



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: April 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Award of Excellence Woodland Sports Park/Fitness Center

Report in Brief

For the second year in a row the City of Woodland, Park & Recreation Department has been honored with the Award of Excellence from the California Park & Recreation Society. Last year it was for the Community & Senior Center Phase I and this year it is for the Sports Park Phase I and Community & Senior Center Phase II. This year the Award was presented at the California Park and Recreation Society Annual Conference in Santa Clara at the Convention Center on Friday, March 6, 2009.

Staff recommends that City Council receive the Award of Excellence as presented to Mayor Davies at the California Park & Recreation Society Award Dinner on March 6, 2009.

Background

The vision for this project started in 1998 when the City embarked on public design workshops for its first Parks, Recreation and Community Services Master Plan. The bilingual workshops brought attention to the deficit in soccer, ball fields and indoor recreation facilities. The Master Plan recommended an approach for implementing construction of all the facilities to meet the recreation needs of the community. The economic times following the first Master Plan were not favorable for funding the project, although the groundwork was laid for the future; needs were identified, the residents supported the project, and land was acquired and set aside for what would eventually become an 80-acre sports park. The Master Plan Process engaged the public in a new and exciting way, and helped to generate voter approval of a Citywide Sales Tax Initiative (Measure H) in 2000. Measure H funds were earmarked specifically for parks, public safety and infrastructure, and provided seed money for the Sports Park and the Community & Senior Center within the Sports Park. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was updated in 2004, during a time of favorable economic growth and development in the City. Due to the original vision for the sports park and more community design workshops, the major funding source was established by the 2004 update and the project was funded and designed in 2007 and constructed between March and October 2008.

Although the City's residents have waited patiently for 10 years to see the park come to fruition, it has been well worth the wait, because they could see continuous progress and were updated at every Park Commission and City Council Meeting.

Design for this park includes program development and design alternatives arrived at through a comprehensive community workshop process. The planning process included a design committee which led a series of community workshops, tours and community input sessions to develop a concept for the sports park master plan. The committee consisted of Council Members, Parks and Recreation Commissioners, Presidents of Little League, Youth and Girls Softball League, Senior Softball League, Youth and Adult Soccer Leagues and City Recreation and Park Planning Staff. Through these community meetings and workshops, participants determined specific community needs that were to be incorporated into the Master Plan. Lighted sports fields, large group meeting areas, dance and aerobics and general fitness amenities were just some of the desires identified through the process. Out of those needs and opportunities analysis grew the ultimate design of the facility and program planning.

The design of this site focused upon an environmentally sensitive approach including the best management practices, and the ability to blend with the community's natural characteristics. The main pedestrian elevated promenade provides a link between the ball field complex and soccer field complex. Site grading of the relatively flat site was designed to create landforms that worked in harmony with the recreation elements and developed special interests.

In order to comply with the Regional Water Quality Board, a "vegetation bio-swales" concept was developed as a means to collect and control site runoff to treat contaminants due to runoff from adjacent parking lots.

The community-derived program for the facility included 3 lighted synthetic combination softball/soccer fields, 1 lighted synthetic turf soccer field, a concession stand, a restroom/maintenance building, picnic areas, benches, drinking fountains and walkways. Spectators are kept cool under custom-designed UV blocking shade awnings that have a misting system for the 100+ degree summer softball tournaments. The facility has a state of the art field cooling system to help reduce fatigue and increase comfort for the athletes. This system utilizes agricultural irrigation rotors and a large volume distribution pipe and pump system so the field can be cooled down in a matter of minutes between games.

The park has numerous amenities that include picnic areas set up for group activities and individual gatherings.

The fitness center is designed to accommodate indoor volleyball games, aerobics classes for up to 75 persons, workout sessions on the most sophisticated weight, elliptical and resistance equipment available. Sound systems are integrated for security and for flexibility. The orientation of the building was planned to take advantage of the views out into the park site, so that families doing different activities at the same time could see each other, as well as to add vitality and energy to the athletic endeavors of the patrons. Woodland takes fitness and competition to a new level, as evidenced in the attention to detail and provision of amenities in the new sports park. Even passive

activities such as walking (America's top fitness activity for all ages) are given priority by the circuit of pathways designed through the park and connecting to the citywide bike path system for alternative transportation access.

The exterior architectural designs for the dance/aerobics/fitness center and the restroom/maintenance building were highly coordinated to match in color and materials. The architectural and site elements such as light pole designs, shade fabric color, furnishings, painted surfaces and signage were all designed to create a theme throughout the park reflecting a sophisticated yet relaxed, rural flavor that blends with the surrounding environment.

The sports park was designed to provide the City's residents with quality family oriented recreational opportunities, while creating an identity that fosters community pride, competitive spirit and physical well-being.

Discussion

The California Park & Recreation Society's (CPRS) Awards Program recognizes excellence of those agencies and individuals that publicize, develop and manage programs, parks, and facilities that:

- Embody and embrace the core values of the profession, particularly accessibility, service to community, lifelong learning, diversity of experience, and environmental stewardship.
- Move the agency towards a stronger position or role within the community.
- Align with the mission areas of parks and recreation: promoting participation in recreational experiences, strengthening community image and sense of place, strengthening safety and security, promoting health and wellness, fostering human development, increasing cultural unity, protecting environmental resources, and facilitating community problem solving

The CPRS Awards Program is a very competitive process as dozens of agencies submit applications for very few awards. The fact that the City of Woodland has received this prestigious award two years in a row is indicative of the high quality planning, design and construction for the Community & Senior Center and the sports field. The high quality is reflective of the standards set by the Woodland community, expressed by the City Council and carried out by City staff and consultants assigned to the project.

Public Contact

Posting the Agenda

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ITEM:

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that City Council receive the Award of Excellence as presented to Mayor Davies at the California Park & Recreation Society Award Dinner on March 6, 2009.

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