RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT

OUR VISION:
To be the regional leader in improving lives through people, parks, places and programs.

SOCIAL EQUITY

CONSERVATION

HEALTH & WELLNESS

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT
MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”

~ John C. Maxwell

Friends,

The Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District and Parks Department (RivCoParks) are pleased to present the 2014-15 Fiscal Year Annual Report. This annual report, now in its sixth edition, provides a brief and balanced review of our successes as well as our future challenges. During the reporting period, we continued to add facilities, property and trails to our inventory while cutting expenses through operational efficiencies, continuous improvements, and increased revenue through fees, contracts and grants. Our dedicated and highly engaged staff and volunteers provided exceptional service resulting in a 97% customer satisfaction rate, a 2% increase over target. Significant progress was also noted in water savings initiatives such as turf removal, reduced irrigation times and installation of additional water savings equipment at several locations. We recorded 113,778 volunteer hours, which eclipsed our target by 30,778 hours. This, along with our marketing program which noted 4.3 million touch points, allowed us to remain competitive and relevant in meeting our vision and mission.

In order to achieve success, we were forced to utilize operational reserves to fund ongoing operational needs. As in prior years, when requested services exceed available funding, we made adjustments where necessary to shore up our reserves. In future years, it will be important that the District footprint is in alignment with available capacity and we have already begun addressing this challenge.

Thank you,

Scott Bangle
Water Reduction Efforts
In response to current drought and state-wide water shortages, the District began implementing water restrictions in April 2015 with a goal of reducing water use by 25% or more. Water conservation efforts included irrigation reduction, installation of water-efficient devices, reduction in splash pad operations, repairs to broken water lines and sprinkler heads, replacements of inefficient fixtures, and public education efforts to reduce water use by customers. To date the District has saved an estimated 3-acre feet of water.

Outdoor Classroom
The District broke ground on “The Exploration Station” at Hidden Valley Nature Center in May 2015. As the first public space of its kind in Riverside County, this outdoor classroom will provide easy and safe access to imaginative nature play for youth of all ages. By building a familiarity with and appreciation for our natural world, The Exploration Station will nurture our next generation of environmental stewards. A grand opening for the site is expected to take place in December 2015.

Protecting Habitat
The District manages approximately 59,000 acres of land between the Southwest Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve (MSR) and the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and Open Space Reserve. During the 2014/15 fiscal year, MSR staff treated over 750 acres of non-native grasslands, enhanced habitats for the 31 species of native wildlife, and conducted surveys and monitoring for endangered species. The Reserve system added 25 new properties, removed over 44 tons of illegally dumped refuse, and repaired or replaced more than 1,100 feet of fencing. In addition, one pair of burrowing owls was actively relocated into the reserve system, 2 seasonal pools were enhanced to retain water longer into the dry season, 2 wildlife guzzlers were installed and maintained, 11 acres of habitat were restored in the Badlands area, 5.50 acres of Delhi Sands Flower Loving Fly was restored or maintained, 5 western pond turtles were tracked to better understand habitat preferences, and habitat for 146 MSHCP covered species was improved or maintained to previous year condition.

Recycling Efforts
This year RivCoParks continued as a partner in the Riverside County Health Initiative, working to improve the overall health of Riverside County through four priorities: Healthy Eating, Active Living, Reduced Tobacco Use, and Building Safe and Healthy Communities.

Water Safety
In 2015, RivCoParks partnered with Riverside County public safety departments and leaders to support Drowning Prevention. Over 500 children and adults participated in swim lessons at both DropZone and Cove Waterparks.

Healthy Events
In July of 2015, the District assumed a new role with a direct link to Social Equity through the addition of Community Centers. As part of the mission to ensure all people have access to the benefits of parks and recreation, Community Centers throughout the County offered a myriad of programs and services to meet the varied needs of community members. From senior services to children’s programs, these centers help meet the basic needs of food and care, to the more advanced needs of social interaction and lifelong learning. The District expanded events, art classes, exercise classes, and excursion trips through a variety of grants and partnerships.

Combined, the Charles Meigs, Sr. Community Center in Mead Valley, The Eddie Dee Smith Senior Community Center in Jurupa Valley, and the Moses-Schaffer Community Center in the Goodhope/Meadowbrook area served 15,315 hot, freshly made meals at seniors. In addition, between USDA commodities, Senior Share, OC Share, and Feeding America, over 20,000 commodities packages were distributed to Riverside County residents that otherwise didn’t have access to quality foods. Youth programs were expanded at the Mergis, Moses-Schaffer and Idyllwild Town Hall centers, providing over 700 children with summer day camp programs and meals.

Healthy Communities
In 2015, RivCoParks proudly co-sponsored several regional events including the American Heart Association Heart and Stroke Walk in Temecula at Lake Skinner and in Jurupa Valley at Rancho Jurupa Park. These events alone brought in over 10,000 guests eager to improve their own health and help raise money for heart disease and stroke prevention. In April 2015, we partnered with Healthy Jurupa Valley, the Department of Public Health, and many other health-focused agencies to offer the first Healthy Living Extravaganza at Rancho Jurupa Park. Over 5,000 people attended, gathering information from 100+ vendors and participating in activities like the 1 mile fun run.
“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

~ Benjamin Franklin

**OUR FINANCES**

Customer Satisfaction Rating

- FY12-13: 59%
- FY13-14: 58%
- FY14-15: 59%
- FY14-15: 58%

**FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE**

- Non-Property Tax revenue: $8,095,959
- CIP Met: 6%
- Operations Reserve: 14%
- Expenditure Budget Target: 101%
- Volunteer Hours: 119,220

**SOURCES**

- Other Finance: 27%
- Property Tax: 26%
- Recreation & Tourism Fees: 19%
- Regional Parks & Trails Fees: 19%
- County General Fund: 4%
- Rents, Leases, Concessions: 3%
- Historical & Interpretive: 2%

**USES**

- Santa Ana River Trail: 55%
- Regional Trails: 33%
- Community Parks: 12%
- Nature Centers: 7%
- Contractual: 7%
- Habitat and Open-Space: 5%
- Administration: 2%
- Planning: 1%
- Historic Preservation: 1%

**PROJECTS**

- FY12-13: 6
- FY13-14: 27%
- FY14-15: 26%
- FY15-16: 19%
- FY14-15: 19%
- FY13-14: 4%
- FY12-13: 3%
- FY11-12: 2%

**LEARNING & GROWTH PERSPECTIVE**

- Recordable Injuries: 15
- Performance Evaluations on Time: 99%
- Training Hours: 8,800

- FY12-13: 95% OR MORE OF TARGET
- FY13-14: 85% TO 94% OF TARGET
- FY14-15: 84% OR LESS OF TARGET
- FY15-16: DATA NOT AVAILABLE OR TARGET NOT SET

*Metric converted from # to % in FY14-15.

**Agreements under review.**
Riverside County Parks is the common name often used to refer to the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (District). Many programs are operated under the three Bureaus which include: Parks and Recreation Bureau, Resources Bureau, and the Business Operations Bureau. Executive Administration is handled by the General Manager/Parks Director and the Executive Assistant, and each of the Bureaus are led by the assigned Chiefs, who are also part of the Executive Management team. The District’s focus encompasses providing high-quality recreational opportunities and preserving important features of the County’s natural, cultural, and historical heritage.

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Park District is to acquire, protect, develop, manage, and interpret for the inspiration, use, and enjoyment of all people, a well-balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational, and historic importance.

**Vision:**

To be the regional leader in improving lives through people, parks, places and programs.

4600 Crestmore Road

Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

(951) 955-2345

http://www.RivCoParks.org

Alternative formats available upon request to individuals with disabilities.