

# FY2024

# Stewardship Report



**FROM OUR PARKS TO YOUR HEARTS  
A YEAR OF STEWARDSHIP**

Committed to Promoting an Active, Healthy Lifestyle for All

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

★  
KEVIN KALMAN  
★



Dear Community Members,

As we reflect on this past fiscal year, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and excitement for the journey we've been on together. Your support, enthusiasm, and involvement have been the driving forces behind everything we do. It's because of you that we can bring programs, events, and services that truly make a difference in our community.

Looking back, we're proud of the progress we've made, from expanding our facilities to introducing new activities that cater to all ages and abilities. We know there is always room to grow, and we are committed to building on this momentum in the coming year. We're here to listen, learn, and respond to your needs, because this is your community, and our role is to make it the best it can be.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us. Together, we're creating a healthier, more connected, and vibrant community for all.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Kalman".

Kevin Kalman  
General Manager



# DRD VALUES OUR COMMUNITY

## Our Mission

Desert Recreation District's mission is to enrich the quality of life for Coachella Valley residents by acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining a community-focused parks and recreation system and preserving it for future generations.

## Our Vision

Through a community collaborative approach the District will be the regional provider of premier parks and recreation services in the Coachella Valley. Ensuring all residents have equitable and barrier free opportunities that contribute to the overall wellness of our communities

## Our Values

**Respect** – Mutual understanding and equal consideration of others.

**Integrity** – Consistently doing the right thing.

**Teamwork** - Working together to achieve a common goal.

**Excellence** – Continuously striving for perfection.



## DRD Values Our Customers

For more than 74 years, Desert Recreation District (DRD) has played a key role in enriching the quality of life for residents and visitors through the recreational services we offer in the Greater Coachella Valley. We cover over 1,865 square miles and provide recreational services to over 380,000 residents, in part by working with municipalities in a collective effort to assure equitable service delivery to every community regardless of economic means.

# BY THE NUMBERS

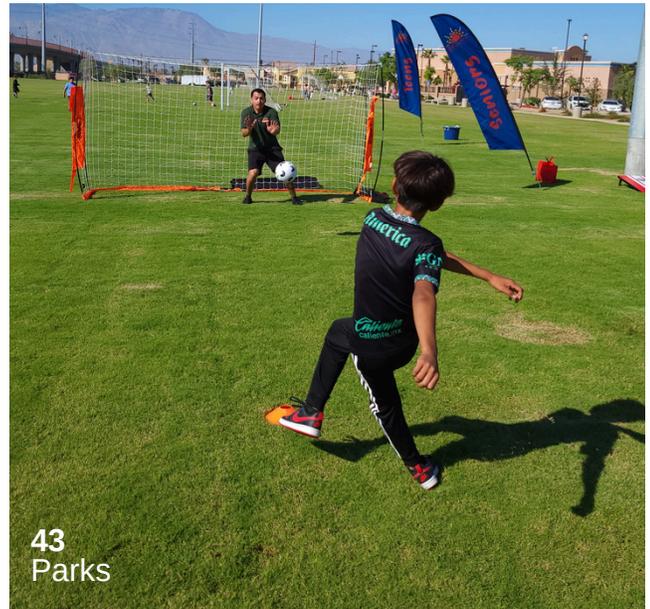
Staying true to our mission

Desert Recreation District is the largest park and recreation district in California! We manage, maintain and assist in maintaining 43 parks and recreation facilities; we create and deliver quality programs, services, and classes; and, we facilitate leisure opportunities through partnerships with private and public agencies and entities.

We strive to ensure members of the public receive personal benefits such as physical fitness, relaxation and revitalization; social benefits in the form of stronger and healthier families and economic benefits through more productive and healthier citizens and increased tourism.



130.5 Miles of trail



43 Parks



12 Community Centers



9-hole Par-3 Golf Course



We assist in managing over 106,000 acres of open space



5 Pools



Check out our number of class visits in FY2024!

🌊 Sports	33,366
👶 Tots	2,916
♿ Adaptive Sports	16,892
🏋️ Health & Fitness	8,050
🏊 Aquatics	33,236
🎪 Gymnastics	26,969
🎨 Art & Music and Dance	13,245
🌳 Special Interest & Outdoors	1,981

**BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES STARTS WITH CREATING SPACES WHERE PEOPLE CAN CONNECT, GROW, AND THRIVE. LET'S DO THIS!**

# HUMAN RESOURCE

## DRD VALUES INCLUSIVITY

Desert Recreation District (DRD) places a strong emphasis on inclusivity, making it an integral part of our values and principles. Our commitment to inclusivity is rooted in our mission to provide recreational opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all community members. We believe in creating a welcoming and accessible environment for residents and visitors of all backgrounds, abilities, and demographics.



## Our team is GROWING!

- 74 Full - 17.4% ▲
- 293 Part - 4.5% ▲



## SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships play a vital role in fostering inclusivity, equity, and community engagement.

The Desert Recreation District (DRD), in partnership with the Desert Recreation Foundation (DRF) and the Coachella Valley Youth Golf Foundation (CVYGF), offers scholarships that go beyond financial aid. They are investments in the health, well-being, and social fabric of our communities, providing opportunities for personal growth, community participation, and development—ultimately enhancing the quality of life for all.

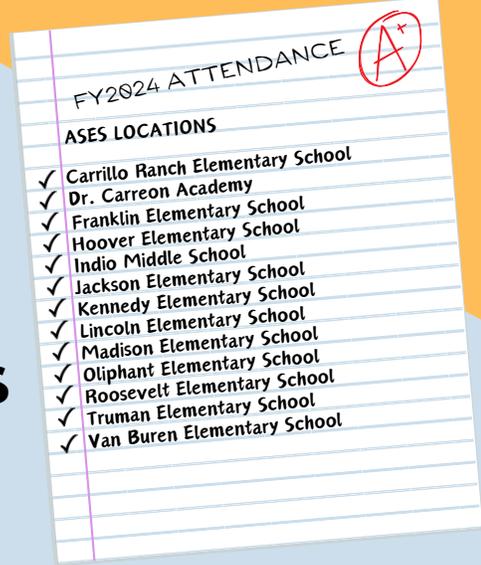
This fiscal year, DRF has awarded over \$138,900 in financial assistance and scholarships to families across the Coachella Valley. Additionally, CVYGF provides all elementary schools in the Coachella Valley with its program at no cost, saving each school an average of \$7,500. Coachella Valley Youth Golf Foundation also scholarships \$30,000 in program fees annually for families in need



# Educational Programming & Opportunities

Afterschool programs include After School Education and Safety (ASES), Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP), Kids Clubs, and camps!

DRD has over 70 Para Educators to support our programs in partnership with Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD). These program include education/homework assistance, physical activity play, a snack & and so much more.



**KIDS CLUB Locations:** Las Casas | Villa Hermosa | Paseo De Los Heroes | River Canyon | Vista Dunes

**ELOP Locations:** Washington Charter | Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle | John Glenn Middle

**12,408 ENROLLED IN FY2024**

IT TAKES A **TEAM**



## Adaptive/Therapeutic Sports & Recreation

Imagine a world where everyone gets to dive into exciting activities tailored to their skills and abilities! From thrilling sports to engaging recreational ventures, these programs aren't just about fitness; they're about creating a blast of fun with friends and family, creating new friendships and boosting confidence. Join us in celebrating abilities, overcoming barriers, and reveling in a world of excitement that the Desert Recreation District proudly brings to you all year long!

277 Programs Offered

1,285 Hours of Adaptive Programing

3,084 Enrollments

Ages Range: 4 - 62 Years Young!

**16,892 Number of Class Visits**

✓ Empowerment

✓ Sense of Belonging

✓ Friends Made

✓ Confidence

✓ Celebrating Abilities

✓ Unforgettable Achievements

♥ **Endless Possibilities**



# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



**CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECTS**



**INCLUDING  
NEW BUILD**



**RENOVATIONS  
AND REPAIRS**

## COMPLETED

### LQ Playground area resurfacing

We recently completed a significant improvement project at La Quinta Park by resurfacing the playground area. The aging playground surface was replaced with a new, durable material designed to enhance both safety and inclusivity for park visitors. This upgrade reflects the District's commitment to providing a welcoming and accessible space for children and families, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the playground with peace of mind. The resurfacing not only meets modern safety standards but also fosters a more inclusive environment, allowing children of all abilities to participate in outdoor play safely.



## COMPLETED

### Oasis Shade Structure Project

Our team is excited for the completion of the Oasis Shade Structure Project, enhancing the playground at Oasis del Desierto Park. This project involved the installation of a sturdy and visually appealing shade structure, designed to provide much needed sun protection for park visitors, especially during the hot summer months. The shade structure improves the overall comfort and safety of the playground area, making it a more enjoyable space for families and children. This project exemplifies our commitment to accessible, safe, and inviting recreational spaces within the community.



# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

## COMPLETED

### Fairway Park

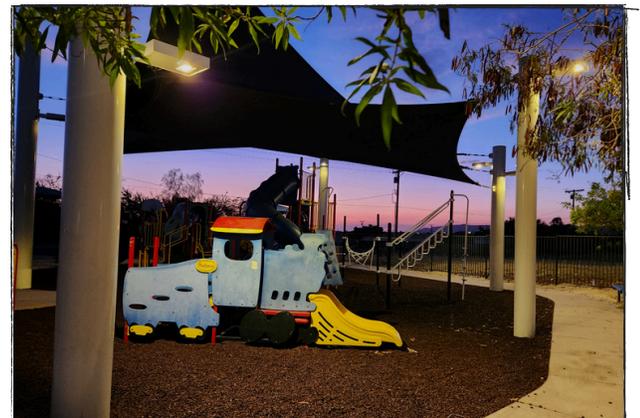
We couldn't be more excited than to announce that Fairway Park, the first public park in the city of Indian Wells, is now open to the public! This thoughtfully designed park features beautiful desert landscaping, accent rocks, a walking path, and shade trees, offering a serene and welcoming space for the community.



## COMPLETED

### North Shore Parque del Pueblo Lighting Project

Desert Recreation District successfully completed the installation of new lighting at North Shore Parque del Pueblo, greatly enhancing the safety and accessibility of the park. These improvements allow for extended evening use, supporting recreational activities and community gatherings after dark. This project shows our dedication to making North Shore's public spaces safer and more inviting for everyone. The new energy-efficient lights also support our environmental goals, helping the park stay an active and lively place for the community, even after dark.



## IN PROGRESS

### Golf Center at Palm Desert New parking lot, and renovation of east end driving range

The Golf Center at Palm Desert has two key upgrades that enhance the facility's accessibility and overall user experience. A new parking lot constructed to accommodate more visitors, ensuring convenient and efficient access to the Center. In addition, the east end of the driving range is undergoing a comprehensive renovation, providing improved practice areas for golfers of all skill levels.

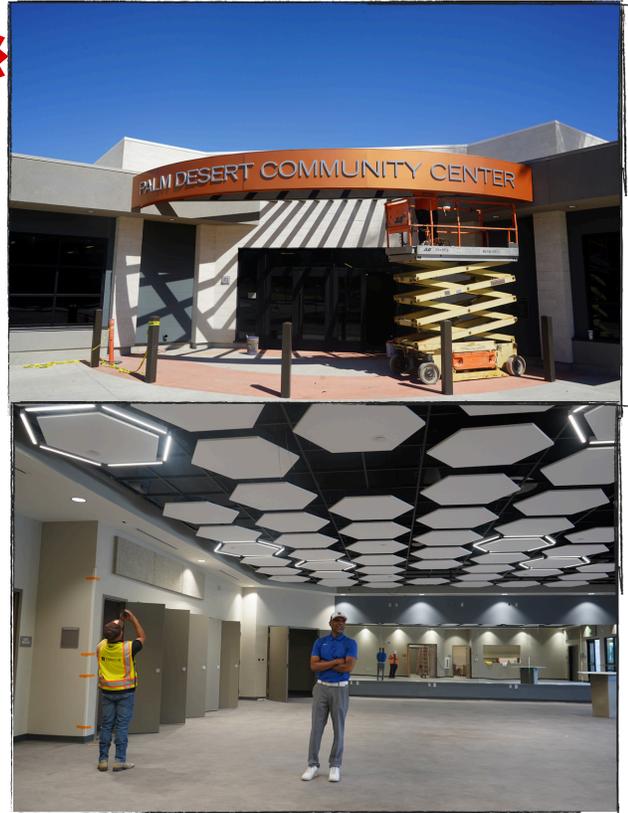


# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

## IN PROGRESS

### **Palm Desert Community Center Renovation.**

We're excited to announce that the newly renovated Palm Desert Community Center will be opening to the public in December 2024! The extensive upgrades include an expanded lobby, a newly relocated fitness room, and a revamped reception and administrative area now situated in the former fitness space. Additionally, the current reception area has been transformed into a dynamic activity room designed for classes such as dance and aerobics. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to enjoy the enhanced facilities and celebrate our grand reopening!



## IN PROGRESS

### **Thermal Park Design and Construction Project**

Thermal Community Park is a 10-acre site designed in collaboration with local residents, set to become the first community park in Thermal. Centrally located, it will provide convenient access to outdoor recreation and programming for all residents. The project, supported by \$4.5 million in state funding through Prop 68 and developed in partnership with Riverside County, Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, and Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia. We look forward to breaking ground in December 2024 with the entire community!



# Caring for Our Parks

## AND COMMUNITY

### PARK SUPERVISION

Our commitment to providing a safe and clean environment for all remains a top priority. Each day, our dedicated staff opens our parks with meticulous attention to detail, ensuring a welcoming atmosphere by cleaning, removing litter, addressing any potential hazards, and engaging with park users.

Regular maintenance and thorough safety checks are conducted across all facilities, including playgrounds, sports fields, restrooms, and walking paths. These proactive measures allow us to uphold the highest standards of safety and cleanliness, ensuring that our parks continue to be enjoyable spaces for the entire community.

### OVER 130 MILES OF WALKING TRAILS

Our dedication to cleanliness and safety extends beyond our parks to the over 130 miles of public trails that weave through our district. These trails provide residents with opportunities to explore the breathtaking desert landscape and stay active. Our team works diligently year-round to maintain these trails, addressing hazards and ensuring they remain accessible, well-marked, and safe for hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts alike. Whether you're enjoying a stroll in the park or an adventure on the trails, we are committed to providing a pristine and secure environment for everyone.

### OVER 2500 TREES

One of our core responsibilities is the stewardship of over 2,500 trees that beautify our parks and facilities, providing shaded, welcoming spaces for our community to enjoy. We understand the essential role these trees play in enhancing the quality of our green spaces. Our team is committed to their ongoing care, conducting regular pruning, watering, and health monitoring as part of our daily operations. In addition, we actively work toward long-term sustainability by planting new trees to replace any that may be lost. This dedication ensures our parks remain lush and vibrant for future generations to enjoy.

The DRD WAY

43  
PARKS

106,000  
ACRES OF  
OPEN SPACE





# POOLS/AQUATIC CENTERS

Our Aquatics program helps build confidence, and develop lifelong skills. Our shimmering pools become canvases for inclusivity, where we gather to exercise, socialize, and learn. From swimming lessons, water safety, aquatic therapy, engaging aquatic workouts, and building memories, these programs serves as a hub for health and recreation, promoting physical wellbeing while nurturing a sense of belonging among residents.



**1,880**  
PARENT & ME  
SWIM LESSON



**147**  
LIFEGUARDS TRAINED

**DRD AQUATICS**  
OVER 33,000 class visits  
in FY2024!



The Riverside County Children and Families Commission approved \$280,000 in funding to support drowning prevention efforts through the Desert Recreation District. The contract runs now through the end of June 2026. The funding will support over 2,000 children from the Coachella Valley who can receive free safe group swimming classes this summer.

**280K**  
THROUGH  
JUNE 2026



Thanks to the generous support from Kaiser Permanente's HEAL program, the Desert Recreation District continues to provide swim lesson scholarships for children throughout the Coachella Valley, ensuring that more youth have the opportunity to learn this essential life skill.

**533**  
LESSONS  
SUMMER 2024



## The Golf Center AT PALM DESERT

Conveniently located in the heart of Palm Desert off Cook Street, The Golf Center at Palm Desert offers a large, double-sided driving range with lighting for night time use. We are excited to announce the opening of the east range improvements, which features a world-class short game practice area and enlarged grass range tee. In addition to the large putting and chipping greens, the newly renovated short game practice area includes three bunkers and an essential 26 space parking lot. When you are finished sharpening your game on the driving range, play a round on our challenging Par-3, 9-hole golf course. The golf course is the perfect place to improve your game, featuring small, undulating greens, ideal for working on the scoring part of your game (80 - 130 yards).



**14,110**  
Rounds Played



**25,636**  
Range Buckets  
Sold



**805**  
Hours of  
Private Lessons



### WE DO GOLF RIGHT

Desert Recreation District spared no expense to make this the best practice facility in the Coachella Valley.

### OUR MISSION

The Golf Center is also the "Home of First Tee – Coachella Valley," a youth development program that believes that proactively helping kids build character will give them the tools they need to overcome obstacles in life while learning the game of game.

PROUD  
HOME OF





# Financial Stewardship

## Investing in Our Communities Future

### Stewardship

As stewards of your community's resources, we are committed to transparency and accountability in managing our finances. This page is designed to give you an overview of how we allocate resources to support our mission of enhancing the quality of life in the desert communities we serve. Explore the data and charts to gain a deeper understanding of our fiscal health and the impact of our investments in recreational programs and facilities.

### Interim Audit

The District's auditors conducted the FY24 interim audit in mid-June 2024, following GAAS and Government Auditing Standards. They assessed financial risks, reviewed internal controls, and evaluated accounting practices to ensure the District's continued financial stability. The audit concluded with no findings, and all documentation was provided promptly. Kudos to the Finance Team for their excellent work!



### Revenue

Desert Recreation District generates revenue through a diverse mix of sources, including program fees, grants, taxes, partnerships, and community support. This balanced approach enables us to fund innovative recreational programs and enhance our facilities, ensuring continued growth and sustainability.

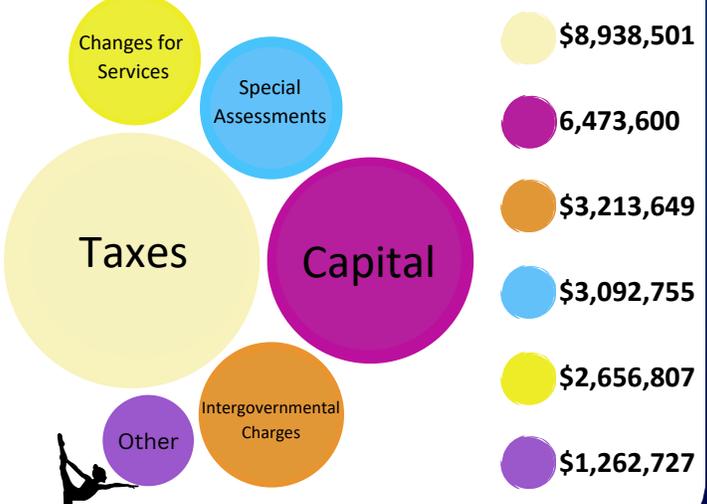


### Expense

Our expenses are carefully managed to prioritize community impact, investing in facility maintenance, program development, and staff training. We strive to maximize every dollar spent, ensuring that our resources directly benefit the communities we serve.

### TOTAL REVENUE

**\$27,150,218**



### TOTAL EXPENITURES

**\$25,720,997**



# Adventure

# LIVES AT DRD



LET'S Find Your DRD MOMENT



# Desert Recreation FOUNDATION

Desert Recreation Foundation works behind the scenes to ensure that all residents in the Coachella Valley have access to quality recreational resources, facilities, parks, and programs that serve today's needs and those for generations to come.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to enrich and preserve the quality of life for residents. We do this by raising funds and garnering support to purchase, develop, enhance, preserve, promote and expand the Coachella Valley's recreational activities, programs, parks, properties and facilities.

## OUR VISION

Our Vision is to establish a permanent charitable endowment that will provide sustainable, self-perpetuating resources, primarily for Desert Recreation District's park and recreation system. As the Foundation expands upon its strategic plan, we will strive to remain a valued and effective community resource, through leadership in capital planning to help fund new infrastructures, the purchase and development of land for new parks and creating new programs that serve the changing needs of residents.

## READY TO BE THE DIFFERENCE?

Your support makes an impact every day in our communities! Donations to the Desert Recreation Foundation helps in the purchase of land and equipment, provides for our Adaptive/Therapeutic program, and engages all community members by providing financial assistance for those who most need it. Find out more by visiting: [DesertRecreationFoundation.org](http://DesertRecreationFoundation.org)



The Desert Recreation Foundation, is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization



# first tee™

coachella valley

A program of the Desert Recreation District

## OUR VISION

**Fan Engagement:** First Tee is creating deeper connections with kids and families and making golf more fun, interactive, and engaging.

**Diversity & Inclusion:** First Tee is reaching kids of all ages and backgrounds and is the entry point for kids and families to learn about and experience the game.

**Civic Responsibility:** At First Tee, more than 1,000 PGA & LPGA teaching professionals and 25,000 volunteers work together to teach kids the First Tee Key Commitments and life skills that help shape and impact their lives. First Tee Key Commitments: Pursuing Goals, Growing through Challenge, Collaborating with Others, Building Positive Self-Identity, Using Good Judgment.

### First Tee - Coachella Valley:

- Over 21,000 Coachella Valley youth served, through on course, in school, and afterschool programs
- 33 Elementary Schools Onboarded and Trained to teach First Tee classes within their PE platforms
- Over \$30,000.00 scholarships monies awarded to FTCV Alum, through the Jim Kane Scholarship Fund



To impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values, and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.  
[FirstTeeCoachellaValley.org](http://FirstTeeCoachellaValley.org)

The Coachella Valley Youth Golf Foundation DBA First Tee - Coachella Valley, is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization

# Meet Your DRD Board of Directors

Dear Desert Recreation District Community,

As your Board President, I am incredibly grateful and excited to be in this role, knowing that together we are shaping something special here at the Desert Recreation District. It's not just a district; it's a community that's thriving because of people like you who bring your energy, ideas, and love for this place every day.

Reflecting on our past fiscal year, it's clear that what makes our community shine is our shared passion for recreation, connection, and inclusivity. From the beautiful locations that have become our gathering spots to the programs that spark joy and growth for all ages, it's all powered by our commitment to one another. We've accomplished so much together, and I can't wait to see where this journey takes us next.

As we look ahead, I promise that our team is more dedicated than ever to expanding opportunities and creating spaces where everyone feels valued and inspired. Whether it's introducing new programs, upgrading facilities, or simply ensuring there's a welcoming place for everyone, we're here to keep the Desert Recreation District a true gem for all.

On behalf of the entire Board, thank you for your ongoing support and trust. It's a privilege to work alongside you all, and together, let's make this year the best yet.

With gratitude and enthusiasm,

  
Luis Espinoza  
Board President



**Luis Espinoza**  
President  
Division 3



**Natalia Gonzalez**  
Vice President  
Division 1



**Rudy Gutierrez**  
Director  
Division 2



**Rudy Acosta**  
Director  
Division 4



**Laura McGalliard**  
Director  
Division 5

*Our sincerest thanks go to our valued partners, whose dedication and collaboration make it possible to enhance the lives of those we serve.*

AAA Automobile Club of Southern California  
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Alianza  
American Heart Association  
Anderson Children's Foundation  
Annenberg Foundation  
Audubon International  
Autism Society Inland Empire  
Barbara Sinatra Children's Center  
Billhartz Desert Insurance Agency  
Boys & Girls Club of Cathedral City  
Boys & Girls Club of Coachella Valley  
Building Bridges for Special Needs Coachella Valley  
California Department of Education:  
Expanded Learning Division  
California Highway Patrol (CHP)  
California School Age Consortium  
California State Parks  
California State University San Bernardino  
Catholic Charities  
City of Cathedral City  
City of Coachella  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio  
City of La Quinta  
City of Palm Desert  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage  
Clinica Medica Familiar  
Coachella Valley Community Trust Collaborative  
Coachella Valley Disaster Preparedness Network  
Coachella Valley Horse Rescue  
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition  
Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy  
Coachella Valley Radio Control Flying Club  
Coachella Valley Unified School District  
Coachella Valley Water District  
College of the Desert  
Community Action Partnership  
Desert ARC  
Desert Best Friend's Closet  
Desert Healthcare District  
Desert Healthcare Foundation  
Desert Meadows Apartments  
Desert Rose Society  
Desert Sands Unified School District  
Desert View Power  
Eisenhower Medical Center  
El Informador Del Valle  
El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center  
Fenixia Foundation  
FIND Food Bank  
First 5 Riverside County  
Flying Doctors  
Friends of the Desert Mountains  
Gary & Diane Hansberger  
Girl's Golf LPGA\*USGA  
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber  
of Commerce  
Greater Palm Springs Convention and  
Visitors Bureau  
Grocery Outlet Bermuda Dunes  
Gulf California Broadcast  
HOPE Through Housing  
Idyllwild Nature Center & Museum  
Independent Pool & Spa Service  
Association (IPSSA)  
Indian Wells Golf Resort  
Indian Wells Tennis Garden  
Indio Senior Center  
Indio Teen Center  
Inland Caregiver Resource Center  
Inland Empire Health Plan (I.E.H.P.)  
Inland Regional Center  
Innercare  
iShred Document Destruction  
Kaiser Permanente  
KESQ  
Kounkey Design Initiative  
KUNA  
La Quinta Chevrolet  
Loma Linda University Children's Health - Indio  
Mecca Family Resource Center  
Molina Healthcare of California  
National Recreation Park Association  
Oasis Vibe  
Office of CA Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia  
Office of CA Assemblymember Greg Wallis  
Office of Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz  
Office of Riverside County  
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez  
Office of U.S. CA Senator Alex Padilla  
Office of CA Senator Steven Padilla  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School  
Pacific Western Bank  
Palm Desert Area Chamber  
Palm Desert Sheriff's Department  
Palm Desert Youth Sports Association  
Palm Springs Unified School District  
Palm Valley Country Club  
PGA Tour Players Association  
PGA Tour Super Store  
Prime Time International  
Rancho Mirage Public Library  
Regional Access Project/ Foundation  
River Canyon Apartments  
Riverside County Department of  
Public Social Services  
Riverside County Economic Development Agency  
Riverside County Fire Dept / Cal Fire  
Riverside County Friday Night Live  
Riverside County Library System  
Riverside County Office of Aging  
Riverside County Public Health  
Riverside County Sheriff's Department  
Riverside University Health System -  
Public Health  
Rotary Club of Coachella Valley  
Rotary Club of Indio  
Rotary Club of Palm Desert  
Sacred Heart Catholic School  
Safehouse of the Desert  
SAGE Initiative  
SCGA Foundation  
Senior Softball of Palm Desert  
Shottenkirk Desert Lexus  
Simplot  
State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Sunline Transit Agency  
Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort  
The Lights at Indio  
The Wildlands Conservancy  
Thousand Palms Chamber of Commerce  
Tudor Ranch  
Unincorporated Areas of: Bermuda Dunes;  
Indio Hills; Mecca; North Shore; Oasis;  
Thermal; and Thousand Palms  
United Cerebral Palsy Inland Empire (UCPIE)  
US Adaptive Recreation Center  
Valley Sanitary District  
Variety of the Desert  
Vista Dunes Courtyard Homes  
Vision y Compromiso  
Walmart Foundation  
World Golf Foundation  
Yale University



@MyRecreationDistrict



@MyDRD



@MyRecreationDistrict



MyRecreationDistrict.com

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

45-305 Oasis Street

Indio, CA 92201 | (760) 347-3484