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2019  
AWARD OF  
DISTINCTION WINNERS





## **2019 CARPD AWARDS OF DISTINCTION**

On behalf of the California Association of Recreation & Park Districts (“CARPD”), we want to thank you for attending the 2019 CARPD Awards of Distinction Banquet.

CARPD is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit whose goals include providing support and education to recreation and park districts throughout the State. What better way to accomplish this mission than by recognizing excellence in the field and acknowledging the achievements of leaders in the industry in front of their peers??!

This year, our Awards Committee had several well-deserving applications to choose from and we are privileged to honor the very best from all over California. Congratulations to this year’s winners!

We hope you enjoy the Banquet and have found this year’s Conference to be a valuable educational and networking experience. We want to give special thanks to our Awards Committee, our Conference Committee, and our entire Board of Directors for giving their time and expertise. With the Board’s help, we are able to support our members and help them fulfill their role as providers of quality recreation programs and park facilities throughout California. We hope you all will continue to support CARPD and we will see you next year!

Matthew Duarte  
Executive Director



**2019**

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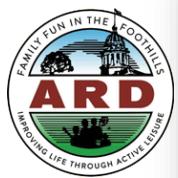
## OUTSTANDING RENOVATED FACILITY

(Large District)

2019

### Auburn Area Regional Park South-End Playground

**Burke**  
PLAY THAT MOVES YOU.



This year's winner for Large Outstanding Renovated Facility has a unique history that involves utilizing the District's own community to develop a park that fit the needs of its residents.

When the Auburn Area Recreation and Park District (ARD) went about replacing its old playground at Regional Park, the District's largest park, they knew just who to ask for ideas. After first soliciting five different designs from playground manufacturers, ARD and its Landscape Architect/Project Manager, Michael Scheele, posed a question to their users: "What do you want from your park?"

ARD created a page on its website that would allow users to view the five proposed playgrounds and vote for their favorite. Signs were posted at the old playground site, and more importantly a Facebook campaign was launched. All told, ARD received 370 total votes, with an overwhelming favorite chosen (Burke) by the people. The design was then presented to the ARD Board of Directors, who happily approved the Burke design.

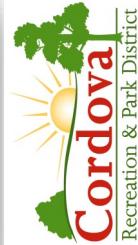
However, the community engagement did not end there. The new plans called for 192 cubic yards of "shock ab" bark under the equipment to protect children and adults young at heart. This is a lot of bark! To assist, ARD staff recruited volunteers who helped spread the bark, saving ARD many hours of staff time and promoting community cooperation, compassion, and togetherness.



## OUTSTANDING RENOVATED FACILITY (Large District)

### Cordova Mather Sports Complex Sacramento Kings Gym Renovation

2019



On February 7, 2019, the Cordova Recreation and Park District (CRPD) unveiled a completely refinished, Sacramento Kings-branded gymnasium floor at the Mather Sports Complex.

This gym project included new lighting, paint, basketball hoops, and bleachers. The project was the result of multiple agency and non-profit partnerships including: the Sacramento Kings, Sacramento County, Kaiser Permanente, the Good Tidings Foundation, and Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD). Community members were invited to be a part of the ribbon-cutting and 100 local youth attended the free Jr. Kings basketball clinic hosted by the Sacramento Kings, Jr. Kings organization.

Director of Community Impact for the Sacramento Kings, Betty Low, discussed her team's motive behind the floor renovation projects with the Good Tidings Foundation. "As part of our health initiative, we strive to get more kids playing basketball and being active. We feel the best way to do that is by building partnerships in the community to give kids a great space to play," Low said. Mather was an ideal choice for the Kings' first indoor basketball court renovation because, as Low states, "CRPD uses this floor for everything: Basketball, volleyball, after school programs and summer programs. This was an important factor in choosing Mather Sports Center because the more kids are served at a facility like this, the more kids learn those great life lessons like perseverance, conflict resolution, communication and teamwork through sports."



## **OUTSTANDING RENOVATED FACILITY** (Small District)

**2019**

### **Fulton-El Camino Conzelmann Community Center**



Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District operates one community center in its District and, since its last renovation in 1996, it was in need of attention. In particular, the Conzelmann Community Center's performance stage had been underutilized for over 20 years and the community suggested making improvements to not only the establishment of the community theater, but also to the facility as a whole.

The community put its money where its mouth was and helped raise over \$33,000 to upgrade their facility with state-of-the-art equipment. First, the District installed stage drapes, resurfaced the stage floor, replaced the worn hall flooring, and repainted the stage and hall. Additionally, programmable theatrical LED lighting system was installed to fully illuminate the stage with lighting and provide a complete spectrum of colors. A multi-faceted audio visual systems was also added to meet the theatrical and business needs of the community. The renovation was done largely by District staff with the exception of the lighting and audio visual installation.

The end result of all of these improvements is the revitalization of the Conzelmann Community Center and betterment of a community asset. Public meetings, private parties, special events, and theatrical offerings are now taking place in the community center including four community theater plays that were presented in 2018.



## **OUTSTANDING NEW FACILITY** (Small District)

**Durham**  
**Jim Brinson Activity Center**

**2019**



The Jim Brinson Activity Center was built by Durham Recreation and Park District to provide a safe space for its Afterschool, Cubbie Care, and Kinder care programs. The facility houses two meeting rooms, one of which is the permanent home for the District's daycare programs, and a gymnasium that allows the District to freely schedule sports practices and programs without competition for space from other entities.

The \$1.25 Million dollar facility was quite a chunk for a district the size of Durham to take on, but the need was obvious. After years of providing services in portable buildings and trying to schedule District sports offerings in school gymnasiums, the time had come.

After years of responsible spending and saving, the District was finally able to start planning construction of the facility in 2016. The result was a top notch community center that serves the residents on a daily basis. This not only satisfies recreational needs, but also provides a safe well-run daycare facility for children in Durham.

The Activity Center is built to current ADA and energy-saving codes and is a testament to the perseverance and foresight of District officials, who for many years managed to keep their eyes on the goal of meeting the community's needs.



2019

## OUTSTANDING NEW FACILITY (Large District)

### Lincoln Village Adult Fitness Course



The Lincoln Village Adult Fitness Project was the result of public/non-profit partnerships including the Cordova Recreation and Park District (CRPD), the City of Rancho Cordova, and the Neil Orchard Senior Center Advisory Board.

In 2017 CRPD worked with members of the Neil Orchard Senior Center to design an outdoor fitness course in a space outside the center that had been vacant for several years. The course is located underneath the shade of a heritage oak tree. The resilient surfacing within the course includes a swirling vine pattern and equipment colors were chosen (forest green, browns, grays) to blend in with the surrounding park landscape. The project provides a quiet, shaded refuge for patrons to enjoy fitness in a natural setting.

The fitness equipment is accessible to people of all ages (youth to senior) and abilities. The five pieces include specific instructions on which muscle groups are worked and how equipment should be used.

The project allows a broad audience of both Senior Center and Lincoln Village Community Park users to engage with the outdoors and enjoy a more active lifestyle. It also serves as an example of the good that happens when government organizations and residents work together. Indeed, CRPD created a project that leveraged funds, increased park security, enhanced Center programming, and will be loved and cared for by the community for generations to come.



## OUTSTANDING INNOVATIVE PROGRAM

### East Bay Regional Park RX and SHINE Programs

2019



The East Bay Regional Park District has been a leader in the Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPHP) movement since 2011 and in Park Prescriptions Rx since 2014.

The District's Park Rx/SHINE programs address three major challenges: 1) The rates of chronic illnesses and stress levels among the underserved communities which have increased due to sedentary lifestyle. 2) The isolation of individuals which has led to increase in loneliness and depression. 3) The cultural segregation of communities which has led to stereotyping, fear, distrust, insecurity, and discrimination.

Since 2014, East Bay has led six to eight Multicultural Wellness Walks (MCWW) annually. Each walk convenes 80 to 110 participants. After a warm multi-lingual welcome, participants walk together in nature, practice yoga/tai chi movements, play ice breaker games and enjoy a healthy lunch of eclectic food (Korean kimbap, burrito, etc.).

In 2014, the District partnered with UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland (UBCHO) to launch the SHINE program. The program provides transportation to a park, a healthy lunch, a 40-minute walk, and 50-minute unstructured play time. The program was recently expanded in cooperation with Contra Costa County Health Services. Currently, over 110 physicians regularly prescribe time in nature to their patients. To date, 2,200 children and families have participated in SHINE.



2019

## OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE

### LUIS MARIO CHAVEZ



The Hesperia Recreation and Park District has established a Park Ranger program to protect District staff, visitors, and property and to preserve the peace at its recreation facilities, parks and open space spread over the District's approximately 100 square miles.

A key part of that program is Park Ranger Luis Mario Chavez. Since March 14, 2009, when he started as a park ranger trainee, through today as a seasoned park ranger, Park Ranger Chavez has been a valued employee. Whether it be mentoring newly hired rangers, maintaining the park ranger schedule or serving as first point of contact for other park rangers that confront difficult or new situations, he always serves the District at a high level. Park Ranger Chavez is a well-known, active member of the District's safety team, and is called upon regularly to educate and enforce District rules, local ordinances, and state and federal laws.

Park Ranger Chavez's dedication to the District and the Park Ranger Program is an asset that is dearly valued; he is an employee that has taken on a large amount of responsibility while limited in time, resources and compensation. Congratulations, Park Ranger Chavez!



## OUTSTANDING BOARD MEMBER

2019

### MIKE LIMBAUGH



Michael "Mike" Limbaugh served on the Hesperia Recreation and Park District (HRPD) Board from December 1998 until December 2018. During his service with HRPD, he was often the "heart" of the team or the catalyst for success. He made a difference with his mindset, being ever-present and rallying others with his contagious spirit.

What makes Mike deserving of this honor is his passion for what recreation and park districts provide to their communities. A tireless advocate and a trusted voice, Mike has proven to be a leader like no other. Also, as many of you know, Mike never met a stranger; he can strike up a conversation with anyone on virtually any topic you could think of. It is these traits that Mike used to advance not only the cause of HRPD, but also the efforts of the Board for California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) which he served a total of 18 years as well as one year with California Association of Park and Recreation Indemnity.

Mike Limbaugh has demonstrated leadership and service that have made positive impacts on Hesperia as well as other recreation and park districts throughout the State as we all strive to Make Life Better! CARPD is honored to recognize Mike Limbaugh as Outstanding Board Member Award for 2019.

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## OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

2019

### THE EXCHANGE CLUB



As our Member Districts know, communities aren't built alone. It takes great partners who take pride in serving others and working for the greater good. The Exchange Club of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley has been a partner that exemplifies those qualities and spirit.

For over 30 years, the Exchange Club has been a major supporter of Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District's programs and facilities. The list of contributions by Exchange Club of Hemet-San Jacinto Valley is extensive and impossible to fully compile. As a sponsor for two major fundraisers every year, including the 2-day "The Weekend" Golf and Dinner Auction, the Exchange Club has raised over \$1 million with all the proceeds raised going back into the community.

What is the Exchange Club of Hemet-San Jacinto Valley? It's a chapter of the national service organization that is comprised of doctors, lawyers, peace officers, business owners, and local leaders who come together to try and help make a difference in their communities.

Last year, the Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District Board voted that a park currently under construction will bear the name of its long time partner. CARPD is proud to similarly recognize the Exchange Club by naming it the 2019 Outstanding Community Organization.



## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

TOM WILSON

2019



Economists often note the universal 80/20 Principle which is the idea that 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. If the 80/20 principle holds true, Tom is clearly in the upper echelon of that 20%. Tom's community involvement and generosity knows no end and he simply never stops giving back.

As a member of The Friends of Valley-Wide Foundation, Tom has helped raise more than \$200,000 since 1998. These monies have been donated to youth scholarships, sports programs, and to purchase equipment for the Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District.

He also is a member and Past-President of the Exchange Club of Hemet-San Jacinto, which has raised over \$1 million dollars for parks and youth sports programs in the region.

Tom is also the most recent recipient of the Hemet-San Jacinto Exchange Club's 52nd annual Book of Golden Deeds Award, a prestigious community award and the highest honor presented by the service organization. Congratulations to Mr. Tom Wilson for being recognized as a 2019 CARPD Outstanding Volunteer!



2019

## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

**GWEN GREGG**



### Hesperia Recreation & Park District

CARPD is honored to recognize Ms. Gwen Gregg. Gwen has been a resident of Hesperia since 1993. For the past 20 years, she has served on the Hesperia National Little League Board and volunteered as a coach for youth soccer, volleyball, baseball, softball and soccer. Mrs. Gregg exemplifies the role of recreation and its impact on the lives of our youth today. Prompted by the call to volunteer service, Mrs. Gregg selflessly undertook the mission to serve others and is a staple volunteer in the Hesperia community.

Gwen possesses the attributes of commitment, selflessness, integrity, loyalty, thoughtfulness, enthusiasm and good sportsmanship, all of which she imparts on the youth she coaches, as well as with others whom she encounters when volunteering for other activities. Her participation in and personal experience with District recreation programs has provided her with an enhanced perspective when relating to parents of children whom she coaches. Gwen's ability to understand and resonate with parents is realized through the cooperation, support and respect parents extend in response to her. For these reasons, CARPD is proud to recognize Mrs. Gregg as an Outstanding Volunteer!



## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER KATHERINE RICHARDSON

2019



### Rim of the World Recreation & Park District

Katherine Richardson has been organizing the Youth Track and Field program for Rim of the World Recreation & Park District since 2004. Her volunteer efforts have had a direct impact not only on the District, but also the youth in the community.

Every year the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District, in association with the Rim High School Track Team, holds a Youth Track and Field Program. This program introduces skills in sprints, hurdles, relay, long jump, triple jump, high jump, shot put, discus and javelin to youngsters from kindergarten through 8th grade. The Rim High School track and field athletes and coaching staff help prepare the youth participants of the program. They assist with the events and conduct the 3 track meets/competitions among the teams.

The track program has instilled values like service and community while promoting positive recreation opportunities. As Katherine herself notes, "Our track and field program is a chance for teens to give selflessly of themselves to help younger kids learn teamwork, movement fundamentals that apply to all sports and to build good character. It is also a chance for kids to have good young role models and get a chance to learn to play outside while building lifelong friendships." Congratulations!



## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SCOTT SCHROEDER

2019



The First Tee of the Coachella Valley is a program of Desert Recreation District whose mission is to impact the lives of children by providing learning facilities and educational programs to promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf.

Scott Schroeder first became involved with The First Tee in the fall of 2017. With Scott's 30 years of experience in fundraising, his impact was almost immediate. One such achievement was his recommendation to host The First Tee 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Benefactor Recognition event, with the goal to acknowledge current donors and reconnect with lapsed donors. The event was a huge success.

With a change in Fund Development Coordinator at the District, Scott has continued to serve as a mentor, with significant guidance on the Annual Giving Campaign and yearly fund development plan. He makes himself available for advice, proofing appeals and other documents, and has introduced the new Desert Recreation Development Coordinator to many important contacts in the community.

Mr. Schroeder spends countless hours with many non-profit organizations and is incredibly generous with his time and expertise. CARPD is proud to honor Scott Schroeder as 2019 CARPD Outstanding Volunteer.



## OUTSTANDING GENERAL MANAGER

### LINDSAY WOODS

2019



It has been said, "It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed." Mr. Lindsay Woods exhibits this talent to the fullest.

Lindsay has risen to the highest levels of leadership in not only his District, but also the industry at large serving CARPD, CSDA, CAPRI, NRPA and other special commissions at the state and local levels.

At the same time Lindsay has maintained a genuine investment and personal interest in his staff and colleagues offering assistance, advice, and ideas. It is common practice for Lindsay and his family to travel hours away to support a fellow colleague at a fundraising event or attend an important employee family occasion. He has proven to be an excellent communicator with a vast knowledge of the field and the inner workings of the industry. Those who know Lindsay consider him to be as an expert, trusted resource, and friend.

This year's Outstanding General Manager has worked at the Hesperia Recreation and Park District (HRPD) since 1987 before he received a promotion to serve as the District's leader. During his tenure as GM, he has worked with his Board to enhance the quality of life for his community while also helping guide HRPD to financial stability. CARPD is proud to recognize Lindsay as a standout in his field!



## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

2019

DAN EFSEAFF



On November 8, 2018, the Camp Fire tore through the Town of Paradise and the surrounding mountain communities of Butte County. All told, the fire had burned 153,336 acres, destroyed 13,972 residences, 528 commercial buildings, 4,293 outbuildings, and took the lives of 85 people.

At the time of the fire, Dan Efseaff, had been District Manager of Paradise Recreation and Park District for less than 18 months. Previously, he was Park and Natural Resource Manager for the City of Chico for 7 years. Before that he was Executive Director for the Yolo County Resource Conservation District. He is an ACA certified whitewater and sea kayak instructor and operates Kayak In Northern California.

Nothing, of course, could have prepared him for the challenges that came after the Camp Fire. However, in the wake of disaster, Mr. Efseaff has risen to the occasion and exemplified true leadership. He was instrumental in opening the District's seasonal ice rink just weeks after the fire to provide community members with a sense of normalcy and a place to gather and recreate during uncertain times. As the District moves forward, Mr. Efseaff has a vision for the future; designing parks to serve as "Shelter in Place" areas; marketing the District as a destination recreation district; and continuing to meet the needs of his staff, community, and Board of Directors. The future of Paradise is in very good hands.



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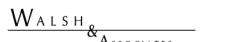
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