Conejo Recreation & Park District

GENERAL MANAGER
Jim Friedl

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Nellie Cusworth, Chair
Marissa Buss, Vice Chair
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Doug Nickles, Director
Ashley Orozco, Director

DATE: December 3, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jim Friedl, General Manager

SUBJECT: **2026 Year in Review**

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and File 2026 Year in Review.

BACKGROUND:

The following bullet point list is a summary of some of the Board's significant actions, and CRPD projects and accomplishments for 2026 (loosely in chronological order) as part of its constant effort to fulfill the District's mission **to enrich the quality of life for our community by preserving and enhancing recreational opportunities, parks and open space**.

- New Years Eve Party at Alex Fiore Thousand Oaks Teen Center
- Updated Tree Trimming/Removal Service Contracts
- Approved Return of Oak Heart Country Music Festival
- Participated in E-Bike Safety Event
- Updated Five-Year Strategic Plan (2024-2028) and Established Goals for 2026.
- Tour of Rancho Potrero Community Equestrian Center and Held Board meeting at Dos Vientos Community Center
- Selected Urban Futures, Inc. (EFI) as Financial Advisor for Acquisition of Fireworks Hill
- Extended License Agreement with SCE For Trail Access in Various Locations
- Approved Brush Clearance Contracts for Wildland Urban Interface
- Purchased Approximately 1.1 acres and Entered into License to Maintain Approximately 0.6-Acres with City of Thousand Oaks at 524 Janss Road for CRPD Public Park
- Board Field Trip to McCrea Ranch and Awarded Matching Grant of up to $450,000 to McCrea Ranch Foundation for Improvements to McCrea Ranch Prior to its 100-Year Anniversary

- Inducted Bob Tokin, Brenda Coleman and Lori Olbrich into Gratitude Circle
- Amended Contract With CVUSD for Youth Outreach Services
- Updated Fees and Charges.
- Approved Budgets for and Adopted 3 Benefit Assessment/Landscape Maintenance District
- Adopted Debt Management Policy
- Approved Lease/Lease-Back Financing Through Webster Public Finance Corporation of approximately $15,000,000 to Acquire 61-Acre Fireworks Hill from City of Thousand Oaks for Approximately $30,400,000
- California Association for Park and Recreation Indemnity (CAPRI) Scores CRPD 121/120 During District Visitation Cycle XX
- Held Multiple Public Hearings and Reviewed and Approved & FY 26/27 Operating and Capital Budgets
- Approved MRCA Budgets for FY 26/27
- Considered Possible Uses for the 21,000 sf 401 W. Hillcrest Building (Therapeutic Recreation, Community Use and Event Center) and Authorized Staff to Seek Request for Proposals from Architectural Design Service
- Amended Joint Use Facilities Agreement with CVUSD
- Enhanced Fireworks and July Fourth Community Events for USA's 250th Birthday
- Approved HVAC Services Contract for 401/403 W. Hillcrest
- Approved DRAFT Concept Plan for Conejo Creek West for Purposes of Studying Potential Environmental Effects of DRAFT Concept
- Received CRPD's Disaster Management Plan
- Approved Annual Update to Water Conservation Plan
- Approved Annual Permits for Conejo Valley Days, TO Rotary Chili Cook-off and Oak Heart Country Music Festival
- Updated Personnel Policy Manual
- Approved Purchase of Personnel Management Software
- Approved Funding for the Conejo Opens Space Conservation Agency (COSCA) to Purchase General Liability and Property Insurance from CAPRI

In addition to the various activities and accomplishments in 2026 listed above, with the Board's direction and support, and through the commitment and hard work of District staff, the Conejo Recreation and Park District:

- maintains more than 60 parks and special facilities covering approximately 1,000 acres of parkland; and

- offers thousands of recreation programs annually through dedicated and talented independent contractors volunteers and staff; and

- hosts dozens of family-friendly and affordable gatherings and special events open to the community; and

- partners with the City of Thousand Oaks to perform the field operations for the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA) which manages approximately 15,000 acres of open space and 150 miles of multi-use trails.

By collaborating and partnering with the City of Thousand Oaks, Conejo Valley Unified School District, California Lutheran University as well as with many other community institutions, non-profits, businesses and volunteers, CRPD is able to offer so much more to the public. Because of these positive and beneficial community relationships, CRPD and its community-service partners are able to offer the people of the Conejo Valley an even wider spectrum of recreational, educational, cultural and historic experiences and facilities to serve the community.

What's more, good ideas and industry-recognized best practices are often found by working with people in other organizations in the local government and park and recreation field. So, the CRPD Board & Staff serve in ways that help local government and the park and recreation profession not only locally – but throughout California - by serving on industry-specific Boards and Committees such as the Conejo Open Space and Conservation Agency (COSCA), California Association of Recreation & Park Districts (CARPD), Ventura County Special Districts Association (VCSDA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), Ventura County Parks Advisory Committee (VCPAC), Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), California Park and Recreation Society (CRPS), California Association for Recreation and Park Indemnity (CAPRI) and Recreation Insurance Organization (RIO) and more!

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Friedl
General Manager
Attach: Recreation & Community Services 2026 Year in Review (3 pages)

(see also: 2026 Year in Review video/slide show at Board meeting)