

Overview

The community profile is a summary of the social, cultural, economic and historic dimensions of the Wonder Valley community. It is a gathering of objective data collected through an online survey and secondary sources meant to inform and help facilitate creation of the Community Action Guide. The profile highlights essential facets and “tells the story” of the Wonder Valley community.

History



The community of Wonder Valley was developed in two phases, the first being after World War I in the early 1900’s and the second by homesteaders after the approval of the Small Tract Act in 1938. The Small Tract Act was passed and allowed federally owned land to be bought and developed. This resulted in hundreds to thousands of homesteaders’ cabins being built in the area. Since then many of these cabins have been abandoned and demolished. Today, there are still homestead cabins scattered throughout the desert with many being updated. At one time there was a stagecoach stop in Wonder Valley which was later used as a hog ranch.

On August 14, 1972, the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors established County Service Area (CSA) 70 M to provide road maintenance for Wonder Valley, and later a community center. Today, Wonder Valley is home to retirees, academics, new artists and musicians, and people just looking to escape city life. Development in this area is still sparse due to the minimum lot size of 5 acres.

Location & Geography

Wonder Valley is located in the southern portion of San Bernardino County, east of Twentynine Palms, within the Morongo Basin. The community is approximately 10 miles from the east entrance of the Joshua Tree National Park and southeast of the Sheephole Valley Wilderness Area and the Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness Area.



Community Structure (Physical Characteristics)

Wonder Valley consists of single family residential dwellings, primarily single story, located on 5 acre parcels. Many of the old homestead cabins have been updated for use as first or second homes. The main thoroughfare in Wonder Valley is Highway 62 (Twentynine Palms Highway), a paved two lane highway with one lane of travel in each direction. Amboy road is located parallel to the north of Highway 62, and is another main road through the community. Local roads are mainly dirt. There are no pedestrian or bicycle facilities in the area. The closest commercial uses are located within the city limits of Twentynine Palms. The walk score for Wonder Valley indicates that all errands need to be completed by car.

Sources: Google Earth, County of San Bernardino, WalkScore.com

Community Amenities

Parks and Trails

- Wonder Valley Community Center
- Wonder Valley Community Park
- Nearby is Joshua Tree National Park, Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness Area and Sheephole Valley Wilderness Area

Schools

- Morongo Unified School District elementary, junior high and high schools in the City of Twentynine Palms

Hospitals/Medical Facilities

- Hi Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree (25 miles west)
- Medical clinics in City of Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree

Fire Protection

- San Bernardino County Fire Department Station #45 in Wonder Valley. Station #47 is closed.

Police

- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department – Morongo Basin Patrol Station located in Joshua Tree

Source: County of San Bernardino Fire and Sheriff Departments, Wikipedia