

# Summary of Implications of Demographic Analysis

As demonstrated in the previous section, it appears that Valdosta-Lowndes County will experience minor demographic shifts in subsequent years. This may suggest minor shifts in parks and recreation desires and needs. Following is a summary of potential demographic implications for the County's parks system.

- **Population & Population Growth:** Between the years 2018 and 2023, Valdosta-Lowndes County is expected to add over 3,600 new residents. Depending on the impact that this population growth may have on the level of services of parks and recreation acreage and facilities, this increase in residents may suggest that more park acreage, facilities, and programs may be needed to maintain the quality of life that residents currently enjoy. This may require the VLPRA to begin planning for expanding access to park land, facilities, and programs in the coming years.
- **Ethnicity:** It appears that Valdosta-Lowndes County will maintain its ethnic and racial diversity over the next five years.

- **Age Distribution:** Projected age distribution Census data suggests that Valdosta-Lowndes' population will be dominated by adults ages 25-45 with a growing population of seniors ages 65-84. This suggests that there may be a higher demand for adult-and senior-based recreation programs, activities, and facilities such as tennis, pickleball, shuffleboard, walking, biking, hiking in nature, and the like, versus youth programs, activities, and facilities.



Valdosta Senior Strutters

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/valdostaseniorstrutters/>

- **Educational Attainment & Median Household Income:**

While Valdosta-Lowndes County has a high percentage of residents with an Associate's degree or higher, most of the population will continue to have a relatively low median household income, but new residents may move in that have a higher median household income. This suggests that while most county residents may continue to prefer affordable recreation options, social programs, and services, it may be important to identify the recreation needs and desires of seniors with more buying power to ensure that recreation programs and facilities are provided to sustain and attract them while also addressing the needs of the broader senior and youth population.