18.0 VALLEY-WIDE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

The services that are provided by the Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District (VWRPD or District) include parks and recreation.

18.1 LOCATION AND GOVERNANCE

The Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District was formed on July 27, 1972. The District provides recreation and park services to residents within an 800-square-mile area. These boundaries encompass Hemet, San Jacinto, Valle Vista, Sage, Aguanga, Winchester, Menifee, and French Valley. The District's SOI is coterminous with its boundary. The District location, its boundary, and its facilities are shown on Figure 18.1.

The District is governed by a five-member elected Board of Directors who serve four-year terms. Regularly scheduled Board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the District's office. The District posts agendas on the Friday prior to each Board meeting at the District Office, Sports Center, and Menifee Community Center. The District also circulates a brochure four times per year, which provides information on facilities and programs that the District provides. The District does not pay for the production and mailing of these brochures due to an agreement with the Press Enterprise, who publishes and distributes the brochures with advertising in them.

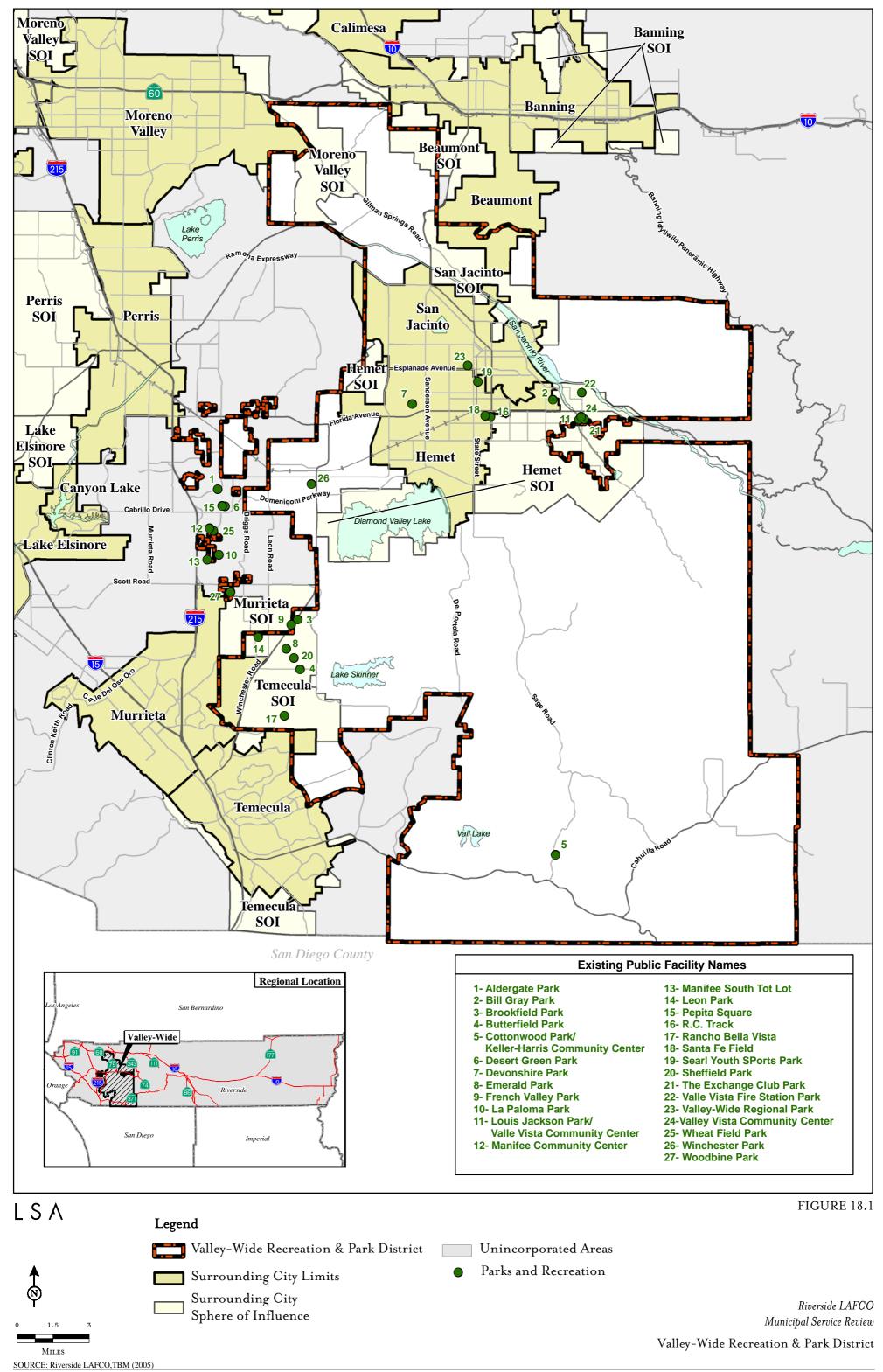
18.2 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The District adopts budgets annually and is funded by four sources of revenue: property tax, program fees, benefit assessments, and grants. Property tax and benefit assessments cover the cost of administration, maintenance, acquisition, capital improvements, debt payments (certificates of participation), utilities, and operations. Program fees cover the cost of programs and are self-sustaining. Grant funds are for specific purposes and can only be used for their intended purpose. To save costs, the District designs new facilities in a manner that allows them to be maintained easily and efficiently by District staff. As shown in Table 18.A, the District has had revenues that exceeded expenses. The budget for FY 2005–06 is balanced and is expected to result in revenues that meet expenditures.

Table 18.A: Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District Summary of Total Revenues and Total Expenses

	2004	2005	2006*
Total Expenses	\$5,763,143	\$6,924,957	\$8,917,000
Total Revenues	\$9,816,946	\$17,066,232	\$8,917,000
Net Revenues (Loss)	\$4,053,803	\$10,141,275	\$0

Source: Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District Financial Statements, June 30, 2005. *Budgeted amounts



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Based on the District's estimated population in 2005 and the recreation and park activities expenses as provided in the District's Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending 2005, the cost of providing services was \$42.73 per capita in FY 2004–05.

At the end of FY 2005, the District had \$1,120,907 in outstanding long-term debt. This debt consisted of lease financing agreements, payments for equipment purchases, and compensation absences.

The District saves insurance costs through its membership in the California Association for Park and Recreation Insurance. This is a consortium of park and recreation districts wherein each member pays for its proportionate share of insurance coverage, which is generally less than purchasing insurance through standard insurance companies.

The District has adopted an investment policy that guides the deposit of the District's surplus or idle funds. The policy identifies authorized investment types by rate risk, credit risk, and concentration of credit risk. Currently, all of the District's invested funds are in the Local Agency Investment Fund and the County of Riverside Investment Pool.

18.3 DISTRICT GROWTH

The District estimated that 160,000 residents lived within its boundary in 2005 and has estimated population growth within the District's boundaries to be approximately 10,000 persons annually, or 6.3 percent annually through 2008. Table 18.B provides the District's population growth projections.

Year	Population
2005	160,000
2006	170,000
2007	180,000
2008	190,000

Table 18.B: Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District Population Projections

Source: VWRPD, 2005.

18.4 PARK AND RECREATION SERVICES

The District's park facilities are listed in Table 18.C; the recreation facilities are listed in Table 18.D; and future park facilities in the planning phase are listed in Table 18.E. In addition, the District has 169 acres of streetscapes, detention basins and entry detail.

Facility and Location	Amenities	Acreage
Abelia Sports Park	Under construction, formally referred to as French Valley	17
Corner of Abelia and	Park; ball diamond; soccer field; picnic; playground;	
Winchester Road	restroom	
French Valley		

Facility and Location	Amenities	Acreage
Adeline's Farm Park	Under construction; picnic area and playground	1
Benton and Cady		
French Valley		
Aldergate Park	One baseball diamond; children's play structure; two half-	7
28688 Aldergate, Menifee	court basketball areas; restroom facility; parking lot	
Autumn Park (tract 31148)	Under construction; picnic area and playground	2
Autumn and Corderro		
Menifee South		
Avignon Court	Under construction; this is a half acre mini park located in	0.5
Corner of Avignon & Hals	French Valley	
Drive.		
French Valley		
Barry Jones Memorial	Open Space	162
"Skunk Hollow"		
Bill Gray Park	One ball diamond; two half-court basketball areas; a	5
25330 Lake Street, Hemet	children's play area; picnic grounds	
Brookfield Park	2 ball diamonds; 2 soccer fields; picnic area; 1 playground;	12
Corner of Abelia and	restroom	
Winchester Road,		
French Valley		
Brookfield Open Space	Open Space	62
French Valley		
Butterfield Park	Ball diamond; children's play area; restroom facility; picnic	5
Benton Road and Caddy	area	
Road, French Valley		
Cottonwood Park/Keller-	Picnic shelter; a ball diamond; horseshoe pits; picnic area;	10
Harris Community Center	6,000 square foot community center	
44290 Sage Road, Aguanga		
Crown Valley Park	Under Construction. Ball diamond; soccer field; picnic;	5
Corner of High Vista Drive	playground; restroom	
and ShadetreeFrench		
Valley		
Desert Green Park	N/A	0.5
Painted Desert Drive and		
Menifee Road, Menifee		
Devonshire	Retention Basin	10
Canston and Devonshire,		
Hemet		
Diamond Valley Lake	Opened in June 2006. This facility includes a heated 25 yard	5
Aquatic Facility	outdoor pool with a water slide, zero depth entry, fountain	
1800 Marina Drive, Hemet	sprayers and a play structure for small children	
Emerald Park	Lighted ball diamond; soccer field; restroom; play area;	5
31736 Emerald	picnic area	
French Valley		

Facility and Location	Amenities	Acreage
Field View Park (tract	Under construction; one ball diamond; picnic area;	5
29214)	playground area; and restroom	
Moser and Fieldview		
French Valley		
Heritage Park (tract 29017)	Under construction; two picnic areas and one playground	5.5
Heritage Lakese		
Menifee North		
Hidden Meadows Park	Under construction; picnic area and playground	2.5
(tract 30948)		
On Highland cul-de-sac		
Menifee South		
Kona Park (tract 31330)	Under construction; picnic area and playground	0.5
Waimea and Mauna Loa		
French Valley		
La Paloma Park	Children's play structure; 500 sq. ft. restroom building;	5
3000 Menifee Road,	picnic area next to the Lake	
Menifee		
Leon Park	Picnic area; playground	5
Corner of Marigold and		
Violet Lane,		
French Valley	15.000	10
Louis Jackson Park/Valle	15,000 sq. ft. community activities and senior center	10
Vista Community Center	including a gym; meeting rooms; full-service kitchen and	
43935 Acacia Avenue,	restrooms; indoor basketball court; indoor racquetball court;	
Hemet	picnic area; four lighted ball diamonds; six soccer fields;	
Menifee South	and a children's play area	2
Tot Lot	A small children's play structure; benches; picnic area	2
Garboni and Palomar,		
Menifee		
McCall Canyon Park	Under construction; picnic area and playground	3
(tract 30705) Heritage	onder construction, pienie area and playground	5
Lakes		
Menifee North		
Mira Park	Under construction: ball diamond; soccer field; picnic area;	5
Corner of Mira Street and	playground; restroom	5
Wickerd Road, Menifee	r	
Pepita Square	N/A	0.5
Caminio Pepita Drive and		0.0
Menifee Road, Menifee		
Primrose Park (tract 28297)	Under construction; picnic area and playground	3
Cloche and McCartney	Chief Construction, prome alou and prayBround	
French Valley		
renen vuney		1

Facility and Location	Amenities	Acreage
Rancho Bella Vista Park	12,500 sq. ft. community center; one ball diamond; soccer	7
31757 Browning Street,	field; picnic ground; restrooms; play area; parking lot	
Murrieta		
Richmond Park (lot 64)	N/A	N/A
(tract 25253) Promenade and Grande		
Vista		
Menifee		
Valley-Wide Regional Park	22,000 sq. ft. sports center; six lighted tennis courts; four	36
901 West Esplanade,	lighted ball diamonds; six soccer fields; picnic area;	50
San Jacinto	playground equipment; 12-station batting facility; 3,000 sq.	
	ft. snack bar/game room	
Santa Fe Field/R.C. Track	One lighted softball field; radio-controlled racetrack	5
252 South Santa Fe Street,		
Hemet		
Searl Youth Sports Park	Three lighted ball diamonds; one lighted soccer field; 5,000	11
1001 North Buena Vista,	sq. ft. community building; 800 sq. ft. maintenance garage;	
Hemet	picnic area; and restroom	
Sheffield Park	Two ball diamonds; four soccer fields	12
Thompson and Pourroy		
Road, French Valley		_
Valle Vista Fire Station	500 sq. ft. restroom building; picnic shelter; play area;	5
Park	horseshoe pits; picnic tables; basketball court.	
25175 Fairview, Hemet		25
Wheat Field Park	A total of six ball diamonds; two lighted ball diamonds; two	25
30627 Menifee Road, Menifee	lighted tennis courts; 5,000 sq. ft. community building; 1,600 sq. ft. maintenance garage	
Wheatfield Annex	N/A	5
La Piedra and Menifee		5
Road		
Menifee		
Winchester Park/Francis	Three lighted ball diamonds; two soccer fields; a new 12;	20
Domenigoni Community	500 sq. ft. community center; a large outdoor basketball	
Center	court; picnic grounds; play area; a parking lot	
32655 Haddock Street,		
Winchester		
Woodbine Park	Ball diamond; soccer field; picnic area; playground;	5
29411 Woodbine Lane,	restroom	
Menifee		10-
Total		487

Table 18.D: Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District Existing Recreation Facilities

Community Center	Park Location	Square Footage
Francis Domenigoni Community Center	Winchester Park	15,000
Keller-Harris Community Center	Cottonwood Park	6,000
Multipurpose Community Room	Searl Youth Sports Park	1,500
Multipurpose Room and Gym	Wheat Field Park	17,000
Outreach Center, Sports Center	Regional Park	34,000
Rancho Bella Vista Community Center	Rancho Bella Vista Park	10,000
Valle Vista Community Center	Louis Jackson Park	15,000

Table 18.E: Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District's Parks in Planning

Facility and Location	Amenities	Acreage
Adeline's Farms Parks "A-K"	N/A	N/A
(tract 29214) Corner of Briggs		
& Leon		
French Valley		
Beazer Park (tract 31383)	N/A	N/A
French Valley		
Cantalena Park (Bluestone	N/A	N/A
Communities) Garboni in		
Menifee		
Community Park (tract 31582)	N/A	N/A
Trailhead and Lindenberger		
Menifee Parks		
Diamond Valley Lake	Eight lighted ball diamonds, two	80
Community Park	lighted soccer ball fields and a	
	snack bar	
Discovery Park (tract 30705)	N/A	N/A
Heritage Lakes		
Menifee North		
Emperor Village Park (tract	N/A	N/A
30972) McLaughlin Rd		
Romoland		
Exchange Club Park	N/A	8
Fairview Avenue		
Hemet		
KB Pocket Parks (3) (tract	N/A	N/A
30167)		
French Valley		
KB Park (tract 30433)	N/A	N/A
Pat and Briggs		
French Valley		
Lakeridge Park (tract 30422)	N/A	N/A
Mountain Gate (tract 28801)	N/A	N/A

Facility and Location	Amenities	Acreage
Briggs Road in Romoland		
Osborne Park (tract 30351)	N/A	N/A
Stetson and Winchester Road		
Winchester		
Pleasant Valley Park (tract	N/A	N/A
30989) Simpson and Leon		
Winchester		
Pocket Parks (2) (tract 31455-	N/A	N/A
31582)		
Lindenberger Road and		
Simpson		
Menifee Parks		
Rivercrest Park (tract 31810)	N/A	N/A
Olive Ave		
Valley Vista		
Spencer's Crossing (tract	N/A	N/A
30696)		
Briggs and Leon		
Stonegate Park (tract 32277)	N/A	N/A
Briggs and Holland		
Menifee		
Sunrise Park (tract 30705)	One ball diamond; picnic area;	11
Heritage Lakes, Menifee North	and playground	
Washington Park (tract 29962)	N/A	N/A
Washington St. and Fields		
French Valley		
Whispering Heights (tract	N/A	N/A
32185) Leon and Cookie		
French Valley		
Winchester Ranch Sports Park	N/A	34
(tract 30808) Olive and Rice		
Winchester		
Winchester Ranch Parks "B-F"	Tract 30808 – 1- ¹ / ₂ acre	3.25
(5) (various tract #s)	Tract 30808 – 2 – 2.75 acres	
Winchester		
Total		136.25

The District's standard is to provide 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. As shown in Table 18.C, the District is currently providing 487 acres of parkland, which meets the District's standard and provides a ratio of 3 acres per 1,000 residents. In addition, there are numerous parks in planning within the District that will assist in serving the District's growing population.

The District has a history of cooperative relationships with several different agencies. These arrangements provide for additional facilities and services in a cost-effective manner. Table 18.F lists the District's cooperative projects.

Cooperation with the City of Hemet	Cooperation with the City of San Jacinto
Construct Mary Henley Park	Renovate Sallee Park
Renovate Santa Fe Field	Operate Sallee Pool
Construct Southwest Park	Make reservations for Rancho Park
Schedule Shuffle Board courts	• Increase activities at Rancho Park to reduce
• Fertilize City Lawn Bowls courts	vandalism
Cooperation with the County of Riverside	Cooperation with Eastern Municipal Water District
Construct Valle Vista Park	Plan Winchester Park
• Construct Valle Vista Community Center	Sheriff Work Release Program
Construct Winchester Park	 Access manpower by utilizing the work release program. Participant's provide manual labor
Construct Winchester Community Center	program. I accorpant 5 provide manual abor
Construct Cottonwood Park	

Table 18.F: Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District Cooperative Projects

Similarly, the District utilizes various different methods to fund new facilities. The following provides examples of how different facilities were funded.

- Valle Vista Fire Station Park: Developed through a cooperative effort, with the Park District providing the funding and the County of Riverside providing the land.
- Bill Gray Park: Developer mitigation in lieu of fees. Additional amenities of pathways, play structures, back stop, and picnic tables funded by the Park District.
- Jerry Searl Youth Sports Park: Funded by the Exchange Clubs, the Exchangettes, The Searl Foundation, CDBG (parking lot \$63,000) 1998 bond act (land purchase \$139,500), City of Hemet, the Weekend Fundraiser (\$340,000), and Alpha Odel estate donation of \$33,000.
- Cottonwood Park: Homer and Dolores Harris donated and developed this 10-acre park.
- Valley Vista Community Center: construction funded by the Riverside County Redevelopment Agency (\$1,110,000), land purchased by CDBG (\$230,000), and fundraisers funded park improvements.
- Santa Fe Field: rehabilitated by the Park District in 1989 funded by Proposition 99; funds \$38,000.
- Sports Center: Financed with Certificates of Participation and construction in 1998. Cost: \$1,069,000; debt payment is \$145,000 annually until 2012.
- Batting Cages/Concession: constructed privately in 1993; owners closed due to cash flow problems in 1996. District purchased the \$690,000 in improvements in 1997 for \$125,000. Operated today under a lease agreement.

- Winchester Park: purchased property in 1985 with CDBG funds (450,000). Expanded in 1998 with funding provided by Eastern Municipal Water District mitigation for instillation of ponds on Simpson Road. Park is expanded from 5 to 20 acres. Eastern Municipal Water District trust account totals \$535,000.
- Devonshire Ditch: this 10-acre flood retention basin was donated to the District in 1984; and is undeveloped.
- La Paloma Park: constructed in 1990 by the developer in lieu of park fees.

Recreation Programs

The District provides numerous recreational activities; these include special events, such as 4th of July festivities, Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Carnival, crafts shows, winter holiday celebrations, and family fun nights in addition to various programs and classes. Table 18.G provides a list of the types of recreational programs that are provided by the District.

Table 18.G: Types of Recreation Programs Provided by Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District

Fitness	Language Classes	Personal Finance
Music	Dance	Animal Training
Cooking and Baking	Various Sports	CPR and First Aid
Theater and Drama	Arts and Crafts	Aquatics
Self Defense	Sign Language	Gymnastics
Trips and Excursions	Pre-School	Day Camps