

# apple valley

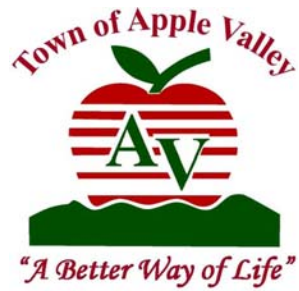


## parks and recreation master plan



Existing Recreation Resources Summary Memo | August 2010





# **PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

## ***Existing Recreation Resources Summary***

**August 2010**

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## INTRODUCTION

In February 2010, the Town of Apple Valley began updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan to obtain community supported directions for developing a diverse and integrated park and recreation system. This Plan will create a vision for a sustainable, interconnected system of parks, recreation facilities, open space and trails that responds to community needs. These are integral elements of a livable community.

As part of this planning effort, the Recreation Resources Summary Memo identifies existing parks and recreation facilities, programs, and operations that together create the existing park and recreation system. More specifically, this document presents:

- An overview of the organization and staffing levels of the Parks and Recreation Department;
- Apple Valley’s current park and facility classification system and inventory;
- A park evaluation, including system-wide issues for parks and facilities that were identified in the 2010 park tour;
- A summary of the recreation programs, classes, and special events currently offered by the Town of Apple Valley;
- A review of current costs for providing parks and recreation services.

This analysis of the existing park system concludes Phase 1 tasks and provides a foundation for the community needs assessment in Phase 2 of the planning process (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Planning Process



## **PARK AND RECREATION SERVICES**

In 2001, the Town of Apple Valley Parks and Recreation Department (the Department) took over responsibilities for parks, facilities, and programs from the Apple Valley Recreation and Parks District (AVRPD). At that time, the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Divisions were all included in one Parks and Recreation Department. However, in the summer of 2007, the Parks Division came under the umbrella of the Public Services Department, and the Recreation and Facilities Divisions became part of a realigned Community Services Division.

In the summer of 2009, Parks (maintenance and development) merged with Recreation and Facilities, to once again form one cohesive Parks and Recreation Department led by a single director. This merger appears to have been quite effective in terms of providing high-quality customer service, leadership in parks and recreation, and an efficient allocation of resources. This organizational shift strengthens the Town's ability to provide quality parks, facilities, and services.

The effects of these transitions and reorganizations are felt by the current Department and through the park system in a number of ways. The Parks and Recreation Department inherited parks and recreation facilities that were acquired, designed and developed under different leadership. Different design priorities and standards were followed in the creation of parks during District tenure. To some extent, this has created some issues for current park maintenance and use. In addition, from 2001-07, the capital development and maintenance of parks and facilities were carried out separately from the activities of Community Services. While programming and special events are a large component of the Town's current park and recreation services, parks and facilities have not been designed from a programming standpoint in recent years.<sup>1</sup> The historical context of the organizational shifting is important in understanding the Town's current resources and organizational structure.

### **Current Organizational Structure**

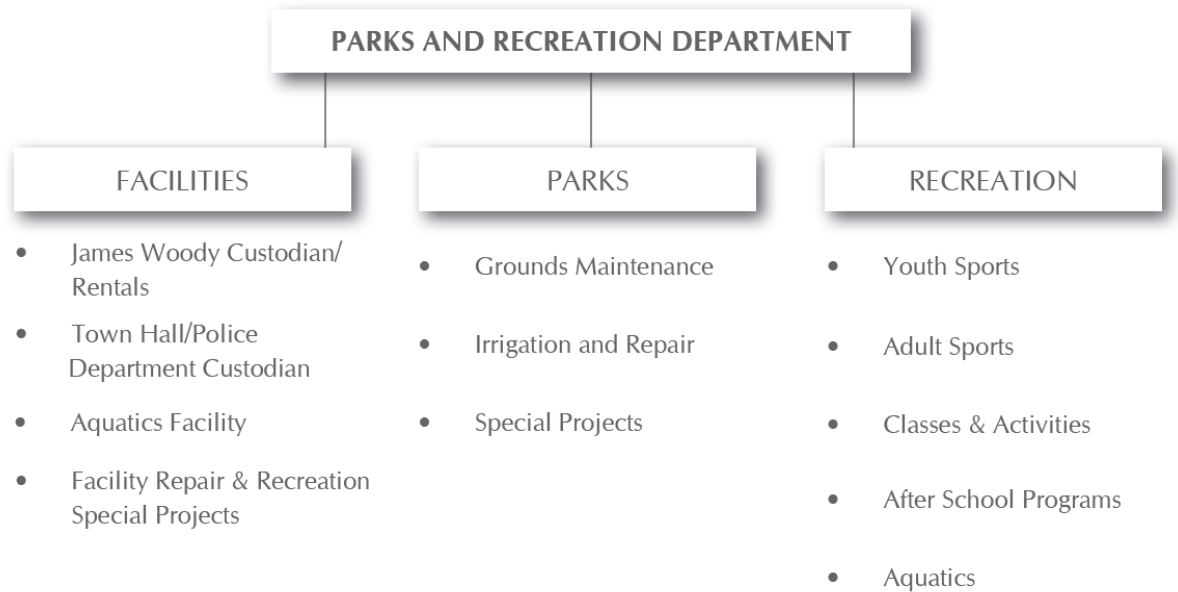
Under its current structure, the Parks and Recreation Department has three divisions: Facilities, Recreation and Parks. (See Figure 2) The Facilities Division is responsible for managing all Town buildings. The Recreation Division coordinates and manages recreation programs including aquatic programs, special events, special interest classes, youth and adult sports, special interest camps and youth and teen programs. The Parks Division's primary responsibility is maintaining the Town's 13 parks.

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<sup>1</sup> These issues are discussed more fully in the next section of this document, Parks and Recreation Facilities.



Figure 2: Parks and Recreation Department Organization  
Town of Apple Valley, FY 2009-2010



(Source: Town of Apple Valley Annual Budget FY 2009-2010)

While most operations related to parks and recreation programming have been consolidated within this Department, many special events are co-organized with the Special Events Division within the Town's Public Information Department. These two departments coordinate in organizing, marketing, and providing special events for the community.

### Staffing

The Parks and Recreation Department is composed of personnel in full time, part time and seasonal positions (Table 1). In order to provide a wide variety of classes and programs, the Recreation Division has the largest number of full time equivalent (FTE) employees, with full and part time staff positions totaling 23.52 FTE. This includes a Parks and Recreation Manager and three Recreation Supervisors.

The Parks Division has the second largest number of staff within the department, with a total of 16 FTE employees, including four part time maintenance aides and a full time Parks Supervisor. The Facilities Division is

the smallest, with five full-time and two part-time employees and a total of six FTEs.<sup>2</sup>

Table 1: Parks and Recreation Staffing  
Town of Apple Valley, FY 2009-2010

Parks and Recreation Department	Budgeted FTE
Recreation Division	23.52
Facilities Division	6
Parks Division	16
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>45.52</b>

Source: Apple Valley Annual Budget: Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Apple Valley's parks and recreation programs also rely on volunteer and non-paid labor. Table 2 summarizes the total hours contributed by non-paid workers and volunteers for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Table 2: Parks and Recreation Volunteer and Non-Paid Labor  
Town of Apple Valley, FY 07/08 and 08/09

Parks and Recreation Department	Total Workers/ Volunteers	Total Hours
<b>Park and Facility Maintenance</b>		
Weekend Workers	--	6,736
Weekday Workers	--	12,680
Volunteer Workers	--	539
Other	--	666
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>not available</b>	<b>20,621</b>
<b>Recreation Division</b>		
Volunteers	243	1,669
Coaches	114	1,283
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>2,952</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>23,573</b>

Source: Apple Valley Annual Budget: Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Total reported by Parks and Facilities Divisions, June 2009

For park and facility maintenance, there were 20,621 total hours of non-paid labor, including 539 hours of volunteer time. In the same time period, the Recreation Division was supported by 2,952 hours of volunteer/coaching time.

<sup>2</sup> Funding for the Facilities Division is comprised of funding from both the Parks and Recreation fund as well as the General Fund.

## PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Apple Valley's park system is composed of various types of parks, each providing unique recreation opportunities. The Town's park and recreation resources are classified by park type in the Parks and Recreation Element of the 2009 General Plan.

### General Plan Classifications

The General Plan divides the classification of Apple Valley parks into four categories (II-80-81). The General Plan also proposes a definition for Undeveloped Park Land, which is land acquired for future park use. However, the plan provides descriptions for five park types in terms noted below:

- ***Tot Lots, Mini Parks, or Pocket Parks:*** These small parks are modest open spaces situated in residential, business, commercial or office areas and they provide public space for rest, relaxation and socializing. They are a popular component of high-density residential areas and new housing developments, where they are sometimes known as 'tot lots' or 'sitting parks', and provide a place for family socialization. Mini parks range between 0.5 and three acres in size; the location and function of the particular park generally determine the amenities and facilities provided. However, most parks of this size usually include shade trees, tables and barbeques, exercise and play equipment.
- ***Neighborhood Parks:*** Parks within this category function as a social hub in the immediate locality and they are usually located within walking or bicycling distance of residential areas. They are a fundamental component of the park system, providing an inviting, versatile public gathering place and offering both active and passive recreational opportunities. Neighborhood parks are particularly efficient in terms of both recreational use and man-hours for maintenance purposes due to their size, scale and the facilities they typically include.

A typical neighborhood park usually provides restrooms and off-street parking, other amenities oriented towards the recreational needs of children, and sports facilities and picnic areas. The size of a neighborhood park is determined by the surrounding urban density and on availability of land, but generally ranges from five to ten acres. It is essential that the principles of good inviting and versatile open space that facilitates social activity and the formation of a distinctive sense of place. A major use for neighborhood parks in Apple Valley is team practices for Little League baseball, soccer, adult softball and flag football.

- ***Community Parks/Athletic Fields:*** Community Parks provide inviting, versatile public gathering places and offer both active and passive recreational opportunities, similar to those provided by the Neighborhood

Park, although on a larger scale and catering to all age groups. While still serving the local community, they should be well connected and serve a wider area within a three to five mile radius. The optimal size for such parks ranges from 20 to 50 acres. Additional amenities at Community Parks may include facilities for larger and competitive sports events, as well as civic buildings or spaces for community use.

- **School Parks:** These are usually equivalent to neighborhood parks, but typically include additional sports facilities. School parks consist of parks or playgrounds adjacent to, but separate from, educational institutions. Establishing joint use agreements with school districts can greatly assist the Town in meeting the demand for parklands.
- **Special Parklands:** Special use lands vary considerably in size and in the amenities and facilities available. They are typically linked to special events such as fairs, or specific uses such as skate boarding or equestrian activities. They may be combined with other categories of parks and occupy a portion of a larger area. Where they provide for activities that are incompatible with other uses, they may be established in a remote area.

## Proposed Park Definitions

The purpose of classifying parks is to facilitate park planning, development and operations by distinguishing between different types of park space and their functions. A function-based classification system can help the Parks and Recreation Department provide a more responsive, efficient, and cost effective park system.

The five park categories described in the General Plan are updated below to reflect the function and use of current Apple Valley parks. While parks will remain as classified in the recently adopted Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan, the planning process for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will also consider site function and use (by the definitions proposed here) to assess needs in Phase 2 of the planning process.

Following the guidance of the General Plan, the revised park classification system and definitions are organized into the following four categories:

- Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Parks

- **Mini Parks:** Mini parks are small parks that serve nearby neighbors with basic play facilities and a small green space. These parks are typically less than three acres in size and are located in higher density residential areas, within walking distance of most users. Examples include Norm Schmidt Memorial Park and Cramer Family Park.
- **Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks are moderately-sized parks that serve nearby neighbors with basic recreation opportunities and play space. Typically, these sites are 5-10 acres in size and are easily accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists. Their service area depends, in part, on the density of the neighborhoods they serve. Designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities, neighborhood parks often include amenities such as playground equipment, outdoor sports courts, picnic tables, barbecues, shelters, pathways, multi-use open grass areas and/or sports fields primarily for practice space. While supporting close-to-home recreation opportunities, these sites also provide a neighborhood gathering space, enhance neighborhood identity, and provide more green space. Examples include Thunderbird Park and Sycamore Rocks Park.
- **Community Parks:** Community parks are larger, multi-purpose parks that provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community. These sites typically support organized, active recreation and large-group recreation opportunities with facilities such as sports fields, outdoor courts, skate parks, group picnic shelters, large playgrounds, water play features, festival space, amphitheaters, internal or looped pathways, community centers or even aquatic centers. Support amenities, such as restrooms and off-street parking are also provided to support a high level of community use. In addition to developed park areas, community parks may also include unique landscapes, natural areas, and gardens. Typically, these sites are 20-50 acres in size and draw people from most parts of the community. Examples include James Woody Park and Civic Center Park.
- **Special Use Parks:** Special use facilities include single-purpose or special-purpose sites that may serve a Town-wide audience—such as sports complexes, equestrian facilities, urban plazas, golf courses, and campgrounds. Their size and service area vary depending on their use. Examples include the Apple Valley Country Club and the Horsemen’s Center.

In addition to the above park types, Apple Valley also has acreage identified as undeveloped parkland, which is defined below.

- **Undeveloped Park Land:** Undeveloped park land includes properties that have been acquired for future park development. These sites are not managed as natural areas, and have not been designated or developed for another park use. Examples include the Stoddard Wells property and Standing Rock property.

## Park Inventory Summary

Table 3 summarizes the Town's park land inventory. Currently, the Town provides 193.4 developed acres at 13 sites, representing a level of service of 2.6 acres per 1,000 residents (based on the 2009 population of 74,266 people within the Town limits). Once the Apple Valley Country Club is purchased, the Town will have 342.7 acres of park land, providing a level of service of 4.6 acres per 1,000 residents. While most of these parks are Town-owned, some sites are leased from other jurisdictions, such as the Golden State Water Company and Apple Valley Unified School District. (See Table 3.)

Map 1 illustrates the location of Apple Valley's existing parks. As shown on the map and in the inventory, there are more mini parks than any other park type. These seven small parks together provide nearly 20 acres of park land. In addition, the Town partners with the School District to provide two neighborhood parks, Sycamore Rocks Park and Thunderbird Park, with a combined total of 10.4 acres.

The Town also provides three larger community parks, totaling 82.8 acres. These sites are large enough to support a variety of recreation activities. With the acquisition of the Country Club, the Parks and Recreation Department also will have two large special use parks. Together these provide nearly 230 acres of park land, or two-thirds of the existing park system.

In addition to this classified park land, Apple Valley also owns three undeveloped sites. These sites total 27.1 acres, bringing the total park land inventory of developed and undeveloped park acreage to 369.8 acres (when the Country Club is included).

## Facility Inventory Summary

In addition to providing and maintaining park land, the Town of Apple Valley is responsible for the development and maintenance of a full range of recreation facilities within its parks. Facilities include sport fields and courts, a skate park, open turf areas, children's playgrounds and trails, as well as various other park amenities. Appendix A notes park facilities in Apple Valley by park classification. These facilities are summarized in Table 4.

Local schools and other providers add to the availability of recreation facilities within the planning area. In Apple Valley, these include elementary, middle, and high schools, along with private schools such as the Academy for Academic Excellence. In addition, the Apple Valley Police Activities League provides two activity centers, including the AVPAL Youth Center and Boxing Gym. Table 4 includes these facilities.

Table 3: Park Inventory  
Town of Apple Valley

Park Name	Acres
<b>Mini Parks</b>	
Corwin Road Park	3.7
Lion's Park <sup>1</sup>	1.6
Mendel Park	3.5
Cramer Family Park	2.8
Norm Schmidt Park	2.4
Yucca Loma Park <sup>3</sup>	2.0
Virginia Park <sup>2</sup>	4.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>19.9</b>
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	
Sycamore Rocks Park <sup>3</sup>	4.1
Thunderbird Park <sup>3</sup>	6.3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10.4</b>
<b>Community Parks</b>	
Civic Center Park	21.2
James Woody Park	23.0
Lenny Brewster Sports Center	38.6
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>82.8</b>
<b>Special Use Parks</b>	
Apple Valley Country Club <sup>4</sup>	149.3
Horsemen's Center	80.2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>229.6</b>
<b>Total Developed Park Land</b>	<b>342.7</b>
<b>Undeveloped Sites</b>	
Stoddard Wells Property	5.1
Sitting Bull Property	2.1
Standing Rock Property	20.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>27.1</b>
<b>TOTAL PARK LAND</b>	<b>369.8</b>

Source: Town of Apple Valley GIS

<sup>1</sup> Lion's Park is owned by Champion Investors Fund, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Virginia Park is owned by the Golden State Water Company.

<sup>3</sup> The Apple Valley Unified School District owns Sycamore Rocks, Thunderbird, and Yucca Loma Parks.

<sup>4</sup> The Town is in the process of purchasing this site.

Table 4: Recreation Facility Inventory  
Town of Apple Valley

Facility Type	Parks & Recreation Department	Schools	Total
<b>Sport Fields and Courts</b>			
Baseball/Softball Field	11	27	38
Soccer Field	15	17	32
Basketball Court	3	107 <sup>1</sup>	110
Horseshoe Pit Complex	1 <sup>2</sup>	0	1
Tennis Court	2	14	16
Volleyball Court	0	6	6
<b>Outdoor Recreation Facility</b>			
Amphitheater	1	—	1
Camping	7	—	7
Playground	12 <sup>3</sup>	11	23
Skatepark	1	—	1
Swimming Pool	1	—	1
Water Play Area	0	—	0
<b>Trails and Paths</b>			
Hard Surface Trail	1	—	1
Soft Surface Trail	1	—	1
<b>Other Outdoor Amenities</b>			
Barbeque	57	—	57
Picnic Shelter	4 <sup>4</sup>	—	7
Picnic Table	104	—	104
<b>Indoor Recreation Facilities</b>			
Activity Room	6	0 <sup>5</sup>	6
Gym	1	8 <sup>6</sup>	9
Meeting Room	9 <sup>7</sup>	—	9

Source: Town of Apple Valley. See Appendix A for a full inventory by site.

<sup>1</sup> Includes number of nets in both indoor and outdoor facilities.

<sup>2</sup> The horseshoe complex at Lenny Brewster has 30 pits.

<sup>3</sup> The Town will add a playground at Civic Center Park prior to adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

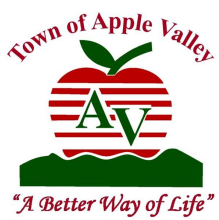
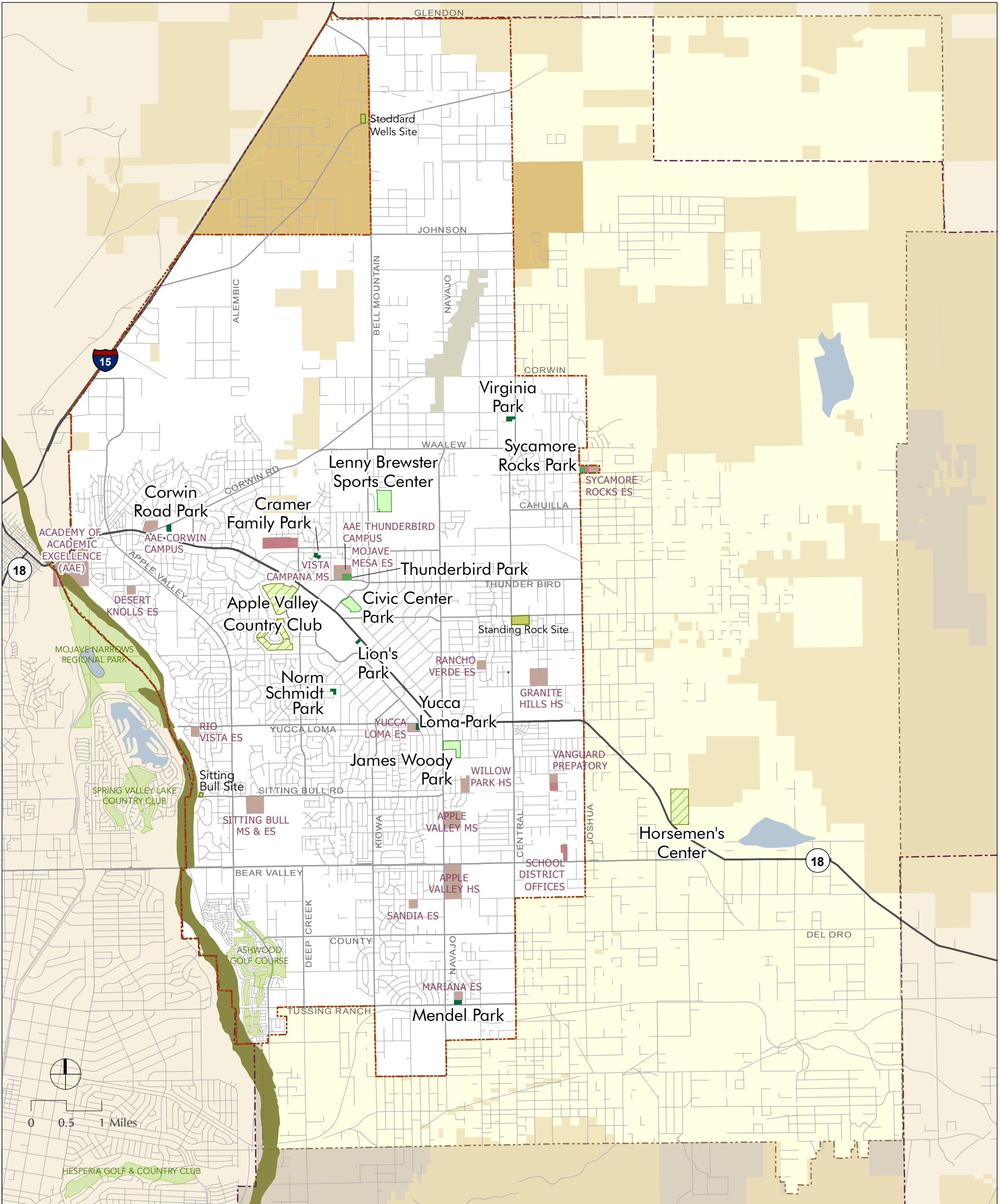
<sup>4</sup> The Town has plans to install a shelter at Horsemen's Center prior to adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

<sup>5</sup> School indoor rooms are not counted as recreation space, but the PAL Youth Center is noted here.

<sup>6</sup> In addition to 7 school gymnasiums, the PAL Boxing Gym is noted here.

<sup>7</sup> Some indoor space can be divided as multi-use activity and/or meeting rooms.





## Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Prepared 8.18.2010

### Map 1: Existing Parks & Recreation Resources



Data Source: Town of Apple Valley, CaSIL & USGS  
NAD1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet

- |                   |                                |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Mini Park         | General Plan Annexation        | Airport             |
| Neighborhood Park | Public Schools                 | Mojave River        |
| Community Park    | Other School District Property | Water Feature       |
| Special Use       | Streets                        | BLM Lands           |
| Undeveloped       | Major Roads                    | Town Limits         |
| Other Resources   | Freeway/Highway                | Park District       |
|                   | 100' Contours                  | Sphere of Influence |



### *Sports Fields and Courts*

The Apple Valley Parks and Recreation Department is a major supplier of sports fields and courts in town, as is the School District. The Department currently provides 11 baseball and softball fields at James Woody Park and the Lenny Brewster Sports Center. Most are lighted. The Sports Center also features 11 of the Town's soccer fields, with an additional field located at Virginia Park and two more at Sycamore Rocks Park. Six basketball courts are provided by the Town, with two at Thunderbird Park, two at James Woody Park<sup>3</sup> and two at Lenny Brewster Sports Center. All 30 of the Town's horseshoe pits are also located at Lenny Brewster Sports Center.<sup>4</sup> The only Town-owned tennis courts are at the Apple Valley Country Club. Schools, on the other hand, supply many tennis and basketball courts to help meet community needs.

### *Outdoor Recreation Facilities*

Apple Valley has one amphitheater within Civic Center Park. Camping is also offered in town, with seven tent sites at Horsemen's Center. Open grass areas can be found at each of the Town's parks, which require substantial watering to keep green in the dry climate. With the exception of Lion's Park and Civic Center Park, all parks also have children's play equipment<sup>5</sup>. There is one skatepark located at James Woody Park, and the Town's Aquatic Center is located at Civic Center Park. The Horsemen's Center also features a BMX track.

### *Trails and Paths*

The majority of Apple Valley's trails and paths are located at the Horsemen's Center. Additional lighted, hard-surface trails can be found within Civic Center Park. While the Apple Valley General Plan notes a well-planned recreation trail system, most of the trails shown represent easements and have not been formally developed. However, the Town firmly recognizes that these "Lifeline Trails" and "Bridle Easements/Trails" are integral to their vision for the future Apple Valley. A good example of a multi-purpose, hard surfaced pathway is located on the southwest corner of Apple Valley and Sitting Bull Roads. This off-street pathway is part of the road network, and is not considered to be part of the park system.

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<sup>3</sup> The Town has applied for a grant from the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization program to build a BMX Freestyle Facility at James Woody Park. According to site plans, the facility would replace the current basketball court. However, a new court would be re-built nearby.

<sup>4</sup> The horseshoe courts at Lenny Brewster Sports Park may be eliminated or removed to accommodate a planned water reclamation project at that site.

<sup>5</sup> Civic Center Park has areas identified and infrastructure built to support children's play areas for ages 2-5 and 5-12. Play equipment will likely be installed before the adoption of this Plan.

### *Other Amenities*

There are four<sup>6</sup> picnic shelters in Apple Valley's parks, which are important in providing shade, a much-desired feature in the sunny climate. In addition, picnic tables and barbecues can be found in all parks, providing opportunities for social gatherings and picnics. All parks provide parking, although the Cramer Family Park does not have an off-street parking area, relying on on-street parking. Park restrooms are provided at each community park and special use park, as well as at two mini parks: Corwin Road Park and Cramer Family Park.

### *Indoor Facilities*

Apple Valley's three community parks and one special use area provide a number of indoor facilities. At Civic Center Park, the newer Town Hall Recreation Center has a large meeting room that can be converted into four smaller rooms. A small reception area there provides public information about the parks and programs, and staff offices are located at that site as well. James Woody Park has a community center with activity and meeting rooms, a gymnasium and a kitchen. However, this facility was built nearly 60 years ago to serve a population less than 10% of the current Town size. James Woody Park is also home to the AVPAL Youth Center, which offers drop-in activities for teens from 1-5:00 pm weekdays. The Apple Valley Country Club includes two meeting rooms and a kitchen.

## **Park and Facility Evaluation**

The planning team evaluated the parks in March 2010 to identify current issues and opportunities related to the condition, development, maintenance, and management of parks and recreation facilities in Apple Valley. City staff and the planning consultant visited several parks, discussing operations and evaluating each site's use and function within the park and recreation system.

### *System-wide Issues*

During the park tour, several common issues were noted throughout the park system. These include concerns and/or challenges for park maintenance, facility condition, aesthetics, function, development, and use.

- **Park Age:** While Apple Valley has some newer park development, it also has several older parks with aging amenities and development based on standards and expectations that are now out of date. As recreation trends and participation changes, several parks in Apple Valley will need a fresh look. Park ages are noted below.
  - James Woody Park - 1951
  - Horsemen's Park - 1965 (date of land purchase)

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<sup>6</sup> The Town has plans in place to install a picnic shelter at Horsemen's Center prior to completion of this plan.

- Corwin Park - 1973
  - Lion's Park - Unknown
  - Mendel Park - 1981
  - Yucca Loma Park - 1983
  - Thunderbird Park - 1989
  - Norm Schmidt Memorial Park- 1990
  - Sycamore Rocks Park - 1995
  - Lenny Brewster Sports Center -1989
  - Virginia Park - 1988
  - Cramer Family Park - 2002
  - Civic Center Park - 2007
- **Facility Age and Condition:** While Apple Valley has some new park facilities in excellent condition, it also has amenities and facilities in poor condition, particularly at James Woody Park (see next bullet). High demand, aging facilities, and a decreasing maintenance budget will contribute to the speed at which facilities need renovation, repair, or replacement. Currently, the Town does not have a replacement schedule or funds set aside to replace deteriorating facilities.<sup>7</sup>
  - **James Woody Park:** Many facilities at James Woody Park are in poor condition, are poorly designed, or are poorly situated at the site. A site master plan, completed in 2004, noted many possible improvements, including a pinwheel configuration of four ballfields. However, funding was not available to implement the recommended redesign. A 2010 application to the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program seeks over \$1.5 million for needed improvements at this site, including the renovation of the skate park, full replacement of a parking area, fencing and security improvements, improvements to the picnic area, the addition of an ADA-compliant restroom, the addition of a regulation basketball court, and the construction of a BMX bike park. While these improvements are needed, an updated site master plan would be valuable to improve the site's function and layout.
  - **James A. Woody Community Center:** The James A. Woody Community Center was built nearly 60 years ago to serve a population of 7,000. The kitchen within the community center is slated for several upgrades,<sup>8</sup> but the

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<sup>7</sup> The Town recently replaced three picnic shelters at Corwin Park, Mendel Park, and Thunderbird Park.

<sup>8</sup> The Town has set aside \$21,000 to rehabilitate the kitchen at the James Woody Community Center, including replacement of the counters, sink, stove and refrigerator, as well as improvements to the walls, floors and door access.

entire facility needs remodeling. Even with improvements, the existing community center is not large enough to meet the needs of the current Town population (estimated at 74,266 people in 2009). While a new community center was included in the master plan for Civic Center Park, there is a concern that the proposed size and design is inadequate for meeting current and future community needs.

- ***Playground Age and Condition:*** Playground equipment often has a 10-20 year life span, although the lifespan of a particular playground depends on the type of equipment, level of use, and many other factors. However, playground safety and accessibility standards have changed significantly in the last 15 years. Given the age of several existing playgrounds in Apple Valley (noted below), equipment condition and safety should be monitored.
  - Thunderbird Park – 1994
  - Sycamore Rocks Park – 1995
  - James Woody Park (Front Play Equipment) – 1995
  - Mendel Park – 1996
  - Yucca Loma Park – 1998
  - Corwin Park – 2000
  - Lenny Brewster Sports Center – 2001
  - Cramer Family Park – 2002
  - James Woody Park (Rear Play Equipment) – 2004
  - Horsemen’s Park – 2005
  - Norm Schmidt Memorial Park – 2005
  - Virginia Park – 2005
- ***Support Amenities and Facilities:*** Many facilities in Apple Valley Parks lack the support amenities needed for high-capacity use. For example, there is insufficient shade and seating at the aquatic center, and the facility lacks concessions often found at similar sites (a user amenity as well as a revenue source). The same is true for the adjacent amphitheater at Civic Center Park, which also lacks public restroom facilities to support events. The arena at the Horsemen’s Center is not equipped with stalls, stables, an announcer’s booth, seating or restrooms to support rodeos at that site. Similarly, the Lenny Brewster Sports Center and James Woody Community Park lack restroom capacity, parking, and storage space to support a high level of use.
- ***Park Image and Identity:*** From park to park, and even within large parks, there is an inconsistent use of different types of amenities, such as

benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, recycling receptacles, signage, etc. These amenities vary in style, type, number and location, creating an inconsistent image for Town parks. While kiosks and monument signs were installed to improve park identity and provide information, some have scratched Plexiglas, lack any flyers or information inside, are poorly located and have been subjected to vandalism.

- ***Development Planning and Quality:*** Several examples were noted at of amenities and facilities that need retrofitting or upgrades because they were not well-designed for their desired use. For example, light poles at Civic Center Park have been replaced to be able to hold banners in high winds. A new base is desired for the back sports fields at the Lenny Brewster Sports Center to prevent turf deterioration, and the surrounding road needs paving to eliminate dust blowing onto the fields. The gymnasium at the James A. Woody Community Center is not air conditioned to support use during hot days.<sup>9</sup> Lights were added to the turf area at Mendel Park, despite the fact that the playable area is too short for a football or rugby field. Maintenance staff dislike the use of wood chips and sand surfacing at various parks, because the materials blow out of place on windy days. Although the Town Hall Recreation Center was equipped with dividers to create separate activity areas, users must walk through other activity areas and the kitchen to get to the restrooms. Better design and development up front could increase functionality, use, and programming potential.

#### *System-wide Opportunities*

During the park tour, several opportunities were identified to improve the park system. These are strategies related to the planning and design of facilities, which can improve park function and use in the future.

- ***Concessions Opportunities:*** Opportunities exist to add or improve concessions at all community parks and special use parks to generate revenue. This includes improving or providing attractive concession stands and adjacent seating areas and/or support amenities (e.g., picnic tables, picnic shelters, benches, trash receptacles, etc.).
- ***Tournament Opportunities:*** Additional features at the Lenny Brewster Sports Center could support future tournament use and generate more revenue for the Town. These include improvements such as added restrooms, bleachers, shade structures, improved parking, and a championship field.
- ***Tree Pruning:*** No maintenance schedule has been established for tree pruning to indicate where, how frequently, and how trees should be maintained in Apple Valley. While trees appear to be well maintained, a pruning schedule should be considered and take into account high wind

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<sup>9</sup> The gym is cooled by an evaporative (swamp) cooler, which does not work well when the humidity is high.

conditions.

- ***Irrigation with Reclaimed Water:*** The addition of a water reclamation plant/pump station adjacent to the Lenny Brewster Sports Center will provide an opportunity to use lower-cost, reclaimed water for sport field and turf irrigation.
- ***Landscaping:*** Large turf areas, some which do not support play opportunities or other uses, offer an opportunity to consider low-water, drought tolerant plants and other landscaping materials used in an attractive way to minimize water demand and costs.
- ***Automation:*** A great deal of staff time is spent locking and unlocking fenced and gated parks. Options could be evaluated to determine if automatic gates and locks would be more cost effective in the long term.
- ***Premier Destination:*** As part of this planning effort, an opportunity exists to consider unique facilities that promote the vision of Apple Valley as a premier destination. For example, a thematic playground at Civic Center Park and other community parks would tie into this vision.
- ***New Public Works Facility:*** More programming space will become available at the James A. Woody Community Center when the maintenance offices are moved to a new Public Works facility. However, the functionality of this space will limit its programming options.
- ***Town Hall Annex:*** More programming space might become available at the Town Hall Recreation Center when staff offices are moved to the new annex building. However, the functionality of this space will limit future programming options.
- ***Aquatic Center Sprayground:*** A mechanical room and pumps are set up at the Aquatic Center to support a splash/spray area and zero-depth water entry wading pool.
- ***Cell Phone Towers:*** The Town receives a one-time fee for the installation of cell phone towers, plus market rate lease revenue monthly and an escalation percentage added in annually. The amount is set by the Planning Department and can help fund site improvements. A cell phone tower was added to Corwin Park in June 2009. A new tower was approved by the Planning Commission for installation at the Lenny Brewster Sports Center, and one is planned at Norm Schmidt Memorial Park (in review).
- ***Sitting Bull Site:*** The undeveloped Sitting Bull property near the Mojave River provides an opportunity for a more nature-oriented or passive use park because of its location and natural resources.
- ***Standing Rock Property:*** At 20 acres, the undeveloped Standing Rock property is well situated near Granite Hills High School, at the crossroad of Central Road and Standing Rock Avenue. If water rights can be acquired



for this flat site, it may provide an opportunity for the development of large facilities, such as a new community center.

## RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Town of Apple Valley's Parks and Recreation Department provides a full range of recreation programs for youth and adults. Classes and programs provided by the Recreation Division received over 55,000 participants during FY 2008-2009. Existing opportunities for recreation programming and special events are described below.

### Major Program Areas

The range of Apple Valley recreation programs can be organized into several major program areas. The Recreation Division's Activities Guide is published each season and categorizes programs into the following nine areas.

- **Adult Sports:** Leagues include men's basketball, men's softball, coed softball, co-ed soccer and adult kickball.
- **Youth Sports:** Leagues and sports camps provide opportunities for soccer, softball, basketball, volleyball.
- **Pee Wee Sports:** These include basketball, soccer and T-ball.
- **Programs and Classes:** Programs and classes include youth and adult opportunities. Activities for youth ages 3-17 include arts, sports, dance, and music classes and lessons. Adult activities encompass a wide variety of arts and crafts, fitness, sports, wellness, and exercise classes and workshops.
- **After School Activities Program (ASAP):** The program offers homework club, music, dance, games, arts and crafts and cooking. Activities are offered at six<sup>10</sup> school sites:
  - AAE Lewis Center (Corwin Road Campus)
  - AAE Lewis Center (Thunderbird Campus)
  - Desert Knolls Elementary
  - Sitting Bull Elementary
  - Sitting Bull Middle
  - Vanguard Prep

There are no programs during non-school days.<sup>11</sup> In FY 08-09, programs were also offered at Mojave Mesa, Rancho Verde, and Sandia Schools.

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<sup>10</sup> Rio Vista Elementary School will be added as a site in FY 10-11.

<sup>11</sup> The Town offers Day Camp and CAVE programs when the local School District is on break.

- **Aquatics:** Aquatics opportunities include open and lap swimming, swim lessons, water aerobics, scuba and lifeguarding courses and special events.
- **Special Events:** Special events are one-time activities or limited-duration activities. Many of these events are co-organized with the Public Information Department. Seasonal activities include the Fall Festival, Easter Eggstravaganza, Freedom Festival, and Winter Wonderland. Examples of other events include Concerts in the Courtyard, Apple Valley Idol, the Sunset Concert Series, Mud Fest and Mud Run.
- **Senior Programs:** Programs for older adults include low impact fitness classes, social opportunities, excursions, and volunteer opportunities.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Volunteer opportunities are provided in a variety of areas and levels of commitment (one-time versus ongoing). Volunteers can assist with park beautification projects, recreation programs, special events or at specific facilities.

## Populations Served

The Apple Valley Parks and Recreation Department provides programs and events for a wide variety of people. Specific programs target seniors (active adults), adults, teens, youth, and preschool/toddlers, and families. Some adaptive recreation is available for special needs children as well, although accommodations are provided for all age groups. Specific population groups and related programming and activity examples are presented below.

- **Parent/Child:** Special events, sports classes, Parent and Tot Time.
- **Family:** Family nights, movie nights, special activities and events, Target Family Arts Night, Movies in the Park, Community Clean-Up Day, A Night Under the Stars and Easter Eggstravaganza.
- **Preschool/Toddler:** Aquatics, sports clinics, classes (dance, music, art, languages, safety, science and exploration), summer camps, Pee Wee classes and sports, Rainbow Connection and Tot Time.
- **Youth:** Aquatics, sport camps and clinics, classes (dance, music, art, martial arts), summer day camps, and the After School Activities Programs.
- **Tweens and Teens:** Aquatics, sport camps and clinics, classes (dance, music, art), summer day camps, teen parties, youth trips, CAVE, Teen Art Festival, Teen Zone volunteer activities, Teen Pool Night and Teen Pizza Party.
- **Adults:** Fitness, sports and athletics, health and wellness, arts and crafts, dance, life-long learning and clubs (chess, books, crafts, cards).
- **Seniors:** Excursions, Socials (Pastries and Conversation), clubs (Brewster Social Walkers) fitness and health and wellness.

- **Special Needs:** Aquatics, art, dance, special events and other therapeutic recreation activities are offered through the Special Apples program for the developmentally challenged.

## Program Overview

### *Participation*

Participation data is useful in decision-making and as a performance measure. The Town of Apple Valley Parks & Recreation tracks participation in its programs and activities, as well as visitors to major facilities. Methods of tracking participation appear to be consistent among all program areas and facilities, so that data collected are comparable. Overall, recent data indicated that program participation has increased by more than 5000 participants, although it has decreased for certain programs (Table 5). Non-sports youth programs and classes and after school programs have a decreased number of participants<sup>12</sup>, while adult programs and classes, adult sports and open gym have all increased.

Table 5: Recreation Program Participation  
Town of Apple Valley, FY 07/08 and 08/09

Program	Annual Participants (FY 07/08)	Annual Participants (FY 08/09)
Aquatics	19,206	22,843
Special Events	24,097	26,093
Adult Programs/Classes	799	1,091
Youth Programs/Classes	3,049	2,171
After School Programs	6,244	4,811
Day Camp	719	546
CAVE	161	123
Open Gym	3,452	4,149
Interpretive Camps	45	92
Therapeutic Recreation	181	531
Adult Sports	605	1,096
Youth Sports	675	756
Pee Wee Sports	299	319
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59,532</b>	<b>64,621</b>

Source: Town of Apple Valley

Note: Data for the After School Programs are based on the number of registrations.

Special Events participation numbers include events attributed to both the Recreation Department and the PIO Department.

<sup>12</sup> The After School Activities Program was de-emphasized further in FY 09-10, when it was discontinued at three sites.

**Program Location**

Programming administered by the Town of Apple Valley Parks & Recreation Department is primarily offered at the larger community parks, special use parks, and specialized facilities (Table 6). In addition, some programs are provided at School District sites, as well as the AAE Lewis Center (Mojave and Thunderbird Campuses). Currently, most Department facilities are operating at full capacity, which limits options for programming and events. Additionally, there is no room for program expansion as the community grows.

**Table 6: Recreation Programming by Facility  
Town Limits, 2010**

RECREATION FACILITY	PROGRAMS							AGE GROUPS SERVED				
	AQUATICS	ARTS&CRAFTS	DANCE & PERFORMANCE ARTS	SPECIAL INTEREST CLASSES	SPORTS & FITNESS	SPECIAL EVENTS	SPECIAL NEEDS	PRESCHOOL	YOUTH	TWEENS/TEENS	ADULTS	SENIORS
Apple Valley Country Club				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Civic Center Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Civic Center Park Aquatic Center	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corwin Park				✓					✓			
Cramer Family Park									✓			
Horsemen’s Center									✓	✓	✓	✓
James Woody Community Center		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lenny Brewster Sports Center					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lion’s Park						✓			✓			
Mendel Park									✓			
Norm Schmidt Park									✓			
Sycamore Rocks Park									✓		✓	
Town Hall Recreation Center		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thunderbird Park									✓			
Virginia Park									✓			
Yucca Loma Park									✓			

Note: Most parks support practices for youth sports.

### *Registration and Fees*

The Town offers three options for registering for programs: walk-in, mail-in and drop box. Walk-in registration is available at the Town Hall Recreation Center only. Drop box registration is available at the James Woody Community Center and in front of Town Hall. Mail-in registration is not available for Day Camp, CAVE, After School Program or sports programs; all of which require additional paperwork to complete registration. Faxed in registration and on-line registration are not offered at this time.

Classes and activities are based on one rate only, and do not include varying rates for residents and non-residents. Minimum participation levels are set for all classes, and classes may be canceled due to low enrollment. Some programs have limited enrollment, and registrations are taken in the order in which they are received. The Department offers a variety of cost options for its programs, including some free programming.

### *Marketing*

The Town of Apple Valley recreation programs are marketed primarily through its recreation activities guides, which are published and distributed to all Town residents seasonally and are also available through the Town website. Additionally, through the Public Information Department, information on special events and programs are advertised through Facebook and sent out via email blasts to people on the Town's mailing list.

## **OTHER RESOURCES IN THE REGION**

Along with the parks, recreation facilities, programs, and special events provided by the Town of Apple Valley, there are numerous recreation resources made available to the community in the Town and the surrounding area. Private and publicly-owned sites add to the Town's offerings by providing a more diverse variety of park and recreation resources in proximity to areas residents. Recognizing these sites and the extent of available amenities can minimize competition by avoiding duplication of resources. In alphabetical order, these other resources include:

- ***Ashwood Golf Course:*** This facility offers 27 holes, plus a large practice facility with over 30 stations on an all grass hitting area, two large putting greens, and a practice bunker/chipping area. Other amenities include a Clubhouse, Golf Shop, and newly renovated Bar and Grill. Programming and lessons are provided at this site. The Ashwood Golf Course is enrolled in Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses to ensure that the course helps to protect our local environment, conserve natural resources, and provide wildlife habitats.

- ***BLM Land:*** The Bureau of Land Management owns the acreage that includes many of the knobs and knolls within the planning area. This open space does not support recreation amenities, but provides a visual backdrop for the community and protects high desert habitat.
- ***Boys & Girls Clubs of Victor Valley:*** The Boys & Girls Club offers safe and fun programs for youth. Currently, a facility is located near Apple Valley, in the City of Adelanto. The organization is considering new branches in Hesperia and in Apple Valley.
- ***City of Victorville:*** There are nearly two dozen parks, facilities and recreation sites in neighboring Victorville. Sites such as Rockview Nature Park provide a large setting for nature oriented use, while Doris Davies Park and Hook Park offer sports fields and basketball courts. There are also two public pools in Victorville and two public golf courses: Westwinds and Green Tree Golf Courses.
- ***Hesperia Golf and Country Club:*** Owned by the City of Hesperia, the Hesperia Golf and Country Club has an 18-hole golf course, pro shop and dining facility.
- ***Hesperia Parks and Recreation District:*** The district offers senior and youth classes, sports programs and other activities at a host of unique facilities. Within the City of Hesperia, the Power Play Center features public skating, lessons and private parties. For outdoor activities, Hesperia Lake Park is available for day use and camping, and offers fishing and picnicking. Swimming and swim lessons are available at the Lime Street Park and pool. For racing, Green Flag Raceway is available for public racing and even includes a radio controlled race track. The district also puts on special events including the seasonal farmers market.
- ***Mojave Narrows Regional Park:*** Just west of Apple Valley, this 840-acre County park provides opportunities to fish, camp, ride horseback and watch wildlife. Amenities and facilities include fire rings, picnic tables and shelters, snack bar, bait shop, pedal boat rental, rowboat rental, powerboats, playground & zero-depth waterpark, equestrian trails, horse and pony rentals, hiking, ecology, and nature trails, and a campground with 85 RV sites 38 full hookups, 1 dump station, tent sites, 14 group areas, and hot showers.
- ***Spring Valley Lake Country Club:*** The private country club has an 18-hole course and features lighted tennis courts, a fitness center and pool.
- ***Sun City (Solera) Apple Valley:*** Adjacent to the Ashwood Golf Course, this community for active adults ages 55 and older offers two clubhouses, two fitness centers, four pools, a spa, tennis courts, bocce, bike paths, walking trails, resident clubs, programs and team sports.

- **Victor Valley Community College:** Located just outside of Apple Valley on Bear Valley Road in Hesperia, Victor Valley College has extensive athletic and recreation resources available to the public. This includes ball fields, a football field and track, tennis courts and a gymnasium. The college also has a performing arts center, library and planetarium.

In addition to these facilities, there are a number of private gyms, such as the 24-Hour Fitness Center. Also, some planned developments have park land set aside. It is unclear whether the Town or Home Owners Associations (HOAs) will maintain these parks when they are developed.

## DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND OPERATIONS

While it is important to improve and develop park land and facilities to meet the needs of the community, it is equally important that parks receive adequate staff and funding for maintenance and operations. This section describes Apple Valley's existing budget, revenues and expenditures, maintenance costs and staffing to explore the funding structure for parks and recreation.

### Parks & Recreation Funding

The majority of funding for current operations of the Apple Valley Parks and Recreation Department comes from taxes set aside for the former AV Recreation and Park District (AVRPD). The base of this funding is a 4.6% property tax levy. In the current Parks and Recreation Department budget, these funds are called General Revenues.

Recreation programs, rentals and fees also provide revenue to support operations. Any additional funds that are needed to support operations and maintenance currently come from the Town's General Fund. The General Fund is fed by motor vehicle in lieu fees, fines and other fees, public services and events revenues, planning and engineering fees, business license fees, and local taxes, such as a sales tax, franchise tax, and 7% transient occupancy tax (on two motels in town).

### Total Revenue and Expenditures

Table 7 notes actual revenue and expenditures for Parks & Recreation during the fiscal year 2008-09. This includes the Department's revenues and expenditures, plus those associated with special events organized by the Public Information Office.

As noted in the table, \$2.37 million—slightly more than 75% of the Parks & Recreation revenues—comes from General Revenues, the tax base of the former Recreation District. An additional \$767,536 in 2008-09 was generated by recreation programs, classes and events, bringing the total Parks & Recreation revenue to more than \$3.1 million. This revenue covered 84% of

total expenditures, and \$610,160 was supported by General Fund dollars. The level of General Fund support for Apple Valley Parks & Recreation is very low compared to similar communities, because of the General Revenues.

Table 7: Park and Recreation Revenue and Expenditures  
Town of Apple Valley, FY 2008-2009

Budget Category	Actual Revenue	Actual Expenditures <sup>1</sup>
General Revenues <sup>2</sup>	\$2,374,310	—
Maintenance and Operations <sup>3</sup>	0	2,178,124
Adult Sports	32,845	51,189
Aquatics	224,256	497,879
ASAP (After School Activity Program)	138,782	199,933
CAVE	7,391	15,907
Day Camp	32,491	61,288
Instructor Classes	141,578	157,885
PIO Events	26,823	188,873
Recreation	230	111,077
Recreation Department Events	15,434	83,992
Rentals and Fees	95,300	71,909
User Group Fees	16,624	45,733
Youth Sports	35,782	88,217
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,141,846</b>	<b>\$3,752,006</b>

Source: Itemized totals are from the FY 2009/2010 Budget Report. The amounts do not include capital projects costs.

<sup>1</sup> Expenditures in each budget category include a percentage of all Parks and Recreation Department staff time. Program fees are designed to cover all operational costs and contribute an additional 10% for youth programming and 20% for adult programming.

<sup>2</sup> Includes 4.6% property levy tax, taxes, interest earnings and rents.

<sup>3</sup> Reflects total maintenance and operations costs for parks and recreation facilities.

In the same period, 58% of the operating budget (\$2.2 million) was spent on parks maintenance and operations, while 42% (approximately \$1.6 million) supported recreation programming, including events sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Information Department.



## Current Budget

The total 2009-2010 adopted Operating and Capital Improvement Budget for the Parks and Recreation Department totals \$4,842,516. In addition to this amount, the Town has set aside a separate budget of \$1,892,850 for the Country Club.

The FY 2009-10 Budget indicates that expenditures for Parks & Recreation are expected to exceed revenues by approximately \$508,000. Expenditures for the Apple Valley Country Club are expected to exceed anticipated revenue by \$482,850. With the County Club purchase, the Town's General Fund investment in parks and recreation (including golfing) is increasing.

## Revenue and Expenditures by Program Area

Apple Valley accounting procedures divide administrative staff time among all program areas. As a result, expenditures in each budget category shown in Table 7 include a percentage of all Parks and Recreation Department staff time. This makes it appear, for example, that the Town spent more money in collecting user group fees than it generated. The Town has a policy in place so that program fees are designed to cover all operational costs and contribute an additional 10% for youth programming and 20% for adult programming.

As shown by the budget data in Table 7, \$1,573,882 was spent on recreation programming and special events in FY 08-09 (including administrative staffing costs), while these services produced approximately \$767,536 in revenue. This creates a cost recovery rate of approximately 48.8% for recreation programming. For all parks and recreation services, the revenue generation rate is just over 20%, excluding the General Revenue. When General Revenue is included, the revenue generation rate is almost 84%.

Recreation programs and services offer the most potential for revenue generation, while general provision of parks offers the least. Further analysis of recreation program areas and their revenue generation will be conducted by the planning team later in the planning process, as part of the effort to create a successful cost recovery strategy for the Town.

## Maintenance

In Apple Valley, park maintenance responsibilities are divided between the Facilities Division and the Parks Division.<sup>13</sup> The Facilities Division manages the operation, maintenance and repairs of all Town buildings. This includes the James A. Woody Community Center/Gymnasium and Civic Center Park Aquatic Center. The Parks Department maintains 13 parks, providing

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<sup>13</sup> Once acquired, the Apple Valley Country Club will be maintained and operated through separate funds and staff.

landscaping and turf management, sport field maintenance. This staff is also responsible for landscaping at Town Hall.

*Park Maintenance per Employee*

The ratio of staff to the number of maintained park acres helps identify the efficiency and effectiveness of the maintenance workload. The Park and Recreation Department’s Monthly Report of Services & Activities (June 2009) indicates that the Town maintains a total of 198 park acres. Based on the total number of FTE employees noted previously, Table 8 shows the ratio of maintained park acres per staff. Currently, the Town employs one staff person (FTE) to maintain 12.4 acres of park land.

Table 8: Park Maintenance per FTE Employee  
Town of Apple Valley, FY 2009-2010

Provider	Acres Maintained <sup>1</sup>	Budgeted FTE Staff <sup>2</sup>	Acres per FTE
Parks Division	198 acres	16	12.4 acres

<sup>1</sup> Total reported by the Parks Division, June 2009

<sup>2</sup> Total reported in the FY 2009/2010 Budget

*Maintenance Costs*

Analyzing the costs associated with park and facility maintenance and operations is equally valuable in understanding how park and recreation services are provided. Of the 198 maintained park acres, Table 9 shows that the Town spends approximately \$8,500 per acre for the maintenance of park grounds and amenities. (Note: this does not include an additional \$259,895 spent on the maintenance of park buildings, such as the recreation center, community center, and the pool.)

Table 9: Park Maintenance and Operations Cost Per Acre  
Town of Apple Valley, FY 2009-2010

Category	Acres/Cost
Total park acres maintained <sup>1</sup>	198 acres
Total maintenance expenditures <sup>2</sup>	\$1,672,800
<b>Total cost per acre</b>	<b>\$8,448</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total reported by Parks and Facilities Divisions, June 2009

<sup>2</sup> Total reported by FY 2009/2010 Budget. Does not include facilities costs.

Water costs are a large contributor to maintenance costs in Apple Valley. During FY 2008-2009, the Town spent over \$250,000 on water for its 13 parks, which accounts for approximately 15% of the park maintenance and operations expenditures that year.

### **Capital Development**

In addition to maintenance and operations, Town funds are also invested in capital development. The Town's five-year Capital Improvement Program includes funds totaling approximately \$2.39 million for park and recreation capital projects to be completed by FY 2013-2014. Some of this development is supported through the collection of Quimby fees. During FY 2008-2009, the Town received \$12,024 in Quimby fees.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The next phase of the planning process, the Community Needs Assessment, will identify Apple Valley's future need for parks and recreation facilities. It will integrate findings from this document with information gathered from Town residents who participate in the Master Plan public involvement activities. One of the goals of the needs assessment is to identify the level of service provided by current parks and recreation resources, along with the demand for these lands and facilities now and in the future. In this manner, future needs for specific types of parks and facilities can be calculated. In addition, programming needs can be forecasted to identify important programming areas for the Town.

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Victor Valley College. [www.vvc.edu](http://www.vvc.edu)



# Appendix A: Park & Recreation Facility Inventory







Appendix A-1: Apple Valley Park and Recreation Facility Inventory: Town Parks

PARK NAME	ACRES	SPORT FIELDS			SPORT COURTS				OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES							TRAILS/PATHS		AMENITIES					INDOOR REC FACILITIES				NOTES/OTHER
		BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL BACKSTOP	BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELD	SOCCER FIELD	BASKET- BALL COURT	HORSE- SHOE PITS	TENNIS COURT	VOLLEY-BALL COURT	AMPHI- THEATER/ STAGE	TENT SITES	OPEN GRASS AREA	PLAY- GROUND	SKATE PARK	SWIMMING POOL	WATER PLAY AREA	HARD- SURFACED TRAIL	SOFT- SURFACED TRAIL	BARBECUE	PARKING AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	PICNIC TABLES	REST- ROOM	ACTIVITY ROOM	GYM	KITCHEN	MEETING ROOM	
<b>MINI PARKS</b>																											
Corwin Road Park	3.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	9	1	0	0	0	0	
Cramer Family Park	2.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0		
Lion's Park	1.6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	Owned by Champion Investors Fund, Inc.	
Mendel Park	3.5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0		
Nom Schmidt Memorial Park	2.4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0		
Virginia Park	4.0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	Owned by Golden State Water Co.	
Yucca Loma Park	2.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	Owned by Apple Valley Unified School District	
Subtotal	19.9	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	15	7	2	26	2	0	0	0	0		
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>																											
Sycamore Rocks Park	4.1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	Owned by Apple Valley Unified School District	
Thunderbird Park	6.3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	Owned by Apple Valley Unified School District	
Subtotal	10.4	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	9	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>																											
Civic Center Park	21.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	*	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	4	The Town Hall Recreation Center can be divided into four meeting rooms
James Woody Park	23.0	8	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	11	5	1	25	2	3	1	1	3	Activity rooms can be used as meeting rooms. The PAL Youth Center is located at this site. The Town has applied for a grant to build a BMX Freestyle Facility at James Woody Park. This would replace the location of the two basketball courts, and one new court would be developed nearby.	
Lenny Brewster Sports Center	38.6	2	2	11	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	15	1	0	0	0	0	30 Horseshoe pits	
Subtotal	82.8	10	11	11	2	1	0	0	1	0	3	3	1	1	0	1	0	13	8	1	40	4	6	1	1	7	
<b>SPECIAL USE PARKS</b>																											
Apple Valley County Club	149.3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	Being acquired by City in 2010. Site includes an 18-hole golf course, bar/grill, Pro Shop, banquet and meeting rooms
Horsemen's Center	80.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	25	2	**	29	1	0	0	0	0		
Subtotal	229.6	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	2	1	0	0	0	0	25	3	0	29	2	0	0	1	2		
<b>Total Developed Park Land</b>	<b>342.7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>UNDEVELOPED SITES</b>																											
Sitting Bull Property	2.1																										
Standing Rock Property	20.0																										
Stoddard Wells Property	5.1																										
Subtotal	22.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL PARK LAND</b>	<b>364.7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	

\* The Town will add a playground at Civic Center Park prior to adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

\*\* The Town has plans to install a shelter at Horsemen's Center prior to adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Appendix A-2: Apple Valley Park and Recreation Facility Inventory: Schools

PARK NAME	SPORT FIELDS		SPORT COURTS				OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES							TRAILS/PATHS		AMENITIES					INDOOR REC FACILITIES				NOTES/OTHER
	BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELD	SOCCER FIELD	BASKET- BALL COURT <sup>1</sup>	HORSE- SHOE PITS	TENNIS COURT	VOLLEY- BALL COURT	AMPHI- THEATER/ STAGE <sup>2</sup>	CAMPING	OPEN GRASS AREA	PLAY- GROUND	SKATE PARK	SWIMMING POOL	WATER PLAY AREA	HARD- SURFACED TRAIL	SOFT- SURFACED TRAIL	BARBECUE	PARKING AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	PICNIC TABLES	REST-ROOM	ACTIVITY ROOM	GYM	KITCHEN	MEETING ROOM	
<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</b>																									
Desert Knolls ES	2		4				X		X	X							X			X	X		X	X	
Mariana ES	2		9				X		X	X							X			X	X		X	X	
Mojave Mesa ES	1		6				X		X	X							X			X	X		X	X	
Rancho Verde ES	2		5				X		X	X							X			X	X		X	X	
Rio Vista ES	2		10				X		X	X							X			X	X		X	X	
Sandia ES	1		6			2	X		X	X							X			X	X		X	X	
Sitting Bull ES	1		4				X		X	X							X			X	X		X	X	
Sycamore Rocks ES	0		6				X		X	X							X			X	X		X	X	
Subtotal	11	0	50	0	0	2	8	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	8	0	8	8		
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOLS</b>																									
Apple Valley MS	2	15	16			4	X		X							X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Sitting Bull MS	2		10				X		X							X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Vista Campana MS	2	1	14				X		X							X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Subtotal	2	15	16	0	0	4	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	
<b>HIGH SCHOOLS</b>																									
Apple Valley HS	4	1	16		6		X		X							X			X	X	X	X	X	X	1 football stadium, 1 additional field includes: track, soccer football field
Granite Hills HS	4	1	14		8		X		X							X			X	X	X	X	X	X	1 field includes: track, soccer, football field
Willow Park HS			2						X							X			X	X		X	X		
Subtotal	8	2	32	0	14	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	3	2	3	3		
<b>PRIVATE/OTHER</b>																									
Academy for Academic Excellence	2		3						X	X						X			X	X		X	X		
Apple Valley Christian School	2		2						X	X						X			X	X	X	X	X		
Vanguard Preparatory	2		4				X		X	X						X			X	X	X	X	X		
Subtotal	6	0	9	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	3	2	3	3		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>		

<sup>1</sup> School basketball courts are counted as number of nets in both indoor and outdoor facilities.

<sup>2</sup> For Schools, this number included indoor and outdoor stages.

X = Facility or amenity present.