



2022

Awards of
Distinction

NOMINATIONS



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: Auburn Bike Park

District: Auburn Area Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding New Facility - Nominee



District Submission:

I am thrilled to submit for recognition the completed Auburn Bike Park, operated by the Auburn Area Recreation and Park District (ARD), in collaboration with several community groups and members.

Background

Beginning in 2012, ARD started exploring spaces to build a new bike park after community members approached the Board of Directors. For several years, ARD and the community members explored multiple sites and considered multiple options, often meeting with resistance from neighbors or competing land uses. During this process, ARD had communications with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) about building a bike park on unused land adjacent to ARD's Canyon View Community Center. With this suggestion, ARD formed a partnership and signed an MOU with the Auburn Trails Alliance (ATA) for fundraising and maintenance of the future bike park.

After several years of environmental review, challenges from neighbors and equestrians, Reclamation finally approved the building of the Auburn Bike Park in July of 2018. During this time, ATA, led by the incomparable volunteer Diana Boyer, raised tens of thousands of dollars through events and donations, and continued to work with ARD on the final design. After final reviews and bidding, construction on Phase I of the Auburn Bike Park began in fall, 2019. Phase I included a pump track, strider course, flow trail, dual slalom trail and associated amenities. Work was just wrapping up on the Bike Park when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. After review and discussion, and seeing how busy the parks were in general, ARD decided to open up Phase I of the Auburn Bike Park on May 4, 2020. It was an immediate hit, with folks weary from shelter-in-place restrictions looking to get outside and exercise and enjoy this new local treasure.

After further fundraising, construction of Phase II began in fall of 2021. Phase II consists of a multi-level jump course, enhanced by stunning views of the American River Canyon. Phase II opened in spring of 2022.

The Auburn Bike Park is drawing throngs of visitors each day, heavily on the weekends. Users are amazed at the offerings available at the Bike Park, with features for everyone from the very beginner to the seasoned pro riders. ARD and ATA continue to benefit from their partnership, and volunteers provide regular maintenance and improvements to the facilities. ARD and ATA have also made great efforts to alleviate the concerns of the neighbors (the biggest being possible increased traffic). An email recently received from a neighbor and previous ardent opponent of the Bike Park stated the following:

Kahl, I wanted to congratulate you and the entire Bike Park team on the completion of Phase Two of the Bike Park. It is truly a valuable recreational venue. The new jumps course is pretty cool and quite scenic to say the least. I chatted briefly with Diana Boyer today and

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thanked her for her work as well. I also thanked her for the efforts that are being made to urge Bike Park users to use Maidu drive to access the Bike Park. Those efforts are noticed and appreciated. I think that those efforts are having an impact. It is not perfect but it is most helpful. Once again, thank you for your work and for listening and dealing with the concerns of the Riverview neighborhood.

To date, ARD has received \$147,464 in donations and in-kind labor towards the overall cost of \$706,287 for the Auburn Bike Park. These donations do not reflect the \$30,000+ in free dirt and delivery that ARD has received from PG&E through their spoils program. It is very evident that this is truly a community-led project that is benefitting families, kids, adults and everyone that experiences this new local gem.

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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: Dumbarton Quarry Campground on the Bay

District: East Bay Regional Park District

Aerial photos of Dumbarton Quarry before it was filled



Dumbarton Quarry Campground, a month before the Grand Opening



Mayor of Fremont Lily Mei (on right with blue shawl) and her council members congratulated EBRPD park staff who oversee the daily operations and maintenance of the campground.

District Submission:

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), located in the San Francisco Bay Area, completed a major historic first project – a full-service shoreline campground park – built on the site of a former quarry pit. Truly, from a gigantic gaping hole in the ground, the phoenix of an urban campground was birthed, enriching life for the 2.8 million residents that EBRPD serves.

The Dumbarton Quarry Campground on the Bay in Fremont was opened to the public on August 28, 2021, after four decades of visioning. This 45-acre park is located on the SF Bay shoreline at the eastern end of the Dumbarton Bridge, nestled between Highway 84 and Interstate 880. The campground is equipped with 63 family campsites: 60 with full recreational vehicle (RV) hookups; ADA-accessible facilities, a camp store, outdoor

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amphitheater, playground, restrooms, showers, picnic areas, and Wi-Fi

Most importantly, this campground is a gateway linked to thousands of acres of parkland with extensive miles of trails for hiking and biking: to the north – Coyote Hills Regional Park (1,274 acres) and to the south – Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge (30,000 acres). This trail network is an important link on the San Francisco Bay Trail, a planned 500-mile path that encircles the entire bay along its shoreline.

In the 1950s, the Dumbarton Quarry was established to provide building materials for the Bay Area’s major infrastructure projects such as the SF Airport, highways and bridges. At its peak, the rock quarry was producing roughly 1.2 million tons of gravel each year. At one point, the quarry pit was 350 feet below sea level -- making it the lowest site in the Western Hemisphere!

In the 1970s, the quarry owners began talks with EBRPD, City of Fremont, and US Fish and Wildlife Service to convert the longstanding quarry into a public park. The agreement was approved by the public agencies in 1977, giving the quarry owners an extended time to continue operations until 2007. The original plan was to transform the pit into a freshwater lake for swimming, boating, and fishing. However, due to California’s prolonged drought conditions, the plan was discontinued. With strong support from the community and elected officials, a new plan emerged -- fill the giant quarry pit with dirt, converting the site into an urban campground with trails for hiking, biking, bird watching. The surrounding land provides interpretive education of the rich history of the Ohlone peoples and cultures, as well as the natural resources, ecosystems, and wildlife.

It took the quarry owners 12 years to fill the pit with six million cubic yards of clean, tested dirt from Bay Area construction sites such as the BART extension project to San Jose. EBRPD construction engineers drew up plans to create a safe, accessible, and state-of-the-art campground and the quarry owners took several more years to construct the campsite, build the modern utilities, amenities, and landscaping,

The campground is a strong model of a resilient public-private partnership that spanned over many decades. EBRPD engaged in dialogs with the quarry owners in the 70s, drew up plans to rebuild the site from the rock up; and the quarry owners provided \$15 million for the earth fills and the construction. This park is the fruition of holding onto a strong vision with tenacious patience, conducting ongoing inclusive dialogs and engagement with community members, elected officials, and agency partners,

Given the ongoing pandemic and the public’s strong interest in utilizing parks for physical and mental health relief, this campground provides a convenient getaway and a gateway to the history of the Ohlone peoples and thousands of acres of green space and extensive miles of trails for hiking and biking. Since its opening, the campground has been filled to capacity, heavily used by hundreds of hikers, bikers, and families touring in cars and RVs, up and down the coast of California. Coyote Hills and Don Edwards National Wildlife

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Refuge have seen over 10% increase in park visits. In fact, throughout our 73 Regional Parks, the typical annual park visitation of 25 million went up by 30% in 2020-2021 (400% in some popular parks!) with 50% increase in trail use. Truly, Parks Make Life Better! Park Save Lives!

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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: Streng Park

District: Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding New Facility - Nominee



District Submission:

The creation of Streng Park was a product of community involvement and cooperation. The land for the park was .8 acres of surplus property that was created by a road widening project done by Sacramento County. Sacramento County was willing to donate the land to FORPD if the property was developed into a Park. Local residents came to a FORPD Board meeting and passionately stated their need for a park in their neighborhood since the closest park required them to cross 6 lanes of traffic. After listened to the pleads of the children and families FORPD Board approved accepting the donation of land and dedicated funding for the Park using a mix of Impact Fees, Prop 68 funds, and General Obligation Bond funds from Measure J.

Public outreach for design of the Park was organized, led and facilitated by students from Meraki High School, a hands-on project based school. The High School Students that led the outreach presented their findings to FORPD's Board and the Board enthusiastically approved the design concept.

FORPD Park maintenance staff led the Team that wrote a grant to California Parks and Recreation Society's State wide Healthy Play Initiative Pathways for Play Trail Program with Playcore and playground equipment manufacturer GameTime provided a matching grant of \$83,400 toward the purchase of the playground equipment that was installed in the park.

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At the Board meeting that the name of the park was to be voted on the neighborhood residents showed up in force and wholeheartedly supported naming the park after Jim Streng. Jim Streng is a current resident of the neighborhood, a past elected Supervisor of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and was instrumental in the funding and building of the American River Parkway Foundation's Streng Volunteer Center.

The layout of Streng Park provides numerous opportunities for play and with lots of amenities in a compact space. There are custom social seating chairs and benches in the perfect locations to view play in motion. The play structures vary in style and difficulty to provide multiple levels of play for children of all ages. Incorporating an all age linear playground with a variety of active play components this Pocket Park plays bigger than it is.

Entry to the park occurs by either a set of stairs or an accessible pathway to allow entry for all. The park is energy conscientious with solar powered bollard light fixtures at entry points and solar powered irrigation controller. A pallet of low maintenance native plants encourages native insects and birds and limits the required visits for maintenance workers.

There is a natural play area with walking path around a log and boulder play area. Existing shade trees were kept for comfort on sunny days. Additional trees were added to create a natural screen to the street and neighboring properties.

The Park was designed by Verde Designs with construction management services by Innovative Construction Services and the General Contractor was Olympic Land Construction.

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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: Mia's Dream Come True Park

District: Hayward Area Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding New Facility - Nominee



District Submission:

The Outstanding Facility was in operation and open to the public as of November 1, 2021.

In Alameda County alone, there are over 350,000 individuals with a physical or cognitive disability. Often, families with differently abled children feel isolated or left out when they are not able to participate in activities that other children do. When Mia's father, Daniel Vasquez, brought a sketch on the back of a napkin and a dream for an all-abilities playground for his daughter to enjoy in their community, the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.) jumped at the opportunity to collaborate with the community to

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Outstanding New Facility - Nominee



create this special place. Mia was born with a rare type of Cerebral Palsy and is in a wheelchair. The Vasquez Family had received \$5,000 from the Make-a-Wish Foundation as seed money for this facility. Mia's story energized an entire community to rally around the project and bring it to life. In a once empty park, occupied by a handful of loitering individuals, Mia's Dream now receives 600-800 visitors each weekend. And the little girl who was told she would not survive her first year of life, was able to celebrate her 13th birthday at Mia's Dream Come True Playground with a group of her friends at the soft opening.

Mia's Dream Come True Playground is an all-inclusive playground that fosters play and learning through all five senses, it celebrates the rich history of Hayward and offers children of all abilities a chance to access every feature on the playground and play inclusively among their peers. Additionally, bringing this unique project to the severely underserved area of South Hayward was no coincidence. Tennyson Park needed renovation and had become overrun with crime due to the lack of facilities. The playground was intended to activate the space and provide positive alternatives for youth. Mia's Dream Come True Playground truly makes life better for the South Hayward community and for children of all abilities in the region who have found a playground that addresses all their needs.

Designing a playground for children with special needs required several important elements. The first goal was to ensure content experts were a part of the design process. This included parents of children with special needs, adults with disabilities, medical personnel who had knowledge of how play activates and enhances the five senses and recreation specialists. Research was done through a county-wide health assessment to determine the varying types of prominent disabilities and how best to address these needs. To help with design, HARD leveraged the Vasquez's network which included families of children with special needs to establish a working group. The group truly embraced the public process and participated in HARD's four community meetings that solicited input on how to best meet community needs and remains in place to weigh in on current programming and outreach.

HARD worked with multiple individuals and community groups to raise funds for the \$7.1 million playground. The City of Hayward-centered theme and Mia's story garnered enormous support from the community. HARD was awarded a significant amount of grant monies, including over \$1 million in CDBG grants from the City of Hayward. \$4.9 million from the measure F1 bond was utilized for the project. Major contributors included Kaiser Permanente, Fremont Bank, The HARD Foundation, NRPA/Disney, Lucille Packard Foundation, Eden Health District, Alameda County, and the Hayward Rotary. When Mia's family attended donor meetings to share their vision of how children like Mia would benefit from a special needs playground, partners became deeply invested in the project and were excited to fund specific elements of Mia's Dream with naming opportunities.

There were also countless numbers of individual donors who put forth contributions big

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding New Facility - Nominee



and small and were recognized on painted books on the bookshelves at the playground entry or throughout the playground on plaques. Additionally, the Hayward Library and members from the community donated books for the lending library.

Mia's Dream Come True Playground is the result of creative collaborations with the community and other jurisdictions. The fact that the H.A.R.D. Foundation, H.A.R.D.'s fundraising arm, was able to garner support in the community and raise over \$1 million for the project, shows how beneficial community partnerships are in strengthening community and moving important causes forward. Lastly, the project encompasses HARD's strategic goal of addressing equity and improving accessibility in all areas of the district and delivers on the belief that recreation is a basic human right for all.

Video

[Mia's Dream Come True Playground - YouTube](#)

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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: Heritage Lake Sports Park

District: Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding New Facility - Nominee



District Submission:

Heritage Lake Sports Park in Menifee opened in December 2020 as Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District's 70th park and quickly became one of the most visited.

The beautiful facility park covers 20 acres and includes six lighted soccer fields; two lighted pickleball courts; three lighted tennis courts; three lighted full basketball courts; two restroom buildings (one with concessions); tot lots, a fitness trail and gazebos.

The park, one of the five largest in the District, was constructed in partnership between Valley-Wide and Lennar Homes. It was completed and opened during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Heritage Lake Sports Park is in a growing area within the Valley-Wide District. The Heritage Lake community has thousands of homes, with many more built or being built close by. Thousands of people visit daily to use the many amenities.

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Awards of Distinction

Category:

Outstanding
Renovated
Facility

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee

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

Nominee: Noble Creek Community Center

District: Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



District Submission:

Noble Creek Community Center was built in 1984. The Center it was built to provide daycare to the community and provide activities for senior citizens. Bringing the Center to current standards has provided the community with a new rental space for special events, meetings, community classes, weddings, birthday parties and memorials. Other uses to this facility include Riverside County meetings for 5th District Supervisor and his staff, CAL Fire Emergency Management Trainings and for Educational Resource Development Trust (ERDT) classes.

In 2018, the Board of Directors authorized the General Manager and staff to start working on renovations on the outdated and dilapidated facility, all while the facility remained open for public use. Primary focus was on upgrades to the buildings and ADA accommodations, such as signage and striping, installation of new parking lot and walkways from the parking lot to the outdoor restroom and to the attached Franco Gardens. New concrete walkways were installed at all new patios and all doors in and around the facility, so all users could access the Center. The Board then took the renovations to the interior of the Community Center. The updates include installation of new counters that are ADA compliant in all of the office spaces, a fully renovated community room and a renovated kitchen with new appliances. The renovation of the Community Room included new insulation and double pane windows, a new roof, removing all old termite and bee infested wood trimming, updating all lighting to LED, adding beautiful new shade structures around the building, a bridal room, and a wishing well.

We are applying for the Outstanding Renovated Facility Award because of the enhancements made to the building for the community. This project took 4 years and many dollars spent to not only meet ADA compliance, but also to make the Center beautiful again. We have made this facility a place where residents want to attend community events and rent the space for personal use.

CARPD Awards of Distinction
Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



In closing, the Board and Staff at Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District would like to thank you for your consideration of this award.

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CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee

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

Nominee: Cordova Community Pool

District: Cordova Recreation & Park District



Figure 1 - Before: The Cordova Community Pool Replacement Project scope included the demolition and removal of the existing facility shown above.

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



Figure 2 - After: The Cordova Community Pool Replacement Project scope included the addition of a 10-lane competition pool, an activity pool with water play features, a large grass area and a new 3,000 sq.ft. building for office space, lockers, restrooms and pool equipment.

District Submission:

Restoring a Fixture in the Community

Originally built in the 1960's, the Cordova Recreation & Park District's (CRPD) Cordova Community Pool was a state-of-the-art facility and a hub for the community. The Cordova Community Pool had been a source of fun and inspiration for the community for almost 53 years. In 2015, the pool closed due to major water leaks in the piping system. Upon its closure, CRPD staff immediately knew a project had to be initiated to restore this facility and thus began the Cordova Community Pool Replacement Project. CPRD staff were faced with the challenge of securing millions of dollars in funding while also designing a sustainable facility based on programming and community needs.

Programming First, Designing Second

CPRD first worked on securing funding for this important project. Funding was obtained through a \$5 million bond, General Fund contributions, and, ultimately, a generous grant through the City of Rancho Cordova's (City) Measure H Community Enhancement Fund for \$3.4 million. The initial scope for the project did not include a recreation pool or a full 10 lane competition pool, but after extensive outreach with the community and stakeholders, the City expressed an interest in partnering financially with the District to expand the project. The District held two (2) community outreach meetings where the community was

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



able to share input, provide comments and propose suggestions. Furthermore, CRPD received input from local swim teams, the Blue Marlins and Cordova Cordettes, as well as the Folsom Cordova Unified School District. Some key items identified from the community were the desire for a facility that was efficient, sustainable and included two pools for various aquatic programs. District staff applied the information from the community outreach meetings to develop a design concept for the new Cordova Community Pool. In collaborating with the community and community partners, the District was able to provide an award-winning aquatic facility for the residents of Rancho Cordova and beyond.

The Beginning of an Aquatic Era

A primary tenet of sustainable design is improving the health and wellbeing of the community. The new complex brings back this integral piece of community recreation and exercise. With two distinct pools, residents will find something for everyone: whether it is lap swimming, swim and safety classes, aquatic fitness, swim clubs or just cooling off during the hot Rancho Cordova summers. Swimming is one of the best exercises because it engages the whole body. Water-based exercise reduces impact on joints and provides steady resistance, making it ideal for people with joint-related issues. Having access to water-play is great for mental health as well. It improves mood in adults and the play feature is great for brain and motor skill development in small children. The Cordova Community Pool expands the aquatic capabilities in the community and is the only public pool in Rancho Cordova that accommodates swim teams and lap swimming. As a part of improving the health and wellbeing of the community, the District created inclusive guidelines and signage. Swim Attire Guidelines encourage patrons to wear attire designed for water activities including, but not limited to, swimsuits, athletic shorts and dry-fit clothing. Additionally, the locker rooms at the Cordova Community Pool have signs that promote an inclusive environment. At the entrance and throughout each locker room, signs are displayed which feature the text "CRPD supports a person's right to use the locker facility consistent with their gender identity". In developing and implementing these guidelines and signs, the District has created and will continue to foster a positive culture where community members can feel welcome and enjoy activities at the Cordova Community Pool.

The District and community members celebrated the opening of the Cordova Community Pool on June 28, 2021. The District looks forward to being able to offer additional programs, including adaptive programs, and events now that the Cordova Community Pool is officially open to the public.

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CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee

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

Nominee: Tauhindauli Park – Interpretive Trail Project

District: Dunsmuir Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



District Submission:

Twenty-four large, colorful new interpretive signs have just completed installation at the north Dunsmuir's Tauhindauli Park as part of a self-guided tour. These high-quality, durable signs provide information about plants and creatures found in and around Dunsmuir's Tauhindauli Park and provide many fascinating details about the park's history and earlier inhabitants.

Many regular visitors to the park have already been enjoying the new signs, and one visitor remarked to a park volunteer who was installing the signs, "I've lived in Dunsmuir for thirty years, and I had no idea about the information on these signs."

The signs are the result of over a year of dedicated hard work, led by Dunsmuir resident Allison Leshefsky who was able to recruit a group of volunteers, including members of Dunsmuir's Rotary Club.

Also included in the group of volunteers was Angel Gomez, a former Dunsmuir resident and a fifth-generation descendant of the Dunsmuir McCloud-Masson family—one of the two families who, during the California Gold Rush in the 1850s was the first to live on what is now the 'park land.' The other 1850s family, the Wintu Native American Tauhindauli family, lent its name to the park when the park was created over 20 years ago using money from part of the settlement from the Cantara spill. The train construction started in 1886 and the bridge over the park was built in 1915.

Gomez lived just above one of the natural springs at the park in a house that his grandfather built from a kit he bought from Sears. "It was a real pleasure to work so closely with Allison and other Dunsmuir residents over these many months to bring these beautiful new signs to this park," Gomez said. "This land was owned by my family for over one hundred years and was my childhood playground when I was growing up. It's a thrill to see the rich history of the Park brought to life in these new signs."

Gomez said that he contributed much of the information about the park's history to the sign project and that he dug deep into the family's archives and old photo albums to find etchings and photos dating back to the 1860s. These historic images are now shown on the interpretive signs for all park visitors to enjoy. There is also substantial information about the special water resources that are present in and around the park, including Critter Creek which runs through the park, and the Upper Soda Springs and Sacramento River, which border the Park.

Leshefsky said, "I am forever grateful to so many people in this community for their support, encouragement, knowledge, labor, and friendship. Leshefsky continues to emphasize civic engagement and grassroots efforts to improve Dunsmuir. Fabricated by the same company that makes over 10,000 signs a year for the National Park Service, these new high-quality signs will be providing information to Park visitors for decades to come.

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



The new signs compliment earlier park improvement work which includes six new picnic tables, four new riverside benches, and two new bear-proof trash cans. Public art featuring the park's native plants and flowers will be featured on the wastewater pump station. This part of the improvement project will take place in Spring, 2022 in collaboration with the Siskiyou Arts Museum.

Leshefsky and Gomez acknowledged, with gratitude, the McConnell Fund at The Community Foundation of the North State, which provided major funding for the project. Appreciation extended to project partners & volunteers - Brian Wilson, Todd Juhasz, Wendy Perkins, Charles Jimmy ("CJ") Palmer; Recreation & Parks -District Administrator Mike Rodriguez, Dunsmuir Rotarian Will Newman, Cindy Smith, Matthew Bryan, Wendi Grochol, and Ernie Wasson, each of whom made material contributions to the sign project.

And, special thanks to the City of Dunsmuir, the Dunsmuir Recreation and Parks District, the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens, and the Dunsmuir Rotary, and their employees and members—whose support and assistance helped to complete this project.

Self-guided Tour & Interpretive Signage link -

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18Is3jattqinWVNpc0AM83wZQLBXJQ2w5mjRcmW3BN0I/mobilepresent?slide=id.p>

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CARPD Awards of Distinction
Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee

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

Nominee: The Desi House

District: Jurupa Community Services District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



District Submission:

In 1960, Desi Arnaz, Sr. of "I Love Lucy" fame, built a 3,500 square foot home in Corona, California, that mirrored his childhood home in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. The house would become his playground away from the Hollywood life, where he would entertain his good friends in the rich ranchlands. After his death in 1986, the Altfillisch family purchased and relocated the house to its current location on a 2.5-acre parcel in Eastvale, California. When the surrounding 365 acres of land were sold years later to accommodate a new housing development, the deal stipulated that the house, with its unique architectural details and historic charm, remain intact. As such, in 2015, the property was purchased by the Jurupa Community Services District (JCSD) as part of the Santa Ana River Trail Extension Project with the commitment to renovate it to become a premier recreation and leisure venue. Upon purchasing, JCSD appropriately named the property "The Desi House."

JCSD's vision for The Desi House was clear from the outset – to create an accessible venue that provides the following: ample space to offer a variety of public recreation and

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



community services programming; the ability to host some of life's most significant moments, such as weddings, anniversaries, and baby showers; and meeting spaces for corporate retreats, training workshops, and informational seminars. To meet this vision, JCSD and its architectural design team worked closely with the Eastvale community and stakeholders to provide input on the overall renovation design and feedback on the potential uses of the facility.

The renovation occurred through a two-phased construction project. Completed in May 2020, Phase I consisted of improvements related to the land surrounding the house, specifically the installation of the following: a lighted concrete path of travel; open turf; two gazebos; a water fountain; various trees and plant materials; a parking lot; restrooms; garden benches; new patios; and a monument sign. Phase II, which was completed in December 2021, consisted of the renovation of the interior of the house, installation of a new roof, and painting of the exterior of the home.

Throughout the design and renovation process, JCSD went to extraordinary lengths to preserve the home's integrity. Details like the kitchen tile work, the layout of the living space and fireplace, and the location of the outdoor fountain were preserved to showcase the charm. The result is a venue with indoor and outdoor spaces designed with a modern feel while keeping the authentic Cuban flare Desi Arnaz, Sr. created. For example, as you enter the home, you are greeted with the original Spanish wood engraving above the front door, which translates to *"Welcome to the house of Mr. Desiderio Alberto Arnaz, and below this roof, a pleasant welcome is offered to you. Build by Jaime Hulsey. 1960 AD."*

On February 12, 2022, The Desi House opened to the public with a successful ribbon-cutting event that included local elected officials and community partners, such as the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, City of Eastvale, and Eastvale Girl Scouts. Thousands of residents attended the venue tours offered throughout the day and were highly complimentary of the entire property.

To date, multiple events have been held at the venue and several future reservations have been booked. In addition, several recreation and senior services-related programming are currently being offered at the facility on a consistent basis.

The Desi House is truly a gem and generational treasure for the Eastvale community and will create countless memories for years to come.

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CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Renovated Facility - Nominee



Check. Check. Check. and Check. The newly renovated Arneill Ranch Park, located at 1301 Sweetwater Avenue, hits every mark for the high-quality standards deserving of an annual CARPD Award of Distinction for Outstanding Renovated Facility. Arneill Ranch Park is a beloved five-acre neighborhood park developed in 1980 and is centrally located in the heart of Camarillo. Being home to the only non-school running/walking track in the city open to the public and volume of fitness stations, it deserved a complete renovation after almost 30 years of high community use. The park contained a restroom station, 3-to-12-year-old playground structure, benches, fitness stations, uncovered picnic tables, and twenty-four available parking spaces.

In March of 2019, the District began an in-depth six-month site master plan process with the community to envision a new and refreshed Arneill Ranch Park. Led by Withers & Sandgren Ltd. landscape architects, the District partnered with the Camarillo Health Care District, Ventura County Special Olympics, and the Foundation for Pleasant Valley Parks to host five (5) community meetings with over 150 different citizens in attendance to solicit input on the new design of the park. Additional digital and drop-in methods were also utilized to gather neighborhood and community feedback. Architects focused on using the feedback to create an accessible park with a variety of functions to be utilized by a diverse range of ages, interests, and abilities.

The approved design incorporates a phased approach, weaving nature with health and fitness. Existing amenities are upgraded with new ADA compliant components in addition to new spaces for a butterfly garden, challenge course, increased seating, bollard track lighting, a covered pavilion, and a dry creek swale feature with native plants and grasses. Phase 1 of the project started construction in July 2021 and consists of a complete replacement of the irrigation and electrical wiring infrastructure in the entire park, an expanded ADA-inclusive playground and swings, brand new ADA-compliant restrooms, new fitness walking trail along the southside of the park, turf maintenance of the central grassy area with hydroseeding and installation of all new drought tolerant plants and mulch beds.

The citizens of Camarillo and the Pleasant Valley Park District are beyond excited about this renovation, and we feel incredibly fortunate to have a project where a high volume of community input and partnership has created an entirely new, accessible, and versatile vision for such a cherished park!

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Awards of Distinction

Category:

**Environmental
Excellence**

CARPD Awards of Distinction Environmental Excellence Award - Nominee



Environmental Excellence Award - Nominee

Criteria: Honors programming or planning that supports environmental sustainability in the operation and management of District Facilities.

Nominee: The San Francisco Bay Trail RAAPP

District: East Bay Regional Park District

District Submission:

The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) is pleased to submit a nomination California Association of Recreation and Park Districts Awards of Distinction 2022 (Environmental Excellence Award) the San Francisco Bay Trail Risk Assessment and Adaptation Prioritization Plan (RAAPP). The RAAPP was completed in April 2021 and the project website is located here. The Park District and project partners are now working to seek support and funding to implement key projects outlined in the RAAPP.

The RAAPP builds on the work previously conducted by San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) for Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program and the Adaptation Atlas developed by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) and outlines adaptation strategies for varied shore types along the East Bay. Specifically, the RAAPP focuses on utilizing nature-based adaptation and incorporates environmental processes through human-designed features that mimic natural processes to provide coastal protection and other ecosystem services to help ensure the range of communities in the San Francisco Bay region can maintain access to the SF Bay Trail. The RAAPP was supported by a Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant. Further, the RAAPP builds upon previous work of key agencies such as the BCDC and the SFEI. Through an innovative community engagement strategy the Park District was able to engage a wide range of community resources and stakeholders in development of the RAAPP.

The RAAPP is focused on balancing goals related to advancing ecological restoration, recreation, critical mobility, and interpretive educational opportunities. It applies a multi-scale approach, from a broader understanding of the regional shoreline to site-specific scale and priority sites. It prioritizes nature-based adaptation strategies to provide multiple benefits while recognizing the need for a coastal armoring approaches on a site-specific basis to protect the SF Bay Trail and shoreline access needs in East Bay communities. The RAAPP will help Park District partners and SF Bay Trail user plan for and adapt to rising sea levels. Through an innovative approach, the RAAPP can serve as an adaptation planning model for other Bay area and California communities that are balancing the need to maintain recreational access while protecting critical ecological resources in the face of a changing climate. The Project can form a model for the Park

CARPD Awards of Distinction
Environmental Excellence Award - Nominee



District and other public land managers with shoreline property for how to study SLR impacts and prioritize adaptation projects, particularly in areas where there is no Bay Trail.

The Park District appreciates the opportunity to submit.

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CARPD Awards of Distinction

Environmental Excellence Award - Nominee



Environmental Excellence Award - Nominee

Criteria: Honors programming or planning that supports environmental sustainability in the operation and management of District Facilities.

Nominee: Energy Efficiency/Solar Energy Project

District: Livermore Area Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Environmental Excellence Award - Nominee



District Submission:

Beginning in the Fall of 2019 and ending in the Spring of 2021, LARPD completed two projects that have combined to lower our energy usage for our primary operating location, the Robert Livermore Community Center (RLCC), by 42% through energy efficiency measures, and to drive our net energy consumption to zero (energy production now equals usage) through the deployment of solar technology. As a result, our energy costs have declined by 60% per year, or ~\$200k annually.

A summary of the two projects that have driven the above results:

1. **Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs):** Completed in Fall, 2019, this project focused on the reduction of energy use at the RLCC through the replacement of infrastructure that was aging and inefficient with new energy efficient equipment. Project data points:
 - a. Cost: \$2.6 million;
 - b. Energy Reduction: 42%; annual savings of ~\$140k (which grows each year in line with energy prices);
 - c. \$1.6 million of the total project costs were financed through PG&E at 0% interest over 10 years (their "On-Bill-Financing" initiative).

2. **Solar Energy Generation Project:** Completed in Spring, 2021, LARPD, with support from its Contractor, Syserco and energy developer SSI DevCo, LLC, built a covered parking structure, on top of which are arrays of solar voltaic systems. The structure is owned and maintained by SSI, and LARPD incurred no capital outlay to build the structure. As well, SSI and LARPD agreed to set prices that LARPD will pay for the energy that is generated by the solar arrays at \$0.165 per kilowatt hour (kWh) for a 34 year term. Key project data points include:
 - a. Cost: \$0
 - b. Energy savings – \$60k per year (which grows each year in line with energy prices and which is in addition to savings identified for the ECM project above)
 - c. Net Energy Consumption: combined with the ECM project, the RLCC is now a zero net-energy consumer

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Awards of Distinction

Category:

Outstanding
Activity, Program,
or Event

CARPD Awards of Distinction
Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee

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

Nominee: Arden Park Children's Theater Program

District: Arden Park Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



District Submission:

Julia Steudle was a member the internationally known Missoula Children’s Theater program that was performing in Sacramento when the COVID lockdowns hit. She chose to stay in the area, and she picked up a nanny job with the grandchildren of an Arden Park Board member. During the summer of 2021, she put together a few “backyard theater” productions with the children she was watching, along with a few neighbors. Videos from those productions were sent to the District staff and an idea was born.

We met with Julia and soon after that, and the Arden Park Children’s Theater Program was born. The first production began in October with eight weeks of rehearsals. The program’s inaugural performance of *The Lion King Jr.* musical was held in December. The cast included thirteen children, aged 8-13years, and included stage managers and set designers. Julia hand painted the backdrops for the stage.

The Lion King Jr. was a 90-minute production with over 20 musical numbers. The performance was staged in our Community Center with two sold out performances. The response to the performance and the program was outstanding.

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



Because of that, we are currently in rehearsal for our spring production of *We Will Rock You* which is described as, "Through the music of Queen, two rebels take on the iPlanet corporation to bring back the magic of rock 'n roll. With hit songs like 'We Will Rock You,' 'Somebody to Love,' 'Killer Queen,' and more, this 70-minute adaptation of the West End show is a fist-pumping, foot-stomping anthem to individuality!" We have 15 cast members for this performance which will premiere in May. In addition, we also have "Camp Julia" which will consist of four, week-long camps where the children will rehearse and perform a play by the end of each week.

We are excited about and proud of the Arden Park Children's Theater Program. It allows us to reach a segment of our young population that was not being served while encouraging participation in the Arts. And besides, who doesn't love a good musical?!

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CARPD Awards of Distinction
Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee

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

Nominee: H.A.R.D. Holiday Lights

District: Hayward Are Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



District Submission:

After of two years of covid, the community was longing to gather with family and friends for the holidays and to connect with others throughout their community. To meet this challenge, H.A.R.D. created the Holiday Lights event, a festive, nondenominational event embracing the seasonal holidays. The event provides opportunities for the community to gather in a safe space and enjoy an evening at their local park with music, art, refreshments, and a holiday light ceremony.

Most agencies have a traditional tree lighting in one location, but H.A.R.D.'s boundaries encompass a 100-square mile area and over 309,000 residents, so picking one location did not adequately reach our community. H.A.R.D. has three historical mansions throughout the District, and each one is attached to a park and located in under resourced neighborhoods. It was decided to hang lights on the mansions and turn those lights on with

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



a lighting ceremony three consecutive nights prior to the holidays. The goal was to create a historical connection and identify the local treasure for the community, complete with a celebratory feel.

During the event, each mansion had art activities for the families, cookie and a hot chocolate station served by H.A.R.D.'s Foundation and a few words of welcome from the President of the Board of Directors prior to the countdown to flip the giant light switch.

In addition, over 1,200 community members toured the three mansions over three evenings. Tours were provided by staff from the Hayward Area Historical Society (HAHS). Our volunteers, community groups, faith-based groups, community leaders, the H.A.R.D. Board of Directors, the H.A.R.D. Foundation board members and HAHS, helped promote event, provided and distribute refreshments and the historical society's engaging tours added extra draw to these community events.

The Holiday Lights events allowed the H.A.R.D. Board of Directors and the Foundation Board to communicate directly with the community they serve. In addition, holding this event at these three locations in low income, highly populated, under-resourced neighborhoods, demonstrated H.A.R.D.'s commitment to equity.

Community members expressed their appreciation for this event because it was fun, festive, close to their homes and safe to be outside together after another rough year of Covid. Many did not know the mansions are historical facilities or what they looked like on the inside. Partnering with historical society provided an opportunity for guests to learn more about the families that heavily influenced their community, the number of tours led helped the historical society reach their annual goal for outreach numbers in one night.

This event further demonstrates the importance of parks and how the profession, with community events such as this, develops a sense of connection and belonging within the community, which provides for a better quality of life for individuals and families. As we all know, Parks Make Life Better!

Videos

Mt Eden Mansion - <https://fb.watch/bbXQ4VLr3u/>

McConaghy House - <https://fb.watch/bbXOXUNTuw/>

Meek Estate - <https://fb.watch/bbXPpwi2OZ/>

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**CARPD Awards of Distinction
Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee**



Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee

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

Nominee: Hot Rod Halloween

District: Hesperia Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

The Hesperia Recreation and Park District, HRPD, has had the pleasure of providing the community with an annual Halloween event for its residents. The event aims to get the

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



community involved in fall festivities in a safe and family friendly environment. At Hesperia Civic Plaza Park community members of all ages are able to enjoy all the Halloween fun! Hot Rod Halloween has a storied past with the Hesperia Recreation and Park District, with it originally starting as a fall festival planned by a local radio station. It was in the seventh year of planning that the radio station was bought out and the Park District suddenly became responsible in solely planning the Hot Rod Halloween event. After taking on the responsibility of planning, HRPD was ready to do it bigger and better in 2020 but unfortunately, due the Covid-19 pandemic, planning was cut short. It was not until 2021 that HRPD could truly achieve the vision of what Hot Rod Halloween could become.

The planning stages of Hot Rod Halloween 2021 started months beforehand when partnerships were created with local groups. Due to the hard work from staff, HRPD was able to secure a financial sponsorship from T-Mobile in order to put on the event. T-Mobile's mission to work and improve local communities aligned with the district's goal of Hot Rod Halloween. The Hesperia Recreation and Park District had the pleasure to partner with local group, High Desert Second Chance, to provide candy to car show participants and other local vendors to hand out during the event. HRPD also partnered with local schools to have their students volunteer. Students helped with handing out candy and running the free fall carnival games. With lines forming before the event started, community members received free candy throughout the entire park. Hot Rod Halloween 2021 was attended by approximately 5,000 community members with lines stretched around the park throughout the entirety of the event! Vendors promoted their business to the community members while also participating in the Halloween festivities. Residents had the chance to visit the car show of approximately 40 classic cars and trick or treat with them, as well as take pictures and just chat with the owners.

During the planning processes of Hot Rod Halloween, the Hesperia Recreation and Park District was excited to bring back a safe and fun event for families in the community. The event turned out to be a much larger than expected, yet due to the planning and quick thinking of staff the event successfully went on. For this reason, the Hesperia Recreation and Park District would like to nominate Hot Rod Halloween for the Outstanding Program distinction.

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CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee

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

Nominee: Science Camp

District: Livermore Area Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

I want to nominate the LARPD science camp for the Outstanding Activity/Program/Special Event. The program started in the Fall of 2020 when distance learning continued throughout the Livermore public schools. When the schools in our community were going

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



to be in distance learning for an unspecified amount of time, the LARPD open space staff brainstormed on the best way to get kids hands-on learning in an outdoor environment that would be fun and get them away from their screens. As a result, our Rangers wanted to offer a hands-on outdoor science program for grades kindergarten through 5th grade at LARPD Sycamore Grove Park. An education-based science program designed to engage kids, foster an appreciation for nature, and have FUN! Science camps are held in 4-week sessions, one day a week, with times specific to grade levels. The curriculum is theme-based. Some of the themes include weather, wonderful wetlands, and life underground. Each theme has four hands-on lessons that explore each of the topics.

What began as a small program of about ten participants has turned into a comprehensive science program serving over 300 school-age children. Word spread throughout the community, and we began getting inquiries regarding outdoor educational programs. A homeschool organization contacted us who wanted to include our science camp into their curriculum. Because they were a home school, we could offer programs during the school day and have more participants. Our Junior Ranger program doubled due to the kids having such a great experience, and they wanted more opportunities to learn and be at the park.

In the Spring of 2021, LARPD was approached by a 5th-grade teacher whose annual overnight outdoor education program in the Santa Cruz mountains was canceled due to Covid-19. Some of his class had been looking forward to this throughout elementary school. We took the curriculum from the science camp and created a similar experience to outdoor education without the overnight component experience.

What was first created to offer an outdoor experience during a tough time turned into a program that became a starting point to open up a whole new outdoor experience for the community.

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CARPD Awards of Distinction
Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee

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

Nominee: Tinkers & Thinkers Virtual Innovation Faire 2021

District: Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



District Submission:

The Tinkers & Thinkers Innovation Faire (Tinkers & Thinkers) is one of the most exciting and innovative events in the recreation industry. Tinkers & Thinkers is a free Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.)-based event brought to the community through an exemplary partnership between the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District (District) Special Events and the Pleasant Hill Library. The primary goal of this annual event is to champion S.T.E.M.-based learning, encourage creative thinking, foster effective problem solving, and inspire innovation through a variety of fun “hands-on” projects for people of all ages and abilities. Drawing over 2,000+ people each year, this special event not only serves to promote S.T.E.M. but it also brings families, friends and the community together to engage, connect and share a common positive experience in the local park. These shared experiences help build a stronger, more enlightened, and progressive community. Over the past two pandemic years, the challenge was how to still host this event in a substantive way: keeping the important hands-on activity component and maintaining the special community connection, all while keeping people safe in a world pandemic.

Like a typical science experiment, pivoting in the pandemic took some trial and error to come up with favorable results. The first three annual Tinkers & Thinkers events were held in-person at the District’s Pleasant Hill Park with additional indoor exhibits in the Pleasant Hill Teen Center and Senior Center facilities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, an in-person event for 2020 & 2021 was not an option. In 2020, the team developed an innovative approach that combined virtual event hosting via the Zoom video conference platform with the pre-event distribution of customized, event-branded “Maker” boxes. This combination allowed the event team to maintain the hands-on experience, connect people together for a shared experience and keep them safe at the same time.

In 2021, the event team developed an event-specific website via Wix.com to allow for a self-paced S.T.E.M. exploration. <https://www.phtinkersandthinkers.com/>. Like the 2020 event, the 2021 event included pre-event distribution of the “Maker” boxes. The event team plus local volunteers assembled and filled over 1,000 boxes that held the components to make 6 unique S.T.E.M.-based projects. Instead of hosting the event in a massive live, zoom video conference call, however, the team developed pre-recorded videos for self-paced exploration on an event-specific website. The videos were step-by-step instructions to build each S.T.E.M. project using all the parts and pieces found inside the “Maker” box. On September 18, 2021, the event videos were “released” and published on the website at 8:00 am. Participants were given an event start time but no end-time. The engagement time was left open to allow participants to relax, watch videos at their convenience and enjoy building the S.T.E.M. projects at their own pace with family and friends. The goal was to balance providing enough event structure to retain the value of coming together as a community with minimizing health risks, maximizing access to S.T.E.M., and providing flexibility to participants. The rave reviews proved the event team struck the right balance

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



and the 2021 self-directed style virtual event was a huge success. Watch YouTube video here: <https://youtu.be/zvZOe1mIESs>. Photos featured in video were submitted by participants.

In the past two years, the online format in has increased participation well beyond city limits. In 2021, the combination of pre-recorded videos and project kits in-hand has shown to extend S.T.E.M. education and exploration beyond a one-day event as people continue to engage with the website and build the projects or make completely new ones. Pre-recorded videos had 1,800 viewers since event start date and continue to get approximately 20 fresh views every weekday plus more on views on weekends. The event team will work towards preserving this “stickiness” for future events and consider a hybrid in-person/online approach. Tinkers & Thinkers Innovation Fair is now one of the most reputable, highly valued, and popular family events in the community.

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CARPD Awards of Distinction
Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee

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

Nominee: The Big Egg Hunt

District: Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



District Submission:

Dear CARPD Awards Committee,

The Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District has had a longstanding history of hosting 15,000+ egg hunts for children of all ages as part of our annual Easter Eggstravaganza event. While the COVID-19 pandemic left the early 2021 event season uneasy, the District decided we did not want to cancel the event for yet another year. These past two years, we wanted to give the community an egg hunt, but adapt the activity so participants could socially distance themselves while getting the chance to visit several of the District's parks.

The community was invited to take part in our District-wide "Easter Eggstravaganza's: The Big Egg Hunt," where we had hidden nine giant Easter eggs in parks throughout the District. Nine Community Partners agreed to help us in the endeavor and paint the giant

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



eggs. The partners included: The Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo, The Camarillo Family YMCA, kidSTREAM, Ventura County Credit Union, Pleasant Valley Co-op Preschool, The Senior Center Art Group, Studio Channel Islands, Casa Pacifica, and Visit Camarillo.

Community members were instructed to visit our event page and print out the Bingo sheet and map to locate and record their finds. The community had one week to visit one or nine of the Easter egg parks, find the egg using the hints and write the code word from the sign on your Bingo sheet. They were encouraged to visit as many participating parks (up to 9) as they could, and then turn in their Bingo Sheet to the Pleasant Valley Aquatic Center (PVAC) for a prize. Staff collected the Bingo Sheets, administered minor prizes, and entered participants in the raffle drawing scheduled for April 7, 2021.

Raffle tickets were given to participants who completed all open spots on the provided Bingo Sheet. Raffle tickets are limited to one per person for the extent of the event. Staff kept track of the entries via a shared document to prevent multiple raffle ticket entries from the same individual. When the Egg Hunt was over, staff raffled off the prizes on a YouTube Live stream. Raffle prizes were donated by various local businesses and partners to help make this event a success.

For a first-time event, the District was thrilled that over 950 community members submitted bingo sheets, and most were able to be entered in the raffle prize drawing. After such a success in 2021, the District decided to incorporate The Big Egg Hunt into the 2022 Easter Eggstravaganza event. We have been fortunate enough to grow our partnerships to include Home Depot and expand the egg hunt so that this year's hunters can find up to 16 giant eggs and 8 smaller challenge eggs. With a completed Bingo Sheet, hunters will receive a raffle ticket. Finding each challenge egg will give hunters extra chances for a raffle ticket with a maximum of nine raffle tickets per person

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CARPD Awards of Distinction
Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee

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

Nominee: 50th Anniversary Community Party

District: Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



District Submission:

Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District turns 50 years old in 2022 and is acknowledging the milestone the entire year. The largest event was a 50th Anniversary Community Party on April 2, 2022.

It was the largest event Valley-Wide has ever undertaken. Held at our Diamond Valley Lake Community Park, the free party included two live concerts, a laser show, food trucks, bounce houses, slides and carnival games, face painting, raffles and giveaways.

Planning and executing the party involved the entire staff and months of preparation. Logistics, ADA compliance, parking and traffic flow were among the areas addressed. While a promoter was contracted to hire the bands, set up the stage and laser show and arrange food trucks and children's activities, the rest was done in house.

Social media and banners were used extensively to promote the event. Signs were posted at all Valley-Wide facilities and hung on street corners and even across Hemet's main throughfare. Regular postings on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter highlighted the activities that took place.

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Activity/Special Event - Nominee



Law enforcement and community groups were offered booth space to share their work with visitors. The Hemet Police and Fire Departments, Riverside County Sheriff's, Department, AMR and Eastern Municipal Water District were among the organizations that brought equipment to the party.

An estimated 3,000 people attended at least part of the event. The Valley-Wide booth was a popular destination, as we gave away T-shirts, mugs, stuffed versions of our bear mascot Bruno, flying discs, beach balls and reusable bags. The grand raffle prize was a \$600 Disney gift card. Valley-Wide staff members worked the booths and other areas of the event, some even dressing as Bruno to interact with the crowd.

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Awards of Distinction

Category:

Outstanding
Innovation

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Innovation - Nominee

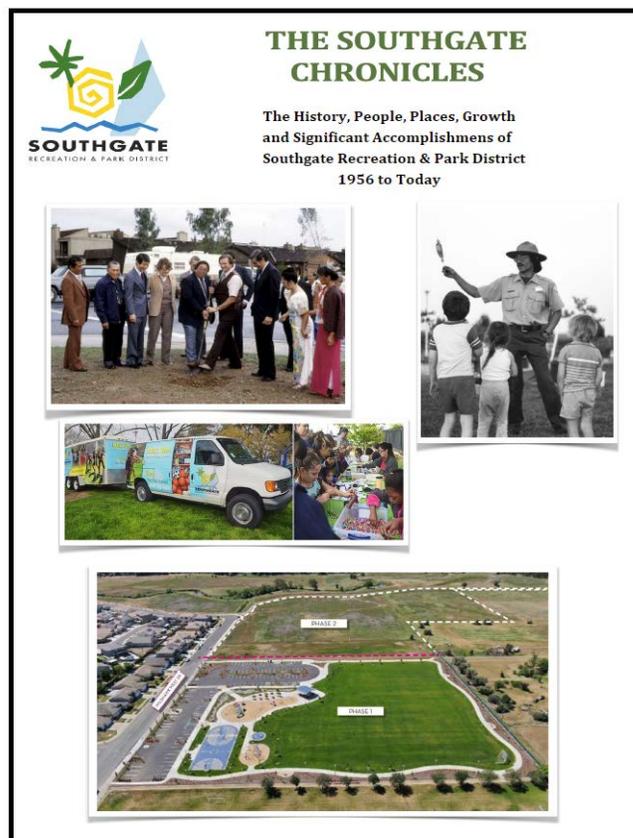


Outstanding Innovation - Nominee

Criteria: Honors unique or ground-breaking recreation programs, park maintenance practices, or District Operations.

Nominee: Southgate Chronicles

District: Southgate Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

Southgate Recreation & Park District nominates our District History Project: Southgate Chronicles for a California Association of Recreation and Park District 2022 Outstanding Innovation Award. The project summarizes District planning, facilities, staff and programs from the inception of the District to the present day. Through review of archived documents including newsletters, activity guides, and correspondence as well as interviews with former and current Board members and leadership, our staff created a concise

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Innovation - Nominee



historical summary telling the story of the District in words, timelines, charts, and photos. The timeline also traces District growth and expansion, and unique efforts made by staff to best support a growing and diverse region of South Sacramento. With a dedicated team of employees, the District History Project is a testament to the District's mission: to provide positive recreational opportunities, safe and attractive parks and open spaces, resulting in a healthier community.

As we reflect on our accomplishments, potential for improvement, and changes in Board and staff leadership, we can better focus on our goal as a District to promote groundbreaking recreation programs and facilities to our regional constituents. The District prides itself on being innovative, forward thinking, and supportive to the changing recreational needs of our community. We promote the parks and facilities that have served our residents well and improve their health and wellbeing. We are intentional in providing unique services to parks spread across different neighborhoods including BBQ spaces to socialize, playgrounds with modern features and safety equipment, dog parks, and lighted sports fields. No one should be left out of recreation and the right to play, and our expansion of parks throughout the years reflect that.

The District prides itself on being a leader and innovator for the region and looks forward to the expansion of numerous new parks and facilities in the coming year. We have had to adjust to considerable changes in income and ethnicity within our District. In 1990, the District was 54% White, 18% Hispanic, 15% Asian/Pacific Islander, 13% Black/African American and 1% American Indian/Eskimo. Thirty years later, in 2020 the District now is 34% Asian/Pacific Islander, 30% Hispanic, 18% White, 12% Black/African American, 5% Two or More Races, and 1% Other. The District History Project documents and promotes our unique and innovative solutions to our residents of diverse backgrounds through new grants, community surveys and outreach, accessible public information and outreach on social media, our website, and our newsletter.

As we promote unique facility constructions, rebuilds, renovations, and leadership in the District History Project, we can look boldly at future District projects that maximize service capacity and promote sustainability. Our funding partners at Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SECAT, Moyer, Lawn & Garden), CALeVIP, Hybrid Vehicle Incentive Program, and Sacramento Municipal Utility District Commercial Electric Vehicle Program allow the District to provide electric vehicle charging stations, LED lighting and more sustainable and cost-friendly options.

The District History Project enables the District to inform the community of its many unique accomplishments, groundbreaking programs, and recognition of its innovation through numerous awards.

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Awards of Distinction

Category:

Outstanding
District
Employee

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding District Employee - Nominee

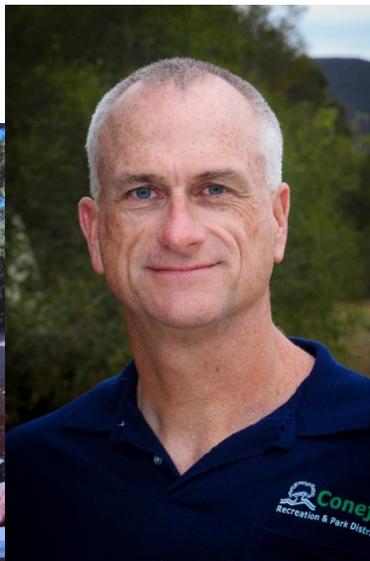
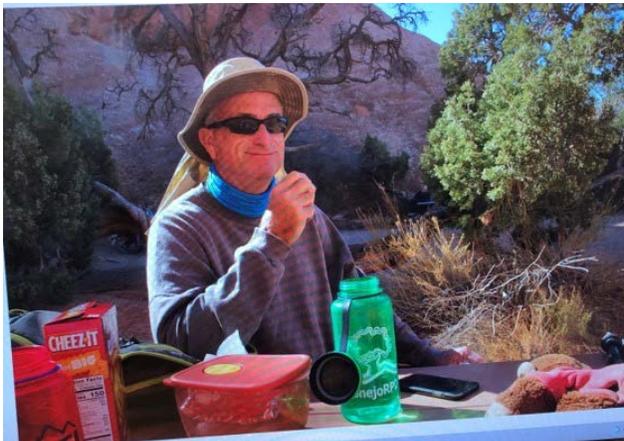


Outstanding District Employee - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any District employee whose significant contributions have gone above and beyond in service of their District.

Nominee: Tom Hare

District: Conejo Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

Tom Hare leads a team of 55 public service professionals. He and his team are responsible for improving, maintaining, and protecting **64 different improved parks and facilities** covering more than 1,000 acres along with 15,000 acres of open space and 150 miles of multi-use trails.

Tom joined CRPD in 2006 and over **the past 15 years has spent over \$64,000,000** (or approximately \$4.3 million/year) on **over 800 capital improvement projects** ranging from small “repair” jobs to new buildings, parks and a pool.

During the past 15 years, CPRD has completed 6 new parks (including a large community park), a public pool, expansion of 2 community centers, a grounds maintenance workshop, a historic ranch Visitor’s Center and replaced 35 playgrounds. In addition, CRPD added a variety of amenities onto existing public parks including: bridges, bikeways, disc golf courses (2), solar carports, large picnic pavilions, pickleball courts a bike jump park, inclusive playgrounds, an “ant hill, “a healing garden, outdoor fitness nodes, futsal courts

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



and acquisition of an equestrian center among many other things.

Fiscal Year 21/22 is one of Tom's biggest years ever . . . Under Tom's leadership, CRPD is working on a new 14-acre park (\$5.5 million), substantial renovation of 2 community centers (\$3 million), 4 playground renovations (\$1.5 million), dog park parking lot, restroom and shade structures (\$1.3 million), an outdoor nature classroom (\$0.6 million), Equestrian Center rehabilitation (\$.6 million), new Community Center planning & design (\$.6 million), plus dozens of smaller capital projects totaling another \$3 million . . . for a substantial **capital improvement budget of over \$16 million!**

Beyond the very long list of capital projects Tom oversees he takes the time to work alongside each one of his employees. He spends one day each month in the field, repairing irrigation, cleaning a restroom, operating equipment, building trail, riding along with Rangers and listens and appreciates what they need to do their jobs. **He takes the time to know his staff, helps them succeed,** and is both well-respected and liked by his employees and colleagues.

Tom is a leader and trusted voice in the community and during the last drought steered the District through the painful process of converting 70 acres (affecting nearly every park) from irrigated grass turf into mulch and drought tolerant plantings saving water and over \$500,000/year.

Tom created a **capital improvement grant program** in 2010 which has served as a great way to manage desires and needs among dozens of user groups. To date, the CIP Grant program has allocated over \$1,000,000 for projects on park property which means the community has also raised \$1,000,000 to match the District's contribution and help fund improvements in the parks.

Tom has been a reliable leader on the park district's non-profit arm, "Play Conejo" serving as a board President or officer nearly every year since its inception in 2012. To date, Play Conejo has raised \$1.1 million which is spent on playground renovation and recreation program scholarships for kids who may not otherwise have the means to participate.

Tom is a US Naval Academy graduate and Veteran having served at Seal Beach, Long Beach and El Toro. He holds an MBA from Cal. State Fullerton. Tom is married to Lori Hare. They have 3 adult children all of whom are employed and live out of the house! **Tom is an absolutely OUTSTANDING employee.**

District Contact Name: Jim Friedl
District Contact Phone: 805-381-1239
District Contact Email: jfriedl@crpd.org

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



Outstanding District Employee - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any District employee whose significant contributions have gone above and beyond in service of their District.

Nominee: Jill Nunes

District: Cordova Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

“COVID did not slow us down, we continued to thrive through these unprecedented times. This shows me how powerful our Parks and Recreation department really is!” – Jill Nunes

This quote demonstrates the leadership mindset I greatly appreciate and value in Jill as the Director of Parks & Recreation. Jill consistently demonstrates strong leadership skills, teamwork and her approach to coaching her staff and addressing issues and processes is thorough, thoughtful, respectful and professional. She has been instrumental in addressing challenges during COVID restrictions regarding concerns with CRPD systems and staff and looking for ways to improve the conditions. She is very passionate about the parks and recreation field which is demonstrated through her numerous accomplishments.

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



Jill has been a champion for change management which has been a key for success. She has led staff through numerous COVID restrictions and protected staff from potential lay-offs due to limited to no programs by having the full time Recreation staff be direct service providers, creating new programs and producing a Virtual Recreation Guide. She created a work team that communicates well through diverse and challenging work assignments. Jill is excellent at providing tools and resources to her staff for them to work efficiently, smarter and to achieve their goals. Specifically, she has trained staff on expectations to evaluate existing programs and to add new programs to fill service gaps, especially during the challenging years of the pandemic. She is also connecting staff from multiple departments to make cohesive decisions so there is a District-wide point of view on critical capital improvement projects.

In addition, Jill has been the leader of the District Fee Schedule and updates to the CRPD Board of Directors (Board). She developed and presented the District Fee Schedule program to the Board for their approval, which demonstrated her ability to initiate a process and see it to completion. Jill also presents monthly reports to the Board to discuss department highlights and great services provided by staff. The Cordova Golf Course is one of these highlights. The improvements at the golf course, along with new leadership, has yielded remarkable results. "An exceptional leader, Jill perseveres under pressure and articulates a clear vision for success – going above and beyond in service to the District. I consider myself fortunate to be a part of her vision to imbue an aging golf course with new life and vitality, for future generations to enjoy," said Cordova Golf Course Manager Chase Michelotti. "Daily, Jill works to empower CRPD's vision, and embraces the mission to serve the needs of a diverse and growing community." Due to the new management approach and practices, revenue is at an all-time high and customers are feeling a sense of belonging and care.

Jill has proved how valuable building connections and relationships are to the success of CRPD. She has done an exemplary job learning about the parks maintenance, facility maintenance and management needs of CRPD. To gain perspective into the Park Department, Jill worked full days with each division within the Parks Department. The experience was beneficial as she learned about our dedicated staff and how hard they work each day to keep CRPD parks beautiful. Jill enjoyed gaining insight into their needs and obstacles which has helped her give the Parks Department the support they need and deserve. Through this, Jill has earned ample respect and admiration from the Parks staff, leadership team and the Board. She will continue to learn the Parks team needs, look for ways to advocate and support those needs in the budget and help prioritize projects considering limited resources. Jill has also formed strong relationships with partners and stakeholders. Her confidence and professional approach enable her to connect with a diverse, and sometimes challenging, audience. She continues to strengthen her relationships with agencies including counties, cities, tourism agencies, school districts and neighborhood associations. She has written and received Board approval for Joint Use Agreements with multiple school districts. Jill continually strives to be the best listener in the group or meeting while maintaining an openness to the content of the communication.

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



I really appreciate Jill's strong work ethic, honesty, real approach to work and support for new directions. She has set the tone with professionalism and openness to change. Jill is an irreplaceable asset and a talented leader. It is my honor to nominate Jill Nunes, Director of Parks & Recreation from Cordova Recreation & Park District as the CARPD 2022 Outstanding District Employee.

"Jill is the consummate professional and cares deeply about her staff and the people in this community. An exceptional leader – she perseveres under pressure and articulates a clear vision for success – going above and beyond in service to the District. She acts with integrity and engages in honest, open communication with both community members and coworkers. A testament to her resilience and ability to motivate, she was an integral part of CRPD's ability to successfully navigate the difficult COVID-19 pandemic, offering innovative resources and unique ideas for continued high-quality recreational opportunities in the community. I consider myself fortunate to be a part of her vision to imbue an aging golf course with new life and vitality, for future generations to enjoy. Daily, Jill works to empower CRPD's vision, and embraces the mission to serve the needs of a diverse and growing community."

- Chase Michelotti, Cordova Golf Course Manager

District Contact Name: Patrick Larkin
District Contact Phone: 916-842-3300
District Contact Email: plarkin@crpd.com

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



Outstanding District Employee - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any District employee whose significant contributions have gone above and beyond in service of their District.

Nominee: Jim Sanchez

District: Hesperia Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

The Hesperia Recreation and Park District has the pleasure of managing and running eight large parks and several pocket parks throughout the city. All these parks have provided safe, fun entertainment for community members for years. The District has been able to manage these parks thanks to the dedicated maintenance staff that keep the parks in great condition. Jim Sanchez is part of the team that provides the community with safe and clean parks. He has been with the Hesperia Recreation and Park District for a total of 14 years and has enthusiastically served the community throughout that time.

Jim and his family have lived in Hesperia during his time at District. He and his wife have been together for close to 27 years and have had the pleasure of raising three children together in Hesperia. When Jim Sanchez is not faithfully serving his community, he is either fishing at local fishing spots or barbequing. He enjoys spending time outside with his close

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



friends and family. His family and wife are proud of how far he has gone with the Park District and the dedication that he pours into the community.

As a full time Maintenance Worker, Jim has kept up the daily maintenance in Lime Street Park, Hesperia Civic Plaza Park, and all commercial properties that fall under the responsibility of the Hesperia Recreation and Park District. Jim is also responsible for a full team of part time staff that he leads in the mission to keep our parks and other spaces looking great. With his leadership, the maintenance team is able to consistently keep the parks in the best conditions for the various sports teams, local community groups, and regular residents to enjoy. Jim Sanchez has always been the employee who steps up to the call of action when called upon. He does not shy away from helping maintain the upkeep in other parks that fall outside of his assigned area. Jim is called upon regularly to handle any emergencies that occur in all of the District parks.

In addition to the daily upkeep, Jim also leads the required preparations required for special events in our parks. He can always be counted on to leave the Hesperia Civic Plaza Park ready for special events including but not limited to: Movies in the Park, Bobcat's Concert Series, Hot Rod Halloween, and the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Throughout the year, these events bring hundreds, if not thousands, of local residents to the park, thanks to the dedicated work that Jim puts into the Hesperia Civic Plaza Park.

For these reasons, the Hesperia Recreation and Park District nominates Jim Sanchez for the Outstanding Employee Award.

District Contact Name: Nicolas Chavez
District Contact Phone: 760-244-5488
District Contact Email: nchavez@hesperiaparks.com

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



Outstanding District Employee - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any District employee whose significant contributions have gone above and beyond in service of their District.

Nominee: Nancy Blair

District: Livermore Area Recreation & Park District

District Submission:

I am writing this to nominate Nancy Blair for the Outstanding District Employee. Nancy has been an employee with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District for over twenty-five years and is a tremendous asset to the District. She is so deserving of this award and recognition.

Nancy is the Youth Services Administrator. She is directly responsible for eleven school-age year-round before and after-school childcare programs, six preschools, two grant programs serving Title I schools, and is the district liaison for the Livermore Youth Advisory Commission. These programs traditionally serve approximately 1000 youth per day. Nancy's knowledge of child development is unparalleled. Besides her academic background, she has an amazing instinct in her ability to provide the Livermore community with safe, enriching, fun, and quality programs. She is a leader in youth development in both the community and the LARPD. In addition, she works closely with several community agencies, including the Livermore Joint Unified School District, Hively (resource and referral agency), and the City of Livermore- to name a few.

Nancy represented LARPD throughout Livermore as a leader in providing childcare under extreme circumstances. When Covid-19 appeared, like the rest of the world, we did not know when and how we would open again. For the first several weeks, Nancy assisted with the community outreach department, serving at the drive-through lunch program for our Senior community. Approximately four weeks into the shutdown, LARPD was asked by the Alameda County emergency operations center to open childcare for children of essential workers. Nancy led this program by building a relationship with the county health officers and working with State and County mandates. This allowed us to train staff on all safety protocols and work with families to ensure they felt safe bringing their children to our program. In the summer of 2020, LARPD increased its program offerings to provide outdoor camps and activities to children to get them outside and safely socialize with their peers. Due to Nancy's relationships with the county, we were able to open safely in several district areas. She worked with other LARPD supervisors to continue to follow mandates in all program areas. Though things were beginning to open throughout the County, schools

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



were still in distance learning. Nancy oversaw all the distance learning for our childcare sites, offering our sites to be opened from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm for essential workers and those parents who were beginning to go back to work. During this time, Nancy secured several grants for safety equipment and supplies to keep our programs clean and safe.

Despite the ever-changing world of the last two years, Nancy consistently finds a way to better our programs, communicate with staff, peers, and the community, and continue to be a mentor to others.

District Contact Name: Mathew Fuzie
District Contact Phone: 925-373-5700
District Contact Email: mfuzie@larpd.org

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



Outstanding District Employee - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any District employee whose significant contributions have gone above and beyond in service of their District.

Nominee: Joana Martinez

District: McFarland Recreation & Park District



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Please Stay In Your Car
NO WALKERS
Wear A Mask & Enjoy The Treats

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District Submission:

Dear Awards Committee,

Joana Martinez has worked for MRPD for 18 years. She is our Administrative Assistant, but her title is not indicative of her duties and dedication to our organization. Joana oversees our finances and human resources. Since I started in 2015, our audits have been perfect. But it is much more than great audits.

Ms. Martinez is an integral part of our management team. She is a pro at Razo r1 s Edge and works on things even from home and when she is sick. An example is our payroll. She is the staff member who takes care of this task (even when sick she gets staff paid). She is also an idea person although she is always thinking of the bottom line and liability with a focus on getting better.

She is constantly looking for ways we can improve. During Covid, Joana saw a need in the

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



community. The Police Department was unable to host their annual Cops and Candy event due to staffing. So, Joana sprang into action and made the event happen (all following Covid protocol). She also made the Veteran's Parade happen when a local veteran said they needed help, or they would not be able to host it. It was amazing. She serves on the Chamber of Commerce and School Site Council at two schools working food and fireworks booths. She is one of the most involved residents of McFarland.

Ms. Martinez mentors staff (and board members) on an ongoing basis. Whenever there is a need, she seems to be there to fill it. That is invaluable to our small district.

I fully endorse Ms. Martinez nomination for the outstanding district employee award.
Sincerely,

Jeff Nickell, MA District Manager.

District Contact Name: Jeff Nickell
District Contact Phone: 661-792-3187
District Contact Email: jnickell@mcfarlandrpd.com

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



Outstanding District Employee - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any District employee whose significant contributions have gone above and beyond in service of their District.

Nominee: Keri Price

District: Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

Whenever Keri Price enters any Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District facility, the room lights up with her smile and infectious personality. A recreational supervisor, Keri has been an outstanding employee for almost 15 years.

She began her career with Valley-Wide in September 2007 as a part-time instructor for the Mom & Me program. The next summer, she started working at the Aquatic Center, and worked both positions part time until she became the lead supervisor for the San Jacinto P.A.L program. When the program ended, Keri moved to Valle Vista Community Center.

While her main responsibility is overseeing the community center, Keri is instrumental in numerous Valley-Wide programs. She is the volleyball director for the Hemet/San Jacinto area and is a key member of the Holiday Committee, planning events to celebrate Easter, Halloween and Christmas.

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding District Employee - Nominee



She also is the chair of the Oldlympics, a series of athletic competitions for people 50 and older. The Oldlympics involve more than 20 competitions at various venues over a two-week period with more than 800 competitors. It is the largest adult event in the district.

Not only does Keri work with our oldest residents, but she also works with our youngest as the co-leader of the Mom and Me program for preschool-aged children.

Keri has degrees in child development psychology and wanted to be a teacher but fell in love with recreation and parks and Valley-Wide and the community are glad she did.

District Contact Name: Dean Wetter
District Contact Phone: 951-654-1505
District Contact Email: dean@gorecreation.org



Awards of Distinction

Category:

Outstanding
General
Manager

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding General Manager - Nominee



Outstanding General Manager - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any District General Manager or District Administrator whose significant contributions have gone above and beyond in service of their district.

Nominee: Duane Burk

District: Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation & Park District



CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding General Manager - Nominee



District Submission:

Duane has served as General Manager at Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District since 2016. Since he has been with the Park District, he has made a great impact in all areas. Duane has 29 years' experience in Public Works, and knew that he had his work cut out for him when he became the GM. He was and still is, determined to make the District relevant and strong again.

Since his 5 years of being the General Manger, Duane has implemented many details that the District did not have in place. He has won the District many awards, one of them being the "Ted Winslow Safety Award" in 2018. He continued with bringing the District ADA compliant at all of our facilities by upgrading ADA restrooms, walkways/handrails and parking. He added ADA compliant doors, drinking fountains, kitchen, counter tops, horseshoe pits and BBQ grills.

Duane has grown the parks footprint. He negotiated with the County of Riverside and the Beaumont-Cherry Water District for the purchase of the run down, 360 Acre, Bogart Regional Park and took ownership in January of 2019. He has been able to bring Bogart

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding General Manager - Nominee



Park back to life by removing or trimming dead/beetle infested trees, fixed all the broken leech fields, cleaned out the septic tanks, fixed a leaking water tank, and repaired a non-working entry gate. One of the largest improvements he took on at Bogart Park was to refurbish and rebuild a large pond. The pond was stocked with fish and reopened in March 2021 to the community for fishing. In December of 2020 he negotiated a donation agreement for approximately 123 acres of land from TSG Cherry Valley, L.P.

Duane is working hard to make the District robust again. He started with one 60-acre park and in 5 years turned it into 3 parks with 543 acres, for our growing community.

In addition to all of the external details he has accomplished, Duane has implemented many internal improvements. He has brought in funds for the District with Developer Impact fees that started in June of 2018. He has worked diligently to resume the BCVRPD Foundation after it had no activity since 1992. He established Resolutions for an Operating/Capital Improvement Reserve fund, and has reduced the Districts long-term liability considerably. Duane, raised in Beaumont, is a devoted family man that always has time to teach and pass on his knowledge, help and support the staff and the community around him. He established collaboration with local service clubs like Kiwanis, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, The Lion's Club, and memberships like CSDA, CARPD, CAPRI, and the County of Riverside.

Duane has gone above and beyond service for our District bringing our District to what we are today. We, the staff of BCVRPD, ask your committee to honor Duane with an award of Outstanding General Manger. For parks do not grow on trees, they grow with exceptional **Outstanding General Managers** and their visions.

District Contact Name: Nancy Law
District Contact Phone: 951-845-9555
District Contact Email: nancy@bvcparks.com

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding General Manager - Nominee



Outstanding General Manager - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any District General Manager or District Administrator whose significant contributions have gone above and beyond in service of their district.

Nominee: Mathew Fuzie

District: Livermore Area Recreation & Park District

District Submission:

Together with the other two managers who report directly to him, I nominate Mathew Fuzie, of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD), for Outstanding General Manager.

We offer the following in support of our nomination of Mat:

1. Outstanding leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic:

- a. From the onset of the pandemic, Mat led LARPD staff through frequent status and planning meetings, addressing key issues that included:
 - i. Successfully keeping our childcare offerings in place to serve the needs of hundreds of front-line workers whose families are dependent on our services to care for their children while they work;
 - ii. Constantly monitoring county health mandates to ensure that LARPD's community and staff were adhering to important guidance and operating in as safe an environment as possible.
 - iii. Leading the local effort to provide vaccination clinics for Livermore residents in conjunction with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. Mat was particularly focused on ensuring that Livermore's undeserved communities were given every opportunity to participate in the vaccination clinics, and also made sure that our key facility, the Robert Livermore Community Center (RLCC) was available, whenever needed, to house many of our City's clinics. Indeed, several thousand community members received their vaccinations here at the RLCC.
- b. Mat's leadership stretched beyond LARPD staff as he greatly enhanced the role and visibility of LARPD within the community during the pandemic and, in the process, created strong bonds with key leaders from the School District

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding General Manager - Nominee



and the City of Livermore that truly facilitated the community's efforts to support its citizens.

- c. With the LARPD Board, Mat made difficult, but necessary, organizational decisions at the onset of the pandemic that helped to the District to emerge from the pandemic in a financially sound position.

2. Innovative Financial Management:

- a. Mat played a key role in understanding what could be done to address LARPD's challenging pension cost growth, and then helped manage the issuance of Pension Obligation Bonds (POBs) in June, 2021 that lowered the District's unfunded actuarial liability by \$12.6 million.
 - i. Credit Rating Agency (S&P) gave LARPD a rating of AA, far exceeding the expectations of the District's financial advisors on the project and better than ratings received by comparable agencies, citing LARPD's strong management team, led by Mat. The favorable credit rating resulted in a "true interest cost" of 2.67% on the POBs, far below the annual % increases that had been experienced by the District's pension plan contributions each year.

3. Enhanced Relations with key community organizations:

- a. Mat has facilitated important efforts with the City of Livermore (property agreements), the School District (afterschool care planning and the aforementioned response to the pandemic), the Rodeo Association (event planning at the Rodeo Stadium, which is owned by LARPD), and the East Bay Regional Park District (constructive conversations about legacy agreements).

4. Innovative Programming:

- a. Mat continuously drives critical thinking about the District's community services and has instilled in staff LARPD's place as a community agency. What can/should we provide to our community? How can we provide services in a cost-effective manner to make them available to as many community members as possible while staying financially sound? We're seeing record registration activity as of this writing largely because Mat has provided a framework within which our team can think creatively while not being bound by cumbersome administrative practices (eg, unnecessary barriers to getting things done have been systematically taken down).

District Contact Name: Jeffrey Schneider
District Contact Phone: 925-373-5700
District Contact Email: jschneider@larpd.org



Awards of Distinction

Category:

Outstanding
Board
Member

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Alex Vassar

District: Arcade Creek Recreation & Park District

District Submission:

I am nominating Alex Vassar, Board Chair for the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District, for the CARPD Outstanding Board Member.

Alex Vassar has served on the board of the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District for five and a half years. His service to the district has included a year and a half as Board Chair (2021-Present), three years as Vice Chair (2018-2020) and six months as Interim General Manager (2021).

During his time as Vice Chair, Director Vassar led a working group which reviewed and updated the district's policies for the first time in a decade.

Alex also served three years on the Board's Finance Committee, setting funding priorities and ensuring sound fiscal policy through the thoughtful construction of a \$900,000 annual budget. Most notably, Alex spent months investigating the district's finances which revealed a previously unrecognized \$500,000 in outstanding debt owed to CalPERS for unpaid retirement benefits for former district employees. Recognizing that the amount owed was growing quickly, Director Vassar successfully led the board to adopt several significantly trimmed budgets, redirecting the funding to pay down the district's longstanding unfunded liability.

As a result, following our most recent annual audit, the auditor said that district was on its strongest financial footing in the decade that he had been conducting our reviews.

Finally, in from March to August 2021 Alex served as the district's interim General Manager. In that capacity, he led the creation of a secure centralized records storage, developed new policies for internal controls which have resulted in better oversight on district finances, oversaw the purchase of a new lawn tractor, gator and added work safety features in the maintenance shed.

CARPD Awards of Distinction
Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



District Contact Name: Lisa Gonzalez
District Contact Phone: 916-482-8377
District Contact Email: lgonzalez@acrpd.com

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Ayn Wieskamp

District: East Bay Regional Park District



District Submission:

Director Ayn Wieskamp has served on the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) for 23 years. EBRPD is a system of beautiful parks in Alameda and Contra Costa counties in California, serving over 2.8 million people. We preserve and protect 125,000 acres in 73 parks, including 1,250 miles of trails.

Prior to her being elected to the EBRPD Board, Director Wieskamp served as a Councilmember for the City of Livermore for 18 years. She had also served as a Director of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) and the Alameda County Recycling Board. Director Wieskamp received the 1998 California Association of Recreation and Park Districts Special Award for her development of special family events and for her efforts to expand parks and trails to be closer to the underserved communities in her ward. The EBRPD Parks in her ward include some of the most highly visited parks in the county: Ardenwood Historic Farm, Mission Peak, Coyote Hills, Del Valle, Monument Peak, Sunol Wilderness, Pleasanton Ridge, Shadow Cliffs, Ohlone Wilderness, and Tassajara Creek. The cities within her ward in Alameda county include Brightside, Dublin, part of Fremont, Livermore, Newark, Pleasanton, Scott's Corner, and Sunol.

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Director Wieskamp's unwavering advocacy for the preservation of the natural environment and providing access for all has made a lasting impact on the county and the community. Among her major achievements:

- As a member of the Alameda County Recycling Board, Director Wieskamp supported the creation of official recycling efforts in Livermore. Thousands of tons of waste have hence been diverted from landfills. Livermore and Berkeley were trailblazers in environmental conservation in the county.
- As an EBRPD board member, Director Wieskamp advocated for 20 years for the creation of a park at Dumbarton Quarry in Fremont. A shoreline campground was finally built on a quarry pit that was once 350 feet below sea level and required six million cubic yards of dirt to be filled from several large Bay Area construction projects. The Dumbarton Quarry Campground provides a convenient and affordable getaway for the communities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties during the pandemic. It is linked to thousands of acres of parkland with extensive miles of trails for hiking and biking.
- Director Wieskamp supported the protection of thousands of acres of land in the densely-populated Tri-Valley area, including additions to Pleasanton Ridge and Vargas Plateau Regional Parks in Fremont.
- As a local leader, Director Wieskamp has had to strike a fine balance between the public's needs and the challenges of serving as an equitable and inclusive leader -- sifting through complex and, sometimes, controversial/political issues to make sound and sustainable decisions for the community and the agency. Carefully managing limited resources and meeting public needs and expectations are key considerations in her decision making.
- Director Wieskamp is also a forerunner of several environmentally sound planning. She was a founding member of the Wheels Bus, Livermore Amador Valley Transportation Authority. Her community advocacy included memberships in League of Women Voters, Tri-Valley Conservancy, Tri-Valley Elected Women, Tri-City Ecology, Save Mount Diablo, and American Association of University Women.

Director Wieskamp is truly a champion ahead of her times and a dedicated public servant who has devoted her life to preserving parks for perpetuity and access for all.

District Contact Name: Mona Koh
District Contact Phone: 1-888-327-2757
District Contact Email: mkoh@ebparks.org

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

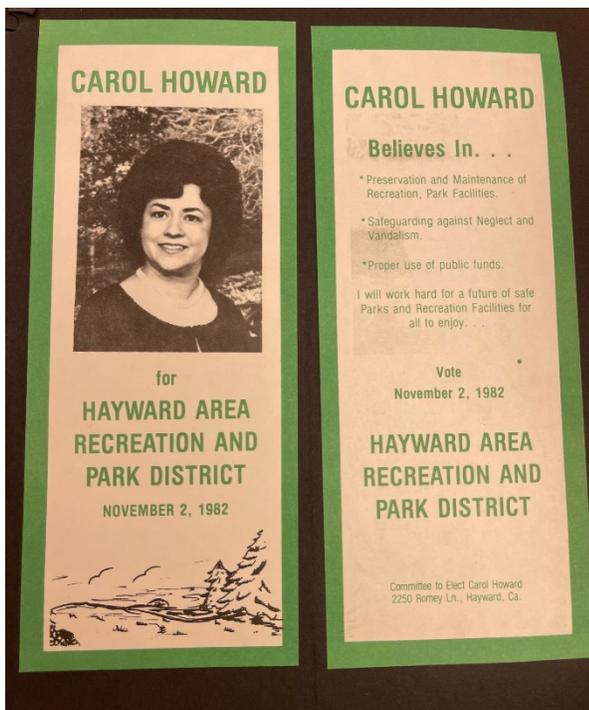


Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Carol A. Pereira

District: Hayward Area Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

Mrs. Carol A. Pereira has served as member of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.) Board of Directors since 1982 and has made contributions and impacts that have significantly launched the agency into the future. As a member of the Board of Directors and Current President of the board, Carol serves for the District that provides recreation and park services to the residents of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, Hayward, San Lorenzo and a section of the unincorporated area of San Leandro, California and represents services to over 309,000 residents.

As a lifelong resident of Hayward and the Daughter of Golden West, Mrs. Pereira has deep roots in the Hayward area. Her grandfather had a ranch in the Hayward Hills above what is currently D Street. It is those local roots and humble beginnings that have instilled into Mrs.

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Pereira her deep devotion to the Hayward area and preserving its rich and treasured history.

Growing up in Hayward she attended Bret Hart School, the home of Harry Rowell's first 'Cowboy Show,' and graduated from Hayward High. Mrs. Pereira began her working for Machado's Hillside Chapel at the front desk/book work from 1991 to 2006. When Diocese of Oakland bought the business. Mrs. Pereira continued to work there until they purchased Sorenson's Brother Mortuary for an additional three years at the front desk/book work and retired in 2011, for a total of 20 years.

Now retired, Mrs. Pereira has been on the Hayward Area Recreation Park District since 1982 holding office for President for several times. This position allowed Mrs. Pereira to do what she loves making it possible for the community to enjoy all the facets and activities that are the diversity of the Hayward Area.

Mrs. Pereira is married to Leroy Pereira and has 5 grown children. She is a grandmother to ten children and a great-grandmother to sixteen and counting. She is active in Questers, an organization dedicated to the study, conservation and preservation of historical objects and existing landmarks for the benefit of today and tomorrow. As well as a member of the Hayward Area Historical Society, and dedicated supporter of the Rowell Ranch Rodeo.

Mrs. Pereira has served the community for 40 years. Because of her time served, she brings a wealth of historical knowledge to HARD. During her tenure on the Board, she has been a part of many facilities and park designs and opening. She has led the way for the District and its highest priority and mission of ensuring all residents have access to services and parks. She, along with the Board and Staff, were instrumental in the development and passing of measure F1 in 2016, a 250-million-dollar bond measure to acquire parkland in park poor areas and renovate and develop new parks and facilities. This ballot measure was such a priority for Mrs. Pereira that she personally worked hours making calls, walking neighborhoods, and answering questions to educate the public. Passing the ballot measure was an unprecedented achievement for the District. In the past two years, H.A.R.D. parks and facilities have grown exponentially, including the Mia's Dream Come True all ability playground and renovation of the largest regional park in the HARD system, Kennedy Park.

Mrs. Pereira has always had a love for Hayward Area Recreation and Park District and its rich history. She is collaborative and a historian, but her greatest achievement is her willingness to embrace and work tirelessly for the community she serves for forty years! It is with great pleasure that I nominate Mrs. Carol A. Pereira as Outstanding Board Member for CARPD.

District Contact Name: James Wheeler
District Contact Phone: 510-881-6700
District Contact Email: whej@haywardrec.org

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Maryalice Faltings

District: Livermore Area Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

Maryalice Faltings will complete her 28th and final year as a member of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors. She will serve her final year as Chair. Director Faltings has served on two Special District Board of Directors, as well as on the Board of Directors of the CARPD. She has been a driving force in the area of Parks and Recreation.

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



While on the Board of LARPD Director Faltings has been the Chairperson several times. Not only has she been very involved at the Board Level but has taken a very strong stance on Historic Preservation in Livermore and the State of California. Director Faltings was the driving force behind the Ravenswood Progress League and the Buckley Trust who stewarded the Historic Buckley Mansion and Grounds called Ravenswood.

District Contact Name: Mathew Fuzie
District Contact Phone: 925-373-5700
District Contact Email: mfuzie@larpd.org

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Jan Palajac

District: Livermore Area Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

During the start of the Pandemic Jan Palajac was the Chair of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors. Director Palajac was the right person in that position and the right time.

We all know what a massive amount of decision making took place during the first year of the pandemic. We know the amount of research and networking that needed to be done to move forward from a dead stopped position to one where we were serving our constituents as much and as safely as we could.

Director Palajac was all in in her role as Chair of the Board. The General Manager asked Director Palajac to represent the Board at all senior staff and emergency meetings. She did so without fail. Having a board member let alone the Chair in these high charged meetings was a risk, but a risk that the times rewarded. Director Palajac took the role of equal team

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



member and conducted research, networked with other agencies, and played the role of bended ear to give insight into how the Board of Directors might think as the staff and General Manager planned strategic responses during the emergency.

We believed our emergency structure with Chair Palajac in a major role allowed LARPD to respond much quicker to the response and challenges of the pandemic. We took many bold steps with our organization including restructuring our organization, our Pension Obligation and our finances.

When Director Palajac came off of the roll as Chair, she continued to play a major role with the staff and General Manager to continue our march forward. She has become a most trusted confidant of the staff and will always be appreciated for her dedication to LARPD

District Contact Name: Mathew Fuzie
District Contact Phone: 925-373-5700
District Contact Email: mfuzie@larpd.org

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Al McGreehan

District: Paradise Recreation & Park District

District Submission:

To Whom it May Concern:

I wanted to nominate on behalf of the Paradise Recreation and Park District, our Board Chair, Al McGreehan, for CARPD's Outstanding Board Member.

Mr. McGreehan began his service as a Board Member in 1993 and has served continuously with outstanding leadership ever since. He has served in numerous board roles multiple times and is our current Chair. Al brings a keen professional understanding of local government and planning, as he served over 35 years in planning and community development in Northern California in Plumas County and the Town of Paradise. Other agencies have benefited from Al's long service including CARPD and Butte County LAFCO.

Al has provided steady leadership and support after the Camp Fire to the district and community in a planning and recovery role. On a personal note, I appreciate his clear-eyed judgement, historical context, scrutiny of details, and commitment to providing a voice for community members.

Al is a true supporter of recreation and enjoys several activities such as softball, running, golf and others. He is also an advocate of our annual ice rink and has donated to it every year, along with donating to our swim scholarships.

He is up for re-election this year and I have no doubt that he could continue this role, I feel that it is important to honor and acknowledge someone that has provided outstanding service and contribution to our community (both recreation and locally) for over 29 years!

District Contact Name: Dan Efseaff
District Contact Phone: 530-872-6393
District Contact Email: defseaff@paradisepdpd.com

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Nick Schouten

District: Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

Nick Schouten has served on the Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for more than 40 years. Currently the Vice President of the Board, he has served multiple terms as President, guiding the district as it has grown from one park to more than 100 parks and facilities in an 800-square-mile area with 275,000 residents as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2022.

A resident of San Jacinto, Schouten is a retired dairyman and longtime coach and game official. He has served youth in the San Jacinto Valley for more than 50 years. He was a coach at St. Hyacinth Academy in San Jacinto in 1969 when he became school board president for both that school and Notre Dame High School in Riverside.

Schouten was president of the San Jacinto Little League and involved with Junior All-American football and was instrumental in transitioning youth sports programs to Valley-Wide.

Schouten has served more than 30 years on the CARPD State Board, where he is currently president.

District Contact Name: Dean Wetter
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