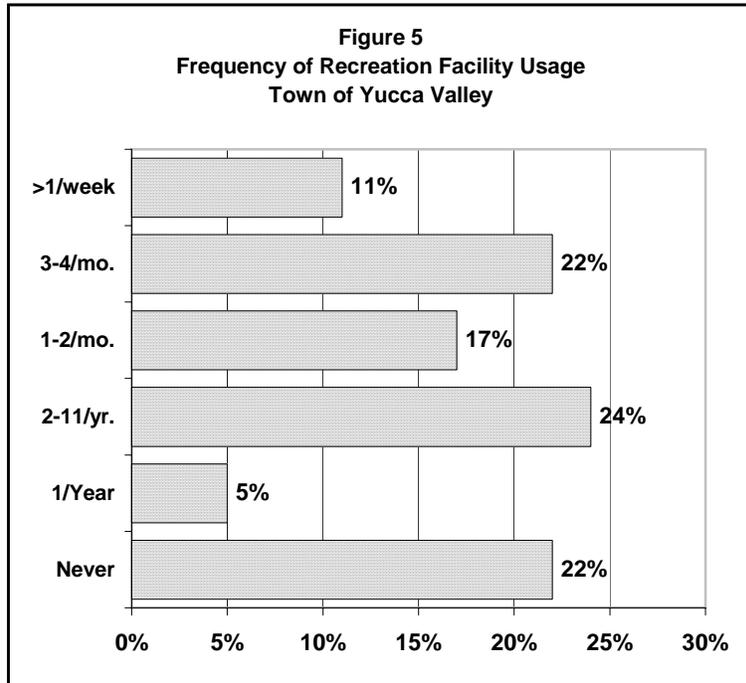
RECREATION FACILITY USAGE

Frequency of Recreation Facility Usage (Appendix Table 14)

Parks and recreation facility usage characteristics were explored in a general framework in the resident telephone survey based upon a question probing overall facility usage in or outside of Yucca Valley. The usage frequency of the total sample of respondents is presented in Figure 5.

Figure 5 illustrates that 33% of the sample of telephone respondents described themselves as a “Frequent User” of parks and recreation facilities (patrons of facilities at least three times per month; top two bars in Figure 5).

Four of every ten residents (40%) was a “Moderate User” (patrons of facilities at least two to twenty-four times annually) of



recreation facilities during the past year. The remainder (27%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (patrons of facilities once per year and non-users).

The following text table compares these current facility usage responses from Yucca Valley residents to statistics derived from twenty-eight other surveys of California municipalities where Research Network Ltd performed similar work.

As the table illustrates, the share of residents polled in Yucca Valley identifying themselves to be frequent users of parks was well below average (33% frequent users vs. 44% on average among other cities surveyed) while the share who reported no recreation facility use in the past year was above average.

Frequency of Recreation Facility Usage Yucca Valley vs. Twenty-eight Selected California Municipalities				
	Yucca Valley	Twenty-eight Selected California Municipalities		
		Lowest Response	Highest Response	Median
Frequent Users	33%	19%	58%	44%
Never Use Parks	22%	6%	40%	14%

An examination of reported recreation facility use among Yucca Valley residents revealed the following *statistically significant differences*<sup>1</sup> in the share of frequent users among examined subgroups of the total sample. Such frequent users were most often found among:

- ✓ Respondents reporting a head of household less than 45 years (48%),
- ✓ Households with children less than 18 years (47%),
- ✓ Residents of the Town for twenty years or less (36%).

More than one of every five resident households polled (22%) stated they did not use recreation facilities at all in the last year. Such non-users of recreation facilities were more likely to be found among:

- ✓ Respondents reporting a household head 65 years or over (31%),
- ✓ Residents reporting an annual household income of less than \$30,000 (28%),
- ✓ Households without children less than 18 years of age (26%).

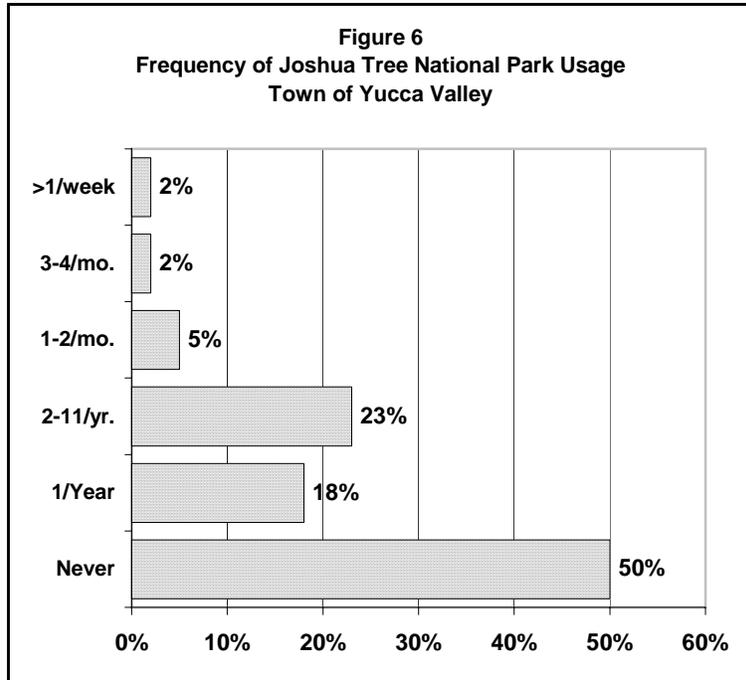
Frequency of Joshua Tree National Park Usage (Appendix Table 15)

Visitation to Joshua Tree National Park was explored in a general framework in the resident telephone survey based upon a question probing usage during the past year. The visitation frequency of the total sample of respondents is presented in Figure 6 on the following page.

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<sup>1</sup> This analysis compares the total sample of 300 households to subgroups of the total and highlights those differences in the response patterns that are statistically significant based upon the number of interviews in each subgroup analyzed.

Figure 6 illustrates that 4% of the sample of telephone respondents described themselves as a “Frequent User” of Joshua Tree National Park in the past year (patrons least three times per month; top two bars in Figure 6).



Nearly three of every ten residents (28%) were “Moderate Users” (patrons of Joshua Tree at least two

to twenty-four times annually) during the past year. The remainder (68%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (patrons of Joshua Tree once per year and non-users).

An examination of reported recreation facility use among Yucca Valley residents revealed the following *statistically significant differences*<sup>2</sup> in the share of users of Joshua Tree National Park among examined subgroups of the total sample. Users of the Park were more often found among:

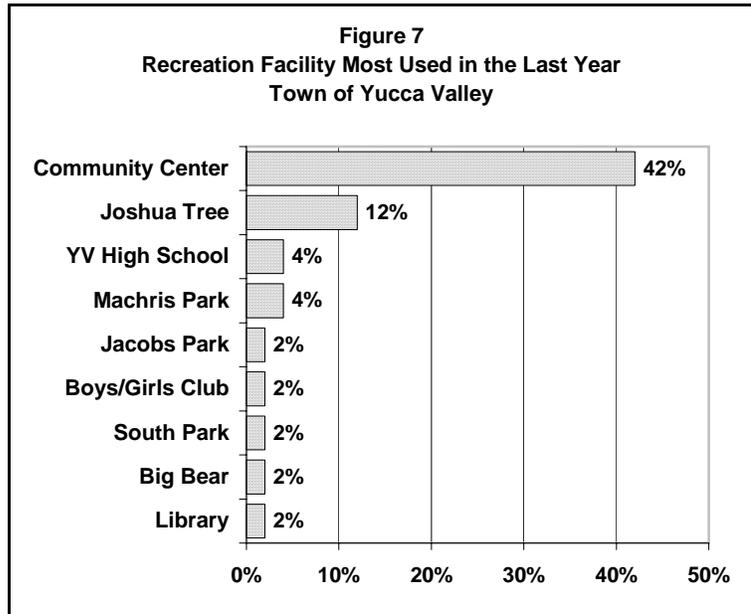
- ✓ Residents living North of Highway 62 (54% vs. 44% among those living South of the Highway),
- ✓ Households with a head under 65 years (53% vs. 42% among those with an older head),
- ✓ Those polled who reported an annual household income of \$30,000 or more (55% vs. 41% among those with lowers incomes.)

Fifty percent of Yucca Valley households polled stated they did not visit Joshua Tree National Park at all in the last year.

<sup>2</sup> This analysis compares the total sample of 300 households to subgroups of the total and highlights those differences in the response patterns that are statistically significant based upon the number of interviews in each subgroup analyzed.

Recreation Facility or Park Most Often Used in the Last Year (Appendix Table 16)

Yucca Valley residents polled were queried about the park or recreation facility that their household members most often used during the last year. The park names were not read to the respondents and respondents were asked to include facilities in or outside of Yucca Valley in their response. Figure 7 illustrates the nine recreation facilities most often cited by those polled,



representing 72% of the responses received. The remaining parks mentioned that are not listed in Figure 7 each garnered less than 2% of the responses received.

An examination of reported recreation facility use among Yucca Valley residents revealed the following *statistically significant differences*<sup>3</sup> in the share of frequent users among examined subgroups of the total sample:

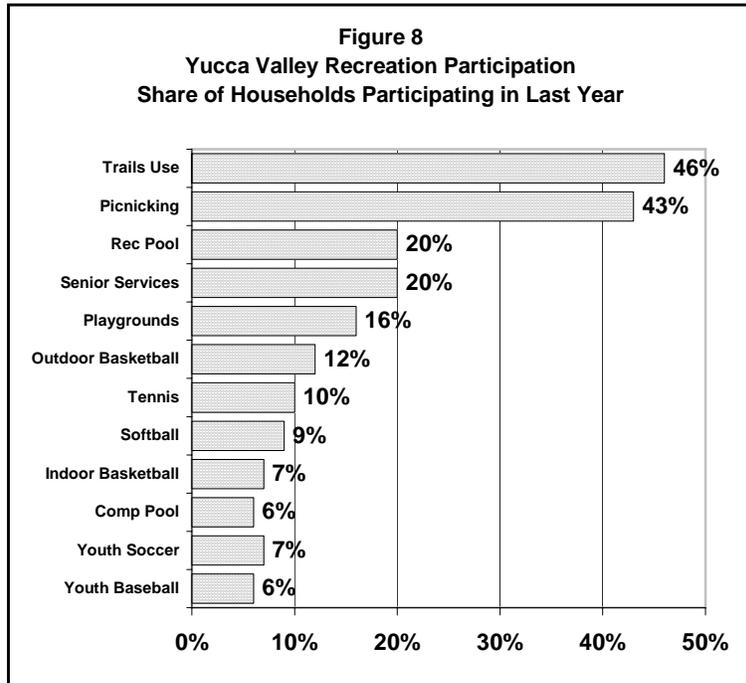
- ✓ Community Center was reported most often by households with a head 45 years or older (48% vs. 28% among those with a younger head), and among households without children under 18 years (47% vs. 33% among those with children).

Recreation Activities Participation (Appendix Tables 17 to 28)

The resident telephone survey solicited household members' behavior in performing an array of twelve recreation activities during the last year. Each respondent was queried regarding the number of members of their household who had conducted each activity during the past year.

<sup>3</sup> This analysis compares the total sample of 300 households to subgroups of the total and highlights those differences in the response patterns that are statistically significant based upon the number of interviews in each subgroup analyzed.

The activities in Figure 8 are ranked by the share of the households surveyed who reported participation in each activity at least once in the last year. As Figure 8 reveals, the tested activities cited as being undertaken by the largest portion of Yucca Valley residents surveyed were Biking/Walking/Running/ Horse Riding/Hiking on Unpaved Trails (46%) and Picnicking in Developed



Sites (43%). One in five polled households (20%) reported participation in Swimming in Public Pools for Recreation or Lessons and an equal share stated that one or more household members had used Senior and Mature Adult Services and Programs. The activities reported next most often included use of Play Equipment, Tot Lots (16%), Outdoor Basketball: Informal Play for Youth or Adults (12%) and Tennis: Adults or Youth (10%).

The remaining activities outlined in Figure 8 were reportedly conducted by less than one of every ten resident households. These activities included Organized Softball League Games for Youth or Adults (9%), Organized Indoor Basketball League Games for Youth or Adults (7%), Swimming in Public Pools for Competitive Events (6%), Organized Soccer League Games for Youth (7%), and Organized Baseball League Games for Youth (6%).

The data presented in Figure 8 may appear counter intuitive to representatives of organized sports leagues for youth and to elected officials who regularly host comments or testimony from them. To confirm the validity of the Figure 8 participation levels, it is important to recognize the demography of the Town's population. Specifically, youth

ages 5 to 14 (the prime ages for youth sports) constituted approximately 15% of the total Town population as of the 2000 Federal Census. Thus, if every child in this age group were enrolled in, for instance, youth soccer, the percent of participation on Figure 8 would be at least 15%. However, not all children in this age group participate in all sports, some participate in none, and some outside of this age group also participate.

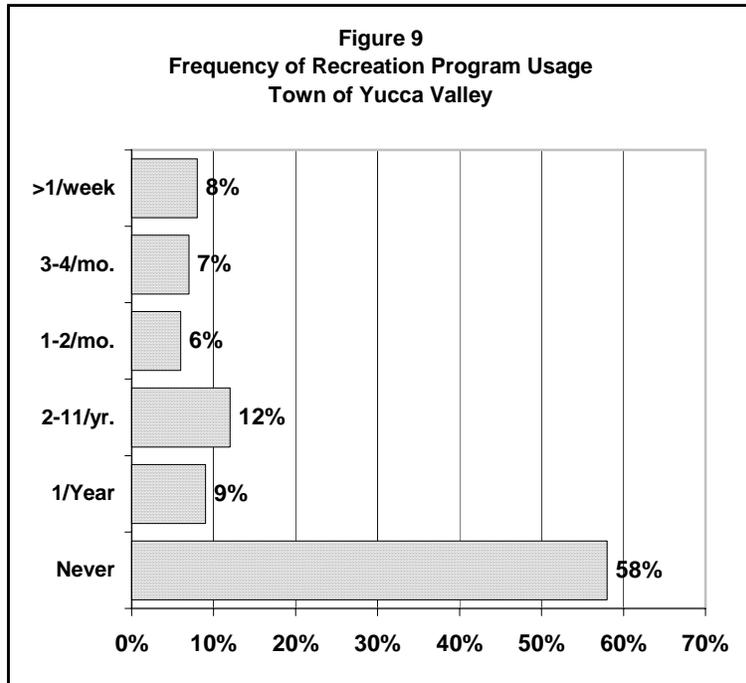
Examining the activities tested with the greatest participation in Figure 8 by subgroups of respondents, it was noted that:

- ✓ Walking/Jogging/Running/Hiking on Public Trails for Recreation or Fitness was most often reported among households with a head under 65 years (57% vs. 26% among those with an older head), among households with children under 18 years (65% vs. 38% among households without), and among households earning \$30,000 or more annually (57% vs. 31% among households with lower incomes).
- ✓ Picnicking was most often reported among residents of Yucca Valley for six years or less (50% vs. 39% among households with longer tenure), by households with a head less than 65 years (51% vs. 26% among those with an older head), among respondents with children under 18 years (63% vs. 35% among those without), and among households reporting an income of \$30,000 or more annually (51% vs. 39% among those with lower incomes).
- ✓ Swimming in Public Pools for Recreation or Lessons was more often reported among those respondents who reported the household head's age to be less than 45 years (34% vs. 20% norm), and among residents with children less than 18 years (39% vs. 12% among those without).

#### Frequency of Recreation Program Usage (*Appendix Table 32*)

Parks and recreation program usage characteristics were explored in a general framework in the resident telephone survey based upon a question probing overall program usage in or outside of Yucca Valley. The usage frequency of the total sample of respondents is presented in Figure 9.

Figure 9 illustrates that 15% of the sample of telephone respondents described themselves as a “Frequent User” of parks and recreation programs (patrons of programs at least three times per month; top two bars in Figure 9).



Less than one of every five residents (17%) was a “Moderate User” (patrons of programs at least two to

twenty-four times annually) of recreation programs during the past year. The remainder (68%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (patrons of programs once per year and non-users).

The following text table compares these current program usage responses from Yucca Valley residents to statistics derived from nineteen other surveys of California municipalities where Research Network Ltd performed similar work.

As the table illustrates, the share of residents polled in Yucca Valley identifying themselves to be frequent users of programs was below average (15% frequent users vs. 23% on average among other cities surveyed) while the share who reported no recreation program use in the past year was above average.

Frequency of Recreation Program Usage Yucca Valley vs. Nineteen Selected California Municipalities				
	Yucca Valley	Nineteen Selected California Municipalities		
		Lowest Response	Highest Response	Median
Frequent Users	15%	13%	30%	23%
Never Use Parks	58%	31%	82%	48%

An examination of reported recreation program use among Yucca Valley residents revealed no *statistically significant differences*<sup>4</sup> in the share of frequent users among examined subgroups of the total sample.

Nearly six of every ten resident households polled (58%) stated they did not use recreation programs at all in the last year. Such non-users of recreation programs were more likely to be found among:

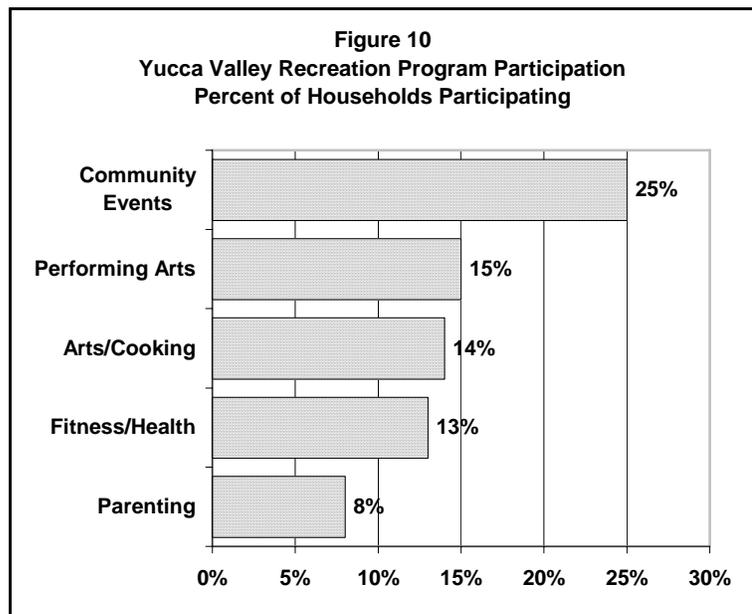
- ✓ Respondents reporting a household head 65 years or over (65%),
- ✓ Residents reporting an annual household income of less than \$30,000 (65%).

Recreation Programs Participation (Appendix Tables 33 – 37)

The resident telephone survey solicited household members’ participation in a menu of five recreation program types. Each respondent was queried regarding whether any of the members of their household had participated in each type of program during the past year.

Percent of Households Participating in Recreation Programs

The activities in Figure 10 are ranked by the share of the households surveyed that reported participation in each type of program. As Figure 10 reveals, the tested programs cited as being undertaken by the largest portion of Yucca Valley residents surveyed were Special Community Events (25%), Music, Drama or Performing Arts Classes



<sup>4</sup> This analysis compares the total sample of 300 households to subgroups of the total and highlights those differences in the response patterns that are statistically significant based upon the number of interviews in each subgroup analyzed.

(15%), Arts, Crafts, or Cooking Lessons (14%), Fitness, Gymnastic or Wellness Classes (13%), Parenting, Early Childhood Development Lessons or Classes (8%).

An examination of reported recreation program use among Yucca Valley residents revealed the following *statistically significant differences*<sup>5</sup> among examined subgroups of the total sample:

- ✓ Households reporting participation in Special Community Events were most often found among residents of the Town for over 6 years (29% vs. 19% among those with less tenure); by households with children under 18 years (33% vs. 22% among households without); by households with a head less than 65 years (28% vs. 18% among those with an older head); and by those reporting a household income of \$30,000 or more (31% vs. 17% among those with lower incomes.)
- ✓ Residents interviewed who most often reported participation in Music/Dance/Performing Arts programs were more often noted among those with children less than 18 years (23% vs. 11% among those without) and among households with a head less than 65 years (18% vs. 8% among those with an older head).

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<sup>5</sup> This analysis compares the total sample of 300 households to subgroups of the total and highlights those differences in the response patterns that are statistically significant based upon the number of interviews in each subgroup analyzed.

Rating Town Recreation Facilities Maintenance (Appendix Table 30)

Respondents polled were asked to describe their satisfaction with the maintenance of recreation and parks facilities in the Town of Yucca Valley using a scale of “Very Satisfied,” “Somewhat Satisfied,” “Somewhat Dissatisfied,” and “Very Dissatisfied.”

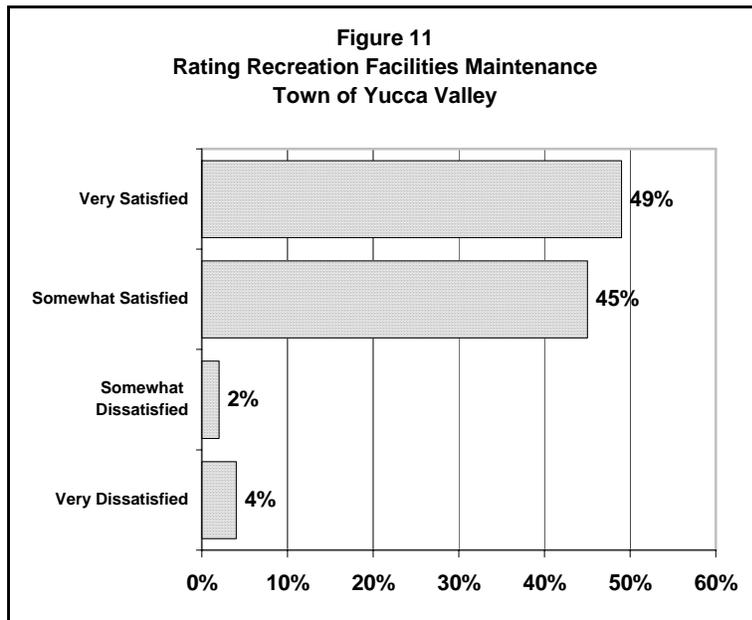


Figure 11 illustrates the fact that 95% of households polled stated that they are either “very” or “somewhat” satisfied with recreation facilities maintenance in Yucca Valley.

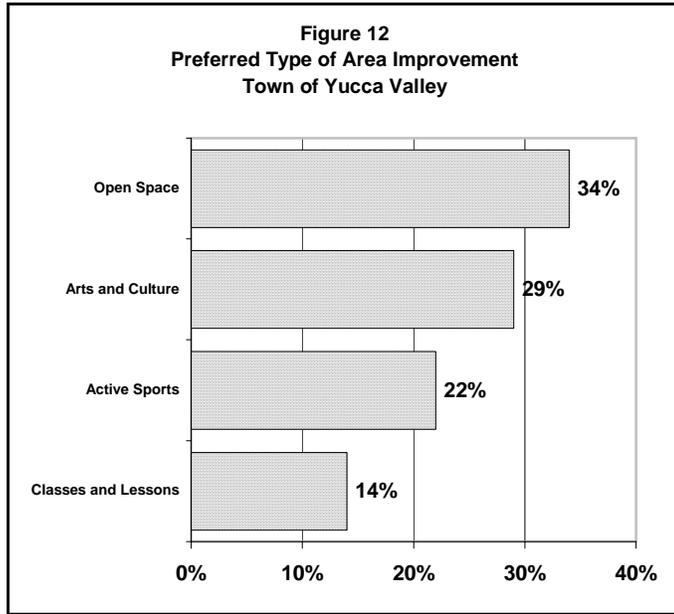
## VI. RECREATION NEEDS

### RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

#### Preferred Type of Area Improvements (Appendix Table 30)

Respondents were asked to consider the needs of their household and to choose which one of four described types of area improvements they would most like to see in the Town of Yucca Valley.

As Figure 12 reveals, the type of improvement receiving the largest response was “Open Space Preservation and Enjoyment, chosen by more than



one-third of households polled (34%). The next most often chosen category, “Arts and Cultural, Museum, or Performing Arts Facilities and Programs,” was chosen by nearly three of every ten households (29%). “Active Sports Facilities and Programs” was the selection of more than one in five residents (22%) interviewed while the final tested category, “Classes, Lessons, and Community Events” garnered a 14% response rate.

An examination of reported recreation program use among Yucca Valley residents revealed the following *statistically significant differences*<sup>6</sup> among examined subgroups of the total sample:

- ✓ Open Space Preservation and Enjoyment was more often chosen by households with a head 45 years or older (40% vs. 20% among households with a head under 45 years.)

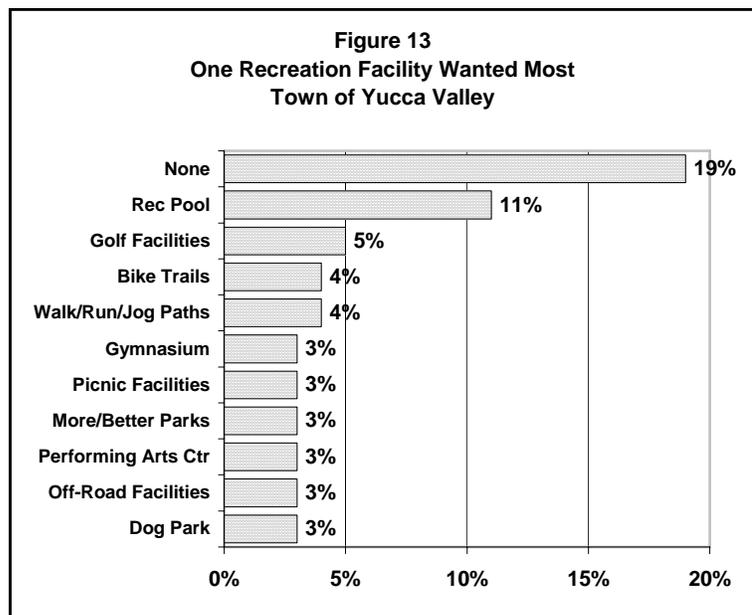
<sup>6</sup> This analysis compares the total sample of 300 households to subgroups of the total and highlights those differences in the response patterns that are statistically significant based upon the number of interviews in each subgroup analyzed.

- ✓ Active Sports Facilities and Programs was most often selected by households with a head under 45 years (37% vs. 18% among those with an older household head); and among households with children less than 18 years (35% vs. 15% among those without.)

One Recreation Facility Respondents Want (Appendix Table 31)

Respondents were asked to volunteer **one** recreation facility their household would **MOST** like to see added in the Town. This inquiry was asked in an unprompted form with all responses being volunteered by respondents and recorded verbatim. The intent of the question was not a referendum of priority on what recreation facilities should be added or improved. Rather, this probe was intended to confirm the importance of those twelve existing recreation activities tested in the survey.

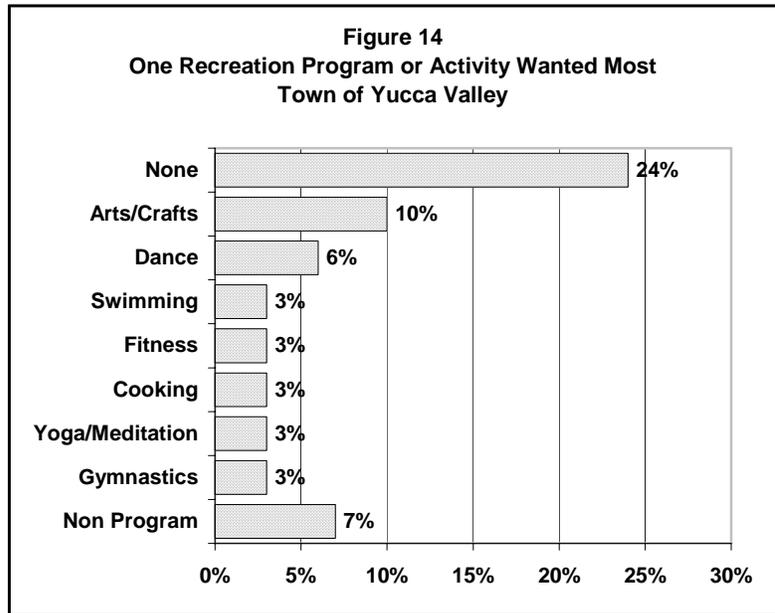
As Figure 13 reveals, the response most often reported was a desire for no additional new recreation facilities, volunteered by nearly one of every five respondents (19%). These households with no desire for no new facilities were more often found among households with a head 65 years or older (39% vs. 11% among those with a younger head) and among households without children under 18 years present (25% vs. 7% among those with children).



The recreation facilities cited as most desired by Yucca Valley residents surveyed were Swimming Pool for Recreation or Lessons (11%), Golf Course/Driving Range (5%), Bike Trails (4%), Walking/Running/Jogging Paths (4%), Gymnasium (3%), Picnic Facilities (3%), More/Better Parks (3%), Performing Arts Center (3%), Off-Road Vehicle Facilities (3%), and Dog Park (3%). All remaining mentions received a response volume that was less than 3% of those polled.

RECREATION PROGRAM NEEDS

One Recreation Program Respondents Want (Appendix Table 38)



Respondents were asked to volunteer **one** recreation program their household would **MOST** like to see added in the Town. This inquiry was asked in an unprompted form with all responses being volunteered by respondents and recorded verbatim. The intent of the question was not a referendum of

priority on what recreation programs should be added or improved. Rather, this probe was intended to confirm the importance of those five existing recreation program types specifically tested in the survey.

As Figure 14 reveals, the response most often reported was a desire for no new recreation programs, volunteered by nearly one of every four respondents (24%). These households with no desire for no new facilities were more often found among households with a head 65 years or older (40% vs. 17% among those with a younger head); among those who have lived in Yucca Valley for seven years or longer (30% vs. 15% among newer residents); and among households without children under 18 years present (32% vs. 7% among those with children).

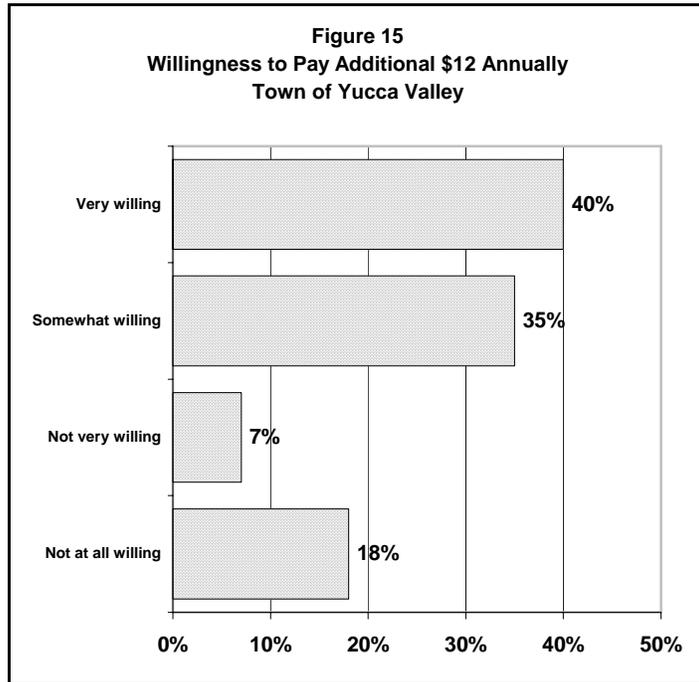
The recreation program types most often mentioned included Arts or Crafts Instruction or Lessons (10%), Dance Instruction or Classes (6%), Swimming Lessons (3%), Aerobics, Spinning, or Fitness Instruction or Classes (3%), Cooking Instruction or Classes (3%), Yoga, Meditation, or Stress Relief Instruction or Classes (3%), and Gymnastics Instruction or Classes (3%). Respondents volunteering recreation facility suggestions

rather than programs represented 7% of the total. All other response categories garnered less than a 3% response rate.

**RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING**

Willingness to Pay Additional Annual Amount (Appendix Table 39)

Respondents were asked to consider the current \$18 annual property tax used to fund parks and recreation facilities and services and, further, to weigh their level of support for an increase in this property tax of \$12 to support those recreation facilities or programs they would like to see added in Yucca Valley. Response categories included “Very willing,” “Somewhat willing,” “Not very willing,” and “Not at all willing.”



As Figure 15 reveals, three of every four households polled (75%) stated they are “somewhat” or “very” willing to support the described tax increase. Nearly one in five respondents (18%) stated they are “not at all” willing to support such an increase. Those polled who were more likely to express willingness to support the tax increase included:

- ✓ Households with a head under 45 years (90% were “somewhat/very” willing vs. 76% among those with a head 45 to 64 years and 62% among those with a head 65 years or older.)
- ✓ Those polled who reported having children less than 18 years (92% were “somewhat/very” willing vs. 67% among households without children.)

Those polled who were most likely to state they are “not at all” willing to support the tested tax increase included:

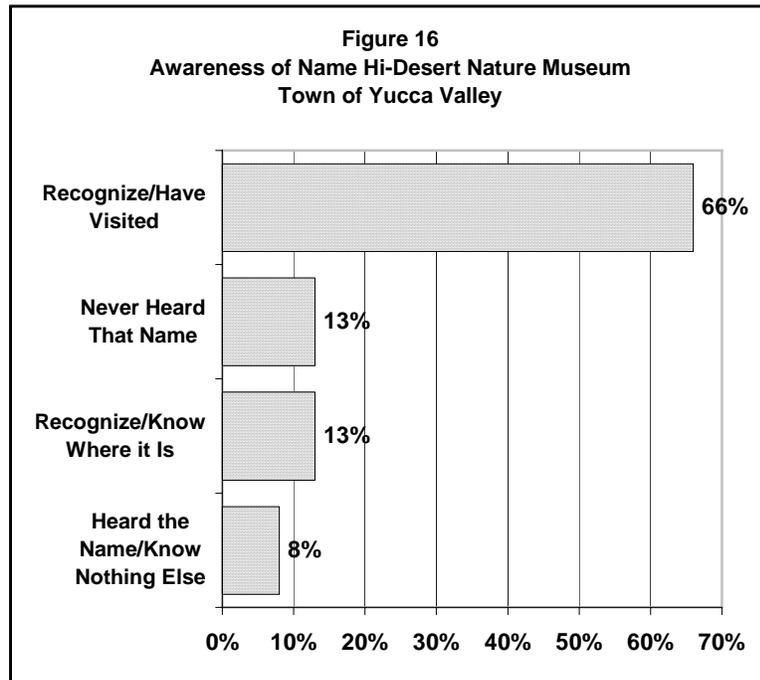
- ✓ Residents interviewed with a head 65 years or older (38% vs. 24% among those with a head 45 to 64 and 10% among those with a head under 45 years.)
- ✓ Respondents reporting no children less than 18 years (33% vs. 8% among households with children.)
- ✓ Those polled who stated they seldom or never used recreation facilities in the last year (29% vs. 16% among frequent users of facilities.)

## VII. MUSEUM AWARENESS/USE

### Awareness of Name Hi-Desert Nature Museum (Appendix Table 40)

Respondents were asked to describe their response to the mention of the name “Hi-Desert Nature Museum” using possible responses of “Never heard that name,” “Heard the Name/Know Nothing Else,” “Recognize the name/know where it is,” or “Recognize the name/have visited.”

As Figure 16 reveals, two of every three Yucca Valley respondents polled (66%) reported having visited the Hi-Desert Nature Museum. An additional 13% of households stated they had never heard the name “Hi-Desert Nature Museum” and an equal share cited they recognize the name and where the museum is



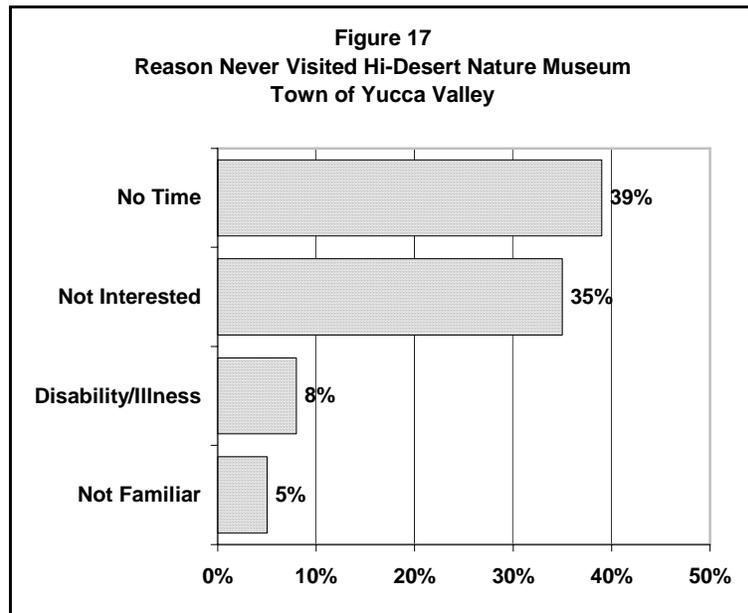
located. The smallest response category, 8%, was for residents who had heard the name and knew nothing else.

Examining those respondents who stated that they have visited the Museum, it was noted that they were more likely to be found:

- ✓ Among residents of Yucca Valley for more than 20 years (85% have visited vs. 70% among residents for 7 to 20 years and 47% among those living in Town for less than 7 years.)
- ✓ Among those polled who reported a household income of \$30,000 or more (70% have visited vs. 59% among those with lower incomes.)

Reason Not Visited Hi-Desert Nature Museum (Appendix Table 42)

Among those Yucca Valley respondents who stated they had heard or recognize the name “Hi-Desert Museum” and have never visited the Museum, a probing question was included to solicit the reasons for not visiting the Museum. This inquiry was asked in an unprompted form with all responses being volunteered by respondents and recorded verbatim.

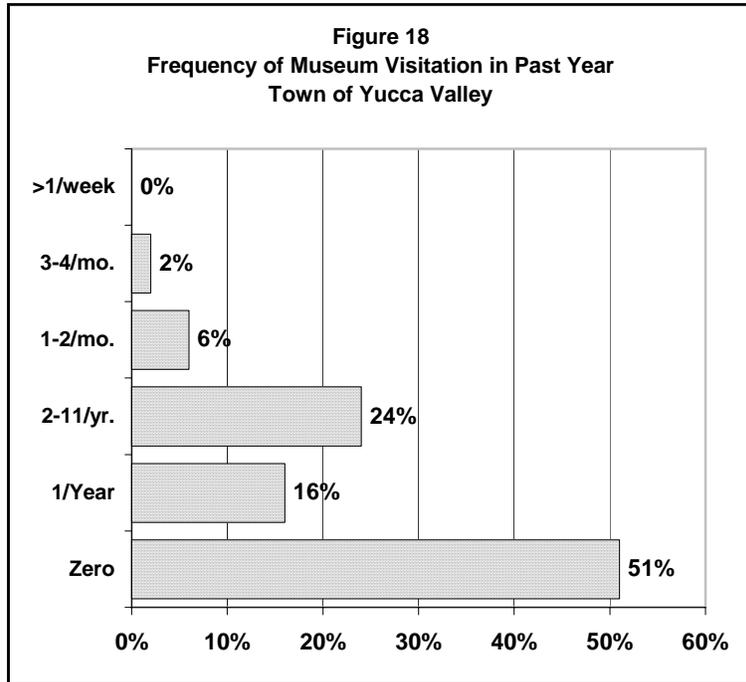


As Figure 17 illustrates, nearly three of every four respondents (74%) stated they either had no time or were not interested in visiting the Museum. An additional 8% of those responding to this inquiry stated their disability or illness prevented such a visit and an additional 5% volunteered “don’t know what’s there.” Remaining responses garnered less than a 3% response rate.

Reported Visitation of Hi-Desert Nature Museum in Past Year (Appendix Table 41)

Hi-Desert Museum visitation characteristics were explored in a general framework in the resident telephone survey based upon a question probing frequency of visitation during the last year. The museum visitation frequency of the total sample of respondents is presented in Figure 18.

Figure 18 illustrates that 2% of the sample of telephone respondents described themselves as a “Frequent User” of the Hi-Desert Museum (patrons of the museum at least three times per month; top two bars in Figure 18).



Three of every ten residents (30%) was a “Moderate User” (patrons of the museum at least two to twenty-four times

annually) of the Hi-Desert Museum during the past year. The remainder (68%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (patrons of the museum once per year and non-users). Half of the polled Yucca Valley households stated they had not visited the Museum in the past year. Such non-users were most often found among:

- ✓ Households with a head under 45 years (64% vs. 47% among those with an older head.)
- ✓ Respondents reporting living in Yucca Valley for six years or less (66% vs. 43% among those with longer tenure.)
- ✓ Those polled who reported an annual income less than \$30,000 (61% vs. 47% among those with higher incomes.)

## VI. CULTURAL FACILITY NEEDS

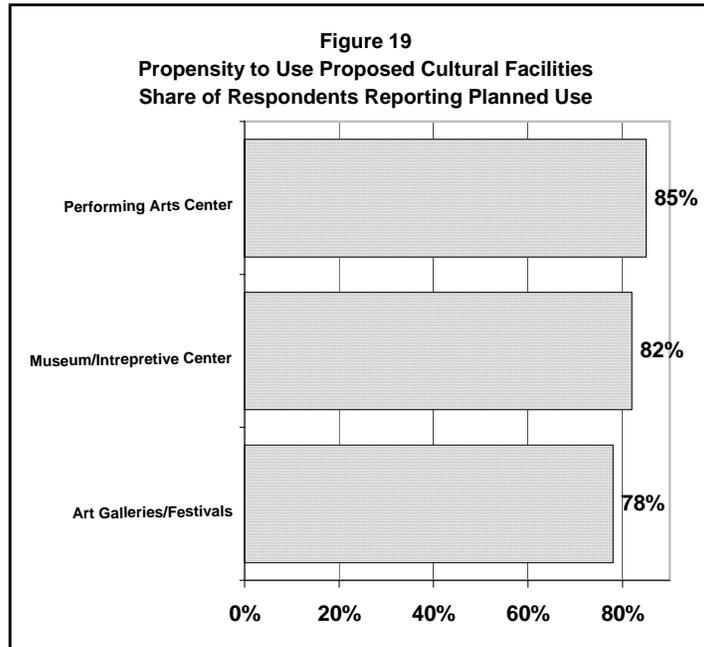
### Propensity to Use Proposed Cultural Facilities (Appendix Tables 43 to 45)

Respondents were asked a series of three questions probing their propensity to use cultural facilities that may be built in Yucca Valley. The three types of facilities tested were a Performing Arts Center (presenting music or theater events.) Art Galleries, Art Festivals and Events, and a new Museum or Interpretive Center.

As Figure 19 reveals, respondents polled reported high likelihood of using all of the tested types of facilities, with the highest share of residents (85%) stating they would use a Performing Arts Center and the smallest share (78%) stating they would visit Art Galleries, Art Festivals and Events.

Reported non-use of such potential facilities in Yucca

Valley were most often reported by households with a head 65 years or older (all three facility types.)

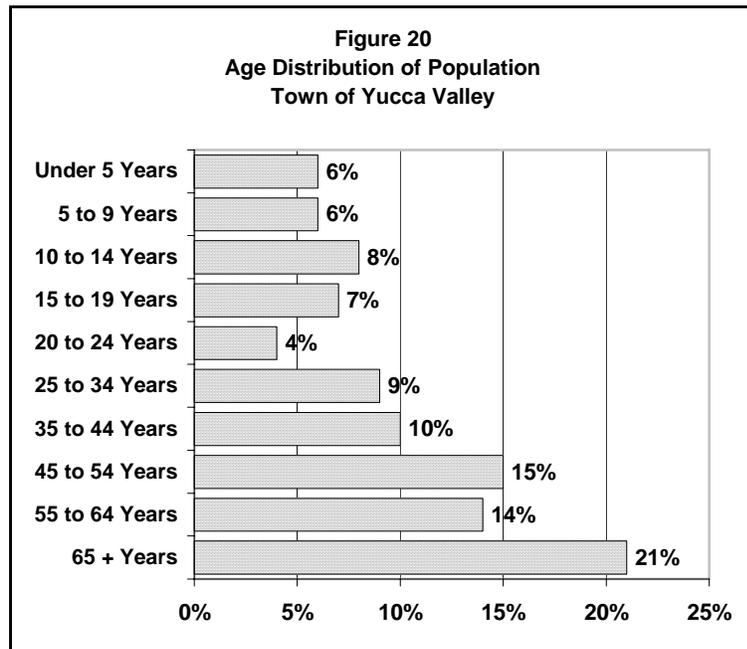


## IX. RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHY

A collection of related demographic inquiries was also included in this survey of Yucca Valley residents. The table on the following page presents selected demographic characteristics of Yucca Valley residents polled during this survey compared with 2000 Federal Census data.

### AGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION (Appendix Table 7)

Through our historical project experience, we have documented the relationship between parks and recreation usage and age of the population. In the context of this Yucca Valley community-wide survey, we collected the age of each of the members of households polled to facilitate development of an understanding of



recreation preferences in this community that might be attributable to age. Figure 20 presents the age distribution of residents of those Yucca Valley households interviewed.

As Figure 20 reveals, residents of Yucca Valley of preschool age represent 6% of the population while youth ages 5 to 14 (the prime age group for organized sports) constituted 14% of the population. Adults age 20 to 54 comprised an additional 38% of the residents while more than one of every three residents (35%) are 55 years or older. Based on this survey, the average age of the population is 44 years. It is also noteworthy that the average age is higher among residents living North of Hwy. 62 (48 years) than among residents living South of Hwy. 62 (42 years.)

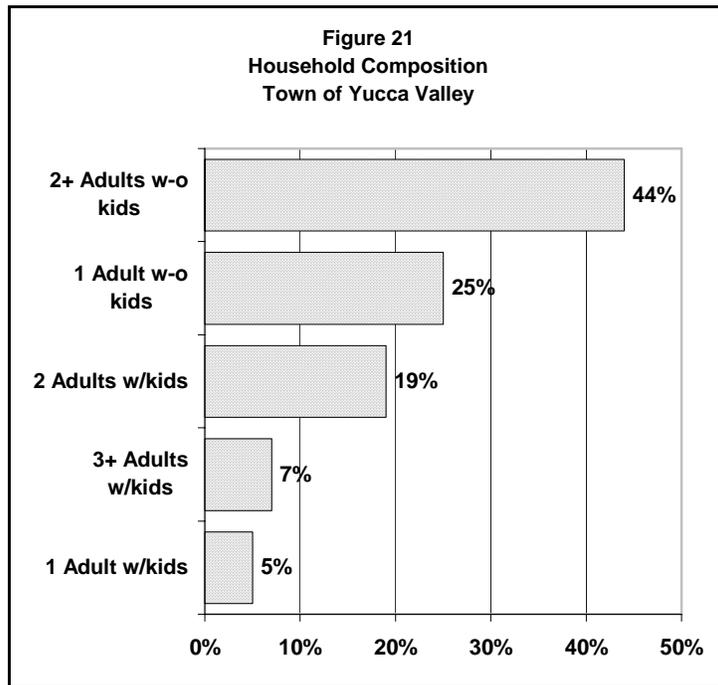
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY				
	2000 CENSUS	CURRENT SURVEY		
		TOTAL	NORTH	SOUTH
<b>Percent of Population by Age:</b>				
Under 5 years	6%	6%	5%	6%
5 to 9 years	7%	6%	4%	6%
10 to 14 years	8%	8%	10%	7%
15 to 19 years	7%	7%	6%	8%
20 to 24 years	5%	4%	3%	4%
25 to 34 years	9%	9%	8%	9%
35 to 44 years	13%	10%	7%	13%
45 to 54 years	12%	15%	16%	13%
55 to 64 years	10%	14%	19%	11%
65 years and over	23%	21%	21%	23%
Median Age	41.6	44.0	48.0	42.0
<b>Household Description:</b>				
1 adult w-o children	30%	25%	27%	24%
2 or more adults w-o children	NA	44%	46%	43%
Subtotal Households w-o children	69%	69%	73%	67%
1 adult w/children	NA	5%	5%	3%
2 adults w/children	NA	19%	16%	22%
3 or more adults w/children	NA	7%	5%	7%
Subtotal Households w/children	31%	31%	27%	33%
<b>Tenure in Yucca Valley:</b>				
3 years or less	NA	22%	18%	23%
4 to 10 years	NA	26%	25%	30%
11 to 15 years	NA	11%	11%	11%
16 to 20 years	NA	12%	16%	9%
Over 20 years	NA	29%	30%	27%
Median Tenure (years)	NA	12.0	14.0	10.0
<b>Ethnicity (Census data is for householders; survey data is for respondents):</b>				
Non-Hispanic White	87%	80%	80%	80%
Hispanic/Latino	7%	13%	12%	13%
Non-Hispanic Black/African American	2%	2%	2%	3%
Non-Hispanic Native American	1%	2%	2%	2%
Non-Hispanic Other	3%	3%	4%	2%
Mean Household Size (people per household):	2.38	2.50	2.40	2.60
Median Household Income:	\$30,420	\$41,000	\$34,900	\$51,000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000  
Research Network Ltd., 8/07

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION (Appendix Table 8)

Through our historical project experience, we have documented the relationship between parks and recreation usage and age and number of members of the household. In the context of this Yucca Valley community-wide survey, we collected the age of each of the members of households polled to facilitate an understanding of recreation preferences in this community that might be attributable to the composition of the household. Figure 21 presents the distribution of households polled based upon the number and age of the household members.

As Figure 21 illustrates, nearly seven of every ten Yucca Valley households polled reported having no children under the age of 18 years (69%). On Figure 21, these “childless” households are presented as the top two bars on the chart. The remaining three bars on the bottom of the chart comprise the components of the group of households who reported having children less than 18 years.

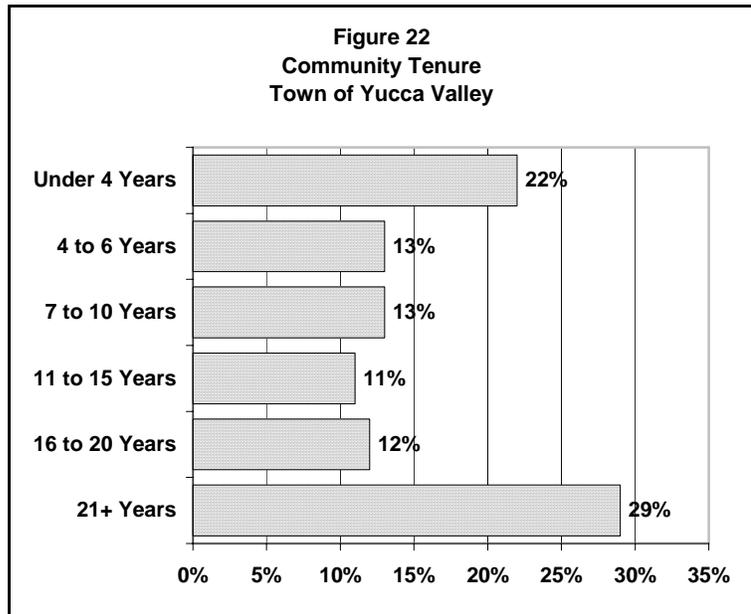


The distribution of households surveyed with and without children less than 18 years is comparable to the benchmark data from the 2000 Census, validating the representative nature of this sample of resident respondents.

The evaluation and analysis of these various segments of the Yucca Valley population further aids in an understanding of recreation facility and program needs, attitudes, and preferences.

TENURE IN YUCCA VALLEY (Appendix Table 9)

To amplify our understanding of recreating patterns in the Town, a question was posed to identify the length of residence of those residents polled. In this way, we are able to evaluate recreating pattern differences that may be attributable to length of tenure in the community. Figure 22 reveals the distribution of Yucca Valley households based upon the length of time they have been a resident in the community.



As Figure 22 reveals, greater than one in five Yucca Valley households have lived in Town for less than four years (22%). Conversely, nearly three of every ten respondents reported living in Yucca Valley for more than 20 years (29%.)

Employment in Yucca Valley (Appendix Tables 46 to 47)

To amplify our understanding of the lifestyle dynamics of Yucca Valley, this survey asked a question to determine the share of employees in households polled who are employed in Yucca Valley vs. some other location. Figure 23 presents the summary of responses to that inquiry.

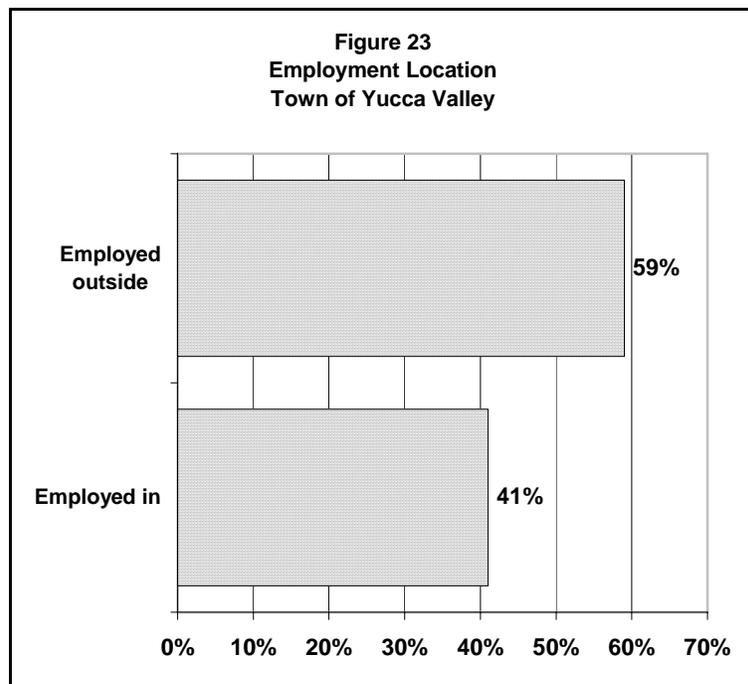
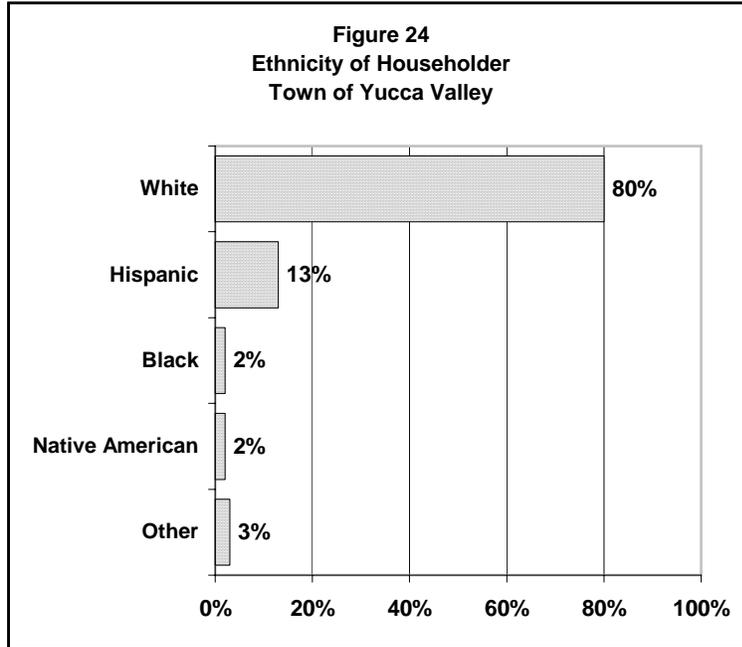


Figure 23 illustrates that 59% of the reported employees resident in households polled stated that they were employed at a location outside of Yucca Valley. Thus, the share of employees in households polled who had jobs in Town is 41%.

Householder Ethnicity (Appendix Tables 48 to 49)

Through our historical project experience, we have documented the relationship between parks and recreation usage and ethnicity of the population. In the context of this Yucca Valley community-wide survey, we collected the ethnicity of the respondent (or householder) for each of the households polled to provide an understanding

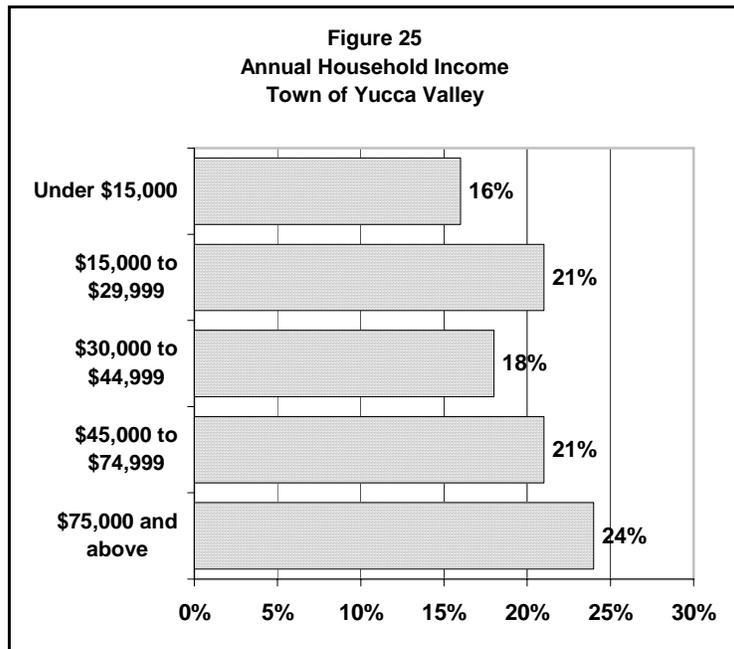


of recreation preferences in this community that might be attributable to ethnicity. Figure 24 presents the distribution of householders of those Yucca Valley households interviewed by the race or ethnic group they reported.

Figure 24 illustrates that 80% of the respondents described themselves as White while an additional 13% were Hispanic/Latino. Those polled who described themselves as Black/African American constituted 2% of the total and a comparable share of residents interviewed described themselves as Native American. A comparison of this distribution of ethnicity for resident respondents to benchmark data from the 2000 Census reveals comparable results with a modest emerging trend of declining White householders and expanding Hispanic households. This comparison confirms the statistical reliability of the sample of respondents surveyed in Yucca Valley to be representative of the Town as a whole.

Household Income (Appendix Table 50)

We have documented in prior experience the relationship between parks and recreation usage and household income. In the context of this Yucca Valley community-wide survey, we collected the annual household income of households polled to provide an understanding of recreation preferences in this community that might be attributable to household



income. Figure 25 presents the annual household income distribution of those Yucca Valley households interviewed. The median income calculated from the survey stood at \$41,000, up substantially from the \$30,400 median figure reported seven years earlier in the 2000 Census.

**APPENDIX**



town of  
yucca valley

parks & recreation master plan update

**APPENDIX C5:  
TALK SHOW INPUT**





## Yucca Valley Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

### Z107.7 RADIO CALL IN TOPICS - JUNE 8, 2007

- Dog Park
- Swimming Pool/Aquatics Complex
- Handicap Accessible Tot Lots with Benches and Shade
- Zero Depth Water Play Areas
- Programs for senior citizens and low income families
- Roller Skating Rink and Ice Skating Rink
- Miniature Golf Course
- Passive Areas with Trees, Fountains and Walkways
- Adult Auto Race Track (to keep people from racing on the streets)
- A Lake for Fishing and Remote Control Boats
- More Trees in the Parks for Shade
- Croquet and Lawn Bowling for Seniors
- Fairground/Events Center for Community Events
- Arts & Crafts and Shop Facility for Teaching
- Town Operated Gymnasium
- Universal design and access for handicapped persons
- Amphitheater for Concerts in the Park
- Access to North Park



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town of  
yucca valley

parks & recreation master plan update

**APPENDIX C6:  
WORKSHOP 1**





TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY  
**PARKS AND RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN WORKSHOP #1**

Tuesday, May 8, 2007  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**A G E N D A**

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6:30 p.m.	Sign In and Seating
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6:40 p.m.	<b>I. Welcome and Introduction</b> A. Project Purpose B. Agenda Overview C. Desired Outcomes
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7:00 p.m.	<b>II. Discussion of Three Topics</b> (6 minutes per topic)
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7:30 p.m.	<b>III. Table Leaders' Reports</b> (3 minutes per topic) <i>Graphic Recording of Results</i>
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7:40 p.m.	<b>IV. Table Discussion to Set Priorities of Three Facilities/Amenities</b> (3 minutes per topic)
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8:00 p.m.	<b>V. Table Leaders' Reports</b> (1 minute per topic) <i>Graphic Recording of Results</i>
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8:15 p.m.	<b>VI. Conclusion, Water Cooler and Additional Comments...</b>
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# Yucca Valley Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

## WATER COOLER REMARKS - MAY 8, 2007

1. More green areas / Light at night in the park
2. More swings in the park
3. North park has not had a dime spent on it in 10 years.
4. Dog park
5. YMCA
6. Put committee together for realistic visioning / Making use of what we have and what is affordable / Partner with donors and BWF.
7. Advertising besides the Hi-Desert Star / Communication of programs / Use 107.7 radio medium
8. Connect areas of town – Old Town, Southside community center, Shopping, Campgrounds, Library
9. How many residents have dogs? – Need an area for them!
10. Tennis courts require regular maintenance to be safe to use
11. Access to North Park is horrible – Fix and promote
12. Senior Park!!!!
13. Priority? Sell, buy build!
14. More swing sets
15. New parks property available / Expand on existing facilities
16. Rock climbing wall
17. Side walks in the town
18. The town should own and operate Desert Christ Park / Promote tourism
19. Take care of existing facilities
20. Better parking situation at community center
21. For information gathering, I suggest an open call in program. Z107.7 does this every Friday morning. You'll get a different demographic than this workshop ?
22. Flood zone parks
23. South Park needs better parking and trail identification
24. Cover over the playground at park
25. Fair grounds
26. Meeting rooms
27. Covered Playground / Racquetball
28. We (the majority) are in our second youth! / There is a great amount of people that I know that love...yes love the most popular sport in the world: futbol/soccer. We need more fields! Thanks.
29. Rehabilitate and make use of tennis courts at Burnt Mountain
30. Re-aim ball field lighting and BMX lighting downward
31. Flying school
32. Mini golf
33. Wash trails
34. Build south side sports complex in Sky Harbor
35. Develop joint use facilities: School District, College, Unincorporated area with County
36. Race Track
37. Since the water district has availed themselves of their Pioneertown Road property – Let's build our cultural center there!
38. Sculpture Garden
39. Handicapped youth baseball field / Rubberized for wheelchair use / ¼ sized / Low maintenance
40. Indoor soccer facility
41. Transportation inter city
42. Year round aquatics program
43. Cash in by selling south side park land and build now!
44. Open space: Need shade, Must be cultivated not just dirt, Minimum cost to develop and maintain, Promotes pedestrian traffic, Beautifies spaces
45. Don't centralize everything! (Too much congestion) Focus on Connectivity, ways of getting from place to place
46. Expand existing Central Park by acquiring the land and work with youth groups to develop it
47. Always remember town people love to get involved in labor for projects they like
48. Motocross Stadium
49. Keep North Park for open space and trails
50. Catering to the youth in the community by way of activities to keep them away from harm and out of trouble. Children are our future
51. Bicycle Paths: Designated and well defined, Protected and fenced, Wide enough to accommodate runners, bikes, strollers, etc, Safe!52. Entertainment center
53. We need wheelchair tennis
54. Sell the towns lot on HWY 62 and buy more land in town
55. Mandatory helmet law at skate park and public properties in the town of Yucca
56. Fair ground (equestrian center)
57. Dog Park: Off-lead, Fenced, Cleanup equipment provided, Cleanup provided by town nightly
58. Sports complex in safe area / Southside community center / Not in flight path and next to gas line (wash area behind concrete)
59. Two new tennis courts at Jacobs park for a total of four courts. Minimum of four courts to conduct programs
60. Library bookstore café – like Border's. Purchase or checkout books. Read onsite with a smoothie or coffee
61. Batting cages with a miniature golf center / Volleyball league for adults / Indoor aquatics center
62. Alternative energy and "green" architecture may open up grant opportunities and alternative funding
63. Grass is the key to meeting most of the demands for youth programs!
64. Have you been to the dog park in Palm Springs? Wonderful area for owners and dogs
65. Sell land, buy land, build parks
66. Develop 80 acres for horses and trails – its there







# Town of Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan

## WHERE WOULD YOU SPEND YOUR \$\$\$?

Please Place the Dots on the Items that Have the Most Value to You.

### SITE AMENITIES, FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

SOCCER FIELD ●●●●●

FOOTBALL FIELD

BASEBALL FIELD

SOFTBALL FIELD

TENNIS COURTS ●●●

BASKETBALL COURTS

GYMNASIUM ●●●●●●●●

EXERCISE COURSE ●●

JOGGING TRAIL ●●

SWIMMING POOL ●

INTERACTIVE WATER PLAY ●●●

TOT LOT / PLAY AREA

SKATE PARK

PICNIC AREA

OPEN AREAS ●●●

SENIORS PROGRAMS ●●

TEEN PROGRAMS ●●

CHILDRENS PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY EVENTS ●

DOG PARK ●●●●●

RACQUETBALL COURT

ZERO DEPTH WATER PARK ●

WALKING PATH

PUBLIC ART ●

PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE

AMPHITHEATER ●●

GOLF/ DRIVING RANGE

AFTER SCHOOL / EXTENDED DAY CARE

TUTORING / HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE

ADULT SPORTS

CULTURAL EVENTS ●●

OTHER ●

OTHER ●●●●●





TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY  
PARKS & RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN  
WORKSHOP #1  
MAY 8, 2007

CC SPORTS

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 26th  
6:30 @ TOWN HALL

- PROGRAMS**
- ① SPORTS FITNESS
  - ③ AQUATICS
  - SOCCER
  - CONCERTS
  - SENIOR TRIPS
  - SOFTBALL
  - BIKE EVENTS
  - GOLF LESSONS
  - HORSESHOES
  - SWIMMING
  - SENIOR PROGRAMS
  - ADULT YOUTH
  - TENNIS
  - ATHLETIC
  - GOLF
  - TRAILS
  - CHB PROC.
  - 5K & 10K RUNS
  - SNOW PLAY DAY
  - GRUB STEAK FESTIVAL
  - TENNIS - TABLE
  - EARTH DAY
  - X MAS PARADE
  - CULTURAL CTRS & ACTIVITIES
  - PUBLIC ART
  - APPLIED ART
  - ENV. EDUC. # OTHER EDU. HANDS ON
  - NIGHT CLASSES
  - STARRY NIGHT
  - TEEN CTR
  - STAY AT HOME MOM PROGRAM
  - BOOK CLUB
  - RAQUETBALL
  - ADULT SPORTS
  - PARADE VETERANS
  - FARMERS MARKET
  - SPECIALTY CLASS

- SITES AND FACILITIES**
- EXPAND SYNERGY
  - GYMS
  - BIKE PATHS
  - TRAILS
  - SAFE FACILITIES
  - FIELDS
  - MTG ROOMS
  - SWMG POOL
  - TEEN CENTER
  - WATER PARK
  - SKATE PARK
  - FAIRGROUND
  - AMPH. CUIT.
  - DOG PARK
  - EQUESTRIAN
  - PLAYGROUNDS
  - STADIUM
  - HANDICAP B. BALL
  - MAINTENANCE
  - ART PARK
  - EXPAND FACILITIES
  - CLASSIC CAR DISP.
  - YMCA
  - SKATING RINK
  - COMM. CENTER
  - SOUTH SIDE
  - SPORTS COMPLEX
  - BURNT Mtn - REHAB TENNIS
  - COVERED - PICNICS AREAS
  - PASSIVE PARKS
  - HORSE SHOE PIT
  - SPORTS FIELDS
  - PLAYGROUNDS
  - SENIOR PARK
  - MINI LIBRARY
  - CHB RIDING
  - TENNIS
  - SUNNY SLOPE PARK
  - CENTRALIZE PARKS
  - ACQUIRE PROP. ALONG FLOODPLAIN
  - IN-LINE SKATE PARK
  - PETTING ZOO
  - USE WASH AS WALKING TRAILS
  - PUBLICIZE N. & S. PARK
  - MAINTENANCE
  - FAIRGROUND SECURITY
  - FLASH PARK
  - WE NEED EVERYTHING
  - CHV PARK
  - TEEN CENTER

- OPEN SPACE, GREENBELTS & RE TRAILS**
- BIKE TRAILS
  - HIKING TRAILS
  - RUNNING/WALKING TRAILS
  - FITNESS COURSE
  - USE ALLEYS
  - GRASS AREAS
  - WILD LIFE CORR.
  - YUCCA VALLEY - OPEN SPACE CONNECTIONS
  - HORSE TRAILS
  - NATIVE GARDENS
  - LOOP TRAIL
  - BOTANICAL GARDEN
  - SPACE TO RETAIN ENVIR.
  - ACQUIRE & PROTECT LAND AROUND TOWN
  - ROCK CLIMBING
  - GREEN BELT # OPEN SPACES
  - CHB PARK
  - EQUESTRIAN
  - FLOOD CONTROL W/ PARK
  - OFF ROAD TRAILS
  - MAINTAIN RIDGELINES
  - PICNIC TABLES FOR FAMILIES
  - FENCES
  - LIGHTING
  - SHADE COVERS
  - OFF ROAD VEHICLE USE





town of  
**yucca valley**

parks & recreation master plan update

**APPENDIX C7:  
WORKSHOP 2**



# **Town of Yucca Valley Parks & Recreation Master Plan**

## **Community Workshop Two**

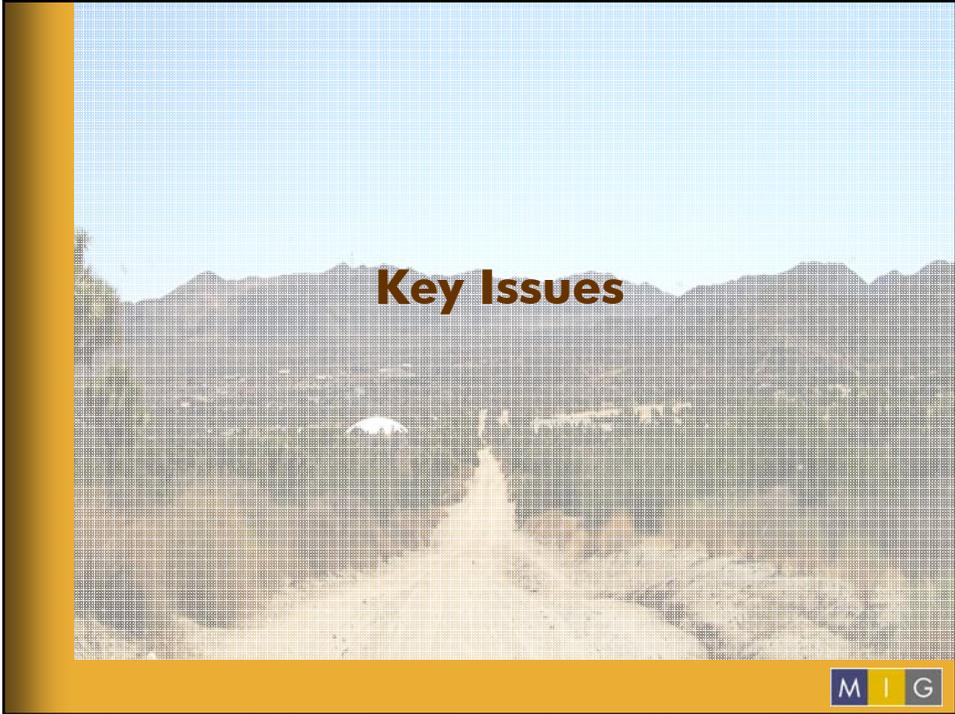
June 26, 2007



## **Master Plan Objectives - Review**

- Identify existing and future needs for recreation facilities.
- Identify existing and future needs for services and programs.
- Address issues related to the acquisition of park land.
- Establish appropriate maintenance standards and programs for existing and recommended facilities.
- Establish a financial strategy including an Asset Management Plan and Funding/Financing Alternatives





## Key Issues



## Key Issues - Town of Yucca Valley

- Rapid Area Growth
- Changing Demographics
- Need for Future Park Sites
- Biological, Topographic and Ecological Sensitivities
- Sustainability
- Funding/Financial Strategy Development
- Successful Implementation



## Key Issue - Keys to a Successful Plan

- Participatory Process – Public Involvement
- Practical
- Specific to the Town of Yucca Valley
- Involvement of Town Staff, Commissions and Town Council
- Keeping the Agency and Community informed and involved



## Approach - Planning Process



## Approach - Assessing Need

### Progress So Far:

- Inventory of Parks/Facilities
- Workshop #1
- Radio Show Call In Program
- Interviews with Staff and Stakeholders
- Workshop #2
- Telephone Survey (In Progress)
- Public input from Task Force & Focus Groups



## Workshop #1 Results

### Session #1 – Discussion of Programs

- 5k & 10k Runs
- Adult Programs
- Adult Sports
- Aquatics
- Athletics
- Bike Events
- Book Club
- Christmas Parade
- Concerts
- Cultural Activities
- Cultural Center
- Earth Day
- Environmental Ed.
- Farmers Market
- Golf & Golf Lessons
- Grubsteak Fest.
- Horseshoes
- Night Classes
- OHV Programs
- Parades
- Public Art
- Racquetball
- Senior Programs
- Senior Trips
- Snow Play Day
- Soccer
- Softball
- Specialty Class
- Sports for Physically Challenged
- Sports/fitness
- Starry Night
- Stay At Home Mom Programs
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Teen Programs
- Tennis
- Trails
- Youth Programs



## Workshop #1 Results

### Session #2 – Setting Programs Priorities

1. Teen Programs
2. Sports/fitness
3. Senior Programs
4. Cultural Activities
5. Adult Programs
6. Aquatics
7. Swimming
8. Environmental Education



## Workshop #1 Results

### Session #1 – Discussion of Sites and Facilities

- Amphitheater/Cultural Events Center
- Art Park
- Bike Paths
- Burnt Mtn Tennis Rehab
- Centralized Parks
- Classic Car Display
- Community Center on South Side
- Dog Park
- Equestrian Facility
- Expanded Facilities
- Facilities at No & So. Park
- Fairground
- Gyms
- Horseshoe Pits
- In-Line Skate Park
- Library
- Maintenance
- Meeting Rooms
- Mini Golf
- OHV Park
- Passive Parks
- Petting Zoo
- Picnic Shelters
- Playgrounds
- Safe Facilities
- Skate Park
- Skating Rink
- Splash Park
- Sports Complex
- Sports Fields (Soccer)
- Stadium
- Sunnyslope Park Improvement
- Swimming Pool
- Teen Center
- Tennis
- Trails
- Walking Trails
- Water Park
- YMCA



## Workshop #1 Results

### Session #2 – Setting Sites and Facilities Priorities

1. Gyms
2. Amphitheater/Cultural Events Center
3. Community Center on South Side
4. Centralized Parks
5. Fairground
6. Trails
7. Tennis
8. Picnic Shelters
9. Facilities at North & South Park
10. Dog Park
11. Equestrian Facility
12. Swimming Pool



## Workshop #1 Results

### Session #1 – Discussion of Open Space, Greenbelts & Trails

- Bike Trails
- Botanical Garden
- Equestrian/Horse Trails
- Fences & Lighting
- Fitness Courses
- Recreational Use of Retention Basins
- Grass Areas
- Greenbelt & Open Space
- Hiking Trails
- Land Buffer Around Town
- Loop Trails
- Native Gardens
- Off Road Trails
- OHV Park
- Open Space Connections throughout Town
- Picnic Facilities (Families)
- Preserved Natural Land
- Ridgeline Buffers
- Rock Climbing
- Running/Walking Trails
- Shade Shelters
- Use of Alleys
- Wildlife Corridor



## Workshop #1 Results

### Session #2 – Setting Open Space, Greenbelts & Trails Priorities

1. Bike Trails
2. Running/Walking Trails
3. Wildlife Corridor
4. Greenbelt & Open Space
5. Equestrian/Horse Trails
6. Picnic Facilities (Families)
7. Off Road Vehicle Facilities
8. Land Buffer Around Town
9. Shade Shelters



## Workshop #1 Results

### Priorities of Where Would You Spend Your \$\$\$?

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Gymnasium              | 10. Seniors Programs      |
| 2. Soccer Field           | 11. Teen Programs         |
| 3. Dog Park               | 12. Amphitheater          |
| 4. Bike Trails            | 13. Cultural Events       |
| 5. Tennis Courts          | 14. Swimming Pool         |
| 6. Interactive Water Play | 15. Community Events      |
| 7. Open Areas             | 16. Zero Depth Water Park |
| 8. Exercise Course        | 17. Public Art            |
| 9. Jogging Trail          |                           |



## Radio Call In Program – Z-107.7 June 8, 2007

Jim Schooler and Ron Hagan (MIG Consultant) fielded questions from public regarding Master Plan

- 23 Callers voiced opinions on air
- 20 more were on hold an unable give their opinions
- Most often requested facilities
  - Dog Park
  - Aquatics Complex
  - Centralization vs. Decentralization of Community Facilities
- Full list of topics posted



## Stakeholder Interview Questions

1. *What do you believe are the two to three most pressing issues in the community regarding parks, recreation facilities and programs and cultural services?*
2. *If new capital project funding became available what would be the priorities to accomplish with the new funding?*
3. *Do you think the community would support limited commercial advertising in public parks and facilities if the revenue generated increased the maintenance level of the parks and facilities?*
4. *What is the one thing you most want the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan for the Town of Yucca Valley to address?*
5. *Do you think the town could meet some of its recreation needs by partnering with schools to share use and maintenance of facilities?*
6. *Is there a balance of active and passive recreation areas in Yucca Valley? Does the town need more of one than the other?*



## Going Forward: Next Steps

- Task Force and Focus Group Meetings
- Sports Organization Survey
- Community Service Group Survey
- Workshop #3
- Needs and Demands Analysis
- Developing Screen Check Document for Review

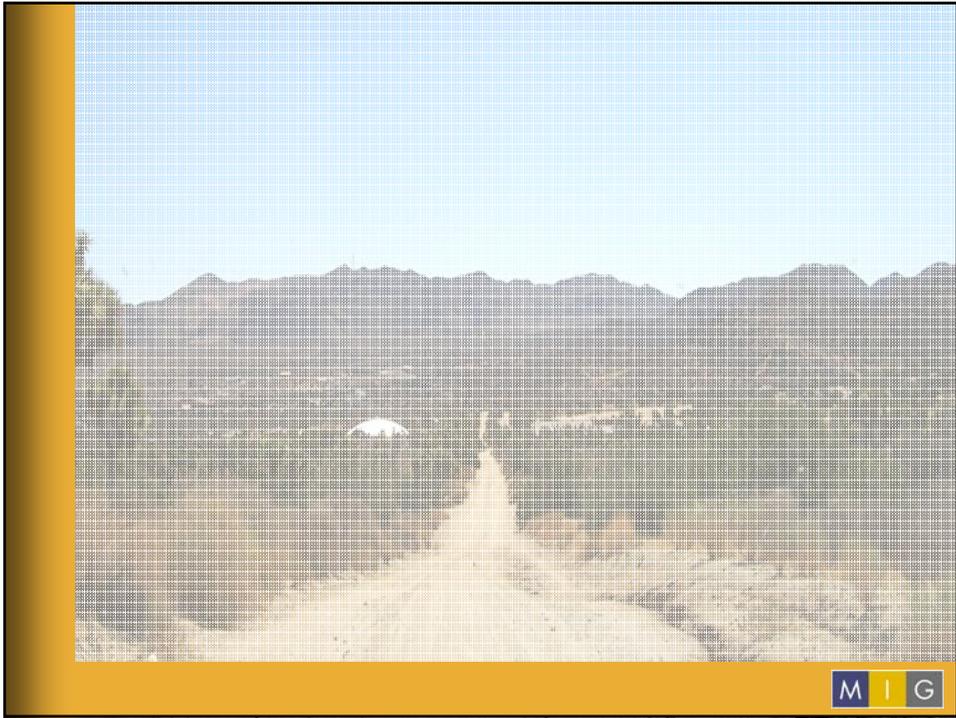


## Additional Questions

Issues we would like this audience to address:

- Centralization vs. Decentralization of facilities with possible location suggestions
- Suggestions for multi-use complexes, i.e.,
  - Swim Complex
  - Gym/Event Center
  - Teen/Community/Senior Center
  - Cultural/Museum Complex







town of  
**yucca valley**  
parks & recreation master plan update

**APPENDIX C8:  
WORKSHOP 3**







the town of  
**yucca valley**

please join us

for an update of the

# parks & recreation master plan

- presentation
  - where we were
  - how far we've come
  - where do we go from here
  - results of intercept events
- chance to share your vision
- involvement activities
- refreshments

Thursday  
**Sept. 20**

6<sup>30</sup>pm - 8<sup>00</sup>pm

Yucca Valley  
Community Center  
57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy  
Yucca Room



**QUESTIONS?**

Contact Community Services Department at (760) 369-7211



# Town of Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan

## Workshop #3

September 20, 2007



## Inventory Existing Facilities



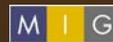
## Inventory Existing Facilities



## Inventory Findings

- Parks are well maintained
- Community Center Park provides the most comprehensive facilities in Town
- New parks are designed and landscaped attractively and incorporate ADA accessibility
- Many more need updating to address accessibility
- Many parks lack shade and shelter

## Listen to Public & Staff



## Work Shop Results

Participants at Workshops #1 and #2 asked for these facilities:

- Gymnasium
- Soccer Fields
- Dog Park
- Bike Trails
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Swimming Pool/Aquatic Center
- Multi-purpose Community Center
- Walking/Jogging Trails
- Senior Center
- Teen Center
- Open Areas
- Tot Lots
- Tennis Courts
- Festival/Event/Amphitheatre Facility
- Cultural/Museum Center
- Public Art
- Fitness/Exercise Center
- Water Play Parks



## Z107.7 FM Radio Call-in Results

- Community Services Department gets high marks
- Town has gone 20 years without new facilities built
- Land slotted for new development in previous Master Plan may not be the right place for new facilities
- There is a diverse range of needs for the community which raise numerous logistical, political and economic concerns



## Stakeholder Interview Results

The interviewees expressed that the town needs:

- youth sports fields;
- before and after school programs
- children enrichment programs
- teen programs; and
- facilities for youth that are clean and safe



## Staff Interview Results



## Preliminary Telephone Survey Results

300 interviews were completed with adult household heads during the past month equally divided between East, West, South and North sections of town.

- Most agreed that Yucca Valley's small town atmosphere made it a desirable place to live.
- New parks and recreation facilities topped the list of improvements residents want in town.
- Physical health and well being along with social contact were the most often listed benefits of using parks and recreation



## Preliminary Telephone Survey Results

- Three-quarters of residents use the town's recreation facilities
- The Community Center was the most visited facility in town.
- More than half the residents use picnic facilities in town.
- Biking, walking, jogging and hiking were the most popular physical activity among families.
- A swimming pool was the most requested addition to facilities.



## Preliminary Telephone Survey Results

- Satisfaction with park facility maintenance was 95%.
- Recreation program offerings were ranked as follows:
  1. Open Space Preservation and Enjoyment
  2. Cultural Arts, Museum, and Performing Arts
  3. Active Sports Facilities and Programs
  4. Community Events and Activities
- More than half the families questioned participate in community events



## Preliminary Telephone Survey Results

- The High Desert Museum is well known among residents.
- Nearly ¾ of residents would support a \$12 annual fee to build new facilities
- Nearly ¾ of residents would make frequent or moderately frequent visits to a new performing arts or event center.



## Sustainability & Comfort



## Public Results



## Conclusions so Far

- *Yucca Valley is an active vocal community*
- *Residents have diverse opinions and needs*
- *Community's demographics are evolving*
- *Citizens are sensitive to the environment and natural habitat*
- *Residents are eager to see the town develop in a healthy way*
- *Residents love their small town atmosphere*



## Examples Facilities



Revenue Generating Spaces



## Examples Facilities



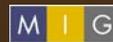
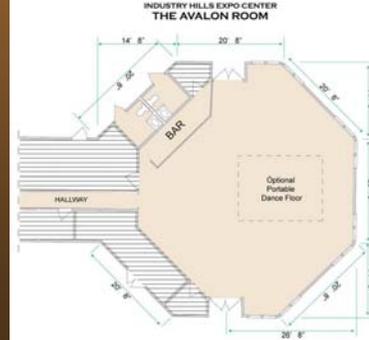
Flexible Spaces



# Examples Facilities



Interesting and Beautiful Spaces



# Examples Facilities

Dedicated Spaces

24

## Santee Teen Center at Santee Lakes

**SUMMER HOURS:**  
THURSDAY AUGUST 25TH  
MON-FRI: 1:00-7:00 P.M.  
SAT: 2:00-6:00 P.M.

COMPUTER LAB  
POOL TABLE  
AIR HOCKEY  
PING PONG  
X-BOX  
DAILY ACTIVITIES  
OUTDOOR RECREATION  
FIELD TRIPS  
COOKING CLASSES

Annual membership is only \$20 for Santee residents and \$30 for non-residents or \$5 per day. Center is all items grade 13, up to age 17.

**Santee School District Bus Transportation** - 4-6 Grades  
The City of Santee, in cooperation with the Santee School District, offers after school bus transportation during the school year to the Santee Teen Center at Santee Lakes for students in grades 4-6. The Teen Center is open every day after school including an extended session on Thursday afternoons. Students must be a resident of Santee City and all of the Santee School District at the time. Request these services prior to your starting date. For more information call 619-254-6500 ext. 333.

**Extreme Adventure Camp** - Grades 4-13, up to age 17  
Call ahead to see the staff and equipment used for Santee's most exciting activities. We will teach extreme sports as well as the most exciting, most exciting, exciting! Pool, Air Hocky, Ping Pong, and more! Santee City, Santee Park, Santee Lakes, and Santee are all included in the fee. Santee Teen Center is open every day after school including an extended session on Thursday afternoons. Request these services prior to your starting date. For more information call 619-254-6500 ext. 333.

**Overnight Camp** - Grades 4-13, up to age 17  
Overnight sessions full of an overnight camp at the Teen Center at Santee Lakes. The complete dinner and recreational breakfast. Request by Friday, 10:00 P.M.

**X-Factor Summer Camp at the Teen Center**  
Grades 4-13th Grades  
6/19-8/12

**X-Camp Leaders**  
Grades 4-13th Grades  
6/19-8/12

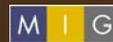
See page 24 for details.

5310 FANTIA PARKWAY • LANE 5



## Examples Facilities

Multi-Generational Spaces



## Examples Facilities



Water,  
Water,  
Water



## Examples Facilities

Pedestrian friendly public spaces



## Examples Facilities



Dream of how a space can look

...and how it can be used



## Examples Facilities

Artificial turf...

Optional when water is scarce

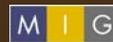


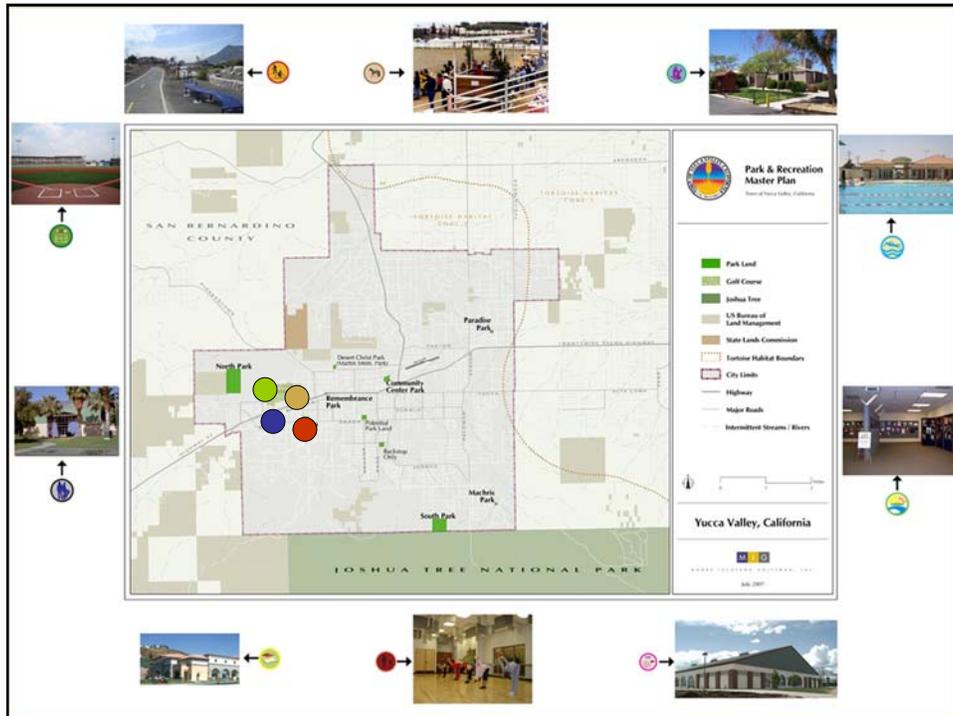
## Example Facilities



# Interactive Exercise Instructions

- Visioning exercise
- Opportunity to share opinion of how the town could grow
- Need to be collaborative with small group





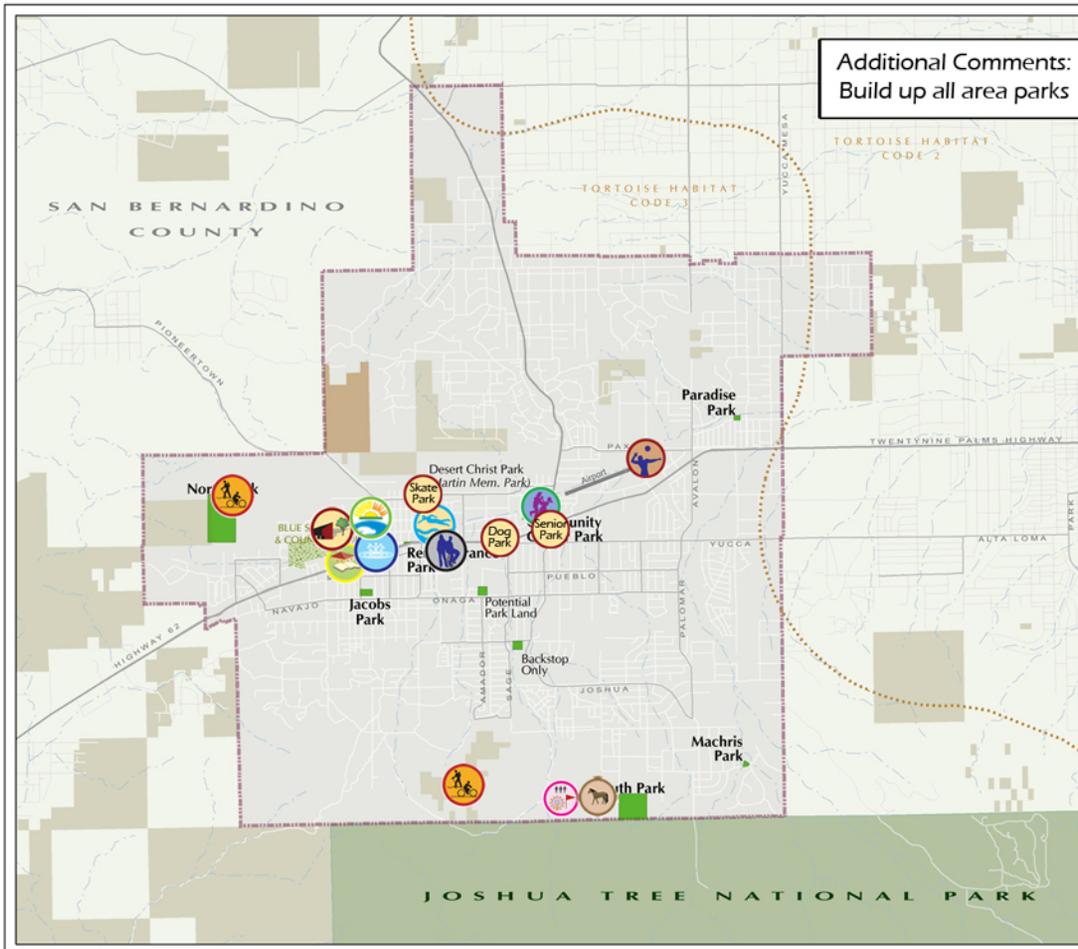
## Expectations for Workshop 3

- Results will be reported back to large group and recorded for inclusion in the Master Plan
- Master Plan team will use information to gain further insights into what the town needs
- Participants will feel that they have made a contribution to the future of their town





GROUP 1



### Park & Recreation Master Plan

Town of Yucca Valley, California

- Park Land
- Golf Course
- Joshua Tree
- US Bureau of Land Management
- State Lands Commission
- Tortoise Habitat Boundary
- City Limits
- Highway
- Major Roads
- Intermittent Streams / Rivers



Yucca Valley, California



MOORE JACOBSON GOLDSMAN, INC.

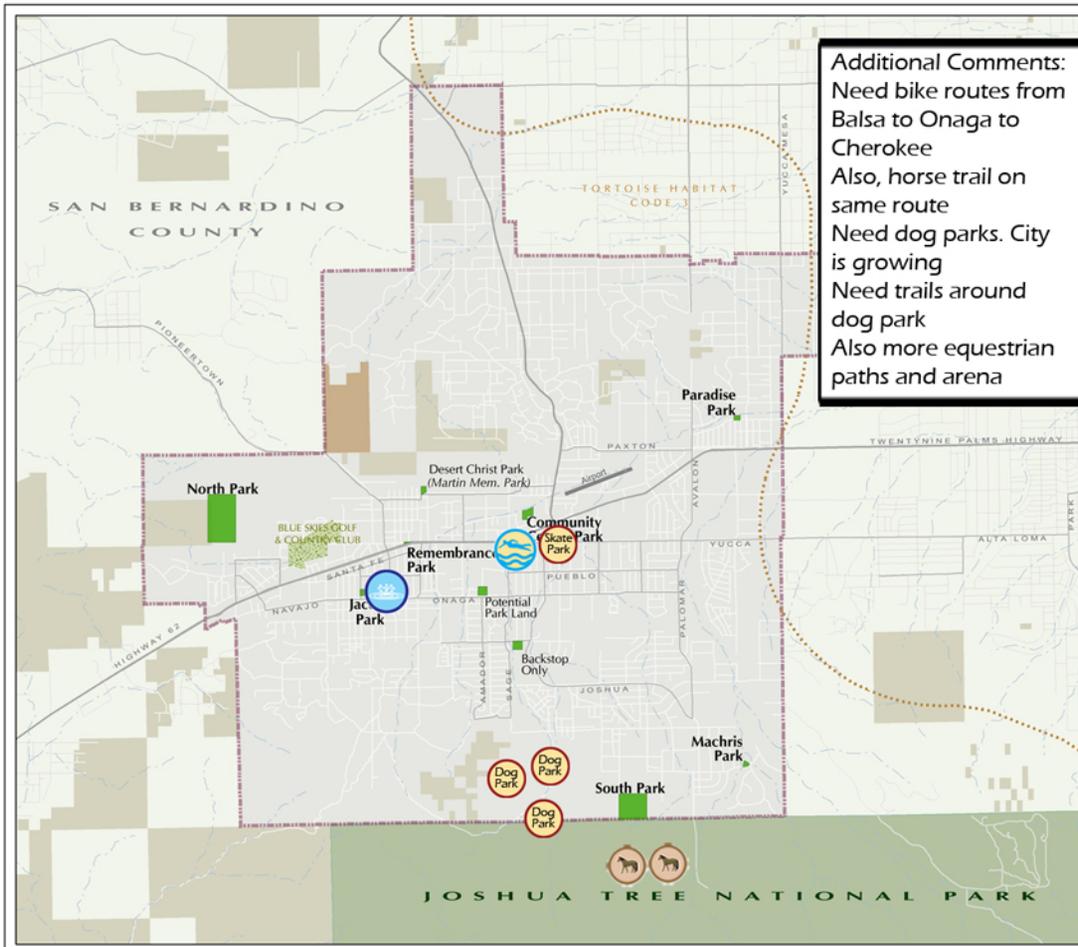
July 2007







GROUP 2



### Park & Recreation Master Plan

Town of Yucca Valley, California

- Park Land
- Golf Course
- Joshua Tree
- US Bureau of Land Management
- State Lands Commission
- Tortoise Habitat Boundary
- City Limits
- Highway
- Major Roads
- Intermittent Streams / Rivers



### Yucca Valley, California



HOBBS JACOBSON GOLDSTEIN, INC.

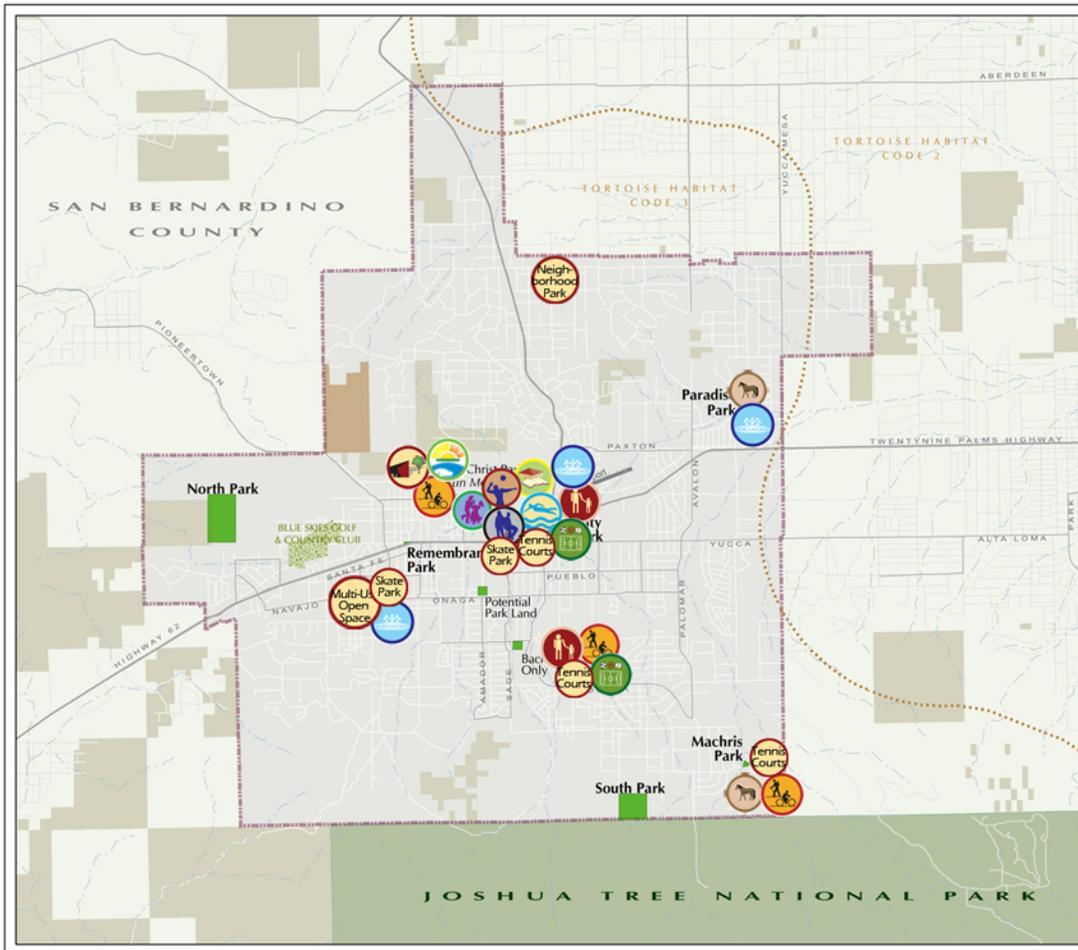
July 2007







GROUP 3



### Park & Recreation Master Plan

Town of Yucca Valley, California

- Park Land
- Golf Course
- Joshua Tree
- US Bureau of Land Management
- State Lands Commission
- Tortoise Habitat Boundary
- City Limits
- Highway
- Major Roads
- Intermittent Streams / Rivers



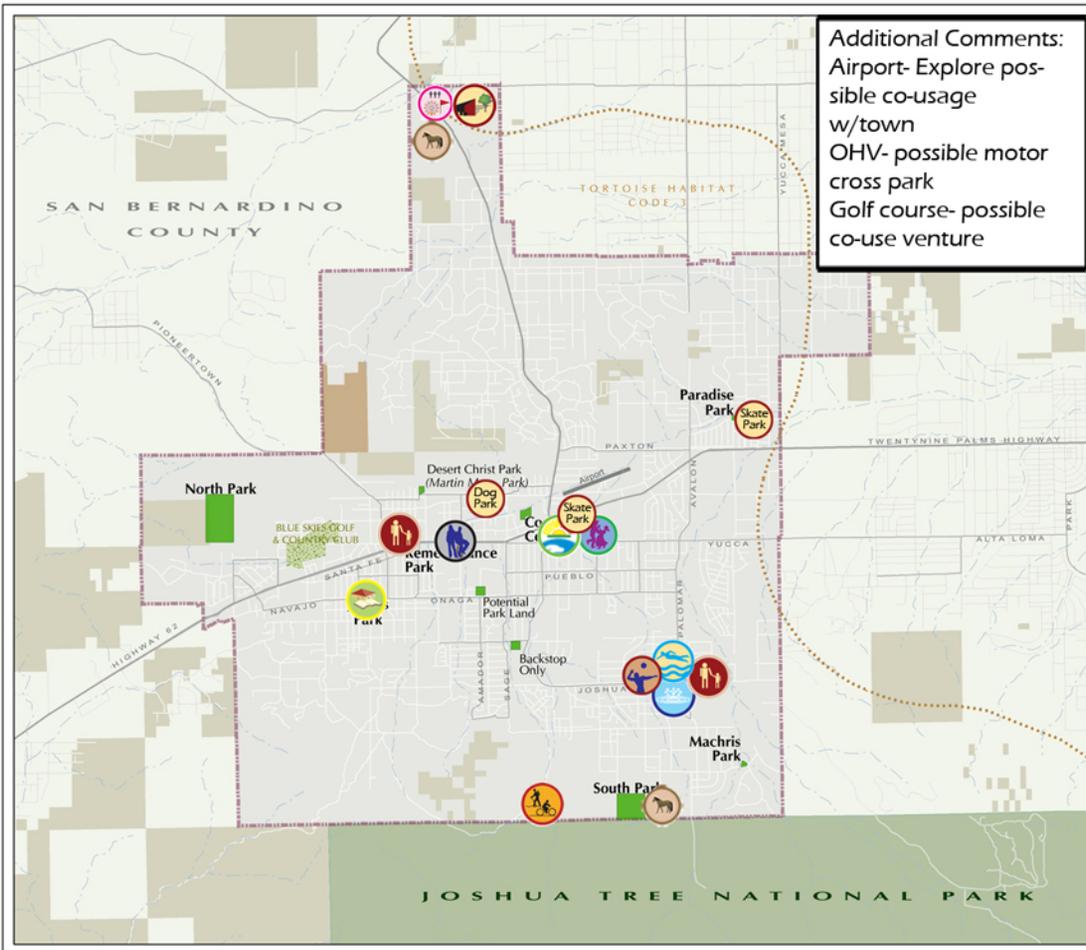
Yucca Valley, California

**M I G**  
 HODGE JACOBSON HOLTSMAN, INC.  
 July 2007





GROUP 4



Additional Comments:  
 Airport- Explore possible co-usage w/town  
 OHV- possible motor cross park  
 Golf course- possible co-use venture



**Park & Recreation Master Plan**  
 Town of Yucca Valley, California

- Park Land
- Golf Course
- Joshua Tree
- US Bureau of Land Management
- State Lands Commission
- Tortoise Habitat Boundary
- City Limits
- Highway
- Major Roads
- Intermittent Streams / Rivers



Yucca Valley, California

**M I G**  
 MOORE JACOBSON GOLDSMAN, INC.  
 July 2007

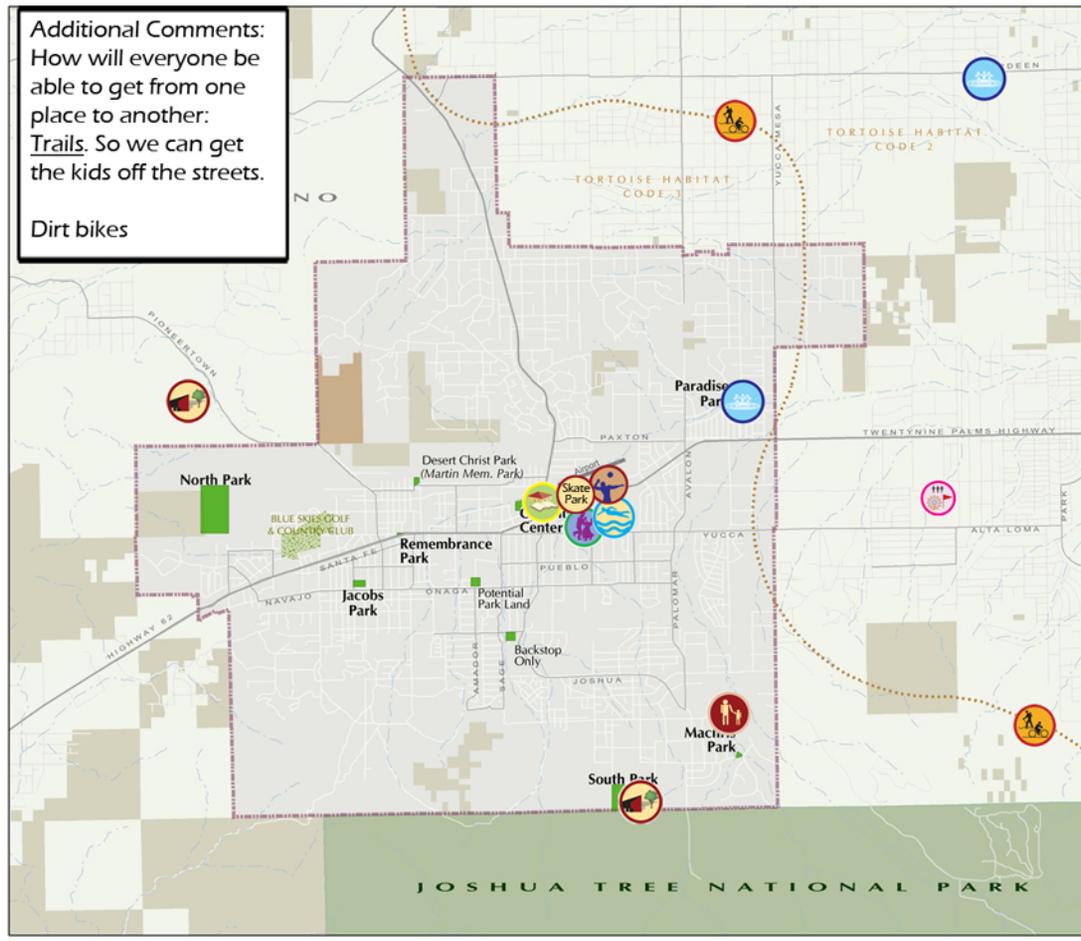




GROUP 5



Additional Comments:  
How will everyone be able to get from one place to another:  
Trails. So we can get the kids off the streets.  
Dirt bikes



**Park & Recreation Master Plan**  
Town of Yucca Valley, California

- Park Land
- Golf Course
- Joshua Tree
- US Bureau of Land Management
- State Lands Commission
- Tortoise Habitat Boundary
- City Limits
- Highway
- Major Roads
- Intermittent Streams / Rivers



**Yucca Valley, California**

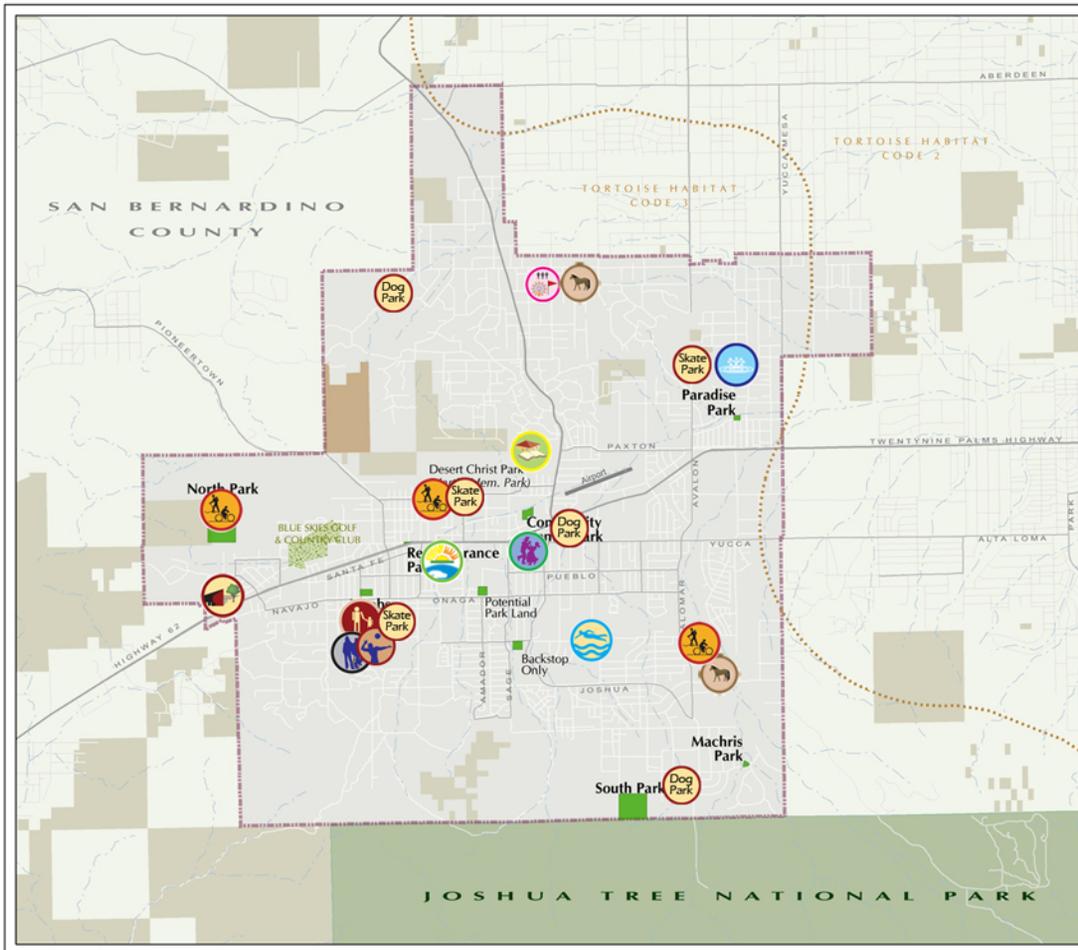
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MOORE JACOBSON GOLDSMAN, INC.  
July 2007







GROUP 6



### Park & Recreation Master Plan

Town of Yucca Valley, California

- Park Land
- Golf Course
- Joshua Tree
- US Bureau of Land Management
- State Lands Commission
- Tortoise Habitat Boundary
- City Limits
- Highway
- Major Roads
- Intermittent Streams / Rivers



Yucca Valley, California



MOORE JACOBSON GOLDMAN, INC.

July 2007







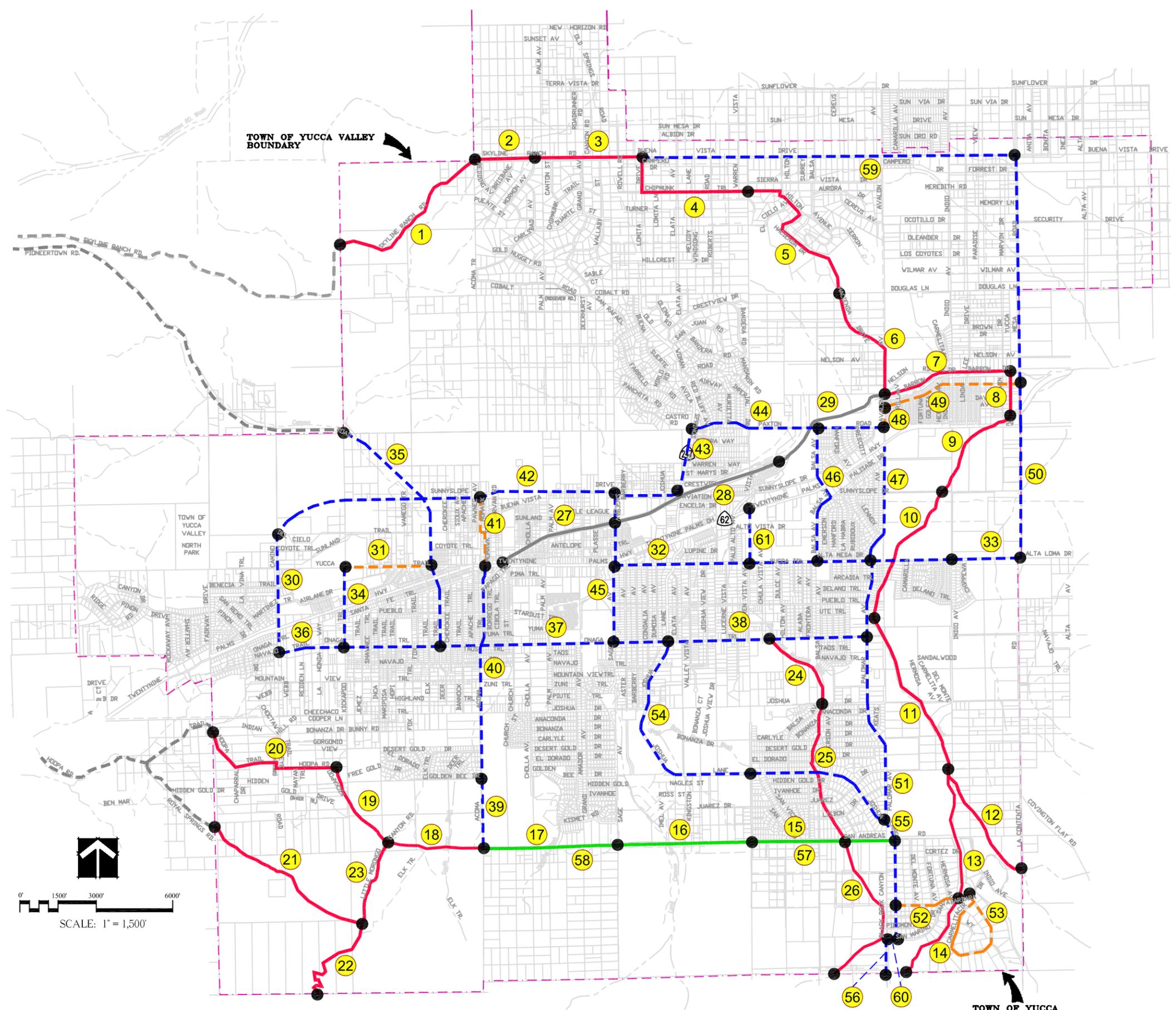
town of  
**yucca valley**  
parks & recreation master plan update

**APPENDIX D:  
YUCCA VALLEY TRAILS  
MASTER PLAN MAP**



# Yucca Valley Trail System

- RIDING TRAIL
- PEDESTRIAN & BIKE TRAIL
- MULTI-USE TRAIL (RIDING, PEDESTRIAN, & BIKE)
- BIKE ROUTES - CLASS III
- - - BIKE LANES



	EQUESTRIAN, PEDESTRIAN, OR BIKE TRAIL NAME	TRAIL TYPE	TRAIL LENGTH (IN FEET)
1	SKYLINE RANCH TRAIL - REACH 1	A	7,200
2	SKYLINE RANCH TRAIL - REACH 2	A	2,400
3	SKYLINE RANCH TRAIL - REACH 3	A	4,200
4	CHIPMUNK TRAIL	A	5,600
5	HACIENDA TRAIL - REACH 1	A	7,100
6	HACIENDA TRAIL - REACH 2	A	4,900
7	YUCCA WASH TRAIL - REACH 4	A	5,500
8	MARVIN TRAIL	A	1,800
9	COVINGTON WASH TRAIL - REACH 1	A	4,200
10	COVINGTON WASH TRAIL - REACH 2	A	5,800
11	COVINGTON WASH TRAIL - REACH 3	A	6,800
12	COVINGTON WASH TRAIL - REACH 4	A	5,500
13	CARMELITA WASH TRAIL	A	5,200
14	BLACK ROCK WASH TRAIL	A	3,800
15	SAN ANDREAS TRAIL - REACH 1	C	5,600
16	SAN ANDREAS TRAIL - REACH 2	C	5,300
17	SAN ANDREAS TRAIL - REACH 3	C	5,300
18	SAN ANDREAS TRAIL - REACH 4	A	3,800
19	KICKAPOO TRAIL	A	3,700
20	HOOPA TRAIL	A	6,000
21	ROYAL SPRINGS WASH TRAIL	A	7,200
22	LITTLE MORONGO CANYON TRAIL - REACH 1	A	4,800
23	LITTLE MORONGO CANYON TRAIL - REACH 2	A	3,500
24	EAST BURNT MOUNTAIN WASH TRAIL - REACH 1	A	3,700
25	EAST BURNT MOUNTAIN WASH TRAIL - REACH 2	A	5,800
26	EAST BURNT MOUNTAIN WASH TRAIL - REACH 3	A	6,700
27	YUCCA WASH TRAIL - REACH 1	B	4,800
28	YUCCA WASH TRAIL - REACH 2	B	6,900
29	YUCCA WASH TRAIL - REACH 3	B	5,200
30	CAMINO DEL CIELO - ONAGA TO SUNNYSLOPE	LANE	4,700
31	YUCCA TRAIL - KICKAPOO TO PIONEERTOWN	ROUTE	3,400
32	YUCCA TRAIL - SAGE TO INDIO	LANE	13,200
33	YUCCA TRAIL - INDIO TO LA CONTENTA	LANE	2,700
34	KICKAPOO TRAIL - ONAGA TO YUCCA	LANE	3,100
35	PIONEERTOWN ROAD - ONAGA TO TOWN BNDY.	LANE	10,000
36	ONAGA TRAIL - KICKAPOO TO CAMINO DEL CIELO	LANE	2,600
37	ONAGA TRAIL - KICKAPOO TO JOSHUA	LANE	12,700
38	ONAGA TRAIL - JOSHUA TO PALOMAR	LANE	7,800
39	ACOMA TRAIL - SAN ANDREAS TO GOLDEN BEE	LANE	2,700
40	ACOMA TRAIL - GOLDEN BEE TO SR 62	LANE	8,400
41	MOHAWK TRAIL - SR 62 TO SUNNYSLOPE	ROUTE	2,800
42	SUNNYSLOPE DR. - CAMINO DEL CIELO TO SR 247	LANE	16,400
43	SR 247 - SUNNYSLOPE TO PAXTON	LANE	2,600
44	PAXTON ROAD - SR 247 TO AVALON	LANE	7,700
45	SAGE AVENUE - ONAGA TO SUNNYSLOPE	LANE	5,500
46	BALSA AVENUE - YUCCA TO PAXTON	LANE	5,700
47	AVALON AVENUE - YUCCA TO SR 62	LANE	4,700
48	AVALON AVENUE - SR 62 TO BARRON	ROUTE	900
49	BARRON DRIVE - AVALON TO YUCCA MESA	ROUTE	5,500
50	YUCCA MESA ROAD - YUCCA TR TO BUENA VISTA	LANE	15,800
51	PALOMAR AVENUE - YUCCA TO JOSHUA	LANE	10,600
52	SANTA BARBARA DRIVE - JOSHUA TO CARMELITA	ROUTE	3,000
53	CARMELITA CIRCLE	ROUTE	6,100
54	JOSHUA LANE - ONAGA TO WARREN VISTA	LANE	9,000
55	JOSHUA LANE - WARREN VISTA TO SAN MARINO	LANE	11,100
56	BLACK ROCK CANYON ROAD	LANE	1,300
57	SAN ANDREAS - JOSHUA TO WARREN VISTA (SEE 15 ABOVE)		5,600
58	SAN ANDREAS - WARREN VISTA TO ACOMA (SEE 16/17 ABOVE)		10,600
59	BUENA VISTA DRIVE - YUCCA MESA TO SR 247	LANE	14,600
60	SAN MARINO - JOSHUA TO BLACK ROCK CANYON	LANE	400
61	WARREN VISTA - YUCCA TRAIL TO SR 62	LANE	2,200



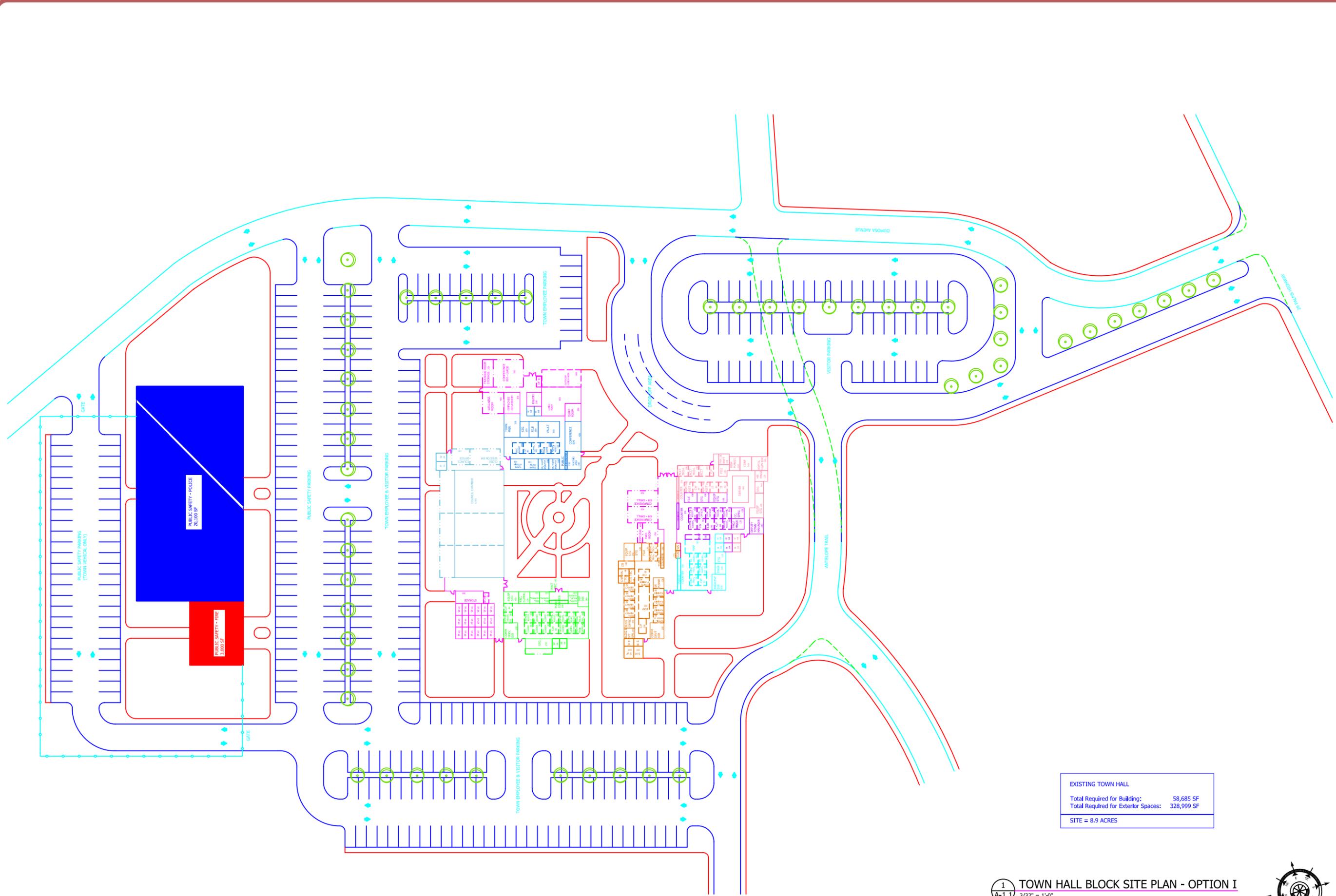


town of  
**yucca valley**

parks & recreation master plan update

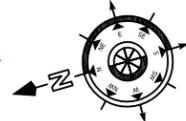
**APPENDIX E:  
VISIONING MAPS**





EXISTING TOWN HALL  
 Total Required for Building: 58,685 SF  
 Total Required for Exterior Spaces: 328,999 SF  
 SITE = 8.9 ACRES

1 TOWN HALL BLOCK SITE PLAN - OPTION I  
 A-1.1 3/32" = 1'-0"



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**FINAL DRAWINGS**

DATE: 11/28/07	FILE
JOB NO.: 2705	FILE
CHECKED: DG	SCALE:
DRAWN: STAFF	

**TOWN HALL SITE PLAN**  
**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY**  
**FACILITIES MASTER PLAN STUDY**

**A-1.1**



# OLD TOWN SPECIFIC PLAN

VISION 2004 - TO PRESENT

