

Community Focus Statement B: Develop and improve parks and recreational facilities and services for all ages.

Action Statement B.1: Identify recreation needs, including facilities and programs, by working with residents from all age groups and abilities.*

Benchmark: The Rim of the World Recreation and Park District, with community youth groups, identify park needs and gaps in recreational facilities and services and partner with local recreational providers to determine assistance, mutual benefit, and improvement opportunities.

Champion: Rim of the World Recreation and Park District in partnership with institutions such as schools and libraries.

Estimated Cost: \$2,500–\$3,500

COMPLETED



Existing recreational facilities in the Crest Forest Communities. Photo source: Michael Baker International

Residents, including senior groups and youth groups, can be essential contributors to the well-being of a community and can serve as the foundations on which healthy communities are built. In order to develop and improve parks and recreational facilities and services for all ages, local youth in the Crest Forest communities should be actively engaged in identifying interests and needs. Community engagement will allow the identification and provision of recreational opportunities and facilities specifically geared toward residents in the community. Parks and recreational resources can be directed toward facilities and programs that local residents want to use, instead of wasting time and resources on facilities that end up underused.

Youth are the primary participants and users of parks and recreational facilities and programming. Large blocks of time after school, and more specifically during school vacations, offer opportunities for youth to participate in recreational programs and use parks and recreational facilities. Involving youth in the process of identifying recreation needs will result in youth having an increased stake in the Crest Forest communities' future and will likely increase youth participation in recreational programming, including sustained involvement in outdoor activities.

There are several health benefits to increasing involvement in recreation and recreational programming, especially at a time when obesity rates are at an all-time high. Physical activity can diminish the chance of disease, build self-esteem, and reduce stress. Through community engagement in recreational facility and programming development, residents can make a tangible contribution to the development of the Crest Forest communities. This will help develop the next generation of involved citizens, invested in the health and success of their communities.



*Rim of the World Recreation and Parks District conducted a survey regarding facilities and programs a few years ago.

COMPLETED

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact and organize VolunTeens (local group of volunteer teens) and other youth groups to work with the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District to discuss improvements to park and recreational facilities in the Crest Forest communities. Select community members to facilitate teens	Rim of the World Recreation and Park District, with support from VolunTeens, youth groups, community members	Month 1	Rim of the World Recreation & Park District http://rim-rec.org/ San Bernardino County Regional Parks, Parks Advisory Commission http://cms.sbcounty.gov/park/s/aboutus/parksadvisorycommission.aspx
2. Obtain feedback from community surveys on park needs in the surrounding area to determine what people desire in a park and what is working and not working in the community recreation facilities and services.	Teens and community leadership with support from the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District	Months 1 – 2	San Bernardino County Regional Parks, Regional Parks http://cms.sbcounty.gov/park/s/Home.aspx
3. Meet with VolunTeens and other community youth groups to identify recreation needs and gaps in the Crest Forest communities.	Rim of the World Recreation and Park District, with support from VolunTeens, youth groups, community members	Month 2 – 4	Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association http://www.massrpa.org/benefits-of-recreation/
4. Partner with local providers of recreational opportunities for additional recreation centers, mutual benefits, and capital improvements.	Rim of the World Recreation and Park District, with support from VolunTeens, youth groups, community members	Months 4 – 8, on-going	The Benefits of Recreational Programming on Juvenile Crime Reduction https://www.como.gov/ParksandRec/About_Us/document/s/nrpa-report_juvenile_crime_reduction.pdf
5. Involve existing partners and provide awareness to potential partners to address recreation facilities and services of critical importance.	Rim of the World Recreation and Park District, with support from recreational opportunity providers and community members	Months 4 – 8, on-going	