

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update



Chapter 8: Policy Recommendations



Town of
Yucca Valley

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 designed to guide staff and elected/appointed officials in 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 sports fields, 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 Strive to design 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 5 usable acres

Community Parks 20 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: Employ 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 a procedure for the design and construction of new parks that will include input from 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 and 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.

| Table 8-3 Base Level Park Development Guidelines for Community Parks | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|----|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Park Type | Min. to Max. Size | Minimum Base Recreation Facilities | | Support Facilities | Optional Facilities | |
| Community | 15-40 acres | Tot Lot/Playground | 1 | Public Restrooms | Lighted Baseball Fields (practice and game) ³ Lighted Softball Fields (practice and game) ³ 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 | |
| | | Informal/Open Space ¹ | 12 | Trash Receptacles | | |
| | | Open Picnic Tables | 4 | Maintenance Building | | |
| | | Picnic Shelters ² | 16 | Concession Building | | |
| | | Barbecues | 2 | (3,000 to 5,000 s. f.) | | |
| | | Basketball: informal | 2 | On-site parking for 150 – 200 cars | | |
| | | Lighted Soccer Fields (practice and game) ³ | 2 | | | |
| | | Lighted Tennis Courts | | | | |
| | | Volleyball | | | | |
| Notes: | | | | | | |
| ¹ All Informal/Open Space areas should have a maximum 2% gradient. | | | | | | |
| ² Picnic shelters for group-type structures should accommodate six to ten picnic tables beneath the shelter. | | | | | | |
| ³ 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, YMCAs, 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 (minimum two (2) acres open space field at 2% gradient) | 1 | Tennis Courts (fenced) |
| | | Open Picnic Tables | 4 | Sand Volleyball |
| | | Picnic Shelters ¹ | 1 | Jogging Path |
| | | Barbecues | 1 | Water Spray Pool |
| | | Basketball | 5 | Softball: Practice Only ² |
| | | Volleyball | 1 | Baseball: Practice Only ² |
| | | Paved /walkways | 1 | On-site parking for 15-20 cars |
| | | Trash Receptacles | 1 | |
| Notes: | ¹ Picnic shelters for group-type structures must accommodate six to ten picnic tables beneath the shelter ² 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 by expanding the space offered 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 Strive 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 Create opportunities to form mutually beneficial agreements 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 Expand the utilization of the 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 Consider the 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 Expand collaborations with Joshua Tree National Park for outdoor education and natural history programs.

Item 14.14 Enhance 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 though 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 Strive to design equestrian trails, hiking and bicycling trails on public rights-of-way to minimize user conflicts by establishing trail development standards that provide physical separation between wheel and non-wheel users.

Item 16.6 Strive to provide access to existing and future land uses by walking, biking, and equestrian means.

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 by working with County and State agencies with jurisdiction over regional trails.