



2013

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**YEAR IN  
REVIEW**

VAIL RECREATION  
D I S T R I C T



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## MISSION

*To offer diverse and exceptional recreation opportunities that enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of all its residents and guests.*

Special Thanks to VRD Photographers:  
Scott McClarrinon, Jack Affleck, Kat Jahnigen and  
Tom Green

Photo: KEEN Vail Kids Adventure Race

# TO THE VAIL COMMUNITY

On behalf of the Vail Recreation District Board of Directors and staff, we're pleased to report another successful year in 2013. The VRD continued to provide some of the best recreation programming in Eagle County, with thousands of local and visiting guests participating in one of our many offerings.

Looking forward, long-range planning continues to be a priority in maintaining a fiscally sound and sustainable budget, ensuring the continued success of the VRD. Tough decisions will be made on how to continue providing quality programming and services for 2014 and beyond, while addressing the sustained decline in VRD property tax collections and the VRD's increasing capital needs. Due to the decline in real estate values, the VRD has experienced annual property taxes decreases by nearly \$500,000. This \$2 million projected decrease in VRD property tax revenues by 2015 has been addressed through reducing operating expenses and delaying capital projects.

The VRD operates quality programs and services with a lean full-time staff of 24 employees. As we plan for the future, the public's input and needs are at the forefront of our decision making and will help us meet the VRD's mission to provide diverse and exceptional recreation opportunities that enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of all its residents and guests.

What follows are the events, projects and people that have contributed to supporting our efforts to provide a wide array of recreational opportunities. We hope to hear from you throughout the year on areas of improvement and how, as a community, we can continue to thrive in years to come. The VRD Board of Directors meets at 5 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month in the Vail Town Council Chambers. Public comments and input are always welcome at these meetings.

Additionally, the VRD's special district election will take place Tuesday, May 6, 2014 during which voters will seat three directors to the VRD board to serve a four-year term. The board seats up for election are held by incumbents Joe Hanlon, Rick Sackbauer and Ken Wilson who are term-limited. Information on the election is available by going to [www.vailrec.com/elections](http://www.vailrec.com/elections).

To sign up to receive information on upcoming board meetings and all other news, we encourage you to join the VRD's notification system at [www.vailrec.com](http://www.vailrec.com). To contact the VRD Board of Directors, e-mail [vrdboard@vailrec.com](mailto:vrdboard@vailrec.com).

Regards,

Vail Recreation District Board of Directors, Chair  
Joe Hanlon

Vail Recreation District, Executive Director  
Mike Ortiz



Photo: 2013 Athletic Club  
at the Westin, Vail Mountain  
Bike Series

# WHO WE ARE

Whether it is the Vail Golf Club, school-year and summertime youth programs, sports programs for adults and children, competitive events that draw hundreds of locals and visitors, Dobson Ice Arena, Vail Tennis Center, the Nordic Center, the Nature Center or dozens of diverse Community Programming activities, the VRD continues to serve – and improve – as the premier source for recreational opportunities in Vail.

Continued high numbers of participants, stellar responses from customer feedback and surveys, impressive compliments from community partners and sponsors, as well as ground breaking progress on new or improved facilities have all combined to make 2013 a truly remarkable year. The Vail Recreation District supervises high-quality facilities and/or programming with the following offerings:

- Vail Golf Club, an award-winning 18-hole public golf course
- Sports programming including adult and youth leagues, summer sports camps, specialized instruction with an enviable roster of top-notch staff and competitive events that draw participants from around the country and world
- Dobson Ice Arena, a highlight for skating enthusiasts including the general public, professional and semi-pro athletes
- The Vail Gymnastics Center, offering public, private and competitive team opportunities
- The Vail Tennis Center, which provides a summer of friendly or competitive tennis play, plus the annual Vail Mountain Haus Colorado Clay Court Tennis Tournament
- The Vail Nordic Center, with 17 kilometers of skiing trails and 10 kilometers of snowshoe trails for wintertime recreation
- The Vail Nature Center, the highlight for many vacationers during summertime visits with family-friendly activities that embrace Vail's natural surroundings
- Community Programming, which provides year-round arts, fitness opportunities, school-year programming, summer camps and special events, plus activities at the Imagination Station

## Board of Directors

The VRD benefits from the involvement and guidance of a talented group of individuals who are committed to improving the Vail community through their work on the VRD's Board of Directors. In 2013, these dedicated board members included:

Joe Hanlon	Chair, Term Ends May 2014
Rick Sackbauer	Term Ends May 2014
Ken Wilson	Term Ends May 2014
Bill Suarez	Term Ends May 2016
Jeff Wiles	Secretary/Treasurer, Term Ends May 2016

A five-member panel, the Board of Directors is responsible for setting policies and guiding staff throughout the year. Each board member is elected to staggered four-year terms. Elections occur every two years in May with the next election scheduled in for May 6, 2014. Board members must be residents or own real property in Vail. The VRD is a special district and is separate from the Town of Vail.

## VRD Staff

Executive Director	Mike Ortiz	970-479-2146	mortiz@vailrec.com
Director of Marketing	Jamie Gunion	970-479-2446	jgunion@vailrec.com
Accounting Director	April Heredia	970-479-2279	aheredia@vailrec.com
Park Maintenance Director	Tony Giroux	970-479-2457	tgiroux@vailrec.com
Director of Building Maintenance	Scott O'Connell	970-477-2457	soconnell@vailrec.com
Vail Golf Club Director	Alice Plain	970-479-2260 Ext. 3	aplain@vailrec.com
Vail Golf Club Head Professional	Chris Johnson	970-479-2260 Ext. 4	cjohnson@vailrec.com
Vail Golf Club Superintendent	Scott Todd	970-479-2262	stodd@vailrec.com
Sports Director	Joel Rabinowitz	970-479-2280	jrabinowitz@vailrec.com
Events/Partnership Manager	Beth Pappas	970-479-2280	bpappas@vailrec.com
Sports Coordinator	Steve Croucher	970-479-2280	scroucher@vailrec.com
Vail Tennis Center Director	Bob Seward	970-479-2294	bseward@vailrec.com
Vail Gymnastics Center Director	Mike Jaure	970-479-2287	mjaure@vailrec.com
Dobson Ice Arena Manager	Jared Biniecki	970-479-2271	jbiniecki@vailrec.com
Community Programming Director	Chad Young	970-479-2292	cyoung@vailrec.com
Community Programming Coord.	Jerrica Miller	970-479-2292	jmiller@vailrec.com
Vail Nature Center Director	Walking Mountains	970-479-2291	nature@vailrec.com

# 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

## Ford Park Playing Fields Receive a Facelift

The VRD celebrated completion of new restrooms and a new concessions/meeting area at the Ford Park playing fields in early 2013 as part of an overall \$11.4 million expansion and renovation of Ford Park in partnership with the Town of Vail. In the fall, work recommenced on the fields and when completed in late 2014, the project will include an expansion to allow for two full-sized soccer fields and an increase in the number of competitors able to play during large sporting events in Vail.

## Elite Coaches Join Dobson Ice Arena

Nationally and internationally known figure skating coaches joined Dobson Ice Arena to elevate its skating programs in July. George Selimos, Robyn Sudkamp, Carolyn Skoczen-Kooiman and Anneliese Rooney brought with them broad experiences in coaching, show skating and competitive figure skating and shared their expertise with Dobson's students throughout the year. The new coaches' repertoire includes skating highlights like Disney on Ice, National Champion Synchronized Skating Team and a World Junior Champion.

## Vail Golf Club Director Alice Plain Acknowledged for Leadership

Vail Golf Club Director Alice Plain was acknowledged as the public course "Merchandiser of the Year" during the 18th Annual Colorado Professional Golf Association Special Awards Gala in November. She was recognized for offering diverse apparel and gear and capitalizing on the Vail Golf Club's appealing brand and logo. In February, Plain also received the PGA West Chapter Bill Strausbaugh Award for Excellence. She was the first female to be recognized for the Strausbaugh Award, which acknowledged Plain for the Vail Golf Club's PGA Internship Program during the summer. Plain has been director of the Vail Golf Club since 2007.

## Vail Hosts Largest Sports Competitions in the Nation

Vail continued to draw some of the largest sports competitions in the nation, bringing competitors and their families to Vail to lodge, dine and shop, spending thousands of dollars in the community. In 2013, the VRD hosted over 15,000 competitors and thousands of spectators from June through October who participated in events such as the Vail Lacrosse Shootout, Kick It! 3v3 Soccer Tournament, Warrior Lacrosse Tournament, King of the Mountain Volleyball Tournament, Vail Valley Soccer Club's Vail Cup and the Vail Invitational Soccer Tournament. Providing an exceptional event atmosphere for event organizers continues to be a priority for the VRD as these tournaments are important an economic driver in the community.

## Dobson Ice Arena Hosts NCAA Women's Division I Ice Hockey Weekend

Dobson hosted a weekend of Division I NCAA ice hockey in November featuring competition among four of the top women's teams in the country including St. Cloud State University, Boston University, University of Wisconsin and Northeastern University. Eight games were played throughout the weekend, allowing spectators an opportunity to watch some of the country's best collegiate women ice hockey players compete and train in Vail. The event also included a youth clinic for girls taught by University of Wisconsin head coach Mark Johnson and his staff. Johnson coached the 2010 Women's Olympic Ice Hockey Team to a silver medal and coaches Vail's annual Bob Johnson Hockey School that takes place in July each summer.



Kick It! 3v3 Soccer Tournament at the Ford Park Playing Field

*The Kick It! 3v3 Soccer Tournament brought 295 teams to Vail with 1,770 competitors and over 18,500 spectators, resulting in \$769,950 in lodging revenue and \$849,600 in ancillary spending in Vail.*



2013 NCAA Division I Women's Ice Hockey Weekend at Dobson Ice Arena

# 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

## Cooliest Kids Race on the Planet Continues to Grow

The 4th annual KEEN Vail Kids Adventure Race offered 464 competitors, ages 6-14, some of the coolest competition for kids in the nation. The event doubled in size over 2012, and has increased over 300 percent since the inaugural event in 2010. Additionally, families enjoyed two days of the Family Adventure Expo in Solaris Plaza in Vail Village, which featured meet and greets with Vail Mountain Rescue Dogs, free rock climbing and a variety of other activities. The KEEN Vail Kids Adventure Race World Championships is slated for August 7-10, 2014 and will expand to three days of racing and grow nearly 60 percent from the previous year. The Town of Vail's Commission on Special Events awarded the VRD \$35,000 for the 2014 event, up from \$25,000 in 2013, revealing the excitement and support around the event and assisting in its continued success.



2013 KEEN Vail Kids Adventure Race

## 2013 AT A GLANCE



# FINANCIALS: INVESTING IN RECREATION

Managing financial affairs continued to be a top priority for the VRD during 2013, as the organization has experienced an annual \$500,000 decline in property tax collections over the past two years. This decline has resulted in an anticipated \$1.8 million shortfall in capital funding through 2016. The VRD is investigating and considering multiple options to ensure budgets remain balanced in 2014 and beyond.

## 2013 Operations

The 2013 operations budget offered top-notch programs at fair prices, while continuing to invest in needed capital replacements on a prioritized basis. The VRD's mill levy accounts for approximately 7 percent of total taxes paid by most Vail taxpayers. These property taxes account for 46 percent of the VRD's revenues with the other 54 percent coming from user fees and other sources. Operationally, the VRD finished the year ahead of budget thanks to increases in program participation, a successful golf season and continued strong collaborations with its partnerships in the community, most importantly the Town of Vail, which owns the facilities and fields the VRD operates its programs in and on.

## 2013 Capital Improvements

Due to uncertainties in the revaluation of property values used to determine available property taxes for 2014, the VRD invested only minimal dollars into capital during 2013. These projects were centered around equipping the new concessions facility at Ford Park, completing construction of the new 19th hole at the Vail Golf Club and replacement of high priority equipment used to maintain the golf course and other facilities. Anticipated funding of \$1.15 million towards the major remodel of the Vail Golf Clubhouse will be carried into the 2014 budget as planning continues for the project.

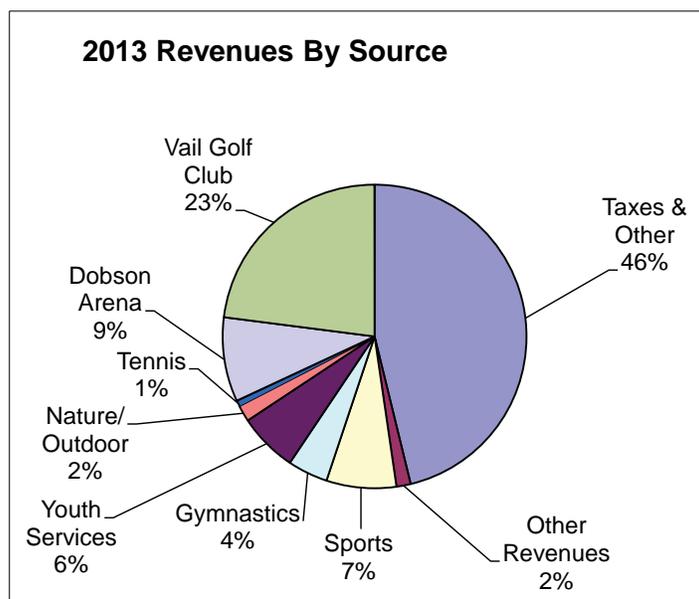
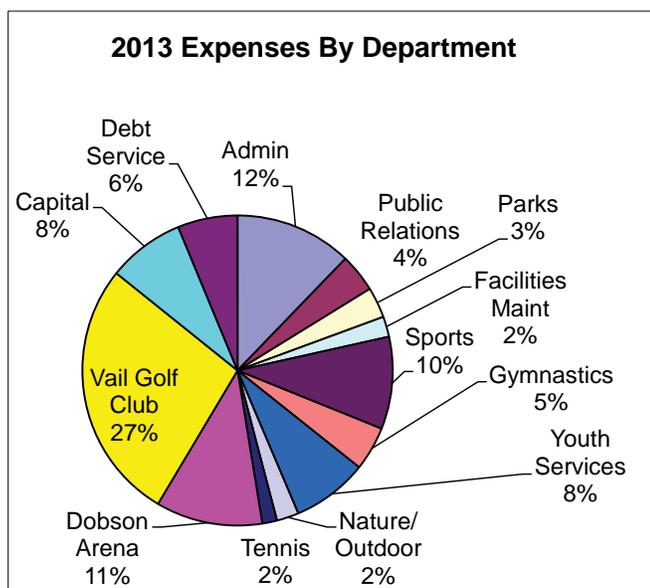
## Strong Financial Planning: 2014 and Beyond

In November, the VRD adopted its 2014 budget, which anticipates a fund balance of \$2 million with \$500,000 assigned to future capital spending. Additionally, to aid the VRD in defining its financial future, a process is underway to evaluate the VRD-managed facilities and determine capital needs that have not been addressed since the last evaluation in 2006. Once completed, information will be shared with the community to work together in determining next steps for the facilities.

Between 2014 and 2017, capital expenses for routine replacements and maintenance are expected to total \$4.3 million. Currently, the VRD has projected only \$2.5 million in available funds, resulting in a lack of appropriate funds for more than half of the projects. These projects include routine replacement of department vehicles and machinery; continued work on the Vail Golf Course Master Plan; required golf course work, including remodel of the starter facility, cart paths, bridges and Gore Creek restoration; ongoing maintenance at Dobson Ice Arena and other capital needs throughout the VRD.

In order to fund the \$1.8 million shortfall for capital expenditures, the VRD board and staff are researching and discussing a combination of options including a future ballot measure to increase the operating mill levy; increasing the average user fee 18 percent across all departments, thus requiring a substantial fee increase for the VRD's participants and customers; leaving projects unfunded where feasible; decreasing programming and staff or a combination of the above.

Moving forward, the VRD Board of Directors will research and discuss options with the community that best fit the VRD's goal of providing affordable, quality programming in the Vail Valley for all its residents and guests.



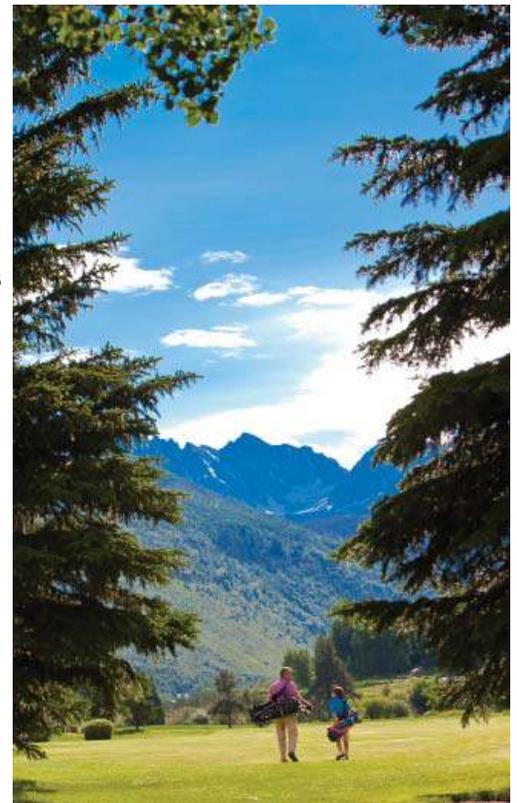
# VAIL GOLF CLUB

## New in 2013

- The Vail Golf Club initiated a bike-to-work program in partnership with the Town of Vail that included purchasing 16 bikes to allow employees to park at the town's Public Works facility and ride to the golf club. This freed up approximately 11 parking spaces daily, was a huge success and will be a guide for other VRD facilities and employees moving forward.
- A new Play with the Pro Clinic was introduced on Mondays, and a Couples Clinic on Fridays, with 30 participants throughout the summer.
- The first inaugural Taylor Made Demo Day was held on the driving range and included live music, a skills contest, BBQ and Taylor Made Clubs to demo. Over 75 people attended the event, which is slated to return next summer.
- Chris Johnson and Alice Plain volunteered their time to incorporate a five-week program for the Red Sandstone Elementary School fourth grade physical education class in April. Instruction included golf swing and short game lessons in the gymnasium, history of the game and current events in golf. The final golf class included a field trip to the Vail Golf Club with 90 minutes of instruction. The Golf in Schools Program was funded by the Colorado PGA Section.

## Highlights

- The Vail Golf Club opened for its 47th season in late May and finished the season in October with 24,681 rounds played, compared to 25,000 in 2012. The slight decrease in rounds is attributed to a later start in the season following a snowy spring.
- Vail Golf Club staff taught over 250 private lessons in 2013, an increase of 45 lessons over 2012.
- Over 100 players attended a Coors Coaching Hour, Ladies Clinic or Senior Clinic throughout the summer.
- The golf club participated in the PGA "Get Golf Ready" program for the second year with 20 participants taking advantage of lessons to learn the sport or refine their skills.
- The Vail Golf Club hosted 12 U.S. Veterans for a day of golf in September as part of the Wounded Warrior program.
- Over Labor Day weekend, the Vail Golf Club raised \$1,100 as part of Patriot Day, a fundraiser for the Folds of Honor Foundation. The foundation was started by a PGA Professional to raise funds for fallen soldier's children for college scholarships.
- The Vail Golf Club served as the home course for the Vail Mountain School team. The team practiced two times per week and had a successful season taking a full team to the high school state championships.



Vail Golf Club, a Must-Play Among Locals and Guests Alike

*Pace of Play continued to be a focal point for operations at 4:07. For the past three years, the golf club has used 4:07 as its Pace of Play time frame encouraging golfers to have the best round of play and allowing them to enjoy all Vail has to offer when they're not playing golf.*

## Junior Golf and The First Tee of Eagle County

- PGA Professional and Vail Golf Club Junior Golf Coordinator Nate Mead, organized the largest variety of junior programs ever offered at the Vail Golf Club. The club taught over 250 juniors throughout the summer, a 20 percent increase over 2012.
- A new Advanced Junior Camp was offered with 15 participants, and overall summer junior camps experienced an increase of eight juniors per session over the five-session camps.
- As part of the First Tee of Eagle County junior golf program, the Vail Golf Club participated in the Par and Birdie Sessions and Vail Team competitions. Vail had 10 juniors on the Vail Team and participated in eight tournaments. Local Rick Collier volunteered his time throughout the summer to manage the Vail Team and Par Camps.



2013 Red Sandstone Elementary School Golf in Schools Participants

# VAIL GOLF CLUB CONTINUED...

## League Play

- 79 members participated in Men's League, resulting in 424 league greens fees collected throughout the season. Congratulations to 2013 Men's League Champion, Hugh Paine.
- The Ladies' League offered 40 members competition throughout the summer. Congratulations to Ladies' League Champion, Meg Christensen.
- Senior Club, organized by Mikki Futernick, offered 65 members play throughout the summer. Congratulations to Senior Champions, Howard Finkelstein and Diane Smith.

## Maintaining the Greens, Grass and Turf

- A new putting green on the 15th hole was completed in the fall, creating a longer, more challenging version of the hole.
- More than 20 mature conifers were planted on the golf course, taking advantage of trees being removed as part of the Ford Park playing field renovation project.
- The Vail Golf Club was identified and honored as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course. Efforts to achieve and retain this distinction include procedures in water conservation and water quality monitoring, reduced fertilization use and wildlife habitat conservation and management.
- The Town of Vail began a project to realign the 18th hole at the Vail Golf Club in the fall with completion slated for spring 2014. The realignment was authorized by the Town Council to address ongoing safety concerns regarding errant balls. To allow 18 holes of play, an alternate hole was put into rotation for the remainder of the 2013 season and will be used while work continues in 2014. Additionally, design and funding decisions were made by the town for a companion project to improve safety conditions at the driving range. That project began in December and will be completed in the spring.



Fall Irrigation at the Vail Golf Club

# VAIL TENNIS CENTER

## Highlights

- 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 over 850 participants weekly during peak season, mid-June through August. Adult 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 Vail Tennis Center offered eight weeks of Youth Tennis Camps for approximately 80 children each week, ages six to teens. In addition, the Tennis Center hosted a variety of junior lessons with over 300 participants throughout the summer, up 100 participants over 2012.
- Three pickleball courts were also lined at the Golden Peak Tennis Courts to accommodate the growth of the sport in Vail.



Lessons with Vail Tennis Center Director Bob Seward

# DOBSON ICE ARENA

## Highlights

- Former Russian National Team Head Coach Edouard Pliner and 2014 Winter Olympian Elene Gedevanishvili offered a clinic for skaters in August featuring both on- and off-ice instruction. Pliner coached the Russian National Team from 1952 to 1992 and has 48 years of coaching experience. Gedevanishvili is the first skater from Georgia (the country) to medal at an International Skating Union Championships winning a bronze at the 2010 European Championships.
- Dobson hosted a weekend of Division I NCAA ice hockey in November featuring competition among four of the top women's teams in the country, including St. Cloud State University, Boston University, University of Wisconsin and Northeastern University.
- In the fall, Dobson welcomed the Vail Yeti men's semi-pro hockey team as its local semi-pro team. The team plays in the Mountain West Hockey League and competes against teams from Aspen, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas and San Diego to name a few.

## Adult Hockey Leagues

- Adult ice hockey participation continued to remain strong with 23 teams and 322 participants during the summer session; 14 teams and over 196 participants during the fall session; 14 teams and 196 participants during the spring session; and 14 teams and over 196 participants during the winter session. This was the sixth year the VRD offered an A Division in Vail. The women's hockey league was popular with over 50 participants and four teams competing during the summer, plus a women's drop-in league with 25 players this past fall.

## Youth Hockey

- Northern Edge Hockey Camp visited Vail for the first time in June. The camp had 45 participants.
- Dobson Ice Arena hosted 2010 U.S. Women's Olympic Ice Hockey Coach Mark Johnson during the annual Bob Johnson Hockey School with 131 participants, half who came to Vail from outside Eagle County to learn and improve. This was the 34th year the sold-out camp has been taught by Johnson, who is the son of the hockey school's founder, Bob Johnson.
- Additionally, Pro Ambitions and Battle Mountain High School held youth hockey camps in August.
- The ninth season of VRD Mini Mites (ages five to six years) and Mites (ages seven to eight years) offered 41 participants a variety of on-ice instruction, while the return of the Girl's Hockey Program offered 20 skaters an opportunity to learn the sport and enhance their skills.
- The VRD's Learn to Skate, Junior Prep/Freestyle and StoryTime skating returned in the fall with over 85 participants.

## Home Ice

- Dobson Ice Arena continued to be home ice for the Skating Club of Vail, Vail Yeti, Vail Eagle Hockey Association and the Twin Peaks, Violent Femmes and Vail Breakaways adult women's hockey teams, as well as the Battle Mountain High School Hockey Team.

## New Learn to Skate Coaches

- George Selimos, Robyn Sudkamp, Carolyn Skoczen-Kooiman and Anneliese Rooney joined Dobson Ice Arena's coaching staff in July with elite experience in coaching, show skating and competitive figure skating. Dobson's students shared what they learned throughout the year from the new coaches at the annual Skating Club of Vail's Showtime Skating Show in December to a crowd of local and visiting spectators.



University of Wisconsin NCCA Division I Women's Ice Hockey Team at Dobson Ice Arena

*Mark Johnson, coach of the 2010 Women's Olympic Silver Medal Ice Hockey Team, also coaches Vail's annual Bob Johnson Hockey School. The camp has sold out the past three years.*



Open Skating at Dobson Ice Arena

# COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

The VRD's Community Programming hosted over 500 children, ages two through 18 in a variety of school-year programming, summer camps and activities during 2013.

## Summer Activities

- During the summer, Camp ECO Fun continued to be a favorite and offered 550 spaces of two-day camps throughout the summer for children ages four to 11. Children spent half the day with the Vail Nature Center and the other half with Community Programming staff exploring Vail while learning about the ecological theme of the week.
- The Vail Valley's only preschool-age specific camp, Pre Kamp Vail, offered a 50 percent increase in camp days for ages two-and-a-half to five. Nearly 900 camp days were offered throughout the summer and featured education, recreation and daily adventures.
- Vail's busiest summer camp, Camp Vail, provided over 3,100 days of multi-faceted activities that included experiencing many of the VRD's offerings at the Vail Golf Club, Dobson Ice Arena, Vail Gymnastics Center, Vail Nature Center and more.
- As part of Camp Vail, Extreme Camp Vail returned for the fifth summer and offered children an array of adventurous outdoor activities including rock climbing, kayaking and trips to Water World and Glenwood Caverns.
- Camp Vail Champions offered a week of Camp Vail for 12 children with special needs. Children enjoyed art, climbing, swimming and other activities with one-on-one attention provided by Small Champions and VRD staff.
- The VRD continued its Mad Scientist program this summer, offering five days of fun in engineering and scientific experimentation. 100 children built solar toys, engineered cars powered by saltwater and experimented with animation.
- Community Programming continued to manage Vail's Skatepark and offered approximately 100 lessons during the summer, including both group and private lessons.



Rock Climbing During Camp Vail Champions

## School-Year Programming

- KidZone, the after school program at Red Sandstone Elementary School, offered an average of 30 children three hours of after school programming including sports and art enrichment activities, plus homework help each day of the 2012-13 school year. As part of KidZone, School's Out Camp took place during Thanksgiving, winter and spring break periods where Vail Valley children enjoyed sledding, Nordic skiing, touring local businesses, swimming and more.



Vail Skatepark in Lionshead

## Imagination Station

- Located in the Lionshead Welcome Center, the Imagination Station hosted hundreds of families this year providing an opportunity to build a playhouse or marble run, play on the light wall and experiment in the hyperbolic funnel. Many "off the shelf" activities were added in the fall, allowing families to play with puzzles, mind-teasers and thought-provoking games.

## Community Programming Room Activities

- In the fall, the VRD doubled its fitness offerings in the Community Programming Room with the addition of Vinyasa Flow Yoga, Apres Ski Yoga, Aikido and Young Yogis.
- Throughout the year children and families continued to enjoy art opportunities led by VRD staff such as Children's Art, Paint-Your-Own Pottery, Glass Fusing, Jewelry Making and Open Art Studio.
- Date Night was added to the lineup in December, offering parents date night on Fridays that featured two hours of play for children while providing an opportunity for parents to spend time on their own enjoying Vail.



Yoga at with Community Programming in Lionshead

# SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

## Youth Sports Leagues, Camps and Programs

- More than 2,300 local and visiting youth participated in one or multiple programs over the course of 2013. Camps were taught by an outstanding lineup of coaches including NBA All-Star and All-Pro Sydney Moncrief, Colorado State University Head Volleyball Coach Tom Hillbert, Colorado State University at Pueblo Head Baseball Coach Stan Sanchez and topped-ranked amateur players and coaches from across the nation, UK and South America. 12 different sports camps were offered throughout the summer.

## Adult Sports

- The VRD offered 11 adult leagues featuring outdoor and indoor soccer, softball, outdoor and indoor volleyball, basketball and flag football. Throughout 2013, a total of 96 teams and 1,000 participants took advantage of the many offerings.
- Additionally, drop-in volleyball, soccer and basketball sessions took place during the winter months with over 900 participants.

## Trail Running Competition

- The La Sportiva Vail Mountain Trail Running Series experienced a 32 percent increase over 2012 with 1,966 participants. The Berry Picker Trail Run saw an 84 percent increase over 2012 with 219 competitors. A total of 19 runners competed in all seven races of the series, which featured 49.1 miles of trail running and a total elevation gain of 16,475 feet.
- The VRD unveiled its post-race Racer Refuel program for that included locally-made, nutritious and tasty recovery foods from HP Provisions and the Northside Coffee and Kitchen.
- The trail running series was the first trail running series in the nation to be named by the American Trail Running Association as Race Standards Certified for exceeding measurements in safety, well-marked courses, timely results and awards, environmental responsibility and excellent communication with racers prior to the event.

## Mountain Bike Racing

- The Athletic Club at the Westin Vail Mountain Bike Race Series, presented by the Vail Valley Medical Center, celebrated 30 years of mountain bike racing in the Vail Valley with 1,814 participants racing throughout the seven-race series. Custom commemorative jerseys were sold with \$5 of each sale benefiting the Cycle Effect, Hardscrabble Trails Coalition or the Vail Valley Mountain Bike Association.
- The VRD also hosted four short track races in the spring and two fall cyclocross races with 400 competitors.
- The second annual Golden Pick Competition took place this summer in partnership with Hardscrabble Trails Coalition, Vail Valley Mountain Bike Association and the U.S. Forest Service. The competition encouraged trail work throughout the summer and resulted in 60-plus hours of trail work by competitors.

## Shamrock Shuffle Snowshoe Race

- The second annual Krueger Family Shamrock Shuffle took place in March at the Vail Nordic Center with a 79 percent increase in participation over 2012. 113 participants competed on foot or on snowshoes for the 5k, 10k and kid's fun run events.

## KEEN Vail Kids Adventure Race Sets Standards for "Awesomeness"

- The VRD's KEEN Vail Kids Adventure Race has continued to elevate its presence as one of the best competitions for kids in the nation. On Aug. 8-12, 464 participants raced on Vail Mountain and throughout Vail Village experiencing the thrill of adventure racing including mountain biking, zip lines, mud pits, hiking and more. The 2013 event added an additional day for older more adventurous racers, two days of skills clinics and a two-day family adventure expo that was free for families and visiting guests. 97 percent of survey respondents said they would recommend the event to a friend and 95 percent plan to compete in 2014. Over the four-day event, 3,900 people took part in one of the adventure racing activities.



Tetra Brazil Youth Soccer Camp in Vail



2013 Krueger Family Shamrock Shuffle Runners Celebrate St. Paddy's Day in Vail

# VAIL GYMNASTICS CENTER

Over the course of 2013, the Vail Gymnastics Center offered eight preschool classes, two trampoline classes, 14 recreational girls classes, four recreational boys classes, one adult class, five boys and girls Pre-team classes and 10 boys and girls team classes for a total of 44 classes per week. The programs averaged nearly 220 students per week.

## Gymnastics Summer Camps

- Four public camps took place this summer for ages five to 12 with approximately 35 participants in each session, visiting from as far away as Texas, North Carolina, Florida, Hawaii and Mexico City.
- Three Competitive Team Camps were offered with an average of 30 boys and girls in each camp.

## Competitive Team Gymnastics

2013 was an exceptional year for the Vail Gymnastics Center's Team Program with the largest team in the center's history. Results included:

- Five level four boys gymnasts, four level five boys gymnasts and two level six boys gymnasts.
- Ten level three girls gymnasts, 13 level four girls gymnasts, 15 level five girls gymnasts and two level eight girls gymnasts.
- The Vail Gymnastics Center saw many top placements this year, including a level eight female gymnast, Kate Pittel, who qualified for regionals; one level six male gymnast, Thomas Turilli, who made the national team for Future Stars; and several top placements at the state gymnastics meets.



Youth Gymnasts at the Vail Gymnastics Center

# VAIL NATURE CENTER

## Highlights

- Overall visitation to the Nature Center increased by 5 percent in 2013, offering more than 7,000 people the opportunity to learn about Vail's natural surroundings.
- The Nature Center experienced a 16 percent increase in program participation over 2012, with the most popular program continuing to be the Evening Beaver Pond Tours. Other favorites included S'mores & More Family Campfire, Art in Nature for Kids, Learn to Think Like a Trout (fly-fishing and stream ecology for kids) and Stories in the Sky.
- More than 1,700 people participated in an educational program this year with the Nature Center.
- The Nature Center frequently led custom educational programs that are tailored to special group requests. This included field trip programs for 188 students from preschool to second grade during the fall.
- The Nature Center was proud to partner with SOS Outreach by hosting service learning days every Monday throughout the summer. Approximately 120 SOS students toured the center and participated in watershed management programs where they learned about Vail's native fish and assisted with trail work.



Families Enjoy S'mores and More with the Vail Nature Center

# VAIL NORDIC CENTER

## Highlights

- During the 2012-13 winter season, the Vail Nordic Center, which operates out of the Vail Golf Club, offered Nordic skiing and snowshoeing to approximately 5,200 day pass users and 580 season pass holders. This is up from 4,700 day pass users and 500 season pass holders during the 2011-12 season.
- Nordic Center business owners, Mia Stockdale and Shane Sluder, and their qualified staff, offered 270 lessons throughout the season on its 17 kilometers of set track and 10 kilometers of separate snowshoe trails.
- The Vail Nordic Center hosted several events during the winter season, including a mountain bike race as part of the Winter Mountain Games and the annual Shamrock Shuffle Snowshoe and Running Race, plus local town series Nordic races.
- The VRD continued to maintain the track and trails daily during the winter season receiving compliments on the improved quality of grooming throughout the year.

# PARKS AND FIELDS

## Park Upgrades

- The Parks Department installed a new temporary fence to protect the volleyball courts from stray soccer and lacrosse balls located at the Vail Athletic Field.
- Two new picnic tables and a charcoal grill were installed at the Athletic Field to accommodate the requests of the volleyball community and other patrons of the park.
- The new west storage building at Ford Park was completed to accommodate the Parks Department's storage needs for equipment and machinery.



The Parks Department painted a large Vail Time Trial logo on the Ford Park Softball Fields, showcasing Vail's support for the 2013 US Pro Cycling Challenge. The logo took three days to complete, over 20 hours and 20 gallons of white turf paint.

## By the Numbers

- It took two employees two hours, four days per week to prep the softball fields for evening play.
- It took nearly 3.5 hours, three times per week to mow the Ford Park playing field.
- In 2013, the Parks Department maintained 13 acres of turfgrass among five different fields and properties, including Ford Park playing field (5 acres), Homestake Peak School Stadium and practice fields (3.5 acres), Vail Athletic Field (2.5 acres), Donovan Park (1 acre) and Red Sandstone Elementary School playing field (<1 acre).

## Vail Athletic Field Preseason Collegiate Play

- The Vail Athletic Field continued to be a popular destination for college soccer preseason training as the University of Denver Men's and Women's teams and Metro State University all called Vail home during the fall. In addition, the VRD had visits from both the U.S. Air Force Academy and Colorado Mesa University for scrimmage games against DU.

*The Vail Lacrosse Shootout took place over 10 days with 116 games played on the Vail Athletic Field, Ford Park Playing Field, Donovan Park, EagleVail Soccer Field and Homestake Peak School Field, all maintained by the VRD.*

## Large Scale Tournaments

The VRD Parks and Sports Departments hosted a variety of events and tournaments on fields throughout Vail. The VRD prides itself by offering affordable rental fees that help outside and local tournament organizers provide quality events that draw thousands of competitors and spectators to the valley.

- The Parks Department provided maintenance during these events, which included preparation of the fields prior to and during the events such as mowing, field painting, garbage removal and cleanup, aeration and sodding of fields, moving bleachers, etc.
- According to information provided by the Town of Vail, the Kick it! 3v3 Soccer Tournament, the Vail Lacrosse Shootout and King of the Mountain Volleyball tournament generated an additional \$168,493 in tax revenue for the town in 2013.
- The VRD received \$16,450 in field rentals for these events. Following maintenance and staff hours, the VRD generated approximately \$3,561 revenues, while providing Vail with an important economic generator during the summer.



Annual King of the Mountain Volleyball Tournament at the Vail Athletic Field

In 2014, the Ford Park playing field will be closed while a major field renovation takes place. Tournaments such as the Vail Lacrosse Shootout, Kick it! 3v3 and King of the Mountain Volleyball Tournament will be held throughout Vail and in adjacent communities. The project will be completed in late fall 2014, and will offer a fantastic competition experience for these and other events in 2015 and beyond.

# RECREATION FACILITIES

In addition to maintaining eight venues and 15 structures, the VRD was involved in a variety of capital improvements throughout the year. These included:

## Ford Park Playing Field Upgrades

- A new sports center facility was completed last year to include restrooms, promoter office, umpire closet, concessions area and weather shelter. The new center replaced an older facility that was located in the middle of the park. It has been highly received by both promoters of events and users of the playing field.
- Work will continue in 2014 on a major renovation of the playing field to include creation of two full-sized lacrosse/soccer fields, improved softball playing surface, a new bus stop, visitor drop off area, parking and walkways. Work will also include new bleachers and fencing and new irrigation and draining improvements. The fields will remain closed in 2014 with play resuming in spring of 2015.



Work Began to Renovate the Playing Fields at Ford Park in the Fall

## Vail Tennis Center Improvements

- As part of the Ford Park improvements, the Vail Tennis Center received new concrete walkways, pedestrian path lighting and remodeled retaining walls, plus a new ADA entrance to the facility.

## Vail Golf Club Hole #7 Stream Bank Stabilization

- Stabilization of the streambank along Gore Creek just below the Vail Golf Club's seventh tee boxes was completed in the spring. Several tiers of boulder walls were installed and the area was regraded to ensure that Gore Creek wouldn't impede any further degradation into the hillside along the seventh hole cart path. The area was in need of repairs following high waters during the spring runoff in 2011, which caused erosion in the area. The completion of the project signified the overall completion of a total renovation of the seventh tee box area that included new retaining walls, installation of a new tee box, new cart path and stabilization of the stream bank, plus removal and burial of adjacent power lines and removal of abandoned utility vaults. Work was completed in partnership with the Town of Vail.

## Hole 18 Realignment/Driving Range Netting Projects at the Vail Golf Club

- The Town of Vail began work in the fall on realignment of the 18th hole at the Vail Golf Club to include grading and installation of the hole. The realignment was initiated by the town to address on going safety concerns regarding errant golf balls. When completed in spring 2014, the realigned hole will include a new green, bunkers and tee boxes, as well as landscaping improvements.
- Work also began in the fall for the removal and installation of new driving range nets on the south side of the driving range at the Vail Golf Club. The old netting and poles were removed and the new poles were installed in the winter. The project is scheduled to be completed in spring 2014.

## New 19th Hole at the Vail Golf Course

- The Vail Golf Club's new 19th hole was completed in the spring to include new tee boxes and greens. The new hole was constructed to accommodate other work that may take place on the course, weather issues, etc. and allow 18 holes of play during the work.

## Vail Gymnastics Center Upgrades

- Removal of the interior walls and renovation of the viewing area was completed last year on the second floor of the Vail Gymnastics Center. The work increased the tumbling floor and length of the vault runway.

## Dobson Ice Arena Upgrades

- Dobson Ice Arena completed a major mechanical upgrade in the spring to include new digital controls and domestic hot water tanks. Several motors were also upgraded to the air handling units. These improvements increased the efficiency and heating systems in the arena.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

The VRD hosted many events in 2013, from high-caliber regional, national and international destination events to community-based events that improve the quality of life for Vail residents. Highlights include:

- In February, Dobson Ice Arena hosted a private corporate event for 300 people, which featured the Goo Goo Dolls as the live entertainment. That same weekend, Dobson hosted the Burton U.S. Open concert, a celebration for the athletes and the general public that marked the end of the competition.
- In March, the VRD hosted the second annual Krueger Family Shamrock Shuffle at the Vail Nordic Center with 113 participants.
- In April, Community Programming hosted the annual Lionshead Easter Egg Hunt with over 200 participants.
- In April, the Future Business Leaders of America returned to Dobson Ice Arena with 1,700 participants, plus teachers, converging in Vail for the week-long event.
- The Vail Gymnastics Center's fifth annual Spring Gymnastics Show returned in May and offered its largest group of 130 gymnasts opportunities to show their families what they learned during individual and group performances.
- In July, the Skating Club of Vail hosted the Vail Figure Skating Invitational for its 33rd year, which featured hundreds of skaters competing for four days from across the state and nation. Thousands of spectators and participants made the event a success.
- Over 100 participants competed in the annual Vail Mountain Haus Colorado Clay Court Open and Senior Tennis Tournament in August. The tournament is a U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) sanctioned event with competitors participating from across the nation.
- The coolest kid's race on the planet, the KEEN Vail Kids Adventure Race, showed the importance of providing unique family-focused events in the Vail Valley in August. Reports show the event brought \$771,950 additional spending in Vail, a 103 percent increase over 2012.
- In October, Community Programming organized the 20th Annual Trick or Treat Trot and Halloween coloring contest. Over 300 children enjoyed safe trick-or-treating at nearly 100 locations throughout Vail Village and Lionshead.
- The Vail Golf Club hosted the Vail Mountain School High School Boy's Tournament for its fifth season in September. Participation increased with 65 players, up from 45 players in 2012.
- Dobson Ice Arena hosted the annual Ski and Snowboard Club Vail Swap, during which Dobson donated the ice arena for the annual fundraising event.
- In November, Dobson Ice Arena hosted the annual Vail Sportsmanship Tournament, which brought 60 teams, 1,080 players, plus families and officials to Vail from across the state and nation for three weekends of competition.
- Santa's Workshop returned in December with over 100 families decorating cookies, making crafts to give as gifts and taking pictures with Santa.
- The annual Skating Club of Vail Holiday Ice Show took place in December for two nights with 30 participants and 800 spectators who enjoyed the shows.
- Dobson Ice Arena also hosted several dances and concerts throughout the year. Each event drew 500 to 1,500 people. This included a New Year's Eve celebration with 1,000 attending the event that featured entertainment from Mix Master Mike of the Beastie Boys.



2013 KEEN Vail Kids Adventure Race Competitors Race Through Vail Village



20th Annual Trick or Treat Trot



A Visit with Santa During the 2013 Santa's Workshop in December

# PARTNERSHIPS, PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

The VRD believes that relationships matter, and through its sponsorships, community partnerships, volunteerism and active involvement within the community, the VRD staff collaborated with a large number of individuals, businesses and organizations on mutually-beneficial work that helped the community, local families and the VRD to thrive in 2013.

## Reaching Out

- The VRD donated golf rounds to several Eagle County local nonprofit organizations, including Battle Mountain High School, Vail Mountain School Home Tour, First Descents, Eagle County Charter Academy, Bright Future Foundation, Small Champions, Habitat for Humanity, Vail Mountain Rescue, Vail Valley Partnership and Vail Valley Salvation Army.
- The Sports Department continued to lend their racing and timing expertise to other racing events in the community, including the Vail Valley Charitable Fund, Education Foundation of Eagle County, Vail Valley Soccer Club, Wild West Days, Gypsum Daze, BMHS Cross Country Team, Eric Spry Memorial Scholarship Fund and the BMHS Future Business Leaders of America, plus assistance with the Vail Valley Foundation's GoPro Games and Winter Mountain Games running events and the Eagle Outdoor Festival Mother of a Half Marathon.



2013 VRD Staff Enjoying a Moment During the Eagle Ranch Mountain Bike Race

## People

- The Nature Center benefitted from the priceless involvement and contributions of volunteers. The Thursday wildflower walks were led each week by a volunteer and most children's programs were assisted by volunteers.
- Sam Litt and Sarah Heredia each returned for their second summer of volunteering with Camp Eco Fun and Pre Kamp Vail throughout the summer. Camp Vail boasted the return of three graduates from its Counselor Assistant Program as paid Counselor Aides in the summer of 2013, including Brendan Burchette, Danielle Salinsky and Sierra Healey.

## Partnerships

- Community Programming continued to partner with Vail Resorts, Inc. for use of the Golden Peak Children's Center for its summer camp programs, as well as Red Sandstone Elementary School for summer camps, KidZone After School and School's Out Camps.
- Special thanks to the many partners of the Vail Recreation District, including, but not limited to: Vail and Beaver Creek Mountains, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Vail Mountain School, EagleVail Metro District, Eagle County School District, Vail Realty, Antlers at Vail, Lift House Condos, The Wren at Vail, Vail Racquet Club, Vail International Condos, Big O Tires, Holiday Inn Apex Vail, Arrigoni Woods, High Country Copiers, Pazzo's Pizza, Vail Summit Orthopedics, Gallegos Corporation, Comerford Insurance, Master Sealers, Vail Valley Ace Hardware, Group 970, CMT Painting, Ruggs Benedict, Edwards Station, Luca Bruno, Nedbo Construction, KEEN, KidSPORT, Vail Valley Medical Center, Town of Vail, Parents Handbook, Timberline Tours, Tavern on the Gore, Vail Marriott Mountain Resort and Spa, East West Resorts, Athletic Club at the Westin, Orrison Distributing, Summit Ford, First Bank of Vail, The Dusty Boot, Steadman Clinic, Central Rockies Mortgage Company, New York Life, KZYR, Apex Dental, Vail Honeywagon, POC, Avon Liquors, Optic Nerve, La Sportiva, Columbia, Vail's Mountain Haus, Tiga Advertising, Howard Head Sports Medicine, Christy Sports, Gatorade, Peter Rabbit Organics, Smartwool, Northside Coffee and Kitchen, HP's Provisions, Krueger Architecture & Design, Atlas Snowshoes, Tubbs Snowshoes, Yaktrax, Avon Liquor, Outdoor Technology, Wigwam, Big Delicious Catering and Happy Valley Grill.
- Also, a special thanks to the staff and volunteers who spend countless hours making Vail and the VRD a great place to work, live and play.



Runners Test Shoes with Title Sponsor La Sportiva, During the 2013 Vail, Beaver Creek Trail Running Series