



# ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

**Parks  
Make  
Life  
Better!**  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Kevin Jeffries** First District

**Karen Spiegel** Vice Chair, Second District

**Chuck Washington** Chair, Third District

**V. Manuel Perez** Fourth District

**Jeff Hewitt** Fifth District

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEAM

**George Johnson** County Executive Officer

**Lisa Brandl** Chief Operating Officer

**Rob Field** Assistant County Executive Officer  
Economic and Community Development

## PARK DISTRICT EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Scott Bangle** General Manager/Parks Director

**Kyla Brown** Assistant Parks Director

**Erin Gettis** Chief - Planning and Development

**Dustin McLain** Chief - Parks and Resources

**Megan Gomez** Fiscal Manager

## DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Mark Balys, First District

Amie Kinne, Chair, First District

Jon Christensen, Second District

Daniel Hake, Second District

Cois Byrd, Third District

Anthony Migliore, Third District

Bob Grady, Vice Chair, Fourth District

Hugh Van Horn, Fourth District

Marty Rosen, Fifth District

Bill Zimmerman, Fifth District

Vacancy: Fourth District

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Ruth Atkins, First District

Joyce Hohenadl, First District

Steve Lech, Chair, Second District

Don Williamson, Second District

Corinne Awad, Third District

Darell Farnbach, Third District

Maureen Boren, Fourth District

Renee Brown, Fourth District

Bernie Howlett, Fifth District

Mario Garai, Fifth District

Kim Johnson, Vice Chair, Member at Large

## TRAILS COMMITTEE

Trixie Anderson, First District

Jerry Jolliffe, Second District

Robin Reid, Vice Chair, Third District

Richard Croy, Chair, Fifth District

Vacancy: Fourth District

## DISTRICT AWARDS

### CALIFORNIA PARK & RECREATION SOCIETY

Marketing & Communications Award, Digital Media

Historic Riverside County Mobile App

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY PARK & RECREATION OFFICIALS

Marketing Award

Historic Riverside County Mobile App

Park & Recreation Program – Class II Award

Healthy Living Extravaganza

Planning Initiative Award

Comprehensive Trails Plan

### CALIFORNIA TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Merit Award – Planning

Comprehensive Trails Plan

## DISTRICT SHINING STARS

The District recognizes the accomplishments of employees and volunteers who exemplify the District's values. Individuals and groups were chosen based upon their demonstration of Accomplishments, Connecting, Teamwork, Innovation, Outstanding Service, Networking, and Stewardship.

### Employee of the Year Award:

Vicki Armentrout, Area Manager – Eastern Regional Parks

### Volunteer of the Year Award:

Maureen Mc Farland, Bogart Park

### General Manager's Award:

Oscar Serrato, Supervising Ranger – Open Space

# General Message

I am pleased to share with you the 2018-19 Fiscal Year Annual Report. As you read through the pages note that we had a very productive year despite several unexpected challenges. To begin, we had an extremely wet fall and winter following two major fires in the region. This led to two highway washouts that greatly impeded access to our mountain parks. As of this writing, state highway crews have partially opened one highway with the other still under reconstruction. This has impacted our customers and staff who have had to make adjustments in their travels, oftentimes adding hours to the commute.

In the spring, we were overwhelmed by crowds in the Lake Elsinore/Temescal Valley area who came from all over the world to witness the California poppy super bloom that resulted from the wet winter. The event went viral on social media and it seemed as though everyone needed a selfie, even those who were not properly prepared for the terrain, outside hazards and climate. Events like these happen rarely, if ever, yet both occurred during this reporting period. Thankfully, staff performed exceptionally well, thus exceeding expectations under the most difficult of circumstances.

This year also marked an exciting surge of partnership collaborations, capital improvements and increased visitor usage. We entered an agreement with a consortium that will be providing educational and vocational programs to the Louis Robidoux Nature Center. We also launched our Off-Highway Vehicle Plan, began construction design for the Mayflower Sewer Project, completed the Lake Skinner Turf Reduction Project, completed the Headquarters Expansion Project and survived the CAPRA re-accreditation site visit resulting in 100% compliance with national standards.

Looking back, I am amazed at how much can occur in 365 days. I recognize that I have the privilege of leading a great organization that is committed and dedicated to delivering results, despite the challenges. We will continue to embrace the difficult, forging ahead to deliver on our brand promise that Parks Make Life Better!®

I remain optimistic about our future and am proud of the work we accomplished this year. I hope you enjoy!



A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

**Scott Bangle, CPRP**

General Manager | Parks Director

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Received local, state and national recognition for the Comprehensive Trails Plan for Riverside County.
- Hosted the Santa Ana River Trail Bike Ride and Festival on October 14, 2018, in partnership with the City of Riverside, Rivers and Lands Conservancy, Riverside County Parks Foundation, Riverside Community Services Foundation, and Santa Ana River Trust. The event featured 11 partners and attracted over 200 attendees who learned about the Santa Ana River Trail and benefits of fitness, health and wellness.
- Hosted the annual Healthy Living Extravaganza & Unity Color Run at Rancho Jurupa Park on April 27, 2019. The event attracted 700 participants and featured over 80 health and wellness related vendors who helped educate Riverside County residents about healthy choices. Partners included Healthy Jurupa Valley, City of Riverside, Reach Out, Burrtec Waste Industries, Wylie Center, and Chick-fil-A.
- Trained and supported 396 low income and at-risk youth at the Jurupa Valley Boxing Club in partnership with volunteer coaches.
- Co-sponsored and permitted a total of 21 community and regional special events offering a variety of recreational opportunities throughout Riverside County.
- Completed a one-mile section of the Santa Ana River Trail (Phase 5) within Chino Hills State Park.
- Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park hosted swim and transition portions of first annual IRONMAN event which attracted over 4,000 participants to the Coachella Valley.
- Sheltered evacuees from both the Holy Jim and Cranston Fire burn areas during heavy rains due to mud flow and flash flood conditions.

## SOCIAL EQUITY

- Completed Park District American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan update and initiated ADA improvements at Santa Rosa Plateau Visitor's Center and Hidden Valley Nature Preserve.
- Received Off-highway Vehicle Recreation (OHVR) planning grant of \$250,000 to complete feasibility study.
- Completed Lake Skinner Splash Pad expansion and the District's first inclusive playground.
- Transitioned Bogart Park to Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District for local management of the park and improved access for area residents.
- Launched award-winning Historic Riverside County landmark app providing visual information for each selected historic landmark within the County, along with options for driving tours.
- Worked in conjunction with County partners on homeless encampment evacuations during storm and flood events in the Santa Ana Riverbed.
- Completed Mayflower Park Tourism Plan and preliminary sewer engineering report to assist with future master planning efforts.
- Received \$17,500 California Humanities grant for "Familia y Tradiciones: Four generations of change at Jensen-Alvarado Ranch".
- Taught 748 children how to fish during the Youth Fishing Clinics held at Rancho Jurupa Park, Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park, Mayflower Park, and Lake Skinner Recreation Area.
- Partnered with Idyllwild Community Center to host their annual egg hunt for the first time at Idyllwild Park with over 300 in attendance.
- Hidden Valley Wildlife Area and Nature Center recognized as a Neighborhood Success Story by Riverside Neighborhood Partnership.
- Completed Parks Headquarters Expansion Project, adding over 4,000 square feet of flexible use space for an increased number of diverse public and private events. Outdoor areas were also improved, including the courtyard and pond restoration.
- 98,685 attendees visited nature and historic interpretive sites, learning about the historic sites and native species found in Riverside County.

## WATER USE REDUCTION STRATEGIES



### Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District has a Goal to Reduce Water Usage

Turf reduction is one strategy towards this goal. By replacing turf with other materials like mulch, decorative gravel and boulders, decomposed granite, drought tolerant plants and efficient irrigation, water use is reduced.

This strategy utilizes Southern California's resources wisely by saving water, yet maintaining turf where it benefits park visitors, such as in areas where one might sit, run or play.

Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District takes the role of managing our scarce resources seriously. Turf reduction is a long term environmentally responsible strategy to reduce water usage.

## CONSERVATION

Lake Skinner Water Reduction Project

- Completed Stephen's kangaroo rat habitat restoration at Kabian Reserve.
- Completed ephemeral pool improvement leading to first recorded successful reproduction of western spadefoot frogs since 2007.
- Completed Lake Skinner turf reduction project, replacing 3.6 acres of turf with trees and wood chips to reduce water usage.
- Managed surge of over 100,000/weekend visitors inundating open-space areas near Lake Elsinore as a result of the super bloom.
- Partnered with Adopt-A-Trail volunteers to conduct 21 trail clean up and restoration events, improving 41 miles of trail throughout Riverside County.
- Conducted non-native grassland removal on 838 acres of land and provided entry for sheep grazing in Norton Younglove Reserve.
- Rehabilitated 3 acres of riparian habitat within the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve by removing tamarisk and planting 500 native trees.
- Implemented the use of ArcGIS Survey 123 for Natural Resources Division monitoring and restoration.
- Removed and upgraded boundary signage on all open-space reserves in order to improve communication of reserve rules and regulations.
- Removed over 23 tons of trash left behind by homeless encampments and illegal dumps in the Santa Ana River and managed reserve lands.
- Utilized the California Conservation Corps to install 45 erosion control features, removed 2 acres of non-native vegetation, and restored 1.5 miles of trails at Box Spring Mountain Reserve.
- Upgraded Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve trailheads by installing 10 new trash cans and replacing 6 iron ranger fee stations.
- Promoted employee development by completing 423 training hours within the Natural Resources Division.
- Installed over 7,400 feet of fencing and 5 gates to protect reserve lands from unauthorized activity.
- Actively managed over 600 acres of land for endangered and protected species, including burrowing owl and Delhi sands flower-loving fly.
- Assisted Riverside County Sheriff's Department with clearing over 3,000 plants from an illegal marijuana grow on reserve lands.
- Nonnative plants were removed from the recently completed Clinton Keith Wildlife Overcrossing.



# BALANCED SCORECARD

	YEAR	FY15-16 RESULTS	FY17-18 RESULTS	FY18-19 TARGET	FY18-19 RESULTS	DASHBOARD
<b>CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE</b>						
Customer Satisfaction Rating		98%	99%	98%	98%	●
Marketing Touchpoints		3,302,391	2,154,480	3,000,000	5,922,619	●
<b>FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE</b>						
Non-Property Tax Revenue*		\$15,249,560	\$14,061,578	\$9,000,000	\$14,572,977	●
CIP Met*		59%	78%	90%	106%*	●
Operations Reserve*		32.4%	36.6%	25%	41%*	●
Expenditure Budget Target*		86%	90%	100%	92%*	●
Volunteer Hours		118,597	94,327	85,000	99,232	●
<b>PROCESS PERSPECTIVE</b>						
Active Partnership Agreements		4	6	4	4	●
Acres Under Management		75,859	77,639	76,000	78,647	●
Regional Trails Miles		169	169	180	170	●
CAPRA Standards Current		145	75	145	152	●
Tactics Completed		8	15	20	17	●
Recognition Events		4	6	3	5	●
Staff Readiness Index		90%	85%	85%	94%	●
<b>LEARNING &amp; GROWTH PERSPECTIVE</b>						
Preventable Employee Accidents		9	11	5	10	●
Performance Evaluations on Time		100%	100%	100%	97%	●
Training Hours		1,831	2,213.5	2,000	2,474	●

● 95% or better than target ● 85% to 94% of target ● 84% or less than target ● Data not available or target not set \* Pending Final Year-End Audit (Oct 2019)



## FUNDING SOURCES

- 42 % Property Taxes
- 33 % Regional Parks & Trails Fees
- 18 % Other Financing Sources
- 3 % Rents, Leases, Concessions
- 3 % Recreation & Tourism Fees
- 2 % Historical & Interpretive



## FUNDING USES

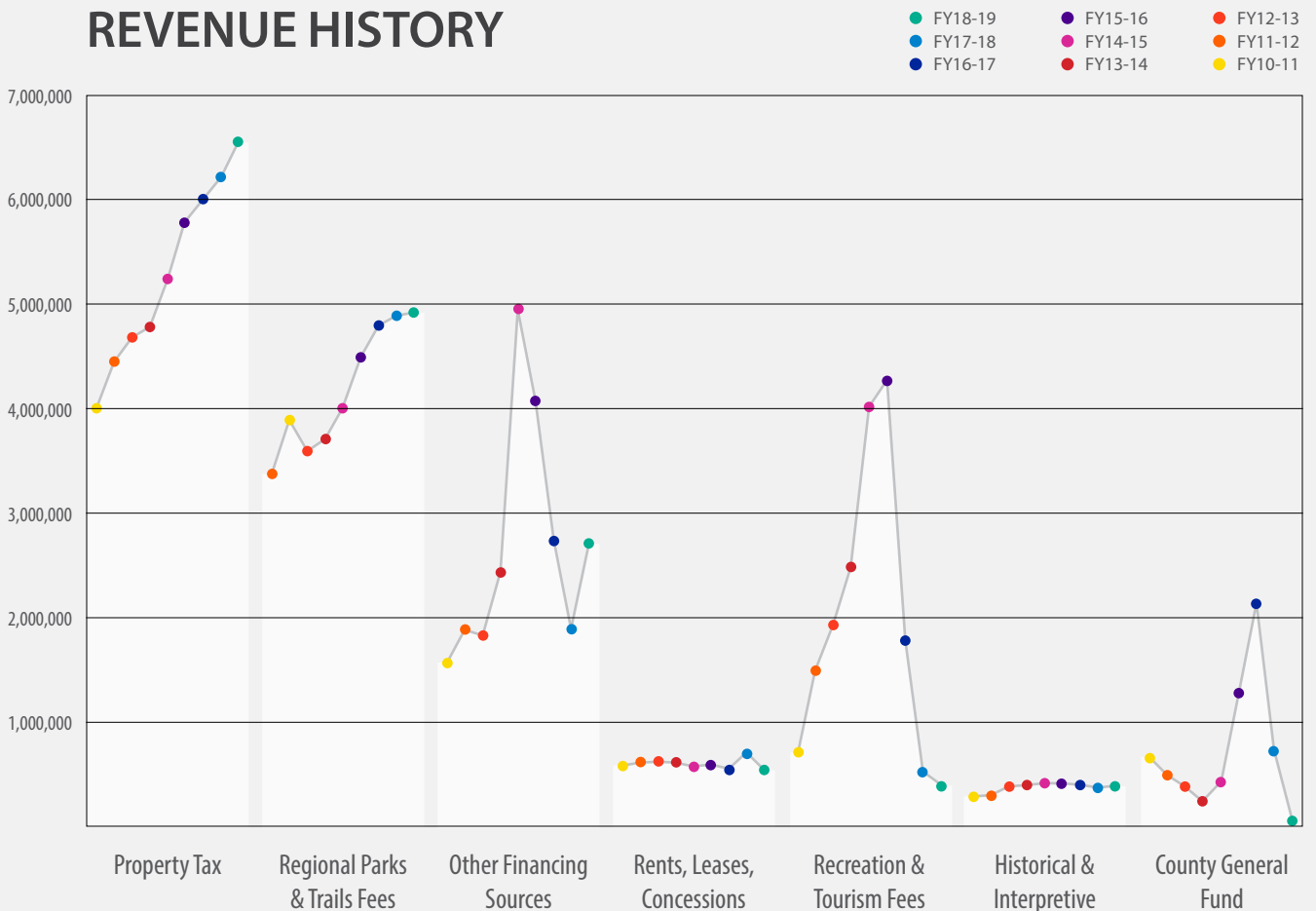
- 47 % Regional Parks
- 11 % Nature Centers
- 10.5 % Contractual
- 9 % Habitat and Open Space
- 8.9 % Recreation & Tourism
- 7.6 % Administration
- 5.6 % Planning
- 0.4 % Trails
- 0 % Historic Preservation



## FUNDING PROJECTS

- 57.5 % Regional Parks
- 34.2 % Santa Ana River Trail
- 6.9 % Regional Trails
- 0.9 % Infrastructure
- 0.5 % Nature Centers

## REVENUE HISTORY



# A ❖ C ❖ T ❖ I ❖ O ❖ N ❖ S

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CONNECTING

TEAMWORK

INNOVATION

OUTSTANDING SERVICE

NETWORKING

STEWARDSHIP

## MISSION STATEMENT

To acquire, protect, develop, manage and interpret for the inspiration, use, and enjoyment of all people, a well-balanced system of park related places of outstanding scenic, recreational, and historic importance.

## VISION

To be the regional leader in improving lives through people, parks, places and programs.



[www.RivCoParks.org](http://www.RivCoParks.org)

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