

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2010

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VAIL RECREATION DISTRICT 2009 YEAR-IN-REVIEW ***Year-End Highlights for Vail Golf Club, Dobson Ice Arena, Sports, Youth Programs, Tennis, Gymnastics, Nature Center and Nordic Center***

(Vail)--The Vail Recreation District (VRD) Board of Directors and staff reported a productive and financially strong year for 2009. What follows are the 2009 events, projects, activities and people that contributed to supporting the VRD's mission to offer diverse and exceptional recreation opportunities that enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of all its residents and guests. This year in particular, given the economic uncertainties, the VRD Board of Directors and staff met this mission without reducing programming or compromising quality or customer service, while offering top-notch programs via the Vail Golf Club, Vail Nature Center, Dobson Ice Arena, Vail Gymnastics Center, Imagination Station, Vail Nordic Center, Vail Tennis Center, on athletic fields in Vail and throughout Eagle County, plus through its youth summer sports and day camp programs. Such programs are key in helping Vail Valley residents and guests of all ages enjoy recreation, learning, pursuit of passions, developing new talents and skills, refining existing talents and creating an overall sense of community.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2009

- Renovation of the Vail Golf Club's 40-year-old irrigation system was completed in August and allows the golf course to apply water to specified areas and prepare for a drought, become a more responsible user of water on the course, as well as improve the health of the greens and areas of play. During that same time, the retaining wall on hole three and its associated tee box were renovated to address safety concerns, which included improving the tee play area. The \$2.5 million expenditure was cost-shared between the VRD and Town of Vail and was one of only two courses to complete a golf course irrigation renovation in Colorado in 2009. In addition to the golf course renovation, a new pump and liquid fertilization system structure was constructed to house the course's new irrigation pumps. The pump house is comprised of a set of prefabricated, environmentally sound, modular components and is a 100 percent wood product that required no artificial components such as chemicals, glues, insulation or solvents during its construction.
- Several new programs were added to the VRD's activities lineup in 2009 including Art in Nature and Art in Photography Classes with the Vail Nature Center; four gymnastics summer camps, a cheerleading camp and new Pilates classes at the Vail Gymnastics Center; new clinics at the Vail Golf Club including Ladies' Night Out, Senior Workshops and Art of Scoring; and a new Shooting Sports class through a partnership with Mathew Bayley, owner of On Target and Vail Academy of Martial Arts. All programs experienced tremendous success and are scheduled to return in 2010.
- Dobson Ice Arena hosted 2010 U.S. Women's Olympic Ice Hockey Coach, Mark Johnson, who led nearly 100 hockey players during the 25th Annual Bob Johnson Hockey School in July. Johnson, who was also the leading scorer of the U.S. team that won the Olympic gold medal in 1980 at Lake Placid, NY, has taught at the

VRD's ice hockey camp for the past 25 years and is the son of the hockey school's founder, Bob Johnson.

- New this year, via assistance from a BrightStart grant, the Youth Services KidZone afterschool program increased its enrichment programs to include fencing, piano with the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival, martial arts and gymnastics.
- The VRD's youth soccer program shifted its focus to a smaller team concept for U8 and U10 players known as "small-sided games." The new program allowed participants to play more and gain better knowledge and skills of the sport. Additionally, the youth soccer programs took place on various fields in Vail, Eagle-Vail and Avon thanks to partnerships with Eagle County Schools, Eagle-Vail Metropolitan District and the Town of Avon.
- Vail's guests and residents were introduced to some of the planet's most magnificent birds during the new free Raptor Rendezvous program that took place in LionsHead on Fridays in July and August. The new program featured the Denver-based Raptor Education Foundation (REF), which used raptors such as Eagles, Hawks, Falcons and Owls to connect spectators to the natural world. The program was brought to Vail via a partnership between the Lionshead Merchants Association and Vail Nature Center/VRD and is scheduled to return this summer.
- In August, the VRD was proud to assist in organizing in the "Romp the Runway" event, which celebrated the reopening of the Eagle County Regional Airport to commercial air traffic. The VRD was essential in organizing Eagle County 9000 unique sprint-style bike race, the 5K fun run, children's obstacle course, "Paint the Plane" contest and a chalk aircraft drawing contest. Romp the Runway was a joint effort of Air Planners, Inc., Eagle County, Eagle County Aviation Association, Eagle County Regional Airport, Eagle Valley Chamber of Commerce, Vail Valley Jet Center, VRD, Vail Resorts, Inc., and Vail Valley Partnership.
- In July, local professional mountain bike racer Jay Henry broke his own record during the 26th Annual Davos Dash Mike Janelle Memorial Mountain Bike Race. Henry raced up the Forest Service road finishing the 3.5-mile grind in 16 minutes and 45 seconds, three seconds faster than his previous record. Henry attributed his success in memory of local biker Mike Janelle who passed away in 2007.
- A new snowcat, snowmobile groomer and snowmobile continued to improve grooming of the Vail Nordic Center to provide some of the best Nordic skiing in the state. The new cat also continued to provide excellent training conditions for Battle Mountain High and Vail Mountain School's Nordic teams, plus athletes from Ski and Snowboard Club Vail. Several local SSCV's athletes and an elite international Special Olympian train at the Nordic Center and are 2010 Olympic hopefuls.
- The VRD launched its new web site at www.vailrec.com in July, offering users more timely, reliable and convenient information about VRD programming. The improved site offers users easier navigation, online registration, a sneak peek at activities through its online videos and virtual tours. The site was designed for both a Vail Valley resident or visiting guest who are seeking information on everything from booking a golf tee time or signing a child up for day camp, to information about upcoming events, highlighted activities, VRD Board meetings and more. A new online calendar also offers guests the ability to pick and choose which programs interest them and print them for their own files.
- A new partnership with Eagle County Schools allowed the VRD to operate programs at the Dowd Junction Facility (Old Battle Mountain High School). This new partnership has allowed the VRD to increase programming and offerings for adults and children alike, while keeping costs minimal.

- From March through September, VRD staff assisted the Town of Vail with its friendly plastic bag reduction program sponsored by the Colorado Association of Ski Towns. The VRD assisted in purchasing reusable bags in place of plastic bags being used at local stores and staff helped hand out bags at local grocery stores. Vail placed fifth in the challenge, which resulted in the use of 100,000 reusable bags in place of 300,000 plastic bags within the community.
- In October, 20 fourth and fifth grade students from Red Sandstone Elementary School assisted Vail Golf Club staff in planting 36 new trees around the golf course. Each student was able to plant their own Blue Spruce tree while they learned how to prepare the soil and plant the tree correctly for optimum growth and survival. The program was a partnership among the VRD, Town of Vail and Red Sandstone Elementary School. Throughout the summer, the golf club staff planted 78 in addition to the trees planted with the students, including Aspen, White Fir and Colorado Blue Spruce trees.

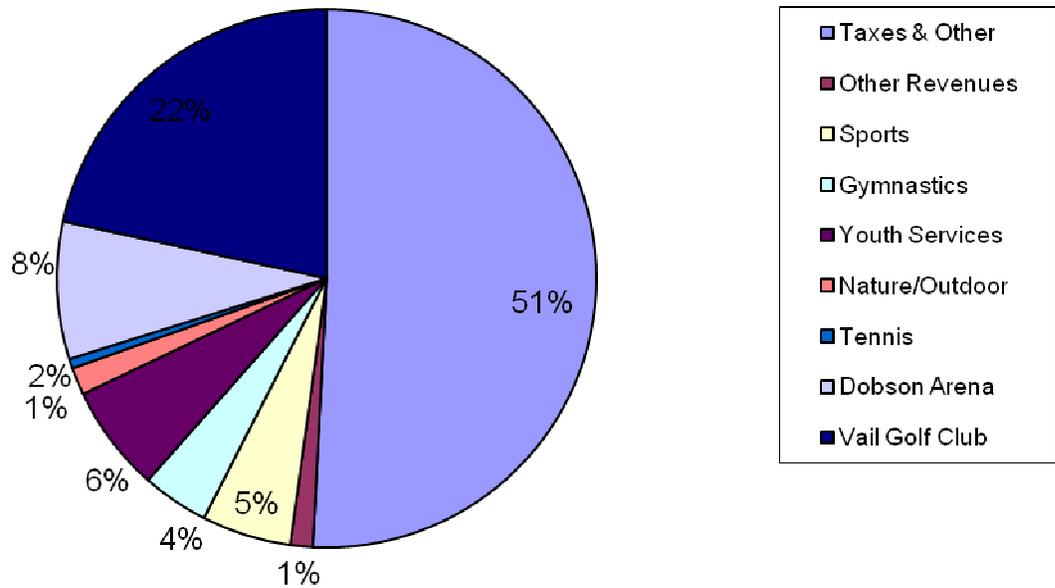
ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Throughout 2009, the Board and staff closely monitored expenditures and incoming revenue allowing the organization to meet its mission of providing diverse recreational programs and opportunities for residents and guests. As such, the VRD either froze or reduced fees, while staff worked hard to continue to provide high quality and cost-efficient programs and activities. The VRD's adopted budget for 2010 will allow the organization to continue to provide its current programs and seek opportunities to expand offerings, while remaining financially conservative given the current economic uncertainties.

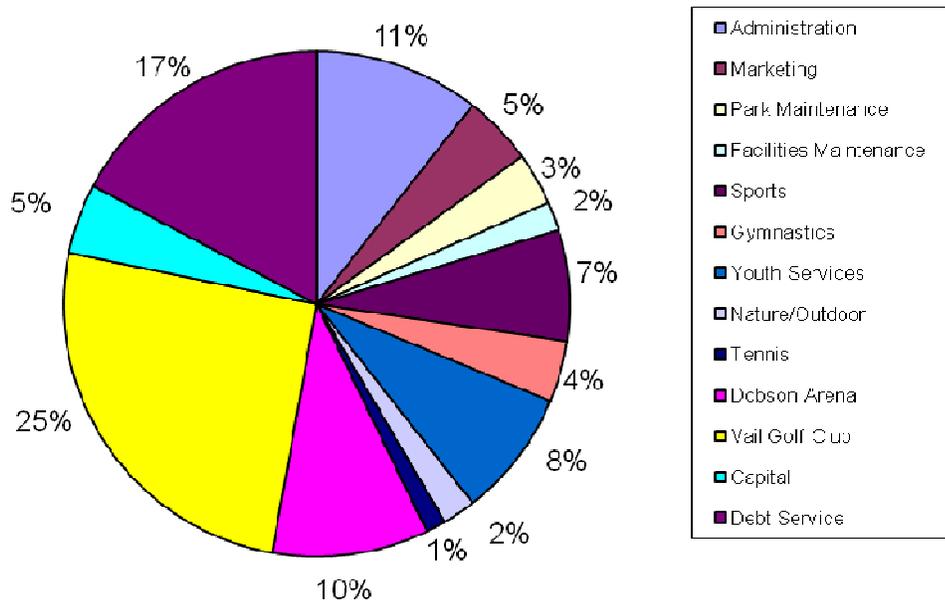
Looking Back on 2009

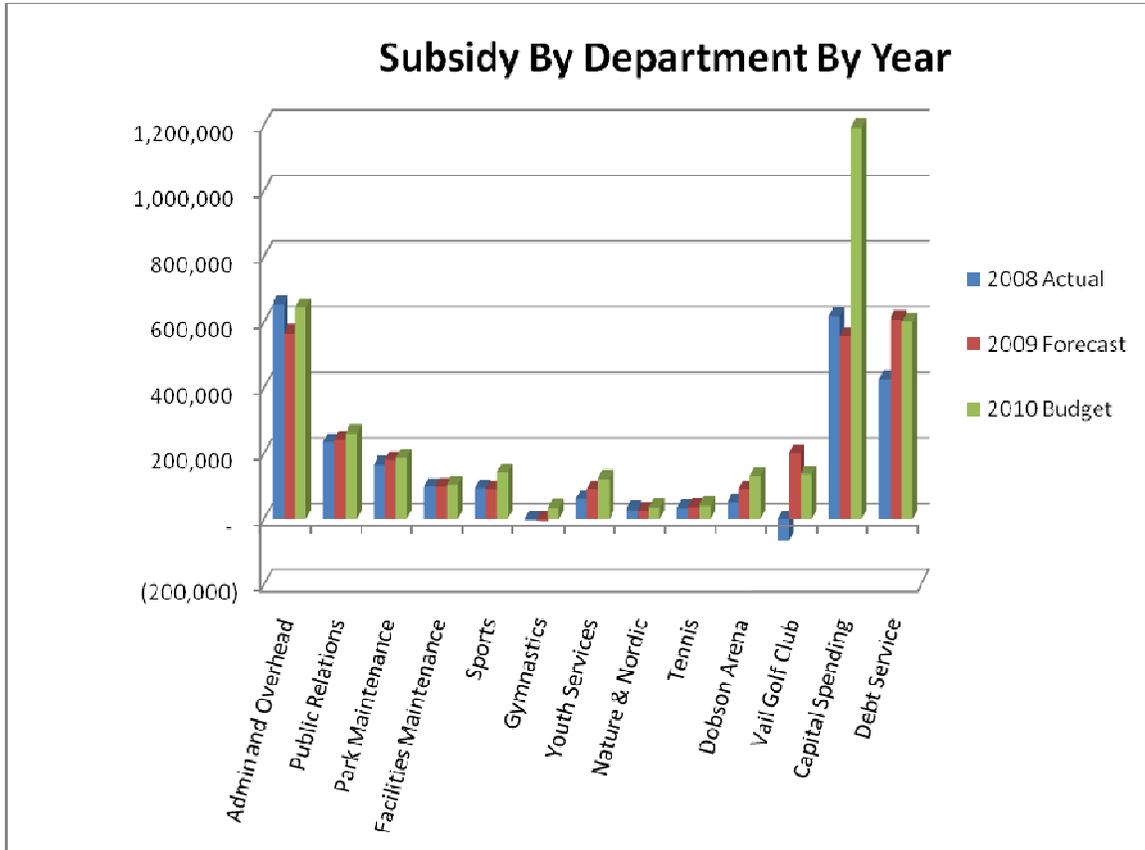
- The VRD continued to keep the fund balance at a minimum of \$1.25 million. However, due to the postponement of an additional major retaining wall reconstruction and other projects on the Vail Golf Club, the VRD ended 2009 with a fund balance of \$1.975 million. This increase will be rolled forward to allow for construction in 2010.
- Joint funding between the town and VRD continued to allow long-deferred capital maintenance of the town-owned, VRD-managed facilities. These improvements are forecasted over a 20 year period and were specified in an agreement signed by the town and VRD in 2008. In addition to the joint funding of the Vail Golf Club's irrigation system, the VRD partnered with the town to complete the removal of a failing retaining wall and supporting tee box on hole three on the golf course. Upgrades to the golf course clubhouse, the restrooms on hole 13 and the youth services facility in the LionsHead parking structure were also completed to bring them up to current American Disabilities Act standards.
- Additional capital projects not jointly funded in 2009 included routine replacement of vehicles and machinery and replacement or repair to many smaller items throughout the many facilities managed by the VRD.
- Operationally, the VRD finished the year \$175,000 ahead of budget despite a \$125,000 shortage in property taxes and non-program revenue collections. Programs were offered to the community without compromising quality or quantity.

2009 Forecasted Revenues By Source



2009 Forecasted Expense By Department





Looking Forward to 2010

- The VRD's total mill levy for 2010 will decrease from 3.096 to 3.025. However, due to a 16 percent increase as a result of new construction and increases on home values based on sales data from January 2007 to June 2008, the property tax assessments of the VRD will increase 12 percent in 2010.
- The mill levy of the VRD accounts for approximately 7 percent of the taxes paid by the average Vail tax payer and will bring in an estimated \$3.17 million in property taxes in 2010. Property taxes account for approximately 53 percent of the VRD's revenues with the other 47 percent coming from user fees and other sources.
- Realizing the tough economic times, the VRD has reduced operating expenses wherever possible and will use less property taxes to support the 2010 operating budget than were used to support the 2009 operating budget. This will allow the VRD to put its property tax revenue into much needed capital projects.
- The VRD will once again partner with the town to complete the previously mentioned retaining wall improvements on tee box seven, as well as replacement of multiple dilapidated bridges throughout the golf course.
- In addition to the projects jointly funded with the town, the VRD is also anticipating replacement of the 15 year-old gas-powered Zamboni at Dobson Ice Arena with a new state-of-the-art electric zamboni. The electric zamboni will not only improve ice conditions, but also completely reduce carbon emissions in the rink, as well as save on utility expenses.

- Also included in the budget is the replacement of the old cart fleet for the golf course, construction of much needed lightning shelters on the course and a variety of other minor facility repairs and equipment replacements.
- Funding for additional staffing to better monitor pace of play at the Vail Golf Club has been added to the operating budget for 2010. The additional staff will work to speed up pace of play at the course in order for golfers to experience fewer backups on the course and produce more rounds and revenue.
- The 2010 ending fund balance is estimated at \$1.25 million but includes \$200,000 of contingency for potential revenue shortfalls.

VAIL GOLF CLUB

In May, the Vail Golf Club opened for its 43rd season of operation and generated \$1.35 million in revenue throughout its season. The golf club is the second largest funding source for the VRD behind property taxes and continues to be an essential component in success of the VRD's programs. Throughout the golf season, nearly 23,414 rounds were played, down 1,571 rounds over 2008. The decrease is being attributed to the economic climate, as well as the irrigation work taking place on the course during the year. However, season pass usage increased with Silver Pass players enjoying 3,218 rounds in 2009 compared to 3,175 rounds in 2008. Punch card usage also increased with 166, 10 and 20-round punch cards purchased and 1,545 rounds played in 2009 versus 138 cards purchased and 1,319 rounds in 2008.

Golf Course Irrigation System

- The golf club renovated its 40-year-old irrigation system in 2009, which will allow the course to be better prepared for a drought, water targeted areas and be the best environmental stewards possible. The new irrigation system also will allow the golf course to open weeks earlier, weather and conditions permitting.
- Improvements were made to the retaining wall and associated tee box on hole three, which addressed safety concerns of the wall and improved playability of the hole.

Clinics/Lessons

- Clinics and lessons were held throughout the summer including the Ladies' Clinics, Ladies' Night Out, Coors Coaching Hour, Three Day/Beginner and Intermediate Series, Art of Scoring and Senior Clinics with a total of 126 participants. Senior Group Lessons and the Beginner/Intermediate clinics were the newest programs offered at the golf course.
- 296 individual lessons were given throughout the summer.

Leagues

- Three leagues were offered by the Vail Golf Club with approximately 94 members who played throughout the week. An additional Senior League was organized by local golfer Mikki Futernick with 90 members participating. The Vail Golf Club hosted championships for each league with titles awarded to Todd Novak for the Men's Stroke and Men's Match, Meg Christiansen for the Women's Stroke, Rick Sackbauer for the Men's Senior and Deb Blount for the Women's Senior.

Events

- The Vail Golf Club and its staff were active participants in the Youth Foundation's First Tee of Eagle County Junior Golf program. The VRD donated golf fees, cart fees, driving range usage and the golf course, plus staff time for the annual tournament, which raised over \$20,000 for the organization. Additionally, over 180 children learned about honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, patience and more through the program, which was taught by Vail Golf Club instructors. The golf club also

participated in the annual Vail America Days parade with First Tee participants decorating and walking alongside a golf cart in the parade.

- In September, the Colorado Women's Golf Association Chapman Championships annual tournament was hosted at the Vail Golf Club with 94 participants over a two-day period. The championships are slated to return in 2011.
- The Vail Golf Club offered free 10-minute golf lessons during Play Golf America's Free Lesson Month, which is designed to bring new people to the sport of golf or help existing golfers improve their game. The lessons attracted 23 participants who enjoyed a free lesson from professionals at the golf club.
- In November, the Coal Bucket Classic returned for the fourth time since 2006 offering 40 golfers a chance to play golf in Vail before the beginning of ski season.

SPORTS

The VRD Sports Department organized a wealth of activities in 2009 including the annual trail running and mountain bike race series, youth sports camps and youth and adult recreation leagues for volleyball, softball, basketball, flag football and more.

Sponsorships

- Throughout the year the VRD's Sports Department garnered over \$42,000 in cash through corporate sponsorships and over \$100,000 in prizes for merchandise and support services. Sponsorships remain a crucial component to the success of the sports department programs.

Trail Running

- In June, the La Sportiva Vail Mountain Trail Running Series kicked off its five-race series with over 1,200 runners competing throughout the summer. Competitors participated from nearly all 50 states, plus international locations including Mexico, France and Argentina to name a few. 20 runners completed all five races in the series, which took runners along 52 miles of trails for a total elevation gain of 16,475 feet. The annual Vail HillClimb attracted the largest number of competitors with over 337 runners participating.
- In June, the VRD worked with the Vail Valley Charitable Fund (VVCF) and organized the second-annual La Sportiva Summer Solstice Twilight Trail Run as a benefit for the VVCF. Approximately 115 participants ran in the Summer Solstice race raising \$4,000 for the VVCF. Runners also enjoyed free food from Moe's Barbecue and live music featuring Hardscrabble. The 3rd annual La Sportiva Summer Solstice benefit race is scheduled to kick off the VRD's trail running series on June 19.
- Joining 2009 series title sponsor La Sportiva were Gatorade, Smartwool, Vail Resorts, Steadman Hawkins, Howard Head Sports Medicine, Tiga Advertising, FirstBank of Vail, Save Our Soles, Journey Films, Plum TV, KZYR Radio, Airdrives Headphones, KT Tape, Kinesys Sunscreen and AQX Sports.

Mountain Biking

- In May, the VRD celebrated 26 years of mountain bike racing in the Vail Valley and kicked its race series off with over 231 riders in the Eagle Classic at Eagle Ranch. Throughout the six-race series, over 1,200 riders competed for \$5,000 in cash and \$50,000 in prizes resulting in a 14 percent increase in adult racers. The Youth Mountain Bike Series also continued to grow with 192 participants throughout the series, resulting in a 41 percent increase in youth participation over 2008.
- Two new courses debuted in 2009 – the Vail Grind and Beaver Creek Blast. The Clydesdale race category was also added to the competition.
- Sponsors of the 2009 races included Orage, Optic Nerve, Woodward at Copper, Skins, CamelBak, Rocky Mountain Bicycles, Bud Light, KZYR Radio, Vail

Honeywagon, Plum TV, The Kind Bikes, Pedal Power, Mountain Pedalar, Vail Bike Tech and Venture Sports.

Adult Sport Leagues

- The VRD continued to offer adult sports leagues throughout the year with six basketball teams, 12 indoor soccer teams, 18 winter volleyball teams, 52 softball teams, 14 8v8 co-ed summer and seven fall soccer teams and nine adult flag football teams. Team participation increased in nearly all the leagues.

Youth Sports

- Over the summer, the VRD hosted 11 youth sports camps, including volleyball, lacrosse, soccer, baseball and basketball, plus the MiniHawks camps. Over 650 local and visiting youth participated in at least one camp.
- Over 60 children, grades one through six, participated in the six-week High Country Hoops basketball camp. The camp increased by 20 participants over 2008.
- NBA All-Star and All-Pro Sydney Moncrief and his award winning staff returned for their fourth year and coached 62 participants during the VRD's Back to Basics All-Star Basketball Camp. Moncrief also brought 10 international professional players from China for a two week camp that took place adjacent to the children's camp. Moncrief and his staff are scheduled to return in August.
- Colorado State University head volleyball coach Tom Hilbert returned for his fifth year and led 55 participants in an individual skills volleyball training camp for three days. Hilbert will return in June.
- Youth sports camp sponsors included the Vail Daily, David Honda's Vail Sports Medicine, American National Bank, Vail Realty, Vail Racquet Club, Simba Run, Antlers at Vail, Plum TV and Vail International Condominiums.

Teva Mountain Games at Vail

- In early June, the VRD organized two additional running races for the Teva Mountain Games at Vail. Nearly 750 runners participated in the races.

Tournaments

The VRD athletic fields continued to draw some of the largest sports competitions in the nation, while serving as home field for The Vail Rugby Club and Pepi's Soccer Club. This year field rentals accounted for \$28,400 in revenue. Tournaments held throughout the season included:

- Vail Lacrosse Shootout and Warrior Colorado Lacrosse Tournament: 5,000 participants.
- Vail Invitational Soccer Tournament: 600 participants.
- Kick-It 3v3 Soccer Rocky Mountain Regional Finals: 1,600 participants.
- Vail Valley Soccer Club Challenge Cup: 2,400 participants.
- King of the Mountain Volleyball Tournament: 400 participants.

YOUTH SERVICES

During 2009, the Youth Services Department hosted over 800 individual children, ages two through 14, in a variety of camps and activities. In addition to participants visiting from 18 states, Youth Services also provided programming to families visiting from Canada, Venezuela, United Kingdom and Mexico.

Summer Camps

- Camp Eco Fun continued to be a favorite for local children, ages four to 11, who were interested in having fun while learning about nature. The camp was full nearly every available day during the summer with 569 camp spaces filled out of 632 spaces. Children benefited from the VRD's partnership with Gore Range Natural

Science School interns and guest speakers including a beekeeper, Ute and Ogallala Sioux Native Americans, the Raptor Education Foundation and the Butterfly Pavilion.

- Pre Kamp Vail, for ages two-and-a-half to five years, filled 720 camp spaces out of 800 spaces available. Youth Services is proud to operate the only summer camp geared specifically for preschool-aged children that is staffed with highly trained early childhood educators. This program focuses on recreation and takes participants on an adventure every day including trips to the Eagle County Airport, Vail Police Department, Vail Fire and Emergency Services and numerous swimming outings.
- Camp Vail offered 11 weeks of activities throughout the summer filling 3,644 spaces out of 4,100 spaces available. Children who attended this multi-faceted camp experienced many of the VRD's offerings including golf, ice skating, gymnastics and the Vail Nature Center. In addition, children enjoyed special days such as the Camp Vail Carnival where children played on inflatables. On Pirate Day, children navigated their way through a Pirate Treasure Hunt and during Water Wars, children were given a chance to dunk their counselors in a dunk tank.
- As part of Camp Vail programming, Extreme Camp Vail, for ages eight to 13 years, returned for the fourth year and offered children an array of outdoor activities including caving, rafting and trips to Water World, Glenwood Caverns and Elitch Gardens.
- Youth Services also managed Vail's skatepark and offered lessons for the third summer since the skatepark's return to the top deck of the LionsHead parking structure in 2007. Approximately 100 children participated in skateboard lessons throughout the summer.

School Year Programs

- KidZone, the after school recreation program at Red Sandstone and Edwards Elementary Schools, returned for the 2008-09 school year offering children three hours of after school programming including sports and art enrichment activities, plus homework help. The program at Red Sandstone Elementary has been underway for more than 20 years and averaged 20 children per day. In its sixth year at Edwards Elementary, an average of 21 children participated per day. KidZone participants also benefited from an increased offering of enrichment activities such as ice skating, martial arts, art classes, cooking and fencing and piano lessons with the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival.
- As part of KidZone, School's Out Camp took place providing activities for 20 days during the Thanksgiving, winter and spring break periods. Nearly 100, Vail Valley youth participated in the program where they had a chance to sled, Nordic ski, tour local businesses and more.
- The Early Childhood program provided children ages three to five with 12 hours of weekly activities through Discovery Bunch and Jumpin' Gym Kids. Discovery Bunch children learned through a storybook curriculum including arts and crafts, gross motor activities and cooking. These children also had a chance to participate in Preschool Sports where they ice skated or participated in gymnastics activities. Jumpin' Gym Kids provided preschool physical education to children attending Vail Childcare and Children's Garden of Learning.

Events/Activities

- In April, Youth Services hosted the annual LionsHead Easter Egg Hunt with 200 participants.
- In July, Camp Vail children created a float and entered it in the Vail America Day's July 4th parade. Approximately 30 children walked and rode the parade route with their counselors.

- In August, the VRD hosted a children's activities tent during the annual Rubber Duck Race sponsored by Vail Valley Rotary. Approximately 100 children made crafts to take home and won prizes in carnival-type games.
- In September, the VRD hosted a children's activity tent at the Romp the Runway Eagle County Regional Airport grand reopening celebration. Approximately 200 children created planes, chalkboard drawings and ran through an obstacle course.
- In October, Youth Services organized the 17th Annual Trick or Treat Trot and Halloween coloring contest. In its busiest year ever, over 500 children enjoyed safe trick or treating at nearly 100 merchants throughout Vail Village and LionsHead. Another 150 children entered into the annual coloring contest.
- In October, the VRD hosted an activities tent during the Pumpkin Fest celebration at 4 Eagle Ranch, which served as a fundraiser for the Shaw Regional Cancer Center. Over 50 children enjoyed creating Halloween crafts during the event.
- In December, Youth Services partnered with the Vail Chamber and Business Association and hosted four separate Santa's Workshops throughout Vail. Over 300 families enjoyed making crafts to give as gifts, pictures with Santa and card making.

Imagination Station

- Imagination Station received over 3,000 visits throughout the year offering an indoor learning and discovery center for ages two through 12. Children learn about electricity, kinetic energy, flight, the human body, sound and much more as they play in the different exhibits. Children also enjoy freezing their shadows, building giant marble tracks and more.
- Youth Services looked forward to the 2009-10 winter season at the Imagination Station after over 150 children and their families participated in the season opening party in November.

Sponsors

- Sponsors and partners of Youth Services programs included BrightStart for Eagle County Kids, Eagle County Schools, FirstBank of Vail, KZYR Radio, Plum TV, TV8, KidSPORT, Alpine Bank, East West Resorts and Copy Copy.

DOBSON ICE ARENA

Dobson Ice Arena celebrated 30 years of offering skating and events for Vail Valley residents and guests in 2009.

Groups and Events

- In January, the annual Detroit Red Wings Alumni and Vail Mountaineers Alumni game took place to benefit the Vail Eagle Hockey Association.
- In February, Dobson hosted Govt. Mule concert presented by Live Nation.
- In March, Dobson hosted the annual Ski Patrol versus Ski School hockey game, bringing more than 1,000 spectators to the event.
- Also in March, Dobson continued its tradition of hosting the annual Colorado Special Olympics State Competition.
- In April, 2,500 members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) returned to Dobson, using the facility for the Colorado Chapter's annual meeting.
- Dobson also played host to 11 Mexican dances over the course of 2009, plus Los Comediantes in December.
- In July, the Vail Figure Skating Invitational returned bringing 300 participants, plus spectators to Vail for four days of competition.
- In September, Dobson hosted a mixed-martial arts competition featuring local fighter Bobby Hermosillo.

- ShowTime Skating returned in July, providing 38 participants with an opportunity to focus on performance ice skating during a performance for the annual Vail America Days celebration called “Love. America. Style.” Two other ShowTime skating performances took place in December featuring 35 participants in “Under the Sea: A Skating Voyage” event.
- The 40th annual Ski and Snowboard Club Vail Ski Swap returned Halloween weekend offering early season deals on winter sports equipment to thousands of eager snow sports enthusiasts.
- The first three weekends in November welcomed the return of the Vail Eagle Hockey Association Sportsmanship Tournaments with hundreds of participants, plus their families visiting Vail for four days of competition.

Camps

- Both the Bob Johnson Hockey School and Pro Ambitions Hockey Camp were hosted in the arena with over 110 participants. Pro Ambitions came for the first time to Dobson Arena as the Bob Johnson Hockey School returned for its 25th year.
- Also in August, the Vail Eagle Hockey Association Rocky Mountain Pre-Season Hockey Camp took place with over 90 Vail Valley hockey players gearing up for the winter season.

Classes and Leagues

- In January, the sixth season of VRD Mini Mites (ages five to six years) and Mites (ages seven to eight years) began with 30 children participating. The program also took place in October through a joint venture with the Western Eagle County Metropolitan Recreation District and Vail Eagle Hockey Association to offer valley-wide skating and accounted for over 70 participants.
- The VRD’s Learn to Skate, Junior Prep/Freestyle and StoryTime skating returned in the fall with over 45 participants.
- The adult leagues increased in team participation throughout the year including 22 teams and 264 participants during the summer session; 11 teams and 132 participants during the fall session; 17 teams and 204 participants during the spring session; and 16 teams and over 192 participants during the winter session. The women’s hockey league continued to see growth in participation with 60 participants and four teams.

VAIL NATURE CENTER

The Nature Center hosted 17,000 visitors from across the world in 2009, June through September, who participated in 1,665 learning opportunities.

- New this year, the Nature Center offered Art in Nature and Nature Photography courses for students of all skill levels. The photography workshops offered students instruction on light and exposure; the basics of digital and analog photography; and scale, proportion, composition and vision, while the art classes taught students how to blend art with nature including sketching, acrylics, printmaking, paper making and more. Classes are set to return this summer.
- Also new in 2009, the Raptor Rendezvous program which took place in LionsHead on Fridays in July and August. The new program featured the Denver-based Raptor Education Foundation (REF), which used raptors such as Eagles, Hawks, Falcons and Owls to connect spectators to the natural world.
- Additional learning opportunities included:
 - Camp Eco Fun: children spent a half day learning about local flora and wildlife at the Nature Center and the other half with Youth Services

- Family programs throughout the week that included Starry Nights, beaver pond tours, a nature speaker series and Wednesday Family Fun Nights
- Morning bird walks and afternoon flower walks
- Hiking programs
- Fly-Fishing returned this summer in a partnership with Minturn Anglers who taught guests and residents basic fly-fishing techniques and stream ecology.

Groups, Clubs and Programs

- The Nature Center hosted several groups throughout the summer, including local school groups, day camps from the Front Range, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, church groups and senior citizen clubs.
- The adult Nature Center Hiking Club membership grew 15 percent over 2008 with approximately 48 members hiking trails four times per week throughout Vail and Eagle County. Club members hiked over 450 miles throughout the summer.
- Approximately 120 children from day camps outside of Vail, including the Beaver Creek Day Camp, visited the Nature Center throughout the summer.
- In the spring and fall, the Nature Center worked with local schools hosting grades kindergarten through second for field trips. Nearly every student within the Eagle County School District visits the Nature Center by third grade.
- The Nature Center partnered with the Gore Range Natural Science School (GRNSS) to present the Eagle Explorers Junior Naturalist Program. The program offered children ages six and older an opportunity to learn more about the Eagle River watershed. The program is a joint venture among GRNSS, VRD, Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, Colorado Ski Museum and the White River National Forest.
- The Nature Center also partnered with the GRNSS during the ski season to offer snowshoe tours at the top of Eagle's Nest on Vail Mountain.
- In the fall, approximately 90 children from Eagle County's Youth Volunteer Corps participated in four working days to help clean, repair, pull weeds and assist with Nature Center upgrades.
- Throughout the year, the Nature Center worked with various senior groups in Eagle County organizing activities including hiking and biking in the summer and snowshoe and free on-mountain ski tours during the winter.

VAIL GYMNASTICS CENTER

In its fifth year of operation, the Gymnastics Center hosted approximately 300 to 400 participants per week in one of the many programs offered at the center. This includes gymnastics, trampoline, fencing, birthday parties and martial arts programs. The center experienced a record year for tourists visiting from across the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

Gymnastics Programs

- The VRD managed the gymnastics program, which operated 40 classes per week ranging in ages from preschool to adult, plus five competitive team classes per week.
- Approximately 150 students participated in the Gymnastics Center learning programs for ages five through 12 including preschool programs and boy's and girl's classes.
- Approximately 40 participated in the weekly adult gymnastics program.
- Approximately 24 participated in the weekly ski and snowboard trampoline class that taught trampoline safety and ski and snowboard trick techniques.

Special Programs

- A new spring gymnastics show took place in May and included 130 participants who performed routines for their friends and family, with special performances from the team members.

- The Gymnastics Center hosted four new summer camps for ages four and older that included gymnastics instruction, as well as outdoor adventures including hiking and excursions to the Vail Nature Center, Imagination Station and more for 120 participants.
- The Gymnastics Center hosted 35 birthday parties with approximately 12 to 20 family members attending. The parties include coaching on equipment and an area for food and drinks.
- The Gymnastics Center continued to host a variety of third-party programs including fencing, martial arts, cheerleading and Pilates.

Competition Highlights

- The Vail Gymnastics Team had 12 girls compete in the USA Gymnastics Level 4 with outstanding individual and team results for the year. As a team, they placed second in five regular season meets and also had many top five individual results. At the Level 4 Colorado USA Gymnastics State Meet, the team placed second in the 10-year-old division with Kate Kirwood placing seventh on vault and ninth on floor; Holly Post placing seventh on vault, second on bars and 10th all-around; Claudette Courtois placing fifth on bars, third on beam, second on floor and fifth all-around; and Sarah Smith placing sixth on vault, third on bars, second on beam, fifth on floor and third all-around. Team members included Chloe Pessa, Berit Frischholz, Arielle Todd, Sabine Heid, Julia Heid, Kendra Hoyt, Kate Kirwood, Holly Post, Maggie Berger, Natalie Berger, Sarah Smith and Claudette Courtois.

VAIL TENNIS CENTER

The Vail Tennis Center offered a full range of tennis activities for juniors and adults on its eight clay courts from Memorial Day weekend through September. It hosted up to 650 participants weekly during peak season, mid-June through August. Programs included:

- Sunday AM Coed Doubles, Sunday Afternoon Mixed Doubles, Monday AM Divas (Ladies Invitational), Monday ProAM, Tuesday Senior Men's Day, Wednesday Ladies' Drop-in, Wednesdays Men's Night Drop-in, Thursday Mixed Doubles, Thursday Club 50 tennis matches and Friday Divas (Ladies Invitational).
- The Tennis Center hosted a variety of junior lessons with over 200 participants throughout the summer. Approximately 25 to 30 junior players participated in a session each day using the Golden Peak tennis courts, plus the Vail Tennis Center courts.
- Approximately 115 participants competed in the annual Bill Wright Colorado Clay Court Open and Senior Tennis Tournament in August. The tournament is a U.S. Tennis Association sanctioned event with competitors from across the nation. The tournament was sponsored by Vail Mountain Haus, Billy's Island Grill, Wilson Sporting Goods and FirstBank of Vail.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

- The Parks Department entered its 32nd summer season in 2009 providing users of the VRD's athletic fields and facilities with amazing areas to recreate. The Parks Department is responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the athletic fields, outdoor sand volleyball courts and softball fields, as well as the playing fields at Donovan Park, Battle Mountain High School and Eagle-Vail. Approximately 10,000 participants came to Vail throughout the summer to participate in sporting events on fields in Vail and surrounding communities that are organized and maintained by the VRD. With training camps, league play and tournaments, the athletic fields were used nearly every day throughout the spring, summer and fall.

VAIL NORDIC CENTER 2008-09

During the 2008-09 winter season, the Vail Nordic Center, which operates out of the Vail Golf Club, offered Nordic skiing and snowshoeing to approximately 5,000 day pass users and over 375 season pass holders.

- Nordic Center business owners Mia Stockdale and Shane Sluder offered 280 lessons throughout the season on its 17 kilometers of set track and 10 kilometers of separate snowshoeing trails.
- The Nordic Center also continued to be the training site for Ski and Snowboard Club Vail's Nordic athletes, local high school and middle school teams and Paralympic athletes from Australia.
- The Nordic Center offered a women-only cross country ski program and taught 25 participants classic and skate skiing throughout the winter.
- In January, the Nordic Center hosted its third annual open house featuring free demos, free lessons and refreshments. Approximately 90 participants took advantage of the free lessons during the open house.
- Each November the Nordic Center hosts a Nordic Ski Swap, which raises money for the local Nordic Ski Club.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ENDEAVOURS

- The VRD contributed approximately \$20,000 in cash and in-kind services to children in Eagle County through its Eagle County Youth Activities Grant and Tom Slaughter, Jr. Memorial Youth Recreation Grant programs. The grant programs provided school-aged children financial aid to participate in not only VRD programs, but recreation including skiing, snowboarding, basketball, gymnastics and other programs offered in Eagle County. Over the past three years, 60 Vail Valley children were given the opportunity to enhance their quality of life via these grants.
- The VRD supported local businesses and charities by producing high quality programs and events to benefit their specific development efforts. These included:
 - Organized and promoted the annual La Sportiva Summer Solstice Trail Running Race in Beaver Creek with proceeds benefiting the Vail Valley Charitable Fund. In its second year, the event raised approximately \$4,000 for the charitable fund.
 - Organized and promoted the annual Mike Janelle Memorial Mountain Bike Race with proceeds benefiting the family of Mike Janelle, a Vail Valley resident and professional athlete who passed away in 2007. In 2009, the event raised \$2,000 for the family fund.
 - The Vail Golf Club continued to assist local businesses and organizations with their fundraising efforts including Habitat for Humanity, Ski and Snowboard Club Vail, local schools, Vail Valley Partnership, World Cup Dreams Foundation, Bright Future Foundation, Colorado Ski and Snowboard Museum, Vail Valley Charitable Fund and many others.
 - Organized and promoted the Battle Mountain High School Cross Country team's annual fundraising running race with proceeds benefiting the team.
 - During the annual Edwards Rotary Club Duck Race, the VRD offered its continued support and staffed the children's activities tent, plus, new in 2009, organized the first-ever Ducky Dash running race with proceeds benefiting the Edwards Rotary Club.

- In 2009, the VRD assisted KZYR with its annual Pumpkin Fest fundraiser at 4 Eagle Ranch, which benefited the Shaw Regional Cancer Society. The event included a trail running race organized and promoted by the VRD, as well as a VRD activity area to keep children busy while their parents raced.

PARTNERSHIPS

- During the summer, the VRD proudly partnered with the Gore Range Natural Science School to provide world-class programming at the Vail Nature Center. The partnership improved the ability for the Nature Center to offer information about Vail's streamside trails, plant and animal exhibits to all ages.
- The VRD continued to work closely with the White River National Forest and U.S. Bureau of Land Management. VRD programs that take place on forest service land operate under a special use permit from the White River National Forest.
- The VRD continued to work with many community organizations including: Alpine Bank, Antlers at Vail, American National Bank, Beaver Creek Resort Company, Howard Head Sports Medicine Centers, Vail Reality, David Honda's Sports Medicine Physical Therapy, BrightStart for Eagle County Kids, CopyCopy, KidSport, FirstBank of Vail, Plum TV, Vail Daily, TV8, La Sportiva, Vail Resorts, Inc., Smartwool, Vail's Mountain Haus, Rocky Mountain Bicycles, Pedal Power, Blue Moose Pizza, Subway, Pazzo's Pizza, Lark Burger, Vail Bike Tech, Avon Liquor, Mountain Pedalar, KZYR, The Kind and many more.
- Events such as the Vail Lacrosse Tournament, Kick It! 3v3 Soccer Tournament and Vail Soccer Invitational brought nearly 10,000 participants to Vail. Recent studies have shown that an average sports tournament, such as 3v3!, can generate approximately \$1 million in retail revenue for the Town of Vail and an estimated \$42,000 in sales tax revenue for the town showing how important such events are to Vail Valley. To encourage new sports events to consider Vail, the VRD and the Vail Valley Partnership began working together in 2009 and attended commissions and tradeshow. This collaboration helped showcase Vail as an ideal location to host sporting events, as well informed sports event planners that in addition to being a world-class ski resort, Vail is also a world-class sports venue.

PEOPLE: Staff, Board and Volunteers

- In January, the VRD staff chose to forgo their annual holiday party to raise money for three summer golf employees whose home had burned down. In the end, the staff raised nearly \$3,000, plus donation of personal items to help replace clothing, recreational equipment and home necessities.
- In December, the VRD participated in the annual Salvation Army's bell ringing program at Safeway in West Vail. This is an annual tradition of the VRD.
- During events that took place at VRD venues, VRD staff continued to take it upon themselves to separate recyclables out of the on-site trash containers in an effort to reduce waste being sent to the local landfill. This included concerts at Dobson Ice Arena and sports tournaments on the Vail athletic and softball fields. It was and continues to be a small step in reducing the VRD's footprint on the environment.
- The VRD continued its involvement with BrightStart, an early childhood development program that is funded by Eagle County. Youth Services Director Chad Young served as committee co-chair and sits on the BrightStart Steering Committee. Also, Youth Service Coordinator Chantelle Sessa continued to be an active-participant in the local chapter of the Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children. Sessa had served as the president of the chapter for three years.

- Marketing Director Jamie Gunion continued to serve on the Vail Local Marketing District Advisory Council, a nine-member Vail Town Council-appointed board with a focus on Vail's summer marketing, designed to assist in driving business to Vail and incremental revenue for the Town of Vail.
- Executive Director Mike Ortiz continued to serve as a member of the Vail Economic Advisory Council, a Vail Town-manager appointed board that consults town staff on economic directives for the town.
- Vail Golf Club Director Alice Plain served on the First Tee of Eagle County Advisory Board, which strives to teach and develop life skills to Eagle County youth by providing valuable lessons in social, physical and academic growth of its participants.
- Vail Golf Club Superintendent, served as Director of the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association on behalf of Vail Valley golf courses.
- Maintenance Director Scott O'Connell served as President of the Vail Valley Exchange, which provides funding to send local students on cultural exchanges to Australia, hosts town and resort officials from Mansfield Shire and employees from the Mount Buller Ski Area in Australia, as well as provides funding for Ski and Snowboard Club Vail athlete cultural exchanges.
- Sports Director Joel Rabinowitz served on the board for the Vail Valley Soccer Club, as well as coached a youth soccer team.
- Vail Nature Center Director Tom Gaylord continued to volunteer his time with local senior groups and provided special outings including guided hikes and Vail Mountain tours.
- VRD staff volunteered their time to assist Ski and Snowboard Club Vail (SSCV) with its annual Town Race Series on Vail Mountain to include bib registration and timing.
- Two VRD employees served on the Town of Vail's internal committee for waste reduction, known as the Green Team.
- Volunteers donated more than 160 hours to maintaining upgrades and making improvements to the Nature Center facility throughout the year.
- A special thanks to Scott McClarrinon who provided race-action photography throughout both the running race and mountain bike race series.
- Throughout the year, countless hours by hundreds of volunteers also helped the VRD continue to provide quality affordable sports recreation programs to both local users and guests.

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