



Section 2

Project Concepts



2.0 Project Concepts

2.1 Recreation Center Design Concepts

The building's design seeks to enhance Cottonwood's history as an important Verde Valley Community and reinforce the notion of Cottonwood's architectural history through the use of common themes and materials found throughout the Verde Valley. Building forms are reflective of historical industrial structures including those used for mining operations and warehousing. The practical shape of these forms works well for recreation uses as they gracefully enclose large areas and allow for plentiful natural light through clearstory glazing and large windows. The large mass of this building is broken down and each major program component is given identity by combining several combinations of these forms.



Copper Mine – Clarkdale, AZ

The entry is clearly identified with a glazed wall at the center of the building mass. Visible through the entry glazing are the Lobby and the Climbing Pinnacle. This form is repeated at the Leisure Pool facing Sixth Street to allow maximum daylighting and views into this dynamic space. Materials for the exterior of the building have been selected for durability, low maintenance and texture and include stone, concrete block, stucco and metal siding each colored in complementary natural tones.

Interior building functions are organized around a central spine, glazed at each end and stretching from the main entry facing the parking area through the leisure pool to Sixth Street. The lobby acts as a transition point between the controlled, supervised activity areas and the Community and Wellness Center spaces. This plan organization serves to reinforce two goals: to see all the activities from the lobby, and to have a single point of visual and physical control.

A centralized control point and singular entry also permits the community spaces to function after hours with minimal supervision. Community spaces include a Community Events Hall that will hold 250-300 people for a variety of activities. This room can be subdivided into three separate rooms for simultaneous use by multiple smaller groups. A catering kitchen is provided to service these rooms and has separated outside access. Doors open from each room out to a patio facing north east with room to seat additional people. In fair weather, the patio and landscaped areas can increase the capacity of the inside space. Each subdivided space has access to a separate storage room increasing the multi-use of each space.

The community wing also has a Game Room with arcade games, vending machines and a jukebox and a Babysitting Room for short-term supervision of children while patrons use the facility. Restrooms and storage fill out the rest of this area.



Immediately adjacent to the main lobby and before the control desk is the Wellness Center entrance. This area will house wellness services provided by the Verde Valley Medical Center. The full breadth of the services is still being developed but will include physical therapy programs utilizing activity spaces throughout the facility. Certain spaces including a therapy pool and specialized fitness area have been located immediately adjacent the wellness center to support medically supervised therapy programs. When not programmed by the medical center, these spaces will be available for general use.

Behind the control desk is the administration area. This location provides support for the control desk, quick access for staff and vendors, and centralized support for the entire building.

From the lobby intersection with the control desk, all activities are visible: eight-lane competitive lap and diving pool, fitness and birthday party room to the right; climbing pinnacle, indoor playground and leisure pool directly in front; and aerobics, gymnasium, additional fitness space and access to the locker rooms and elevated jog / walk track to the left. The 12-lap per mile jog / walk track, on the second level travels throughout the gymnasium and into the weight and fitness area with additional views of the climbing pinnacle, indoor play area and swimming pools. The jog / walk track is accessible by both stairs and an elevator. Access to the Leisure Pool and the Lap Pool is thru the locker rooms.

Locker Rooms are provided for men, women and families or people with special needs. The family locker area includes eight private cabanas with shower, water closet and sinks for the convenient use of families or individuals wanting additional privacy.

The Fitness Area provides circuit training, cardiovascular and free weight equipment in a flexible space with views to other activities. Cardio Theater will also be incorporated into this area. The Multi-purpose Aerobics/ Dance Studio accommodates these activities as well as martial arts and floor exercise for 35-40 persons.

2.2 Community Center Swimming Pools

The swimming pools are a main focal point for the community center, including components for family fun, fitness and team training. The indoor Leisure Pool water depths vary from beach-like entries to four feet. Features are provided for a variety of ages including floor geysers, several interactive spray features, a lazy river, vortex and water slide. The lazy river also doubles as a resistance channel for exercise, therapy and rehabilitation.

The new outdoor Lap Pool includes six lanes of 25-yard lap swim that will support a variety of training and fitness aquatics activities, including inserts for water basketball and volleyball. The deep end of the pool will be designed to accommodate a 1-meter diving board and scuba lessons. The Lap pool will be designed for competitive swim events and will utilize two of the three warm water lap lanes located in the leisure pool for warm-up. This arrangement will allow for large competitive events to occur, increasing the regional draw of the community center. During a regional event, the facility will accommodate large groups and teams by allowing the use of the gymnasiums for set-up and team support. A meet management office is included adjacent to the lap pool deck to facilitate such events. This room will be used for as a multi-use meeting room all other times. There is an outdoor, south facing, sundeck adjacent to the leisure pool.

2.3 Community Center Gymnasium

The Gymnasium, containing one high-school-sized court and two cross courts, is designed to allow flexibility of activities including pickleball, volleyball, basketball, aerobics and many others. A divider curtain may be dropped to allow separate activities to occur simultaneously.



A large storage room is located at the north end of the gymnasium to facilitate a multitude of sporting equipment.

2.4 Concept Site Plan

The recommended site is part of the expanding campus of civic facilities located along Sixth Street. Specifically, the recreation center is located immediately south of the Public Library and across the street from the Community Services building. The building is oriented with the main entry facing north west toward S. Paula Street. The Leisure Pool and Gymnasiums will be visible from vehicles approaching the building from the north or south. The entry drive off S. Paula Street, provides access to 250 parking stalls immediately facing the main entry. This arrangement matches the access pattern for the existing library and allows for an uninterrupted, civic street-scape along Sixth Street. A drop-off area is located at the end of the parking isles in front of the main entry. A service drive will access support spaces from the south.

2.5 Existing Site Facilities

The site plan illustrates the limitations of the existing site boundaries. To accommodate all the program spaces at the proposed sizes, some existing facilities must be eliminated. Currently, there are five tennis courts. One of these courts must be removed. Monies have been included in the construction budget to create a new replacement tennis court at a new location determined by the City of Cottonwood.

Additionally, there is an existing six-lane, outdoor lap pool and bath house on the site. This facility is at the end of its useful life and in need of significant renovation and/or replacement. The addition of a lap pool in the new recreation center is intended to address this need. In order to minimize the impact on existing uses, the outdoor pool will be left operational and demolished when construction of the new facility is complete. This area will then be converted to accommodate additional parking.