


YUCCA VALLEY

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



DRAFT
December 2018



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Town of Yucca Valley would like to thank all the community members who participated in the public process that led to this plan.

YUCCA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Rick Denison, Mayor
Robert Lombardo, Mayor Pro Tem
Merl Abel, Council Member
Jeff Drozd, Council Member
Robert Leone, Council Member

YUCCA VALLEY STAFF

Curtis Yakimow, Town Manager
Sue Earnest, Community Services Manager
Maureen Neely, Administrative Assistant III
Shane Stueckle, Deputy Town Manager
Megan Stueckle, Recreation Coordinator
Stefanie Ritter, Museum Program Supervisor

PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURAL COMMISSION

Ed Keesling, Chair
Andrea Staehle, Vice Chair
Matthew Rauch, Commissioner
Jeri Wilson, Commissioner
Brad Napientek, Former Commissioner

PREPARED BY:



Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc.
537 S. Raymond
Pasadena, California 91105
(626) 744-9872
www.migcom.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope and Purpose	1
1.2 Planning Process.....	1
1.3 Community Engagement	2
1.4 Plan Organization	3

CHAPTER 2: EXISTING CONDITIONS

2.1 Introduction.....	5
2.2 Planning Context.....	5
2.3 Town Parks and Facilities.....	7
2.4 Facilities and Services Provided by Others.....	22
2.5 Recreation Activities, Programs and Services.....	24
2.6 Existing Cultural Facilities and Programs.....	26

CHAPTER 3: PARK AND RECREATION NEEDS

3.1 Introduction and Methodology.....	29
3.2 Trends	30
3.3 Community Engagement Key Findings.....	30
3.4 Park Land Needs.....	35
3.5 Recreation Facility Needs.....	36
3.6 Program and Service Needs.....	39

CHAPTER 4: VISION, GOALS, & RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Introduction.....	41
4.2 Vision and Goals.....	41
4.3 Criteria for Project Consideration	42
4.4 Guidelines for Park Design	43
4.5 Master Plan Recommendations Indicators.....	43
4.6 Recommendations for Existing Yucca Valley Parks.....	44
4.7 Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks	48
4.8 Recommendations for Sports Facilities.....	50
4.9 Recommendations for Indoor Facilities.....	51
4.10 Recommendations for Recreation Programs.....	54
4.11 Organizational Recommendations.....	56
4.12 Action Plan Matrix.....	57

CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Evaluating Future Projects	69
5.2. Action Planning Tool	72
5.3. Estimated Major Project Costs	75
5.4. Conclusion.....	76

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Community Member Interview Summary
- Appendix B: 2018 Community Questionnaire Summary



1. INTRODUCTION



1.1 Scope and Purpose

The 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (Master Plan) provides renewed direction for Yucca Valley's parks and recreation system. This update builds on the efforts of the Town's previous parks and recreation master plan, adopted in 2008, and reassesses the Town's parks and recreation system needs and opportunities. This is a long-term plan, representing a 10- to 20-year vision for parks and recreation. Recommendations are prioritized in near, mid, and long-term implementation increments. As with the 2008 Plan, interested and engaged members of the community were directly involved with development of this Master Plan update. The intent of the Master Plan is to provide the community with a logical, comprehensive blueprint for further development, augmentation, and maintenance of the Town's parks and recreation system.

This Chapter introduces the planning process and community engagement that facilitated crafting of the Master Plan update, and describes the Master Plan's organization to orient the reader.

1.2 Planning Process

The 2008 Master Plan was Yucca Valley's first comprehensive plan for its park system. After relying on the 2008 Master Plan for nearly a decade as a guide for development of the Town's parks and recreation system, Yucca Valley contracted with MIG to update the Master Plan and develop an updated set of recommendations. Building on the foundation provided by the earlier Master Plan and progress made over the past ten years, the planning process for the 2018 update consisted of a streamlined three-phased approach.

Phase I: Update the Baseline

The focus of this phase was to examine changes to the park system since the 2008 Master Plan was adopted and update the baseline of information. Tasks in this phase included a review of progress over the past ten years in the form of a “report card” identifying the current implementation status of all goals and recommendations from the 2008 Master Plan.

Phase II: Assess Community Needs

During the second phase, the focus was on identifying public preferences and community needs for parks and recreation for the Master Plan update. This phase began with Town staff and consultants walking through and discussing existing parks and recreation facilities, as well as several facilities operated by non-profits. This field tour was immediately followed by interviews and focus groups with recreation and arts stakeholders and interest groups. Participants in these sessions provided rich input on current recreation needs and issues in Yucca Valley. To reach the broader community, a questionnaire regarding needs and priorities for the park system was available online and in print format at local events. Information generated by these outreach activities was then used to develop a vision and goals for the Master Plan.

Phase III: Prepare the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Based on the vision and goals identified in Phase II, Town staff and MIG created updated recommendations and specific strategies for improving the park and recreation system, drawing forward relevant recommendations from the 2008 Master Plan. These recommendations were incorporated into an overhauled Master Plan document, to meet the Town’s goal of a more streamlined, compact format that identifies priorities and provides clear directives for short, mid, and long-term implementation.

1.3 Community Engagement

Community input for the 2018 Master Plan included a series of stakeholder interviews and focus groups, a meeting with the Sports Council, and a community member/resident questionnaire. The purpose of this effort was to ensure the participation of a diverse cross-section of the community and to compare results from the 2008 planning process.

Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Groups

The consultant team conducted a series of interviews with a cross-section of community members, including representatives from the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council, aquatics service providers, seniors, Chamber of Commerce representatives, Boys and Girls Club staff, Youth Commission members, Sports Council attendees, Town Councilmembers, and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Commission members. Interviewees were asked a series of questions regarding broad-based concerns and objectives for the Town, as well as specific topics pertaining to the community member’s interest and expertise. Participants were also given the opportunity to discuss issues significant to them not otherwise raised in response to specific

questions. The interviews helped uncover key themes and issues related to the park and recreation system.

Parks and Recreation Questionnaire

An online questionnaire was available on the Town’s website from May 11, 2018 through June 17, 2018. The questionnaire was also distributed in paper format at the Community Center and Hi-Desert Nature Museum, and at the Health & Community Resource Fair on May 12, 2018 and Grubstake Days Run on May 27, 2018. The questionnaire was designed to provide an opportunity for community members to provide input on parks and recreation priorities and needs. The questionnaire was promoted through the Town’s website and social media as well as various email list serve groups and online newsletters. Flyers were prepared and distributed to the Sports Council and recreation instructors for distribution to community members. As a result of this outreach effort and strong interest on the part of the community, a total of 643 respondents completed the entire questionnaire.

1.4 Plan Organization

This updated Master Plan is organized around a streamlined five-part structure:

Chapter 1: Introduction

The Master Plan begins with this introductory chapter that provides an overview of the planning process and public involvement efforts.

Chapter 2: Existing Conditions

The Existing Conditions chapter provides an overview of the Town’s planning context and a description of existing Town parks and facilities, recreation and cultural programs, as well as resources and recreation programs offered through other providers.

Chapter 3: Park and Recreation Needs

The Park and Recreation Needs chapter summarizes findings from community engagement efforts. It then identifies park land, recreation facility, and program needs based on the community input and an assessment of existing park and recreation amenities in the community.

Chapter 4: Vision, Goals & Recommendations

Chapter 4 presents a guiding vision and goals, criteria for decision makers to consider when considering future projects, general guidelines for park design, and recommendations and strategies to implement the vision. These include improvements at each existing park site location, suggestions for new parks and facilities, recommendations for sports facilities, enhancements for recreation programs, and organizational strategies to implement the vision.

Chapter 5: Implementation

To facilitate implementation of the plan, this chapter provides an overview of the review process for new projects, cost estimates for new and improved recreation

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

facilities, and a matrix that summarizes all recommendations contained in the Master Plan.



2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the Town and a description of existing Town parks and facilities, recreation and cultural programs, and local resources and recreation offered by other providers.

2.2 Planning Context

Regional Context

Yucca Valley is a Southern California high desert community (elevation 3,300 feet) situated in San Bernardino County between the San Bernardino Mountains and Joshua Tree National Park. The center of business for the Morongo Basin, Yucca Valley lies at the intersection of State Highway 62 (Twentynine Palms Highway) and State Highway 247 (Old Woman Springs Road) as shown in Figure 1.

With its rich western and mining heritage, Yucca Valley has maintained its small-town atmosphere while experiencing modest residential and commercial growth. Voters approved incorporation as a town in 1991. The community has thrived under local control since that time.

Figure 2-1: Yucca Valley in Context



Demographic Characteristics

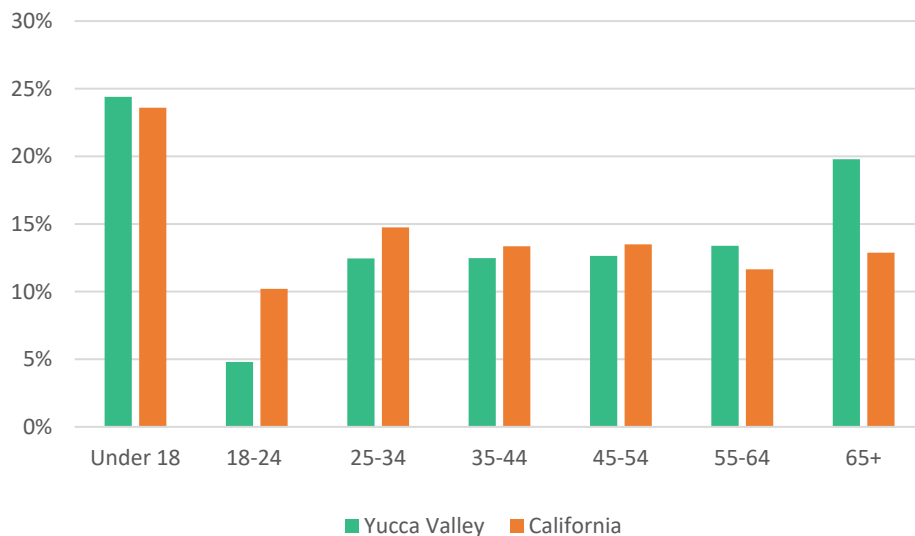
The Town of Yucca Valley has a current (2017) population of approximately 21,748, as estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau. Future development per the General Plan is projected to increase the Yucca Valley population to approximately 64,500, a figure that represents the ultimate build out of the Town’s Sphere of Influence, which will occur well beyond the horizon of this Master Plan.

National and regional recreation trends emphasize an outdoor lifestyle, physical and mental health, diverse options for older adults at multiple stages of life, universal design and access for people of all abilities, and a movement to connect children with nature. These trends point to several specific segments within the population that require special consideration in this plan.

The median age in Yucca Valley is 42 years of age, which is older than the national median of 38 years in 2017. The higher median age in Yucca Valley is due to the higher than typical percentage of residents age 65 and older. As more seniors choose to “age in place,” programming and services must evolve to address new demands.

Despite the higher median age, Yucca Valley’s population of those age 17 and under accounts for about 24 percent of the population, about the same as the statewide and national percentages of youth and children. Seniors and children are, anecdotally, high users of parks and recreation facilities and services in Yucca Valley. The number of both youth and seniors is projected to grow, since new residential development is likely to attract more young families and seniors, consistent with existing demographics.

Figure 2-2: Age Distribution in Yucca Valley and California



Yucca Valley’s population is less diverse than California as a whole: 80 percent of residents identify as White, compared to 62 percent statewide, and 17 percent identify as Hispanic, compared to 19 percent statewide. However, nearly 12 percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home.

According to the U.S. Census, the average Yucca Valley household size in 2016 was 2.49 persons, while the average family size was 3.19, which are slightly lower than statewide averages. Table 2-1 (Yucca Valley Housing Type) reveals that Yucca Valley has a higher than average rate of homeownership, when compared to the California average. Although the homeownership rate is higher, the median family income in 2016 was \$41,294 is lower than the California median income (\$63,783).

Table 2-1: Yucca Valley Housing Type

Housing Type	Yucca Valley	California Average
Owner Occupied Housing	63%	56%
Renter Occupied Housing	37%	44%

Source: U.S. Census (2012-2016 American Community Survey 50-Year Estimates)

A total of 14 percent of Yucca Valley adult residents have a four-year college degree or higher, which is lower than the national average (30 percent). For those town residents in the labor force, the average travel time to work is 29 minutes – the average worker in Yucca Valley spends approximately one hour a day traveling to and from work.

A Regional Service Area

Yucca Valley is often considered the hub of the Morongo Basin. Due to its location and the recreation resources it offers, the Town’s parks, facilities and recreation programs draw participants from beyond Yucca Valley’s town limits. This means that the population the Town serves is larger than its 21,000+ residents. The Town of Yucca Valley welcomes nonresidents to participate in events, activities, and experience the local parks.

2.3 Town Parks and Facilities

As of 2018, the Town of Yucca Valley oversees nine built parks and two open spaces encompassing over 270 acres within the Town limits. Figure 2-2 (Existing Parks) shows parks and facilities located in and immediately around Yucca Valley.

The ideal park system is composed of different types of parks, each offering unique recreation opportunities. Separately, each type of park may serve only one function, but collectively the park system will serve the entire range of community needs and offer a variety of benefits. The Town of Yucca Valley’s parks are organized into six park classifications: community parks, neighborhood parks, natural open space, special use areas, regional parks, and undeveloped land:

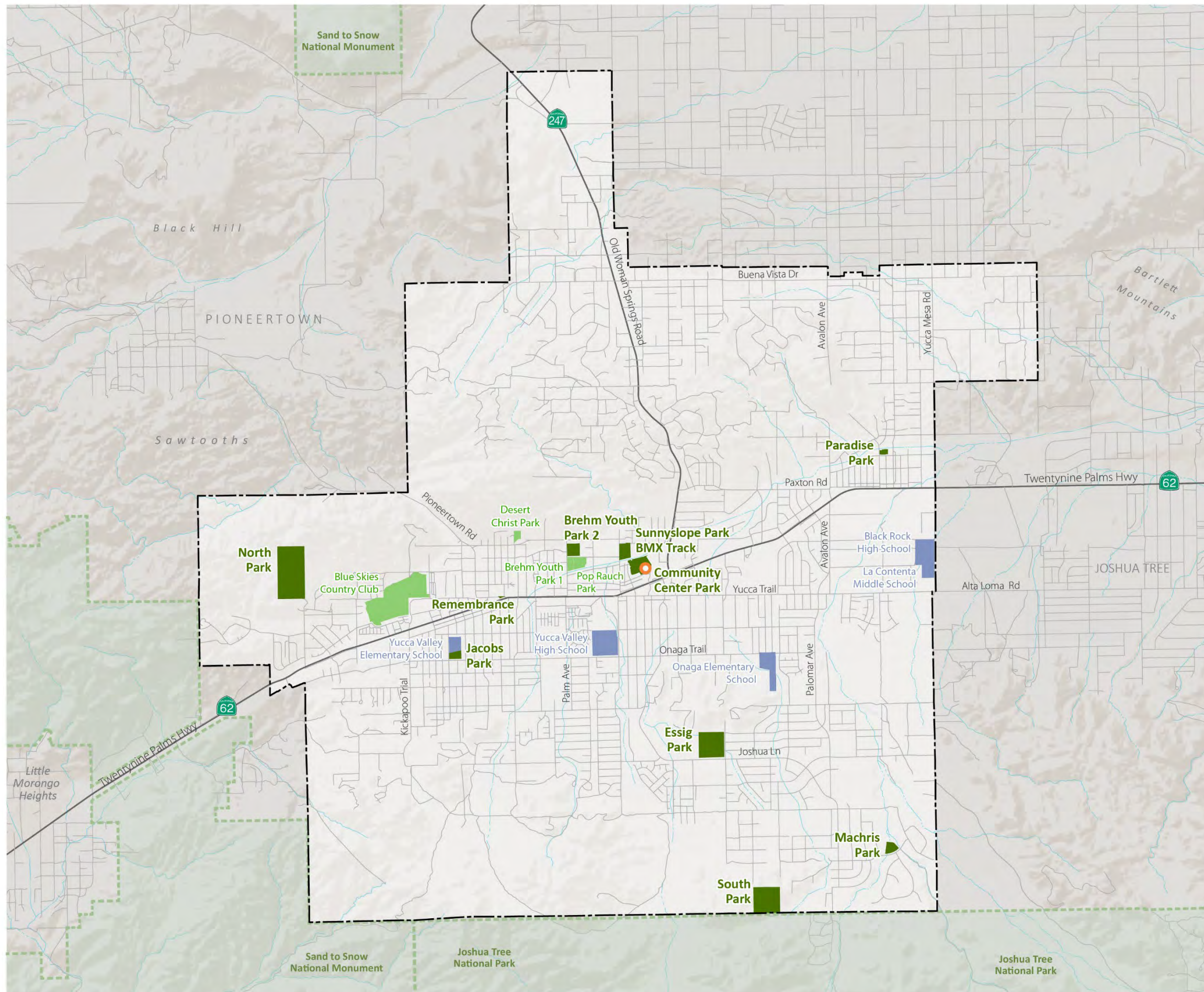
- Community Parks:** A community park (generally 15-40 acres) is planned primarily to provide opportunities for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Community parks can also provide indoor facilities to meet a wider range of recreation interests. Community parks serve a 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- to 3-mile radius.

- **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.
- **Natural Open Space:** Natural open space is defined as undeveloped land primarily left in its natural state 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. 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.
- **Special Use Areas:** Special use areas are sites often occupied by a specialized recreation facility. Some uses that fall into this category include community gardens, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, or sites occupied by recreation buildings.
- **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.
- **Undeveloped Land:** This land is undeveloped and has not yet been designated for a specific park use.



**Figure 2-2:
Existing Parks**
Yucca Valley Parks and
Recreation Master Plan



Yucca Valley Parks and Facilities

Parks

- Community Parks**
 Brehm Youth Park 2 (12 acres)
 Community Center Park (22.2 acres)
 Essig Park (80 acres)

Neighborhood Parks

- Jacobs Park (5 acres)
 Machris Park (12 acres)
 Paradise Park (5 acres)

Natural Land / Open Space

- North Park (80 acres)
 South Park (40 acres)

Special Use Parks

- Remembrance Park (0.2 acres)
 Sunnyslope Park BMX Track (11 acres)

Facilities

- Town Hall, Community Center, Hi-Desert Natural Museum,
 and Senior Center

Parks and Facilities Provided by Others

- Local Recreation Facilities
- Morongo Unified School District Schools
- National Parks and Monuments

Base Map Features

- Town Boundary
- Major Roads and Highways
- Local Roads
- Rivers and Streams

December 2018

M I G Sources: San Bernardino County, Town of Yucca Valley, and U.S. Census Bureau, 2018.



This page intentionally left blank.

Park Inventory

Table 1 summarizes Yucca Valley’s existing park inventory, organized by park classification and level of development. As this table shows, Yucca Valley’s parks range in size from 0.2 acres to 80 acres – together these spaces offer a variety of recreation opportunities including organized sports, informal play, hiking, picnicking and group gatherings.

Table 2-2: Park Inventory Summary

Park Site & Type	Total (Acres)	Developed (Acres)	Undeveloped (Acres)
Community			
Community Center Park ¹	22.2	19.9	2.3
Brehm Park 2 ²	12	10	2
Youth Sports Park (Brehm Park 1)	3.5	3.5	
Essig Park ³	80	7	73
Neighborhood			
Machris Park ⁴	12	12	-
Jacobs Park	5	5	-
Paradise Park	5	5	-
Natural Land/Open Space			
South Park	40	-	40
North Park	80	-	80
Special Use			
Sunnyslope Park and BMX Track ⁵	11	3	8
Remembrance Park	0.2	0.2	-
TOTAL	270.9	67.6	203.3

On the following pages, profiles of each park provide further detail about facilities available at each site. The profiles are presented in the same order as in Table 2-2 (Park Inventory Summary). These profiles present existing conditions – recommendations for individual park locations and systemwide recommendations are included in Chapter 4 (Recommendations).

¹ 22.2 total acres per 2013 Park Maintenance Transition Plan

² Brehm Parks 1 and 2 acreage per 2013 Park Maintenance Transition Plan

³ 7 acres of developed park land per 2014 General Plan; 80 total acres per 2013 Park Maintenance Transition Plan

⁴ 12 acres per 2014 General Plan

⁵ 11 acres of total park land per 2014 General Plan

Yucca Valley Community Center Park Complex



Community Center Complex

The Community Center Park Complex is a 22.2 acre community park and the location of important Yucca Valley community facilities including a Community Center with meeting rooms, the Hi Desert Nature Museum, a Senior Center, softball field with turf outfield, two sets of bleachers, two full lighted basketball courts, a group picnic shelter and two family picnic shelters, a lighted sand volleyball court, a skatepark, ages 2-5 and 5-12 playgrounds with swings, horseshoe pits, and restroom building. Community Center Park is the site of community events and has the largest expanse of open lawn. The Town prioritizes this park's lawn areas to keep it green, focusing its precious water

at this site that serves the entire community. The site is also the location of Town Hall, the former Library, and a public safety substation.

Brehm Park (known as Brehm Park 2)



Brehm Youth Sports Park

Brehm Park is a new 12-acre community park including a multi-use athletic field that hosts organized and informal soccer and softball play. It currently features two lighted soccer fields and a third undeveloped field, a Miracle League baseball field, covered picnic areas, ages 2-5 and 5-12 playgrounds, a flat track for roller blading, skating and derby, and restrooms. A community building is also on site, with a snack bar, meeting room, and several offices.

Youth Sports Park (known as Brehm Park 1)



Brehm Field

Located across Little League Drive from Brehm Park (and behind the Boys and Girls Club building) is a fenced and lighted soccer and baseball field, with a portable restroom, known as the Youth Sports Park, or Brehm Park 1.

Machris Park



Machris Park

Machris Park is a 12-acre neighborhood park with 29 parking spaces including three ADA spaces, a restroom and concession building, playground and swings, a fenced and lighted softball field, a basketball court, group picnic shelter, drinking fountains, dog waste station, and a small building with a community meeting room.

Essig Park



Essig Park

Essig Park, with seven developed acres, is Yucca Valley's newest park. It features covered picnic and grass areas, playground equipment, restrooms, and the Town's off-leash dog park. In addition to the existing developed park land, the Essig site also includes 73 acres of undeveloped park land which, when developed, will enable it to function as a community park.

Jacobs Park

*Jacobs Park*

Jacobs Park is a 5-acre neighborhood park, leased from the Morongo Unified School District. It has dirt tee-ball fields with two backstops, group picnic shelter, a restroom building, ages 2-5 and 5-12 playgrounds, two basketball half-courts, four fenced and lighted tennis courts, a ball wall court, a small community meeting building, and a small parking lot. Jacobs Park was updated in 2009 with the new tennis courts and ball wall, and in 2015 with new playground equipment and a shade shelter.

Paradise Park



Paradise Park

Paradise Park is a 5-acre neighborhood park, updated in 2017 with two full basketball courts (with lights), picnic shelter with three tables, a restroom, a recreation building, backstop with dirt tee-ball field, age 5-12 playground with swings, a pickleball court, walking path, small parking lot, and security lighting. Future updates planned for 2019 include additional landscaping and turf.

South Park



South Park

South Park consists of 40 acres of natural open space on patent from the Bureau of Land Management. Existing facilities include a trail head with a dirt parking lot and short 0.7 mile loop trail.

North Park



North Park

North Park includes 80 acres of natural open space on patent from the Bureau of Land Management. The Town of Yucca Valley recently purchased an adjacent parcel to gain access to North Park from a public street. Currently, this parkland is undeveloped with a rustic hiking trail.

Remembrance Park



Remembrance Park

Remembrance Park is a 0.2-acre park with a Veterans memorial, pathway, flagpole, and outdoor sculpture of a saber tooth tiger. It serves as a gateway feature to Yucca Valley and is classified as special use due to its function as a memorial site and beautification area.

Sunnyslope Park



Sunnyslope Park



Yucca Valley BMX

Sunnyslope Park is a 10.5-acre park, with 2.5 acres developed as a fenced BMX track with bleachers, snack bar, announcer booth, and 30 dirt parking spaces. The remaining eight acres are undeveloped.

2.4 Facilities and Services Provided by Others

In addition to the facilities offered by the Town of Yucca Valley, federal and county agencies and private and non-profit groups provide recreation facilities, activities, and programs to local residents and visitors.

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 attracts nearly 3 million visitors per year (2.85 million in 2017). 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. The Blackrock Canyon Campground can be accessed from Yucca Valley, near South Park.



Blackrock Canyon Campground

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 branch in Yucca Valley. Currently located within the Community Center complex, the County library is scheduled to move across Twentynine Palms Highway into a newly renovated, larger facility.

Public Schools and Colleges

Public schools are significant providers of open space and recreation facilities within the community. The Morongo Unified School District operates five schools serving the Yucca Valley population (three elementary schools, one middle school, a continuation school, and one high school). These facilities are generally not open to the public, but they do offer some recreation opportunities for students and others associated with the schools. However, the swimming pool located at the Yucca Valley High School is open to the public for limited summer hours. The Town manages and provides a summer aquatics program every year at the High School pool. It also rents the LaContenta Middle School multi-purpose room for its youth basketball program. Copper Mountain College, located twelve miles from Yucca Valley, is the nearest college, which is occasionally used by the Town as a rental facility and gymnasium.

Local Non-profit 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 1980s. Its gymnasium and meeting rooms are a well-used resource in 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 youth basketball league and other occasional activities and events.



Boys and Girls Club

Pop Rauch Memorial Park is currently owned and operated by Tri-Valley Little League, one of the few such organizations in the country that owns their own facilities. The park is located behind the Boys & Girls Club building, adjacent to the Youth Sports Park (Brehm Park 1). It consists of a baseball field, a junior baseball field, a softball field and a tee-ball field. The site also has restrooms, a snack bar, batting cages, bleachers

and parking. Pop Rauch Park is the home of the local Little League and Tee-Ball games and some regional tournaments.



Pop Rauch Park

The **Desert Christ Park**, originally founded on the site where the Evangelical Free Church now resides, is a five-acre sculpture garden operated and maintained by the Desert Christ Park Foundation. The Community Services Department 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** and **Yucca Valley High School** when needed.

In addition to these three entities, the **Center for Healthy Generations** provides a variety of exercise, arts and crafts programs, including warm water exercises in a small format pool, which is maintained at 89 to 91 degrees.

Private Providers

The **Hawks Landing Golf Club** is a 12-hole golf club located within Yucca Valley. Additional private fitness facilities include Five Star Gym & Fitness, CrossFit Joshua Tree, and CrossFit Yucca Valley.

2.5 Recreation Activities, 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. Human and social services are offered through local nonprofits along with Town, County, and State offices. The Town is a direct provider of recreation programs and services but also collaborates with local sports organizations to deliver a variety of sports programs, leagues, and tournament play. The Town and non-profit sports organizations serve thousands of Yucca Valley and surrounding area children annually in sports, including soccer, Little League baseball, football, basketball, etc.

Existing Town Recreation Programs and Services

As is the case with most municipal recreation departments, Yucca Valley provides many of their special interest classes through contractual arrangements with local instructors or private businesses, such as Stretch-N-Tone, Tai Chi Chuan, Wood Carving, Line Dancing, Art Workshops, Yoga, and Dog Obedience. Programs are currently provided for targeted age groups, from pre-school through active adults and seniors. In addition, very popular community events are provided throughout the year, as are seasonal activities. Town staff at the Hi Desert Nature Museum offer interpretive and educational programming in its recently renovated exhibit spaces.

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 Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Commission.

The Town's Recreation Division provides most recreation activities and programs at the Community Center Park complex, using the Community Center's classrooms and in the Senior Center. Aquatics programming, focused on learn-to-swim, occurs at the High School. 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, the Town does not have programming dedicated for residents with disabilities at this time. A notable exception is non-profit- operated Miracle League baseball field, which is dedicated for use by children and adults with special needs.

Family Fun Days, Summer Music Festival, and H-2-Oh! special events are favorite community summer activities. Other annual events include Grubstake Days, the Fourth of July Celebration, Halloween Spooktacular, the Annual Festival of Light Parade and Holiday Concerts, and Earth Day Fair. Family events for all major holidays are well attended.

Yucca Valley Recreation and museum staff produces two semi-annual Activity and Events Guides (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter) each year to promote recreation activities and services and provide residents with valuable community information by serving as a community resource guide.

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.

Other Recreation Opportunities

Youth soccer leagues are offered by the Morongo Valley Youth Soccer Association, with leagues that participate nine months out of the year.

Tri Valley Little League offers programs 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 February through June.

Bicycle motocross racing is held at the local BMX Track Mondays and Thursdays. Yucca Valley BMX is the non-profit organization that operates the track.

2.6 Existing Cultural Facilities and Programs

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.

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 years, the Town has developed a public art program which is complemented by a growing number of private galleries and public support for the arts has confirmed a community interest in expanding a diverse range of cultural opportunities.

Hi-Desert Nature Museum

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 50 years.

More than 20,000 visitors drop in or attend programs and activities on an annual basis. The facility houses temporary and permanent exhibits designed to offer attendees information about the history, art, culture, animal life and the geology of the area. The museum's natural history and cultural collections number over 3,000 specimens and artifacts. 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. The Museum also hosts a Chamber Music at the Museum series.

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.

San Bernardino County Library - Yucca Valley Branch

The Library is currently located in the Town Hall building within the current Community Center Complex but is slated to move to a newly renovated facility across State Highway 62 located across from the community center. The library offers themed activities for children, youth, and adults.

Community Organizations

In addition to the exhibits and programs at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and Yucca Valley Branch Library, several community organizations offer a variety of concerts, performing arts, festivals, and cultural events to the community, reflecting the vibrant art and music scene that exists throughout the basin.

The **Yucca Valley Visual & Performing Arts Center** is the newest cultural asset in the region, having opened in June 2018. It is an annex of the Hi-Desert Cultural Center based in Joshua Tree, a leading arts organization in the region. Its new 15,000 square foot facility in Yucca Valley offers a state-of-the-art gallery for exhibits but also a wide spectrum of studios for art creation and education.

Art in Public Places Program

The Yucca Valley Town Council adopted its first public art policy in the fall of 2002. The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Commission oversees the Arts in Public Places Program and is administered through the Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department.

When Yucca Valley incorporated in 1991, the public art inventory consisted of three sculptures. Since the adoption of the Public Arts Policy in 2003, eleven additional pieces have been acquired through donation or commission.

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.

This page intentionally left blank.

3. PARK AND RECREATION NEEDS



3.1 Introduction and Methodology

This chapter summarizes the information and analysis that form the basis of the recommendations for the 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, found in Chapter 4 and summarized in Chapter 5. This chapter presents trends, key findings from the public engagement process, and conclusions on park land, recreation facility, and program and service needs.

The process for completing the needs assessment included the following:

- Identifying relevant trends;
- Evaluating public input on needs;
- Comparing input on needs with the existing park system and the improvements since the 2008 Master Plan;
- Looking at the park land level of service (LOS) and identifying park land needs at build out of the Sphere of Influence; and
- Identifying facility and program needs based on public involvement and trends.

3.2 Trends

The 2008 Master Plan evaluated trends, drawing from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)'s national resources. At that time, trail-related recreation, financial constraints, partnerships and facility needs were major themes. These all continue to be topics of interest and concern for parks and recreation agencies today.

More recently, the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) conducted a statewide effort to engage park and recreation professionals across the state in a strategic planning process. Through a series of engagement activities, park and recreational professionals identified the key trends they see affecting parks and recreation. These are documented in CPRS's 2017-18 California Action Plan:

- Health and wellness
- Revenue generation and
- Cost recovery
- Changing technology
- Demographic and cultural diversity
- Social media
- Social equity
- Asset reinvestment
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Water conservation
- Aging populations
- Environmental sustainability



Many of the trends affecting parks and recreation today echo the trends NRPA identified in 2004, though some (e.g., changing technology, social media) have emerged since then and others (e.g., water conservation, diversity) are more pressing or more quickly emerging in California than in the rest of the U.S.

The trends influencing recreation in the region, state and nation are important to consider when evaluating needs in Yucca Valley.

3.3 Community Engagement Key Findings

The public involvement effort for the 2008 Master Plan process was vast and included public workshops, in-person interviews, a telephone survey, questionnaires, task forces, and feedback from a local radio-call in program. Yucca Valley conducts regular citizen satisfaction surveys, with the most recent survey conducted in 2017. The results of the 2017 Citizen Satisfaction Survey (conducted by True North Research) validated the direction of the Community Services Department by confirming that the community is overall satisfied with the parks and recreation services in Yucca Valley.

The outreach process for the 2018 Master Plan Update built directly on the strong foundation of the 2008 Master Plan and the findings of the 2017 Citizen Satisfaction Survey. It focused on confirming 2008 Master Plan directions through a community questionnaire and diving deeper into topics identified in either the 2017 survey or the 2008 Master Plan, including the arts, swimming/aquatics and sports, through contact with stakeholders. The detailed community engagement summaries as appendices to the Master Plan (Appendix A: Community Member Interview Summary and Appendix B: 2018 Community Questionnaire Summary)

Community Questionnaire Results

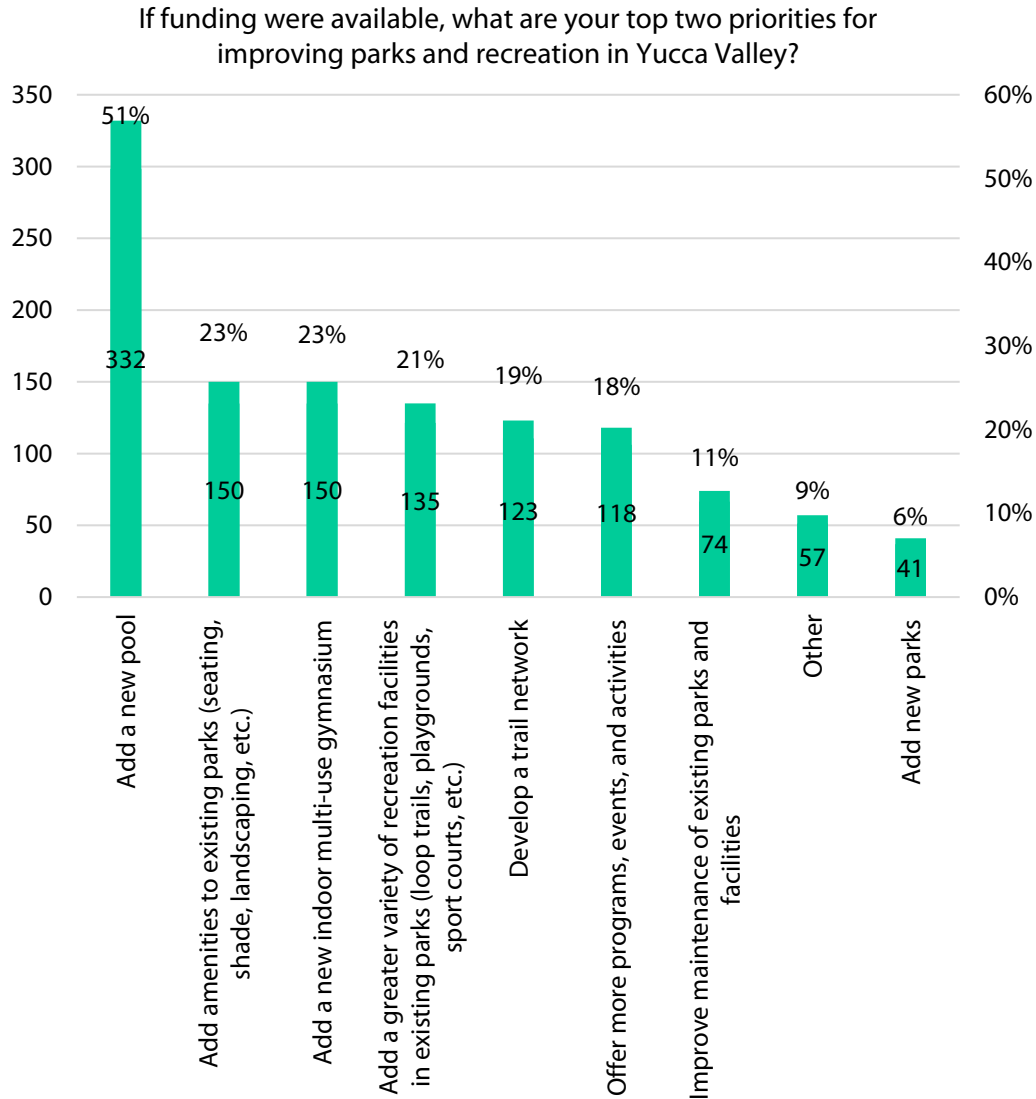
The questionnaire provided an opportunity for the Yucca Valley community to provide feedback on parks and recreation needs. This questionnaire was available online from May 11, 2018 to June 17, 2018, and paper versions were distributed at the Health & Community Resource Fair (May 12, 2018) and the Grubstake Days Run (May 27, 2018) and were available at the Community Center and Hi Desert Nature Museum.

A total of 777 people responded to at least a portion of the questionnaire, and 643 respondents who completed the entire questionnaire. Of these respondents, 94 percent lived in Yucca Valley or in a nearby community, and the majority (78 percent) represent adults aged 25-64. Adults aged 65 and older constituted 14 percent of the respondents. There were nearly three female respondents (73 percent) to every male (22 percent) who completed a questionnaire, and nearly 50 percent were from households with children under the age of 18. A majority (60 percent) had lived in Yucca Valley for 10 or more years.

- Residents appreciate the existing facilities, parks, recreational activities, and events in Yucca Valley. Parks are frequented throughout the community and a large portion (41%) of respondents have participated in programs, classes, and events. Participants value the reasonable prices of Town-provided programs, activities, and classes, and the opportunity to try something new.
- When asked what new park or facilities were desired, building a new pool or aquatic center was identified as the number one priority for 44 percent of questionnaire respondents. The current pool is primarily used for recreation and swim lessons, and respondents would like more shade, recreational features (such as a splash pad), open swim hours, and aquatic fitness programs in a new facility. A slight majority prefer a new indoor pool instead of an outdoor facility.
- Despite a limited natural trail system, sidewalks, pathways, and trails are an important part of Yucca Valley's parks and recreation system. A majority of respondents (51%) use the trails and pathways in Yucca Valley. Trails and parkways are used primarily for walking/jogging and nature walks. Respondents would like to see more nature trails and more bicycle and pedestrian facilities both within parks and between parks and popular facilities.
- In addition to a new aquatic facility, respondents indicated that investing in existing parks is another priority for funding, either through adding amenities

(shade, benches, and landscaping) or additional recreation opportunities (loop trails, playgrounds, and sports courts).

Figure 3-1: Community Questionnaire – Top Two Priorities



- The creation of positive activities for youth is the top-rated benefit of parks and recreation.
- Almost a third of participants (31%) would like to see aquatic programming expanded and 29 percent would like to see more special events (such as concerts, movies, art shows, and festivals).
- Participants said that a greater variety of programming (38%); flexible scheduling, short classes, or drop-in opportunities (26%); earlier or later operating hours to fit their schedule (27%); weekend programming (21%); and improved facilities (21%) would increase their interest and availability to participate in events, classes, and programs.

Community Member Interviews

Interviews were conducted with a cross-section of community members, including representatives from the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council, aquatics service providers, seniors, Chamber of Commerce, Boys and Girls Club, Youth Commission, Sports Council attendees, Town Council Members, and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Commission members. Key highlights from these interviews are noted below:

- The need for a new swimming pool/aquatic center, preferably one associated with a fitness facility and/or community center, was expressed by many interviewees. These community members pointed out that although Yucca Valley is located in a desert climate, most private homes in town lack swimming pools (unlike in some other desert communities). In addition, the interviewees noted that the public pool at the High School was generally not perceived by the community as readily available to members of the public.
- Several participants expressed the need for an indoor recreation facility or gymnasium, especially during the hot summer months. According to their input, a more modern, larger facility than the existing Boys & Girls Club building is needed to provide youth a place where they can engage in healthy, active, indoor activities throughout the year. Some recommended a gymnasium be built in conjunction with an indoor aquatic center, but if that is not possible then a new stand-alone facility was desired.
- Several interviewees noted the need for more hiking and biking paths throughout the town. A hiking path along the wash behind the community center was suggested as a starting point and that these flood control channels could be used as the spine for a linear park extending throughout the town and beyond. Development of a cohesive, comprehensive walking path system linking Old Town with the rest of the community was also seen as an economic development strategy.
- Participants noted the important role Yucca Valley's public parks serve by providing green grass in a desert community where most homes do not have green lawns. They pointed out the need for green grass for public gathering spaces, not only for athletic fields.
- Enhancements to existing parks were requested such as more shade structures and trees, new tables and seating, play equipment, splash pads, and improved restrooms. In addition, interviewees noted that current maintenance levels should be improved, including restroom cleanliness.
- It was noted that Little League Park has a lengthy list of costly deferred maintenance needs that must be met, including a need to upgrade lighting and become ADA compliant. The private non-profit that owns and operates the facility lacks the financial resources to make these critical improvements. A potential option was noted to transfer the facility to the Town to address these maintenance needs, while freeing Tri-Valley Little League to focus on operating the little league program.
- Expansion of the park system was described as a way to encourage economic development and improve the overall livability of the community. Participants also suggested that new parks and facilities be designed to reflect the natural

beauty and aesthetics of the desert and the distinctive character of the Yucca Valley community.

- Recreation programs were valued as a means for building fellowship and community. Participants noted the Town's existing successful events such as the Summer Music Festival, 4th of July, and Grubstake Days events and would like to see additional events such as a farmer's market and arts and cultural events. It was recommended that there be at least one major, community-wide event each month and that these events should be all day affairs, enabling people to come and go throughout the day, rather than be limited to only a few hours. There is a desire to see more family-oriented events on weekends, such as movies in the park.
- Participants discussed the need for a working arts center, where artists can practice and perform their craft, give lessons, and further the arts movement in Yucca Valley. Participants also recommended that the Town consider incentives for more art in parks and public places and murals throughout town.
- More multi-generational recreational programming was requested. All segments of the population should be served, including youth, seniors, people with disabilities, etc. Although the Town is seen as doing an excellent job providing recreational programs for most children and teens, some see a need for more adult-oriented and senior programming.
- The Yucca Valley community has done well meeting the recreational needs of its younger population by providing a wide range of athletic team and other sports programs, but it was observed that not all youth are drawn to participate in sports. A variety of non-athletic programs are needed to meet the recreational and social needs of this segment of the youth population. In addition, some believe existing recreation programs are mostly geared for younger children and that programs targeting older teens and younger adults (ages 12 to 21) are needed.
- At the time of the interviews, the Town's Senior Center was primarily used as the location for the County-run lunch program with very limited hours. Many interviewees noted that programming for seniors needs to be expanded. In 2018, senior center programming and hours of operation were expanded with Measure Y funding. However, the senior center facility is dated and does not provide the spaces typically found in senior centers today, including social space, library/game room, meeting rooms, space for private consultations (medical and legal), and a welcoming and accessible entry. Participants noted that board games, ping pong, and pool tables would be a welcome addition and support social interaction. (In 2018, hours and programming were expanded at the Senior Center but remain somewhat limited).
- It was observed that the Town should form more partnerships with the existing network of clubs and non-profits in Yucca Valley to expand the scope and depth of recreational and social opportunities available to the community. These partnerships could also be leveraged through a shared-facilities plan in which the Town, along with the school district, and other local community

organizations would pool their resources to finance the construction of major recreational facilities.

- Members of the Sports Council would like to host All Stars Tournaments, which require concurrent use of multiple facilities. The Sports Council noted their priorities included enhanced coordination to maximize facilities use, increasing parent and community involvement, and building pride in the community through exemplary programs and levels of service.

3.4 Park Land Needs

When the 2008 Master Plan was adopted, the Town of Yucca Valley had not built any new community recreation facilities for over 30 years, although it had purchased park property and had park property acquired through land dedication by developers. Since 2008, the Town has acquired the new 12-acre Brehm Youth Sports Park (Brehm Park 2) and developed the new 7-acre Essig Park, increasing total developed park acreage by 19 acres.

Park acreage standards are generally expressed as an acreage requirement per 1,000 residents, particularly in California where the Quimby Act references acres per 1,000 specifically. 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.

The Yucca Valley Park Dedication and In-Lieu Fee Ordinance adopted in 2005 is specifically designed to provide the Town with sufficient parkland to meet its level of service standard of three acres per 1,000 persons as the Town's population grows. Currently, Yucca Valley has over 270 acres of parkland, 67.6 acres of which is developed.

Table 3-1 (Current and Future Park Acreage Needs) analyzes parkland needs based on the Town's parkland standard. As this table shows, at the current population of 21,748, Yucca Valley meets its standard of 3 acres per 1,000. As noted in Chapter 2, it is anticipated that at build-out, the Town population will grow in population to 64,559 residents.

Table 3-1: Current and Future Park Acreage Needs

	2018	At Build Out
Population	21,748	64,559
Park LOS Standard	3 Acres / 1000	3 Acres / 1000
Acres Required	65.24	193.70
Acreage of Developed Parks, 2018	67.6	67.6
Level of Service (Expressed in Acres/1,000)	3.11	1.05
Amount of Park Acreage Needed	0	126 acres

As Table 3-1 shows, with its 2018 park inventory and population, Yucca Valley meets its LOS standard. In the future, Yucca Valley will need 126 more acres of park land to serve its projected population.

3.5 Recreation Facility Needs

Recreation facilities that support play, learning, and exercise are a critical part of the overall park system. At present, Yucca Valley has wide variety of recreation facilities located throughout the town, a greater variety than many communities of its size. Input from the public together with on-site observations suggested ways to further improve and expand the current array of recreation facilities available to the public. Highlights include the following:

- **New Aquatics Facility.** Aquatic programs are especially valued by the community. The only available aquatic facility is the high school pool, which is only available for a small portion of time and is only suitable for a portion of swimming and aquatics recreation needs. A significant majority of respondents to the questionnaire and individual interviewees believe a new pool or aquatic center should be a priority. An aquatics center was also the top priority in the 2017 Community Satisfaction Survey. The Town of Yucca Valley has a need for a swimming pool, one that is available more consistently to the public, throughout the day and year, and that can support a greater variety of aquatics programming. A summary of general aquatic facility trends and potential elements for an aquatic facility is provided at the end of this section.
- **Enhanced Senior Programming Space.** Many interviewees expressed a desire to expand programming for the senior population. The current Senior Center building in Community Center Park is an outdated building that lacks the necessary capacity and flexibility to adequately serve the needs of Yucca Valley's older adults. Given these limitations, there is a need for more programming space for seniors. The existing Senior Center is well-located in the central hub of Yucca Valley, and renovation and expansion should be explored to create a more appealing and functional facility.
- **Ongoing Reinvestment in the Community Center.** The Community Center is a highly utilized facility for Town programs, Council and Commission meetings, and community rentals. The facility is in good condition, but some interior spaces have potential for renovation to add capacity and functionality and improve connections between indoor spaces and exterior spaces.
- **Gymnasium Space.** The Town of Yucca Valley provides a wide range of outdoor athletic facilities but does not have an indoor recreational facility such as an indoor gymnasium. The Town currently relies on private gymnasiums, primarily the Boys & Girls Club, which by itself is insufficient and in need of significant physical renovation. Yucca Valley's hot summer months and often windy conditions mean that indoor space is needed to serve the recreational needs of the community throughout the year. A gymnasium can serve multiple sports and fitness functions, including basketball, pickleball, volleyball and fitness classes. In addition, there is potential to develop a

combined gymnasium and aquatic center, which could result in cost savings for both construction and operations.

- **Arts Space.** Yucca Valley and the Morongo Basin is an arts hub—arts and culture should be fostered through arts space and cultural activities. In 2018, the Yucca Valley Visual and Performing Arts Center, an annex of the nonprofit Hi-Desert Cultural Center, opened to the public. The 15,000 square foot arts facility includes a gallery, space for arts creation, and arts education, including a broadcast studio, fabric arts studio, dance arts studio, visual arts studio, metal/wood arts studio, a workshop for theatrical scenic production, and outdoor exhibit space. As the Yucca Valley Visual and Performing Arts Center continues to flourish, the Town should consider opportunities for partnerships and any gaps in programming that could be supplemented in one of the buildings at Community Center Park.
- **Replacement Skate Park.** The existing Skate Park in Community Center Park is outdated and should be replaced. An entirely new skate park can be built at Community Center Park and with a more modern design can offer more features in a smaller space.
- **More Walking and Running Routes.** Nationally, regionally and locally, walking is the most popular recreation activity and the one that has the highest participation rates. According to a 2018 report by the City Parks Alliance (Active Parks, Healthy Cities), walking loops increase park use by 80%, including twice as many seniors, and 90% higher levels of moderate-to-vigorous exercise. Public engagement confirms that walking and jogging is a popular activity for many Yucca Valley residents. Existing trails, walking paths, and bike lanes within the community are limited. More looped routes and/or an expanded connected system of trails, bike lanes, and pathways (as identified in the General Plan Circulation Element) will provide more walking and running opportunities, improve connections between parks and within the town as whole. This network can be built in stages and will offer residents of all ages a valuable recreational asset while also providing a safe alternative to the automobile for getting around town.
- **Quality Sports Fields.** Sports fields owned and maintained by the Town are in good condition. However, there are a number of different sports field providers and quality varies. More consistent field quality on fields in town would improve the sports experience.
- **Partnerships for Facility Development.** The Town has been an effective partner working with others on parks and outdoor facilities. There is an opportunity to explore partnerships with other local entities such as the school district, local sport organizations, user groups, non-profits and potentially even businesses to renovate or develop new recreation facilities.
- **Equestrian Center.** An equestrian center to facilitate rodeo use has been studied in the past and is not identified as a priority by the community.

Aquatic Facility Trends

An aquatics facility may be an indoor or outdoor facility and may include more than one tank, as well as associated support facilities. There are several design

characteristics and trends that the Town should consider in the planning and design of a new aquatics facility:

- **Leisure and recreation:** Swimming for recreation accounts for the majority of swimming participation. Therefore, pools should be designed for fun and play, and for different skill levels. Warmer water temperature, a zero-depth entry, float channels, and interactive play features encourage recreation.
- **Health and fitness:** Swimming for fitness and water-based exercise programs are also areas of strong participation. Therefore, pools should also be designed, operated and programmed to allow for aquatics exercise, including water-based fitness classes.
- **Programming diversity:** A full range of aquatics programming provides the most opportunity for users and also increases revenue potential. Programs that focus on recreation, while supporting competition, will draw a higher number of users than a single type of programming or a pool designed for one primary user type. Swimming lessons, open and lap swim times, competitive practices and meets, and exercise programs should all be considered for the new facility.
- **Maximizing revenue:** Aquatics facilities are costly to operate and require an operational subsidy. Revenue to offset the operational cost is maximized by high use of the pool or pool complex, which is achieved through programming diversity and a facility design that supports that. Features such as party rooms and concessions stands add revenue generating potential.
- **Minimizing costs:** Operational costs can be minimized by facility design. For example, some features (such as wave pools) require significantly more lifeguards, which increase costs. Also, due to the substantially increased volume of water, 50-meter pools are more costly to operate.
- **Accessibility:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations require new or rebuilt pools and aquatics facilities to comply with accessible design standards, most recently updated in 2010. ADA Standards for Accessible Design require accessible pool entrances and exits, deck space, accessible lifts and other design elements that should be factored into the design of a new facility.

Potential Aquatic Facility Elements

There are several elements that may be included in the aquatic center. Each element is described and discussed below.

- **Competitive and lap pools:** Competitive/lap pools are commonly designed with 25-yard, 25-meter or 50-meter lengths, with as few as four (though six is preferred) to ten or more lanes. Water temperature is cooler, typically around 82 degrees. While 25-yard pools are preferred in the U.S. over 25-meter pools, both lengths can be used for competitive and lap swimming. In contrast, 50-meter meter pools are typically oriented for competitive swimming only and may be designed with a 2-meter depth across the entire pool.

- **Leisure or recreation pools:** Leisure pools are designed for water play and typically have a free-form design with a 0' depth entry, slides and water play features. Popular elements of leisure pools include splash or spray areas, current channels with faster moving water, a vortex, and a "lazy river" with slower water that mimics a meandering channel of water. Some leisure pools include a wave pool which mimics ocean waves. Water is warmer in leisure pools, generally at least 86 degrees.
- **Spas:** Spas are small, hot water (approximately 100 degrees) soaking pools, often with jets.
- **Bathhouses/locker rooms:** These should have showers, restrooms and changing/locker areas. Current trends favor single occupancy changing rooms opening off an open access locker area.
- **Deck space:** Deck space is the term for poolside space for lounging and socializing and is another important component at aquatic complexes to create a good visitor experience for swimmers and spectators. If an outdoor facility, shaded areas should be included. The existing pool in Yucca Valley has very limited deck space.
- **Reservable space:** Reservable space for birthday parties and events is an important component for revenue generation and can be provided through a private room or in a reservable deck area.
- **Office space/storage:** These support spaces are important to effective programming and pool operations.

3.6 Program and Service Needs

Responses to the community questionnaire indicate that the community is well-served by the wide array of athletic activities, both team and individual sports, now available. Sports activities are currently the most popular recreational activity offered by the Town. Based on the community questionnaire results and the results of the Community Satisfaction Survey, there is a desire to expand recreational program offerings to serve a broader cross-section of the community.

In the questionnaire, when asked "what types of recreation programs would you most like to see offered or expanded in Yucca Valley", respondents selected aquatic programming most frequently (31 percent) followed by special events (29 percent), education/enrichment classes (23 percent), and fitness/wellness programs (23 percent). Athletics were selected by significantly fewer respondents (13 percent), indicating that there are adequate opportunities available for athletics in Yucca Valley.

Participants also indicated they wanted to see a greater variety of recreational programming and event choices. Key findings from the interviews suggest ways this could be achieved:

- **Community-wide events** such as concerts in the park and Grubstakes are very popular and more such events are desired. It was suggested that the Town, in partnership with other community organizations, schedule a major community-wide event each month and design these events to run longer

(not just in the evening) so there is a more of an opportunity for all segments of the community to participate.

- **More multi-generational programming** or programming that serves more spectrums of the population. Local youth, especially those under age 12, are well served by the current array of recreational programming, but there is a desire to improve and expand recreational offerings for other age groups. This includes programs that can serve teens and young adults, who currently have very limited options.
- **A greater variety of programming options for seniors and older adults** is needed. While senior programming was expanded in 2018 with additional hours of operation for the Senior Center, the current senior programming remains limited and does not respond to the needs of active older adults. Expanding programming to include more comprehensive senior services program with recreational, educational, and social activities targeted to this group should be a priority.
- **More educational and enrichment opportunities** are needed. Although local youth are well served by various sport programs, non-athletic activities are also needed to meet the recreational and social needs of youth (and adults) who are interested in pursuing other leisure pursuits, such as those offered in educational and enrichment classes. Expanding the number and variety of these offerings can benefit all age groups, including seniors.

4. VISION, GOALS, & RECOMMENDATIONS



4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a guiding vision and goals for Yucca Valley's parks and recreation services, resulting from the community engagement process. The chapter also includes criteria for decision makers to consider for future project prioritization and approval, as well as general guidelines for park design. The chapter concludes with recommendations to implement Yucca Valley's vision for parks and recreation.

4.2 Vision and Goals

The vision and goals describe the preferred future for Yucca Valley's parks and recreation system. Together, the vision and goals provide a planning framework for the recommendations and strategies presented in this chapter.

Vision:

The Town of Yucca Valley is a unique, eclectic community that supports a network of parks and natural areas, a variety of recreation facilities and programs, and special events that bring the community together. The Town's park system fosters a healthy, rich lifestyle for all residents and visitors to enjoy, regardless of age or ability, under the clear skies and fresh air of the high desert.

Goals

Seven goals guide the Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan, reflecting community values and implementing the vision. These goals provide overarching

direction for the Town. In addition to shaping the recommendations and strategies included in this chapter, these goals are a tool to guide future decisions and ensure consistent long-term direction for service provision.

1. Diversify recreation and play experiences for variety in programming, activities, and experiences to serve community members of all ages and abilities.
2. Enhance and maintain existing parks and recreational facilities.
3. Enable the judicious expansion and renovation of the park and recreation system over time to keep pace with population growth and changing community needs.
4. Provide high-quality aquatics facilities and programs.
5. Create an interconnected network of pathways and trails linking parks and neighborhoods to destinations throughout the community, incorporating access and efficiency in site planning and project implementation.
6. Promote Yucca Valley's unique identity, economic vitality, and community cohesion through parks and natural areas, events and programs, placemaking, and tourism.
7. Ensure the long-term health of the parks and recreation system through efficient, effective operations, partnership opportunities, and wise stewardship.

4.3 Criteria for Project Consideration

When considering the priority of projects and programs and the order in which they are implemented, the following set of criteria will be used as a guide to identify the benefit to the community and parks system in relation to other projects and programs. These criteria will not provide a numerical score but will inform staff, the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Commission, and the Town Council how a particular program could serve community needs. Staff, Commissioners, and ultimately the Town Council will determine the final order of implementation as part of the established Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and operating budget process.

The following criteria are presented to assist with deciding how best to allocate resources among various project and program options when new funding opportunities become available:

- **Provides multiple benefits.** Proposed projects that can advance more than one goal in the Parks Master Plan and/or meet other community goals, such as economic development or mobility goals.
- **Has other funding or partnerships available.** Projects that have potential for other types of funding, such as grants, donations, or other partner contributions, compared to other projects without other funding opportunities.
- **Meets identified needs.** Projects that address gaps in service, as identified within this Plan update.

- **Improves recreation resources.** Projects that have the ability to maintain or enhance the condition of existing Town parks and to expand recreation opportunities.
- **Increases maintenance efficiency.** Projects that will reduce maintenance costs and improve efficiency.

4.4 Guidelines for Park Design

Overall, Yucca Valley should meet the following guidelines in all community, neighborhood, and special use parks:

- Provide opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle access, and clear access for people arriving by car.
- Incorporate planting areas and trees.
- Include a small area of green turf, especially in community parks. This is an aspect of Yucca Valley's parks that is highly valued by community members as a respite from the high desert environment.
- Incorporate shade throughout parks.
- Incorporate a walking path.
- Incorporate benches, shelter structures of varying sizes, and playgrounds (including nature play and non-traditional play environments).
- Make each site different, with its own set of facilities and amenities.

4.5 Master Plan Recommendations Indicators

To achieve Yucca Valley's vision for parks and recreation, this chapter identifies the specific recommendations for improvements and augmentations to the parks and recreation system. While new projects and opportunities may arise during the life of the Master Plan, there are many programs and projects that we know today are needs and/or opportunities. These programs and projects have been arranged from high to low priority within the following four groups: 1) Existing Park Enhancements, 2) Major Projects, 3) Other Projects/Programs, and 4) Organizational Programs. Each priority program or project includes five indicators in a callout box, identifying the project's Priority, Time Frame, Level of Planning Effort, Capital Cost, and Operating Cost.

Priority

Priority indicates the level of need. All projects within this Master Plan have a demonstrated need, but the level of priority varies based on the availability of a particular amenity or program as compared to the demand. Priority can also be a consideration of time sensitivity. For example, if a project will influence or guide future operations, that project would have a high level of priority. A project could also be considered high priority if failure to act results in a missed opportunity, such as loss of a potential funding source. Priorities are defined as lower, medium, and high.

Time Frame

Time Frame indicates whether project activity will occur in the near, mid, or long term. All of the high-priority projects identified will require attention in the near term. Some projects can be initiated and completed within a single time frame. However, many will be ongoing or will require different actions across multiple time frames.

- Near-Term (0-5 years): The Town's CIP includes capital projects planned for a five-year period. As each year's projects are completed, the annual budgeting process includes the addition of another year on the rolling five-year CIP. New projects identified in the Master Plan will be proposed through the annual CIP process. Programs can be implemented sooner, as funding is available.
- Mid-Term (6-10 years): In the mid-term, more of the new ideas generated in this Master Plan will be cycled into the CIP process, and preliminary work will advance the larger capital projects. New programs will be established enough to evaluate, and new ideas can continue to be added.
- Long-Term (11-20 years): The long-term timeline includes projects that require significant up-front work and planning, represent long-term, ongoing investments, or demand extraordinary funding strategies that have not yet been identified. Several projects may not be completed until this time frame; however, all will have been initiated and incorporated into the planning structure in a previous time frame.

Level of Planning Effort

Planning Effort represents the amount of time, effort, and cost associated with planning the project. Projects could require varying levels of community outreach, budget, staff resource allocation, environmental review, and Commission and Council approval.

Capital Cost

Capital Cost provides an indication of the magnitude of capital cost to implement the project, shown by dollar signs as follows:

- \$ (<\$250,000)
- \$\$ (\$250,000 to \$1,000,000)
- \$\$\$ (\$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000)
- \$\$\$\$ (>\$5,000,000)

Added Annual Operating Cost

Annual Operating Cost estimates the added annual net operating cost once the project is in place, also indicated by dollar signs as follows:

- \$ (<\$10,000)
- \$\$ (\$10,000 to \$50,000)
- \$\$\$ (\$50,000+)

4.6 Recommendations for Existing Yucca Valley Parks

Yucca Valley has a network of parks that collectively offer an impressive variety of recreation facilities, support a range of recreation activities, and incorporate user amenities. This section provides specific recommendations for each of the Town's ten parks.

COMMUNITY CENTER PARK

PRIORITY: High
(Maintain, Master Plan, Enhance Skate Park)
Medium (Additional Enhancements)
TIME FRAME: Near (Planning and Design)
Near to Mid (Construction)
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium to High
CAPITAL COST: Master Plan: \$
Improvements: \$\$ - \$\$\$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

Program 1-1. Community Center Park & Town Hall Complex

Community Center Park is the central hub for the Yucca Valley community. The buildings and facilities located at the park and in the Town Hall Complex house important community functions and are also used for family events. This park is also a hub for recreation programs and events.

- Maintain the park’s green turf, the highest priority turf area in Yucca Valley’s park system.
- Develop a master plan for paths and pedestrian connections for the entire site, linking all the public spaces and buildings in a user-friendly path network that enhances the park experience. Address vehicle concerns and conflicts associated with parking and drive aisles located between the playground and fields. Consider event needs, a promenade connecting these areas, and a potential connection to the BMX track as part of this pathway plan.
- Implement pathway improvements in phases.
- As part of any major facility project at this site (such as renovation of the Senior Center or the addition of a new building), prepare an updated master plan for the entire park and its connections to other facilities.
- Add outdoor ping pong or other small-scale games.
- Upgrade/rebuild the skate park.
- Expand the play area, add nature play or interpretive climbable art elements, add more seating and shade, and replace the shade shelter to provide a new look that presents Yucca Valley’s brand and image.
- Consider this site for a splash pad or mist fountain.
- See recommendations for the indoor facilities at Community Center Park in section 4.9.
- See Town Loop recommendation in section 4.7.

BREHM PARKS 1&2

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Near (Complete clubhouse, third field, and landscaping)
Mid (Add additional features)
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium
CAPITAL COST: Master Plan: \$
Improvements: \$\$- \$\$\$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

Program 1-2. Brehm Parks (1 and 2)

Brehm Park incorporates two sites, one of which was built by a benefactor and transferred to the Town. This site includes soccer fields, picnic areas, a Miracle League baseball field that is fully accessible, and a modest flat track roller derby area that is no longer functioning.

- Complete the clubhouse, including interior.
- Revisit the Master Plan to ensure the recommended improvements are considered as a whole.
- Enhance the third field as a multipurpose field and bring it up to the same level of quality as the two improved fields.
- Complete the walking path.
- Add trees and more shade, with more space to support general recreation and park use.
- Add features to make the play area/playground more interesting and engaging (or add a second play area). The intent is to provide a universally accessible play area with high play value for children with and without disabilities, that has seating and amenities for parents and caregivers.
- Consider adding fitness equipment or a par-course.

- Repurpose or phase out the flat track area if an active user group does not manage or program it.
- Consider strategic expansions of Brehm Park, if adjacent properties become available.
- See Brehm Park Recreation Hub recommendation in section 4.7.
- See Town Loop recommendation in section 4.7.

Program 1-3. Sunnyslope Park/BMX Track

The BMX Track is a top-tier facility operated under contract with a private operator who has regular open hours each week and hosts a major BMX event that attracts visitors to Yucca Valley.

- Maintain a contract with an effective private operator with expertise in BMX.
- Review any proposed facility improvements proposed by the operator.
- Ensure the facility is maintained in excellent condition.
- See Town Loop recommendation in section 4.7.

Program 1-4. North Park

North Park is an open space area on the northwestern edge of Yucca Valley, connecting to the surrounding desert landscape.

- Develop an access point/view point with a trailhead.
- Consider developing a multipurpose trail for hikers and mountain bikers.
- Identify and implement parking options.

Program 1-5. South Park

South Park is an open space area on the southeastern edge of Yucca Valley, adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park (JTNP).

- Leverage the site's access to surrounding open space/JTNP. Work with the JTNP staff to explore a hiking trail connection into JTNP from South Park, possibly with a connection to Black Rock Canyon Campground.
- Develop as a trailhead with signage designed to deter theft of the sign.
- Consider adding a vault toilet (such as CXT waterless restroom) or composting toilet (such as Phoenix Composting Toilet).

Program 1-6. Machris Park

Machris Park is a neighborhood park on the southeastern edge of the town. It is a lower demand park with fewer residences nearby than other neighborhood parks in Yucca Valley.

- Add shade, especially over the play area.
- Consider desert plantings to enhance the park experience.
- Consider the addition of a perimeter walking path (natural surface or paved).

SUNNYSLOPE PARK

PRIORITY: Lower
TIME FRAME: Ongoing
PLANNING EFFORT: Lower
CAPITAL COST: \$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$
 Z

NORTH PARK

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Near
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium
CAPITAL COST: \$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

SOUTH PARK

PRIORITY: Lower
TIME FRAME: Long
PLANNING EFFORT: Lower
CAPITAL COST: \$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

MACHRIS PARK

PRIORITY: Lower
TIME FRAME: Long
PLANNING EFFORT: Lower
CAPITAL COST: \$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

JACOBS PARK

PRIORITY: Medium
TIME FRAME: Mid
PLANNING EFFORT: Lower
CAPITAL COST: \$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

Program 1-7. Jacobs Park

Jacobs Park is a neighborhood park located adjacent to Yucca Valley Elementary School. It is centrally located within a neighborhood on the west side of Yucca Valley. It has had recent improvements, including new playground equipment and a shade structure in 2015 and new tennis courts and ball wall in 2009.

- Add additional enhancements, including plantings and green, a top community priority in Yucca Valley.
- Install enhanced site furnishings, more plantings, and shade.
- Consider installing turf in the future to provide a small green area for neighborhood kids and families. The green area should be located between the playground and the basketball hoops.
- Consider adding a perimeter walking loop within the park

PARADISE PARK

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Near
PLANNING EFFORT: Lower
CAPITAL COST: \$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

Program 1-8. Paradise Park

Paradise Park is a small neighborhood park on the northeastern edge of Yucca Valley. The neighborhood near Paradise Park cannot easily access other parks or schools, and therefore is dependent on Paradise Park as its public space. Paradise Park was renovated in 2017 with new playground equipment, a shade shelter, basketball courts, a pickleball court, a walking path, and lighting.

- Complete the landscaping and turf improvement planned for 2019.
- Consider adding even more shade – a shade structure, shade sails, or trees.
- Enhance pedestrian connections so neighborhood families and children feel safe walking to Paradise Park.

ESSIG PARK

PRIORITY: Medium
TIME FRAME: Mid (Improvements) and Long (Developing Undeveloped Areas)
PLANNING EFFORT: Lower
CAPITAL COST: \$\$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

Program 1-9. Essig Park

Essig Park, built in 2012, is a neighborhood park with a special feature: Yucca Valley's dog park. The park also includes a large playground, shade shelter, and restrooms. Only a portion of Essig Park's acreage is currently developed.

- Add shade over at least a portion of the playground.
- Add desert plantings, with priority on the area near the playground and shade shelter, within the loop path.
- Complete minor lighting upgrades to enhance winter use.
- Periodically reevaluate the dog park and consider enhancements when warranted and based on input provided by users.
- As demands for park use and population increase, consider developing the residual undeveloped areas at Essig Park. Consider uses, lighting, amenities, and programming that will compliment and not conflict with the surrounding neighborhood.

REMEMBRANCE PARK

PRIORITY: Lower
TIME FRAME: Long
PLANNING EFFORT: Lower
CAPITAL COST: \$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

Program 1-10. Remembrance Park

Remembrance Park functions as a gateway to Yucca Valley and does not provide much recreation value.

- This site is a beautification area and should be considered as such, and potentially reclassified. No improvements are proposed.

4.7 Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks

This section discusses recommended expansions to the Town’s park system.

Program 2-1. Brehm Park Recreation Hub

There is an existing hub of recreation sites around Brehm Parks 1 and 2. This area has the potential to become an even more significant recreation hub for the Town, if all the sites are considered as a whole, including Brehm Parks, the Boys & Girls Club, and Pop Rauch Park.

- The Town should collaborate with the Boys & Girls Club and Tri-Valley Little League on a plan to define relationships and circulation between Brehm Parks 1 & 2, the Boys & Girls Club site, and Pop Rauch Park. This should consider the Town Loop described below, including strengthened connections to Community Center Park. The overall plan for the recreation hub should consider the collective parking needs for the entire complex, taking into account day-to-day parking needs, peak time parking demands, and special event parking.
- *Explore Town ownership* of Pop Rauch Park. Tri-Valley Little League’s Pop Rauch Park is located adjacent to the Boys & Girls Club and across the street from Brehm Park 2. This privately-owned site is a hub for baseball in Yucca Valley and has been maintained by volunteers. It is in need of upgrades to improve field quality, the player experience, and the spectator experience. Secure public ownership of the park and improve the fields and associated facilities.
- *Explore partnerships* with the Boys & Girls Club. The Boys & Girls Club Hi-Desert is adjacent to Pop Rauch Park. It includes a turf field, parking, and an aging gymnasium building. When the Town pursues a new gym, explore a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club. Explore options to enhance Boys & Girls Club offerings and expand the use of this site, including partnerships and Town ownership. The existing Boys & Girls Club Gym is in poor condition and should not be considered as a potential option for acquisition as the Town’s new gym, even with renovation.

Program 2-2. Town Loop

As illustrated in Figure 3, create a Town Loop--a bicycle and pedestrian loop route that connects Community Center Park, the BMX Track, and Brehm Park along existing streets. This loop can be created in steps and the Town should consider including a cultural component.

- Step 1: Host an open streets event that closes the street to car traffic for a day and showcases connectivity and recreation in public spaces.
- Step 2: Assess right-of-way widths and create a two-way cycle path within the existing paved street width with painted markings and traffic delineators (This could result in changes to traffic configurations and parking.) Consider alternative and additional routes, including drainage pathways.
- Step 3: Seek to construct a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the storm drainage canal to connect Town Center Park and the BMX Track more directly.

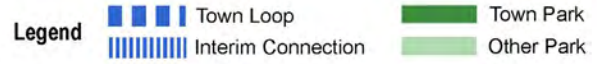
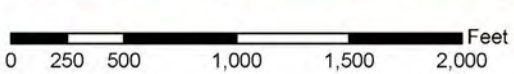
BREHM PARK RECREATION HUB

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Near/Mid
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium
CAPITAL COST: Master Plan: \$
 Improvements: \$\$-\$\$\$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$\$

TOWN LOOP

PRIORITY:
 Step 1: High
 Step 2: High
 Step 3: Lower
TIME FRAME:
 Step 1: Near
 Step 2: Mid
 Step 3: Long
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium
CAPITAL COST:
 Step 1: \$
 Step 2: \$\$
 Step 3: \$\$\$\$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

Figure 4-1: Yucca Valley Town Loop



*This example represents a similar design for Step 2 in the Town Loop Recommendation.
Photo Credit: City of Austin (Furness Drive)*

Program 2-3. Trail and Pathway Network

In addition to the Town Loop, the Town should develop a connected system of local trails and pathways to improve walking and biking access to parks. To achieve this goal, the Town should move forward with implementation of the bicycle facilities identified in the General Plan Circulation Element (Figure C-2) and consider pedestrian and bicycle access in all parks planning.

Program 2-4. New Parks

Yucca Valley has the potential for a significantly increased population within its Sphere of Influence. As the Town’s population increases, Yucca Valley should first add new features to existing parks to increase capacity. If a new development is planned and is not within the service area of an existing park, Yucca Valley should consider adding a new park if the population warrants it. To maximize the benefit, larger parks are preferred with good access. Any new parks should have plenty of shade and include some green.

4.8 Recommendations for Sports Facilities

Yucca Valley has a variety of sports facilities, including sports fields and courts. The Town should continue to support varied sports and fitness options for the community.

Program 3-1. Sports Fields

Continue to provide a variety of sports fields in Yucca Valley, including Town sites, school sites, and non-profit/community organization sites:

- Maintain the Town’s existing fields in good condition, working with local sports organizations on field prep and ongoing maintenance.
- Explore Town ownership or management of Pop Rauch Park with Tri-Valley Little League. See Recreation Hub recommendation.
- Improve the third field at Brehm Park as a multi-purpose field.
- Work with the School District to expand availability of school fields to community organizations and leagues for tournaments as well as regular practices and games.

Program 3-2. Sports Courts

Continue to provide a variety of quality courts in Yucca Valley, opting for multi-functional and incorporating lighting whenever possible. This includes basketball, tennis, pickleball, bocce, and even futsal.

Program 3-3. Skate Park

Replace the skate park with a better facility, in the Brehm Park Recreation Hub, or if not feasible at the Brehm Park Recreation Hub, at Community Center Park. Hire a skate park designer or skate park design/build specialist and work with the skate community to finalize the location selection and design the facility.

TRAILS & PATHS

PRIORITY: Medium
TIME FRAME: Mid
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium
CAPITAL COST: \$\$-\$\$\$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

NEW PARKS

PRIORITY: Medium
TIME FRAME: Long
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium - High
CAPITAL COST: \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$\$-\$\$\$

SPORTS FIELDS

PRIORITY: Medium
TIME FRAME: Mid
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium
CAPITAL COST: \$\$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$\$

SPORTS COURTS

PRIORITY: Medium
TIME FRAME: Mid
PLANNING EFFORT: Lower
CAPITAL COST: \$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$

SKATE PARK

PLANNING EFFORT: Medium
CAPITAL COST: \$\$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$
TIME FRAME: Mid
PRIORITY: Medium

BMX TRACK

PLANNING EFFORT:
Lower
CAPITAL COST: \$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$
TIME FRAME:
Ongoing
PRIORITY: Medium

Program 3-4. BMX Track

Work with the private operator to retain a high-quality BMX track in Yucca Valley.

Program 3-5. Potential New Sports Facilities

Consider incorporating new sports facilities into Yucca Valley parks, if recreation interest groups collaborate with the Town on building and/or operating the facility. Potential facilities to consider include disc golf, climbing wall, slack line anchor poles, OHV training area, bocce, and others suggested by the community.

NEW SPORTS FACILITIES

PLANNING EFFORT:
Medium
CAPITAL COST: \$\$-\$\$\$
OPERATING COST:
\$\$-\$\$\$
TIME FRAME: Long
PRIORITY: Medium

4.9 Recommendations for Indoor Facilities

Yucca Valley’s indoor recreation facilities are an important part of the community’s parks and recreation system. This section discusses recommendations for both new and existing facilities.

Program 4-1. A New Town Aquatics Facility

Yucca Valley does not have an aquatics facility. As noted, the Town uses the outdoor pool at the high school for its aquatics program, though the high school pool has limited availability and is not designed to support the full range of aquatics programming (learn-to-swim, competitive swimming, aquatics exercise, recreational swimming).

There is a significant community need for aquatics programming and swimming. Public engagement confirmed the importance of aquatics and swimming in the Yucca Valley community, and the high priority for this facility. Aquatics facilities generally are not self-supporting and therefore require an ongoing commitment for operational funding.

NEW AQUATICS FACILITY

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Near
(Construct Aquatics Facility by 2022)
PLANNING EFFORT:
High
CAPITAL COST: \$\$\$\$
OPERATING COST:
\$\$\$

- Yucca Valley should design, build and operate an aquatics facility, preferably indoors if feasible, that allows for a diversity of programming options (competitive, learn-to-swim, water safety, aquatics exercise) and supports recreational swimming.
- Explore potential partners for a Town-operated aquatic facility (hotels, schools, other agencies such as San Bernardino County). Consider a joint venture with Morongo Unified School District (MUSD).
- The aquatics facility or combined aquatics facility/gymnasium should be relatively centrally located in Yucca Valley/the larger market area and have relatively direct access on a major street. This facility should not be located in a neighborhood. Evaluate the following locations:
 - Brehm Recreation Hub (potentially on the Boys & Girls Club site if a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club can be reached), especially if a gymnasium is included.
 - Community Center Park Complex
 - Other Town-owned sites (Community Development site, for example)
 - Vacant commercial site (following the model of the recent library relocation)

- Prepare a business and operations plan that determines the final aquatics facility location, facility type, building program, construction budget, and operational costs to minimize the operational funding required.
 - The business and operations plan should factor in agreements with partners (such as the school district) who may contribute to capital or operating costs.
 - An indoor facility is preferred in Yucca Valley. Since Twentynine Palms has an outdoor pool, an indoor facility would fill a different niche. The feasibility of an indoor facility should be considered in the business and operations study.
 - If the Town decides to pursue a gymnasium, it should be considered as an element at the aquatics center. Both an aquatics facility and a gymnasium need locker rooms, a reason that many recreation centers include both facilities as elements.
- Design, bid, and construct the aquatic facility.
- Expand staffing as called for in the business and operations plan and open/operate the new facility, phasing out the use of the High School pool for Town programs.

Program 4-2. Senior Center

Yucca Valley’s Senior Center is located in the Community Center Park Complex. It is an older facility that does not meet today’s programming needs and is not flexible. Renovate the senior center for better functionality as a senior center, improved usability for recreation programs for all age groups, and more appeal as a rental facility. There is potential to expand to the west or to the east, or to reconfigure the building entrance.

- Consider renaming the facility to emphasize its community nature, while keeping this building as the hub for senior and older adult programming in Yucca Valley. Rooms at the Community Center are named after desert flora (Yucca, Mesquite, Joshua Tree, Cholla). The renovated Senior Center could be renamed after another desert plant or bird/animal, with rooms named on the same theme.
- Conduct a feasibility study for renovating this building. The study should include an evaluation of the building envelope and the mechanical, electrical and other systems, as well as the potential for expansion. Deficiencies (ADA, current building codes, seismic, etc.) should be identified.
- Consider the following improvements when conducting the feasibility study:
 - Improve the arrival and drop-off sequence, considering the relationship of the Senior Center to the rest of the Community Center Park complex.
 - Improve and expand the building entrance.
 - Renovate/expand the restrooms, including ADA compliance.
 - Upgrade/expand the office space.

SENIOR CENTER RENOVATIONS

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Mid
PLANNING EFFORT: High
CAPITAL COST: \$\$\$
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$\$-\$\$\$

- Retain and enhance the main room, renovating to make it more functional for senior programs, and more appealing for rentals and other recreation programs.
- Consider adding library space, social gathering space, small meeting rooms, or additional classroom space if the building is expanded.
- Consider adding art space/maker space, as part of a building expansion.
- Improve the relationship between indoor spaces and outdoor spaces. Enhance the existing outdoor patio space or relocate and improve it. The outdoor space should provide shaded seating and game areas.
- Use the feasibility study results to make decisions about the scope of the building renovation and proceed with design and construction.

NEW GYM

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Near
 (if Built with
 Aquatics Facility by
 2022)
PLANNING EFFORT:
 High
CAPITAL COST: \$\$\$
**ADDED OPERATING
 COST:** \$\$\$

Program 4-3. A Town Gymnasium

The Town of Yucca Valley does not have a gymnasium, though there are other gymnasiums in town that are used for public programs. The Boys & Girls Club gymnasium offers the most availability but is in poor condition.

- Consider building a gymnasium. It is a desirable facility and would expand recreation options tremendously. A gymnasium in Yucca Valley should include a full-sized wood floor gymnasium that can be divided into two smaller basketball courts and multiple volleyball or pickleball courts. It should have bleacher seating or a spectator viewing area, locker rooms, and office space.
- Optimally, a gymnasium in Yucca Valley should be built in partnership with another entity or be part of a larger recreation complex, such as an Aquatic Center.

ARTS SPACE

PRIORITY: Lower
TIME FRAME: Long
PLANNING EFFORT:
 Lower
CAPITAL COST: \$\$
**ADDED OPERATING
 COST:** \$\$

Program 4-4. Arts Space

There is interest in community arts space in Yucca Valley as a hub for making art, learning about art, and displaying art. The Town should continue discussions with arts advocates and organizations and, as needs are demonstrated, facilitate arts space within the Community Center complex (such as in the Community Center or at an expanded/renovated/renamed Senior Center).

Program 4-5. Other Existing Indoor Facilities

Hi-Desert Nature Museum. The Hi-Desert Nature Museum is part of the Community Center Park complex. Its exhibits were recently revamped and refreshed, and the building serves its purpose well. The Town should maintain this facility in good condition, continue to periodically refresh exhibits, and facilitate programming within this unique space.

Community Center. The Community Center includes several rooms of varying sizes available for recreation programs and community rentals, as well as office space. The building is oriented around a pleasant sheltered outdoor courtyard space with trees and green grass.

- Keep the building and its systems in good condition.

OTHER INDOOR FACILITIES

PRIORITY: Medium
TIME FRAME: Long
PLANNING EFFORT:
 Lower
CAPITAL COST: \$\$
**ADDED OPERATING
 COST:** \$

- Update interiors in all rooms, especially the popular Yucca Room (used for the widest variety of events, activities and rentals).
- Improve the relationship between indoor spaces and adjacent outdoor areas on the north and east sides of the building. Consider adding covered spaces with seating and games such as ping pong or chess tables.

4.10 Recommendations for Recreation Programs

As noted in Chapter 3, Yucca Valley’s recreation program and special event offerings are valued by the community, and there are opportunities to further enhance services.

Program 5-1. Year-Round Programming and Events

Continue to provide year-round programming and events.

- Continue to conduct a year-round schedule of quality programs and services that respond to the recreational and cultural needs and interests of the community.
- Continue successful community events, especially concerts in the park, and seek to expand the events in Yucca Valley, such Farmer’s Markets, Art Fairs, local talent performances, movies, plays, hobby shows, special events for holidays, fitness events etc.
- Consider the following new programming ideas:
 - Develop new fitness and health programs, such as drop-in walks or stretching.
 - Consider dog and pet-focused programming, to leverage the dog park at Essig Park, such as dog obedience classes, adopt-a-pet days, pet vaccination clinics, or pet shows.
 - Explore offering outdoor recreation/environmental education programs.
 - Consider collaborations around off-road programming, tying into the King of the Hammers event. For example, explore field trips to off-road vehicle parks or learn-to-ORV/crawl activities.
 - Pilot drop-in or short duration programming.
 - Develop pilot interactive family and intergenerational programs and activities and include drop-in and one-time options.

YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

PRIORITY: Medium

TIME FRAME:

Ongoing

PLANNING EFFORT:

High

CAPITAL COST: N/A

OPERATING COST:

\$\$-\$\$\$

YOUTH PROGRAMS

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Ongoing
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium
CAPITAL COST: N/A
OPERATING COST: \$\$

Program 5-2. Youth Programs

Enhance enrichment programs for youth.

- Continue to contract with and/or partner with individual instructors as well as private agencies and nonprofit organizations, such as the Boys & Girls Club to provide existing and new programs for youth.
- Ensure there is a variety of programming, including aquatics, sports, academic and homework assistance, music, the arts, dance, tumbling, gymnastics, and exercise programs for youth, and civic involvement and volunteer opportunities.
- Encourage mentoring and volunteer programs that provide opportunities for youth to mentor youth, business mentoring youth, youth connecting with seniors, and teen special events.
- Expand opportunities for youth to participate in the ongoing identification, development and delivery of programs, services and events.
- Ensure that youth development strategies are incorporated into the development, design, and delivery of youth programs and services

SENIOR PROGRAMS

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Ongoing
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium
CAPITAL COST: N/A
OPERATING COST: \$\$-\$\$\$\$

Program 5-3. Senior Programs

Provide a more comprehensive Senior Services program that includes recreational, educational, and socially targeted activities.

- Expand Senior Center hours and improve the facility. See section 4.9 for Senior Center facility recommendations
- Provide more active recreational activities for the growing population of Baby Boomer seniors and older adults.
- Continue and expand the Senior Services resource and referral program.
- Create collaborative relationships and establish partnerships in the development of the senior services delivery system, such as the Senior Club.
- Work with the Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA) to connect senior residents to programming at the Senior Center, a future Aquatic/Recreation Center, and other facilities.

SPORTS PROGRAMS AND LEAGUES

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Ongoing
PLANNING EFFORT: Lower
CAPITAL COST: N/A
OPERATING COST: \$-\$\$

Program 5-4. Sports Programs and Leagues

Continue to provide and support a variety of sports programs and leagues for youth and adults.

- Continue to collaborate with youth sports organizations to ensure a variety of youth sports options in Yucca Valley (baseball, soccer, basketball, football).
- Continue to encourage the growth of the girls' softball program currently provided by the Tri Valley Little League.

- Continue to support the Miracle League’s activities at the Miracle League Field in Brehm Park.
- Continue to contract with a quality BMX operator to offer BMX in Yucca Valley.
- As facility space permits, increase the offerings for youth and adult volleyball; consider offering volleyball clinics to introduce new participants to the sport.
- As space permits, explore additional league and drop-in sports programs for adults and seniors.

Program 5-5. Aquatics Programs

Expand aquatics programming in Yucca Valley to coincide with opening of the recommended new aquatics facility. Begin planning the comprehensive set of aquatics offerings (learn-to-swim, competitive, fitness, lap swimming, recreation/open swim) while the facility is being planned and built.

Program 5-6. Arts Programs

Explore partnerships and new programs to expand arts programming in Yucca Valley.

- Promote multi-cultural expression and participation in the arts. Support and facilitate the growth of the arts and cultural opportunities in Yucca Valley (e.g., sponsor art tours; offer cultural and art programs at Hi-Desert Nature Museum and Community Center Park).
- Advocate on behalf of Art in Public Places.
- Offer more arts programming, in collaboration with local arts organizations.
- Expand the Town’s online events calendar for cultural arts programs and activities to include non-profit and private arts activities. Incorporate into new website design. Develop and define guidelines for outside agency posting.
- Explore additional ways to present performances to the community (e.g., ball fields, parks, and community center space for local talent shows, concerts, movies, and cultural events).

4.11 Organizational Recommendations

The further development of Yucca Valley’s park and recreation system requires the foundation of a coordinated and efficient organization to carry out the recommendations contained in this Chapter. The following key steps can be carried out to maximize the success of the Master Plan.

Program 6-1. Ongoing Planning and Evaluation

- Create an annual work program, with performance goals for parks and recreation. During the annual budget process, review the community’s recreation program and facility needs. At the end of the year, an evaluation

AQUATICS PROGRAMS

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Near
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium
CAPITAL COST: N/A
ADDED OPERATING COST: See Program 4-1

ARTS PROGRAMS

PRIORITY: Medium
TIME FRAME: Ongoing
PLANNING EFFORT: Lower
CAPITAL COST: N/A
ADDED OPERATING COST: \$-\$

ONGOING PLANNING

PRIORITY: High
TIME FRAME: Ongoing
PLANNING EFFORT: Medium
CAPITAL COST: N/A
OPERATING COST: \$

should be made to measure performance and assess completion based on timeframes established in the PRMP.

- Evaluate existing parks, facilities, and programs on a regular basis and identify the need for enhancement, renovation and/or improvements.
- Plan comprehensively for facility development (e.g., Hi-Desert Museum Strategic Plan and Community Center Park Master Plan).

Program 6-2. Partnerships

- Continue to identify, coordinate with, and expand partnerships to enhance and expand recreation programs, conduct parks maintenance activities, and implement park improvements.
- Consider joint venture projects to meet future parkland needs, particularly for specialized projects such as:
 - Joint venture projects the Water District and the Flood Control District,
 - Joint Venture and Joint Use Agreements with the Morongo Unified School District
 - Joint venture opportunities for commercial recreation facilities
- Continue to provide volunteer opportunities, including serving on Youth Commission; Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission; Planning Commission; and Revenue Measure Oversight Commission as well as volunteerism opportunities for parks and programs.

PARTNERSHIPS

PRIORITY: High

TIME FRAME:

Ongoing

PLANNING EFFORT:

Medium

CAPITAL COST: TBD

OPERATING COST: \$-

\$\$

4.11 Action Plan Matrix

The Action Plan matrix on the following pages summarizes the recommendations presented in this chapter in a matrix format. This Action Plan will be used by the Town throughout the life of the Master Plan and should be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect conditions as they change over time. The colors correspond to the program categories:

- Recommendations for Existing Yucca Valley Parks
- Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks
- Recommendations for Sports Facilities
- Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
- Recommendations for Recreation Programs
- Organizational Recommendations

This page intentionally left blank.

Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Action Plan Matrix

Program Number	Program Name	Priority	Timeframe	Capital Cost	Added Operating Cost	Planning Effort	Category
Recommendations for Existing Yucca Valley Parks							
1-1	Community Center Park and Town Hall Complex						
1-1.1	Maintain the park’s green turf, the highest priority turf area in Yucca Valley’s park system.	High	Ongoing	--	--	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-1.2	Develop a master plan for paths and pedestrian connections for the entire site, linking all the public spaces and buildings in a user-friendly path network that enhances the park experience. Address vehicle concerns and conflicts associated with parking and drive aisles located between the playground and fields. Consider event needs, a promenade connecting these areas, and a potential connection to the BMX track as part of this pathway plan.	High	Near	\$	--	High	Existing Parks Improvements
1-1.3	Implement Program 1-1.2 improvements in phases.	High	Mid	\$\$-\$\$\$	\$	High	Existing Parks Improvements
1-1.4	As part of any major facility project at this site (such as renovation of the Senior Center or the addition of a new building), prepare an updated master plan for the entire park and its connections to other facilities.	High	Near	\$	--	High	Existing Parks Improvements
1-1.5	Add outdoor ping pong or other small-scale games.	High	Near	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-1.6	Upgrade/rebuild the skate park. (See Program 3-3.1)						Existing Parks Improvements
1-1.7	Expand the play area, add nature play or interpretive climbable art elements, add more seating and shade, and replace the shade shelter to provide a new look that presents Yucca Valley’s brand and image.	High	Near/Mid	\$\$	--	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-1.8	Consider this site for a splash pad or mist fountain.	Medium	Mid	\$-\$\$	\$\$	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-2	Brehm Parks (1 & 2)						
1-2.1	Complete the clubhouse, including interior.	High	Near	\$	\$	Lower	Existing Parks Improvements
1-2.2	Revisit the Master Plan to ensure the recommended improvements are considered as a whole.	High	Mid	\$	--	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-2.3	Enhance the third field as a multipurpose field and bring it up to the same level of quality as the two improved fields.	High	Near	\$-\$\$	\$\$	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-2.4	Complete the walking path.	High	Near	\$	\$	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-2.5	Add trees and more shade, with more space to support general recreation and park use.	High	Near	\$	\$	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-2.6	Add features to make the play area/playground more interesting and engaging (or add a second play area). The intent is to provide a universally accessible play area with high play value for children with and without disabilities, that has seating and amenities for parents and caregivers.	High	Mid	\$\$	\$	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-2.7	Consider adding fitness equipment or a par-course.	High	Mid	\$	\$	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-2.8	Repurpose or phase out the flat track area if an active user group does not manage or program it.	High	Mid	\$	\$	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-2.9	Consider strategic expansions of Brehm Park, if adjacent properties become available.	High	Mid	\$\$-\$\$\$	\$-\$\$	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-2.10	See Brehm Park Recreation Hub recommendation (Program 2-1).						Existing Parks Improvements
1-2.11	See Town Loop recommendation (Program 2-2).						Existing Parks Improvements

Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Action Plan Matrix

Program Number	Program Name	Priority	Timeframe	Capital Cost	Added Operating Cost	Planning Effort	Category
1-3	Sunnyslope Park/BMX Track						
1-3.1	Maintain a contract with an effective private operator with expertise in BMX.	Lower	Ongoing	\$	--	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-3.2	Review any proposed facility improvements proposed by the operator.	Lower	Ongoing	\$	--	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-3.3	Ensure the facility is maintained in excellent condition.	Lower	Ongoing	\$	--	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-3.4	See Town Loop recommendation (Program 2-2).						Existing Parks Improvements
1-4	North Park						
1-4.1	Develop an access point/view point with a trailhead.	High	Near	\$	\$	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-4.2	Consider developing a multipurpose trail for hikers and mountain bikers.	High	Mid	\$	\$	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-4.3	Identify and implement parking options.	High	Near	\$	\$	Medium	Existing Parks Improvements
1-5	South Park						
1-5.1	Leverage the site's access to surrounding open space/JTNP. Work with the JTNP staff to explore a hiking trail connection into JTNP from South Park, possibly with a connection to Black Rock Canyon Campground.	Lower	Long	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-5.2	Develop as a trailhead with signage designed to deter theft of the sign.	Lower	Mid	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-5.3	Consider adding a vault toilet (such as CXT waterless restroom) or composting toilet (such as Phoenix Composting Toilet).	Lower	Long	\$-\$-\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-6	Machris Park						
1-6.1	Add shade, especially over play area.	Lower	Long	\$-\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-6.2	Consider desert plantings to enhance park experience.	Lower	Long	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-6.3	Consider the addition of a perimeter walking path (natural surface or paved).	Lower	Long	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-7	Jacobs Park						
1-7.1	Add additional enhancements, including plantings and green, a top community priority in Yucca Valley.	Medium	Mid	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-7.2	Install enhanced site furnishings, more plantings, and shade.	Medium	Mid	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-7.3	Consider installing turf in the future to provide a small green area for neighborhood kids and families. The green area should be located between the playground and the basketball hoops.	Medium	Mid	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-7.4	Consider adding a perimeter walking loop within the park	Medium	Mid	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-8	Paradise Park						
1-8.1	Complete the landscaping and turf improvement planned for 2019.	High	Mid	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-8.2	Consider adding even more shade – a shade structure, shade sails, or trees.	Medium	Mid	\$-\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-8.3	Enhance pedestrian connections so neighborhood families and children feel safe walking to Paradise Park.	Medium	Mid	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements

Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Action Plan Matrix

Program Number	Program Name	Priority	Timeframe	Capital Cost	Added Operating Cost	Planning Effort	Category
1-9	Essig Park						
1-9.1	Add shade over at least a portion of the playground.	Medium	Mid	\$\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-9.2	Add desert plantings, with priority on the area near the playground and shade shelter, within the loop path.	Medium	Mid	\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-9.3	Complete minor lighting upgrades to enhance winter use.	Medium	Mid	\$\$	\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-9.4	Periodically reevaluate the dog park and consider enhancements when warranted and based on input provided by users.	Medium	Mid	\$	--	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-9.5	As demands for park use and population increase, consider developing the residual undeveloped areas at Essig Park. Consider uses, lighting, amenities, and programming that will compliment and not conflict with the surrounding neighborhood.	Medium	Long	\$\$	\$\$-\$	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
1-10	Remembrance Park						
1-10.1	This site is a beautification area and should be considered as such, and potentially reclassified. No improvements are proposed.	Lower	Long	--	--	Low	Existing Parks Improvements
Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks							
2-1	Brehm Park Recreation Hub						
2-1.1	Collaborate with the Boys & Girls Club and Tri-Valley Little League on a plan to define relationships and circulation between Brehm Parks 1 & 2, the Boys & Girls Club site and Pop Rauch Park. This should consider the Town Loop (Program 2-2), including strengthened connections to Community Center Park. The overall plan for the recreation hub should consider the collective parking needs for the entire complex, taking into account day-to-day parking needs, peak time parking demands, and special event parking.	High	Near/Mid	\$	--	Medium	Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks
2-1.2	Explore Town ownership of Pop Rauch Park. Tri-Valley Little League’s Pop Rauch Park is located adjacent to the Boys & Girls Club and across the street from Brehm Park 2. This privately-owned site is a hub for baseball in Yucca Valley and has been maintained by volunteers. It is in need of upgrades to improve field quality, the player experience, and the spectator experience. Secure public ownership of the park and improve the fields and associated facilities.	High	Near/Mid	\$\$\$\$	\$\$	Medium	Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks
2-1.3	When the Town pursues a new gym, explore a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club. Explore options to enhance Boys & Girls Club offerings and expand the use of this site, including partnerships and Town ownership. The existing Boys & Girls Club Gym is in poor condition and should not be considered as a potential option for acquisition as the Town’s new gym, even with renovation.	High	Near/Mid	\$\$\$\$	\$\$	Medium	Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks

Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Action Plan Matrix

Program Number	Program Name	Priority	Timeframe	Capital Cost	Added Operating Cost	Planning Effort	Category
2-2	Town Loop						
2-2.1	Step 1: Create a Town Loop, creating a bicycle and pedestrian loop route that connects Community Center Park, the BMX Track and Brehm Park along existing streets. This loop can be created in steps. The first step could be an open streets event that closes the street to car traffic for a day.	High	Near	\$	\$	Medium	Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks
2-2.2	Step 2: Create a two-way cycle path within the existing paved street width with painted markings and traffic delineators.	High	Mid	\$\$	\$	Medium	Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks
2-2.3	Step 3: Long term and as funding permits, consider seeking a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the storm drainage canal to connect Town Center Park and the BMX Track more directly.	Lower	Long	\$\$\$ - \$\$\$\$	\$	Medium	Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks
2-3	Trail and Pathway Network						
2-3.1	Develop a connected system of local trails and pathways to improve walking and biking access to parks. To achieve this goal, the Town should move forward with implementation of the bicycle facilities identified in the General Plan Circulation Element (Figure C-2) and consider pedestrian and bicycle access in all parks planning.	Medium	Mid	\$\$-\$\$\$	-\$-\$	Medium	Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks
2-4	New Parks						
2-4.1	As the Town’s population increases, Yucca Valley should first add new features to existing parks to increase capacity. If a new development is planned and is not within the service area of an existing park, Yucca Valley should consider adding a new park if the population warrants it. To maximize the benefit, larger parks are preferred with good access. Any new parks should have plenty of shade and include some green.	Medium	Long	\$\$\$- \$\$\$\$	\$\$-\$\$\$	Medium- High	Recommendations for New and Expanded Parks
Recommendations for Sports Facilities							
3-1	Sports Fields						
3-1.1	Maintain the Town’s existing fields in good condition, working with local sports organizations on field prep and ongoing maintenance	Medium	Mid	--	--	Medium	Recommendations for Sports Facilities
3-1.2	Explore Town ownership or management of Pop Rauch Park with Tri-Valley Little League. See Recreation Hub (Program 2-1) recommendations.						Recommendations for Sports Facilities
3-1.3	Improve the third field at Brehm Park as a multi-purpose field.	Medium	Mid	\$\$	\$	Medium	Recommendations for Sports Facilities
3-1.4	Work with the School District to expand availability of school fields to community organizations and leagues for tournaments as well as regular practices and games.	Medium	Mid	\$	--	Medium	Recommendations for Sports Facilities
3-2	Sports Courts						
3-2.1	Continue to provide a variety of quality courts in Yucca Valley, opting for multi-functional and incorporating lighting whenever possible. This includes basketball, tennis, pickleball, bocce, and even futsal.	Medium	Mid	\$	\$	Low	Recommendations for Sports Facilities

Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Action Plan Matrix

Program Number	Program Name	Priority	Timeframe	Capital Cost	Added Operating Cost	Planning Effort	Category
3-3	Skate Park						
3-3.1	Replace the skate park with a better facility, at Community Center Park or, if not feasible at the Community Center Park, in the Brehm Park Recreation Hub . Hire a skate park designer or skate park design/build specialist and work with the skate community to finalize the location selection and design the facility.	Medium	Mid	\$\$	\$	Medium	Recommendations for Sports Facilities
3-4	BMX Track						
3-4.1	Work with the private operator to retain a high-quality BMX track in Yucca Valley.	Medium	Ongoing	--	--	Low	Recommendations for Sports Facilities
3-5	Potential New Sports Facilities						
3-5.1	Consider incorporating new sports facilities into Yucca Valley parks, if recreation interest groups collaborate with the Town on building and/or operating the facility. Potential facilities to consider include disc golf, climbing wall, slack line anchor poles, OHV training area, bocce, and others suggested by the community.	Medium	Long	\$\$-\$\$\$	\$\$-\$\$\$	Medium	Recommendations for Sports Facilities
Recommendations for Indoor Facilities							
4-1	A New Town Aquatics Facility						
4-1.1	Explore potential partners for a Town-operated aquatic facility (hotels, schools, other agencies such as San Bernardino County). Consider a joint venture with Morongo Unified School District (MUSD).	High	Near	--	--	High	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
4-1.2	Prepare a business and operations plan that determines the final aquatics facility location, facility type, building program, construction budget, and operational costs to minimize the operational funding required.	High	Near	\$	--	High	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
4-1.3	Design, bid, and construct the aquatic facility by 2022.	High	Near	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$	High	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
4-1.4	Expand staffing as called for in the business and operations plan and open/operate the new facility, phasing out the use of the High School pool for Town programs.	High	Near	--	\$\$\$	High	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
4-2	Senior Center						
4-2.1	Consider renaming the facility to emphasize its community nature, while keeping this building as the hub for senior and older adult programming in Yucca Valley. Rooms at the Community Center are named after desert flora (Yucca, Mesquite, Joshua Tree, Cholla). The renovated Senior Center could be renamed after another desert plant or bird/animal, with rooms named on the same theme.	Medium	Mid	--	--	Low	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
4-2.2	Conduct a feasibility study for renovating this building. The study should include an evaluation of the building envelope and the mechanical, electrical and other systems, as well as the potential for expansion. Deficiencies (ADA, current building codes, seismic, etc.) should be identified. See Chapter 4 for specific improvements to consider when conducting the feasibility Study (Program 4-2.2)	High	Mid	\$	--	High	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities

Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Action Plan Matrix

Program Number	Program Name	Priority	Timeframe	Capital Cost	Added Operating Cost	Planning Effort	Category
4-2.3	Use the feasibility study results to make decisions about the scope of the building renovation and proceed with design and construction.	High	Mid	\$\$\$	\$\$-\$\$\$	High	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
4-3	A Town Gymnasium						
4-3.1	Consider building a gymnasium. It is a desirable facility and would expand recreation options tremendously. A gymnasium in Yucca Valley should include a full-sized wood floor gymnasium that can be divided into two smaller basketball courts and multiple volleyball or pickleball courts. It should have bleacher seating or a spectator viewing area, locker rooms, and office space.	High	Near	\$\$\$	\$\$\$	High	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
4-3.2	Explore partnerships to build the gymnasium. Optimally, a gymnasium in Yucca Valley should be built in partnership with another entity or be part of a larger recreation complex, such as an Aquatic Center.	High	Near	\$\$\$	\$\$\$	High	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
4-4	Arts Space						
4-4.1	Continue discussions with arts advocates and organizations and, as needs are demonstrated, facilitate arts space within the Community Center complex (such as in the Community Center or at an expanded/renovated/renamed Senior Center).	Lower	Long	\$\$	\$\$	Low	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
4-5	Other Existing Indoor Facilities						
4-5.1	Keep the building and its systems in good condition.	Medium	Long	--	--	Low	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
4-5.2	Update interiors in all rooms, especially the popular Yucca Room (used for the widest variety of events, activities and rentals).	Medium	Long	\$	--	Low	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
4-5.3	Improve the relationship between indoor spaces and adjacent outdoor areas on the north and east sides of the building. Consider adding covered spaces with seating and games such as ping pong or chess tables.	Medium	Long	\$\$	\$	Low	Recommendations for Indoor Facilities
Recommendations for Recreation Programs							
5-1	Year-Round Programming and Events						
5-1.1	Continue to conduct a year-round schedule of quality programs and services that respond to the recreational and cultural needs and interests of the community.	High	Ongoing	N/A	\$\$	High	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-1.2	Continue successful community events, especially concerts in the park, and seek to expand the events in Yucca Valley, such Farmer's Markets, Art Fairs, local talent performances, movies, plays, hobby shows, special events for holidays, fitness events etc.	Medium	Ongoing	N/A	\$\$-\$\$\$	High	Recommendations for Recreation Programs

Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Action Plan Matrix

Program Number	Program Name	Priority	Timeframe	Capital Cost	Added Operating Cost	Planning Effort	Category
5-1.3	Consider the following new programming ideas: o Develop new fitness and health programs, such as drop-in walks or stretching. o Consider dog and pet-focused programming, to leverage the dog park at Essig Park, such as dog obedience classes, adopt-a-pet days, pet vaccination clinics, or pet shows. o Explore offering outdoor recreation/environmental education programs. o Consider collaborations around off-road programming, tying into the King of the Hammers event. For example, explore field trips to off-road vehicle parks or learn-to-ORV/crawl activities. o Pilot drop-in or short duration programming. o Develop pilot interactive family and intergenerational programs and activities and include drop-in and one-time options.	Medium	Ongoing	N/A	\$\$-\$\$\$	High	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-2	Youth Programs						
5-2.1	Continue to contract with and/or partner with individual instructors as well as private agencies and nonprofit organizations, such as the Boys & Girls Club to provide existing and new programs for youth.	High	Ongoing	N/A	--	High	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-2.2	Ensure there is a variety of programming, including aquatics, sports, academic and homework assistance, music, the arts, dance, tumbling, gymnastics, and exercise programs for youth, and civic involvement and volunteer opportunities.	High	Ongoing	N/A	--	High	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-2.3	Encourage mentoring and volunteer programs that provide opportunities for youth to mentor youth, business mentoring youth, youth connecting with seniors, and teen special events.	High	Ongoing	N/A	\$	High	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-2.4	Expand opportunities for youth to participate in the ongoing identification, development and delivery of programs, services and events.	High	Ongoing	N/A	\$\$	High	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-2.5	Ensure that youth development strategies are incorporated into the development, design, and delivery of youth programs and services	High	Ongoing	N/A	--	High	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-3	Senior Programs						
5-3.1	Expand Senior Center hours and improve the facility. See Senior Center facility recommendations (Program 4-2).	High	Ongoing	N/A	--	Medium	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-3.2	Provide more active recreational activities for the growing population of Baby Boomer seniors and older adults.	High	Ongoing	N/A	\$\$	Medium	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-3.3	Continue and expand the Senior Services resource and referral program.	High	Ongoing	N/A	\$\$-	Medium	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-3.4	Create collaborative relationships and establish partnerships in the development of the senior services delivery system, such as the Senior Club.	High	Ongoing	N/A	\$	Medium	Recommendations for Recreation Programs

Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Action Plan Matrix

Program Number	Program Name	Priority	Timeframe	Capital Cost	Added Operating Cost	Planning Effort	Category
5-3.5	Work with the Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA) to connect senior residents to programming at the Senior Center, a future Aquatic/Recreation Center, and other facilities.	High	Ongoing	N/A	\$-\$\$	Medium	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-4	Sports Programs and Leagues						
5-4.1	Continue to collaborate with youth sports organizations to ensure a variety of youth sports options in Yucca Valley (baseball, soccer, basketball, football).	High	Ongoing	N/A	--	Low	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-4.2	Continue to encourage the growth of the girls softball program currently provided by the Tri Valley Little League.	High	Ongoing	N/A	--	Low	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-4.3	Continue to support the Miracle League’s activities at the Miracle League Field in Brehm Park.	High	Ongoing	N/A	--	Low	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-4.4	Continue to contract with a quality BMX operator to offer BMX in Yucca Valley.	High	Ongoing	N/A	--	Low	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-4.5	As facility space permits, increase the offerings for youth and adult volleyball; consider offering volleyball clinics to introduce new participants to the sport.	High	Ongoing	N/A	\$-\$\$	Low	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-4.6	As space permits, explore additional league and drop-in sports programs for adults and seniors.	High	Ongoing	N/A	\$-\$\$	Low	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-5	Aquatics Programs						
5-5.1	Expand aquatics programming in Yucca Valley to coincide with opening of the recommended new aquatics facility. Begin planning the comprehensive set of aquatics offerings (learn-to-swim, competitive, fitness, lap swimming, recreation/open swim) while the facility is being planned and built.	High	Near	N/A	See Program 4-1	Medium	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-6	Arts Programs						
5-6.1	Promote multi-cultural expression and participation in the arts. Support and facilitate the growth of the arts and cultural opportunities in Yucca Valley (e.g., sponsor art tours; offer cultural and art programs at Hi-Desert Nature Museum and Community Center Park).	Medium	Ongoing	N/A	\$-\$\$	Low	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-6.2	Advocate on behalf of Art in Public Places.	Medium	Ongoing	N/A	\$	Low	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-6.3	Offer more arts programming, in collaboration with local arts organizations.	Medium	Ongoing	N/A	\$-\$\$	Low	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-6.4	Expand the Town’s online events calendar for cultural arts programs and activities to include non-profit and private arts activities. Incorporate into new website design. Develop and define guidelines for outside agency posting.	Medium	Ongoing	N/A	\$	Low	Recommendations for Recreation Programs
5-6.5	Explore additional ways to present performances to the community (e.g., ball fields, parks, and community center space for local talent shows, concerts, movies, and cultural events).	Medium	Ongoing	N/A	\$	Low	Recommendations for Recreation Programs

Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Action Plan Matrix

Program Number	Program Name	Priority	Timeframe	Capital Cost	Added Operating Cost	Planning Effort	Category
Organizational Recommendations							
6-1	Ongoing Planning and Evaluation						
6-1.1	Create an annual work program, with performance goals for parks and recreation. During the annual budget process, review the community’s recreation program and facility needs. At the end of the year, an evaluation should be made to measure performance and assess completion based on timeframes established in the PRMP.	High	Ongoing	N/A	--	Medium	Organizational Recommendations
6-1.2	Evaluate existing parks, facilities, and programs on a regular basis and identify the need for enhancement, renovation and/or improvements.	High	Ongoing	N/A	\$	Medium	Organizational Recommendations
6-1.3	Plan comprehensively for facility development (e.g., Hi-Desert Museum Strategic Plan and Community Center Park Master Plan)	High	Ongoing	N/A	\$	Medium	Organizational Recommendations
6-2	Partnerships						
6-2.1	Continue to identify, coordinate with, and expand partnerships to enhance and expand recreation programs, conduct parks maintenance activities, and implement park improvements.	High	Ongoing	TBD	\$-\$\$	Medium	Organizational Recommendations
6-2.2	Consider joint venture projects to meet future parkland needs, particularly for specialized projects such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Joint venture projects the Water District and the Flood Control District, o Joint Venture and Joint Use Agreements with the Morongo Unified School District o Joint venture opportunities for commercial recreation facilities 	High	Ongoing	TBD	\$-\$\$	Medium	Organizational Recommendations
6-2.3	Continue to provide volunteer opportunities, including serving on Youth Commission; Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission; Planning Commission; and Revenue Measure Oversight Commission as well as volunteerism opportunities for parks and programs.	High	Ongoing	TBD	\$-\$\$	Medium	Organizational Recommendations

This page intentionally left blank.



5. IMPLEMENTATION



This Master Plan provides long-term strategic direction for Yucca Valley parks and recreation services. This chapter includes tools to support staff in ongoing evaluation and prioritization of proposals and projects, including the development of annual budgets, regular updates to the CIP, and staff work plans. These tools will also help to ensure that decisions are grounded in the community's needs and the Master Plan mission, vision, and goals.

5.1 Evaluating Future Projects

As time passes, new ideas will emerge about how to optimize an individual site, add to the system or change the mix of recreation opportunities. The combination of the goals and the prioritization criteria (detailed in Chapter 4) creates a framework that can be used to evaluate future proposals for changes to parks, trails, programming, open space and the recreation system.

Review Process

Following a similar process to developing the Master Plan projects and programs, the review process for new ideas will follow the steps below:

Step 1: Staff, individual Town resident, or community group proposes a project or program.

Step 2: Staff reviews the proposal to determine if the project aligns with the community's vision as expressed in the Master Plan vision and goals (Section 4.2 and 4.3). If a compelling case cannot be made, the process stops here.

Step 3: Staff analyzes the project for prioritization using the categories for project consideration presented in Section 4.3:

- Provides multiple benefits
- Has other funding or partnerships available
- Meets identified needs
- Improves recreation resources
- Increases maintenance efficiency

In some cases, information may not be readily available for staff to make an adequate evaluation. In these cases, staff may obtain additional data by meeting with the proposer or with local experts, conducting regional or national research or seeking community input. Staff may also recommend conducting a specific technical study. Once adequate information is gathered, staff will complete the analysis of need and document it in a brief report. If PRCC review is needed, staff will proceed to Step 4.

Step 4: Staff makes a recommendation to the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Commission and/or Town Council, as applicable. Staff may recommend that Town add the proposed project or program for further development and eventual addition to the Action Plan. Staff may also recommend against the proposal if the prioritization scoring is low. Low scoring is an indicator that the proposal is not a priority, compared to all opportunities.

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Commission and/or Town Council makes a determination and directs staff how to proceed. For proposals recommended for further action, staff can explore the financial and practical considerations and incorporate the proposal into the Action Plan and/or the CIP process as applicable.

Decision-Making Tool

Every potential action should be consistent with the mission of this Master Plan. The Decision-Making Tool and Evaluation Worksheet on the next page is designed to help staff make this determination. Potential actions should be evaluated against the proposed evaluation criteria, using the evaluation worksheet contained in Table 7-1. Evaluation criteria include:

Provides multiple benefits. Proposed projects that can advance more than one goal in the Parks Master Plan and/or meet other community goals, such as economic development or mobility goals.

Has other funding or partnerships available. Projects that have potential for other types of funding, such as grants, donations, or other partner contributions, compared to other projects without other funding opportunities.

Meets identified needs. Projects that address gaps in service, as identified within this Plan update.

Improves recreation resources. Projects that have the ability to maintain or enhance the condition of existing Town parks and to expand recreation opportunities.

Increases maintenance efficiency. Projects that will reduce maintenance costs and improve efficiency.

Evaluation Worksheet

PROPOSED PROJECT OR PROGRAM:		
Criterion	Evaluation Y / P / N (YES, NO, POTENTIALLY)	Comments
Consistent with one or more of the seven Master Plan goals		
Provides multiple benefits (advances more than one Master Plan goal)		
Has other funding or partnerships available		
Meets identified needs		
Improves recreation resources		
Increases maintenance efficiency		

5.2 Action Planning Tool

This Master Plan includes recommendations that will take years to implement. They will be advanced through the Town's work plans and budget that are revised on an annual basis. The Action Planning Tool and process is designed so that staff can sequence Master Plan recommendations and update the Action Plan matrix on an annual basis. Additional projects and initiatives may be proposed by the community. Once these are vetted to confirm they are consistent with the Master Plan, emerging ideas can also be considered during the action plan update.

The Action Plan tool is based on a set of criteria, conveyed in a series of questions that will allow the actions to be prioritized and sequenced based on the CSD's resources.

Step 1: Preliminary Screening

Before a project/proposal is evaluated through the Action Plan process, consider the following:

- Has the recommendation been evaluated using the Decision-Making Tool?
- Will the project/proposal involve a multiple phase process? (For example, the development of a new recreation center first requires a business plan.) If so, the project should be considered in its entirety and by phase.

Step 2: Apply Sequencing Criteria

Choose the best evaluation for each criterion.

1. What is the operational impact, once the improvement, initiative, or project is in place?
 - + Likely to require additional operating funding (includes added staff time as well as direct costs)
 - +/- Neutral
 - Likely to reduce operating costs (includes staff time as well as direct costs)
2. Does it have a capital improvement component?
 - H More than \$1M
 - M \$250K-\$1M
 - L >\$250K
3. Is it a recurring or one-time cost?
 - O: One-time cost. This means that only one investment of budget or staff time is required to implement the project, initiative, or program. For example,

updating the Yucca Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a one-time cost.

R: Recurring. This means that implementation requires ongoing investment such as the recurring investment of staff time.

4. Is it an area of need identified by the Master Plan?
 - Yes
 - No
5. What is the timeframe to implement it?
 - 1 year or less
 - 1-3 years
 - 3+ years
6. What are the staffing needs?
 - Add Community Services staff
 - Refocus existing staff
 - Hire outside expertise/support
 - No impact

Step 3: Define Timing and Responsibility

For those actions which are included on the three-year action plan, timing (by year and if possible, by quarter) and lead responsibility by Department should be defined.

See Action Planning Tool on the next page.

5.3 Estimated Major Project Costs

The following are potential cost estimates for the near term, high priority projects that have capital costs associated with them, and mid-term high priority projects that may require earlier planning to implement.

These are only estimated costs. More precise costs are dependent on the particular sites chosen for each project, the conditions present at each site, the development of specific project designs, future labor and materials costs, and other factors that cannot be accurately determined at this time.

Major Project Costs

Program Number	Project	Assumptions	Planning Level Cost Allowance
1-1	Community Center Park and Town Hall Complex	Develop Master Plan Enhance the existing park with expanded play area/nature play and climbable elements, more seating and shade, replace the shade shelter, and add ping pong or other small-scale games	Master Plan: \$100,000 Phase 1 Improvements: \$950,000
1-2	Brehm Parks (1&2)	Complete planned and additional improvements, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete clubhouse, including interior • Complete third field as multipurpose field • Complete a walking path • Add trees and more shade 	\$1,800,000 (construction cost + 15% contingency)
1-4	North Park	Develop a 10-car parking lot, park identification sign, and trailhead kiosk	\$100,000 (construction cost)
2-1	Brehm Park Recreation Hub	Renovate the three Tri Valley Little League fields (turf and irrigation) and improve viewing area	\$500,000 (construction cost)
2-2	Town Loop	Create buffered two-way bike lane within existing paved street width	\$600,000 per mile (construction cost)

Major Project Costs

Program Number	Project	Assumptions	Planning Level Cost Allowance
4-1	Town Aquatics Facility	25,000 sf building on an existing site with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 6-lane, 25 yd lap pool • A recreational pool with 0 depth entry • Locker rooms, party room/classroom, office space • 100 additional parking spaces 	\$8,000,000 (construction cost) \$1,600,000 (20% soft costs) Total: \$9.6 million
4-3	Town Gymnasium	16,000 sf gymnasium on an existing site with locker rooms and small office space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new parking <i>Note: The assumes a separate stand-alone facility from the Aquatics Facility. Some cost savings would be afforded with one combined building that shares locker rooms.</i>	\$5,600,000 (construction cost) \$1,120,000 (20% soft costs) Total: \$6.72 million
4-2	Senior Center Renovation	Renovation of existing senior center (4,000 sf) and 2,500 sf expansion, with reoriented entrance and relocated/improved patio. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new parking 	\$2,500,000 (construction cost) \$500,000 (20% soft costs) Total: \$3 million
5-5	Aquatics Programming	Hire .5 FTE pool manager to allow Aquatics supervisor time to plan new aquatics programming and staffing requirements, as well as conduct hiring/training for new facility.	\$50,000

5.4 Conclusion

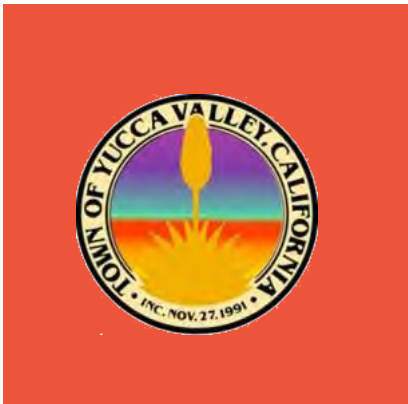
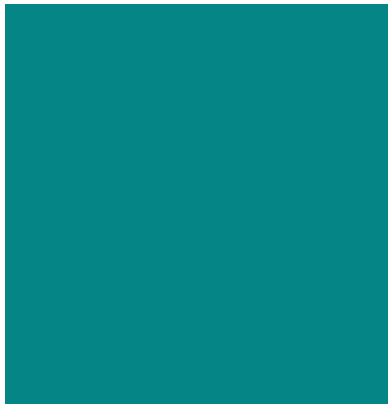
Since adoption of the 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Town has successfully completed many recommendations outlined in the plan, resulting in a sustained park and recreation system with a high level of community satisfaction. Today, the Town of Yucca Valley continues to embrace the importance of our local parks and programs through the completion of the 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan update.

The Master Plan provides an updated resource and guide based on the strong foundation established by the 2008 Master Plan. This Master Plan reaffirms the key needs and goals voiced by the community, while shifting attention to more recent and

pressing needs such as the future of a community aquatics facility and the significant opportunities presented by California Proposition 68 (Parks, Environment, and Water Bond 2018). At the same time, this Master Plan positions the Town to continue to enhance existing parks and facilities with amenities that reflect current trends, enhance park usage, and support the Town's robust programming.

To be successful at implementing the community vision, the Town will need the continued support of partner organizations, park users, and the public. This community-supported system will require the leadership of the Town and the willingness and cooperation of the many partners that comprise the parks and recreation system. The implementation of this Master Plan will include an ongoing review process using the tools provided herein to implement the Town's vision for a comprehensive parks and recreation network that brings the community together and fosters a healthy, rich lifestyle under the clear skies and fresh air of the high desert.

This page intentionally left blank.



YUCCA VALLEY

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
APPENDICES

Appendix A: Community Member Interviews Summary



March 12, 2018 ♦ 12:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

As part of updating the Town’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan, consultant MIG, Inc. and Yucca Valley Parks staff met with a variety of community members to **identify current parks and recreation needs, opportunities and challenges in the town**. The consultant team conducted interviews with a cross-section of community members, including representatives from the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council, aquatics service providers, seniors, Chamber of Commerce, Boys and Girls Club, Youth Commission, Sports Council attendees, Town Councilors, and Parks and Recreation Commission members. Interviewees were asked a series of questions regarding broad-based concerns and objectives for the Town, as well as specific topics pertaining to the community member’s interest and expertise. Participants were also given the opportunity to discuss issues of significance to them not otherwise raised in response to specific questions.

This summary presents key themes and topic-specific feedback discussed during the interviews. Some comments may be contradictory where interviewees had differences of opinion.

KEY THEMES

Through the interviews, five key themes emerged, as outlined below. A graphic summary of the comments received at the Sports Council meeting is included at the end of this document.

- **Improvements to the Park System**
 - More Swimming/New Aquatics Center
 - Indoor Recreation Facility/Gymnasium
 - More Walking/Hiking Paths
 - Green Grass
 - Improved Maintenance and Enhancements to Existing Parks
 - New Amenities and Expansion of the Park System
 - Social Gathering and Building Fellowship
- **Art in Public Places/Center for Arts Activities**
- **Meeting the Needs of Specific Populations**
 - All Ages/Multi-Generational
 - Youth
 - Seniors
- **Partnerships**
- **User-Friendly Plan with Accountability**

TOPIC SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

More Swimming/New Aquatics Center

The need for a public swimming pool, preferably one associated with a fitness facility and/or community center, was expressed by many interviewees, and not only those specifically representing aquatic interests. These community members pointed out that although this is a desert climate, most private homes in Yucca Valley lacked swimming pools and the “public” pool at the High School was generally not perceived by the community as readily available to members of the public.

Aquatics interests provided more specific details concerning the need for a new and improved aquatics center for the town, with room for classes, teams, and open swim. According to their input, the existing space at the High School is not large enough, is subject to scheduling conflicts among users, has maintenance issues, and lacks shade and seating. A major issue according to user groups is the shared use of the high school locker rooms, which limits use by non-high school user groups. Given the outdoor location, wind is the primary issue, causing lack of visibility (and thus pool closures) as well as extra pool cleaning from dust and dirt. Participants noted that a year-round facility, potentially indoors, would be preferred, that was large enough for multiple activities to occur at once (such as lessons, lap swimming, team training, aquatic exercise, water polo, open swim, etc.)

Regarding potential locations for a new aquatic center, the existing Boys and Girls Club/Brehm Park, as well as the area at Sunnyslope and Sage (8 acres) were mentioned as possibilities. A participant also noted that a large pool/recreation center could potentially also be used as an emergency facility and/or water source for disaster relief. Participants noted that it will be important to develop a sustainable plan to maintain the facility for the long term, which could include a public/private partnership, given the level of maintenance and operation costs associated with a new aquatic center.

Indoor Recreation Facility/Gymnasium

Several participants expressed the need for an indoor recreation facility or gymnasium, especially during the hot summer months. According to their input, a more modern, larger facility than the existing Boys and Girls Club building is needed to provide youth a place where they can engage in healthy active, indoor activities throughout the year rather than indulge in video games. Some recommended a gymnasium be built in conjunction with an indoor aquatic center. If that is not possible or too costly, then the indoor recreation facility/fitness center was described as important enough to be constructed as a stand-alone facility. Given limited resources, it was recommended that this facility be developed as part of a shared facilities plan, where the Town of Yucca Valley, the Morongo Unified School District, and community non-profits share the resource.

More Walking/Hiking Paths

Participants in several interviews noted the need for more hiking and walking paths throughout town, to take advantage of the Yucca Valley clean air, starry skies and altitude, as well as to maintain connections with nature. A hiking path along the wash behind the Yucca Valley Community Center was mentioned as a starting point by multiple participants. It was suggested that these flood control channels could be used as the spine for a linear park that could extend throughout the length of the town and beyond. Pocket parks located along these paths were also proposed as a valuable amenity for residents and local workers. Participants also noted the need for additional bike paths for families/to schools in the community, as well as mountain biking options, and would like to see sidewalks within the town to create a safer, more walkable downtown. Development of a cohesive, comprehensive walking path system linking Old Town with the rest of the community was also seen as an economic development strategy that would better position Yucca Valley to attract tourists visiting Joshua Tree National Park.

Green Grass

Participants in several sessions mentioned the importance of public parks in providing green grass for the community. Several interviewees noted that in the high desert, most people do not have lawns and look to the community's parks as places to experience green grass, which is seen as a priority for public gathering spaces, not only for athletic fields.

Enhancements to Existing Parks

Participants noted that current maintenance levels need to be increased to better maintain the parks that exist. The cleanliness of park restrooms was cited as one example of where improvements are needed. Certain facilities can be enhanced (e.g. Brehm Center needs to be finished and furnished; the Desert Museum could expand open hours; nature trails could be developed at North and South Park; etc.) New amenities are also desired at certain park locations, to increase shade and trees, provide new tables and seating, play equipment such as a spider web or climbing wall, splash pad, shade structures and seating at dog parks, and improve restrooms. North Park was described as a very important new asset which should be opened up to provide access for hiking and other outdoor activities.

Expansion of the Park System

Parks were described as a way to encourage economic development and to improve the overall livability of the community by placing more of them closer to where people live. It was suggested that locating pocket parks in the center of town would help to address this need. Participants also suggested that new parks and facilities should be designed to reflect the natural beauty and aesthetics of the desert and the distinctive character of the Yucca Valley community.

Most homes in Yucca Valley do not have their own pools and given the high desert climate the desire for an improved public swimming facility was expressed by many. It was proposed the swimming facility could be linked to a fitness facility and the community center could function as a central gathering place and be rented out to help finance the center.

It was noted that Little League Park has a lengthy list of costly deferred maintenance needs which must be met to address safety issues including a need to upgrade lighting and become ADA compliant. The private non-profit that owns and operates the facility lacks the financial resources to make these critical improvements. It was understood the Town is interested in purchasing the facility and could meet these maintenance needs, while freeing Tri-Valley Little League to focus on operating the little league program.

Parks for Building Fellowship and Community

Participants noted that one of the greatest values provided by parks and recreation programming is the opportunity to socialize within the community and build relationships built on common interests. Participants noted the Town's existing successful events such as the Concerts in the Park, 4th of July, and Grubstakes events. Other desired events mentioned were a Farmer's Market (perhaps at the new library location), additional arts events, etc. It was recommended that there be at least one major, community-wide event each month and that these events should be all day affairs, enabling people to come and go throughout the day, rather than be limited to only a few hours.

Art in Public Places and a Center

Participants discussed the need for a working arts center, where artists can practice and perform their craft, give lessons, and further the arts movement in Yucca Valley. Participants also recommended that the Town consider incentives for more art in parks and public places and murals throughout town.

Multi-Generational Recreational Programs

Participants noted the need for parks and programs to be available for all segments of the population, including youth, seniors, people with disabilities, etc. Although the Town is seen as doing an excellent job providing recreational programs for most children and teens, some see a need for more adult-oriented and senior programming. Recreation programs provide introductions to new activities and sports to provide exposure of a broad cross section of the community to a variety of recreational and healthy activities. There is a desire to see more family-oriented events on weekends, such as movies in the park.

Meeting Needs of Youth

As noted above, the Yucca Valley community has done well meeting the recreational needs of its younger population by providing a wide range of athletic team and other sports programs, but it was observed that not all youth are drawn to participate in sports. A variety of non-athletic programs are needed to meet the recreational and social needs of this segment of the youth population. In addition, some believe existing recreation programs are mostly geared for younger children and that programs targeting older teens and younger adults (ages 12 to 21) are needed. There was also a desire to see the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department become more proactively involved with local youth through the formation of a police athletic league.

Meeting Needs of Seniors

Many interviewees noted that programming for seniors was not a priority in recent years. Yucca Valley was originally a retirement community, and the Town's Senior Center was one of the first recreation facilities built. This center is primarily used as the location for the County-run lunch program and does not easily support other uses. The facility closes at 1 pm and does not provide the spaces typically found in senior centers today, including social space, library/game room, meeting rooms, space for private consultations (medical and legal), and a welcoming and accessible entry. Participants noted that board games, ping pong and pool tables would be a welcome addition and support social interaction. It was suggested that there are sufficient funds in the bingo account (\$30,000) to purchase these items. According to interviewees, the town's recent steps to hire a part-time person for the senior center are welcomed but the recruitment process is seen as taking too long to carry out.

Partnerships

Most participants recognized that Yucca Valley needs partnerships to improve its parks and recreation services, and that there are many examples already in place. It was observed that there is an extensive network of overlapping clubs and non-profits in Yucca Valley that the Town can leverage and support in order to expand the scope and depth of recreational and social opportunities. Providing the Parks and Recreation Department with a marketing budget to better promote their events and that of other local non-profit organizations was also proposed. These partnerships could also be leveraged through a shared-facilities plan in which the Town, along with the school district, and other local community organizations would pool their resources to finance the construction of major recreational facilities. Potential partnerships mentioned over the course of the interviews include:

- Partnerships for arts and with artists
- Boys and Girls Club
- County and other public agencies
- Facility operators (BMX operator, Tri-Valley Little League)

Members of the Sports Council would like to host All Stars Tournaments, which require concurrent use of multiple facilities. The Sports Council noted the number one priority was to increase programming through consolidated and coordinated facilities use. Additional priorities included increasing parent and

community involvement and building pride in the community through exemplary programs and levels of service.

Plan and Be Responsible

Participants noted that, similar to making sure there is adequate attention paid to maintenance, it will be important to finish existing projects, maintain and stabilize the system, and set master plans for future improvements.

User Friendly Plan

Participants noted that the Parks Master Plan should be accessible, “like a magazine” if possible, to be best utilized by staff and the public. It should also set realistic goals with timelines for implementation, building from a strategic vision.

COMMUNITY INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

Hi-Desert Aquatics	Tri-Valley Little League
Town of Yucca Valley Aquatics	Youth Commission
Boys & Girls Club	Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce
Joshua Tree National Park	Yucca Valley Town Councilmembers
Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council	Jeff Drozd
Senior Club	Rick Denison
	Robert Leone

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ed Keesling
Brad Napientek
Matthew Rauch
Andrea Staehle
Jeri Wilson

SPORTS COUNCIL FOCUS GROUP (INVITED)

BMX	Local Club Teams
Boys & Girls Club	Miracle League
High Desert Aquatics	Morongo Basin Tennis Association
Hawks Landing Golf Course	Morongo Basin Youth Soccer Association
Hi Desert Roller Derby	MUSD (Yucca Valley High School)
Joshua Springs	Tri-Valley Little League
Lobos Youth Football & Cheer	



3-12-18
TOWN OF
YUCCA VALLEY
PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN UPDATE

RESOURCES

- LOCAL BUSINESSES
- FACILITIES
 - BEAN
 - JACOBS
 - MCCRIS
 - YV HS
 - TREE CC
 - JOSHUA SPRINGS
 - COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
 - BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
 - EV FREE
 - LA CONTENTA MIDDLE
 - YV CC

VALUES

- YOUTH OFF STREETS
- BUILDING CHARACTER
- BUILDING LEADERSHIP
- BUILDING RESPONSIBILITY
- HAVE FUN!
- AFFORDABILITY / PROGRAMS
- GROW FROM WITHIN - PROGRAMS
- OUTSIDE FUNDING
 - YOUTHBOAT
 - SUNIT CONSTRUCTION: ASPHALT / BONE
 - DETROIT & ROCK CASINO

HUMAN RESOURCES
- STAFF
- VOLUNTEERS

PLANNING THROUGH
LONG TERM PLAN

CONTRACTORS
- BIDDING
- CONTRACTING

OPERATIONS
- HIGH SCHOOL
- HIGH SCHOOL

NEEDS

- FULL SIZE BASKETBALL COURT (MIDDLE SCHOOL)
- LOBO'S OWN FIELD SET FOR FOOTBALL (PRACTICE FIELD) - (DAILY BUT HAPPY W/ CURRENT TO
- SOCCER
- MORE SPACE FOR FACILITIES
- PAVED TRACKS AT BMX
- MOST ALL STARS TOURNAMENTS
- NEED FACILITIES TO SUPPORT / OBTAIN (FIELD)
- COORDINATED FACILITIES USE
- PARTNERSHIPS
- FUNDING - LONG TERM
- DECLINE IN PARTICIPATION IN YOUTH TEAMS HERE
- FOCUS ON CONTACT TO YOUTH
- MORE PARENT INVOLVEMENT
- YOUTH SPORTS / HEALTH FESTIVAL - INCLUDE
- CAMPS = MAINTAIN EXCITEMENT

PRIORITIES

- MONEY
- COACHES & PARENT / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
- BUILD PRIDE IN TOWN & SCHOOL
- LEVEL OF SERVICE
- YOUTH SPORTS COORDINATOR

Appendix B

2018 Questionnaire Summary



The Town of Yucca Valley is updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This update will guide Town decisions to provide and improve parks, open space, recreation facilities, trails, programs, and events in Yucca Valley. As part of this effort, the Town distributed an online questionnaire from May 11, 2018 - June 17, 2018, and a paper-version on May 12, 2018, to identify community priorities and needs.

A total of 777 people visited the questionnaire, including 643 respondents who completed the entire questionnaire.¹ The questionnaire was promoted through the Town's website and social media as well as various email list serve groups and online newsletters. Flyers were prepared and distributed to the Sports Council and recreation instructors for distribution to community members. The questionnaire was distributed as a paper version at the Health & Community Resource Fair on May 12, 2018, the Grubstake Days Run on May 27, 2018, and online through June 17, 2018. Paper versions were also available at the Community Services Department office and at the Hi-Desert Museum. Responses from the online and paper versions were combined and are summarized below.

Key Takeaways

Questionnaire responses reveal several overarching themes related to parks and recreation preferences and priorities. These themes provide direction for the Plan update:

- *Residents appreciate the existing facilities, parks, recreational activities, and events in Yucca Valley.* Parks are frequented throughout the community and a large portion (41%) of respondents have participated in programs, classes, and events. Participants value the reasonable prices of Town-provided programs, activities, and classes, and the opportunity to try something new.
- *Building a new pool or aquatic center is a priority* for a majority of questionnaire respondents. The current pool is primarily used for recreation and swim lessons, and respondents would like more shade, recreational features (such as a splash pad), open swim hours, and aquatic fitness programs in a new facility. A slight majority prefer a new indoor pool instead of an outdoor facility.

¹ The reported percentages are calculated based on the total number of respondents who answered that question. Respondents were not required to answer every question, resulting in a different number of respondents for each question. Some questions allowed respondents to provide more than one response. For these questions, the results total more than 100%.

- In addition to a new aquatic facility, respondents indicated that *investing in existing parks is another priority for funding*, either through adding amenities (shade, benches, and landscaping) or additional recreation opportunities (loop trails, playgrounds, and sports courts).
- Despite our limited natural trail system, *sidewalks, pathways, and trails are an important part of Yucca Valley's parks and recreation system*. A majority of respondents use the trails and pathways, primarily for walking/jogging and nature walks. Respondents would like to see more nature trails and more bicycle and pedestrian facilities both within parks and between parks and popular facilities.
- The creation of *positive activities for youth* is the top-rated benefit of parks and recreation.

Topic-Based Questions: Results

The following section summarizes responses from questionnaire participants on Yucca Valley's current and future parks and facilities, trails and walking paths, recreational programs, and funding priorities. Participants had the option to write-in their own answer on nine of these questions. Write-in answers that were repeated by five or more participants are summarized in this section.

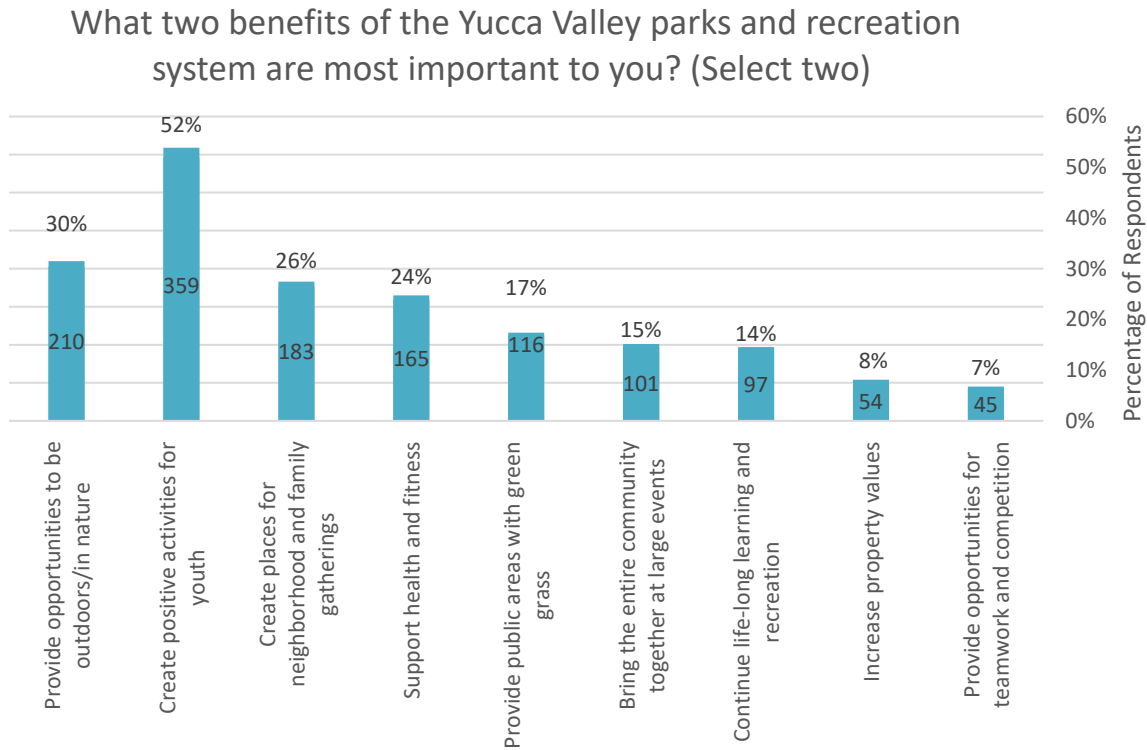
Parks and Facilities

The questionnaire asked respondents the most important benefits of Yucca Valley's park and recreation system, how frequently they visit each existing park/facility type, and if they do not frequently use the parks/facilities, why they do not. The questionnaire also asked what types of new facilities respondents would most like to see in Yucca Valley.

System Benefits

A majority of respondents (52%) said the creation of positive activities for youth is the most important benefit the Yucca Valley parks and recreation system provides. Almost a third (31%) of respondents also value that the system provides opportunities to be outdoors and in nature (see Figure 1). Respondents also value parks as places for neighborhood and family gatherings and to support health and fitness.

Figure 1: Benefits



Park and Facility Visitation

The two most frequently visited parks (visited once a week or more) identified by survey respondents are Community Center Park (19%) and Brehm Park (14%) (see Figure 2). In addition, almost half of respondents (48%) said they visit the Community Center and Joshua Tree National Park at least one to two times per month. A third (33%) of questionnaire respondents said they visit small parks in their neighborhoods at least one to two times per month.

The least visited facilities by questionnaire respondents are the Boys and Girls Club, Little League Park, and South Park. Seventy-percent (70%) of respondents rarely or never visit the Boys and Girls Club, 65% rarely or never visit the Little League Park, and 57% rarely or never visit South Park.

Participants were asked to write in their favorite park/facility. In addition to parks already mentioned, 81 participants wrote in as their favorites: the 29 Palms swimming pool, Desert Christ Park, the Desert View Conservation Area, Freedom Park in Palm Desert, Friendly Hills Park, Hawk’s Landing Golf Course, Hi-Desert Nature Museum, the Mojave National Preserve, Morongo Canyon Preserve, Palm Desert Aquatics Center, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Pioneertown Mountains Preserve, Rhythms of Life, Triangle Park, Water Parks in Desert Hot Springs, and Yucca Valley BMX.

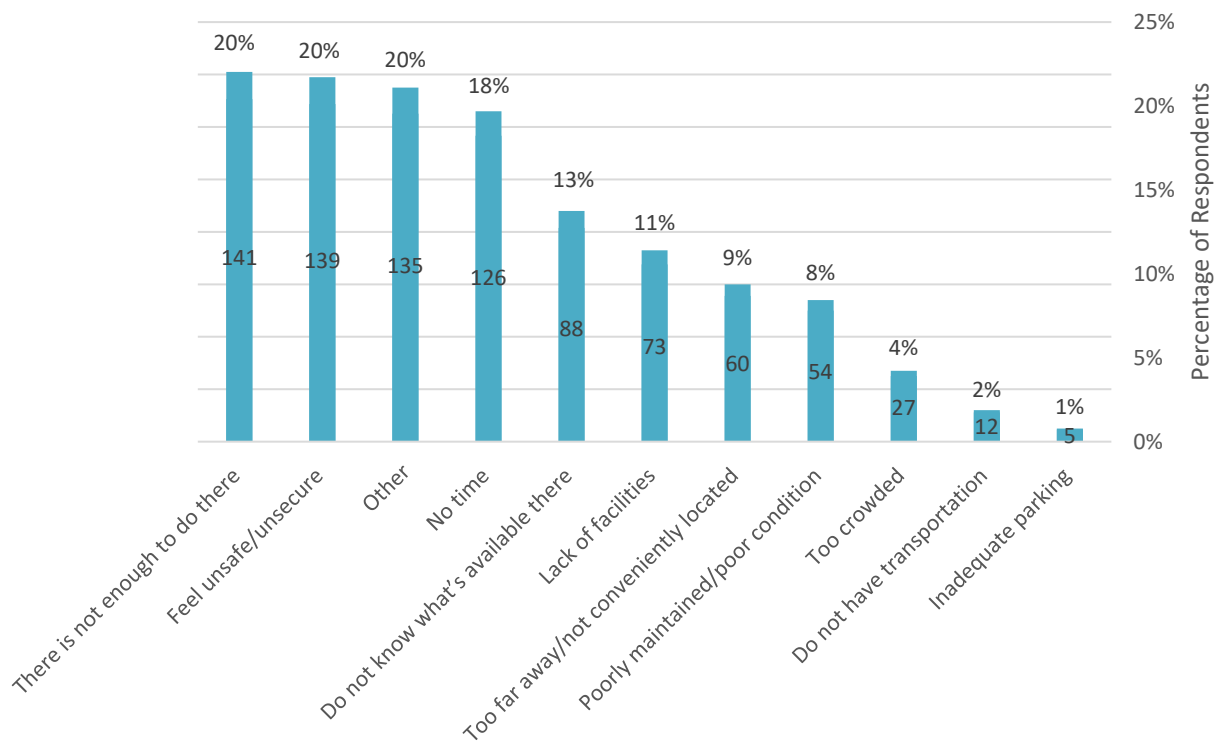
Figure 2: Visitation Frequency

Park/Facility Type	Frequently (Once a week or more)	Sometimes (1-2 times a month)	Visit Frequently or Sometimes	Rarely (Less than 5 times a year)	Never	Visit Rarely or Never
Community Center Park, including Yucca Valley Community Center and Senior Center	19%	29%	48%	34%	10%	44%
Small parks in my neighborhood (Paradise Park, Machris Park, Jacobs Park)	12%	21%	33%	29%	21%	50%
Essig Park (playground/dog park)	13%	17%	30%	24%	28%	52%
South Park (hiking trail)	3%	12%	15%	22%	35%	57%
Brehm Park (soccer fields, playground, roller derby, Miracle League baseball field)	14%	16%	30%	25%	25%	50%
Joshua Tree National Park	12%	36%	48%	46%	4%	50%
Little League Park	12%	13%	25%	28%	37%	65%
Boys and Girls Club	8%	12%	20%	25%	45%	70%
Your favorite park or facility (write in) _____	8%	9%	17%	6%	10%	16%

For those who seldom use the parks in the Town of Yucca Valley, 20% said the reason is because they feel unsafe or unsecure, 20% said that there is not enough to do there, and 18% said that they do not have enough time (see Figure 3). Twenty percent (20%) of respondents wrote in their own reason for seldom using the Yucca Valley parks. Reasons included: teenagers and homeless hanging-out (18), wanting different recreation facilities than what the Town provides (16), not having kids (13), no reason or interest in going (12), a lack of shade (9), and insufficient maintenance of facilities (5).

Figure 3: Reasons for Not Using Parks

If you seldom use or do not use the parks in Yucca Valley, what are your reasons? (Select two)

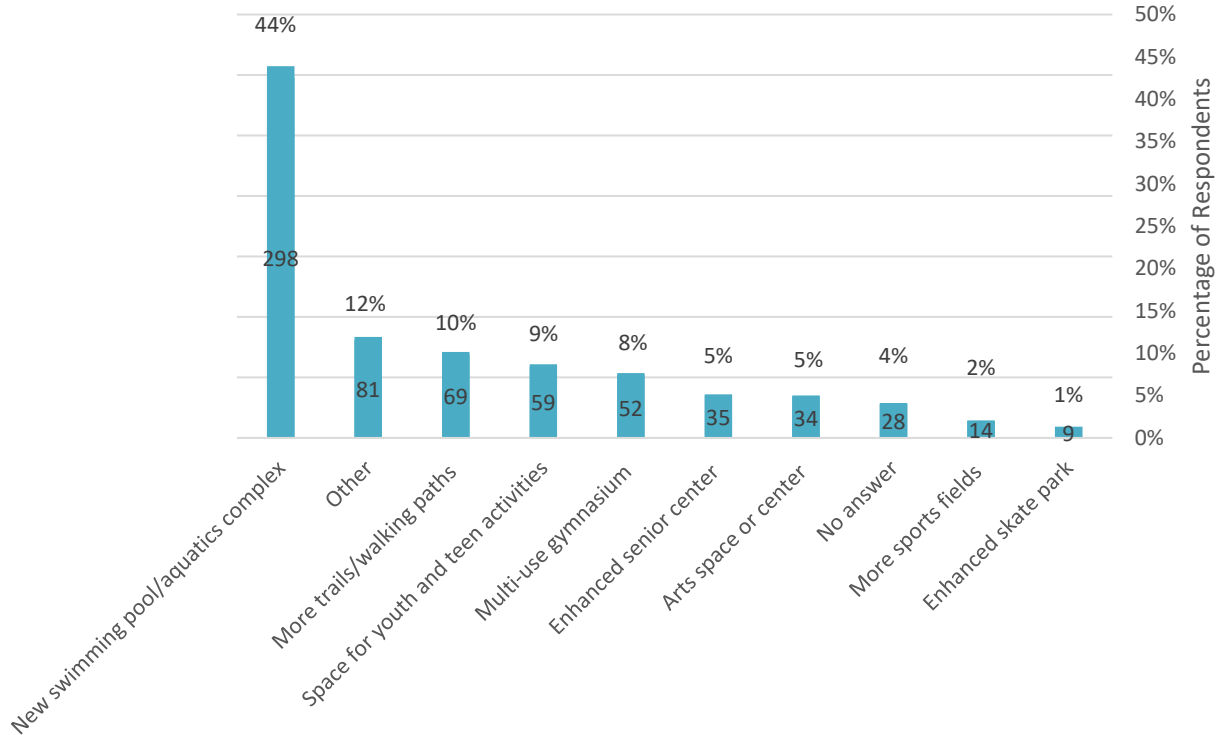


New/Improved Facility

Almost half (44%) of respondents said they wanted a new swimming pool/aquatics center when asked what new or improved facility they would most like to see in Yucca Valley (see Figure 4). Of the 12% who wrote in an “other” response, more bicycle facilities and facilities for people with special needs were identified.

Figure 4: New or Improved Facilities

What new or improved recreational or park facility would you most like to see in Yucca Valley? (Select one)



Pool/Aquatics Facility

Approximately 30% of respondents currently use the Yucca Valley High School Pool (see Figure 5). Of those who do, more than half (53%) use it for recreation/family swim and 44% use it for swim lessons (Figure 6).

Figure 5: Pool Use

Do you use the Yucca Valley High School Pool?

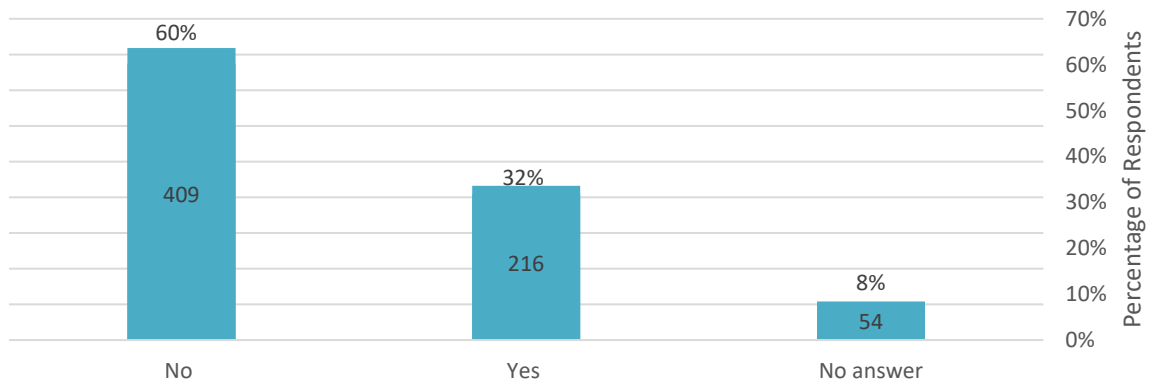
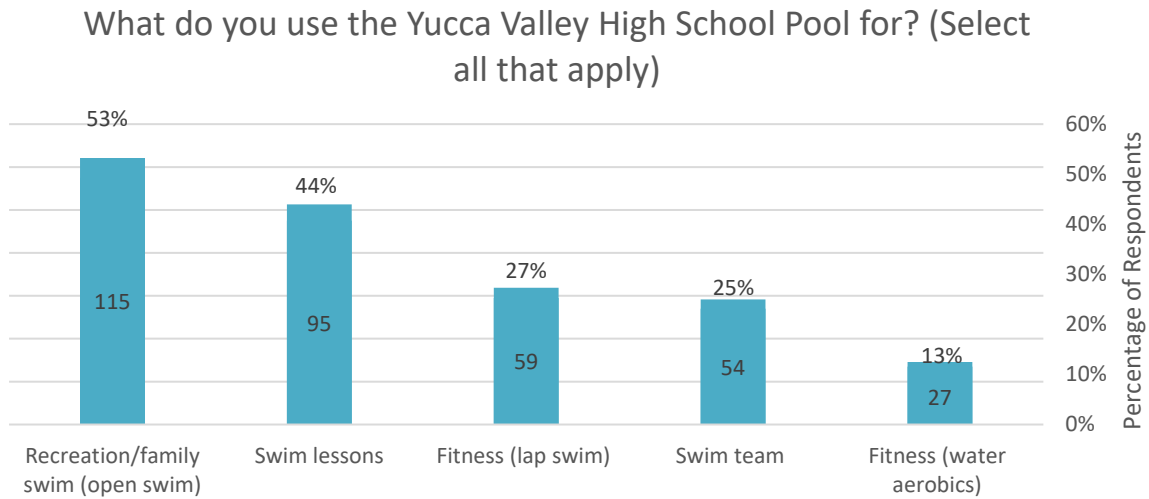
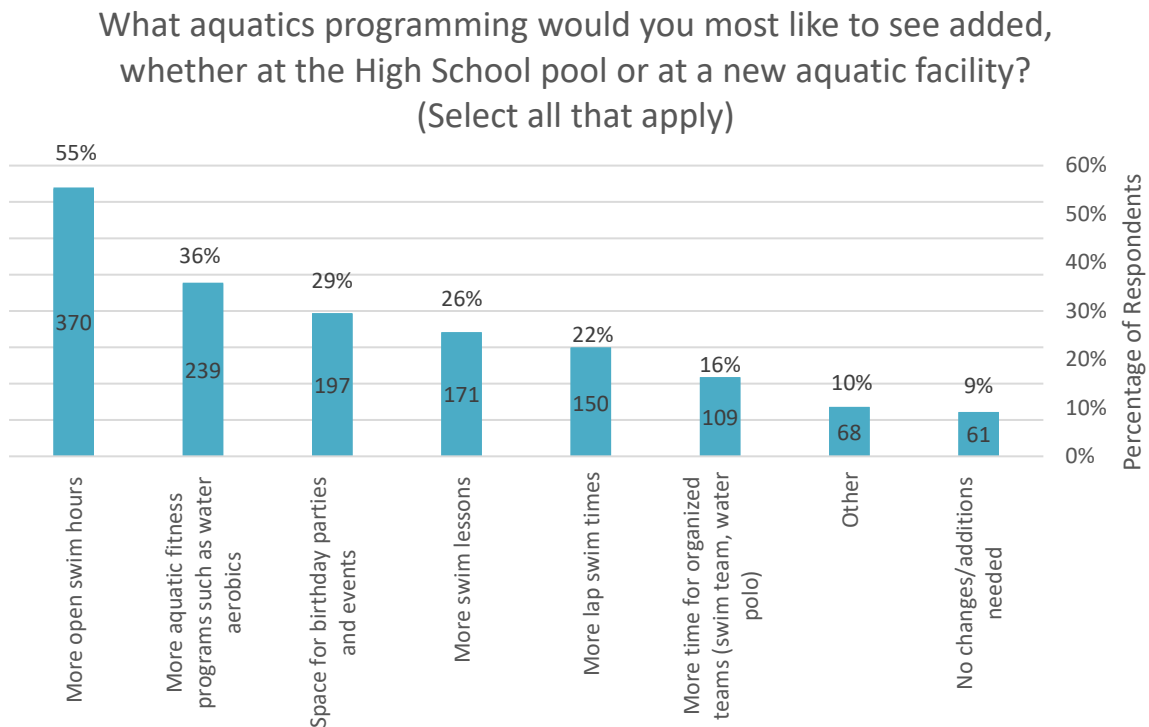


Figure 6: Reasons for Pool Use



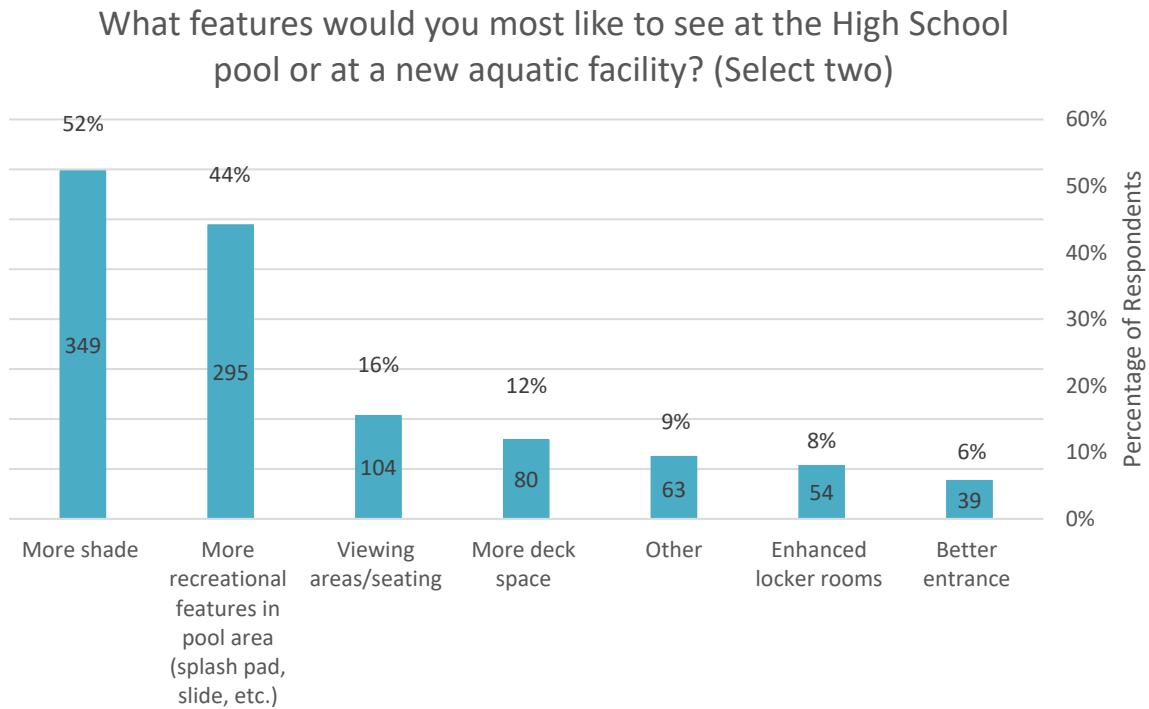
If more aquatics programming was added to Yucca Valley, more than half (55%) would like to see more open swim hours and 36% would like to see more aquatic fitness programs such as water aerobics (see Figure 7). Of the 10% of respondents who selected “other,” year-round access to an aquatic facility and extended pool hours were identified. Comments received from participants to all open-ended questions are available in Appendix B.

Figure 7: Desired Aquatics Programming



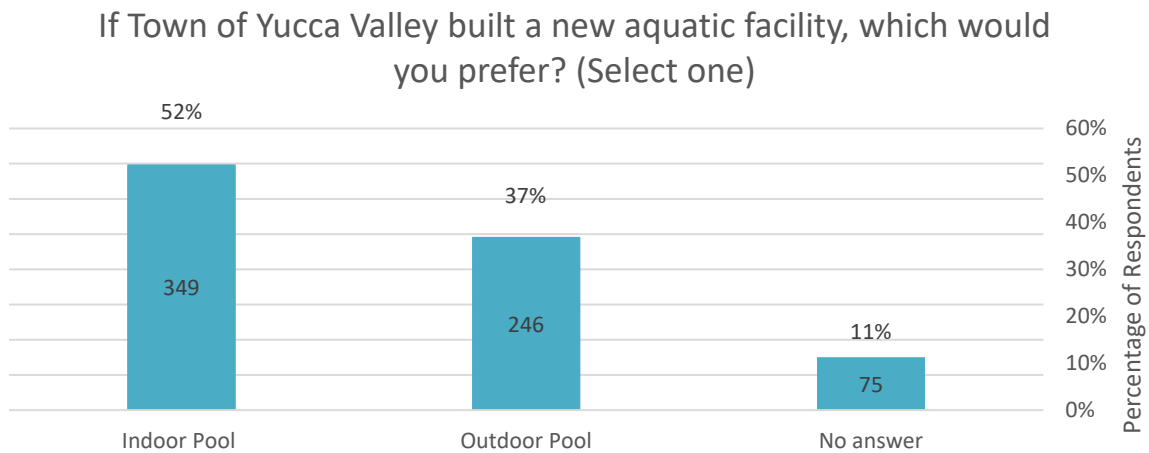
If additional features were added to an existing or new aquatics facility, more than half of respondents (52%) would like to see more shade, and 44% more recreational features in the pool area, such as a splash pad, slide, etc. (see Figure 8). Comments received from participants to all open-ended questions are available in Appendix B.

Figure 8: Aquatic Facility Features



If a new aquatics facility were built, more than half of respondents (52%) would prefer an indoor pool over an outdoor pool (see Figure 9).

Figure 9: Indoor or Outdoor Aquatic Facility



Trails and Walking Paths

The questionnaire asked respondents about their current use of trails and walking paths in Yucca Valley and what additions they would like to see for Yucca Valley's trail system in the future.

Current Use

Approximately half (51%) of respondents use the trails and walking paths in Yucca Valley (see Figure 10), with almost 70% using them for walking/jogging and 70% for nature walks/wildlife viewing (see Figure 11).

Figure 10: Trail/Walking Path Use

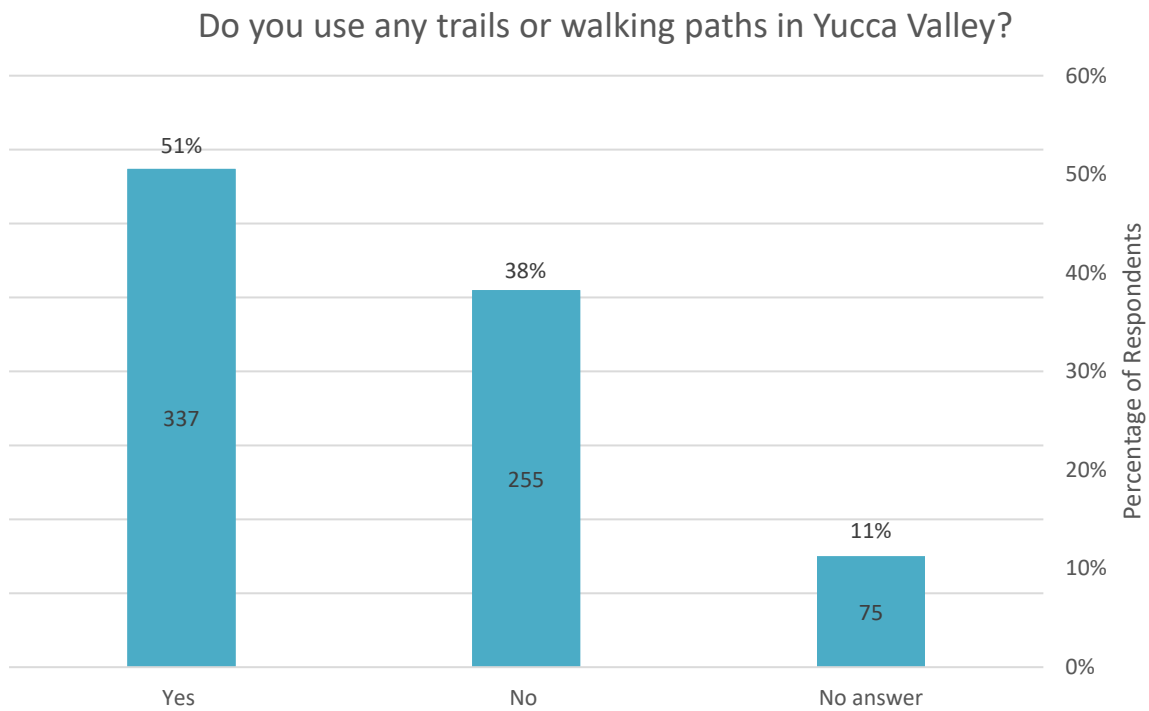
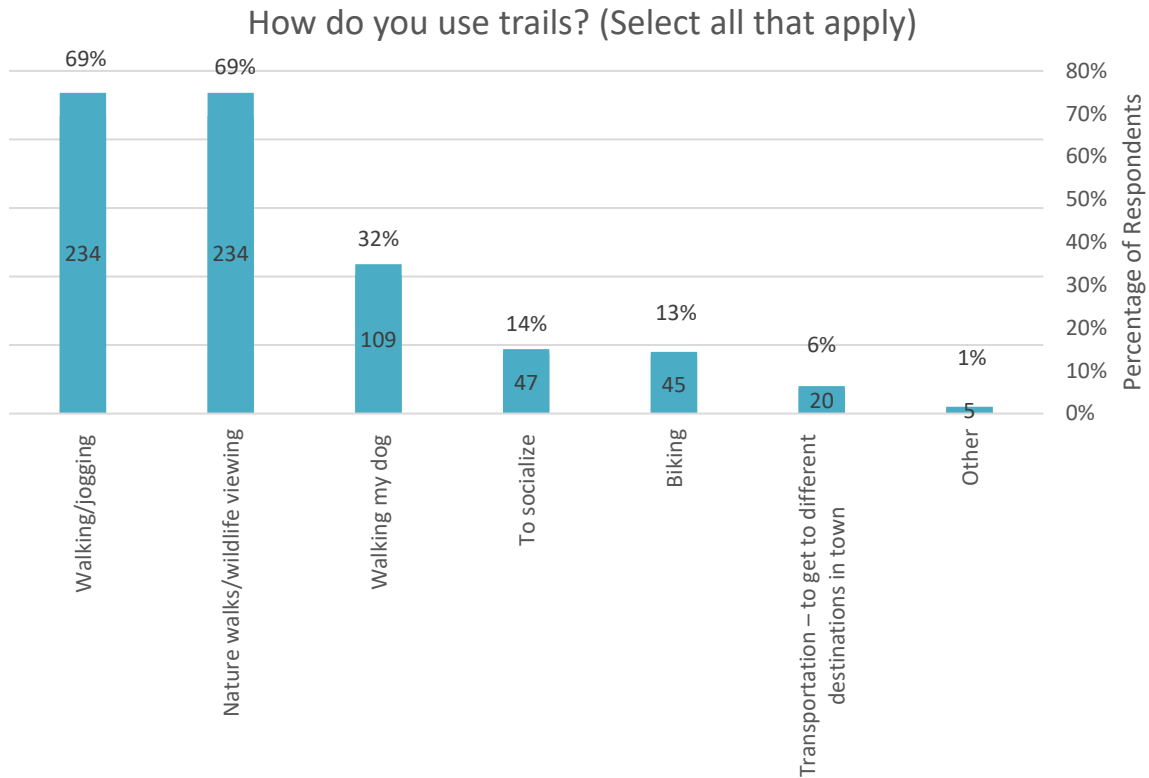


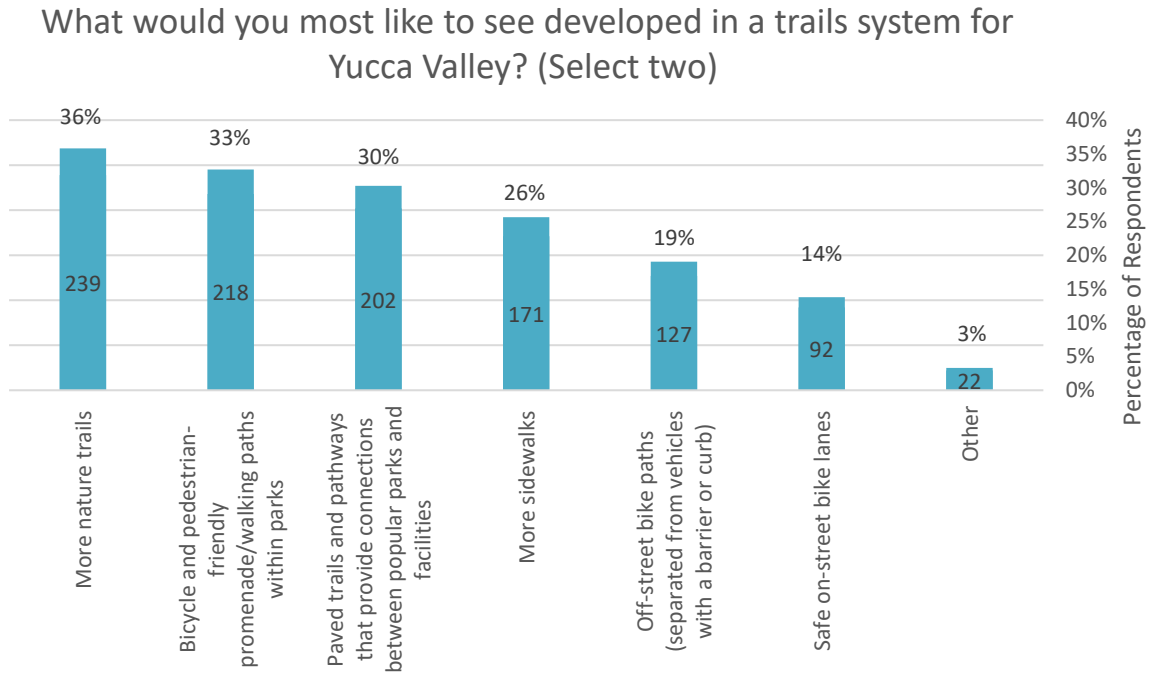
Figure 11: How Trails are Used



Trail System Additions

The questionnaire asked what respondents would like to see developed in a Yucca Valley trail system in the future (see Figure 12). About one-third of respondents (36%) said they would like to see more nature trails, about one-third (32%) recommended bicycle and pedestrian-friendly promenade/walking paths within parks and approximately a third (30%) would like paved trails and pathways that provide connections between popular parks and facilities.

Figure 12: Trail System Additions



Recreation Programs

The questionnaire asked respondents why they participate in recreation programs, activities, and classes offered by Yucca Valley and why, as well as respondents' favorite programs, activities, and classes. The questionnaire then asked what types of recreation programs respondents would like to see offered or expanded in the future.

Current Participation

Forty-one percent (41%) of respondents have participated in Yucca Valley programs, activities, or classes in the past two years (see Figure 13). When asked their favorite program, activity, and class, 26% listed a type of athletics (either individual or team sport) and 21% aquatic programming (see Figure 14).

Figure 13: Recreation Program, Activity, and Class Participation

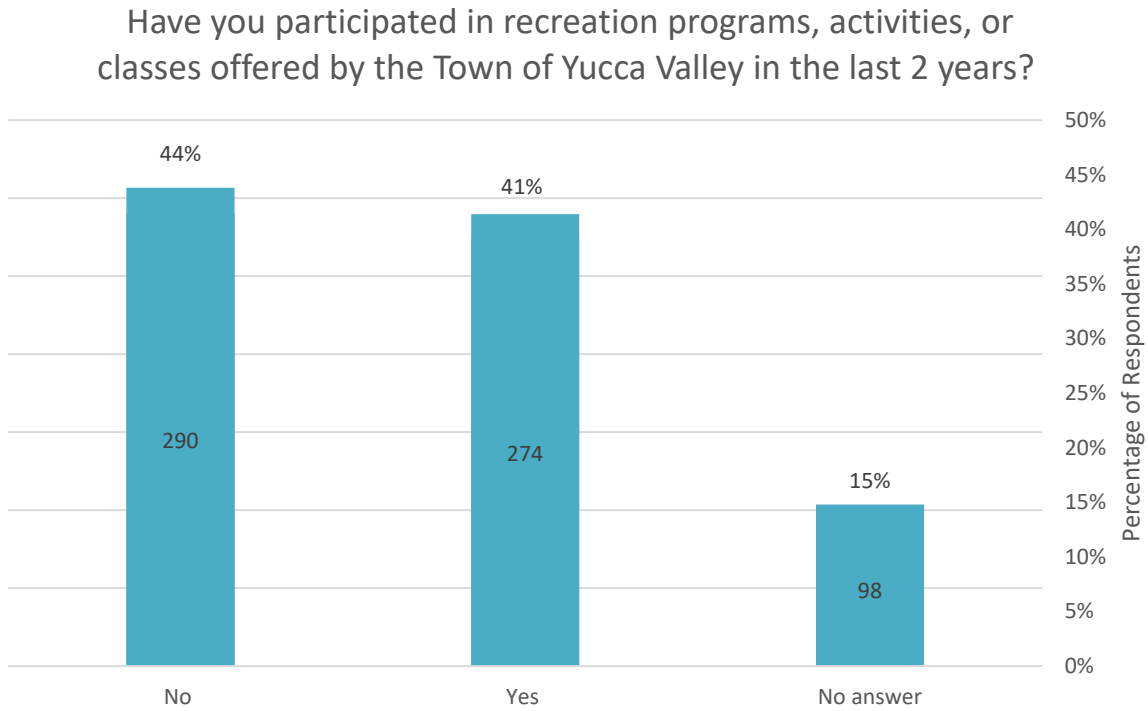
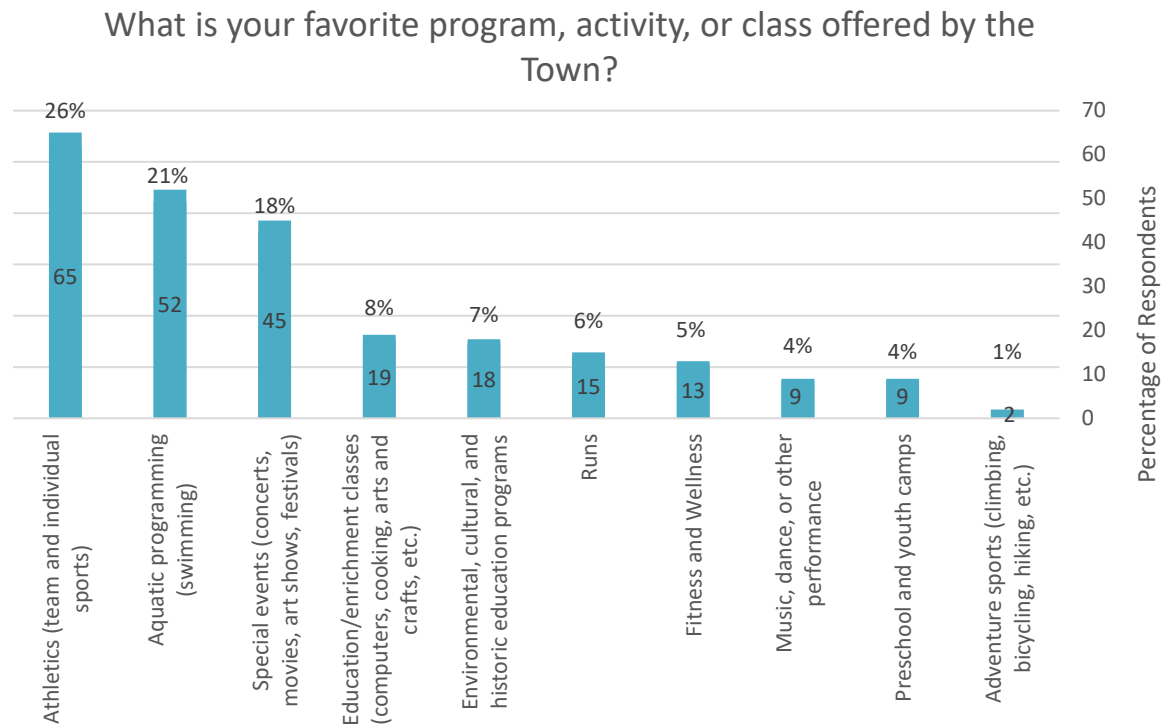
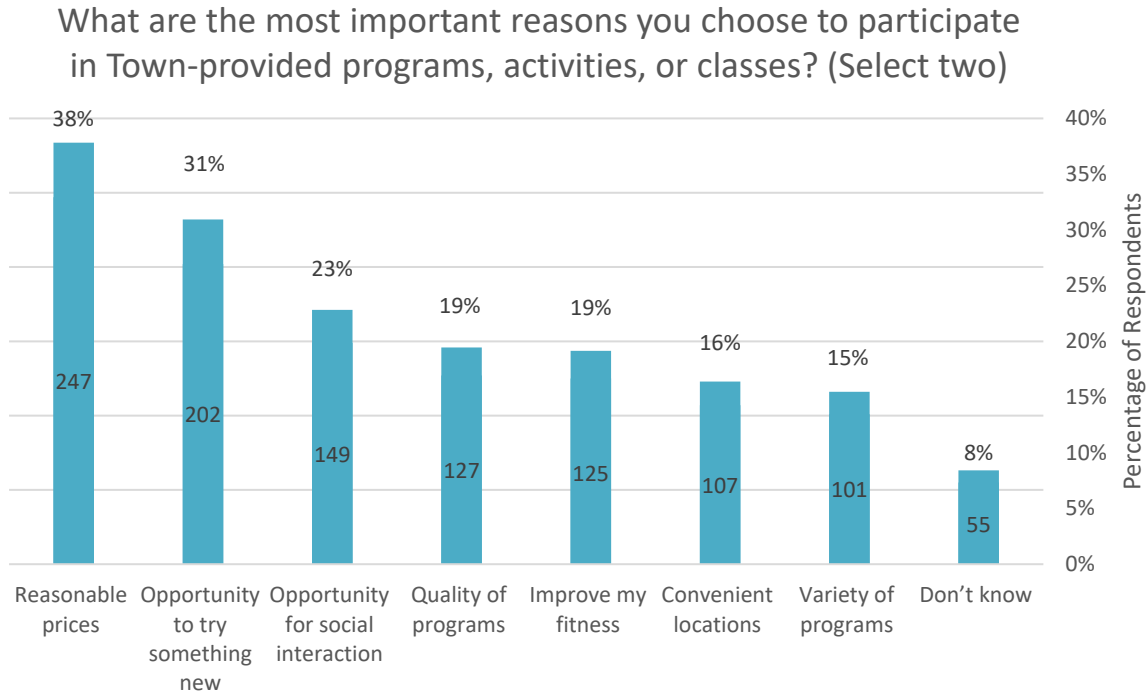


Figure 14: Favorite Program, Activity, or Class



Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondents participate in Town-provided programs/activities/classes because they are reasonably priced, and almost a third (31%) participate as an opportunity to try something new (see Figure 15).

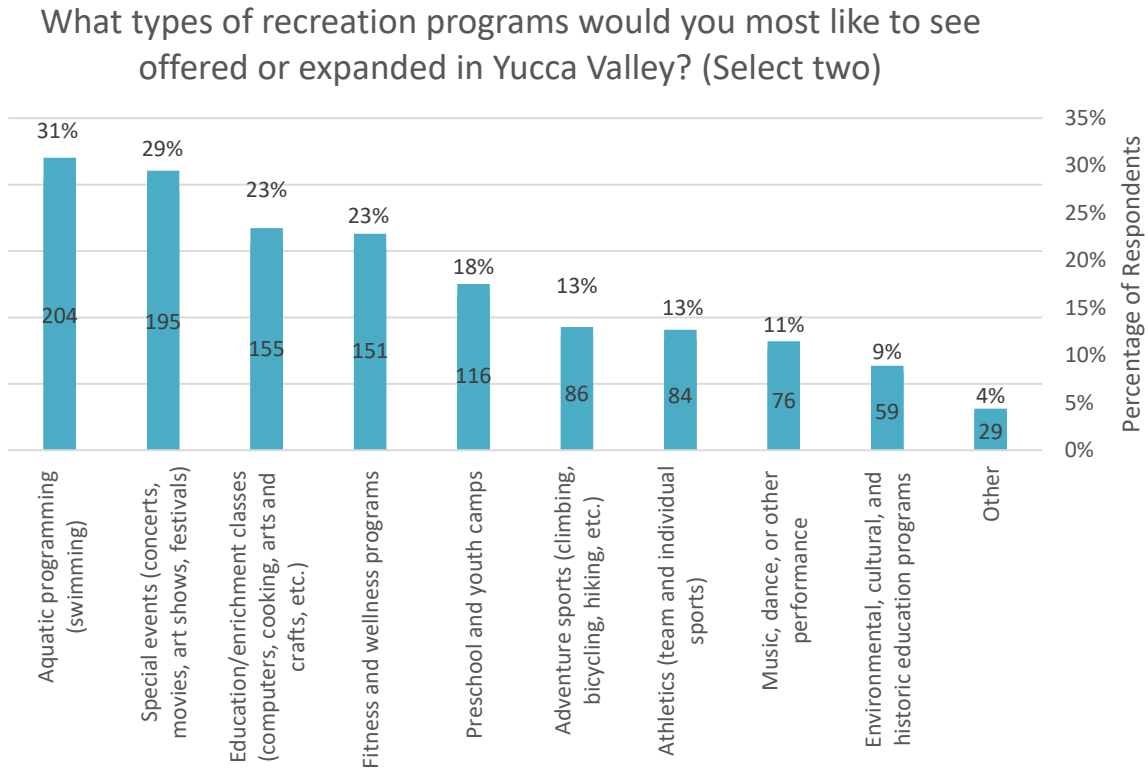
Figure 15: Reasons for Participating



Program Expansion

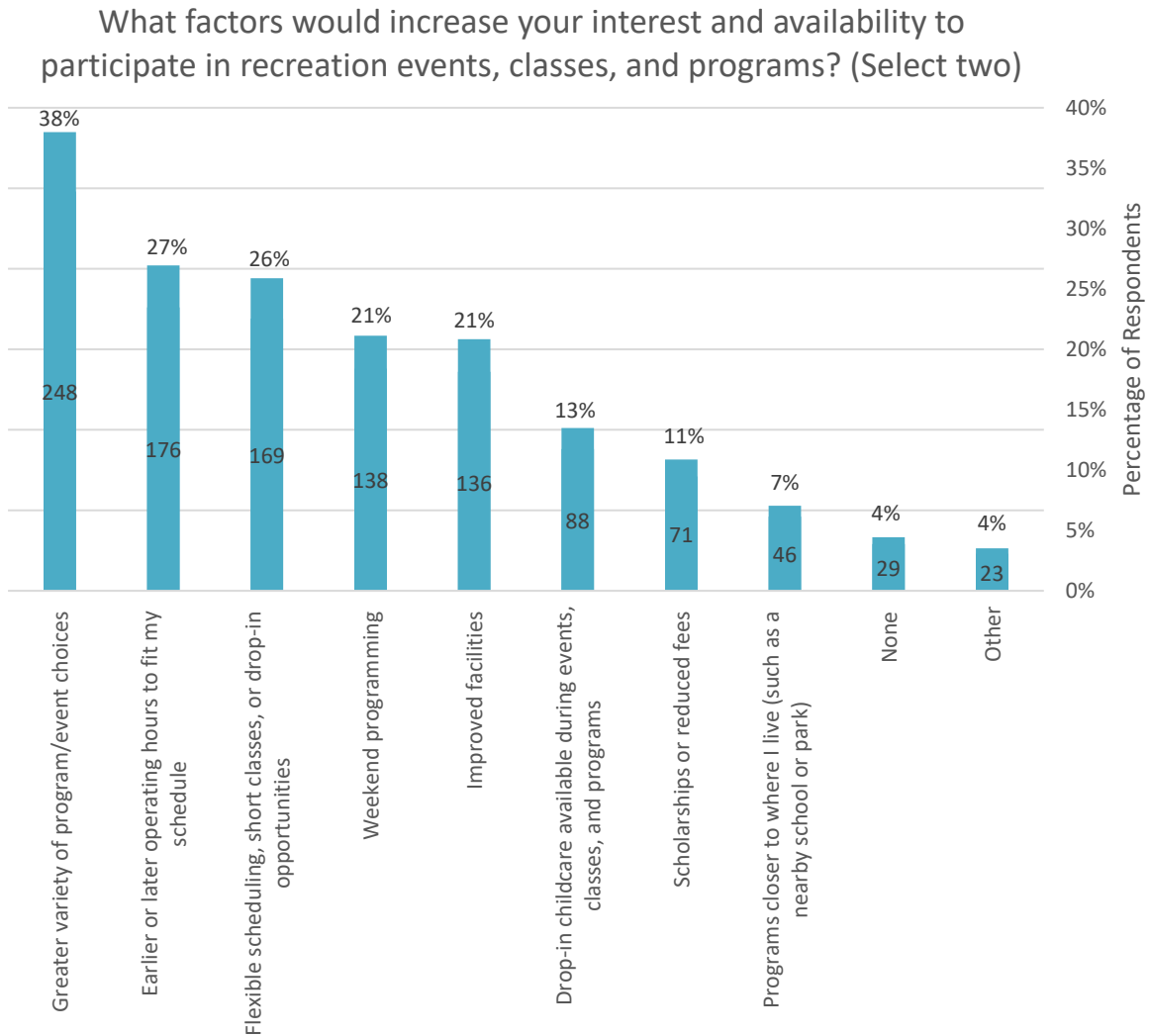
Almost a third of participants (31%) would like to see aquatic programming expanded and 29% would like to see special events (such as concerts, movies, art shows, and festivals) expanded (see Figure 16).

Figure 16: New Offered or Expanded Programs



Participants said that a greater variety of programming (38%); flexible scheduling, short classes, or drop-in opportunities (26%); earlier or later operating hours to fit their schedule (27%); and weekend programming and improved facilities (21% each) would increase their interest and availability to participate in events/classes/programs (Figure 17).

Figure 17: Factors to Increase Interest/Availability in Events, Classes, and Programs

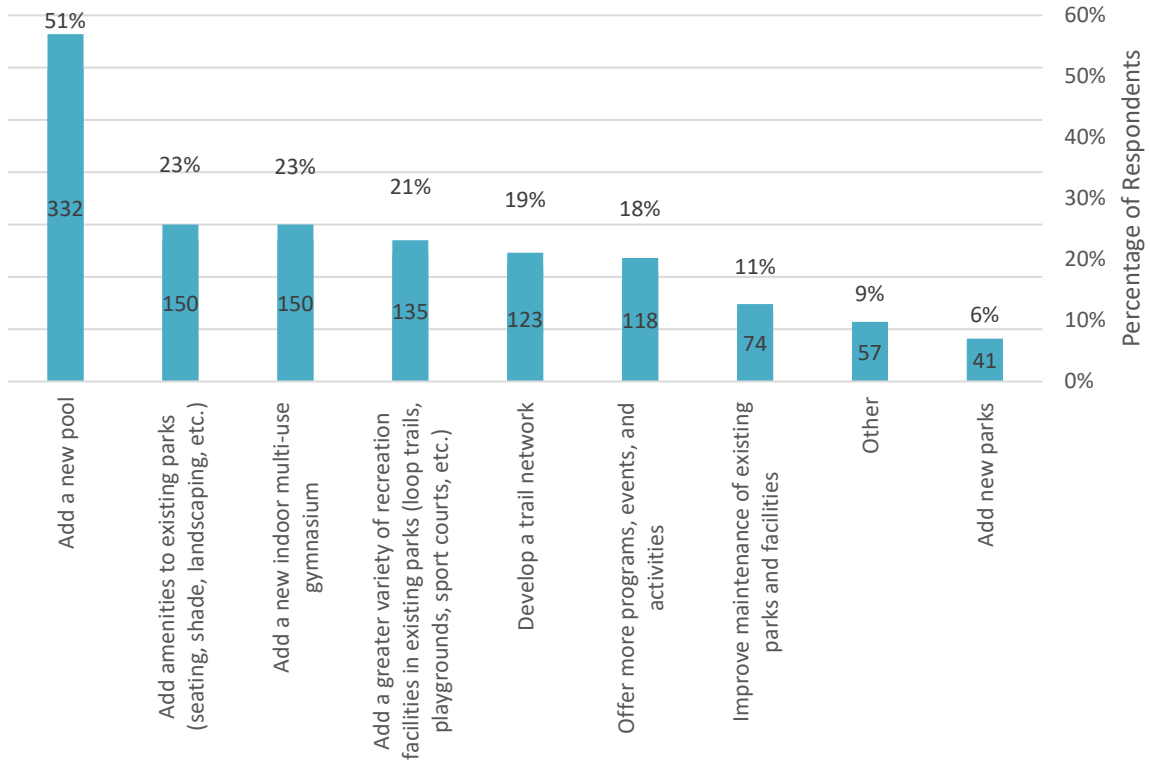


Funding Priorities

More than half of respondents (51%) said that adding a new pool was one of top two priorities for them for improving Yucca Valley’s parks and recreation (Figure 18). A total of 44 percent identify investment in existing parks as a priority, including 23% with a focus on amenities for existing parks, such as seating, shade, landscaping, etc. and 21% with a focus on more recreational amenities in existing parks, such as walking loops, sports courts, and playgrounds. Another 23% highlighted adding a new indoor multi-use gymnasium as a priority. Out of the 57 who selected “other,” increasing safety at parks and improving bicycling facilities in the Town were the most common responses.

Figure 18: Funding Priority

The Town of Yucca Valley has finite resources and must prioritize its parks and recreation investments. Tell us how you would prioritize funding. If funding were available, what are your top two priorities for improving parks and recreation in Yucca Valle



Demographic Questions: Results

This questionnaire is not a random sample. The demographic information provides information about who participated in the questionnaire (see Figures 19 – 24). More females and those whose households contain children under the age of 18 took the questionnaire than those who live in Yucca Valley overall. In addition, residents ages 35 to 54 are overrepresented in this questionnaire. Those ages under 24 and over 75 are underrepresented.

Figure 19: Live or Work in Yucca Valley

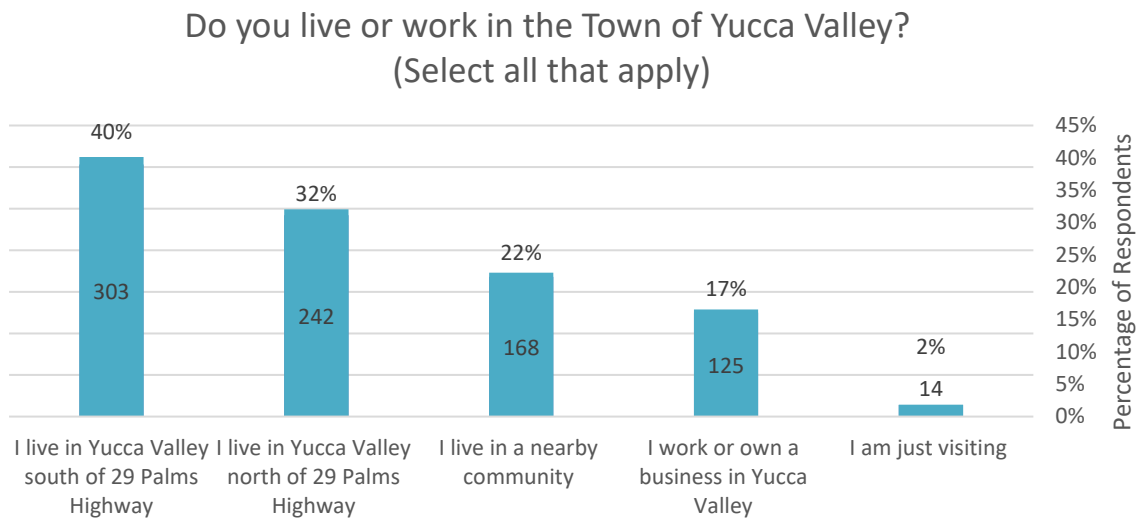


Figure 20: Length of Residence

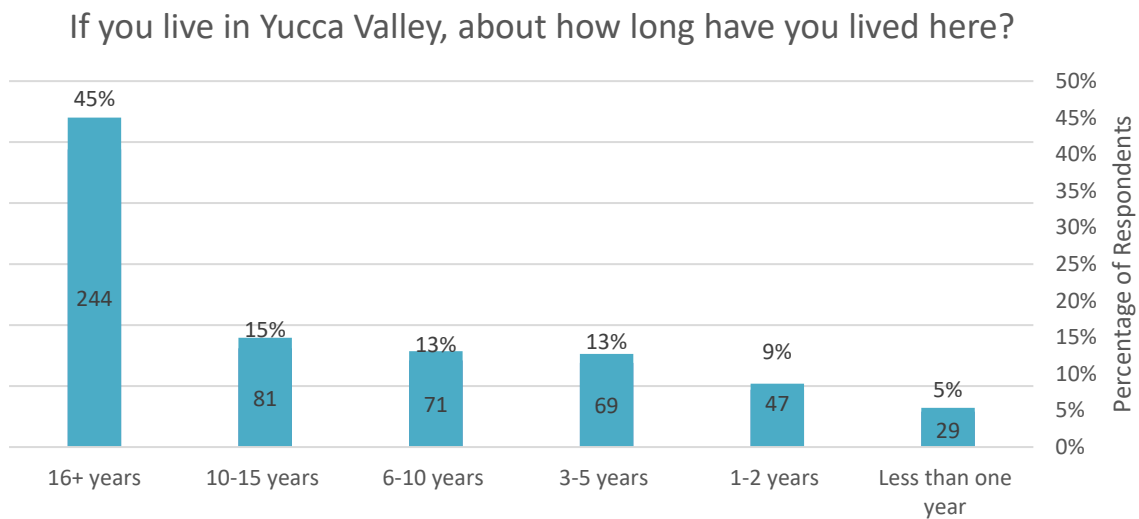


Figure 21: Age

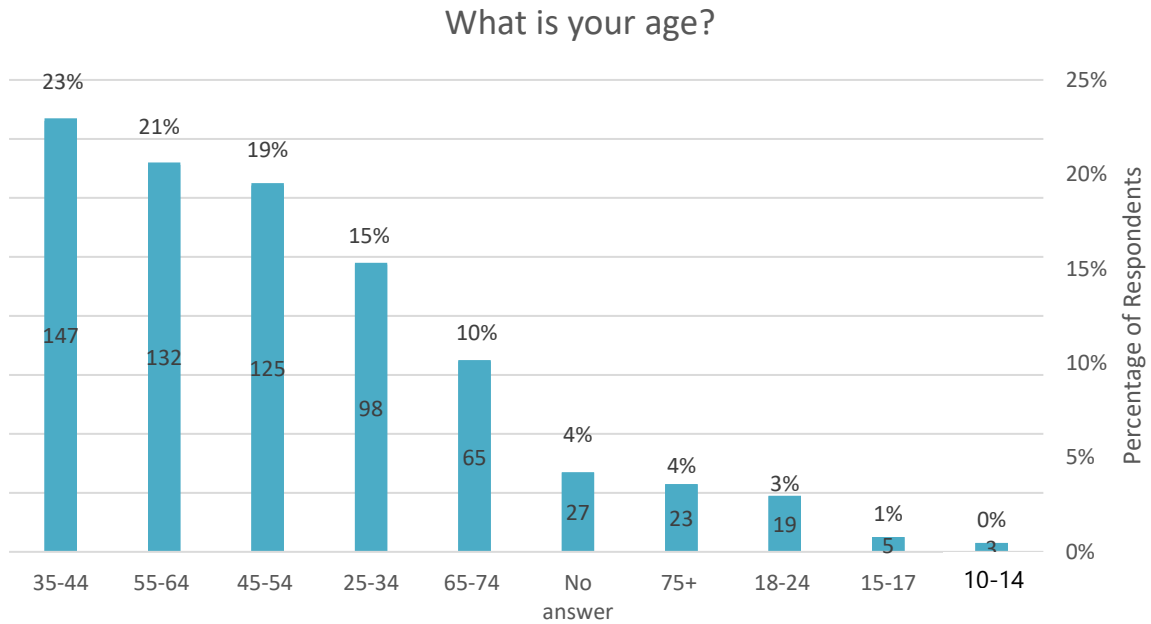


Figure 22: Household Members under 18

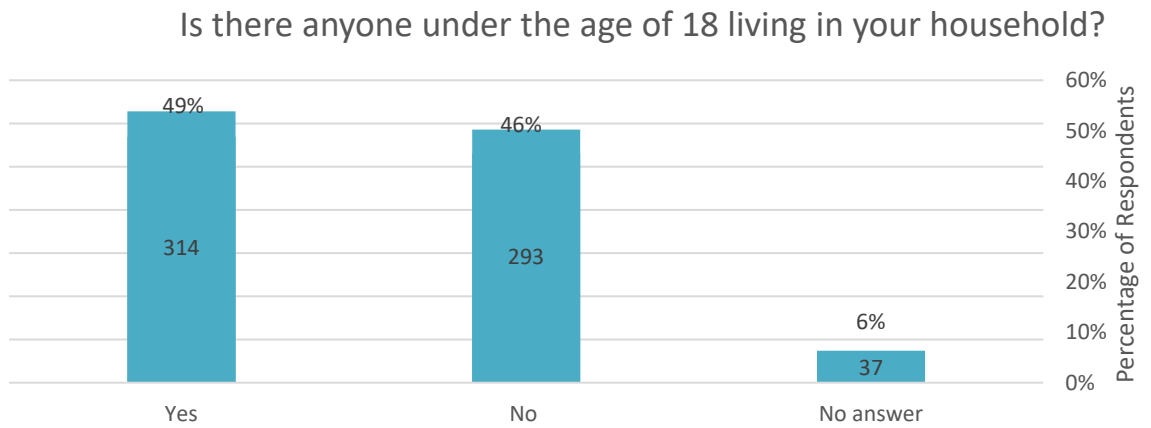


Figure 23: Ethnicity/Race

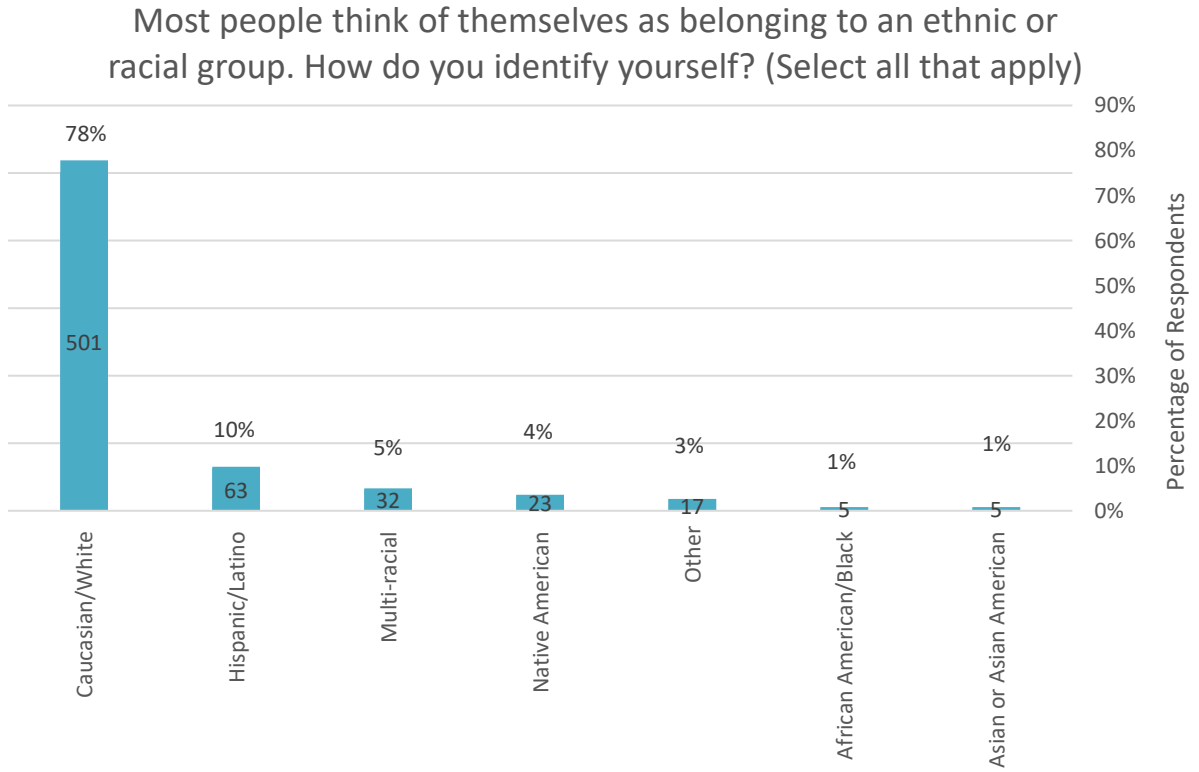
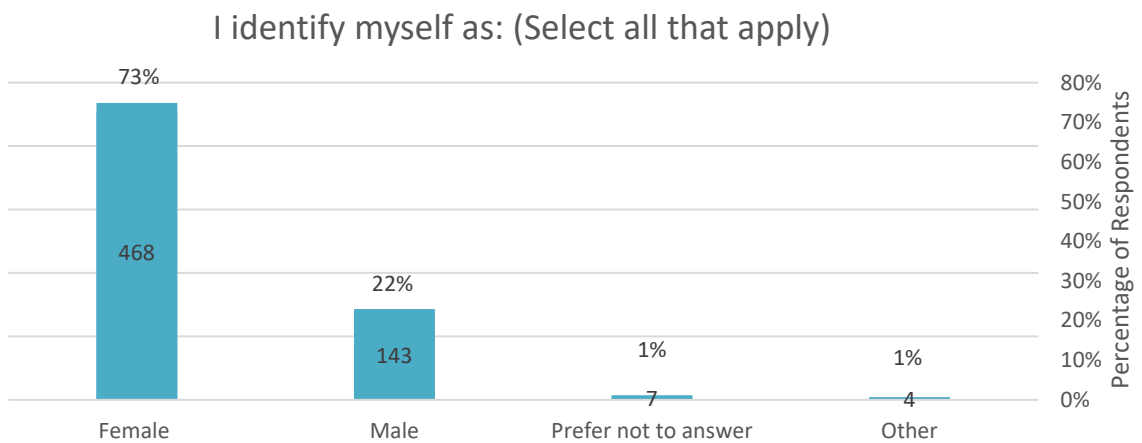


Figure 24: Gender



Online Questionnaire

Help us shape the future of Yucca Valley's parks and recreation system!

The Town of Yucca Valley is updating its 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Your input will help us identify priorities and needs for parks, open space, recreation facilities, trails, programs, and events in Yucca Valley.

Your insights are important. Please take a few minutes to complete the questions. Then encourage each member of your household over the age of 10, plus friends, colleagues, and teammates to fill out a separate questionnaire. Responses must be received before June 15, 2018.



**At the end of the survey, you can enter to be considered for the prize drawing.
You could win a Swim Pass for 10 visits to the pool!**

Thank you for your time and help!

1. Do you live or work in the Town of Yucca Valley? *(Select all that apply) (If you do not live in Yucca Valley, please skip to question 3)*

- I live in Yucca Valley north of 29 Palms Highway
- I live in Yucca Valley south of 29 Palms Highway
- I work or own a business in Yucca Valley
- I live in a nearby community
- I am just visiting

2. If you live in Yucca Valley, about how long have you lived here?

- Less than one year
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 10-15 years
- 16+ years

PARKS AND FACILITIES

3. What two benefits of the Yucca Valley parks and recreation system are most important to you? *(Select two)*

- Provide opportunities to be outdoors/in nature
- Bring the entire community together at large events
- Create places for neighborhood and family gatherings
- Provide opportunities for teamwork and competition
- Create positive activities for youth
- Continue life-long learning and recreation
- Support health and fitness
- Increase property values
- Provide public areas with green grass

4. How frequently do you visit the following Yucca Valley parks and recreation facilities? (For each row, select the column that best describes how often you visit that park or recreation facility)

Park/Facility Type	Frequently (Once a week or more)	Sometimes (1-2 times a month)	Rarely (Less than 5 times a year)	Never
Community Center Park, including Yucca Valley Community Center and Senior Center				
Small parks in my neighborhood (Paradise Park, Machris Park, Jacobs Park)				
Essig Park (playground/dog park)				
South Park (hiking trail)				
Brehm Park (soccer fields, playground, roller derby, Miracle League baseball field)				
Other Parks and Facilities				
Joshua Tree National Park				
Little League Park				
Boys and Girls Club				
Your favorite park or facility (write in) _____				

5. If you seldom use or do not use the parks in Yucca Valley, what are your reasons? (Select two)

- No time
- Lack of facilities
- Feel unsafe/unsecure
- Poorly maintained/poor condition
- Too far away/not conveniently located
- There is not enough to do there
- Do not have transportation
- Do not know what's available there
- Too crowded
- Inadequate parking
- Other (write in): _____

6. What new or improved recreational or park facility would you most like to see in Yucca Valley?
(Select one)
- Multi-use gymnasium
 - New swimming pool/aquatics complex
 - Enhanced senior center
 - More trails/walking paths
 - Arts space or center
 - Space for youth and teen activities
 - Enhanced skate park
 - More sports fields
 - Other _____
7. Do you use the Yucca Valley High School Pool? (If no, please skip to question 9: What aquatics programming will you most like to see added)
- Yes
 - No
8. What do you use the Yucca Valley High School Pool for? (Select all that apply)
- Fitness (lap swim)
 - Fitness (water aerobics)
 - Swim team
 - Recreation/family swim (open swim)
 - Swim lessons
9. What aquatics programming would you most like to see added, whether at the High School pool or at a new aquatic facility? (Select all that apply)
- More open swim hours
 - More aquatic fitness programs such as water aerobics
 - More lap swim times
 - Space for birthday parties and events
 - More time for organized teams (swim team, water polo)
 - More swim lessons
 - Other (write in) _____
 - No changes/additions needed

10. What features would you most like to see at the High School pool or at a new aquatic facility? (*Select two*)

- More deck space
- More shade
- Viewing areas/seating
- Enhanced locker rooms
- More recreational features in pool area (splash pad, slide, etc.)
- Better entrance
- Other (write in) _____

11. If Town of Yucca Valley built a new aquatic facility, which would you prefer? (*Select one*)

- Indoor Pool
- Outdoor Pool

TRAILS AND WALKING PATHS

12. Do you use any trails or walking paths in Yucca Valley?

- Yes
- No (*If no, please skip to Question 14: "What would you most like to see developed in a trails system for Yucca Valley?"*)

13. How do you use trails? (*Select all that apply*)

- Walking/jogging
- Nature walks/wildlife viewing
- Biking
- Walking my dog
- Transportation – to get to different destinations in town
- To socialize
- Other _____

14. What would you most like to see **developed** in a trails system for Yucca Valley? (*Select two*)

- More nature trails
- Paved trails and pathways that provide connections between popular parks and facilities
- Bicycle and pedestrian-friendly promenade/walking paths within parks
- More sidewalks
- Safe on-street bike lanes
- Off-street bike paths (separated from vehicles with a barrier or curb)
- Other: _____

RECREATION PROGRAMS

15. Have you participated in recreation programs, activities, or classes offered by the Town of Yucca Valley in the last 2 years?

- Yes
- No (*skip the next question*)

16. What is your favorite program, activity, or class offered by the Town?

17. What types of recreation programs would you most like to see offered or expanded in Yucca Valley? (*Select two*)

- Fitness and wellness programs
- Athletics (team and individual sports)
- Adventure sports (climbing, bicycling, hiking, etc.)
- Aquatic programming (swimming)
- Music, dance, or other performance
- Preschool and youth camps
- Education/enrichment classes (computers, cooking, arts and crafts, etc.)
- Environmental, cultural, and historic education programs
- Special events (concerts, movies, art shows, festivals)
- Other: _____

18. What are the most important reasons you choose to participate in Town-provided programs, activities, or classes? (*Select two*)

- Quality of programs
- Variety of programs
- Reasonable prices
- Convenient locations
- Opportunity to try something new
- Improve my fitness
- Opportunity for social interaction
- Don't know

19. What factors would increase your interest and availability to participate in recreation events, classes, and programs? (Select two)

- Drop-in childcare available during events, classes, and programs
- Programs closer to where I live (such as a nearby school or park)
- Earlier or later operating hours to fit my schedule
- Weekend programming
- Flexible scheduling, short classes, or drop-in opportunities
- Improved facilities
- Scholarships or reduced fees
- Greater variety of program/event choices
- Other: _____
- None

FUNDING PRIORITIES

20. The Town of Yucca Valley has finite resources and must prioritize its parks and recreation investments. Tell us how you would prioritize funding. If funding were available, what are your top two priorities for improving parks and recreation in Yucca Valley? (Select two)

- Add a greater variety of recreation facilities in existing parks (loop trails, playgrounds, sport courts, etc.)
- Develop a trail network
- Improve maintenance of existing parks and facilities
- Add amenities to existing parks (seating, shade, landscaping, etc.)
- Offer more programs, events, and activities
- Add a new indoor multi-use gymnasium
- Add a new pool
- Add new parks
- Other: _____

21. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Yucca Valley's park and recreation system?

DEMOGRAPHICS

The following questions are **optional**. Your responses will help us ensure that we are reaching a broad cross section of the Yucca Valley community during the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update process.

22. What is your age?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75+ |

23. Is there anyone under the age of 18 living in your household?

- Yes
- No

24. I identify myself as: *(Select all that apply)*

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to answer
- If you prefer to self-identify, please do so here: _____

25. Most people think of themselves as belonging to an ethnic or racial group. How do you identify yourself? *(Select all that apply)*

- African American/Black
- Asian or Asian American
- Caucasian/White
- Hispanic/Latino
- Multi-racial
- Native American
- If you prefer to self-identify, please do so here: _____

26. Enter the Drawing – OPTIONAL

You can provide your email address below to enter a random drawing for a Yucca Valley Swim Pass, good for admission to 10 sessions of Water Aerobics, Lap Swim, and Fun Swim:

Email Address: _____

A random drawing will be held after the first week and again after the survey closes on June 15th.

Your email address will be kept separately and not attached to your other responses. It will only be used to enter the drawing for prizes.

Thank you very much for participating in this questionnaire! Your input along with the feedback of your fellow community members will inform the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update.

Please encourage your friends, neighbors and other community members to take this survey by sharing the questionnaire link with them: <http://bit.ly/YuccaValleyParks>