

Four Community Services, Facilities and Amenities

(revised November 19, 1998)

Policies

The Snowmass Village community values the richness and diversity of its recreational, artistic, cultural, educational, entertainment and environmental resources. *Services, amenities and facilities are provided by both the public and private sector as well as the natural mountain environment itself. The community values the low-key, recreational lifestyle and the friendly, supportive, small town atmosphere. People see each other frequently in the post office, stores, parks, on trails and in other public gathering places.*

Snowmass Village shall:

- §§* Improve and maintain a premiere resort in balance with the environmental, economic, cultural, and recreational needs of the community.
- §§* Maintain and improve the high quality of the Snowmass Ski Area.
- §§* Provide for a variety of parks, recreation, housing, educational and cultural activities and facilities, that meet resident and visitor needs.
- §§* Provide services, facilities and amenities that enhance the community's quality of life.
- §§* Ensure that land use decisions maintain and enhance the Town's ability to provide services, facilities and amenities for the community and the resort. New development shall assist in providing these in a fair and equitable manner.
- §§* Encourage public and private projects that embody the community's image and character; and its ranching, skiing and mountain heritage.
- §§* Plan for and support development of visual, musical and performing arts within the community.
- §§* Ensure that the goals of the Comprehensive Plan are reflected in the quality of the community's building, development, design, and site planning standards and development review processes.

A Existing Community Services, Facilities and Amenities

Snowmass Village provides trash collection, road maintenance, police protection, public transportation, affordable housing and administrative services to the community. Other agencies provide fire and emergency services, water and sewer treatment and services, electricity, telephone, cable and natural gas. *Transportation and Housing are significant community services in Snowmass Village and are addressed in Chapters 7 & 8 respectively.*

1. Snowmass Ski Area

The Snowmass Ski Area is owned and operated by the Aspen Skiing Company and includes 2,565 acres of terrain. In addition to skiing, snowboarding and other traditional winter sports; the ski area offers year-round recreational opportunities to both resident and visitor. Snowmass Ski Area is the main economic driver in the community; providing jobs, generating revenue and contributing to the viability of other businesses linked to the ski resort and tourism.

2. Parks, Trails & Open Space

Parks and trails are significant community assets and provide passive and active recreation opportunities for the residents and visitors. Snowmass Village has an extensive trail system with 5.9 miles of paved trails and 46.5 miles of unpaved trails used in summer and winter. Open space areas secure wildlife habitat and preserve visual character. Including the Snowmass Ski Area, over 8,700 acres are dedicated to public open space/conservation and recreation.

3. Cultural Activities and Programs

Snowmass Village has a strong commitment to the cultural, visual and performing arts. The Town Council established an Arts Advisory Board in 1993 and charged it with the creation and establishment of a unique cultural identity for Snowmass Village. The Arts Advisory Board's current mission reads:

We will establish Snowmass Village as a Mecca for those seeking to enhance their cultural education. We are committed to the development of high-quality, accessible art programs to promote cultural consciousness, stimulate economic viability and foster a sense of community pride. We will work toward stable funding for the arts; a user-friendly cultural information source for local citizens and visitors; and support for facilities with appropriate performance, exhibit and a teaching space for year-round arts activity.

A key manifestation of this commitment is the execution of a public art program to provide the Village a meaningful context for its cultural and environmental values.

The Arts Advisory Board primary activities include:

- ☞ Providing direction and leadership for future arts initiatives, as they impact the Town's funding.
- ☞ Acting as an arts advocate and promoting awareness and education.
- ☞ Providing a resource of information and expertise on arts issues.
- ☞ Functioning as the primary arts liaison between the Town Council and the community.
- ☞ Making recommendations to the Town Council on all arts-related issues, propositions and funding proposals.
- ☞ Reviewing and evaluating progress of the arts long range development plan.
- ☞ Working in cooperation with the Aspen/Snowmass Council for the Arts, Snowmass Village Resort Association Special Events Committee and any other organization which purports to present and develop special cultural events within the Town to keep within the goals and objectives of the arts long-range plan.

In the summer season, Snowmass Village hosts a number of events to promote music, dance and other such cultural events. Snowmass Village annually hosts the internationally renowned Jazz Aspen at Snowmass in June and on Labor Day weekends. Top jazz students attend the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. The Suzuki Institute of Music is held in the spring.

The Snowmass Village Resort Association sponsors free concerts throughout the summer as well as numerous special events year-round.

4. Cultural and Educational Facilities

Significant cultural and education facilities in Snowmass Village include:

Little Red Schoolhouse. The Little Red Schoolhouse is one of the Town's few historic structures. Built over a century ago, the schoolhouse is owned by the Town and leased to a day care center by local residents.

Anderson Ranch Arts Center. In 1966, the historic Anderson Ranch was chosen for use as an arts center. In 1972, the Snowmass Corporation turned operation of the property over

to a board of community leaders charged with developing a nationally prominent summer art school. The Snowmass Corporation conveyed ownership to the non-profit Anderson Ranch Arts Center in the early 1980s. Anderson Ranch brings artists, craftsmen and students together for common learning. In 1990, a facility Master Plan was completed which includes 55,000 square feet of new Arts Center space.

Snowmass Chapel & Community Center. In 1987, the Snowmass Chapel and Community Center (SCCC) was constructed to provide counseling services and wedding, worship and memorial services to residents and guests. Protestant and non-denominational services are held throughout the year, with weekly Catholic mass in the winter months. The SCCC offers 20,000 square feet of chapel and community space.

5. Town Hall Facilities

Most office facilities are leased by the Town. Public Works and Housing facilities are owned by the Town. Administration offices are located in the main community commercial center, the housing office is located in Mountain View employee housing complex, public works has a facility on the edge of Town and transportation facilities are located in the Snowmass Mall.

6. Other Community Services, Facilities & Amenities:

Snowmass Village Resort Association: Central Reservations, Special Events. Prior to the Town's incorporation, Snowmass Village Resort Association was the resort's first governing body. The SVRA was formed with the ability to levy assessments on stores, restaurants, lodge and condo properties inside the original West Village, and with the responsibility to provide basic services to the area. They also managed the town's recreation assets as well as marketed the resort. When the Town incorporated, SVRA was relieved from services such as garbage collecting and snowplowing. Today the SVRA markets the resort, manages and markets the Snowmass Conference Center, operates central reservations and provides support and operations of special events and public relations on an annual budget of almost \$5 million. The civic assessment continues and is similar to a sales tax, there is also a common assessment which is similar to a property tax.

Snowmass Village Conference Center. In 1984-85, the Town of Snowmass Village financed the construction of a conference center adjacent to the Snowmass Village Mall. The Snowmass Village Resort Association leases and manages the 30,000 square foot conference center, which hosts up to 75% of the Town's spring, summer and fall visitors. The Conference Center hosts a wide variety of conferences and specializes in seminars for medical professionals.

Snowmass Water & Sanitation District. The Snowmass Water and Sanitation District is a special district and was formed in June 1966. The District's 1966 Service Plan targeted a build-out population of 29,000 people. The district has acquired water rights to meet the average-year and dry-year estimated peak water demands for that population.

The District's water treatment plant capacity and potable water storage were established by analyzing peak demand for water, fire flows and emergency storage during a major system failure. The water treatment plant can treat 3.4 million gallons per day (mgd) and has an ultimate design capacity of 4.2 mgd. At capacity, the District could treat a flow of 6.5 cubic feet per second. The District operates a sanitary sewage plant that performs primary, secondary and advanced treatment at a capacity 3.2 cubic feet per second.

Snowmass-Wildcat Fire Protection District. The Snowmass-Wildcat Fire Protection District was organized in 1971. At peak season, the District provides education, enforcement, and emergency services to over 10,000 residents and seasonal guests within the Town of Snowmass Village, Snowmass Creek and Wildcat Ranch areas. The District serves a total of 19 square miles and is staffed by nine employees, twelve resident volunteers, and sixteen on-call volunteers.

Other Districts: Snowmass Village is also a part of the Aspen Public School District RE-1, the Roaring Fork School District RE-1, the Aspen Valley Hospital District, the Colorado River Conservation District, Colorado Mountain College and the Pitkin County Library District.

B ***Snowmass Village Partnerships***

The Town of Snowmass Village and the Snowmass Village Resort Association (SVRA) currently have a lease agreement for use of the Snowmass Conference Center. Under the agreement, SVRA pays rent and operating expenses. The Town uses the rent to repay the Center's bonds. SVRA has a marketing department and the Town does not perform any marketing functions for Snowmass Village.

The obligations of the Aspen Skiing Company, and the Snowmass Land Company - the major property owner and developer in the Town - are contained in various land use approval ordinances and agreements. Under the land use approvals for Two Creeks and the Pines subdivisions, the Land Company is obligated to build specific trails and roads, to pay specified development mitigation fees, to mitigate wildlife impacts and to provide a specific numbers of affordable housing units within the Town. Under the land approval for the ski area expansion, the Aspen Skiing Company must pay mitigation fees to the Town to compensate for transportation and other impacts on the Town.

The Town cooperates with the Roaring Fork Transit Authority to provide transit services and is a member of the RFTA board. The Aspen Skiing Company contracts with RFTA to provide base-to-base skier transportation services.

C *The Role of Aspen as a Facility Provider*

Snowmass Village operates as a sister resort to Aspen. In addition to providing the majority of the lodging, dining and shopping opportunities, Aspen also provides many local community facilities. Community facilities are divided into three categories based on whether an existing Aspen facility is:

1. ***Unnecessary Duplication.***

There may be no need to replicate Aspen facilities in Snowmass Village. For example, the Aspen Valley Hospital and the Aspen and Roaring Fork School Districts service Snowmass Village and there is no reason to duplicate those facilities.

2. ***Required Duplication.***

Some facilities continue to be necessary in Snowmass Village regardless of whether Aspen has similar facilities, such as childcare facilities.

3. ***Optional Duplication.***

Aspen has some facilities that Snowmass Village may want to duplicate. For example, Aspen has performing arts facilities, Snowmass Village may want to develop its own performing arts facilities.

D *Community Needs & Desires*

Two community workshops were held on April 10th and 24th, 1997 to provide a forum for residents, employees, and visitors to discuss the existing and future needs and desires for community services, facilities and amenities. A Community Exposition, held July 4, 1997, gathered additional community input on the preferred development alternatives for the special planning areas.

E **Recommendations**

Recreation Facilities. Snowmass Village should focus on providing an ice skating rink, event/recreation center, public swimming pool, sports playing fields and additional trails to serve the community.

Town Hall. The main administrative offices of Town Hall are currently limited to the space leased in Snowmass Center. Eventually, a larger facility will be needed. Current lease payments are near what bond payments would be on a new facility. The Town has been exploring the possibility of shared space with the United States Postal Service as well as other community service organizations. Several sites have been considered including Faraway North, Base Village and West Village/Mall.

The Town has not incurred an excessive amount of debt and has not devoted a large amount of its budget to debt service. As a result, the Town could borrow additional funds to construct or participate in additional community facilities. These community facilities, services and amenities have been evaluated, prioritized and are listed in The Strategic Plan of Action (Chapter Nine) as an action item.