

# Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update



## Chapter 4: Recreation Programs & Services



Town of  
Yucca Valley

## 4.0 – RECREATION ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### 4.1 Introduction

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

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

### 4.2 Recreation Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Town of Yucca Valley is committed to the delivery of quality, affordable and accessible recreation programs. In general, the Town sees its role as a direct provider of recreation programs and services. The Town collaborates with local sports organizations to ensure the delivery of a variety of outstanding, quality 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.

The town also partners with the Boys & Girls Club of the High Desert to expand the youth recreation and leisure activities.

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

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

### 4.3 Existing Town Programs and Services

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

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

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

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

*“The Town has made periodic improvements to existing parks, but the community has not built a new park in more than 30 years.”*

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

The most pressing program concern for the Town of Yucca Valley is the need for additional program space due to the high volume of use in current facilities. The Town has made periodic improvements to existing parks, but the community has not built a new park in more than 30 years. The existing community center, senior center, museum, library, sports fields and neighborhood park facilities are at capacity. Thus, it is difficult to add or expand programs and services. The new facilities recommended in Chapter 9 are desperately needed in order to meet future programming demands. Until new facilities are developed, staff can use the following recommendations and action items as guidelines when allocating facility space for program use.

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

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

Teen programs are also available for a nominal cost, including events at the Yucca Valley High School pool, which is managed and maintained by the Town.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Other Recreation Activity Opportunities**

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

Tri Valley Little League offers a family oriented program for children ages 4 through 16. Baseball, girls softball and T-ball

programs and leagues are available for residents February through June.

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

Bicycle motocross racing is held at the Coyote BMX Track Mondays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. Hi Desert BMX is the non-profit organization that operates the track.

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

### **YOUTH**

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

### **TEENS**

- ◆ Dances and drop in programs
- ◆ Special interest classes
- ◆ Homework assistance and other special interest activities
- ◆ Sports programs- soccer, softball, baseball

### **ADULTS**

- ◆ Sports leagues, tournaments and classes – basketball, horseshoes, slow pitch softball and tennis
- ◆ Fitness classes – aerobics, Jazzercise, and stretch and tone

- ◆ Special interest classes – dance, dog obedience, arts and crafts, self defense and sewing
- ◆ Dance instruction (line dance, ballroom dance)
- ◆ Excursions and day trips
- ◆ Literacy classes

### **SENIORS**

- ◆ Daily nutrition program and homebound meals
- ◆ Bingo and card games
- ◆ Special interest classes
- ◆ Excursions
- ◆ Exercise and fitness programs

## **4.4 Program Needs Assessment**

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

### **Community Outreach**

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

### **Townwide Telephone Survey**

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

In addition to the community outreach effort, the current and future demographic composition of the Town was analyzed.



Demographic trends were obtained through a variety of resources that included national, state, regional and local demographics. Emerging and future population trends and their implications for parks and recreation for the Yucca Valley community were evaluated.

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

### **Program Needs Summary**

*Exhibit 4.1* shows graphically which public input tools provided information to determine community demand for recreation and cultural programs. If a program or service was requested, mentioned as desirable to have or was indicated as a need in Yucca Valley it was noted and recorded. (The complete list of needs and demands can be found in *Appendix C*.)

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

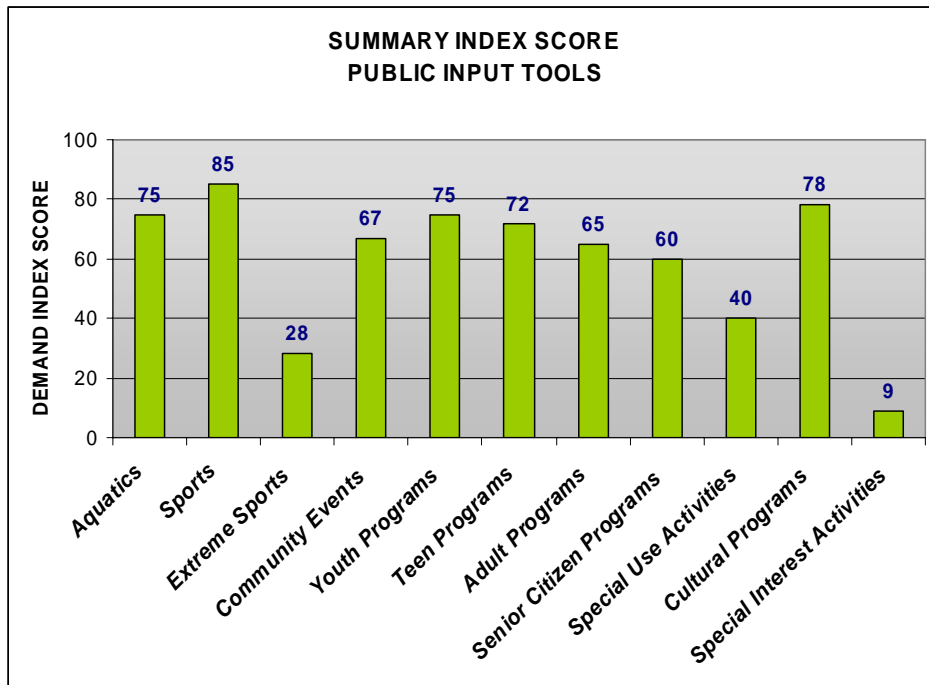
Consequently, the team used the list to provide a picture of the most requested areas of programming and services that came out of the public input process. The programs and/or services mentioned in five or more of the tools identifying demand were considered to be indicative of the community's most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

The following graph provides a comparison of the demand for programs and services by program category. It was obvious during the public input process that the participants identified certain program/service categories that they felt the

Town should concentrate on when determining where programming resources are allocated. These categories were then used to organize the list of identified program demands. The total numbers of identifying tools were determined and an index score was developed to provide a comparison of requested programs/services.

It should be noted that the participants were asked to identify program needs in Yucca Valley, and the responses would, therefore, not acknowledge the sufficiency of existing programs. The research indicated a high level of satisfaction with existing recreational and cultural programs, so it would be unwise to fund new programs at the expense of those already being provided. The responses refer mostly to unmet needs.

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



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

## 4.5 Program Recommendations

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

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

### Aquatics

Aquatics programs are especially valued by the community. Currently, the only aquatic facility available for lessons, recreational swim and competitive programs is the swimming pool at Yucca Valley High School. The pool is maintained and operated by the Town of Yucca Valley, but is only available for public use during times when school is not in session. The Town's Learn-To-Swim program and other aquatics activities are only offered during the summer months. The community is desirous of having a year-round full service aquatics complex for swim lessons, recreational swim, competitive swim, lap swimming, water polo, parent-child classes, and water exercise activities and for birthday parties.

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

### Action Items

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

facility proposed in the facilities recommendation section of the Master Plan meets the community needs and demands for future lessons, recreational swim, competitive swim, and special interest aquatic programs.

## Sports

As previously noted, the current areas of deficiency are the most likely to emerge as high priorities in the public input process. Sports fields and sports programs garnered the most number of requests and identified demand during the community outreach and public input process. For example, youth soccer was rated as a high priority need in the community with all 12 input indicators.

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

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

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

## Action Items

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

- ◆ As facilities permit increase the offerings for youth and adult volleyball. Consider offering volleyball clinics to introduce new participants to the sport.
- ◆ Work with the School District to expand track and cross-country program offerings. Work to ensure that the design and implementation of the townwide trails Program will accommodate various configurations for cross-country meets.
- ◆ Continue to expand the Spring track meet for elementary aged youth preceded by workshops or clinics for track events.
- ◆ As facilities permit, continue to encourage the growth of the girls softball program currently provided by the Tri Valley Little League.
- ◆ Continue to collaborate with the Boys & Girls Club to expand their sports opportunities, particularly the youth boxing program.
- ◆ Work with the local swim team and Boys & Girls Club to expand aquatic opportunities.
- ◆ Continue to collaborate with the School District to expand after-school sports activities for elementary school-age youth for flag football, volleyball, basketball, softball, and track.
- ◆ Continue to explore alternatives for providing classes and activities for tumbling, gymnastics, dance, and exercise programs for youth.
- ◆ Continue to provide opportunities for self-programmed recreation activities such as horseshoes, shuffleboard, ping-pong and other individual sports.
- ◆ Explore ways to offer additional and organized and drop-in sports programs for adults and seniors. Youth sports should have the priority for field and gym space, however, adult and senior sports should be initiated when space and time permit.
- ◆ Track the ongoing redevelopment of the Blue Skies Golf Course. Set a reasonable time limit to take action as

recommended in the Master Plan if the facility is not reopened for public play. Consider the acquisition of the property and subsequent contract with a development and management company to ensure the timely restoration of the golf course for public use. Consider all reasonable alternatives, including the acquisition and development of the golf course property as community park with smaller golf course included on the site.

## Extreme Sports

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

During the community outreach and public input process, it became apparent that there is a high degree of participation and demand for extreme sports activities. Numerous cross sections of the community indicated that they currently drive great distances to facilities that offer extreme sports programming. Some activities should continue to be offered in Yucca Valley, including the BMX Track and the Skate Park, while other facilities, such as off road vehicle parks and paint ball facilities can be provided at a county or state level or by a commercial vendor.

The Action Items below suggest some approaches to fulfill the requests by the community for extreme sports facilities.

### Action Items

- ◆ Continue to improve and expand the BMX course to meet the increasing demand for both informal and formal programming at the facility.
- ◆ Look for ways to provide "field trips" to off road vehicle parks particularly for youth and families who would like

the opportunity to participate in off road activities in a group situation.

- ◆ Consider working with the Boys & Girls Club in developing an indoor rock climbing facility where instruction and clinics can be offered. Consider negotiating to provide a commercial rock climbing facility in town. Work with local rock climbing clubs to offer rock climbing field trips to Joshua Tree National Park.
- ◆ Look for ways to develop a par-course/obstacle fitness course either within an extreme sports park (see facilities recommendations) or along a designated off road trail where the area would be appropriate for such use.
- ◆ Consider the alternative of facilitating the commercial development of an extreme sports park that would include a paint ball course, laser tag, and other team challenge opportunities.

### **Community Events**

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

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

### **Action Items**

- ◆ Continue to expand and add community and population specific special events.

- ◆ Consider creating an intergenerational health and wellness event, with an emphasis on physical activities and nutritional education.
- ◆ Explore opportunities to expand environmental education events for families.
- ◆ When new show grounds and exhibition space are developed, work to create regional events that attract a wide variety of special interests.
- ◆ Continue to expand program offerings for concerts in the park and other outdoor events that cater to families, such as Farmers Markets, Art Fairs, local talent performances, movies, plays, hobby shows, etc.

### Youth Programs

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

### Action Items

- ◆ As space permits at the Museum and Library expand after school programming with an emphasis on social skills, the arts, environmental education, experiences and physical fitness.
- ◆ Continue to contract with and/or partner with individual instructors as well as private agencies to provide existing and new programs for youth at the community center.
- ◆ Provide more tiny tot programs that help preschoolers grow socially and as well as physically, while preparing them for success in the local schools.
- ◆ As space permits, expand parent/child programming.



- ◆ Integrate youth development strategies into the development, design, and delivery of youth programs and services.
- ◆ Expand youth programs and services with an emphasis on the following activities:
  - Aquatics
  - Sports
  - Academic and homework assistance
  - The arts
  - Civic involvement and volunteer opportunities
- ◆ Enhance interactive family programming, including intergenerational programs. Expand opportunities for youth to participate in the ongoing identification, development and delivery of programs, services and events.
- ◆ Continue to collaborate in the delivery of programs and services for youth, including special interest class instructors, private agencies and non-profit organizations (Boys & Girls Club).

### Teen Programs

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

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

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

facilities for community organizations and clubs to present programs and activities aimed at the teen population.

### Action Items

- ◆ Develop special events for this age group including the continuation and expansion of teen dances.
- ◆ Establish and expand programs and services for this age group on school sites as well as off school sites when possible during non-school hours. Program considerations include:
  - Recreational sports
  - Aquatics experiences and lessons
  - Academic and homework assistance
  - Arts activities
  - Physical fitness and nutritional education
- ◆ Explore the creation of “extreme” sports programming that is of interest to youth in this age group, examples include laser tag and rock climbing.
- ◆ Look for ways to develop mentoring and volunteer programs that provide opportunities for youth to mentor youth, business mentoring youth, and youth connecting with seniors.
- ◆ Explore opportunities to expand excursion programs that provide highly interactive experiences for youth. An example identified in the community outreach included traveling to off-road recreation sites.
- ◆ Work with local organization to design and establish a new teen center that would meet the programming needs for that age group.

### Adult Programs

A variety of activities are currently available for residents of 18 years and over in Yucca Valley. Physical fitness, the arts, excursions, community events, sports and dance are included in the menu of activities programmed through the Recreation Division for adults. This population group is projected to

continue to grow with individuals many of whom will be employed outside of the area. Market reports as well as trends suggest that golf, swimming, walking, hiking, cooking, surfing the Internet, reading, and dining out are leisure time activities that will receive the highest rates of participation within this age group. The public outreach process suggested that adults 18 years and above are looking for programs that promote health and wellness, aquatics, intergenerational programs and the arts.

### Action Items

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

### Senior Citizen Programs

Currently Yucca Valley seniors often travel beyond the Town limits to communities such as Twentynine Palms and the Coachella Valley to participate in or take advantage of senior programs and services. Reports indicate that although this is a

community of many young families and adults, seniors are and will continue to be a major sector of the population.

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

### Action Items

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

### Special Use Programs

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

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

For example, Yucca Valley holds four annual 5k/10k Run in collaboration with community organizations and in coordination with holiday events. Another opportunity could be sponsoring an Adopt-a-Pet day or a pet vaccination clinic at a dog park.

### **Action Items**

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

### **Cultural Programs**

The demand for cultural programs and activities scored very high on the demand index and are highly valued by the community. This was evident among all age categories from

youth thru senior citizens. The community perceives it to be very essential to provide places for people to perform, display art, learn and to attend cultural activities and events.

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

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

### **Action Items**

- ◆ Continue programs that protect artistic, historic, scientific and cultural heritage in Yucca Valley. This can be done by expanding both permanent and temporary exhibitions, permanent collections, educational programs, and cultural events.
- ◆ Continue to work with the schools to implement K-12 education programs for both indoor and outdoor education activities. Continue to work with the schools and Joshua Tree National Park to expand opportunities for outdoor education.
- ◆ Continue to explore alternative ways for the public to access collections of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum including new technologies to allow virtual access.
- ◆ Collaborate with the Joshua Tree National Park to maximize the public's interest in the recreational and cultural opportunities offered by both agencies.
- ◆ Work to provide and maintain creative spaces for community rentals and places for programs put on by community cultural groups. Examples would be small and

large amphitheater space, performing arts venues, art display venues, festivals, art fairs, etc.

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

### **Special Interest Programs**

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

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

It is important for the Town to offer such programs and opportunities, both to take advantage of the benefits these

programs can provide and to offer outlets for residents who want to be involved.

### Action Items

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



