The Gratitude Circle

The Gratitude Circle is a partnership between the Conejo Recreation & Park District and Play Conejo. Annually, the CRPD Board of Directors celebrates and honors individuals who have made a significant contribution of time, effort, or energy to recreation and parks in the Conejo Valley.

The Gratitude Circle is also a place where people can honor loved ones and support CRPD’s parks and programs through charitable giving.

Past Honorees

2019
Tim Hagel
Elayne Haggan
Bruce Stanton

2018
Richard F. Newman

2017
Doris Granholm

2016
Frances Prince
Rorie Skei

2015
Dennis Gillette
Mike Berger
Barbara Kloster

2014
Tex Ward
Mark Jacobsen

The Conejo Recreation & Park District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doug Nickles, Chair
Nellie Cusworth, Vice Chair
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Chuck Huffer, Director
Jim Friedl, General Manager
Tex Ward, General Manager Emeritus

Play Conejo

Play Conejo is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization 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.

The board of directors of the Conejo Recreation & Park District invites you to...

The Gratitude Circle

honoring

JIM GILMORE
KAREN LINDSEY
STEVE WILEY

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

Monday, June 21, 2021 · 5:30pm
Conejo Creek North Park
Jim worked on designing and building CRPD parks from 1968 through 1999. When he started, CRPD had 52 acres of developed parkland and 50 acres of open space. At retirement, CRPD had about 971 acres of parkland. CRPD's signature/landmark park, Conejo Creek Park because it is the central park for Thousand Oaks and serves many diverse uses.

During his career, Jim honed his skills as a senior park development planner and master planner for the City of Thousand Oaks. From 1979 to 1997, Jim served as President of the California Park and Recreation Society. He was an ambassador for CRPD that helped the City of Thousand Oaks, Arts Council of the Conejo Valley, and CRPD to provide arts programming at the Conejo Creek Park. Steve currently serves as a director for the non-profit, Music on Mission California, which provides performing opportunities for young musicians to perform on mission campuses that provide access to music through instrumental, choral and performing opportunities for young students.

Karen Lindsey began her career with CRPD as a part-time after-school recreation leader in 1973, making $2.26/hour, 10 hours/week. The generous compensation package had her hooked, so she stayed with CRPD - moving through virtually every recreation job classification - until her retirement as Recreation and Community Services Administrator in 2015—42 years later.

Under Karen’s oversight, the recreation program guide, which was already loaded with thousands of recreation classes and programs, increased program sessions from 4 to 5 sessions/year, generating additional revenue and allowing the District to offer even more educational and recreational opportunities for the community. Karen has a passion for helping and engaging with uninvolved and at-risk youth. She worked closely with TOPD and many other community partners to help kids and families reduce exposure to crime and increase access to educational and recreational activities.

Steve started working for CRPD full time in 1977, but his relationship with CRPD started earlier as a teen in the late 60’s hanging out at Conejo Community Park and attending Casey Kasem dance concerts. After graduating TOHS in ’71, Steve worked part-time as a recreation leader at Conejo Community Park in Thousand Oaks, California. Steve still uses his 1972 CRPD uniform to this day.

Today’s CRPD is much more than just a City’s Recreation Department. It is the City’s Recreation Service and Community Services Department. This department is responsible for recreation and parks and recreation, open space and trails systems. It is the City’s primary recreation and park agency nationwide.