

2015 DAC Achievement Award Nomination Form

Nominee Information

Nominee Name: City of Fresno Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services (PARCS) Department.

Nominee Address: 1515 E. Divisadero Street

Nominee Phone: (559) 621-2900

Nominee Email: www.fresno.gov/parks-rec

Nominator Information

Nominator Name: Irma Yepez-Perez

Nominator Address: Same as above

Nominator Phone: (559) 621-2957

Nominator Email: Irma.Yepez-Perez@fresno.gov

Nomination Category (please select one):

- Individual
- Organization
- City of Fresno Employee or Department

Nominated for:

- Improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities
- Advocacy for issues pertaining to individuals with disabilities
- Volunteerism that has a positive impact on individuals with disabilities
- Development of new programs or services impacting individuals with disabilities
- Customer service to individuals with disabilities that is above and beyond the standard

Innovation or Entrepreneurship by an individual with a disability or that has a positive impact on individuals with disabilities

Nomination Statement

Give a brief description (300-500 words) of why you feel your nominee should receive this award. Attach two to six letters from people able to provide supporting testimony (peers, parents, students, clients, etc.), additional supporting materials, and photo of nominee (optional). Attach additional pages if necessary.

DAC 2015 AWARD NOMINATION STATEMENT

The City of Fresno Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services (PARCS) Department is committed to enriching the lives of residents by providing quality parks, facilities, programming and recreational opportunities. PARCS is nominated for the 2015 Disabilities Advisory Committee Achievement Award for its role in the construction of the Universally Accessible Park (UAP), a premier park facility that will serve able-bodied and special needs residents of all ages including children, elderly and disabled veterans.

PARCS was successfully awarded a \$5 million grant from the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation in 2010, and secured \$220,000 in additional private grants. PARCS management team faced many challenges in getting the park constructed; the economy tanked, construction bids came in higher than anticipated, and budget cuts reduced program staff to a bare minimum. Despite these obstacles, PARCS persevered with its unwavering commitment to serve the needs of a community that had zero parks within a half-mile radius. With City Manager, and Interim PARCS Director, Bruce A. Rudd heading the team, design plans were value engineered to reduce costs, and contracts were signed with Resources for Independence Central Valley (RICV) to help manage the park. On April 4, 2014, the City Council approved the construction of the UAP!

No other park in the Fresno metro area or the entire Central Valley provides the recreational and educational opportunities that will be available at the Universally Accessible Park! This 8.3 acre park will promote opportunities for disabled children to play, and learn side-by-side with able-bodied children; and promote therapeutic physical activity for disabled adults, including our veterans. Amenities include:

- Multi-purpose ball field with soft fall surfacing
- Fully accessible playground structures,
- Basketball court with adjustable hoop-height,
- Splash park, with interactive fountains
- Sensory garden
- Wheelchair accessible Dog park,
- Skate park, suitable for wheelchair use

- Community building with rec room and computer lab with assistive technology

The park is slated to be completed by September 2015. With Manuel A. Mollinedo at the helm as PARCS Director, the PARCS Department continues to work with RICV and with the Boys and Girls Club of Fresno to complete the final touches in preparation of the grand opening of the park. The PARCS Department is well deserving of this award for development of the Universally Accessible Park that will help improve the quality of life for families and individuals with disabilities.