

Venture Out at Mesa

Recreation Needs Assessment Final

Report



December 2007

Long Range Planning for Venture Out: How much has changed in the past five years?

If one were to reread the Preface from the Comprehensive Long Range plan conducted at Venture Out in 2002, you would see the following: “At the beginning of 2000 the residents of Venture Out began to notice a subtle shift in their community. It seemed that more units were for sale than before. Concern turned to action...” and a Long Range Plan was born. Here it is seven years later. Instead of many units being for sale, there are fewer than ten. What was once Rec Hall is now the Community Center. It sits in the same place, as a welcome to all those who enter...its transformation has been the result of community action. To be more specific, the changes that have come about at Venture Out over the past five years have, in large part, been the result of initiatives developed through the Comprehensive Long Range Planning Process. That 15 month process saw residents through a baseline Needs Assessment Survey (completed by 1182 residents), 27 focus groups, one three hour work session (attended by 150 residents), and a special assessment that was passed by 68% of the residents. Venture Out has accomplished a great deal in the last half decade, much of it a testament to the spirit and commitment of its residents and staff.

The original Comprehensive Needs Assessment survey provided information about a variety of interests, attitudes, and areas of support for VO activities, policies, and future plans. It truly gave the staff and residents an understanding of not only who lived in the community from a demographic and psychographic perspective, but also a collective assessment of residents’ interests and feelings about Venture Out’s future.

Since the original survey, 800 units, or approximately 1600 residents have changed. This represents over a 50% turnover rate, enough to warrant the Condo Board and Long Range Planning Committee to request another survey...this time...focusing solely on recreation interests, participation patterns, and support for future facilities.

A new survey...a lot of similarities....and some differences

What follows are the results gathered from 1125 (of the 2700) residents who returned the survey mailed to them in June 2007, representing a 42% return. Once again, Dr. Wendy Hultsman, from Arizona State University was contracted as a consultant to administer and analyze the survey. Where appropriate in the discussion of results, comparisons will be made to the 2002 results.

Demographic information

	Males	Females
2007 overall	46.5%	53.5%
<= 65 years	38.6%	61.4%
>65 years	52.5%	47.5%

It is still not surprising that the number of females completing the survey outnumbers that of males, but the percentages have gotten quite a bit closer. In 2002, 36.5% were males and 63.5% were females. The age split for those less than or equal to 65 shows that there are many more females under 65 and more males over 65. Whether this represents the changing make up of the park is undetermined. Similar to 2002, around one-quarter of the residents indicated that they do not have a spouse/partner. As boomers begin to retire in the next five years these percentages may see a dramatic shift indicating an even great number of single adults.

Age of survey respondents

Age group	2007	2002 (approximate %)
<49	.5%	.5%
50-59	8.0%	7.0%
60-69	30.9%	34.0%
70-79	40.8%	41.0%
80-89	17.8%	15.5%
90+	2.0%	.8%

Eight-eight percent of those completing the survey responded to this question. Of those, the percentages for each age group mirror rather well the age demographics of the 2002 survey respondents. However, it appears that the residents, or at least those who responded to the survey, are aging. This implies that the average age of those who reside at VO is increasing. This may be a result of medical advances that allow individuals to remain healthier longer, or it may be that older residents are choosing to remain at VO instead of seeking assisted living facilities or returning to live with family members. While there are slightly more in the 50-59 age group, the number in the 80-89 and 90+ age groups has risen a good bit. Given that residents tend to sell their homes around age 77, it remains likely that increasing overall age of residents could be a concern. However, Boomers are just now entering retirement age. The shift to a lower aged population could be seen over the next 3-5 years. This will totally depend on whether Boomers move in themselves or seek ownership of property for investments.

Age of spouse/partner

<49	.6%	50-59	7.4%	60-69	31.2%	70-79	43.4%
80-89	16.4%	90+	.8%				

How many years have you lived at VO?

1-5	31.2%	6-10	24.6%	11-15	17.1%	16-19	9.1%
20-25	10.0%	26-29	4.9%	30+	3.0%		

The number of survey respondents who have lived at VO fewer than 11 years has remained virtually the same, 55.2% in 2002 and 55.8% in 2007. This is of some concern since the average age of residents when they sell their homes is their late 70's and early 80's. Because this percentage has not changed over the past five years then VO will continue to experience a large number of residents leaving the community over the next decade. The question remains, will they look to sell their homes or leave them to their children? Those in the Boomer generation (the age of many VO residents' children) are just beginning to retire now. Again, it is yet to be seen whether they will chose to inhabit the homes at VO that have been left to them by their parents, or chose to use them as investment properties...renting them out to others. Regardless, as the Boomers retire over the next 5-10 years the demographics of VO are likely to change quite a bit.

Annual Income

Under \$15,000	3.7%	\$15,000-\$24,999	5.4%
\$25,000-\$44,999	27.0%	\$45,000-\$74,999	33.3%
\$75,000-\$99,999	15.3%	\$100,000-\$124,999	7.7%
\$125,000 or more	7.7%		

The income of survey respondents has risen quite a bit since 2002. In 2002, 20.5% indicated an income of \$75,000 or more compared to 30.7% in 2007.

Does your income cover your VO expenses?

Yes	95.9%	No	4.1%
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During the average year how many months do you spend at VO?

# of months	Percentage	# of months	Percentage
1	4.8	7	6.5
2	5.0	8	2.2
3	6.2	9	1.9
4	9.2	10	1.9
5	19.9	11	2.2
6	34.4	12	5.5

The percentage of residents staying 5-6 months has not changed much, from 57% in 2002 to 54.3% in 2007. In fact, the percentages have stayed fairly similar across the board. This is true of those less than or equal to 65 years too.

Are you currently employed while living at VO?

Yes 5.2% **No** 94.8%

If yes, how many hours per week do you work?

1-5 7.6% **6-10** 15.4% **11-20** 19.2% **21-30** 11.4%
31-40 34.6% **41-50** 11.5%

The number of VO residents who are employed has risen slightly. You can expect to see more residents working as Boomers move in to the community. While Boomers in general may chose to retire early from their primary employment, there will be those who will take part in additional part-time employment, to remain connected as well as to bring in additional income.

Citizenship

US 83.9% **Canadian** 15.3% **Joint** .5%

If Canadian, what are your biggest issues about continued residence at VO?

The primary concern of Canadian citizens was medical insurance, mentioned by 38.7% of the Canadians who responded to the survey. Other concerns were affordability and personal health (12.9% each)

If a US citizen, what are your biggest issues regarding continued residence at VO?

The primary concern of US citizens was increasing condo fees (22.8% of the 57% responding to the question), followed by personal health (19%). Other concerns expressed by 4-5% of the respondents were keeping VO a 55+ resort, utility reconstruction, and security.

In general, how is your health?

Excellent	23.1%	Very Good	42.3%	Good	26.1%
Fair	6.7%	Poor	1.8%		

What is your highest level of education?

High School graduate	24.1%	Technical school	8.1%
Some college	25.3%	College graduate	23.8%
Post graduate degree	18.7%		

It is not surprising to see the education level of the residents rise over time. This is a reflection of the increasing access to higher education. This number will continue to move upwards as Boomers move in, as they grew up during a time of increasing interest in education and more financially stable households.

Activity Involvement

Since moving to VO are there any new activities that you have begun?

YES		NO	
2007	2002	2007	2002
77.8%	72.3%	22.2%	27.7%

The 2007 percentages speak well, once again, for the variety of activities offered and available at Venture Out, with over ¾ of the residents becoming involved in new activities.

What clubs have you joined and/or activities have you begun?

2007	2002
Hiking	Computers
Bocce	Tennis
Computers	Water Exercise
Tennis	Shuffleboard
Stained Glass	Dancing
Woodworking	Paddle tennis

Overall the percentage of those involved in new activities is down from 2002. The activities that were so popular to recent retirees in 2002 (computers and tennis) have lessened in popularity five years later, but are still among those that were mentioned by many respondents.

To how many VO clubs do you actively belong?

Forty-seven percent of the respondents showed involvement in 1-2 clubs and 28% are involved in 3-4 clubs, for a total of 75%, down from 90%, five years ago.

When you are using VO club facilities do you feel the space allocated is sufficient for the activity?

Seventy percent indicated “yes.” This is a new question and the fact that 30% indicated “no” can imply that there is sufficient need to examine space allocations for the more popular activity areas. Of interest is the fact that when the data were examined from the perspective of only those who indicated they started new activities the results were the same.

Those spaces that are considered cramped for space include:

Exercise facility	4.2%
Stained Glass	4.0%
Computer lab	3.3%

It is likely that those under 65 are the primary force behind stating that the fitness facility is cramped for space, although exercise in general has become much more popular with many age groups, including those over 70. The appearance of the current exercise facility may be the very reason that residents are staying away from it. There is little doubt however that exercise is and will continue to be a focus of all those with active lifestyles.

If you are not a member of a VO club do you feel comfortable at VO facilities?

Yes	93.1%	No	5.9%
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Once again, there is unilateral agreement that those who are not club members do not feel discriminated against at VO facilities.

Activity Involvement with a Spouse/Partner

How many days per week do you participate in recreational activities with a spouse or partner at VO?

	None	1-2	3-4	5-7
2002	21.0%	29.0%	23.0%	28.0%
2007	23.5%	42.7%	21.0%	12.8%

Almost half of the respondents participate with a spouse/partner 1-2 times a week. Whereas in 2002 the percentages across the week were fairly balanced, in 2007 there is far more joint participation in fewer activities.

How important is it for you to have activities in which you can participate with a spouse or partner?

	2007	2002
Not at all	19.3%	15.0%
Somewhat	50.5%	39.0%
A lot	30.3%	46.0%

Joint participation is less important now than in 2002. Eighty-five percent indicated it was at least “somewhat important”, but over half of those felt it was “very important”. The percentages are totally reversed in 2007. This could certainly be the start of seeing the effects of Boomers who are much more independent in their activity involvement (as couples) than were their parents.

How many clubs or groups do you and your spouse belong to together?

	2007	2002
None	36.5%	31.0%
1-2	46.0%	51.0%
3-4	15.2%	15.0%
5-7	2.4%	4.0%

Mutual involvement in activities while at VO remains high, with over 2/3 of the couples/partners participating in at least one activity together.

During the part of the year when you are not at VO, how many days per week are you typically involved in recreation activities with a spouse or partner?

	2007	2002
None	24.4%	25.0%
1-2	42.9%	39.0%
3-4	23.5%	20.0%
5-7	9.0%	17.5%

Mean 2007 2.17 **Mean 2002** 2.21

The activity office at VO serves many purposes. The primary uses by VO residents appear to be for:

Ticket purchases	82%
General Information	74%
Use of the Video Library	60%
Copy requests	36%

These uses have not changed over time.

How often do you use VO facilities for private parties each year?

Half of the VO residents never attend private parties in VO facilities. However, 34% attend 1-2 per year, warranting the continued allowance of VO facilities for private use. In 2002 thirty-eight percent never attended private parties at VO facilities, so overall attendance has decreased. This is undoubtedly a result, at least partially, of any more homes having enclosed Arizona rooms and residents becoming used to entertaining in their own homes during the many months that the community center was not available for use due to renovation. The number of respondents attending 1-2 timer per year (30%) is similar though.

How many days per week do you use the VO areas and facilities?

	Overall	2002	1-2	3-5	6-7
Sauna	15.7%		10.9%	3.9%	.9%
Putting Green	41.1%	49.0%	33.1%	7.6%	.3%
Driving Cage	27.1%		23.0%	3.9%	.2%
Spas	51.1%	60.0%	23.5%	17.7%	8.9%
Batting Cage	9.2%		6.9%	1.9%	.4%
Video Library	65.2%	70.0%	53.1%	10.6%	1.5%
Library	69.8%	76.0%	48.4%	17.6%	3.8%
Exercise facility	51.6%		25.9%	18.8%	5.9%

Just as it was 5 years ago, the library and video check out remain very popular with over two-thirds of the residents indicating use, although the overall percentage has decreased. One would expect that as personal computers become more and more of a household amenity the amount of residents checking out videos will probably decrease. It may be necessary for the activity office to rethink what types of items are available for check out and start to include, if it doesn't already, DVDs, and CDs.

How many days per week do you engage in the following activities?

	Overall	1-2	3.5	6-7
Lap Swim	20.0%	11.1%	5.6%	3.3%
Water Walking	42.0%	20.4%	15.7%	5.9%
Sit by the pool	51.2%	27.1%	18.7%	5.4%
Weight training	31.0%	15.8%	12.4%	2.8%

Shuffleboard	19.3%	12.3%	5.3%	1.8%
Tennis	22.3%	5.7%	10.8%	5.7%
Lawn Bowling	6.8%	2.0%	3.9%	.9%
Horseshoes	3.9%	2.7%	.9%	.4%
Bocce	33.8%	22.2%	10.2%	1.4%
Walk for pleasure	82.1%	26.5%	34.2%	21.4%
Woodworking	18.4%	10.2%	7.4%	.9%
Billiards	22.7%	12.1%	8.1%	2.4%
Paddle Tennis/Pickle Ball	19.1%	10.4%	4.3%	4.3%
Ping Pong	6.1%	4.8%	.9%	.3%
Lapidary	7.0%	4.3%	2.3%	.3%
Silversmithing	8.1%	4.7%	3.1%	.3%
Ceramics	7.5%	5.1%	2.1%	.3%
Stained Glass	15.6%	101%	4.8%	.7%
Sewing	13.2%	8.7%	3.6%	.9%
Fine Arts	6.3%	4.9%	1.4%	0.0%
Wood carving	5.0%	3.1%	1.7%	.2%
Darts	4.2	4.0	.2	0.0%
Ham radio	2.8%	.9%	.7%	1.2%
Computers	37.3%	19.9%	11.3%	6.1%
Wireless at the Center	12.3%	7.7%	3.2%	1.4%

Walking remains the most popular activity at VO with 82.1% of the respondents indicating they walk at least once a week. This is actually down 9% from 5 yrs ago. This usage warrants the continued upkeep of VO roadways and lighting.

In rank order, the four most popular activities, by over 1/3 of the respondents were:

- Sitting by the pool
- Water walking
- Computer usage
- Bocce ball

How many days per week do you participate in the following programs at VO?

	% who participate	1-2 days per week	3-4 days per week	6-7 days per week
Exercise classes	49.4	18.4	12.6	18.3
Water aerobics	39.5	13.2	11.8	14.5
Softball	9.6	2.4	2.2	5.0
Motorcycle outings	3.6	1.7	1.0	.9
Country dancing	19.8	9.9	6.3	3.6
Round dancing	7.3	4.9	3.0	2.2
Creative writing	7.3	2.6	2.7	2.0
Bible studies	24.3	5.8	7.1	11.3
Cards	48.8	12.0	20.1	16.7
Bingo	31.3	12.7	11.5	7.0
Drama	20.1	7.6	9.4	3.0
Bus trips	59.1	24.5	30.2	4.2
Computer classes	41.7	15.5	21.0	5.1
Hiking trips	32.5	11.9	12.1	7.9
Biking trips	16.3	6.4	5.9	3.0
Casino outings	32.9	15.3	13.7	3.9
Solo outings	14.4	4.8	5.3	4.3
Choir	9.5	2.0	2.0	5.5

Exercise, whether on land or in the water is very popular. However, there are other very popular activities. Those in which respondents participated in most often (6-7 days per week) were exercise classes, cards, water aerobics and Bible studies.

Additionally, those participated in 3-5 times per week were bus trips, computer classes, casino trips, and bingo.

How regularly per month do you participate in the following events at VO?

	Overall % who participate	% who rarely participate	% who occasionally participate	% who often participate
Monday night entertainment	78.1	26.4	29.2	22.5
Potlucks	66.1	28.6	25.4	12.1
Private parties	80.5	21.7	42.1	16.8
Vendor sales	82.7	19.6	43.0	20.1
Craft sales	84.2	23.7	40.7	19.9
Special events	90.3	14.2	49.8	26.3
Ice cream socials	82.7	28.1	38.2	16.4
Happy hour	65.7	23.2	27.8	14.7
Educational seminars	68.4	29.3	33.4	5.7
State parties	70.5	17.0	27.0	26.3
VO Dinners	88.0	15.3	45.0	27.7
Weekly dances	48.8	20.9	14.4	12.4
Flea markets	81.9	19.1	40.8	22.1
Breakfasts	82.9	20.8	32.6	29.5
Fundraisers	86.6	14.8	41.2	30.6
Social board	56.8	23.2	238	9.8
Condo Board	67.9	21.5	28.5	17.9
Town hall	76.6	19.4	28.9	28.3

All of the activities listed, with the exception of weekly dances and social board meetings are attended by at least 2/3 of the respondents at least once a month.

Participation in special events is most popular, especially for involvement multiple times per month. They are followed closely by participation in VO dinners, fundraisers, craft

sales, VO breakfasts, ice cream socials, vendor sales, private parties and flea markets.

Involvement in events has increased quite a bit over the last 5 years.

Constraints to participation

Have you wanted to take part in a VO activity but did not do so?

Yes 50.9% **No** 49.1%

This is down somewhat (from 59%) from 2002.

What reasons have impacted your participation?

	Overall 2007	Overall 2002	<= 65 years
I have no time	29.8%	26%	35.7%
The hours do not fit my schedule	28.3%	22%	33.9%
My health/physical condition	21.2%	17%	9.9%
I participate in activities outside VO	18.1%		7.6%
It costs too much	9.7%		7.0%
My spouse's health	8.4%		7.6%
I have no one with whom to participate	4.8%		1.8%
What I like to do is not available	2.5%		.6%
I can not go out at night	2.0%		0.0%
I do not know what is offered	1.7%		1.8%
I do not feel safe	.4%		0.0%
I have no way to get to activities	.1%		0.0%

The top reasons are the same, but the percentages are higher in 2007. It is not surprising that some of the constraints do not even figure into the lives of those younger than 65 years.

Much like 5 years ago, lack of time and full schedules dominate the reasons residents gave for not participating in activities. Also noted was that one's health and physical condition, as predicted, increased as a constraint due to the aging population.

How likely are you to participate in the following activities if they were offered at or through VO?

	Overall % responding	% who said rarely	% who said occasionally	% who said often
Lifelong learning opportunities	67.9	21.0	33.8	13.0
Concerts	82.4	17.7	44.4	20.3
Hiking day trips	43.4	16.4	19.1	7.9
Biking day trips	27.1	12.4	10.2	4.5
In line skating	7.7	3.7	3.5	.5
Rock climbing gym	9.3	5.2	3.6	.5
Digital photography	52.2	15.7	27.0	9.6
Website development	29.9	14.5	11.2	4.0
Wellness program	71.7	20.4	29.2	10.3

Attending concerts, by far, is the most popular interest for the future, as indicated by at least two-thirds of the residents who responded indicating they would attend occasionally or often. Lifelong learning, wellness programs and digital photography are also popular interests.

Volunteer Involvement

Do you currently volunteer at VO?

Yes 54.3% **No** 46.6%

Surprisingly, the percentage of VO residents that volunteer has gone up 6.7% in 5 years.

The average number of hours volunteered per week is: (2002 results)

0-1 13.4% (11.2%) **2-4** 41.5% (51.0%) **5-8** 25.2% (24.7%)
6-9 5.5% (9.0%) **16+** 3.4% (3.3%)

Areas of VO Volunteer Involvement

VO Dinner	30.3%
Special Events	25.6%
Hobby Shop monitor	13.2%
Other	13.2%
VO Outlines	5.8%
VO Board/VO Committees	5.5%
Breakfast crew	4.9%
Activity Office	3.8%
Clerical tasks	2.0%

VO Dinners and special events are the most popular areas for volunteer involvement. These are also roles that can be done with groups of others, so they become a social experience, too.

What are your reasons for volunteering at VO?

	2007	2002
Enjoy the work	46.4%	26.0%
To help others	41.3%	21.0%
Help a cause	26.0%	14.0%
Have a skill to share	24.1%	14.0%
Save on condo fees	21.4%	16.0%
Makes me feel needed	19.8%	9.0%

It is good to see that enjoyment and helping others remain the strongest reasons for volunteer involvement. This has not changed over the past 5 years, but the percentages have almost doubled in the first three categories.

What are the reasons you do not volunteer?

Of the 34.5% of residents who indicated reasons for not volunteering, the primary reasons given were:

Being too busy	7.4%
Being too old	5.9%
Seldom at VO	5.1%
Personal physical limitations	4.0%

When asked if residents would be more likely to volunteer if the time commitment was shorter, 38.1% said yes and 61.9% said no. Thus, a shorter time commitment does not necessarily indicate that a greater number of volunteers would surface.

Do you volunteer outside VO? (2002 results)

Yes 30.9% (25.4%) **No** 69.1% (74.5%)

In 2002, it was anticipated that the results in 5-10 years would be different. Venture Out is beginning to see this shift toward involvement outside the VO community, but not that quickly. Volunteering with one’s church (19.4%) remains the most popular place at which VO residents volunteer their time outside of the VO community. This was followed by volunteering with the Girl Scouts (3.2%).

When the data were sorted by those under or equal to 65 years of age and those over, the results were as follows:

Volunteer in the community	<= 65 years	> 65 years
Yes	36.7%	29.2%
No	63.3%	70.8%

Would you rather pay for services than offer your service as a volunteer?
(2002 results)

Yes 18.3% (12.1%) **No** 81.7% (87.9%)

While this percentage has risen slightly (from 12.1%), the majority of residents are still against paying for services. Of those who indicated they would pay for services (and there were not many), catering of meals was mentioned most often as the service for which they would pay.

The facility

Is the space allocated for your club or facility adequate?

	Yes	No	Do not know
Woodworking	35.5%	7.6%	56.9%
Meeting in present rooms	61.6%	7.9%	31.0%
Card rooms	44.9%	13.2%	41.9%
Stained glass	17.8%	22.9%	68.4%
Woodcarving	20.2%	11.4%	68.4%
Silversmithing	21.9%	6.7%	71.4%
Handyman	19.4%	5.5%	75.2%
Lapidary	24.9%	4.1%	71.0%
Ceramics	24.6%	6.3%	69.1%
Sewing	33.6%	7.3%	59.1%
Fitness Center	31.0%	35.1%	33.8%
Audio visual	23.0%	6.3%	70.7%
Electronics	27.9%	29.5%	42.5%
Administration	37.6%	11.3%	51.1%
Library	68.6%	7.2%	24.2%
Shuffleboard	56.3%	2.1%	41.6%
Tennis	56.5%	4.9%	38.6%
Lawn Bowling	49.8%	1.2%	48.9%
Horseshoes	46.3%	1.6%	52.1%

Bocce Ball	54.0%	8.6%	37.2%
Paddle Tennis/ Pickleball	38.4%	15.4%	46.2%
Ping Pong	30.9%	3.5%	65.6%
Fine Arts	25.4%	3.2%	71.4%
Darts	26.1%	3.5%	70.3%
Ham radio	26.7%	1.6%	71.7%

The facilities that one-quarter to one-third of the residents feel are in need of more room are: fitness center, electronics, stained glass. 11-15% of the residents felt that paddle tennis/pickle ball, card rooms, woodcarving and the administration building need more room. Forty-seven percent of those under 65 said that the fitness facility was inadequate.

Which facilities do you feel are underutilized?

By far, the most often mentioned facility was horseshoes, mentioned by over 100 residents. There were no other facilities mentioned more than 10 times.

High Speed Wireless and Wifi interests

Would you use High Speed Wireless if available?

Yes 56.9 <=65 years 75.8% **No** 43.1%

Would you support having Wifi if you had to pay for it?

Yes 44.3% <=65 years 66.0% **No** 55.7%

Do you use High Speed acces new at the Center?

Yes 14.2% <=65 years 29.3% **No** 85.8%

Do you use High Speed access now at the Electronics Club?

Yes 22.6% <=65 years 35.8% **No** 77.4%

Do you use High Speed access at home?

Yes 45.6% <=65 years 66.7% **No** 54.4%

Wifi use was not an option in 2002, thus there is no comparison to make. Looking at residents’ perceptions in 2007, Wifi interest and usage is definitely strong, especially among those 65 and younger. All indicators are that Wifi will continue to grow.

Remodeling/Rebuilding

Would you support the remodeling/rebuilding of the following facilities?

	Yes	No	Yes <=65	Yes >65
Activity pod	33.2%	66.8%	29.1%	36.6%
RV Pull Through	48.8%	51.2%	43.8%	51.2%
Centralized Hobby Center	18.7%	81.3%	21.5%	18.0%
New entrance at VO	32.1%	67.7%	26.2%	37.5%
Entrance Card	54.7%	45.3%	65.4%	52.5%
Administration Building	23.5%	76.5%	20.7%	26.0%
Fitness Center	44.6%	55.4%	59.6%	39.9%
Wifi for whole park	48.5%	51.3%	66.0%	42.8%
Mini golf	46.6%	53.4%	58.4%	44.0%
Park infrastructure	75.4%	24.6%	76.6%	76.7%

Residents were asked to rank the facilities in order of support for remodeling/rebuilding. Of those who responded, percentages are provided in the table below for those who ranked the item “1” and “2”.

	1st	2nd
Activity pod	4.2%	3.2%
RV pull through	3.9%	3.8%
Central Hobby center	.6%	1.7%
New Entrance at VO	3.0%	3.2%

Administration building	4.8%	8.1%
Fitness center	5.8%	5.8%
Wifi for park	4.5%	6.6%
Mini golf	2.9%	3.8%
Park infrastructure	18.1%	5.8%

By far the most support is for remodeling the park’s infrastructure. Around half of the residents supported remodeling the RV pull through areas, mini golf and the fitness center as well as instituting an entrance card system. They also support wifi for the whole park. Relative to ranking projects, the combined percentages of those items ranked “1” and “2” were:

Park infrastructure	13.9%
Administration building	12.9%
Fitness center	11.6%
Wifi for the park	11.1%

Of interest in 2002, 22% of the respondents indicated that they thought VO should add a central hobby center in the future. Also in 2002, 38.77% felt the fitness center should be expanded. These percentages have gone down considerably the past 5 years. When comparisons were made relative to age, three areas stood out as having very different perspectives between those 65 and younger compared to those over 66. Remodeling the fitness center, having wifi, and reopening mini-golf were supported by those <= 65 much more than through the general population. In addition, support for an entrance card system was looked upon somewhat more favorably by the younger group.

Communication

How often do you read or look at these VO sources?

	Always	Frequently	Rarely	Never
VO Outlines	90.6%	7.3%	1.9%	.1%
VO Voice	62.5%	16.5%	12.5%	8.6%
Channel 11	3.2%	21.5%	42.7%	32.7%
VO Website	6.8%	25.3%	34.3%	33.7%
Bulletin Board	17.0%	65.1%	23.9%	2.9%
Board Meeting Minutes	49.5%	33.4%	13.9%	3.2%

VO Outlines, the bulletin board, and the VO Voice are the primary communication sources for VO residents, with over ¾ of the residents reading them. Website use has increased quite a bit, from .5% indicating daily use in 2002 to 6.8% in 2007. Twice as many (62.5%) indicated that they would never use the Internet back in 2002.

Do you use the in-house travel services?

Always	5.4%	Frequently	16.2%	Rarely	36.4%
Never	41.9%				

Residents were pretty adamant that they did not care to use in-house travel services, with 77.3% of the residents who responded indicating they rarely or never used the services.

Do you prefer outside travel services?

Yes	42.4%	No	57.6%
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It is interesting that in spite of the fact that VO residents do not use internal travel services, they also do not use external services either. There can be two reasons for this. First, as residents' age, they travel less. Second, with the ease of the Internet, many residents are probably making their own arrangements.

Do you anticipate selling your VO residence in the near future?

Over 90% of the residents said “no”. Of interest here, only 8% of those over 70 years old indicated that they would most likely sell their home in the near future.

Do you see yourself eventually residing year round at VO?

Over three-quarters said, “no, they do not.”

Residents' Concerns

If a year round resident, what are your primary concerns?

While only 12.1% of the survey respondents indicated that they had concerns as year round residents, there was only one concern from this group that had much more support than the others, and that pertained to security (27.4%). Two items, “being able to build a carport or covering for a vehicle”, and “concern about rising condo fees” each garnered 7.1% support. “Keeping VO how it is now”, “continuing to offer activities year round”, and “the weather”, were concerns of 6% of the respondents.

What do you feel are the top three issues that VO should focus on in the next few years?

Seventy-five percent of the respondents voiced at least one issue that they felt should receive the focus of VO over the next few years. Those issues receiving the most support were “park infrastructure” (10.5%), “internal security” (8.0%), “utility

separation” (7.3%), “electrical concerns/SRP” (6.6%), and “cable issues” (6.2%). There were also several issues that received support from just under 5% of the respondents, including, in rank order, upkeep of the entire park, the activity pod, street repairs and cleaning, exercise facility, park finances, condo fees.

Some of these same issues were major concerns back in 2002. Security had been the greatest concern, and it remains so five years later. In the past five years, however, utilities have occupied the minds of residents. Park infrastructure is directly related to utility (water) separation and electricity issues. What is no longer an issue, and was a top six issue in 2002, is the need to advertise VO.

What’s next...?

First of all, the park needs to take action toward righting Park Infrastructure challenges. At the time of this report’s writing, a number of meetings have been planned to correct these areas. Second, it does not appear as if there is support for a new activity pod yet there is interest in both upgrading and enlarging the fitness center and moving the activity office back into the Community Center. Because the activity office remains such an important part of most residents’ lifestyle, this is an area VO should examine in more detail.

Lastly, residents have made many remarks about the park’s finances and financial decisions. There appears to be a great deal of concern about rising condo fees, yet it remains impossible to make improvements, upgrade systems and facilities, and/or develop programs without the finances. It appears that Venture Out is no different from other communities in that while the interests for new programs and services remains strong, the willingness to support it financially is not necessarily there. As mentioned in

the report, there remains a great deal of older residents at VO. Many of these have been around for years and have a deep attachment to the Venture Out community they moved into many years ago. Without their support, however, it may be very difficult to make sure that VO is positioned to attract new owners as the population shifts. It would be a wise move to try and figure out the likelihood of current property owners shifting their residence into their children's' names within the next 5-10 years, AND, the likelihood of the children of current owners moving in or simply carrying the property as an investment.