



# PROVIDING CLEAN, SAFE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR INDIO RESIDENTS

City of Indio residents benefit from access to safe, clean neighborhood parks that make the community a desirable place to live and help protect property values. Our parks and facilities also support safe and supervised recreation programs for local youth, offering healthy alternatives to drugs and gangs.

Today, some parks and services have been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19, access to those that remain open has proven to be of great value, providing safe open space and food distribution centers.



## IMPORTANCE OF PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS DURING COVID-19 THREAT

In the coming months, there may be very few places our community can go where social distancing can be assured in a public space. Concerts, movie theaters, and large religious services may be limited, if offered at all. By expanding our community center space, we can ensure activities for our children, seniors and adults where they can exercise and socialize in a clean and safe space — while following public health guidelines for social distancing.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

As we plan for future continued use of our parks and recreation programs, we face the challenge of aging facilities currently at capacity, with projected higher demand in the future as the community continues to grow.

The Pawley Pool — Indio's only public pool — was built in the 1950's and does not meet today's health and safety standards. The pool is essential during extreme heat in summer months and has been an important community resource. Unless the pool can be upgraded, it must be permanently closed. The Indio Community Center, which houses programs serving all age groups, is overcrowded and near fire-code capacity levels — serving double the number of residents it was originally built to accommodate..

## POTENTIAL LOCAL BALLOT MEASURE TO REPLACE EXISTING FEES

In order to ensure safe, clean facilities and continue programs, Desert Recreation District (DRD) is considering placing a measure on a future ballot to replace the current assessment paid by Indio property owners. If approved by Indio voters, the measure would allow DRD to continue providing affordable, quality programs and access to community facilities. It would replace the current assessment that varies in amount across the City to fund these services, with one special tax, equitable among all Indio property owners.

**Stable funding would help keep facilities and programs open and operating despite anticipated budget cuts and would enable DRD to:**

- Keep recreational facilities clean and safe, and allow for appropriate social distancing
- Provide a safe community pool for use by children, seniors and other residents
- Ensure drinking water continues to be safe at parks and recreation centers
- Continue to offer nutritional meals for low-income seniors and children
- Improve gang prevention and after-school programs for at-risk youth
- Upgrade and expand our aging indoor recreational centers, providing community members a place to exercise, play, or just stay cool when temperatures climb above the 100-degree mark
- Add additional programs to support a healthy lifestyle for residents of all ages

## LOCALLY CONTROLLED FUNDING WITH FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

A local funding measure would contain fiscal accountability provisions, requiring annual independent financial audits, public review of expenditures, and ensure that all funds remain here in Indio and could not be taken by Sacramento or used for other purposes.

## WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Take our survey at [MyRecreationDistrict.com](http://MyRecreationDistrict.com) or contact [info@DRD.us.com](mailto:info@DRD.us.com) for more information