

The Gratitude Circle

The Gratitude Circle is a partnership between the Conejo Recreation & Park District and Play Conejo. This is the first of what is intended to become an annual event where the District Board of Directors celebrates and honors area businesses and individuals who have made a significant contribution of time, effort, or energy on behalf of recreation and parks in the Conejo Valley.

In addition, charitable giving opportunities are available for community members wanting to honor loved ones in this beautiful location, as well as individuals and families who want to show their support of the CRPD's parks and programs.



The Conejo Recreation & Park District

The Conejo Recreation & Park District is an independent special district serving the Conejo Valley since 1963. Its mission is to enrich the quality of life for our community by preserving and enhancing recreational opportunities, parks, and open space.



Play Conejo

Play Conejo was created in 2012 to provide volunteer, charitable, and financial support for public park facilities and recreation programs which benefit Conejo Valley residents. Play Conejo is raising funds to help the District maintain quality parks and offer diverse and affordable recreation programs.

2014 Gratitude Circle Dedication May 1, 2014

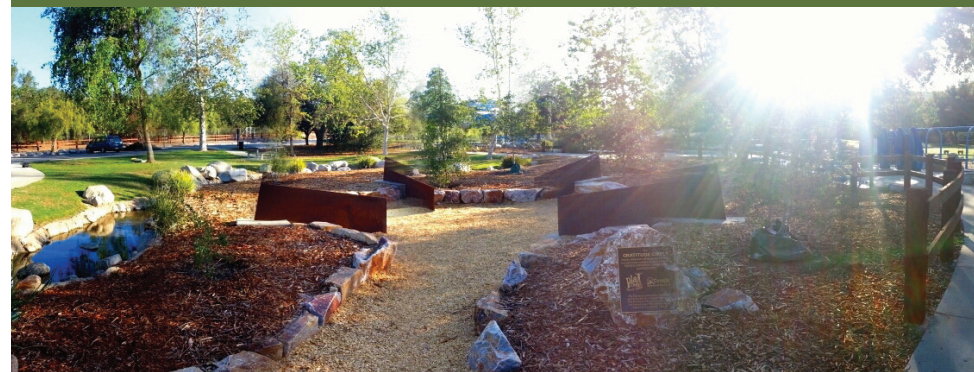
**The Board of Directors
of the
Conejo Recreation and Park District**

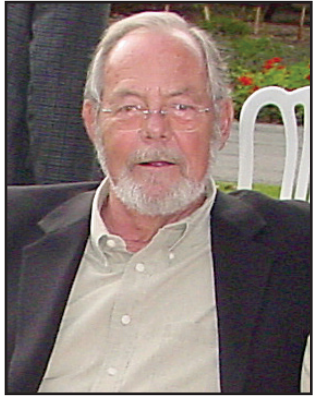
is proud to honor and recognize

**Tex Ward
Mark Jacobsen**

**for their dedication
to the people of the Conejo Valley
through recreation, parks, and open space**

- Legend
1. Gratitude
 2. Children
 3. Stream
 4. Lake
 5. Volleyball
 6. Turf
 7. Restroom
 8. parking
 9. picnic
 10. Concert





Tex Ward

- General Manager 38 years (1968-2006)
- Pursued 1970 bond issue generating funds for construction of community centers and parks
- Built strong organization by hiring dedicated & passionate professionals fostering a culture of collaboration
- Instrumental in formation of COSCA, MRCA, and Open Space Preservation

- Supported acquisition & improvement of Conejo Creek Park
- Expanded innovative recreation programs
- Balanced budgets, leaving District debt free
- Facilitated McCrea Ranch donation
- Advocated in Sacramento on behalf of Recreation & Park Districts throughout California
- Worked closely with City of Thousand Oaks on many partnership projects

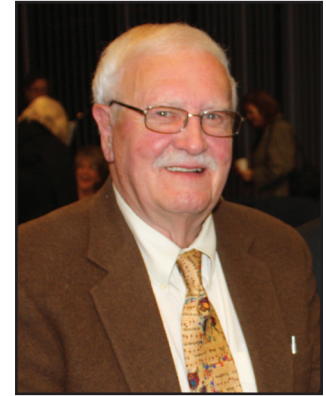


Mark Jacobsen

- Director 44 years (1968-2012); Chairman 11 times
- Worked to fulfill community priorities
- Encouraged creativity, cooperation, and expansive ideas
- Supported community outreach and public input into comprehensive Master Plan
- Valued historic preservation and partnership with Conejo Valley Historical Society in

preservation of Stagecoach Inn

- Supported conservation of Wildwood
- Supported acquisition & improvement of Conejo Creek Park
- Advocated for a multi-use trail system within parks and open space
- Served Ventura County as chair of Harbors Commission & Parks Commission
- Fostered positive relations with effective boards over a span of decades!



A Lifetime of Service

During the time Mark & Tex served, the District grew from a handful of parks into an organization with more than 50 parks and special facilities, offering thousands of recreational programs every year.

Over their combined 82 years of service, the District acquired thousands of acres of parkland and open space while adding improvements vital to the health

and well-being of our active, family-oriented community. Both men believe in the intrinsic value of public parks and recreation and, by steadily pursuing the District's mission with a collaborative spirit, the community wins. For example, during their watch, the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (1977) and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (1985) were

created. These partnerships endure, with COSCA and MRCA now managing more than 100,000 combined acres in and around the Santa Monica Mountains.

Highlights from the list of park acquisitions and openings and the inception of recreation programs during their years of service are memorialized on the "Timeline" displayed at both the Thousand Oaks

Library and Goebel Adult Community Center.

The Board of Directors of the Conejo Recreation and Park District are grateful Mark and Tex were in place to chart the course and lead the District through nearly all of its growth. The quality of life in the Conejo Valley is due, in no small part, to their lifetime commitment to recreation, parks, and open space.