



Awards of Distinction

Category:

**Community
Landmark**

CARPD Awards of Distinction

CARPD Community Landmark - Nominee



CARPD Community Landmark - Nominee

Criteria: Recognizes public park facilities that have served communities for 30 or more years. Honors those facilities that have been at the core of recreation and park activities for a diverse user base and provided a wide range of experiences and activities to the community.

Nominee: Conejo Community Center & Park

District: Conejo Recreation & Park District

District Submission:



Summary of Nomination

The Conejo Community Center is a charming, 7,000 square foot wood-framed building that was built in 1965 by local volunteer efforts. Nestled into a neighborhood, bordered by hills, and sprinkled with sprawling oak trees, the 36-acre property, affectionately known by locals as “Dover and Hendrix,” referencing the cross streets, was transferred from the County of Ventura to the Conejo Recreation & Park District (CRPD) in 1972.

For more than 50 years, the Conejo Community Center and Park has served as a beloved destination for recreation programs and informal community use. Although categorized as a community park due to its size and intended service radius, it offers the feel of a neighborhood park, where many visits simply involve leisurely walks through the park’s natural beauty. Often referred to as the “crown jewel” of the Park District, which includes over 60 developed parks and recreation facilities, the site is home to CRPD’s Outdoor Unit, the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, and Conejo Valley Little League.

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The community center provides a full complement of recreation services, with over 50 scheduled programs each week and serving multiple generations of local families. Popular offerings throughout the years include preschool, parent-and-me classes, archery, fencing, senior fitness, martial arts, yoga, and dance. Small but cherished events such as the Father Daughter Dance, Dino Dig, and Jingle Bell Hike through the Botanic Garden have been center staples for decades.

The rolling hillside park has also hosted the popular Summer Concerts in the Park series for more than 50 years. Held in the park's natural sloped lawn amphitheater, the concerts attract between 2,000 – 7,000 per performance. Picnic areas and indoor rental spaces have provided the setting for countless milestones and community celebrations, including weddings, quinceañeras, baby showers, and birthdays.

Staff based at the facility coordinate district-wide open space hikes, summer day camps serving up to 300 children per week, and youth outreach collaborations with partner groups including the Conejo Valley Unified School District and the Safe Passage Youth Foundation. Through its long history of recreation, community gathering, and natural beauty, the Conejo Community Center and Park continues to serve as a treasured landmark of the Conejo Valley.

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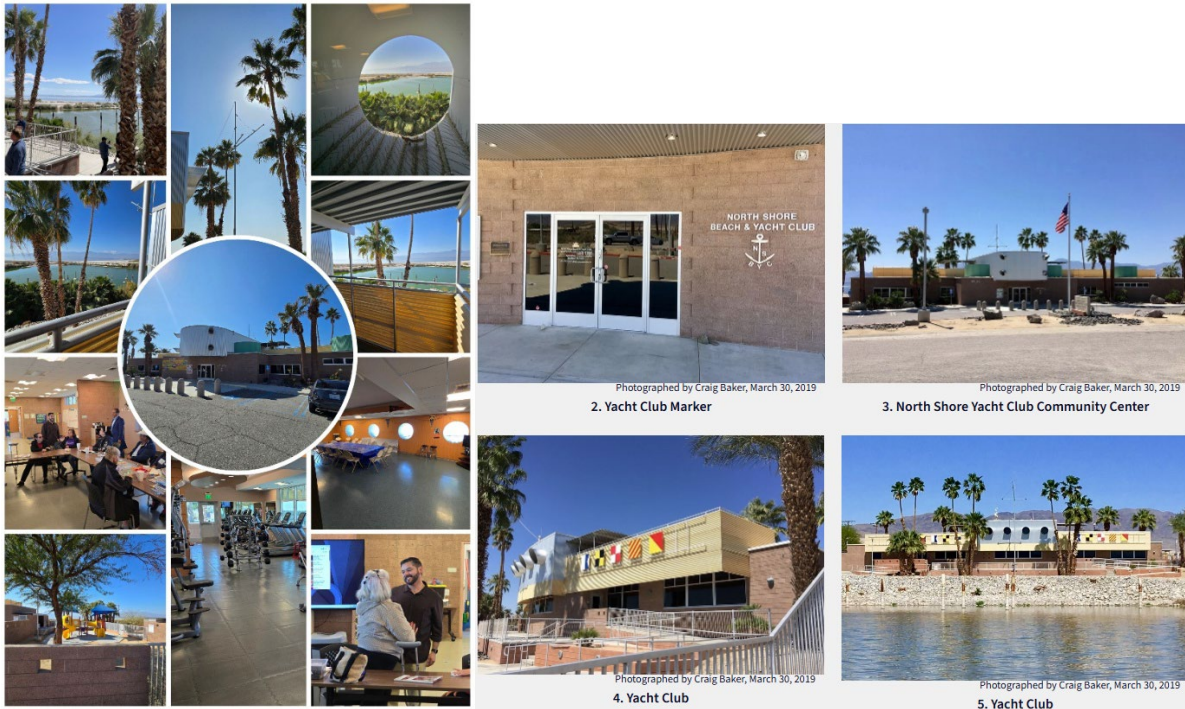
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Nominee: North Shore Beach and Yacht Club

District: Desert Recreation District

District Submission:



Summary of Nomination

North Shore Beach and Yacht Club is one of Desert Recreation District's most iconic and enduring public facilities, serving the North Shore community and surrounding eastern Coachella Valley for more than 60 years. Opened in 1962 and designed by renowned architect Albert Frey, the facility has long stood as both a historic landmark and an active place for recreation, connection, and public use.

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Originally developed along the northeastern shore of the Salton Sea, the Yacht Club emerged as part of a bold recreation vision for the North Shore area. Over time, it became far more than a destination building. It became a recognizable civic gathering place and a lasting symbol of community pride. Even as the surrounding region changed, the facility remained deeply connected to local identity and public life, helping preserve the story of North Shore while continuing to serve present day residents.

Today, North Shore Beach and Yacht Club continues to provide valuable public benefit under Desert Recreation District's management. The site includes a multi purpose room, conference room, weight room, playground, and flexible community space that supports youth activities, wellness opportunities, afterschool clubhouse, meetings, and neighborhood events. This broad mix of uses reflects the award's emphasis on facilities that have delivered wide ranging experiences for a diverse user base across generations.

The facility's importance is also recognized beyond the district. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, affirming its architectural and cultural significance. Preserving and actively using this Albert Frey designed landmark demonstrates Desert Recreation District's commitment to honoring history while keeping meaningful public spaces relevant, accessible, and useful to the communities they serve.

North Shore Beach and Yacht Club is more than a historic structure. It is a living community landmark that continues to connect residents to recreation, local heritage, and shared community life. For more than six decades, it has remained a place of purpose, pride, and public value, making it highly deserving of the CARPD Community Landmark Award.

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CARPD Awards of Distinction CARPD Community Landmark - Nominee



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Criteria: Recognizes public park facilities that have served communities for 30 or more years. Honors those facilities that have been at the core of recreation and park activities for a diverse user base and provided a wide range of experiences and activities to the community.

Nominee: Douglas Morrisson Theatre

District: Hayward Area Recreation and Park District

District Submission:



Summary of Nomination

For more than three decades, the Douglas Morrisson Theatre has stood as a cultural landmark and a cornerstone of arts and recreation programming within the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District. Since opening its doors, the theatre has provided generations of residents with opportunities to experience high-quality live performances, participate in community productions, and connect through shared cultural experiences. It has become a beloved destination where creativity, storytelling, and community engagement thrive.

Recognized as one of the premier community theatres in the East Bay, the Douglas Morrisson Theatre has earned a reputation for producing professional-quality performances while remaining accessible and welcoming to the public. Its programming has spanned classic dramas and comedies, as well as contemporary plays and musicals, ensuring that audiences of all ages can engage with the performing arts in an inclusive and affordable setting.

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Beyond its role as a performance venue, the theatre serves as a vital hub for community involvement and artistic development. Local actors, directors, designers, technicians, and volunteers have found a creative home within its walls, contributing to a vibrant and enduring arts culture. For many emerging artists, the Douglas Morrisson stage has been a place to begin their journey, while loyal patrons return year after year to support and celebrate live theatre.

The theatre's longevity and continued success reflect its deep importance to the community. For over 30 years, it has brought people together through shared cultural experiences that enrich community life. Families, students, seniors, and theatre enthusiasts gather to enjoy performances, celebrate artistic achievement, and experience the unique energy of live theatre, dance or choral performances.

As a facility of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, the Douglas Morrisson Theatre exemplifies the District's commitment to providing diverse cultural and recreational opportunities. Its continued operation highlights the essential role that public park and recreation agencies play in sustaining the arts while strengthening social connections and community identity.



Originally constructed in 1977–1978 and officially opened in November 1978 as “The Little Theatre,” the venue hosted its first performance in January 1979. In 1989, it was renamed the Douglas Morrisson Theatre in honor of Douglas Morrisson, a dedicated Hayward civic leader and arts advocate whose contributions significantly advanced local theatre and cultural programming. The renaming stands as a lasting tribute to his impact on the community and the performing arts.

Today, the Douglas Morrisson Theatre remains a cherished community asset and a lasting symbol of the role that arts and culture play in enhancing quality of life. Through decades of performances, creative collaboration, and community participation, it has earned its place as a true landmark in Hayward. Its legacy of artistic excellence and public engagement makes it a deserving recipient of the CARPD Community Landmark Award.

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Criteria: Recognizes public park facilities that have served communities for 30 or more years. Honors those facilities that have been at the core of recreation and park activities for a diverse user base and provided a wide range of experiences and activities to the community.

Nominee: Veterans Memorial Park

District: Jurupa Area Recreation & Park District

District Submission:



Summary of Nomination

It is with great pride that we nominate **Veterans Memorial Park** in Jurupa Valley for the **CARPD Community Landmark Award**. For more than seven decades, this park has stood as a lasting tribute to service, sacrifice, and community, while continuing to evolve as a central gathering place for residents of all ages.

Originally constructed in **1948**, Veterans Memorial Park and its community center are among the earliest public recreational facilities in the area. From its beginning, the park was dedicated not only as a recreation space, but also as a memorial honoring **Veterans for their service to the County and the community**. This purpose has remained at the heart of the park's identity, making it a place of reflection, remembrance, and gratitude.

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Over the years, the park has been thoughtfully expanded to meet the growing and changing needs of Jurupa Valley. Today, Veterans Memorial Park includes **four ball fields**, a **playground**, **multiple picnic shelters**, and a **splash pad**, making it a vibrant, multi-use destination for sports, family recreation, and community events. These enhancements have increased access and usability while preserving the park's original significance.

The community center and memorial elements serve as a powerful reminder of the men and women who have served and sacrificed, while the surrounding recreational amenities bring the community together in meaningful ways. Commemorative events, patriotic gatherings, and everyday use of the park reinforce its role as both a place of honor and a center of community life.



Veterans Memorial Park successfully balances its historic legacy with modern recreational needs. Generations of families have gathered here to play, celebrate milestones, participate in sports, and attend civic events—strengthening community bonds and creating lasting memories, all within a space that pays tribute to those who served.

For its historical significance, continued investment, and enduring role in honoring Veterans while fostering recreation, unity, and civic pride, **Veterans Memorial Park** truly represents the essence of a **Community Landmark**. It is highly deserving of recognition through the **CARPD Community Landmark Award**.

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