



ANNUAL REPORT

2026

Ten Years of Community Recreation

Southern Valley County Recreation District
Cascade Aquatic & Recreation Center



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Ten Years. One Community. A Place to Belong.

2026 marks ten years since the Cascade Aquatic & Recreation Center opened in September 2016.

The Southern Valley County Recreation District was formed in 1999 to help fund a year-round swimming pool and recreation center. That long-term vision became reality when the Cascade Aquatic & Recreation Center opened in 2016 with a geothermal-heated outdoor pool and indoor fitness center. Today, the center is a year-round community asset serving residents and visitors through aquatics, fitness, youth programs, classes and events.

2026 ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHT

- A decade of service to Southern Valley County.
- The 2026 Swim to the Moon celebration marked the center's 10th anniversary with a special evening event.
- The next decade is about sustaining the facility, improving safety and accessibility, strengthening programs and expanding community partnerships.



The center's mission: provide quality, diverse and affordable recreation opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all residents and visitors of Southern Valley County.

More Ways to Move, Learn and Connect

The current program mixes across ages, interests and seasons.

AQUATICS	RECREATION & COMMUNITY
- Swimming lessons—group and private - Killer Whales Swim Team - Open swim and lap swimming - Free local swimming opportunities - Therapy pool / physical therapy	- Fitness center and group fitness - Youth sports: baseball, soccer and flag football - Youth archery and seasonal activities - Volleyball, pickleball, disc golf and snowshoes - Upstairs event room for meetings, classes and celebrations

2026 PROGRAMMING SNAPSHOT

The public website currently highlights indoor and aquatic group fitness, swimming lessons, the Killer Whales swim team, youth programming and sports, rental equipment, special events and an upstairs event room. Community-partner membership discounts are available to eligible employees of Valley County, the City of Cascade, Cascade Rural Fire District/EMS, Cascade Medical Center and the Forest Service.

Published facility hours are Monday–Friday 5:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m., and Sunday noon–6:00 p.m. The center also promotes 24-hour access information for eligible members.

A community facility is only as strong as its participation. Memberships, programs, volunteers and events all contribute to the center’s ability to serve the valley.

Investing in the Facility That Serves the Valley

The work behind the scenes is just as important as what members see.

The prior annual report documented major facility work including new gym equipment, reorganization of the upstairs workout center, safety and door upgrades, fire sprinkler and alarm expansion, electrical and HVAC improvements, a second stairway, upgraded video monitoring, an accessibility chair lift and progress toward 24-hour fitness access. The 2026 focus continues that pattern: protect the facility, address aging infrastructure and make improvements that increase safety, usability and long-term value.

10 YEARS	YEAR-ROUND	COMMUNITY ASSET
Serving Cascade since 2016	Aquatic + fitness + recreation	Residents + visitors

Operations & Governance

Staff, volunteers, contractors, board members and community supporters keep the district operating. In 2025, the board updated the employee operations handbook and adopted bylaws to better guide board responsibilities and district objectives. Board meetings are open to the public and the district encourages residents to bring ideas and constructive guidance.

The center’s community-partner membership program provides a 10% membership discount to eligible employees of local agencies and emergency/health organizations—an example of the recreation center working with other community institutions to strengthen local wellness.



Meet the 2026 Board

Five zones. Five community voices. One shared mission.

The current board roster published by Cascade Aquatic & Recreation Center lists five members representing Zones 1–5. Their backgrounds span business, military service, recreation, community volunteering, outdoor activities and local entrepreneurship.



Rem Fox

- **Zone 1 (Treasurer)**

Fitness/health advocate; Valley County resident since 2020; local food-forest and edible-landscape business owner.



Jacob Anderson

- **Zone 2**

22-year U.S. Air Force veteran; Director of Golf at Cascade Golf Course; computer science and management information technology background.



McKenzie Campbell

- **Zone 3 (Chairman)**

Owner/operator of Cascade Hardware; community volunteer and fundraiser; HR/law/river-guiding background; mother of four.



Alisa Ockunzzi

- **Zone 4**

Local small-business owner and nonprofit founder; Valley County resident for eight years; outdoor recreation advocate.



Ben Oyarzo

- **Zone 5**

Outdoor recreation enthusiast who values hunting, fishing and the recreational opportunities of the Cascade area.

Meet the Staff

A recreation center is more than a building. It is the people who open the doors, welcome families, organize programs, maintain the facility and create experiences that bring the community together.

M. Shay Holmes

District Manager

Shay is a native Idahoan who became a full-time Valley County resident in 2001. Her community involvement has included youth and family organizations, and she enjoys reading, horseback riding, time with her animals and woodworking.

Robin Brady

Front Desk Manager

Robin and her husband moved to Cascade in 2019 after raising their family in New Hampshire. She and her husband enjoy the Cascade community, hiking, snowmobiling, local hot springs and life with their three Siberian Huskies.

Ashlyn Byington

Program Director

Ashlyn moved to Cascade as a teenager and now calls the community home. She is passionate about inclusive programs that encourage participation, connection and community, and enjoys camping, fishing and exploring trails.

Mick Riffie

Head of Maintenance

Mick leads the maintenance function that keeps the recreation center operating safely and reliably. His role is especially important as the district continues investing in facility upkeep, infrastructure and capital improvements.

Will Smith

Killer Whales Swim Team Coach

Will grew up in Southern Idaho and began competitive swimming around age eight. He later participated in USA Swimming and water polo, moved to Valley County in 2008, and has been connected to the Rec Center since its construction.

Annie Grey

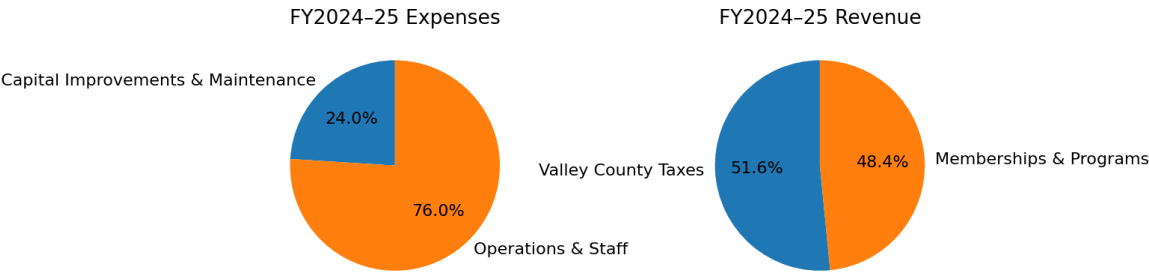
Fitness Instructor

Annie has taught group fitness since the late 1990s. With a background in Sport Science and Education, she focuses on encouraging people of all ages and abilities to move for health and longevity while making classes challenging and welcoming.

Financial Snapshot & Budget Context

Transparent, disciplined stewardship keeps the district positioned to serve the community.

The latest detailed financial figures in the source material are FY2024–2025. They are presented here as the latest published financial snapshot reviewed for this draft. The prior report notes that the FY2026 budget increased because of insurance/ICRMP costs and utilities; a complete 2026 adopted budget was not located in the public sources reviewed.



Annual budget	\$607,275.81
Projected actual expenses	\$607,213.65
Capital improvements & maintenance	\$145,789.30
Valley County taxes	\$313,120.57
Memberships & programs	\$294,155.24
Capital reserves reported	\$128,228.35

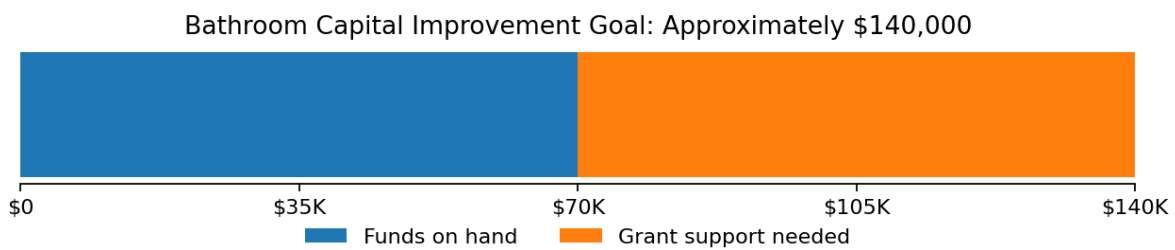
Financial priorities

- Maintain disciplined operating costs and lean staffing.
- Protect reserves for unforeseen facility or operational needs.
- Grow earned revenue through memberships, programs, visitors and events.
- Pursue grants and community support for major capital needs.

A \$140,000 Bathroom Renewal Is Next

The goal: safer, more accessible and more durable facilities—without placing the entire burden on annual operations.

The Recreation Center is preparing for an upcoming capital improvement project to remodel / upgrade the shower stalls. After ten years of operations, inspections have revealed this is a necessity that includes design improvements to prevent long term water and wall damage which has been discovered in the showers. The current planning estimate is approximately \$140,000. The district has approximately half of that amount—about \$70,000—available toward the project and will need grant support and community partners to secure the remaining approximately \$70,000.



PROJECT	DISTRICT COMMITMENT	GRANT / COMMUNITY NEED
Bathroom modernization	~\$70,000 available	~\$70,000 remaining

Why these matters

- Bathrooms are one of the most frequently used areas of a public recreation facility.
- Modernized spaces can improve durability, cleanliness, accessibility and the member/visitor experience.
- A strong local match demonstrates commitment when approaching grantmakers and public/private partners.
- Completing the project protects operating resources for programs and daily service.

HOW THE COMMUNITY CAN HELP

This is an awareness campaign—not simply a fundraising request. The district is beginning conversations with grantmakers, businesses, foundations, civic partners and community members who believe a strong recreation center is an important part of a healthy, active Southern Valley County.

The public website currently identifies a shower renovation bid opportunity, reinforcing that this is an active facility priority.

09 | SAFETY & SECURITY

Keeping Pace With the Safety Needs of Our Community

The Recreation Center is a place where children learn to swim, families gather, employees work, and neighbors come to be active. As the facility grows and community use continues, the district also has a responsibility to keep its safety systems current.

In 2026, the district is planning an upgrade to its camera and security systems. Recent incidents at the Recreation Center have reinforced the need for better visibility, stronger incident documentation and modern tools that support both member safety and employee safety.

This is not about creating a surveillance environment. It is about making sure that when something happens, staff have the information needed to respond appropriately, protect people, document incidents and work with law enforcement when necessary.

WHY UPGRADE NOW?

- Improve coverage in public areas, entrances, exits, hallways and other operational areas where incidents may occur.
- Improve image quality so incidents can be reviewed more effectively.
- Replace aging equipment and improve reliability of recording and storage.
- Support faster incident review and better coordination with first responders or law enforcement when appropriate.
- Give employees better tools to manage safety in a facility that operates across long hours and serves many age groups.

WHAT OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES ARE DOING

Idaho Falls Parks & Recreation has expanded security cameras after repeated vandalism at public recreation facilities and parks. The city reported that camera footage helped document vandalism and that additional cameras were part of an effort to deter damage and improve public safety.

The Municipality of Anchorage is currently upgrading cameras at the Spenard Recreation Center, including six new cameras, replacement of the recording server and integration of the camera system into the municipality's video-management network. The project is specifically intended to enhance safety and monitoring at a public recreation facility.

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation has added exterior cameras around recreation centers as part of its Safe Play Zone program. The stated reasons include deterrence and capturing evidence when incidents occur around facilities.

The City of Aurora, Illinois, has used CCTV at parks facilities to improve safety, deter theft, crime and vandalism, and provide an objective record when incidents or liability questions arise.

A national recreation-facility survey also found that security concerns have increased among public recreation operators and that cameras/video monitoring are among the most common security technology upgrades.

A RESPONSIBLE APPROACH

The district's goal is targeted, practical security—not unnecessary surveillance. Any upgraded system should be designed around public safety, employee safety, appropriate camera placement, controlled access to recordings and clear policies for retention and use of video. Cameras should not be placed in areas where members reasonably expect privacy.

COMMUNITY VALUE

A modern security system is part of maintaining a safe, dependable public facility. Just as the district invests in doors, fire systems, accessibility, bathrooms, HVAC and other infrastructure, security technology must also keep pace with the needs of the people who use and operate the center.

The district will continue evaluating the scope, cost and funding options for the upgrade. The objective is straightforward: provide employees and members with a Recreation Center that is welcoming, well-operated and as safe as reasonably possible.

Research references: Idaho Falls Parks & Recreation (2024); Municipality of Anchorage, Spenard Recreation Center Camera Upgrades (2026); Philadelphia Parks & Recreation / WHY? Safe Play Zone (2023); City of Aurora, Illinois CCTV resolution (2024); Athletic Business public recreation security survey.

The Next Ten Years Start With Community

The first decade built the facility. The next decade can strengthen the institution around it.

The board's forward-looking discussions have included expanded education and healthy-living partnerships, more fitness and recreation capacity, possible future adjacent-building improvements and continued public engagement. The opportunity is to grow thoughtfully matching the district's ambitions with the resources needed to maintain a safe, sustainable facility.

A COMMUNITY INVITATION

- Use the center. Memberships and programs help sustain operations.
- Volunteer. Youth programs, events and community activities depend on people willing to help.
- Share ideas. Board meetings are open to the public.
- Support capital improvements. Help identify grants, sponsors and community partners for the bathroom project.
- Tell the story. Share what the Recreation Center means to your family, organization or business.

OUR MISSION

“We aim to provide quality, diverse, affordable recreation opportunities which enhance the quality of life for all residents and visitors of Southern Valley County.”



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