



# STEWARDSHIP REPORT

*Committed to promote an active, healthy lifestyle for all.*

FY2023

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER



## *Hello Everyone in The Desert Recreation District Community!*

I hope you're all doing well and feeling as excited as I am about everything that's been happening and what's coming up. As we look back on our fiscal year, I can't help but be grateful for all of you who've been a part of our journey. Your support and enthusiasm have made this year truly special and I wanted to take a moment to share some of the awesome things we've done and give you a preview of what's in store.

This year has been all about growth, trying new things, and bringing our community closer together. We've been working hard to make our parks, and community centers even better, and it's been incredible to see them become places where people of all ages can have fun and connect. From exciting sports leagues to cultural events that celebrate our diversity, there's been something for everyone. It's been amazing to see kids enjoying our improved playgrounds and seniors taking on new fitness challenges.

I'm super excited about what we have planned for the future. Here's a sneak peek!

**Taking Care of You:** We're focusing on helping you stay healthy in every way – not just physically but also mentally and emotionally. We're adding even more workshops and classes that cover all aspects of wellness, so get ready to feel your best.

Our team is focused on greener spaces! We're not just stopping at park improvements. We're also looking at ways to make our parks more environmentally friendly with energy-saving technology and more green areas to enjoy.

Partnering and collaboration are key, and we're teaming up with local groups, artists, and businesses to create awesome events that represent our community's spirit. This also means empowering the next generation! We're all about helping our young members grow into leaders. There will be cool educational programs, chances to learn new skills, and ways to step up and lead. Including ways to join the DRD family.

The story we're creating together is one of progress, unity, and excitement. You all play a huge part in that story, and I can't wait to see where we'll go in the years to come. Let's take the energy and successes from this year and carry them forward. Thank you for being the heartbeat of our district.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your family!

Best regards,

Kevin Kalman  
General Manager



# 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.



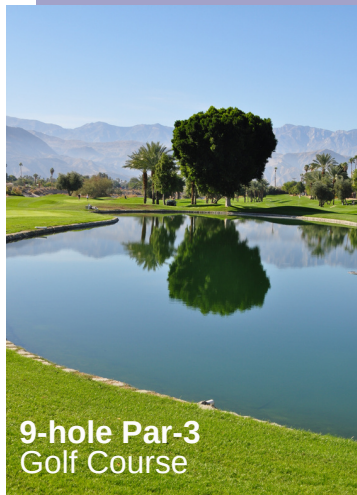
## DRD Values Our Customers

For more than 70 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. DRD boundary has expanded in recent years to provide barrier-free, safe services to more unincorporated areas of the Coachella Valley and municipalities not previously served.

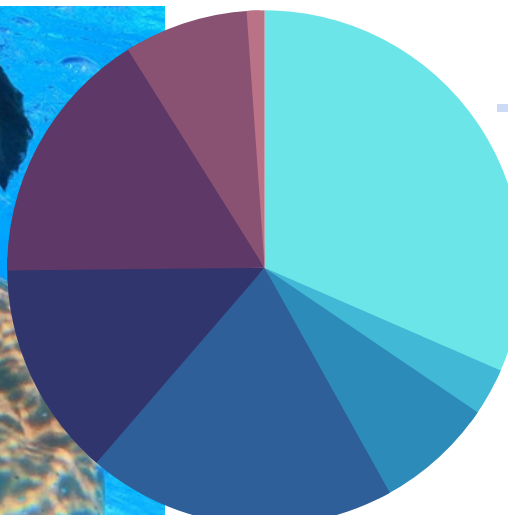
# BY THE NUMBERS



Desert Recreation District is the largest park and recreation district in California! We manage, maintain and assist in maintaining over 30 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 as 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 enriching the lives for persons with disabilities, and economic benefits through more productive and healthier citizens and increased tourism.



## AND THAT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE DRD ICEBERG



### OUR NUMBERS KEEP RISING!

Sports	49,663	18%	▲
Tots	4,656	56%	▲
Adaptive Sports	11,700	68%	▲
Health & Fitness	30,575	96%	▲
Aquatics	21,283	39%	▲
Gymnastics	25,594	81%	▲
Art & Music and Dance	12,275	5%	▲
Special Interest & Outdoors	1,761	241%	▲

Compared to fy2022

# HUMAN RESOURCE

## DRD VALUES INCLUSIVITY

The 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.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships play a crucial role in promoting inclusivity, equal opportunities, and community engagement.

Desert Recreation District (DRD) scholarships are not just about financial aid; they are investments in the overall health, well-being, and social fabric of communities. They create opportunities for personal growth, community involvement, and sustainable development, ultimately leading to a better quality of life for everyone.

DRD awarded more than **\$55,500** in financial assistance & scholarships to families here in the Coachella Valley.



Our staff is growing!



- 63 Full - 5% ▲
- 280 Part - 16% ▲

**130**  
*Volunteers!*

Desert Recreation District (DRD) enforces anti-discrimination policies to prohibit any form of bias based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or other protected characteristics. DRD also conducts outreach programs to encourage underrepresented groups and communities to participate in recreational activities, fostering a sense of belonging and unity among all residents.



# BEYOND PARKS



## Educational Programing & Opportunities

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



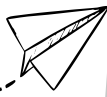
### AFTER SCHOOL LOCATIONS



DRD has over 70 Para Educators to support the 13 ASES programs in partnership with Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD). This program includes education/homework assistance, physical activity play, a snack & and so much more.

**KIDS CLUB Locations:** Desert Meadows | La5 Casas Villa Hermosa | Paseo De Los Heros | River Canyon Vista Dunes

**Four ELOP Locations:** Washington Charter | Reagan Elementary | Monroe Elementary | Page Middle



Carrillo Ranch Elementary School  
Dr. Carreon Academy  
Franklin Elementary School  
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  
Van Buren Elementary School

**12,408 ENROLLED IN FY2023**

## Adaptive/Therapeutic Sports & Recreation



The Desert Recreation District is your ticket to exhilarating adaptive and therapeutic sports and recreation programs! Imagine a world where everyone gets to dive into exciting activities perfectly 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 while fostering friendships and boosting confidence. Join us in celebrating abilities, overcoming challenges, and reveling in a world of excitement that the Desert Recreation District proudly brings to you all year long!



Community engagement

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



**SERVICE  
CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECTS**



**INCLUDING  
NEW BUILD**



**RENOVATIONS  
AND REPAIRS**

## COMPLETED

### North Shore Stormwater Protection Project

After a powerful storm in 2018 wreaked havoc on the North Shore Community Park, covering it with mud and leaving safety concerns in its wake, the park's dedicated team rallied together to restore this beloved space. The storm's rains had caused severe flooding and erosion, forcing the temporary shutdown of the park. Recently a stormwater protection channel was constructed to safeguard the park from future heavy rains and ensure the safety of those who frequented the area. This project involved the installation of drainage systems, the creation of retention basins, and the strategic placement of vegetation to mitigate erosion. In the end, the North Shore Community Park was not only restored but also emerged more resilient and environmentally conscious than ever before. Today, the North Shore Community Park stands as a testament to the power of community action and is once again a thriving hub for outdoor enjoyment.



## COMPLETED

### Indio Community Center Strength Equipment

This upgrade was fueled by our commitment to fostering a healthier and more empowered community. This upgrade isn't just about weights and machines; it's about empowering our community members to reach their fitness goals, promoting overall wellness, and creating a welcoming space where everyone can thrive physically and mentally. We hope to see you there soon!



# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

## COMPLETED

### La Quinta Fitness Equipment

Our goal is to always enhancing the wellness journey of our community. We sought to elevate the fitness experience by investing in new equipment accessible to all residents, promoting inclusivity and motivation in pursuing healthier lifestyles. Beyond the machines and weights, this upgrade represents our commitment to fostering a supportive environment where individuals can achieve their fitness aspirations, fostering a sense of unity and well-being within our community.



## COMPLETED

### Golf Center at Palm Desert upgrades

We embarked on a transformative initiative by seeding the old lake bed, enhancing driving mats, and applying a slurry seal. This forward-thinking endeavor aimed to revitalize the golfing experience, fostering a lush, sustainable landscape for players to enjoy from parking to play. This thoughtful investment showcases our dedication to creating an exceptional golfing haven that harmonizes innovation with environmental stewardship for all to enjoy.





# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

## IN PROGRESS

### Fairway Park

The first public park in the city of Indian Wells. This approved design features desert landscaping, accent rocks, a walking path, and shade trees. Fairway Park is currently under construction anticipating an opening early 2024.



## IN PROGRESS

### Palm Desert Community Center Renovation.

We're expanding the lobby, relocating the fitness room, moving the reception and administrative areas to the current fitness area, and the current reception area being changed to an activity room for classes such as dance and aerobics. We look forward to celebrating our reopening with you in late 2024.



## IN PROGRESS

### Thermal Community Park.

Thermal Community Park is a 10-acre site designed by the DRD team and local residents! It will be the first community park in Thermal and is centrally located so outdoor recreation and programming is easily accessible to all residents.,



# CARING FOR OUR PARKS AND COMMUNITY



**OVER  
30  
PARKS**

Daily park maintenance involves a systematic approach to ensure the safety and cleanliness of our serviced parks. Every day, each park is inspected for trash and safety concerns that could pose a risk to park users. We also prioritize cleaning the playground surface and concrete areas, along with restroom maintenance and equipment safety checks. Additionally, we conduct thorough quarterly inspections of all District Parks to maintain the parks' overall quality and exceed user expectations.



## **PARK SUPERVISION**

We also understand that cleanliness and safety are paramount for our community's enjoyment. Our staff takes pride in opening our parks every day, ensuring they are free of litter and hazards. We perform regular maintenance and safety checks on all facilities, including playgrounds, sports fields, and restrooms, to guarantee that they are in excellent condition.



## **OVER 130 MILES OF WALKING TRAILS**

Our commitment extends to the over 130 miles of public trails that wind through our district. These trails provide opportunities for residents to explore the beauty of the desert landscape and stay active. Our team maintains these trails year-round, addressing any hazards and making sure they are accessible and well-marked for hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts.



## **OVER 2500 TREES**

One of our key responsibilities is the stewardship of over 2,500 trees that grace our parks and facilities. We understand the importance of these trees in creating inviting and shaded spaces for our community. Regular pruning, watering, and monitoring for the health of these trees is part of our daily routine. In addition, we work diligently to plant new trees to replace any that may be lost, ensuring the long-term sustainability of our green spaces.



# Aquatics

## 5 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 teaching water safety, aquatic therapy, engaging aquatic workouts, and building memories these programs serves as a hub for health and recreation, promoting physical well-being while nurturing a sense of belonging among residents.

**Number OF VISITS**

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

**147**  
LIFEGUARDS TRAINED

**DRD AQUATICS**  
OVER 40,000 number of program visits in FY2023!



Thanks to Kaiser Permanente's HEAL program DRD continues to offer swim lessons scholarships for children in the Coachella Valley



The Riverside County Children and Families Commission approved \$280,000 in new funding to support drowning prevention efforts through the Desert Recreation District (DRD). 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.



# The Golf Center AT PALM DESERT



**12,675**  
Rounds Played

**27,533**  
Range Buckets Sold

**791**  
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. Featuring a large 2-sided night lighted range, best practice balls in the desert, chipping greens, practice bunker, practice putting green and a 9-hole Par-3 course.



### 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**

**first tee™**  
coachella valley

A program of the Desert Recreation District



**REVENUE**

**EXPENSE**

**OVERVIEW**

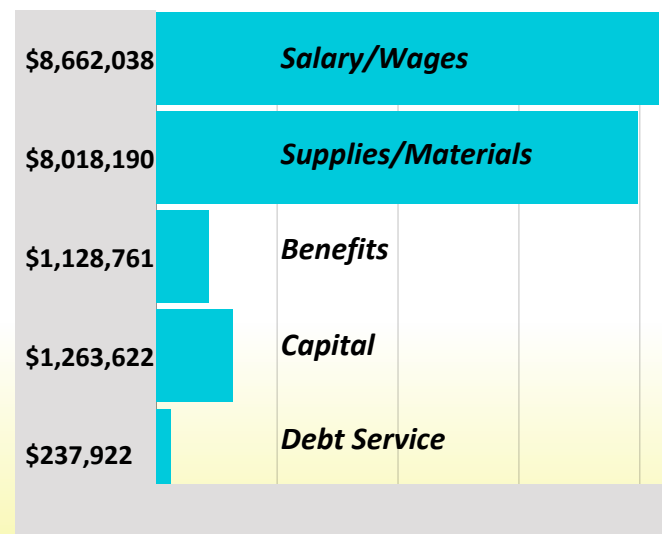
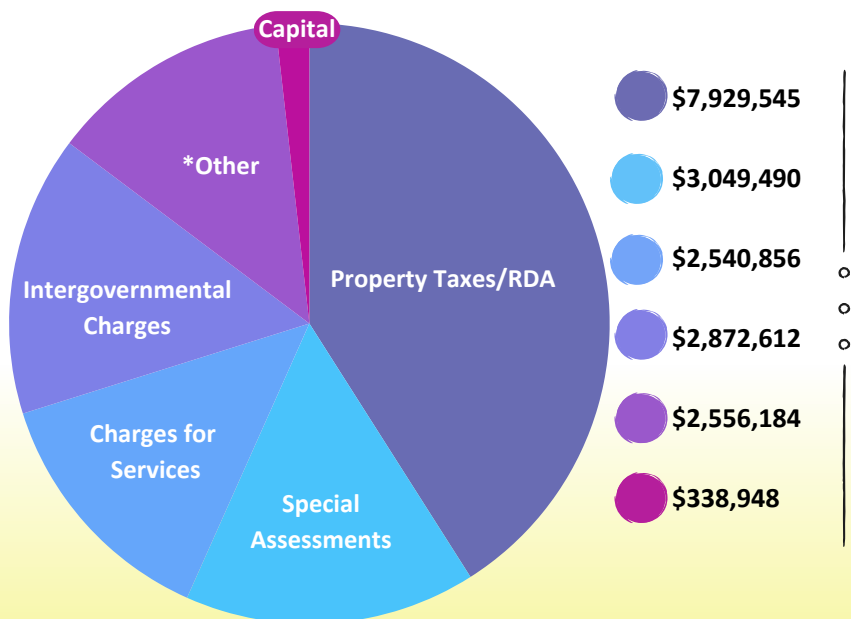
AS STEWARDS OF YOUR COMMUNITY'S RESOURCES, WE ARE COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN MANAGING OUR FINANCES. THIS PAGE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE YOU AN OVERVIEW OF HOW WE ALLOCATE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE DESERT COMMUNITIES WE SERVE. EXPLORE THE DATA AND CHARTS TO GAIN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR FISCAL HEALTH AND THE IMPACT OF OUR INVESTMENTS IN RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES.

**TOTAL REVENUE**

**\$19,287,635**

**TOTAL EXPENITURES**

**\$19,270,533**



\* claim reimbursements, concessions, sales of surplus, grants, donations, investment earnings, miscellaneous sales.

# Adventure LIVES AT DRD



LET'S  
Find your  
DRD  
MOMENT





Desert Recreation

# FOUNDATION



A program of the Desert Recreation District

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 MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Your support makes an impact every day in our communities! Donations to the Desert Recreation Foundation helps 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 501c(3) charitable organization

## 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.

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

# Meet The DRD Board of Directors



Dear Community Members,

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for being the driving force behind the success of the Desert Recreation District. Today, as the Board President, I am filled with immense pride and a deep sense of responsibility to continue our journey towards a brighter future, hand in hand.

Our community's unity has always been our greatest strength. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones, and I am certain that the path ahead is paved with even greater opportunities. As we look forward to the future, I want to reiterate our commitment to fostering a thriving and inclusive environment that enriches the lives of all residents.

At the core of our mission is the belief in providing exceptional recreational programs, growing facilities, and a wide array of services that cater to the diverse interests and needs of our community members. From the youngest to the young at heart, our goal is to create an environment where everyone feels welcomed, inspired, and engaged.

I want to reaffirm the board's dedication to their role and to each one of you. The Desert Recreation District is not merely an organization; it is a shared dream that we all work tirelessly to realize. Let us move forward with passion, optimism, and a shared commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of our community members.

On behalf of the Desert Recreation District Board of Directors, thank you for your unwavering support and trust in us. Together, let's continue to make the Desert Recreation District a beacon of hope, unity, and inspiration for all.

With warmest regards,

Laura McGalliard  
Board President



Laura McGalliard  
President  
Division 5



Rudy  
Acosta  
Vice President  
Division 4



Natalia  
Gonzalez  
Director  
Division 1



Rudy  
Gutierrez  
Director  
Division 2



Luis  
Espinoza  
Director  
Division 3