



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

Prepared for:
Town Council

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of Apple Valley conducted a community Parks and Recreation Survey to identify recreation needs, community priorities, and opportunities for future investment. A total of 45 surveys were received. Following review, one duplicate household response was identified and removed, resulting in 44 verified survey responses.

Survey responses indicate strong support for expanding recreation opportunities while preserving the rural character and natural beauty of Apple Valley. Residents expressed a preference for practical improvements that promote health, wellness, community interaction, and access to outdoor recreation.

The highest-ranked recreation priorities identified by residents were:

- Walking and biking trails
- Restrooms
- Shade trees and landscaping
- Neighborhood parks
- Community gathering and event spaces

Additional priorities receiving support included pickleball courts, senior-friendly amenities, youth recreation opportunities, splash pads, dog parks, and community events.

A recurring theme throughout the survey was the desire for improved trail connectivity between neighborhoods and recreation areas. Residents consistently supported development of walking, biking, and multi-use trail systems that provide safe recreation opportunities and connect different areas of the community.

The Cedar Point area was the most frequently identified location needing additional recreation amenities and recreation access improvements.

Survey responses also demonstrated strong support for pursuing grants and partnerships to fund recreation improvements. While many respondents supported reasonable public investment, residents generally favored leveraging outside funding sources and implementing projects in a fiscally responsible manner.

KEY FINDINGS

Current Recreation Use

Most respondents reported using Apple Valley parks and recreation facilities only occasionally, rarely, or never.

The most common reasons cited included:

- Lack of recreation facilities
- Lack of nearby amenities
- Limited facilities in outlying neighborhoods
- Lack of shade and restroom facilities

Many residents also indicated that existing facilities are generally well maintained but that additional amenities are needed to better serve the community.

Community Recreation Priorities

The following priorities emerged consistently throughout survey responses:

Tier One Priorities

1. Walking and Biking Trails
2. Restrooms
3. Shade Trees and Landscaping
4. Neighborhood Parks
5. Community Gathering and Event Spaces

Tier Two Priorities

- Pickleball Courts
- Senior-Friendly Amenities
- Youth Recreation Facilities
- Community Events and Festivals
- Trail Connectivity

Tier Three Priorities

- Dog Parks
 - Splash Pads
 - Equestrian Facilities
 - Recreation/Fitness Center Opportunities
 - Sports Courts and Fields
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GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITIES

The Cedar Point area was the most frequently identified location needing additional recreation amenities.

Residents specifically requested:

- Walking and biking trails
- Neighborhood recreation opportunities
- Park amenities closer to residential areas
- Improved connectivity to existing recreation facilities

Other comments emphasized the importance of providing recreation opportunities throughout the community rather than concentrating amenities in a single location.

COMMUNITY THEMES

Several common themes emerged throughout the survey process.

Trail Connectivity

The strongest recreation theme was the desire for an interconnected trail system supporting:

- Walking
- Bicycling
- Multi-use recreation
- Equestrian use where appropriate

Residents expressed interest in both recreational trails and safe neighborhood walking routes.

Community Gathering Spaces

Many residents supported facilities that encourage social interaction and community engagement, including:

- Event spaces
- Pavilions
- Community celebrations
- Farmers markets
- Outdoor gathering areas

Preserving Rural Character

Several respondents emphasized maintaining Apple Valley's rural character and avoiding overdevelopment while still improving recreation opportunities.

Funding and Fiscal Responsibility

Most respondents supported pursuing grants and partnerships. Residents generally favored phased improvements that minimize impacts on local taxes and utilize outside funding whenever possible.

RECOMMENDED RECREATION PLANNING PRIORITIES

Based upon survey responses, the following priorities are recommended for consideration in the Parks and Recreation Plan:

Priority 1

Community Trail and Connectivity System

- Walking trails
- Bicycle facilities
- Multi-use pathways
- Neighborhood connectivity
- Trailheads and wayfinding

Priority 2

Community Park Improvements

- Restrooms
- Shade structures
- Landscaping
- Trees
- Gathering pavilions

Priority 3

Cedar Point Recreation Improvements

- Neighborhood park amenities
- Walking paths
- Recreation access improvements

Priority 4

Recreation Expansion Opportunities

- Pickleball courts
- Senior-friendly amenities
- Youth recreation facilities
- Community event spaces
- Dog park opportunities

CONCLUSION

The survey results provide clear direction for future recreation planning efforts within Apple Valley. Residents consistently identified trails, basic park infrastructure, community gathering spaces, and improved recreation access as their highest priorities.

These findings will assist the Town Council in establishing recreation priorities, pursuing grant funding opportunities, and developing a long-range Parks and Recreation Plan that reflects community needs while preserving the unique character of Apple Valley.