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# Chapter 2 **EXISTING INVENTORY**

## **2.1 ORGANIZATIONS**

Recreation facilities and programs in Teton Valley are owned and managed by a wide variety of organizations including municipalities, private entities, and non-profit organizations. Organizations that actively provide recreation facilities and programs in Teton Valley include the following:

### **Public Entities**

- City of Driggs
- City of Victor
- City of Teton
- Teton County
- Teton School District 401
- US Forest Service
- Idaho Fish and Game
- Idaho Parks and Recreation

### **Private Entities**

- Teton Springs Resort
- Huntsman Springs Resort
- Teton Reserve
- Grand Targhee Resort

### **Non-Profit Organizations or Clubs**

- Teton Valley Recreation Association (TVRA)
- Teton Valley Baseball and Softball Association (TVBSA)
- Teton Valley Foundation (TVF)
- Teton Valley Ski Education Foundation (TVSEF)
- Teton Valley Trails and Pathways (TVTAP)
- Teton Valley Fair Board
- Teton Indoor Sports Academy (TISA)
- Mountain Bike Teton Valley (MBTV)
- Rodeo Club
- Skyliners Motor Club
- Wrestling Club

## **2.2 RECREATION FACILITIES**

To better understand the existing recreation facilities in Teton Valley, the following asset inventory was compiled using data provided by the Steering Committee combined with information available from the Teton County GIS database and local knowledge. For this study, facilities that are available to Teton Valley residents were included in the existing asset inventory, including those owned by private entities. Note that the following inventory is based on the best information available and may not represent a total accounting of all recreation facilities.

## Parks

Parks were classified as either community parks or neighborhood parks depending on size and use. **Community parks** are generally larger than neighborhood parks and include a mix of active and passive recreation areas and facilities that attract people from all over the Valley. The general size standard for a community park is larger than 50 acres. However, because Teton Valley does not have any parks that are close to this size, a park was classified as a community park if it regularly attracts people from a wider population than the surrounding neighborhood.

The Driggs City Park is considered a community park since it contains baseball and softball fields that are used by adult and youth sport leagues. The Driggs City Park is owned by the LDS Church but operated and maintained by the City of Driggs under a current lease that expires in 2034 or with a 90 day notice. Lions Park in Driggs is used for ball games and also contains a community garden. The Fifth Street Park includes the only skate park in the Valley as well as a BMX track and a Frisbee Golf Course. In Victor, Pioneer Park includes a Bike Pump Park and the Kotler Ice Arena and the Victor City Park has an outdoor stage that is used for very popular free concerts during the summer. A summary of the community parks in Teton Valley is included in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1. Summary of Community Parks

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Size (acres)</b>
Driggs City Park*	Driggs	5.0
Lions Park	Driggs	3.0
5th Street Park	Driggs	8.0
Pioneer Park	Victor	28.0
Victor Main Street Park	Victor	1.8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>45.8</b>

\* indicates the facility is privately owned



Figure 2-1. Driggs City Park playgrounds (left) and ball field (right)

**Neighborhood parks** are generally smaller than community parks and primarily serve residents living in the area surrounding the park due to the lack of facilities that would attract people from the entire Valley. They are located within walking distance of the neighborhoods they serve (¼ to ½ mile radius) and act as important community gather places and focal points for neighborhoods.

Table 2-2. Summary of Neighborhood Parks

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Size (acres)</b>
Alta Community Park	Alta	4.0
Brookside Park	Victor	1.2
Huntsman Springs Playground	Driggs	0.8
Huntsman Springs Ball Courts	Driggs	1.0
Huntsman Springs Walking Park	Driggs	1.5
Golf Vista Park	Victor	1.4
Lewis Parish Park	Driggs	1.0
Ruby Carsons Park	Tetonia	2.7
Shoshoni Plains Phase IV	Driggs	6.5
Shoshoni Plains South	Driggs	2.4
Shoshoni Plains Teardrop	Driggs	0.8
The Settlement Park	Victor	3.2
Valley Centre Park	Driggs	3.0
Willow Creek Park	Victor	1.0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30.5</b>



Figure 2-2. Alta Community Park

## Family Oriented Facilities

Family oriented facilities include the playgrounds and picnic areas that often come to mind when one thinks of parks. These are usually available on first come first serve basis. This category also includes swimming pools. There are currently no public swimming pools in Teton Valley and the pools included in the inventory are private pools that can be accessed by members and guests for a fee. The outdoor pool that is currently under construction at Huntsman Springs is not included in the inventory below.

Table 2-3. Summary of Family Oriented Facilities

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Picnic Tables</b>	<b>Pavilions</b>	<b>Playgrounds</b>	<b>Swimming Pools</b>	<b>Restrooms</b>
5th Street Park	1				1
Alta Community Park	1		1		1
Brookside Park	2		1		
Driggs City Park*	1	1	1		1
Grand Targhee Resort*				1	
Golf Vista Park	1		1		
Huntsman Springs Playground			1		
Lewis Parish Park	1		1		
Lions Park					1
Pioneer Park	3	1	1		1
Ruby Carsons Park	1	1	1		1
Shoshoni Plains Phase IV					
Shoshoni Plains South	1				
Teton Springs Resort*				1	
The Settlement			1		
Valley Centre Park			1		
Victor Main St. Park	4	1			1
Willow Creek Park	1		1		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

\* indicates the facility is privately owned

## Trails and Pathways

Trails and pathways in Teton Valley are an important part of the recreation system. During the summer they are used for biking, walking, and motorized uses. During the winter the groomed Nordic and snowmobile trails provide all weather access to the outdoors.

**Multi-Use Pathways** are pathways separated from the road that are generally surfaced with asphalt, although a few are surfaced with gravel. The most popular multi-use pathway in Teton Valley runs parallel to Idaho Hwy 33 from Driggs to Victor and is 7.1 miles in length. The longest multi-use pathway is an old railroad grade that was converted to a trail that runs from Teton to Ashton, Idaho. Multi-use pathways in Teton Valley are used by cyclists, walkers, runners, and rollerbladers. Some pathways are used by snowmobilers in the winter.

Table 2-4. Summary of Multi-Use Separated Pathways

<b>Pathway Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Surface</b>	<b>Length (miles)</b>
1000N Pathway	Driggs	Paved	0.6
5th Street South	Driggs	Gravel	0.2
9500 S Pathway	Victor	Paved	1.3
Baseline Pathway	County	Paved	0.5
Booshway Pathway	Driggs	Paved	0.5
Creekside Pathway	Driggs	Paved	0.6
Driggs-Victor	County	Paved	7.1
Guardian Peaks Pathway	Driggs	Paved	0.1
High School - Middle School Pathway	Driggs	Paved	0.3
Huntsman Springs Pathway	Driggs	Paved	0.7
Hwy 33 Driggs Creekside Pathway	Driggs	Paved	0.4
Old Jackson to Mountainside Pathway	Victor	Paved	1.6
Ross Street 1st to Highway 33	Driggs	Paved	0.1
Safe Routes Main to Ross along 2nd	Driggs	Paved	1.0
Shoshoni Plains Pathway	Driggs	Gravel	0.5
Shoshoni Plains Pathway	Driggs	Paved	0.1
Ski Hill Road	Driggs	Paved	0.5
Teton Springs East Border Pathway	Victor	Paved	0.6
Teton Springs West Border Pathway	Victor	Paved	0.6
Tetonia-Ashton Rail Trail	County	Gravel	10.5
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>27.8</b>

**Bike facilities** located on roads include bike lanes and designated shared use roadways. The number of bike lanes in Teton Valley is limited and the most popular bike lane runs from Driggs to Alta along Ski Hill Road.

Table 2-5. Summary of Road Bike Facilities

<b>Bike Facility Location</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Length (miles)</b>
7750 South	Victor	Bikelane	1.3
Brook Trout Lane	Victor	Bikelane	0.5
Christopher Street	Victor	Bikelane	0.2
Little Avenue /Ski Hill Road	Driggs	Bikelane	4.0
Rail-Trail Pathway to Driggs	Driggs	Bikelane	0.8
Main Street	Victor	Bikelane	0.6
Victor-Moose Creek	Victor	Shared Use Roadway	2.4
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>9.9</b>

**National Forest Service** trails and roads are outside of the scope for this plan, but it is important to note their significance as it relates to public access. The Teton Basin Ranger District contains approximately 427 miles of National Forest System Trails and 340 miles of National Forest System Roads. The system trails include 212 miles designated for motorized use; 99 miles designated for non-motorized/non wilderness trail (i.e. non-motorized trail open to bicycles and pedestrians); and 116 miles of wilderness trails that are open to horses and pedestrians only. All 340 miles of roads are open to OHV use with the exception of Teton Canyon Road and Darby Canyon Road.



Figure 2-3. Mountain bikers enjoying the popular Forest Service trails in Horseshoe Canyon

**Winter Nordic trails** in Teton Valley are groomed by Teton Valley Trails and Pathways (TVTAP), a local non-profit organization. Use of the Nordic trails is free, although donations to TVTAP are encouraged to help fund the grooming program. There are several Nordic trails located throughout the valley, and trail use counts taken during the 2012-2013 winter season showed that an average of almost 15,000 skiers used the Nordic trails with the most popular trail being the one located in Teton Canyon. The Teton Canyon is usually the first to be groomed in the fall and the last to be groomed in the spring and is heavily used by multiple user groups including skiers, snowshoers, snow bikers, and snowmobilers.

Table 2-6. Summary of Nordic Trails

<b>Nordic Trail Name and Location</b>	<b>Length (km)</b>
Alta – North of the Alta Library	10
Driggs – East of Booshway between High School and Middle School	5
Grand Targhee Resort – Nordic trails located at the base of the ski resort	15
Pioneer Park – Victor	4
Teton Canyon - out and back trail in Teton Canyon	13
Teton Springs – on the golf course at Teton Springs in Victor	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>



Figure 2-4. Kids Nordic race on the Alta Nordic trails, 2013  
(photo courtesy of Eric Helgoth)

## Outdoor Sports Oriented Facilities

Outdoor sports oriented facilities are those used for team sports such as baseball, softball, soccer, football, and tennis. These facilities usually need to meet standard dimensions and some can be used for multiple purposes. They are often reserved for league games and fees may be charged to cover maintenance costs. Several volunteers from some of the sports programs help maintain some facilities in order to help keep them in good condition and reduce costs. A strong volunteer and fundraising effort also made the covered ice rink located in Victor a possibility. Although these facilities are most often used for organized team sports, they can also be used for more informal activities.

Table 2-7. Summary of Sport Oriented Facilities

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Diamond Fields</b>	<b>Rectangular Fields</b>	<b>Basketball Courts</b>	<b>Volleyball Courts</b>	<b>Tennis Courts</b>	<b>Ice Rinks</b>
Alta Elementary School	1					1
Brookside Park			1 (half court)			
Driggs City Park	1	1	1			
Huntsman Springs Ball Courts			1	1		
Lewis Parish Park				1		
Lions Park	1	1				
Teton School District	3	4	5		2	
The Settlement Park		1				
Pioneer Park	2	1				1
LDS Church in Victor*	1	1				
Ruby Carsons Park	1				1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

\* indicates the facility is privately owned

## Other Outdoor Facilities

Other recreation facilities that do not fall into the above categories but are important amenities in the community are inventoried here. This includes traditional facilities for sports such as golf as well as non-traditional sports that are increasing in popularity such as BMX parks, skate parks, and disc golf courses. Although private golf courses are included in the inventory below, the cost to play on the premier courses at Huntsman Springs and Teton Springs may make them unfeasible for most of the population. All golf courses are 18-hole courses, and the Teton Village Golf Course is the only public golf course that does not require a private club membership to use.

Table 2-8. Summary of other recreation facilities

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Skate Parks</b>	<b>Disc Golf</b>	<b>Golf Courses</b>	<b>Bike Parks</b>	<b>Rodeo Grounds</b>	<b>Community Gardens</b>
5th Street Park						
Grand Targhee Resort*						
Lions Park						
Huntsman Springs Resort*						
Pioneer Park						
Saddleback Vistas*						
Targhee Village Golf Course*						
Teton County Fairgrounds						
Teton Reserve*						
Teton Springs Resort*						
Tetonia Rodeo Grounds						
The Links at Teton Peaks*						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

\* indicates the facility is privately owned

## Indoor Recreation Facilities

In addition to the outdoor amenities that have been noted above there are also a number of indoor recreation facilities that are available. These facilities are provided by the public, private, as well as the non-profit sectors. They include a variety of elements from active recreation to social focused space.

Table 2-9. Summary of Indoor Recreation Facilities

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Multi-purpose Gyms</b>	<b>Fitness Classes or Wts</b>	<b>Yoga or Pilates</b>	<b>Gymnastics</b>	<b>Community Rooms</b>	<b>Climbing Gym</b>	<b>Horse Arena</b>
Driggs Community Center							
Anytime Fitness*							
High Peaks Fitness*							
Saddleback Vistas*							
Teton Yoga Co-op							
Yoga on Little*							
Dreamchasers*							
Targhee CrossFit*							
Teton County Fairgrounds							
Balance Studio*							
School District	3						
LDS Churches	3				3		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

\* indicates the facility is privately owned

## Recreation Facilities Summary

Teton Valley, for its population base, has a considerable number of recreation facilities available to its residents. This includes:

- Parks – both community and neighborhood parks are located in the major communities in the valley.
- Trails and Pathways – there is an extensive network of trails and pathways that support a variety of summer and winter activities. This also includes national forest and stream access points. This is a real positive considering the natural features that are present in the area.
- Outdoor Sports Oriented Facilities – there are a number of sports fields, courts and an ice rink located in the valley. It is unusual to see a covered ice rink in an area with such a small population.
- Family Oriented Facilities – park amenities such as picnic tables, playgrounds and restrooms are available in a number of parks. There are a small number of outdoor swimming pools as well likely due in part to the high cost of building and maintaining such amenities as well as the relatively short season of operation.
- Other Outdoor Facilities – these specialty amenities include skate parks, disc golf courses, bike parks, rodeo grounds and the like. It is surprising the number of these types of facilities that exist in an area with a limited population base. This fact can be attributed to the active focus of the population that lives in the area, which is similar to many mountain resort communities in the western United States.
- Indoor Recreation Facilities – there are also a number of indoor recreation facilities in the valley. The number of indoor recreation facilities is about average for active based mountain communities.
- Facilities are owned and managed by the public, non-profit and private sector.

## 2.3 RECREATION PROGRAMS

Although most of the recreation facilities in Teton Valley are owned by public entities, almost all of the recreation programs are organized by non-profit organizations. Most programs have nominal registration fees from \$40 to \$100, and many of the programs are completely run by volunteers who coordinate, coach, referee, and schedule the games. One of the primary non-profit organizations that is present in the valley is the Teton Valley Recreation Association that provides both youth and adult sports programs as well as provides open gym time in local schools.

A Teton Valley Sports and Recreation Guide was published in 2012 and 2013 by the Teton Valley News. The guide was distributed for free and was the first guide that presented all (to the greatest extent possible) recreation programs in a single place. The 2013 guide is included in the Appendix and a summary of recreation programs included in the guide and others follows.

## Baseball and Softball

Youth baseball and softball leagues are organized by Teton Valley Baseball and Softball Association (TVBSA). With approximately 350 to 370 players, it provides summer T-ball and baseball programs for kids ages 5 to 15. The program currently includes:

- 10 co-ed T-ball teams, ages 5-7
- 10 co-ed coach pitch baseball teams, ages 7-9
- 8 boys minor baseball teams, ages 9-12
- 4 girls minor softball teams, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades
- 4 girls major softball teams, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades

In the past TVBSA has also had boys and girls all-star teams that travel and a competitive traveling team for boys ages 13-15.

Adult co-ed softball for ages 15 and up is organized by the Teton Valley Recreation Association (TVRA). Currently the program includes 8 teams with 96 players although in the past it is more common for the league to have 10 teams with 120 players. The Teton High School program is for ages 15-18 includes 2 baseball teams and 2 softball teams.



Figure 2-5. Little league baseball in Teton Valley  
(photo courtesy of Teton Valley News)

## Soccer

Youth recreation soccer for girls and boys ages 5-13 is organized by TVRA. Games are played in the fall from the middle of August to the end of September, and currently there are approximately 400 participants. The program is run by 10 volunteer coordinators and 60 volunteer coaches and supported by local sponsors to help keep fees low (\$45 which includes equipment and jersey).

Teton F.C. soccer is a competitive soccer league that plays in the spring (March – June) and fall (August – October). The program is for players ages 10 and older and it intended to bridge the gap between recreational soccer and High School soccer. Currently there are two 2 U14 teams and 2 U12 teams with about 100 kids that participate. Soccer in Teton Valley is rapidly growing and Teton F.C. expects to add at least two more teams this spring, a U10 team and a U15 team.



Figure 2-6. U15 boys soccer in Teton Valley  
(photo courtesy of Aimee Gormley)

## Football

Football programs are run by the Teton School District and include two leagues. Grid Kid football is a competitive, contact football league for all youth grades 4 – 8. Currently, there are 5 teams in the league and play is in the fall from August 1 to September. The High School football program currently includes 3 teams.

## Basketball

The youth basketball program, called Junior Jazz, is run by TVRA by a single director with a lot of community support and volunteer coaches. There are currently approximately 250 participants including boys and girls in 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The program is sponsored by the NBA's Utah Jazz and includes instruction and skills development for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades and league play for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades.

The Teton School District has girls and boys basketball teams for Middle School and High School students. Currently there are 3 teams for both girls and boys in each school. TVRA also sponsors

adult open gym basketball on Monday and Wednesday nights all year, and there are basketball programs that play in the three LDS church gyms in Teton Valley.

## Swimming

The Teton Valley Swim Club, Teton Piranhas, is affiliated with the Idaho Falls Piranhas Swim Club and is a year-round competitive swim program for girls and boys ages 6-18. Competitions are held year round and practices are held at Teton Springs Resort during the summer and Jackson, Wyoming Recreation Center in the winter. Swim lessons are available at Grand Targhee Resort during the summer and at the Jackson Recreation Center year round for kids ages 6 months and up.



Figure 2-7. Teton youth swimming team  
(photo courtesy of Teton Valley News)

## Volleyball

The Volleyball Club of the Tetons is a competitive traveling league for girls and boys ages 8-18. The Teton School District has 3 High School volleyball teams and 2 Middle School volleyball teams. TVRA also sponsors open gym volleyball for men and women two nights a week during the school year.

## Wrestling

The Teton Wrestling Club is for youth ages 5-18 with tournaments from February through mid-April.

## Gymnastics & Judo

TVRA offers judo instruction by Yama Judo year round. Instruction covers judo technique as well as sportsmanship, honor, humility, focus, and self-discipline within the traditional Kodokan teachings. Classes are currently being held at the Driggs City Center.

The Teton Indoor Sports Academy (TISA) offers gymnastics programs for boys and girls ages 5 and up. The fall 2013 session is full with 175 kids enrolled with a waiting list for some classes. Programs include competitive and recreational programs with 16 girls in its competitive program and 13 girls on the pre-team. Recreational programs include a toddler open gym with 150 punch card holders, private birthday parties, and summer camps. TISA also offers private lessons and will be offering a ski/fitness/freerider training class in conjunction with TVSEF.

## **Rodeo**

The Rodeo Club offers rodeo practice for events including bull riding, saddlebronk, bareback, steer wrestling, calf tie-down, team roping, breakaway, barrel racing, pole bending, and goat tying. Practices begin in February to prepare for the rodeo season from April and May. The Club is available to Junior and High School students who are active members of the National High School Rodeo Association.

The Teton County Fair Board organizes the County Fair which includes traditional rodeo events and competitions.

## **Golf**

The Targhee Village Golf Course sponsors men's, women's, and senior's golf leagues. They also offer junior golf clinics and camps for kids ages 6-18. This golf course is the only public golf course in the Valley.

## **Hockey and Figure Skating**

The Teton Valley Foundation sponsors a youth hockey program for kids ages 5-12 and an adult hockey program that includes leagues for pond hockey, broomball, and women's hockey. TVF also offers figure skating lessons for beginning and intermediate skaters taught by local coaches and trainers.



Figure 2-8. Adult Hockey Team the "Royal Wolf Pack"

The ice skating season begins in December depending on weather and ice conditions. Participants in TVF ice skating programs are 70% youth and 30% adults and include approximately 95 kids in the youth hockey program, 300 kids in the Teton School District Winter Sports Program, 120 adults in the pond hockey program, 25 women in the women's hockey program and 45 adults in the broomball league. Approximately 20 kids take skating lessons.

## **Skiing**

Alpine, snowboard, and Nordic skiing lessons are offered by Grand Targhee Resort and the Teton Valley Ski Education Foundation (TVSEF) sponsors a variety of ski race programs. The Nordic program has approximately 130 youth participating and 15-25 in the adult master's program. Downhill race teams include the Alpine Race Team for intermediate and advanced skiers ages 8-18, the Alpine Development Race Team for intermediate skiers ages 6-10, the Freeride Team for ages 10-18.

The Teton Nordic Team (TNT) is another non-profit organization that provides recreational and Nordic ski race programs for youth and adults. TNT also sponsors dryland training in the fall to prepare for the upcoming Nordic season. Activities include trail running, weight lifting, rollerskiing, games and activities. Dryland training is open to kids middle school age and up.



Figure 2-9. Ski team GS race (photo courtesy of Teton Valley News)

## **Fitness**

There are a number of non-profit and business organizations that provide adult and youth fitness and wellness programs in Teton Valley. This includes the Teton Indoor Sports Academy (TISA), Eagle Orthopedics & Sports, Anytime Fitness, Dreamchasers, Targhee CrossFit, Yama Judo, Yoga on Little, and the Yoga Co-op.

## Other

In addition to the activities noted above, the Teton Rock Gym provides climbing programs and the Community Foundation of Teton County puts on a number of summer concerts in Victor. The Senior Center in Driggs also provides a number of programs and services for seniors

## Recreation Program Summary

There are a substantial number of recreation programs and services being offered in the Teton Valley by a wide variety of providers. This includes:

- Sports – there a large number of youth team and individual sports programs in place and also a significant number of programs for adults.
- Swimming – there are very limited swimming programs in the valley.
- Ice Sports – there are a variety of hockey and figure skating programs in place.
- Fitness – the fitness options are numerous, especially those offered by the private sector.
- Other – there are rodeo activities and a variety of skiing (alpine, Nordic, snowboarding, and freeriding) that are offered. There is also a strong gymnastics program in place.
- There are a significant number of non-profit associations and foundations that provide sports programs. This situation is not often found where foundations provide actual programs.
- Except for the school sports programs that are provided year round, the public sector, cities, and the county are not providers of actual recreation programs.

## 2.4 PUBLIC ACCESS

Public access to the National Forest and the Teton River are valuable assets in Teton Valley and important to its recreation based sector of the economy. There are many public access points into the surrounding forests as inventoried in Table 2-11. Public access to the Teton River is via boat ramps owned and maintained by Teton County and Idaho Fish and Game (Figure 2-11 and Table 2-10).

Figure 2-10. Recreation snowmobiling around Teton Valley  
(photo courtesy of Teton Valley News)



Figure 2-11. Location Map for Idaho Fish and Game Teton River Access Points



Table 2-10. Detailed description of Idaho Fish and Game Teton River Access Points

SITE NAME	APPROXIMATE LOCATION	CAMPING	RESTROOMS	BOAT RAMP	DOCK	ADA FISHING ACCESS
BATES BRIDGE	4 MI W OF DRIGGS (SH 33) - TETON RIVER - E BANK	NO	PORTABLE	YES	NO	NO
CACHE BRIDGE	9 MI NW OF DRIGGS (SH 33) - TETON RIVER - W BANK	NO	PORTABLE	YES	NO	NO
FOX CREEK EAST	5 MI NW OF VICTOR (SH 33) - TETON RIVER - E BANK	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
FOX CREEK WEST	7 MI NW OF DRIGGS (SH 33) - TETON RIVER - W BANK	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
HARROPS BRIDGE	4 MI W OF TETONIA (SH 33) - TETON RIVER - E BANK	NO	ADA - [X]	YES	NO	NO
HORSESHOE BRIDGE	9 MI NW OF DRIGGS TO CACHE BRIDGE - 1 MI N TO OLD R/R TRACK - FOLLOW TO TETON R.	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
RAINEY BRIDGE	12 MI NW OF DRIGGS (SH 33) - TETON RIVER - BOTH SIDES	YES	ADA - [X]	YES	NO	NO
TETON CREEK	5 MI SW OF DRIGGS (SH 33) - TETON RIVER - W BANK	YES	PORTABLE	YES	NO	NO
TRAIL CREEK POND	3 MI E OF VICTOR (SH 33)	NO	ADA - [X]	NO	NO	YES - [X]

Table 2-11. Summary of Forest Service Public Access Points

Access Name	Location, Access to	Parking	Restrooms	Approach road (good, ok, bad)	Signage	Other Amenities or Notes
<b>Teton County, Idaho</b>						
060 - Carlton Cutoff North	location: Grandview Point	disperse	n	b	y	TH kiosk, carsonite
219 South Horseshoe	Location: Horseshoe Canyon Road.	gravel lot	n	g	y	Kiosk, carsonite, Road signs
249 Dude Creek	Location: Slightly North of Horseshoe Canyon Road on FS 140.	disperse	n	ok/bad	y	kiosk, carsonite
195 Nickerson Grove	Location: Slightly south of Horseshoe Canyon Road on FS 140.	disperse	n	ok	y	carsonite
195 Twin Creek	Location: West end of 1000S	y	n	ok/bad		
220 Mahogany	Location: West end of 3000S	gravel lot	n	ok	y	carsonite, road signage
235 Dry Henderson	Location: West end of 5750 S	y	n	g	y	carsonite, road signage
236/211 Wet Henderson	Location: West end of 5750 S	gravel lot	n	g	y	carsonite, road signage
218 Patterson	Location: West end of 6750 S		n	g	y	carsonite, road signage
239/237 North and South Grove	Location: West end of FS 546 (located just south of western corner of cedron/8000 S	gravel lot	n	ok	y	carsonite, road signage

Access Name	Location, Access to	Parking	Restrooms	Approach road (good, ok, bad)	Signage	Other Amenities or Notes
238 Drake	West end of 9000S	disperse, no trailer turn around	n	ok	y	carsonite, road signage
240 Rocky Peak	1/4 mile past Forest Boundary on Highway 31	n	n	g	y	carsonite
047 Woods Canyon/Black Grove	1/2 mile south of highway 31 on FST031	n	n	g		carsonite and kiosk
047 Woods Canyon/Black Grove West side	2 + miles south on FS 253 (Upper Rainey Creek)	disperse	n	ok	y	carsonite and kiosk
014 Pole Canyon/ 031 BPA line	South end of 1000 West	gravel lot	n	g	y	road signage, kiosk, carsonite
203 Mike Sell	North of Mike Harris CG	disperse	n	g	y	carsonite
033 Rush Hour Trail	South end of Old Jackson highway road	disperse	n	g	y	kiosk and carsonite
039 Plummer Canyon Game Crk	State line on Moose Creek Road	disperse	n	g	y	carsonite TH and Parking is BLM
<b>Bonneville County</b>						
077 Sheep Corral Trail	1 mile + west of top of Pine Crk Pass	gravel lot	n	g	y	carsonite and kiosk
215 Little Pine/Spooky Trail	Less than a mile west from top of Pine Crk Pass	gravel lot	n	g	y	carsonite

Access Name	Location, Access to	Parking	Restrooms	Approach road (good, ok, bad)	Signage	Other Amenities or Notes
216 North Pine Creek/075 Liar's Pass	3+ miles west from top of Pine Crk Pass	highway pull out or disperse	n	g	y	carsonite
<b>Teton County, Wyoming</b>						
043 Burbank Creek	1.5 miles + sw of stateline on highway 22	gravel lot	n	g	y	road signs and carsonite
044 Mail Cabin creek	approx. 4 miles sw of stateline on Highway 22	gravel lot	n	g	y	road sign and carsonite
040 Coal Creek	approx. 4 miles sw of stateline on Highway 22	paved lot	n	g	y	kiosk and carsonite
038 Moose Crk/037 Taylor Basin	East end of Moose Crk road	gravel lot	n	g	y	Kiosk, carsonite, Road signs
035 Fox Creek	East end of 5000 S	gravel lot	n	g	y	road signage, carsonite
033 Darby Wind Cave Trail	East end of FS 012	gravel lot	n	ok	y	Kiosk, carsonite, Road signs
034 Aspen trail, South End	Less than a mile east of state line on FSR 012	disperse	n	ok	y	kiosk, carsonite
051 Nelson Springs	Just less than 1.5 miles east of stateline on FSR 012	disperse	n	ok	n	
Rapid Crk- 034 North and 032 Spring creek	.5 miles East and .5 miles South of Stateline on FSR 010	gravel lot	n	g	y	Kiosk, carsonite, Road signs

Access Name	Location, Access to	Parking	Restrooms	Approach road (good, ok, bad)	Signage	Other Amenities or Notes
Teton Canyon - 132 Mill Crk and 130 Sheep Bridge	Less than 1/2 mile east on FSR 009	gravel lot	n	g	y	kiosk carsonite
Teton Canyon - 024 North Teton	Near Teton Canyon Campground	gravel lot	y	g	y	Kiosk, carsonite, Road signs
Teton Canyon - 027 South Teton	Near Teton Canyon Campground	gravel lot	y	g	y	Kiosk, carsonite, Road signs
South Leigh - 021 South Leigh, 022 Beaver Creek	East end of FSR 008	gravel lot	n	g	y	Kiosk, carsonite, Road signs
North Leigh - 019 Green Mtn, 013 Dry Ridge	East end of FSR 007	gravel lot	n	g	y	Kiosk, carsonite, Road signs
Indian Meadows TH - 015 Bear Canyon, 017 South Badger	East end of FSR 656	gravel lot	n	ok	y	Kiosk, carsonite, Road signs
McRenold's Reservoir 164	Less than three miles from the Forest Boundary on FSR 266	gravel lot	n	ok	y	road signs and carsonite
Less than three miles from the Forest Boundary on FSR 266	gravel lot	n	ok	y	road signs and carsonite	

# Chapter 3

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Needs Assessment is an important step in the master plan process where the information gathered from the inventory of existing recreation facilities and programs is paired with the recreation needs and demands of Teton Valley’s residents. This can be accomplished in a number of ways including evaluation of the population demographics, collecting input from the public, reviewing past planning documents that identify recreation needs, and recognizing basic national recreation trends.

In the past parks and recreation master plans centered on measuring numbers of park amenities and recreation programs against an established national standard that was developed in part by the National Recreation and Parks Association. However, this methodology proved to be problematic because it did not account for differences in geographic location in the country, differing community needs, cultural variations, and urban vs. rural locales. As a result, over the last 15 to 20 years the master planning process has focused much more on establishing specific needs within a community and then developing a specific level of service plan to address those needs rather than meeting a national standard that may not necessarily reflect the individual community accurately.

### 3.1 POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the US Census Bureau, the population of Teton County in 2010 was 10,170. The estimated population for Teton County for 2012 is 10,052 representing an expected 1.2% decrease in population since 2010. The population of Alta, Wyoming was 544 in 2010 and estimated values for 2012 are not currently available. Assuming that the population in Alta is steady from 2010 to 2012, 2012 data for Teton County was combined with 2010 data from Alta and the resulting demographic profile for Teton Valley is summarized in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1. Teton Valley Demographic Profile

<b>Demographic Description</b>	<b>Data</b>
Total Population	10,596
White	82.2%
African American	0.3%
Hispanic or Latino	16.2%
Population younger than 18 years of age	29.0%
Population below the poverty line (2007 – 2011)	6.8%

Teton Valley is sparsely populated with an average density of 22.6 persons per square mile. Assuming that Teton Valley will grow at an average rate equal to the growth rate for the State of Idaho and Teton County, Wyoming of 1.8%, the expected population in 2030 is 14,350.

## Demographic Characteristics

The following demographic characteristics will further define the population in Teton County. This information is useful when planning for future recreation demands and needs. This information has been provided by ESRI, a national demographic firm.

Table 3-2. Teton County Demographic Characteristics

<b>Teton County</b>	
<b>Population:</b>	
2010 Census	10,170
2013 Estimate	10,820
2018 Estimate	11,486
<b>Households:</b>	
2010 Census	3,651
2013 Estimate	3,896
2018 Estimate	4,157
<b>Families:</b>	
2010 Census	2,509
2013 Estimate	2,659
2018 Estimate	2,815
<b>Average Household Size:</b>	
2010 Census	2.78
2013 Estimate	2.78
2018 Estimate	2.76
<b>Median Age:</b>	
2010 Census	33.2
2013 Estimate	33.9
2018 Estimate	34.8
<b>Median Income:</b>	
2013 Estimate	\$55,487
2018 Estimate	\$61,125

These characteristics indicate the following:

- A growing population base.
- Households that have children.
- A younger median age than the state of Idaho and the national number.
- A higher median household income level than the state of Idaho and the nation.

## Household Budget Expenditures

The percentage of income that Teton County residents spend on housing, entertainment and recreation is summarized in the following table:

Table 3-3. Teton County Household Budget Expenditures

<b>Teton County</b>	<b>SPI</b>	<b>Average Amount Spent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Housing	93	\$19,851.34	30.5%
Shelter	93	\$15,106.50	23.2%
Utilities, Fuel, Public Service	94	\$4,744.84	7.3%
Entertainment & Recreation	99	\$3,210.23	4.9%

Utilizing a national baseline number of 100 the Spending Potential Index (SPI) is slightly lower for the cost of housing while expenditures for entertainment and recreation are right at the national number. The SPI numbers for Teton County are considerably higher than for the rest of the state of Idaho.

## Age Distribution

The following tables indicate the age distribution within the county.

Table 3-4. Teton County Age Distribution

<b>Ages</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Nat. Population</b>	<b>Difference</b>
-5	999	9.3%	6.5%	+2.8%
5-17	2,221	20.6%	16.9%	+3.7%
18-24	784	7.2%	10.1%	-2.9%
25-44	3,480	32.2%	26.3%	+5.9%
45-54	1,442	13.4%	13.9%	-0.5%
55-64	1,099	10.2%	12.6%	-2.4%
65-74	513	4.7%	7.8%	-3.1%
75+	282	2.5%	6.1%	-3.6%

The demographic makeup of Teton County, when compared to the characteristics of the national population, indicates that there are some differences with an equal or larger population in the -5, 5-17 and 25-44 age groups and a smaller population in the 18-24, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74 and 75+age groups. The largest positive variance is in the 25-44 age group with +5.9%, while the greatest negative variance is in the 75+ age group with -3.6%. These statistics indicate younger households with children. This demographic group is a strong user of recreation facilities and programs.

Table 3-5. Teton County Age Distribution over Time

Ages	2010 Census	2013 Projection	2018 Projection	Percent Change	Percent Change Nat'l
-5	983	999	1,026	+4.4%	+3.0%
5-17	2,040	2,221	2,490	+22.1%	-0.7%
18-24	668	784	802	+20.1%	-0.4%
25-44	3,500	3,480	3,402	-2.8%	+4.2%
45-54	1,330	1,442	1,553	+16.8%	-7.7%
55-64	985	1,099	1,157	+17.4%	+15.7%
65-74	392	513	734	+87.2%	+39.5%
75+	272	282	322	+18.4%	+14.8%

This table illustrates the growth or decline in age group numbers from the 2010 census until the year 2018. It is projected that all of the age categories, except 25-44 will see a substantial increase in population.

### Tapestry Segments

In addition to looking at the age group distribution it is important to examine the various tapestry segments in the county. Tapestry segments are target market groups based on socioeconomic and demographic factors. The following table outlines the top 3 tapestry segments within Teton County and provides definitions for each of the tapestries.

Table 3-6. Teton County Tapestry Segments

	Teton County		U.S. Households	
	Percent	Cumulative Percent	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Up & Coming Families	49.9%	49.9%	4.1%	4.1%
Prairie Living	28.3%	78.2%	1.2%	5.3%
International Marketplace	21.8%	100.0%	1.3%	6.6%

**Up & Coming Families (12)** – With an annual household growth rate of 5.2% this tapestry is the second highest growth rate within the various markets with a mix of Generation Xers and Baby Boomers. Residents of these neighborhoods are young, affluent families with younger children.

**Prairie Living (37)** – Small, family-owned farms in the Midwest dominate this stable market. Two-thirds of these households are composed of married couples with or without children. There is very little diversity in this segment.

**International Marketplace (35)** – Located primarily in cities in “gateway” states on both U.S. coasts these neighborhoods are developing urban markets with a rich blend of cultures and

household types. The population is young, with a median age of 30.3 years. This segment is the second most diverse of all segments.

**Second Home and Visitors** - It is recognized that increasingly the Teton Valley is developing as a location for second homes and also attracting a larger number of visitors to the area. Attracting recreation facility and program users from these two groups will be important.

## 3.2 FACILITIES

Rather than utilize national standards to determine recreation needs, most communities now place a much higher emphasis on the specific needs of the population that will be served. The following summarizes basic findings from a number of sources regarding the recreation needs of Teton Valley.

### Public Survey Results

Over 400 people took the online recreation and public access survey that was available during the fall of 2013. This survey instrument asked a series of questions regarding the satisfaction with existing facilities, the use of current amenities, and what facilities need to be added. Most respondents were full-time residents (85%) with at least one member of the household younger than 14, and there was about an equal number of respondents from Driggs and Victor. The following statements summarize the survey findings as it relates to facilities:

- The satisfaction with existing facilities varies considerably from high marks for “trails on forest service or BLM land”, and “rivers or streams for fishing and boating” to a low for “private swimming pools”. The majority of responses were either in the “don’t know” column (for facilities that were likely not used by the respondents) or the “somewhat satisfied” category.
- Use of recreation facilities outside of Teton Valley is reasonably minor. Most people rely on facilities in the valley for their recreation needs. The one facility outside of Teton Valley used most often is the Jackson Recreation Center, which has an indoor swimming pool.
- More than 62% of those surveyed did not use parks and recreation facilities in Teton Valley due to lack of facilities. This indicates there is a perception in the public that Teton Valley is in need of more and higher quality facilities.
- The top three priorities for new facilities were:
  - New indoor recreation center – 78%
  - Additional paved trails – 34%
  - Improved access to public land – 28%

- The top three elements to include in a new recreation center were:
  - Indoor pool – 93%
  - Fitness area – 37%
  - Rock climbing facility – 33%
  
- Over 64% of respondents indicated that they would be willing to increase user fees to pay for new facilities and programs.
  
- There was support for increasing property taxes to fund parks and recreation priorities with only 10% indicating that they would not support a tax increase and another 23% being unsure.
  
- Respondents (nearly 59%) indicated that they were willing to increase their property taxes to form a Teton County Recreation District to manage existing recreation opportunities and build new facilities. About the same number (61%) were willing to increase sales taxes by either 0.25% or 0.50% to fund recreation improvements and facilities.
  
- The majority of respondents (87%) thought that operation and maintenance of recreation facilities should be funded by a combination of taxes and user fees.

### **Project Advisory Committee**

There was a great deal of input from different members of the Advisory Committee regarding the recreation needs of the Teton Valley. For facilities this included:

*City of Driggs* – There is some need for expansion of facilities, while others are underutilized or neglected. They want to ensure that each neighborhood has convenient access to playgrounds and multi-use fields. On the community level, there is a need for a larger ball field complex and soccer facility. There is a desire to have either an outdoor or indoor pool in the Valley and they want to work towards an opening date in the next 5 years.

*Kotler Ice Arena* - The main issue/goal is completing the rink so that it is a full length, fully enclosed and refrigerated facility. As of now they are reliant on the cold weather to make ice (normally by the end of December, this puts their youth hockey teams at a distinct disadvantage playing against other programs which start in October.

*Baseball fields* - The fields need improved maintenance to the infields as well as the need for permanent dugouts. The baseball fields in Driggs are also undersized.

*JR. Jazz (youth basketball)* - The greatest struggle is finding enough gym space to practice all of their teams. They try and keep costs low so that they are not excluding children from the program. They

do offer a scholarship program when necessary. It is costly to rent gym space. Costs range from \$800 to \$1,200 a year.

*Competitive Soccer* – They would like to continue to grow the number of players in their program, but the valley doesn't have adequate fields to do so. They scramble to use the school fields and the Settlement field in Victor to have practices and games. They generally run into conflicts in the fall with the high school as they use their field and the field at the Upper Elementary for both of their teams. Having a complex of soccer fields would help the program grow. One of the biggest challenges the club faces is not having enough fields to play and practice on. It would be a great to have four soccer fields, two standard size and two U12 size, with room to expand. The club teams can generate funds by hosting tournaments, so with adequate field space in the future they could possibly earn funds to help keep the program running.

*Youth Soccer* - TVRA Youth Soccer has adequate fields for the Recreation Youth Soccer program (at this time) but what is really needed is a regulation U12 Field and a Regulation U14 Field for the Teton Football Club Competitive Teams. A soccer Complex with 2 U12 Fields and 2 U14 Fields would allow the league to hold tournaments. At a minimum they need a U14 Field (lighted). It is a constant struggle to find field time for practices and games. The future development of competitive soccer in the valley depends on it.

*Softball* - There is a need for at least two new softball fields, it would be even better if there were a tri-plex. With new fields they could attract tournaments and bring in additional revenue. In addition, tournaments would have a significant economic impact on the valley. There is a willingness to pay for field use with a new complex.

*Teton School District* - Their greatest challenge is gym space and wear and tear on existing outdoor facilities. During the winter they have 6 basketball teams, a cheer team, a dance team and a wrestling team just at the high school as well as other demands on the gym at the high school. Couple this with unlimited requests by travel and youth basketball teams it is clear that there is a gym shortage. With the long winters there is a huge demand for school gyms in the spring/ winter for baseball and softball teams. The school's outdoor fields suffer from overuse and the demand exceeds what can be easily accommodated.

*Pool* – There is a need for an indoor pool to provide for swimming lessons, water exercise programs as well as lap and recreational swimming. The school district may ultimately be able to start a high school swim team. To meet the various swimming needs may require several bodies of water at different temperatures. This will probably add to the cost of operation however.

*Teton Fair Board* – The Fair Board master plan includes building an indoor arena, larger outdoor arena, horse stalls, RV camping, a 4H extension office, and expanded park and grassy areas. There is potential for the facilities at the Fairground to be used by more of the community, given that the use

is in line with the Fair Board mission of promoting the western heritage and rural traditions in Teton County.

## **Other**

Other comments that were heard from the Advisory Committee included:

- There is a need to strike a balance between nature and the use of natural resources.
- The economic impact of recreation facilities and activities in the valley needs to be measured.
- The Fairgrounds needs improvements.
- Additional ball fields are needed.
- An outdoor shooting range would be a great new facility.
- There is a lack of tennis courts in the valley.
- There are still significant gaps in the trail network in the valley. This needs to be addressed.
- There is a need to determine the role of developers in providing recreation facilities in the future.
- Existing facilities need to be better maintained. This includes trails and ball fields.
- The greatest need is for an indoor recreation center that would have an indoor pool, and a teen center.
- Funding new or renovated facilities will require additional funding sources. A recreation district should be established for this purpose.

## **Other Planning Documents**

In addition to the public input received concerning recreation facilities needs there are a variety of planning documents that were reviewed as well.

*Teton County Comprehensive Plan* – This document emphasizes the importance of natural resources and outdoor recreation. This will improve the quality of life in the county and also drive tourism and economic impact.

*Victor Comprehensive Plan* – One of the key goals of the plan is to encourage recreation and tourism. In addition to completing Pioneer Park, the plan mentions the protection of the wildlife refuge area and the preservation of historical buildings, structures, trails and roads.

*Teton Valley Trails and Pathways Plan* – This document outlines a trails master plan for the valley.

*City of Driggs Parks, Open Space and Pathways Master Plan Survey* – The survey indicated that there is a strong need for an indoor recreation facility and a large outdoor events center in the community as well as a willingness to support a tax levy for new park facilities.

## **Facilities Trends**

Part of the process in determining the need for recreation facilities in the Teton Valley is to understand some of the basic trends that are being seen on a national basis.

- The types of facilities that are now being provided by parks and recreation organizations have become more diverse and now often include.
  - Neighborhood parks (less than 15 acres, often provided by developers, HOA's and others)
  - Community parks (15-50 acres)
  - Regional parks (50+ acres)
  - Open space or preservation areas
  - Trails (both hard surface and soft surface)
  - Specialized facilities
    - Aquatic centers
    - Ice rinks
    - Recreation/Community centers
    - Performing arts center
    - Sports complex
    - Amphitheater
    - Tennis center
    - Nature/Interpretive center
    - Adventure sports (BMX, skateboard park, etc.)
    - Boat launch/Marina
    - Golf course
    - Dog park

It should be noted that Teton Valley already has a significant number of these facilities.

- There has been a much stronger emphasis on open space acquisition and trails development in the past 10 years than most other types of facilities.
- There has also been a much stronger emphasis on revenue generation with many agencies now requiring that recreation facilities and programs be 100% self-supporting of all direct costs. Most tax dollars are reserved for parks and facility development, maintenance, and capital improvements.

- Increasingly more operation, administration, and maintenance functions are being contracted to outside vendors to reduce costs and staffing.
- A greater emphasis on partnering with other recreation and parks providers to develop and manage amenities and programs.

## Key Facility Needs

Based on the information from the survey, Advisory Committee, national trends, and other sources the following are the key facility needs that have been identified.

- With a growing population base and very active recreation participation rates in the Valley, there will need to be additional recreation facilities in the future. The focus will need to remain on serving the needs of youth with the sizeable population in these age groups, but there will also need to be a recognition that the fastest growing age group in the future will be middle aged and senior population. Having recreation amenities to serve this age group will be critical.
- There was a general satisfaction with the existing recreation facilities but still a concern that there needs to be improvements and better maintenance for these amenities. This includes:
  - Ballfield improvements and a higher level of maintenance.
  - Enclosure and expansion of the ice rink.
  - Fairgrounds improvements and additions.
  - Tennis and volleyball court improvements and/or maintenance.
- Despite the fact that the valley has a wide variety of recreation opportunities there are still additional facilities that are needed and desired by the public. This includes:
  - Recreation center with an indoor pool plus gym space, fitness area, and climbing wall.
  - Additional playing fields especially for soccer and baseball/softball. Facilities that can support tournaments.
  - Connecting and improving the trail and pathway system in the valley.
- Based on the public survey results, there is a general willingness to pay through user fees and taxes to use new or improved facilities. This is backed up in part based on the relatively high household incomes in the area.
- Future recreation facilities in the Teton Valley should be developed with an awareness of recreation facility trends that places a greater importance on partnering to develop and operate facilities as well as an increased focus on revenue generation to reduce operating subsidies.

### 3.3 PROGRAMS

In addition to determining recreation facility needs it is essential to identify program and service needs in the Teton Valley.

#### Public Survey Results

The on-line survey asked a number of questions that dealt specifically with recreation programs and services. A number of the important findings included:

- Most respondents participated in summer focused programs on only an occasional basis or not at all. The exceptions were “hiking/running”, “mountain biking”, “concerts/special events” and “fitness” where a significant number of people indicated that they took part in these activities at least once a week.
- The satisfaction with these same summer activities was either in the “very satisfied” or “don’t know” category. The one exception was for swimming where almost 60% indicated they were “not satisfied”.
- For winter programs most respondents participated on only an occasional basis or not at all. The exceptions were “skiing/snowboarding”, “Nordic skiing”, and “fitness” where a significant number of people indicated that they took part in these activities at least once a week.
- Much like the summer activities the satisfaction with winter activities was either in the “very satisfied” or “don’t know” category. The one exception was for indoor swimming where over 62% indicated they were “not satisfied”.
- One of the questions dealt with the top three priorities for how possible additional funding might be used. The second highest response at nearly 35% was “improving coordination and expansion of recreation programs, activities and events”.
- Again there was a willingness to pay higher fees for programs and services as well as a reasonable level of support for increasing taxes for programs and services.

#### Project Advisory Committee:

The following input was gathered from the Advisory Committee regarding recreation program needs of the Teton Valley.

*City of Driggs* - The TISA will eventually need a different location and larger space. There is a need a more cohesively managed program of services (unified programming, scheduling, information services, etc.).

*TVRA Competitive Soccer* – There is not an adequate number of referees for their program. They could also use more sponsors and help from the community to keep the program going.

*TISA* – The program is very popular. The location in the Driggs Community Center is adequate, but far from ideal. If TISA had the financial means, they would build a state of the art facility, or be involved in the design process for a rec center that could accommodate their business. TISA would love to be able to host gymnastics meets, inviting gymnastics teams from not only Idaho, but the surrounding states as well. However, at this time there is not a facility that can accommodate that type of event.

## **Other**

Other comments that were gathered from the Advisory Committee included:

- Emerging action/adventure sports need more emphasis.
- Having adequate transportation to programs and services (as well as facilities) can be an issue, especially for seniors and youth.

## **Other Planning Documents**

While there was a focus in the planning documents on recreation facilities, the impact on possible recreation programs can also be extracted. Taking advantage of the natural resources to promote outdoor recreation opportunities and activities was emphasized. Also having activities (concerts, tournaments, etc.) that would draw users from outside the valley to the area were also noted.

## **Program Trends**

It is helpful to understand some of the national trends in recreation programs and services and how that might influence programs in the Teton Valley.

- Recreation programming has become very diverse with offerings in the following main areas. Most communities attempt to have programming available in each of these areas regardless of who provides the activity

Table 3-7. Recreation Programs by Area

<b>Programs</b>
<b>Youth Sports</b>
Team, Individual, Camps, Tournaments, Adventure
<b>Adult Sports</b>
Team, Individual, Tournaments, Adventure
<b>Fitness</b>
Classes, Personal Training, Education, Special events
<b>Cultural Arts</b>
Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Instruction, Events
<b>Education</b>
Language, ESL, GED, Math, Science, Preschool
<b>Aquatics</b>
Lessons, Fitness, Competitive, Therapy, Specialty
<b>General Interest</b>
After School, Camps, Safety, Seminars
<b>Special Needs</b>
Sports, Cultural Arts, Education, Fitness, Aquatics, Outdoor
<b>Special Events</b>
Concerts, Festivals, Holiday, Sports
<b>Teen</b>
Sports, Cultural, Education, General Interest, Fitness, Aquatics, Events
<b>Outdoor Recreation</b>
Outdoor Education, Outdoor Adventure, Environmental Events, Eco-Tourism
<b>Seniors</b>
Fitness/Wellness, Cultural Arts, Social Services, Education, Self Improvement, Sports
<b>Self-Directed</b>
Activities that are organized and conducted by the participant

- Many of these programs are offered with shorter sessions (two to three classes) or on a drop-in pay as you go basis (especially fitness). In addition, there has also been a concerted effort to integrate conventional recreation programming with community based social service programs. Most of the social service programs are offered by other community based agencies.
- Providing such a wide variety of recreation programs and services has required public recreation providers to contract for a significant number of services and/or act as a clearing house or community organizer of other organizations that provide recreation programs and services. Public agencies simply have been unable to provide all the demanded programs and services to a community on their own.

The following chart shows the trends in participation in a variety of sports activities over the last ten years. This information is based on Sporting Goods Association Statistics.

Table 3-8. Sports Participation Trends

<b>Sport/Activity</b>	<b>2011 Participation</b>	<b>2002 Participation</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Lacrosse	2.7	1.2	125.0%
Yoga	21.6	10.7	101.9%
Running/Jogging	38.7	24.7	56.7%
Aerobic Exercising	42.0	29.0	44.8%
Workout @ Club	34.5	28.9	19.4%
Tennis	13.1	11.0	19.1%
Exercising w/ Equipment	55.5	46.8	18.6%
Exercise Walking	97.1	82.2	18.1%
Weightlifting	29.1	25.1	15.9%
Football (tackle)	9.0	7.8	15.4%
Soccer	13.9	13.7	1.5%
Basketball	26.1	28.9	-9.7%
Volleyball	10.1	11.5	-12.2%
Swimming	46.0	53.1	-13.4%
Baseball	12.3	15.6	-21.2%
Softball	10.4	13.6	-23.5%
Skateboarding	6.6	9.7	-32.0%

Participation is shown in millions

### Key Program Needs

Based on the information from the survey, Advisory Committee, national trends, and other sources the following are the key program needs that have been identified.

- The growing population base in the Valley and very active recreation participation rates of its residents will require a continued growth of recreation program opportunities in the future. The focus will need to remain on serving the needs of youth with the sizeable population in these age groups but serving the needs of the burgeoning middle age and senior population will need to be considered as well.
- Currently, there is a wide range of recreation program providers in the Valley and coordinating these efforts to maximize resources is needed.
- Promoting individual sports activities and opportunities is critical. This is due, in part, to recreation programming trends that show continued strong growth in fitness related programs, a greater emphasis on self-directed activities, and an explosion in individual and

adventure sports participation (skateboarding, BMX, free skiing, etc.).

- There should be a continued emphasis on outdoor recreation programs that can take place either in the summer or winter.
- Providing opportunities and information for people to recreate on their own (self-directed activities) without a specified program being in place is important. This could include making trail maps available, coordination for open gym time, etc.
- A much stronger emphasis on aquatic and swimming programs is desired by the community.
- Sports leagues, especially for youth, are already strong in the valley. The current program demand is exceeding the capacity of the facilities available. A continued focus in this area is expected in the future.
- An emphasis on special events that will draw people from outside of the valley. This could include sports tournaments, concerts, festivals and other events.
- Fitness and wellness activities are important to the residents and should be a major focus for recreation efforts in the future.
- Recreation programming will need to serve the needs of:
  - Preschool aged youth
  - School aged youth
  - Teens
  - Adults
  - Families
  - Seniors
  - Special needs population

### **3.4 PUBLIC ACCESS**

One of the more important issues that has been raised during discussions with the Advisory Committee is the need to ensure that there is improved and continued public access to Forest Service and BLM land as well as local streams and rivers. This includes trails for motorized and non-motorized uses as well as general roads. Improving the access points themselves is also desired. Another identified concern is establishing right-of-ways to cross private lands to access public lands in an attempt to open up more public access. This may be difficult to accomplish as part of a recreation master plan and will certainly involve partnerships with local government, the federal government and private land owners.

#### **Project Advisory Committee**

Map to be included with access points shown that need improvements or right-of-way

#### **Key Public Access Needs**

Based on information from the survey and meetings with the Advisory Committee, the following are key public access needs:

- Securing right-of-ways to historic access points to Forest Service and BLM land is important for motorized and non-motorized users. This may include requiring new subdivisions to accommodate access.
- Physical improvements and amenities at heavily used access points are needed including:
  - Signage
  - Parking
  - Restrooms
- Information needs to be provided to the public such as motor vehicle access maps.
- Wayfinding should be comprehensive and consistent throughout the Valley.

### **3.5 RECREATION COORDINATION**

One of the broader issues that came to the forefront during the needs assessment process is the fact that there needs to be increased coordination and cooperation between the many providers of recreation facilities and programs in the valley.

#### **Public Survey Results**

The survey indicated that after “lack of facilities”, “not knowing what is available” was the second most common reason for respondents not using parks and recreation facilities in the Teton Valley. In addition, the second highest response for priorities for possible additional funding was

“improving coordination and expansion of recreation programs, activities and events”. Both of these responses indicate the need for better promotion of what recreational opportunities are currently available in the valley as well as the need to coordinate efforts with the many providers.

### **Project Advisory Committee**

A number of comments from members of the Project Advisory Committee reinforced the need to better coordinate recreation facilities and programs in the valley.

*TVF* – There needs to be education on what recreational programs, facilities and access points are available and how to get involved, participate or access them. There is a concern on how new residents or visitors to the valley effectively gather information on recreation facilities and programs that are in place. There should be a central location to get this information. Collaboration between all of the different groups would be helpful as well so as to avoid the duplication of efforts.

*TVRA youth soccer* - Teton Valley needs a centralized information website for all sports programs with on-line registration. This could be reinforced with a valley wide Recreation Department.

*Competitive soccer* – There needs to be a central website for easy access to information and sign up forms.

*Softball* – It would be beneficial to have a sports director that would set up all tournaments, prep fields for all sports, etc.

### **Key Recreation Coordination Needs**

Based on the information from the survey and the Advisory Committee the following are the key coordination needs that have been identified.

- With an extensive number of recreation service providers in the valley, there is a strong need for improved coordination of efforts to maximize the use of the resources that are available.
- The promotion of activities and events needs to occur on a valley wide level. This will help to increase the knowledge of the facilities and services that are available as well as who is providing these amenities and programs.
- Developing a universal website to provide information on recreation facilities and programs that are available in the valley. Ultimately it would be beneficial to be able to register on-line from the website for all such activities.
- There is a need for a group or organization that can act as a coordinating agency or clearinghouse for parks and recreation information, maintenance needs and requirements, facility wants and improvements, and other recreation resources.

# Chapter 4 FEASIBILITY AND FUNDING

## 4.1 FUNDING OPTIONS

Funding the construction of new facilities will be a challenge in Teton Valley and will require a well thought out funding plan that utilizes a variety of funding sources. The burden of funding new recreation facilities should not be wholly on the cities and other governmental entities in the valley or on the private sector.

This chapter explores a number of possible funding mechanisms for recreation amenities identified in the needs assessment.

### Recreation District

Idaho state law permits the establishment of recreation districts, recognizing that recreation facilities provide public benefits by enhancing the value and quality of life which “materially assists in correcting or eliminating many social ills such as delinquency, crime, excessive use of alcohol, drug abuse, and discrimination” ([Idaho Code Title 31, Chap. 43 – Recreation Districts](#)). Formation of a recreation district requires that a petition be signed by 20% of registered voters within the proposed district for its formation to be placed on an election ballot, and then a simple majority vote of the residents of the district are needed to pass the establishment of a district.

Although the minimum information required by statute for the petition and ballot question includes the designation of the proposed district boundaries, the name of the district, and the maximum property tax rate, it is recommended that additional information be available to the voters prior to the election. This includes a clear mission statement, identifiable long range goals, and how the district would coordinate with the Cities and County governments. Additionally, as much information as possible on projected budgets and initial recommendations that would be made to the governor for district commissioner appointments would help the voters feel confident in voting in favor of the district.

The mission and goals of a recreation district can be derived largely from this Master Plan. It should include recreation coordination, operation and maintenance of facilities, delivering recreation services as well as long range capital improvements such as a community recreation center, ball fields, and public lands access facilities.

While the establishment of a Teton Valley Recreation District should be a top priority, it also must be realized that the level of funding that is possible from a district is limited and will not be able to

fund all recreation services and facilities in the future. The following outlines the estimated tax income that can be generated from a property tax assessment in the county based on 2013 statistics.

- Teton County's 2013 net taxable value is \$1,308,185,937.
- The maximum levy rate allowed for a recreation district is .0006 (\$60/\$100,000 of assessed value), unless a higher rate is specified on the ballot.
- The maximum a recreation district tax could currently produce would be:  
 $\$1,308,185,937 \times .0006 = \$784,912/\text{yr}$

This annual \$785,000 tax source would need to cover costs for managing the district, which includes staff and operations costs, as well as pay for facility maintenance and development. Although the tax income will increase as property values increase, the costs of operations and facility development will also likely increase similarly. In reality, this amount of funding will not be able to accommodate all of the recreational needs in the valley. Thus, other funding mechanisms will need to be utilized to enhance recreation district tax dollars.

### **Other Funding Sources**

Other possible funding sources for capital improvements and operations for recreational facilities in Teton Valley include the following:

#### **Capital Funding**

- ***Supplemental Tax Levy*** – A short term supplemental tax levy is an option for funding capital improvement projects. The levy would specify the amount and time that it applies. This funding mechanism only requires 50% voter approval to pass.
- ***Bond Issue*** - The district could put a bond issue on the ballot to fund an indoor recreation center and possibly other facilities and improvements but this will require a 2/3 majority to pass and there are limits to the overall tax level and amount. This may be a difficult funding option to pursue as a result.
- ***Partnerships*** – The realistic possibility of including equity partners (public agencies, non-profits, community based organizations, and for-profits) in a project will need to be determined. If a true equity partner(s) is found, a more detailed partnership assessment will be necessary to determine a realistic level of financial support to build recreation facilities.
- ***Inter-local Agreements*** – Establishing agreements with other governmental agencies (Teton County, Idaho; Teton County, Wyoming; and/or local cities) as well as other community organizations to provide capital funding for projects should be explored. This could involve a bond issue and/or a tax levy overlay as well.

- **Fundraising** – A possible source of capital funding could come from a comprehensive fundraising campaign in the valley and the surrounding area. Contributions from local businesses, private individuals and social service organizations should be targeted. To maximize this form of funding, a private fundraising consultant may be necessary. Incorporating any equity partners in this effort will be essential. It is recognized that there are a number of organizations and foundations in the valley that fundraise for a variety of recreation facilities and programs already.
- **Grants** – There are a number of grants that are available for parks and recreation projects. It is more difficult to fund active recreation facilities than parks and open space from these sources, but an effort to acquire funding from grants should be strongly pursued. Key areas that should be targeted for grants are serving youth, teens, seniors, and families. In addition, green building technology and energy conservation grants could be available.
- **Foundation/Gifts** – Capital dollars can be raised from these tax exempt, non-profit organizations if the amenity meets their stated goals and interests. Currently there are two significant foundations in the valley that are already active in funding recreation projects.
- **Teton Recreation Foundation** – Many public agencies are now forming 501 (c)(3) friends groups to specifically fund recreation projects. The public agencies in the valley should seriously consider forming such a foundation. This can also serve as a conduit for other funding opportunities (grants, gifts, etc.) that are dedicated to a specific project.
- **TEA 21 Grants** – Often known as Rails to Trails, this federal transportation grant helps fund trail systems that are utilizing old railroad beds.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund** – LWCF is a long standing federal program to fund the acquisition and development of outdoor parks and recreation facilities.
- **Land Trust** – The Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT) may be able to help with the funding of land acquisition for recreation, open space or public access. The TRLT could also handle potential land swaps and life estates that will later result in the acquisition of land.
- **Developers** – Working with local developers of new residential and/or commercial areas to dedicate land, build recreational amenities, or contribute funding for new facilities should be strongly pursued. Existing impact fees in the County and Cities should include some amount dedicated to maintaining the existing level of service for recreation facilities.
- **Naming Rights and Sponsorships** – Although not nearly as lucrative as large stadiums

and similar high profile facilities, the sale of naming rights and long term sponsorships could be a source of some capital funding as well. It may be necessary to hire a specialist in selling naming rights and sponsorships if this revenue source is to be maximized to its fullest potential. No lifetime naming rights should be sold; only 20 year maximum rights should be possible. Determining the level of financial contribution necessary to gain a naming right will be crucial. This could mean a contribution for up to 25% of the total cost of an entire project for overall facility naming rights or 50% to 100% for individual spaces within the facility itself.

### **Operations Funding**

- ***Fees and Charges*** – Recreation facilities are increasingly reliant on the ability of fees and charges paid by users to pay a considerable portion of the cost of operations and maintenance. It is realized that the ability to charge fees for use varies significantly from amenity to amenity, however it should be recognized that very few recreation amenities are able to cover their total cost of operations with fees.
- ***District Tax Dollars*** – The utilization of district generated tax dollars for operations and maintenance of recreation amenities should be expected. This will likely need to be the primary operational funding source after fees and charges.
- ***Partnerships*** – If equity partners are found for a project, then it should be expected that the cost of operating or maintaining the amenity will also be shared with the other partner(s). This could include ongoing funding of some programs and services and/or operations and maintenance funding. A detailed partnership assessment will be necessary to determine a realistic level of financial support for each project.
- ***Inter-local Agreements*** – Establishing agreements with other governmental agencies (County and/or cities) and/or community organizations to fund the on-going operation or maintenance of facilities is possible. However, unless the other organization(s) are the actual owners or are directly responsible for operations, it is unlikely that any significant operational dollars will be generated from this source.
- ***Sponsorships*** – The establishment of sponsorships for different programs and services as well as funding for different aspects of a facility’s operation is possible. But in most cases this provides a relatively low revenue stream for funding day to day operating costs for recreation amenities.
- ***Grants*** – There are grants that are available for programs and services that serve the disadvantaged, youth, teens and seniors. In addition ongoing energy conservation efforts, public health initiatives and other social service oriented programs may be funded as well.

- **Endowment Fund** – This would require additional fundraising to establish an operational endowment fund that would be designed to fund capital replacement and improvements at valley recreation facilities. It is often difficult to raise funds for operational endowments and the level of initial principal funding that is required is very high.
- **Foundation/Gifts** – In addition to funding capital development specific programs and services can often be funded in whole or partly by foundation grants or gifts.
- **Teton Recreation Foundation** – A 501 (c)(3) foundation or friends group can also be utilized to fund specific recreation programs or services. The non-profit status can also increase eligibility for other grants if they are administered through the foundation itself.
- **Fundraising** – Funds can be raised for specific recreation programs and services from a comprehensive fundraising campaign in the valley and the surrounding area. Contributions from local businesses, private individuals and social service organizations should be targeted. It is recognized that there a number of organizations and foundations in the valley that fundraise for a variety of recreation facilities and programs already.
- **Private Concessionaires** – Contracts can be signed with private (or even non-profit organizations) to operate or manage facilities and/or provide specific programs. This may reduce operational costs or even enhance revenue opportunities.

## 4.2 FEASIBILITY

Whether or not the capital improvements identified in the plan are feasible depends on both the funding available and costs associated with the improvements. The following are conceptual estimates of the capital and operational costs for two of the larger improvements identified in the plan: a Recreation Center and a Field Complex. It should be noted that these are very general cost estimates that could change dramatically depending on the scope and timing of the projects.

**Recreation Center** – One of the key facilities that has been identified for development is an indoor recreation center that would possibly contain an indoor pool, gym, fitness area, and other amenities.

Approximate Size: 35,000 to 55,000 SF

Capital Cost Range: \$12 million to \$20 million

Operational Requirements: The center could require up to a \$500,000 in additional funding beyond fees and charges generated from the center.

Funding: It will be very difficult for a Teton Valley Recreation District to fund both the capital and operational requirements of an indoor center. The primary role of the district should be in operations which would mean that other funding sources would likely be necessary for a significant portion of the capital development.

Other: The facility will need to be located at a central site in Teton Valley that is easily accessible for most of the population base as well as visitors to the area.

**Field Complex** – Another major facility that could be developed is an outdoor field complex with diamond and rectangular fields to support youth and adult team sports as well as tournaments and other events.

Approximate Size: 30 to 50 acres (depends on the number of fields)

Capital Cost Range: \$5 million to \$15 million

Operational Requirements: The field complex could require up to a \$250,000 in additional funding beyond fees and charges generated from the complex.

Funding: It will be difficult for a Teton Valley Recreation District to fund both the recreation center and a field complex (both capital and operations) at the same time. As a result, capital funding will need to come in large part from other sources and additional operations funding may also be necessary.

Other: The complex will need to be located at a central site in Teton Valley that is easily accessible for most of the population base as well as visitors to the area.

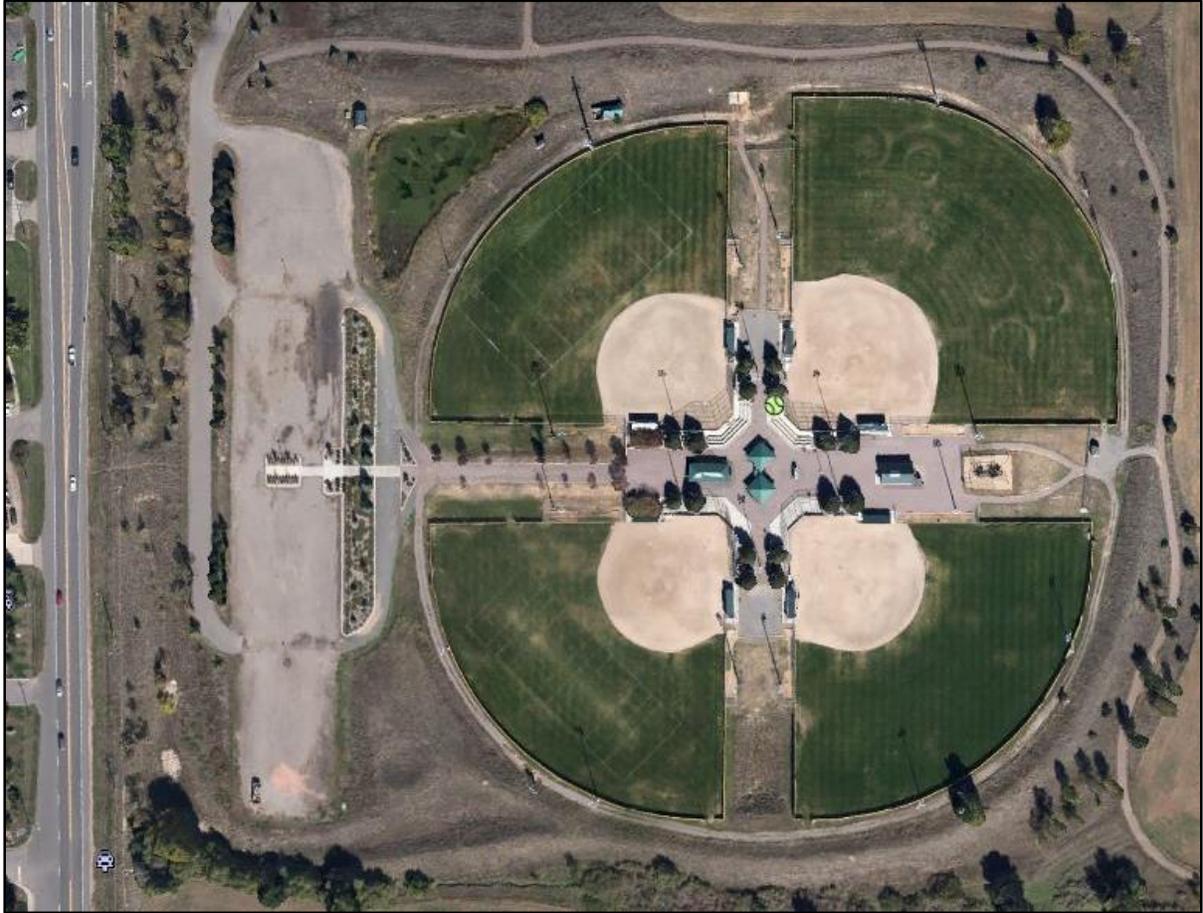


Figure 4-1. 30-acre ball field complex in Louisville, CO

# Chapter 5 **PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION**

## **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

The following implementation plan for future recreation facilities, programs, and administration is based on the existing inventory analysis and needs assessment and was created to help guide the future development of recreation amenities in Teton Valley. The basic goals of the plan address the major recreation issues that Teton Valley faces and include the following:

### **Plan Goals**

1. Coordinate existing recreation service providers in Teton Valley to maximize available resources.
2. Improve the utilization and maintenance of existing parks and recreation amenities.
3. Continue to improve public access to National Forest land, BLM land, rivers and streams.
4. Work to establish a Teton County Recreation District to fund, coordinate, and manage existing and future recreation facilities, programs, and services.
5. Develop a long range funding plan for recreation facilities and programs.
6. Promote the development of equity partnerships with recreation organizations for the delivery of parks and recreation programs and facilities.
7. Grow the opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation participation.

## **5.2 PRIORITIES AND TIMING**

The plan for implementation is divided into action items that address administration, facilities, and programs and are further divided into short term (0-3 yrs), mid-term (3-5 yrs), and long term (5+ yrs) tasks as shown in the following framework.

Table 5-1.

**RECREATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN FRAMEWORK**

	SHORT TERM (0-3 YEARS)	MID-TERM (3-5 YEARS)	LONG TERM (5+ YEARS)
<b>A D M I N I S T R A T I O N</b>	Establish TVRA as the interim agency to coordinate basic recreation services and facilities in Teton Valley. This would include serving as a clearinghouse for facility and program information as well as staffing/instructor resources.	Develop a maintenance plan and capital replacement schedule for major parks and recreation amenities in the valley. This would involve the Teton Valley Recreation District, Teton County, City of Driggs, City of Victor, City of Teton, school district, and other facility providers.	Develop a grant program through the Teton Valley Recreation District where small seed grants are given annually to organizations that are attempting to expand recreation programs and services.
	Move forward with the required organizational steps to establish a Teton Valley Recreation District. This would include voting to establish the district, voting in a basic taxing base for operations, appointing district commissioners, and hiring a full-time executive director.	Establish a basic fee policy for recreation programs and facilities that ensures that the costs for these activities and amenities can be supported primarily by the revenues generated from this source.	Complete an economic impact study for events and activities that draw visitors to the valley.
	The Teton Valley Recreation District should develop comprehensive intergovernmental agreements with the county, local cities, and other agencies to manage and develop recreation facilities and services.	Work with the many recreation facility and service providers in the Teton Valley to develop a comprehensive sponsorship and fundraising plan.	Establish a marketing plan for recreation activities and facilities in the valley.
	Establish the Teton Valley Recreation District as the primary coordinating agency for parks and recreation facilities and programs in Teton Valley.		Establish a transportation plan for recreation programs and facilities that focuses on youth and senior needs.
	Develop a long range capital and operations funding plan for parks and recreation facilities and services.		
	Establish a universal web site for Teton Valley recreation facilities and activities.		
<b>F A C I L I T I E S</b>	Complete a full feasibility study for a new public indoor recreation center. This would include: Market Analysis, Site Analysis, Facility Amenities, Capital Cost Projection, Operational Costs and Revenues, Funding Sources, Partnerships.	Construct and open the new indoor recreation center	Construct a new field complex for rectangular and diamond fields to support league and tournament play.
	Pursue capital and operations funding for a new public indoor recreation center based on the completed feasibility study.	Complete a feasibility study to develop a new field complex for rectangular and diamond fields to support league and tournament play.	Construct new tennis and outdoor volleyball courts.
	Identify key links that are missing in the trail system in Teton Valley and prioritize sections for funding and completion in the next 2-3 years.	Continue to expand the trail system in the valley.	With the leadership of the Recreation District, develop a playground development and replacement plan for the valley
	Work with the Forest Service, BLM, Fish and Game, and private landowners on improving access to public lands and rivers in the valley. Identify key public lands access points and prioritize projects in need of improvements.	Assist the Fair Board with plans to expand the facilities that are available at the Fairgrounds.	
		Expand and fully enclose the Kotler Ice Arena.	
<b>P R O G R A M S</b>	Working first with the TVRA and then the new Recreation District, area recreation service providers develop a long range recreation program plan for the Teton Valley.	With the opening of the recreation center, develop a comprehensive aquatics program including competitive swim teams, learn to swim programs, and aqua exercise programs.	Add additional sports programs and activities focused on adults.
	Focus program growth on youth programs and services and family based activities and programs	Track program trends on a regional and national basis. Utilize this information to guide future program planning efforts.	Focus additional programming efforts on seniors, teens, special needs population.
	Develop and expand the number of activities that promote fitness and wellness. This could include areas such as nutrition and healthy lifestyles.	Expand the season and programs for ice based sports with the expansion and enclosure of the ice arena.	Continue to develop a series of tournaments, events, and activities that will draw visitors to the area.
	Develop additional program opportunities in the areas of emerging sports.	Take advantage of the wealth of natural resources in Teton Valley to develop additional outdoor education and nature based programs.	
	Expand the opportunities to utilize valley-wide recreation resources for self-directed use.		