



2022

Awards of
Distinction

NOMINATIONS



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.

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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).

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