

San Diego County Parks Society

Fall 2021

Parks Society Helps DPR Honor Park Champions

The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation honored volunteers at a ceremony in Heritage County Park in Old Town on November 2.

Lesley Handa won the overall Champion award for researching local bird populations and developing bird-friendly best practices for city tree-trimmers.

Greg Schuett, president of the Volcan Mountain Foundation, won the Environmental Education award for helping establish Santa Ysabel's east and west preserves.

Marisa Paige Butler won the Park Ambassadorship award for organizing trail cleanups on Facebook.

Karen Ogden won a Building Community award for founding a non-profit called



DPR Director Brian Albright and SDCPS President Harold Hambrice sign a memorandum of agreement between their groups.

SOLE Effects, which empowers youth to become confident purpose-driven leaders.

Mark DeGraffenreid also won a Building Community award for heading the San Diego Floor Hockey League, which helps participants stay

active and meet new people.

Steve Goble and Frank Carson were corecipients of the Advocacy award for making recreation more accessible and inclusive in El Cajon.

Wildlife ambassador Mike McCoy received a county proclamation for his 50 years of service, and longtime San Diego County Parks Society board member Ralph Strahm, who passed away in July, was honored with a plaque on a bench in Heritage Park.

The event also formalized the ongoing partnership between DPR and SDCPS with the signing of a memorandum between the two groups.

In addition to providing funding for refreshments, SDCPS board members served as judges and presenters for the awards.



A bench at Heritage Park was dedicated to Ralph Strahm, who served on the SDCPS board for 24 years and passed away in July.



Families Celebrate Reopening of Lincoln Acres Park

Lincoln Acres County Park received a \$4 million dollar makeover, and hundreds of residents came out to celebrate the “grand reopening” on August 28.

The park, which is immediately adjacent to the Lincoln Acres branch library, already had a playground, basketball courts, restrooms, and a community room.

The park was expanded to 1.5 acres and received a

spacious new grass lawn, two gazebos, covered picnic tables, a community garden, and drinking fountains.

“It’s important that we continue to prioritize projects that support walkable and inclusive play spaces for small, densely populated communities like Lincoln Acres,” said County Supervisor Nora Vargas, who spoke at the opening.

In addition to touring the new facilities, visitors enjoyed

ten activity stations, including an animal touch table, instructor-led exercises, the Live Well San Diego resource bus, free potted seedlings, and photos with a fire engine.

Visitors also had the opportunity to meet the authors of a new book about the Lincoln Acres community.

The San Diego County Parks Society provided water, healthy snacks, and free Kona Ice shaved ice for attendees.



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