



Awards of Distinction

Category:

Outstanding
New Facility

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding New Facility - Nominee



Outstanding New Facility - Nominee

Criteria: Honors excellence in design and planning of newly constructed public park facilities. Demonstrates high standards of quality, versatility, accessibility, and community involvement.

Nominee: CORE Recreation Center

District: Cosumnes Community Services District

District Submission:



Summary of Nomination

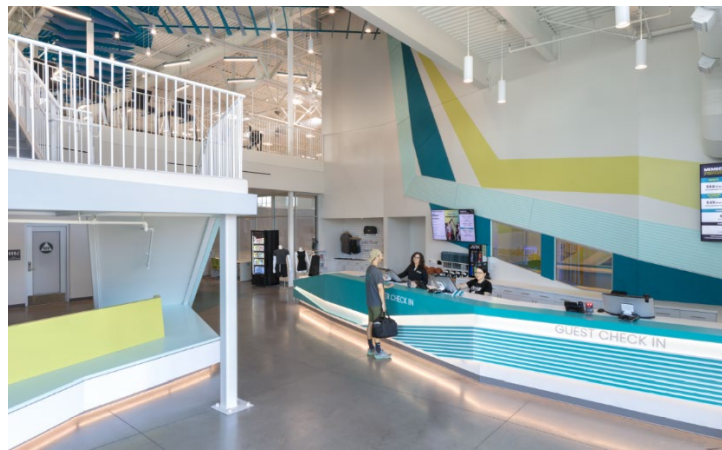
Opened in July 2025, the CORE Recreation Center is a 54,621-square-foot, multi-generational recreation and fitness facility serving 214,000 residents of the Cosumnes Community Services District. Developed to address a critical shortage of indoor recreation space, CORE has eliminated youth sports waitlists, expanded access to fitness and programming, and significantly increased service capacity for a rapidly growing community.

The facility features two full-size gymnasiums, flexible fitness studios, youth and teen programming spaces, and integrated digital membership systems that modernize access and improve the customer experience. Designed for high utilization, CORE supports simultaneous programming across multiple user groups, maximizing community benefit within a single, efficient footprint.

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CORE's distinction as an outstanding facility lies in its intentional alignment of design, operations, and long-term performance. The building layout prioritizes flexibility and adaptability, allowing spaces to be reconfigured for seasonal programming, evolving community needs, and diverse revenue-generating uses without requiring future capital expansion. Clear sightlines and intuitive circulation enhance safety while improving staff efficiency.



Strategically located within Morse Community Park, CORE leverages existing infrastructure, enhances park activation, and avoids the need for new land acquisition. This integrated approach maximizes public investment, increases overall site value, and expands community use without duplicating facilities elsewhere in the District.

The facility also demonstrates exceptional performance and community impact. CORE opened with 1,390 members on day one and reached its Year 3 membership goal of 2,400 within six months, reflecting strong demand and immediate public adoption. Opening Day attendance exceeded 1,000 residents, reinforcing community confidence in the investment. The centralized facility has increased indoor capacity, reduced strain on aging sites, and streamlined service delivery across the District.

CORE was designed to sustain both high service levels and long-term operational efficiency. Its all-electric, high-performance building exceeds California energy standards, while durable materials and energy-efficient systems reduce maintenance demands and lifecycle costs. These features ensure the facility remains adaptable, cost-effective, and resilient over time.

Importantly, CORE expands services without creating an ongoing fiscal burden. Supported by a structured General Fund startup investment with a three-year repayment plan, the facility is already ahead of schedule and requires no ongoing subsidy. This performance reflects a facility model that integrates community benefit with financial responsibility.

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CORE Recreation Center represents a best-in-class example of modern public facility development, delivering high-quality, accessible recreation space while maximizing efficiency, adaptability, and long-term value. It stands as a model for how communities can invest in infrastructure that meets current demand, anticipates future needs, and sustains itself operationally over time.

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CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding New Facility - Nominee



Outstanding New Facility - Nominee

Criteria: Honors outstanding and unique achievements in program planning, development, and implementation of a District activity or special event.

Nominee: Ashland Roots Center

District: Hayward Area Recreation and Park District

District Submission:



Summary of Nomination

The Ashland Roots Center represents a transformative investment in equitable access to recreation, learning, and community connection. Developed by the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) in partnership with Resources for Community Development (RCD), the project integrates recreation, childcare, and affordable housing within a single site to maximize public investment and reduce barriers to participation. Located in the historically park-deficient Ashland community in unincorporated Alameda County, the center was intentionally designed to serve as a welcoming hub for youth, families, and community organizations while strengthening neighborhood vitality.

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A defining feature of the project is the innovative public-private partnership between HARD and RCD. Through this model, HARD owns and operates the recreation facility while sharing infrastructure, utilities, parking, and maintenance systems with the adjacent affordable housing development. This collaborative approach significantly reduced development and operational costs while accelerating project delivery. By co-locating recreation services with housing and childcare, the project creates daily opportunities for residents and families to access programs and community resources within walking distance.

The project also leveraged multiple funding strategies to bring the vision to life. State and county funding sources were combined with local bond funds, and the project utilized California Senate Bill 330 to expedite entitlements while maintaining strong community engagement. This layered funding approach allowed the District and its partners to deliver a high-quality community facility in a cost-effective and timely manner.



The facility's design emphasizes flexibility, accessibility, and sustainability. Reconfigurable community rooms, multi-use activity spaces, and informal gathering areas allow the building to support a wide variety of programs, including youth enrichment, arts education, STEM programming, and community workshops. A distinctive architectural feature of the building is a central breezeway created by spanning a below-grade stormwater culvert. This design solution improved circulation through the site while creating a welcoming passage that connects indoor spaces with outdoor areas and the future Ashland Grove Park.

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Sustainability was also a key priority during planning and construction. The facility incorporates solar panels and energy-efficient building systems that reduce long-term operational costs while supporting environmentally responsible infrastructure. These features demonstrate how public recreation facilities can integrate sustainability with fiscal responsibility and long-term community benefit.

Since opening to the public in June, the Ashland Roots Center has already demonstrated measurable impact within the Ashland community. In its first months of operation, the center hosted more than 93 classes serving approximately 425 participants. Over 82 percent of attendees live within three miles of the facility, confirming that locating the center directly within the community has reduced transportation barriers and expanded access to recreation and enrichment opportunities.

Programs have primarily served school-aged youth in grades 1 through 5 through offerings such as wrestling, Mad Science, DJ Academy, coding, and cooking classes. These programs reflect strong demand for youth-focused enrichment and demonstrate the effectiveness of community-informed program planning. Consistent participation across diverse offerings highlights the center's role as an inclusive, accessible, and responsive resource for local residents.

Through innovative partnerships, thoughtful design, and measurable community outcomes, the Ashland Roots Center provides a replicable model for integrated recreation and community development. The project demonstrates how recreation agencies and community development organizations can collaborate to expand access to services, strengthen neighborhoods, and create vibrant community spaces. By combining strategic partnerships, flexible design, and a strong focus on community needs, the Ashland Roots Center exemplifies the type of forward-thinking recreation facility recognized by the CARPD Outstanding New Facility Award.

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