

Stewardship Report REATION DISTRICT REATION DISTRICT



"WHERE WELLNESS, GROWTH, PLAY, AND COMMUNITY THRIVE TOGETHER."



It is an honor to serve as the new General Manager of the Desert Recreation District. As a resident of the Coachella Valley, I know firsthand how vital our parks, programs, and facilities are to families, neighbors and communities across the Coachella Valley. Recreation is more than activities and events, it's where connections are made, health is strengthened, and memories are created.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our Board of Directors for their trust, and to our dedicated staff whose passion and hard work make everything we do possible. I also extend heartfelt thanks to all our past General Managers over the past 75 years for their leadership, vision, and getting us to where we are now. Their commitment to this District has paved the way for the progress and opportunities we celebrate today.

Most importantly, I want to thank you, our community, for your continued support, participation, and belief in the power of recreation. This Stewardship Report is more than a reflection of the past fiscal year, it is a celebration of the ways Desert Recreation District has had the privilege of serving you. Inside, you'll find stories of impact, highlights of our programs, and a look at how we are striving to create inclusive, healthy, and welcoming spaces for all.

Together, we will continue to grow, innovate, and strengthen the role of parks and recreation in the lives of every resident. I am excited for the journey ahead and grateful to share this report with you.

With appreciation and enthusiasm,

Gabriel D. Martin, PH. D.

General Manager



Desert Recreation District enhances residents' quality of life by creating, maintaining, and preserving community-focused recreation facilities and programs.

Our Vision:

To create a community where everyone has access to inclusive, innovative, and high quality recreation facilities and programs that support health, connection, and wellbeing.

Our Values: We S.T.R.I.V.E. to serve our community and each other:

- Support We empower individuals and communities to thrive.
- Teamwork We collaborate and build trust to achieve shared goals.
- Respect We create inclusive spaces where everyone feels valued.
- Integrity We act with honesty, transparency, and accountability.
- Value We maximize resources for meaningful community impact.
- Excellence We innovate and improve for outstanding results.

"ATThe Heart of Our Work: Community"

At Desert Recreation District, people are at the center of everything we do. From parks and facilities to classes and events, our goal is to provide inclusive, innovative, and affordable recreation opportunities that enrich daily life.

Guided by our STRIVE values, we are committed to creating welcoming spaces where every resident can connect, grow, and thrive.



BY THE NUMBERS

OUR EXPERTS HAVE BEEN GOING OVER THE NUMBERS, AND THEY LOOK GREAT!

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







Your Support Makes All The Difference

Desert Recreation District is proud to be California's largest park and recreation district, but what really makes us big is the impact we create together! With 43+ parks and facilities and programs for every age and interest, FY2025 was filled with moments of play, connection, and discovery. From fitness classes to arts and music, aquatics to adaptive sports, our community showed up in amazing ways, adding up to more than 97,000 visits this year!

These numbers aren't just data points, they're families bonding, neighbors connecting, kids learning, and communities thriving. Every visit reflects our mission to create inclusive, innovative, and high quality recreation experiences that strengthen health, build community, and make the Coachella Valley a better place to live, work, and play.

JUST SOME OF THE NUMBERS THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

- 43+ Parks & Facilities across the Coachella Valley
- 43,200+ residents served through aquatics, fitness, and sports programs
- 23,492 Gymnastics visits: our highest single program participation!
- 22,149 Sports visits (youth & adult leagues)
- 20,527 Aquatics visits (pools, lessons, water fitness, and swim teams)
- 13,069 Adaptive program visits: supporting inclusion for all abilities
- 8,883 Arts, Music & Dance visits: celebrating creativity and culture
- 8,050 Health & Fitness visits: building stronger, healthier residents
- 962 Outdoors & Special Interest visits: connecting people with nature
- 215 Tots program visits: sparking joy for our youngest residents



INVESTING IN PEOPLE

Our Team & Our Community

Investing in People: Our Team & Our Community

At Desert Recreation District, inclusivity isn't just a value, it's at the heart of everything we do. With over 400 dedicated team members, including 80 full-time and 324 part-time employees, DRD's staff work every day to create safe, welcoming, and vibrant spaces for our residents. At our seasonal peak, that number reached 450 team members, a 23% increase from the previous year, a true reflection of the growing impact and reach of our programs. Guided by our STRIVE values, our staff bring passion, creativity, and care to programs that serve people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

Through scholarships and financial assistance, we extend that commitment even further, ensuring that cost is never a barrier to participation. In FY2025 alone, We awarded nearly \$98,000 in scholarships, giving more than 1,200 residents the chance to join in aquatics, fitness, arts, adaptive sports, and more. Every team member, and every scholarship, reflects our belief that recreation is for everyone.





Scholarships

- Provide essential education for children
- Offer financial support to diverse families



Coachella Valley
Youth Golf Foundation



Educational Programming & Opportunities

Desert Recreation District believes learning doesn't stop when the school bell rings. Through our afterschool and adaptive programs, students gain opportunities to explore, move, create, and connect in safe, supportive environments that encourage growth and confidence.

Our afterschool programs include After School Education and Safety (ASES), the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP), Kids Clubs, and seasonal camps, all designed to help students learn, play, and thrive. DRD employs more than 70+ Paraeducators who partner with the Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD) to provide homework help, physical activity, enrichment activities, snacks, and, most importantly, fun!



12,653 enrolled in fv2025



Van Buren Elementary School | Carrillo Ranch Elementary School | Franklin Elementary School | Dr. Carreon Academy | Hoover Elementary School Indio Middle School | Jackson Elementary School Kennedy Elementary School | Lincoln Elementary School | Madison Elementary School | Oliphant Elementary School | Roosevelt Elementary School Truman Elementary School

Kids Club Locations:

Las Casas | Villa Hermosa | Paseo De Los Heroes | Mecca Club House | Thermal Club House | North **Shore Club House**

ELOP Locations:

Washington Charter | Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle | John Glenn Middle

70+ Paraeducators supporting afterschool programs with DSUSD

These programs ensure that every child, regardless of background or ability, has a place to learn, belong, and succeed.











Adaptive/Therapeutic Sports & Recreation

Celebrating Abilities. Building Confidence. Creating Community.

At Desert Recreation District, we believe recreation should be for everyone, no exceptions. Our Adaptive and Therapeutic Programs open doors to exciting, inclusive experiences designed for individuals of all abilities to learn, play, and grow together. From competitive sports and fitness activities to creative and social programs, participants gain not only skills but also confidence, independence, and lifelong friendships.

Each event is more than just an activity, it's a celebration of connection, courage, and joy. Together with families, friends, and partners, we're breaking down barriers and creating a community where everyone belongs, thrives, and shines all year long.



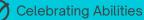


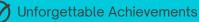


Empowerment Sense of Belonging (Friends Made



Confidence





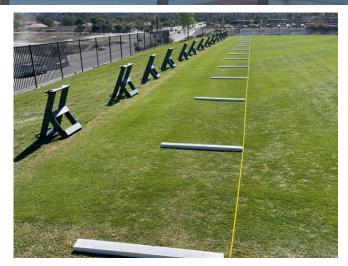
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

COMPLETED

Golf Center at Palm Desert Renovations

Desert Recreation District is proud to announce the completion of the Golf Center at Palm Desert East Range Improvements, marking a major enhancement to one of the region's premier golf practice facilities. The project includes a world-class short game practice area, enlarged grass range tee, and a new 26-space parking lot to improve accessibility and visitor experience.

Golfers can now enjoy expansive putting and chipping greens, along with three practice bunkers designed to help players refine every aspect of their short game. After perfecting skills on the range, players can take on the Center's challenging Par-3, nine-hole golf course, featuring small, undulating greens ideal for honing precision shots between 80 and 130 yards.





COMPLETED

Palm Desert Community Center Renovation.

The Desert Recreation District proudly celebrates the completion and reopening of the Palm Desert Community Center, a vibrant hub now fully modernized to better serve residents and visitors. The extensive renovation brings a fresh new look and improved functionality throughout the facility, reflecting DRD's ongoing commitment to enhancing community spaces.

Upgrades include an expanded and welcoming lobby, a relocated fitness room designed for accessibility and flow, and a revitalized reception and administrative area. The previous reception area has been reimagined as a multi-purpose activity room, perfect for dance, aerobics, and group classes that promote health, wellness, and community connection.





CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

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. Our team has been hard at work turning an incredible vision into reality, a brand new community park designed just for you. The Thermal Community Park will be a welcoming space filled with energy, connection, and opportunity for residents of all ages to enjoy.

We can't wait to share each milestone with you. Be sure to follow our Facebook page for construction updates, behind-the-scenes photos, and opening news.





IN PROGRESS

Indio Gymnastics & Performing Arts Center

In September 2024, DRD had the opportunity to purchase a historic community landmark, the former Metro 8 Theater in Indio, with plans to convert it into the new Indio Gymnastics and Performing Arts Center. As part of our commitment to expanding recreation and arts across the Coachella Valley, DRD is proud to develop this transformative facility. This facility will offer a dynamic space where gymnastics, performing arts, community performances, and recreation come together. With more than 250 people currently on our gymnastics waiting list, we knew this was a move in the right direction. Key features will include a full gymnastics arena, rock wall, performing arts space capable of hosting shows, recitals, and community gatherings and so much more. The renovation will create a modern, inclusive venue designed for families, youth, artists, and fitness enthusiasts alike.





IN PROGRESS

Water Refill Station Upgrades and Installation

Desert Recreation District was awarded funding through the CalRecycle Beverage Container Recycling Grant Program in April, 2025! This grant supports projects that expand recycling opportunities and reduce plastic waste across California communities. DRD is currently completing the grant agreement process and preparing to launch implementation throughout the District.

With this funding, DRD will install new water refill stations at parks and community centers across the Coachella Valley. These stations encourage residents to refill reusable bottles, reduce reliance on single use plastics, and keep beverage containers out of local landfills. The project not only supports environmental sustainability but also promotes healthy hydration for park users, athletes, families, and visitors.





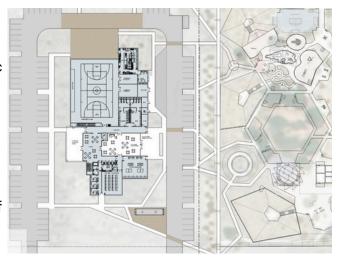
IN PROGRESS

North Shore Climate Resilience Center

The design of the North Shore Climate Resilience Center is currently underway as part of the State of California's Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grant program.

The planned 20,000 square foot Community Center will be built on a 5-acre parcel adjacent to North Shore Community Park, establishing a vital resource for both emergency preparedness and everyday community needs. During times of crisis, the center will serve as a designated emergency response hub, offering shelter, support, and essential services for our residents.

Once completed, the North Shore Climate Resilience Center will provide critical infrastructure, expand access to recreational and wellness modalities, and enhance long-term sustainability goals for all District residents who call the east valley home.







SAFETY AND CLEANLINESS YOU CAN COUNT ON

Safety and Cleanliness You Can Count On!
Our commitment to providing safe, clean, and welcoming spaces remains at the heart of everything we do. Each day, our dedicated park staff opens facilities with care and attention to detail, cleaning, removing litter, inspecting playgrounds, and addressing potential hazards before the first visitor arrives. These daily efforts create an inviting environment where families, athletes, and neighbors can enjoy our parks with confidence and comfort.



MAINTAINING MILES OF TRAILS

Beyond our parks, DRD proudly collaborates closely with valued partners such as the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy and the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission to ensure that more than 130 miles of public trails that wind through the Coachella Valley's breathtaking desert landscapes are ready for the community. These trails give residents and visitors countless opportunities to explore, stay active, and connect with nature. Together, let's keep preserving the natural beauty of our region and supporting active outdoor lifestyles for all ages.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREES AND GREEN SPACES

As caretakers of more than 2,500 trees across DRD parks and facilities, we take pride in nurturing the natural beauty that defines our community spaces. Each tree provides shade, habitat, and a sense of tranquility that enhances every visit. Our team conducts routine pruning, watering, and health monitoring to ensure these trees thrive, while also planting new ones to replace those that are lost. Through sustainable practices and dedicated stewardship, we are preserving our green space legacy for generations to come.

43+ PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES ACROSS THE COACHELLA VALLEY

DOZENS OF PLAYGROUNDS, SPORTS FIELDS, AND RESTROOMS MONITORED FOR QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

106,000 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE PRESERVED AND MAINTAINED FOR PUBLIC USE

POOLS & AQUATIC CENTERS

Our Aquatics programs do more than teach swimming, they build confidence, connection, and community. Across the valley, our shimmering pools are filled with laughter, learning, and lifelong memories. From swim lessons and water

DRD AQUATICSOVER 29,000 Program
Visits in FY2025!

safety to fitness classes, and special events, there's always something happening in the water!

In FY2025, hundreds of residents dove into DRD's aquatics programs, joining events like the Pirate Splash Party, Floating Pumpkin Patch, World's Largest Swim Lesson, and Dive-In Movies. Whether learning how to swim, splashing with family, or relaxing poolside, every participant is part of a vibrant community that values health, wellness, and fun in the sun.



The Riverside County Children and Families Commission approved \$280,000 in funding to support drowning prevention efforts through the Desert Recreation District. This contract, which runs through June 2026, will allow more than 2,000 children across the Coachella Valley to participate in free group swim lessons this summer, giving local youth the skills and confidence they need to stay safe in and around the water.

\$280K THROUGH JUNE 2026

435



Thanks to the generous support of Kaiser Permanente's HEAL program, Desert Recreation District continues to make a splash in the community by providing swim lesson scholarships for children across the Coachella Valley. These scholarships ensure that more youth have the chance to learn this essential life skill, building both water safety and confidence.

In FY2025, 10 scholarships were also awarded to new lifeguards, giving them the opportunity to train, certify, and serve their community during the summer season

LIFEGUARD WORKSHOP

WATER PARENT & ME AEROBICS SWIM LESSONS

DIVE IN ADAPTIVE MOVIES SPLASH PLAY

OVER 25 AQUATIC PROGRAMS OFFERED

WEDO GOLF RIGHT

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

OUR MISSION

THE GOIF CENTER AT PAIN DESERT

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.



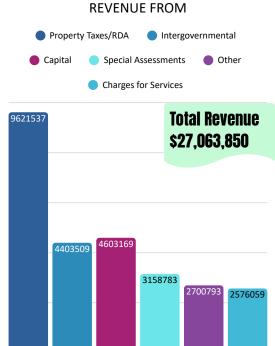
WHERE PRACTICE MEETS PLAY

Conveniently located in the heart of Palm Desert off Cook Street, The Golf Center at Palm Desert continues to grow as one of the valley's top destinations for golfers of all skill levels. The newly completed East Range Improvements have transformed the facility into a world-class practice and play experience.

The renovation features an expanded short game practice area with three bunkers, large putting and chipping greens, and an enlarged grass range tee, all designed to help golfers fine-tune their game. A new 26-space parking lot adds comfort and convenience for visitors enjoying the upgraded amenities.

When practice is done, players can take on the challenging Par-3, nine-hole course, where small, undulating greens provide the perfect setting to master precision shots between 80 and 130 yards. Whether you're learning the game or perfecting your short play, the Golf Center offers an inviting space to practice, play, and connect with the sport.





Capital Salary/Wages Supplies/Materials Benefits Debt Service Total Expenditures \$29,547,138 Lease Obligation \$6,989,474

EXPENITURES

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

As stewards of our community's resources, we remain dedicated to transparency, accountability, and responsible financial management. This page provides a clear look at how DRD allocates funds to support our mission of enhancing quality of life across the desert communities we serve. The charts and data included here offer an accessible snapshot of our fiscal health and show how strategic investments in parks, programs, and facilities continue to strengthen opportunities for all residents.

ANNUAL AUDIT

Every year, the District undergoes an external audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) and Government Auditing Standards. The auditor's review assesses financial risks, evaluates internal controls, and analyzes accounting practices to ensure the District's continued financial strength.

The Finance Department is currently in the final stage of its annual audit for fiscal year 2025, which is expected to be completed by the end of December 2025. To date, there have been no findings, and all financial reports have been submitted.

Revenue

Desert Recreation District generates revenue through a balanced mix of program fees, grants, taxes, partnerships, and community support. This diverse funding approach allows us to strengthen our facilities, expand our offerings, and invest in innovative recreational programs that support long-term growth and sustainability.

Expense

237860

Our expenses are thoughtfully managed to prioritize community impact. From maintaining parks and facilities to developing new programs and providing ongoing training for our staff, every dollar is spent with purpose. We remain committed to using our resources efficiently so the communities we serve receive the greatest benefit possible.











WE'RE PROUD TO





SERVE













\$ 11P-A-JUG &







Driven by Purpose. Powered by Community. Making a Difference in the Coachella Valley



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 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.

OUR MIS

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.

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

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

Coachella Valley
Youth Golf Foundation



OUR VISION

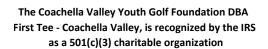
Fan Engagement: First Tee is creating deeper connections with kids and families and making golf more fun, interactive, and engaging.

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.

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.

First Tee Coachella Valley. org



Behind every program, park, and event are the incredible people who make it all possible. From early mornings preparing fields and maintaining trails, to teaching swim lessons, leading classes, and organizing community events, our team is the heartbeat of Desert Recreation District.

With over 400 dedicated team members, including 80 full-time and 324 part-time employees, Their commitment goes beyond their roles, they're mentors, coaches, and community builders. Together, they embody our STRIVE values: Support, Teamwork, Respect, Integrity, Value, and Excellence.



Just a few of the incredible team members behind DRD's success and spirit.

We are deeply grateful for our partners whose dedication and teamwork help bring recreation, connection, and joy to every corner of the Coachella Valley. Together, we're creating healthier, happier communities, one program at a time.

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

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

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 Parks Office of Community Involvement Indian Wells Tennis Garden

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 History Museum

Coachella Valley Horse Rescue

Coachella Valley Housing Coalition

Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

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

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

Kounkuey 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

Office of CA Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez

Office of CA Assemblymember Greg Wallis

Office of Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz

Office of Congressman Ken Calvert

Office of Riverside County

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

Office of U.S. CA Senator Adam Schiff

Office of U.S. CA Senator Alex Padilla

Office of CA Senator Steven Padilla

Office of CA Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh

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

Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling

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 Regional Park & Open Space

District

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

Summit Climbing Guides

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

Welbe Health **World Golf Foundation**

Yale University

We Can Fish





