



2022

Awards of
Distinction

NOMINATIONS



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



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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In 2018, the Board of Directors authorized the General Manager and staff to start working on renovations on the outdated and dilapidated facility, all while the facility remained open for public use.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.

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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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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.

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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

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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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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



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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.

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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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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



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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

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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 Hulse. 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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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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