



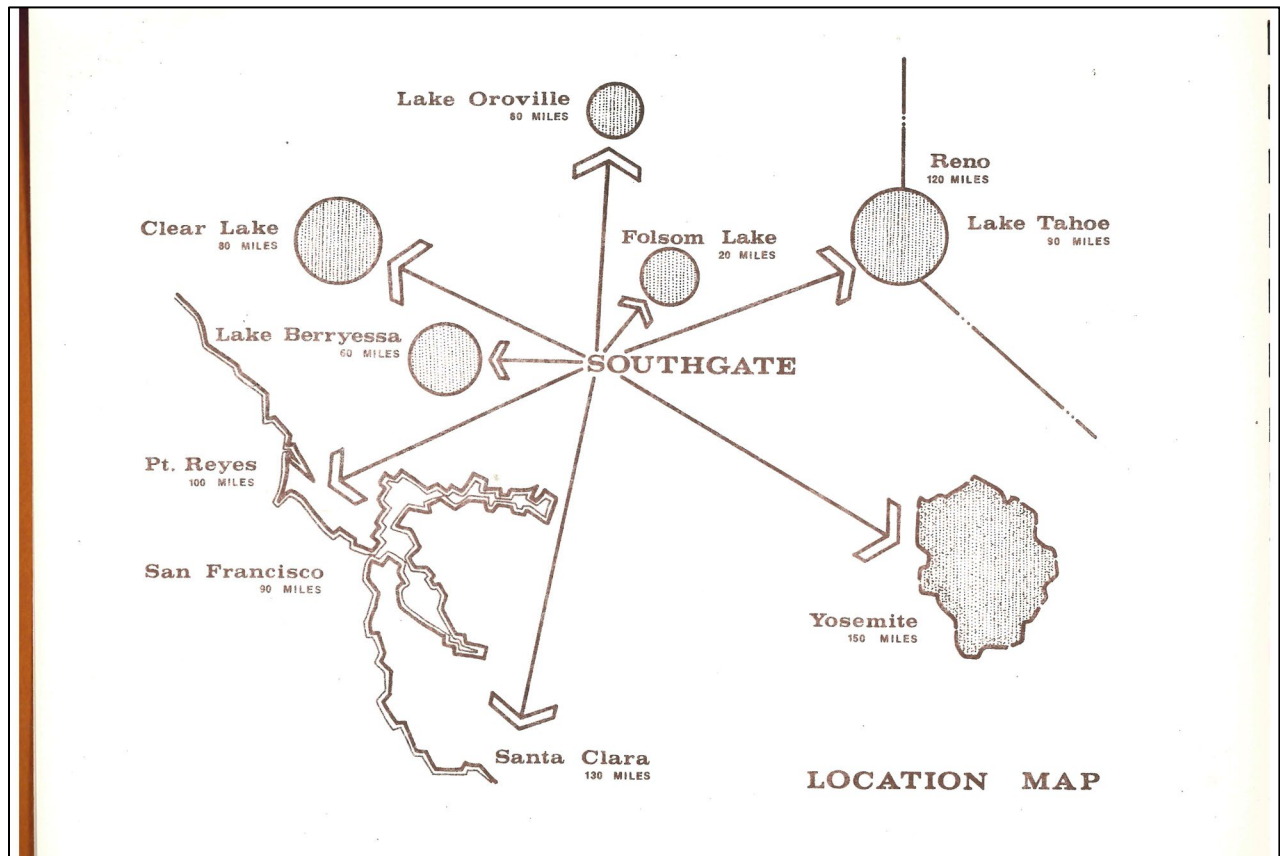
THE SOUTHGATE CHRONICLES

The History, People, Places, Growth
and Significant Accomplishments of
Southgate Recreation & Park District
1956 to Today





The “Hub” of Recreation and Parks in Northern California



Long Range Development Plan: Parks, Recreation & Open Space System, June 1969

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Updated May 15, 2023

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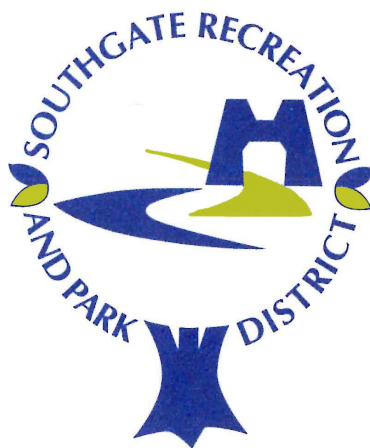
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Introduction



Arts & Crafts at Florin Creek Recreation Center, 1977

INTRODUCTION

Southgate Recreation & Park District (District) is an independent special district established in 1956 under the Public Resources Code. The District provides park and recreation services to over 134,330 residents in Sacramento County (south and east of the City of Sacramento). The District encompasses 45 square miles and includes 47 parks, 11 community centers and other facilities, 2 aquatic facilities, WildHawk Golf Club and many trails, parkways, open space areas and landscape corridors while creating community for area residents. In Fiscal Year 2021-22, the District has a \$12.2 million operating budget and manages 829 acres of land. The budget provides for approximately 56 full-time employees and over 175 part-time employees.

The District was formed by residents of Parkway Estates who wanted to ensure quality park and recreation services and amenities for their new subdivision that was, at the time, quite a distance south and east from the incorporated City of Sacramento. Parkway Estates was an innovative master planned suburban community south of Florin Road and west of Highway 99 that was part of the post-World War II housing boom. A 1954 Sacramento Bee article on the Sacramento Parade of Homes in Parkway Estates, an open house event displaying various model homes, stated it was “The first show of its kind in Superior California and billed as the largest ever staged in the nation.”

Instead of annexing to the City of Sacramento, the Parkway Estates residents preferred to stay in the unincorporated area of Sacramento County and created locally run special districts to provide their desired services. Southgate Recreation and Park District was one of the first of those special districts. Royal Park and Crofoot Clubhouse and Park were provided to the homeowners as part of the development. Royal Park was a pleasant design with tree lined streets and homes fronting on all sides of the park except one side. This subdivision was adjacent to one of the first suburban mall type shopping centers in the Sacramento area, Southgate Center, which opened in 1960. One of the first District logos included the “Southgate” name, and a graphical representation of “Parkways.” The original District was 2 square miles and served approximately 3,500 residents.

By 1970, the District had more than sextupled in size to 13 square miles and 28,000 residents. The period from 1970 through 1984 brought the greatest geographic expansion of the District when it annexed more service area from the unincorporated County and increased to approximately 45 square miles. The 1990 Federal Census counted District residents at 78,507.

Jurisdictional changes have occurred around the District over the years. The City of Elk Grove was incorporated in 2000 to the south of the District, and the City of Rancho Cordova was incorporated in 2003 to the north of the District. Including the City of Sacramento, the District is now surrounded by cities on three different sides. There are 5 creeks/parkways in both developed and undeveloped areas in the District. Large open space and sensitive wetland areas are preserved in the eastern side of the District in addition to areas supporting aggregate mining and agricultural lands.

INTRODUCTION

The District has experienced considerable suburban growth over the years and a significant increase in diversity. In 1990 the District was 54% White, 18% Hispanic, 15% Asian/Pacific Islander, 13% Black/African American and 1% American Indian/Eskimo. Thirty years later, in 2020 the District now is 34% Asian/Pacific Islander, 30% Hispanic, 18% White, 12% Black/African American, 5% Two or More Races, and 1% Other.

In addition to being ethnically diverse, District resident's income is also diverse. In many of the older neighborhoods there are low and moderate-income communities. In the newer neighborhoods, income ranges from low to high. A significant portion of the District residents earn 80% below the statewide median income, or at or below the threshold designated as low-income by the California Department of Housing and Community Development's 2016 State Income Limits.

A five-member Board of Directors governs the District. The Board members are elected from five geographic divisions within Southgate Recreation & Park District's boundaries. Directors are elected to serve staggered four-year terms. The Board assigns administrative responsibilities to the General Manager.

The General Manager is responsible for implementing the policies of the District and managing the four operational departments of the District: Administration, Parks, Recreation and Golf. The departments work cooperatively to accomplish the mission of Southgate Recreation & Park District. Our experienced staff work diligently to provide places that support and adapt to many different recreation activities, foster a sense of community, and promote an active healthy lifestyle.

Southgate Recreation and Park District has traditionally placed an emphasis on preserving open space and creating walkable communities. The District strives to provide quality amenities for recreation, relaxation and communion necessary for citizens to reinvigorate their lives. The District has a strong tradition of partnerships with other organizations and service to its socially, economically, and culturally diverse community.

The District Mission

A commitment to provide positive recreational opportunities, safe and attractive parks and open spaces, resulting in a healthier community.



Section 1

History of District Growth



Tillotson Parkway at Boulder Glen Park Under Construction – 2005

HISTORY OF DISTRICT GROWTH

District Origins and Early Years

“Southgate Park, Recreation and Parkway District” was formed by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors on August 27, 1956, under Public Resources Code Section 5780 (the Recreation and Park District Law). The District originally managed two parks serving approximately 3,500 residents within two square miles in the south area of Sacramento County. Those first parks, Crofoot and Royal, totaled over 4.8 acres.

The District grew over the decades through periodic annexations and small detachments of area served by the District. Significant events occurred roughly every decade, including a name change in 1959 to the current name: “Southgate Recreation and Park District.”

Dramatic Growth in Size, Population Served

In 1968, the Orange Avenue/Florin and Lindale areas (bounded by the City of Sacramento to the north and south, Power Inn Road to the east, and the existing District boundary to the west) were annexed into the District’s service area. This, coupled with two detachments, resulted in a near doubling of the District area to 3.9 square miles and tripling of the population served.

In 1969, a Southgate-Elk Grove study committee formed and provided recommendations to the Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) regarding the reorganization of park agencies in south Sacramento County. LAFCO’s actions paved the way for the dissolution of County Service Area No. 8 (due to lack of sufficient funding to support park services) and allowed for expansion of the District into areas previously served by the County or lacking services. The Bowling Green annexation expanded the District north to 47th Avenue. The Elk Grove-Florin annexation expanded the District east to Elk Grove-Florin Road and south to Calvine Road. The result was a tripling of the District service area to 13.4 square miles and doubling of the population served.

Additional Significant Growth to the North and East

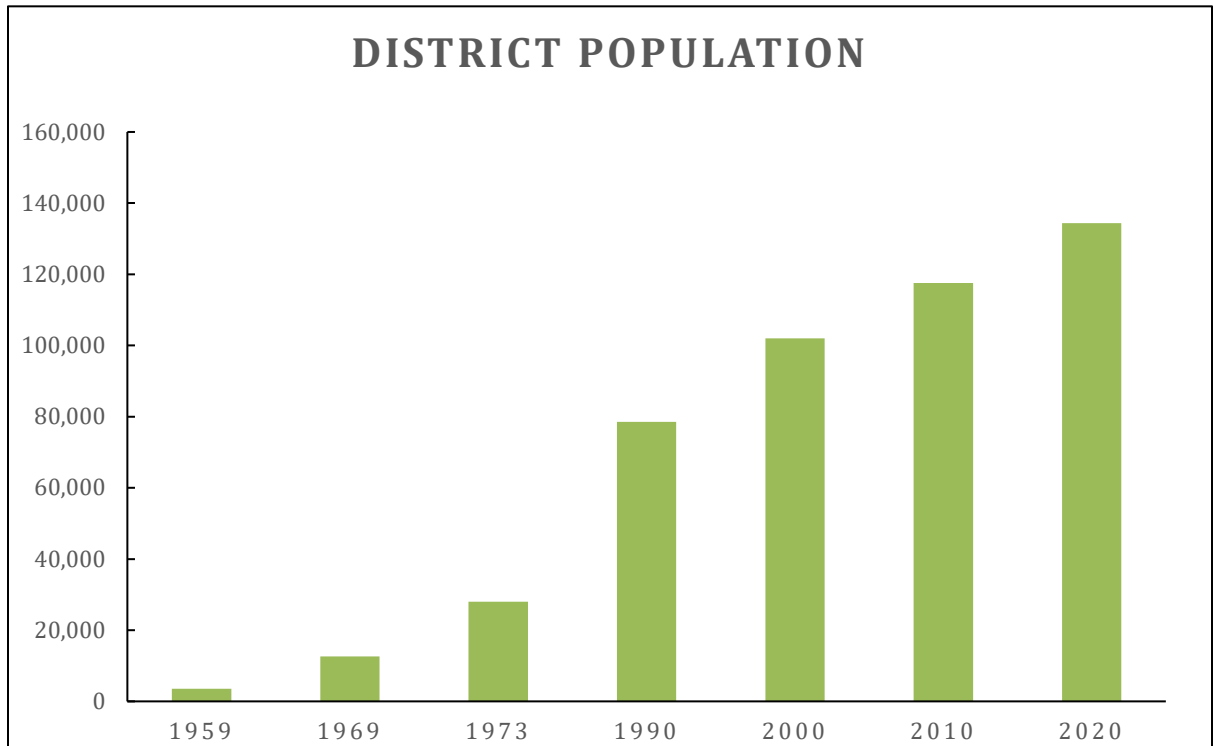
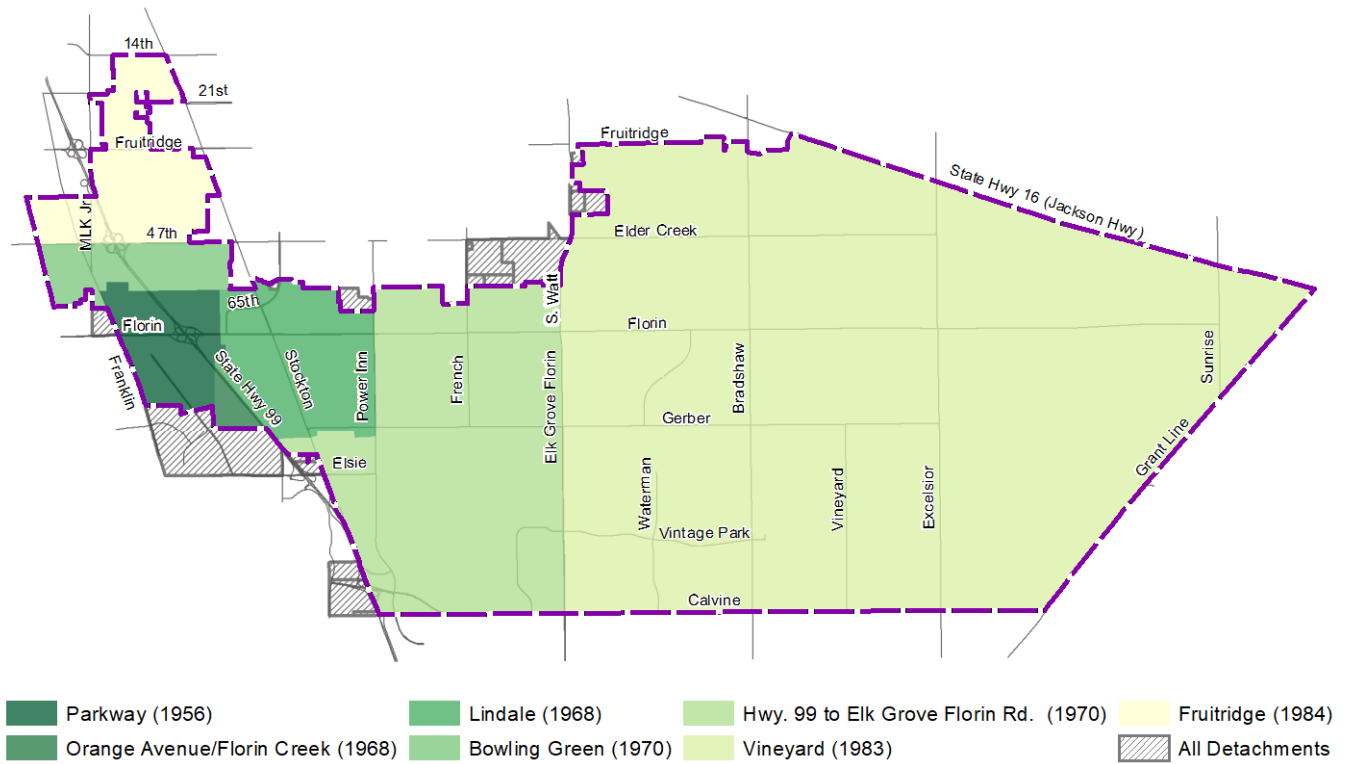
The next major District expansions came in the early 1980s. In 1983, the Vineyard Community Planning Advisory Council and other residents within the Vineyard area requested that the District annex a portion of County Service Area No. 4B. In 1984, at the request from residents and the County of Sacramento, the District annexed the Fruitridge area (County Service Area No. 4A). These two major expansions effectively delivered the District boundary to its current extent, which includes the area bounded by the City of Sacramento limit lines to the west and north, Fruitridge Road and its extension to Jackson Highway to the north, Grant Line Road to the east, and center line of Calvine Road (also the City of Elk Grove limit line) to the south. By 2020, the District’s population reached 133,411.

HISTORY OF DISTRICT GROWTH

Year	Major Growth / Annexation Events	District Size	Number of Facilities	Approx. Population
1956	Southgate Park, Recreation and Parkway District formed.	2 square miles	-	-
1957	Royal Park and Crofoot Park and Clubhouse are District's first facilities.	2 square miles	3	3,500
1959	District is renamed Southgate Recreation and Park District.	2 square miles	3	3,500
1968	Lindale area, Orange Avenue/Florin annexed to District. Sky Park is built.	3.9 square miles	4	12,635
1970	District more than triples in size due to Bowling Green and Elk Grove-Florin annexations.	13.4 square miles	5	28,000
1984	District triples in size again with Fruitridge (County Service Area 4A) and Vineyard area (County Service Area 4B) annexations.	45.2 square miles	22	n/a
1992	The past decade sees 20 new facilities within the District.	45.2 square miles	40	78,507
1998	District completes and opens WildHawk Golf Club on 145 acres in Vineyard community.	45.2 square miles	43	n/a
2000	Seven additional facilities are completed by the District.	45.2 square miles	48	102,002
2010	Nine new facilities added to District's park inventory to serve a growing population.	45.2 square miles	57	117,541
2021	The District now includes Larry Gury Park, Pat O'Brien Community Center, Scott Hokama Support Facility, New Aquatic Center, and nine new facilities.	45.2 square miles	66	134,330

HISTORY OF DISTRICT GROWTH

District Growth History





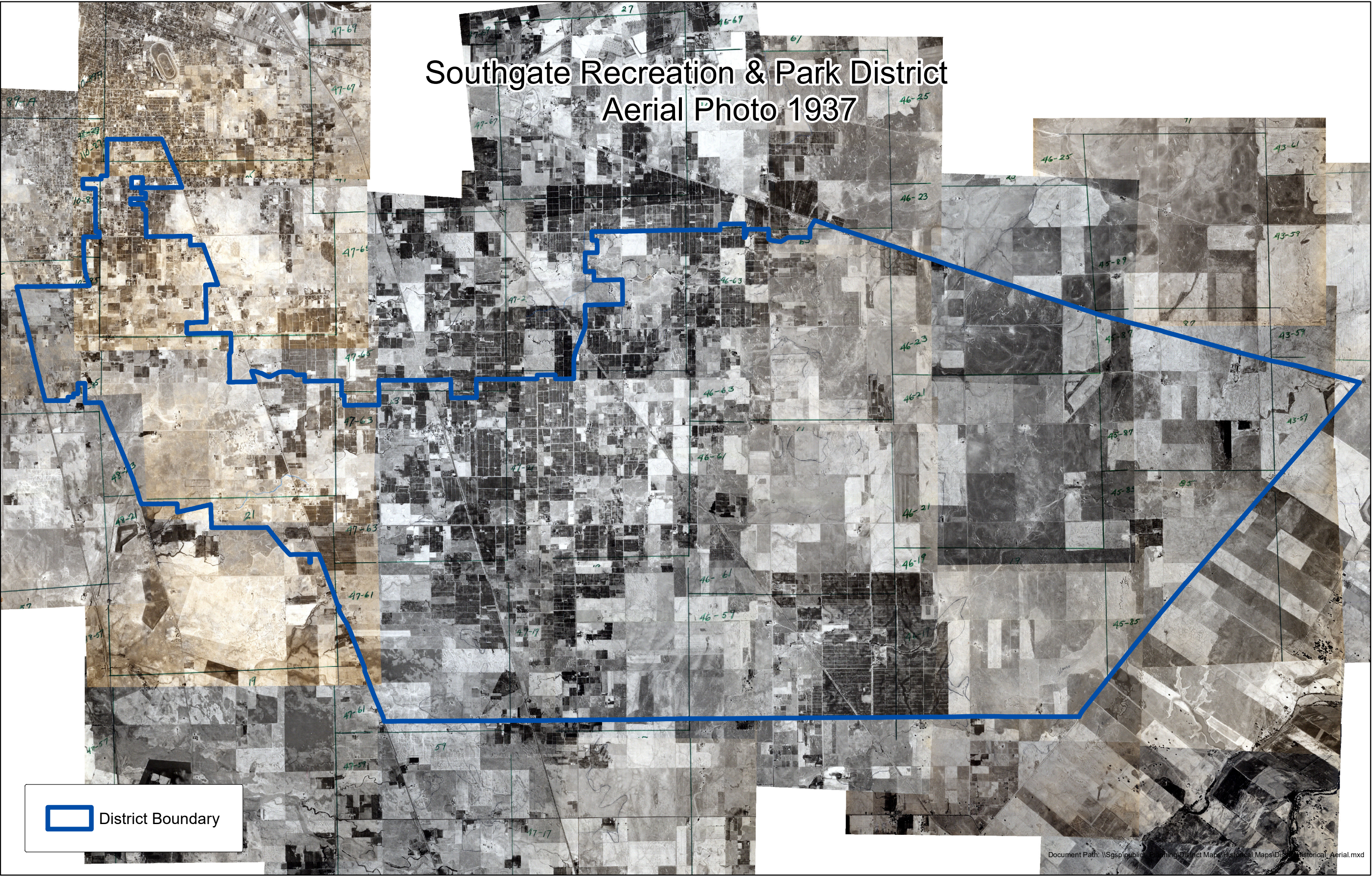
Section 2

Aerial Photos of the District



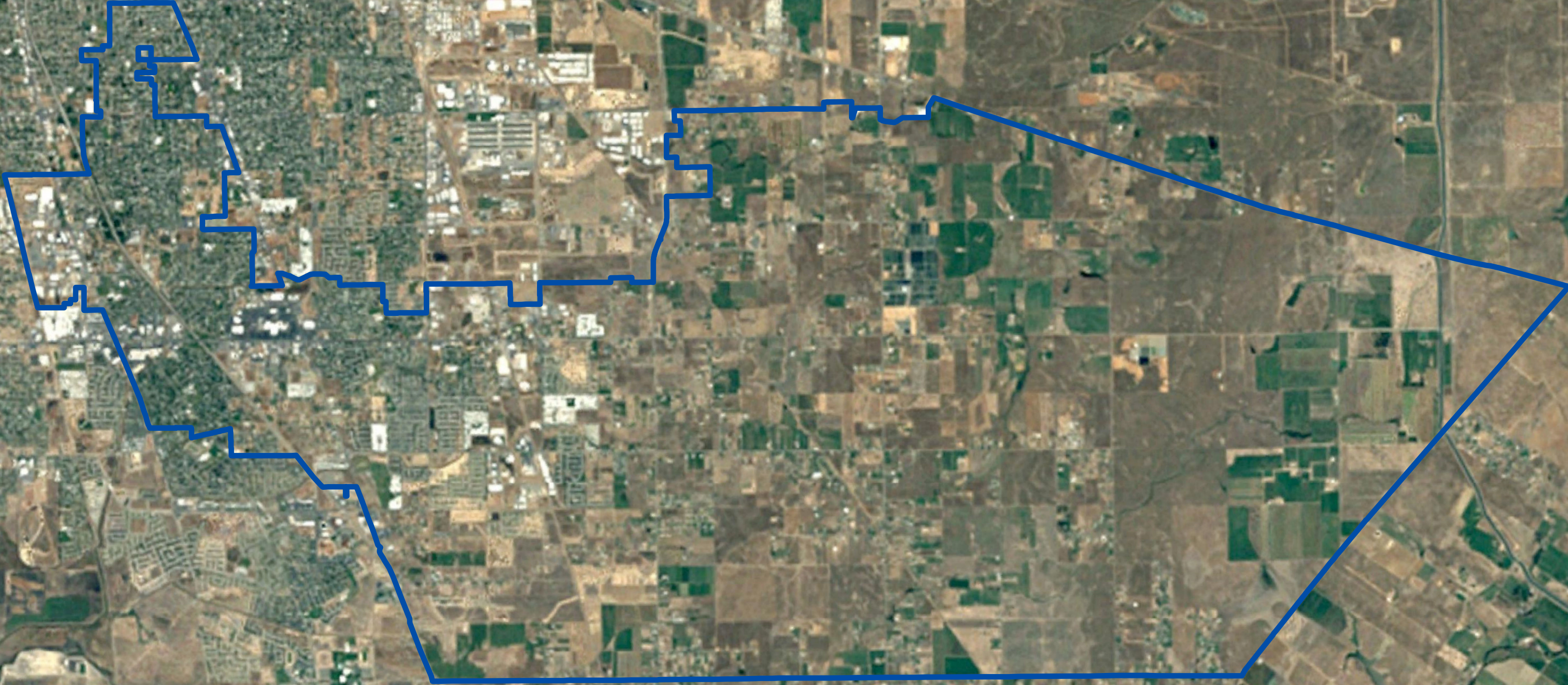
Southgate Center and Parkway Estates Neighborhood, December 1962

Southgate Recreation & Park District Aerial Photo 1937



 District Boundary

Southgate Recreation & Park District
Aerial Photo 1990



District Boundary

Southgate Recreation & Park District Aerial Photo 2022



District Boundary



Section 3

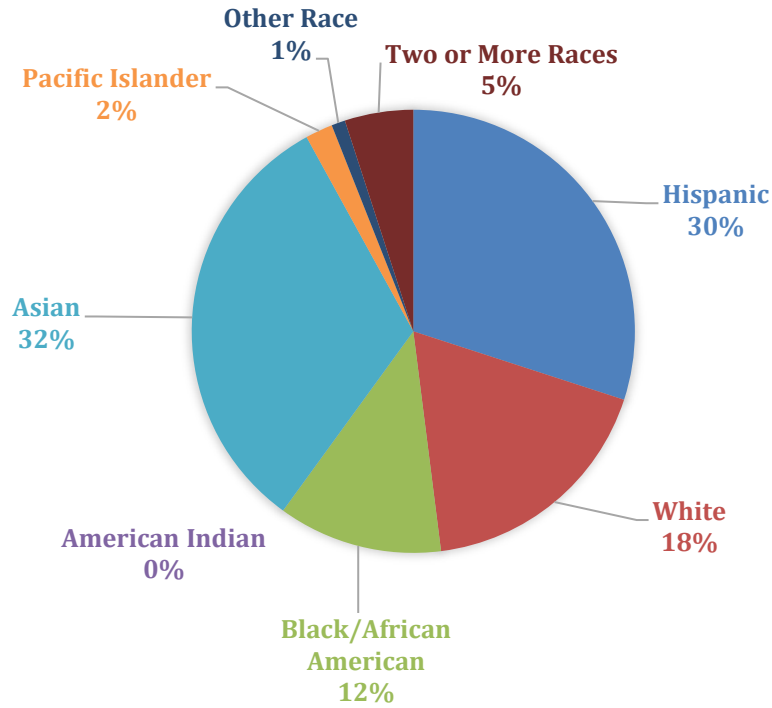
District Residents' Ethnicity and Income



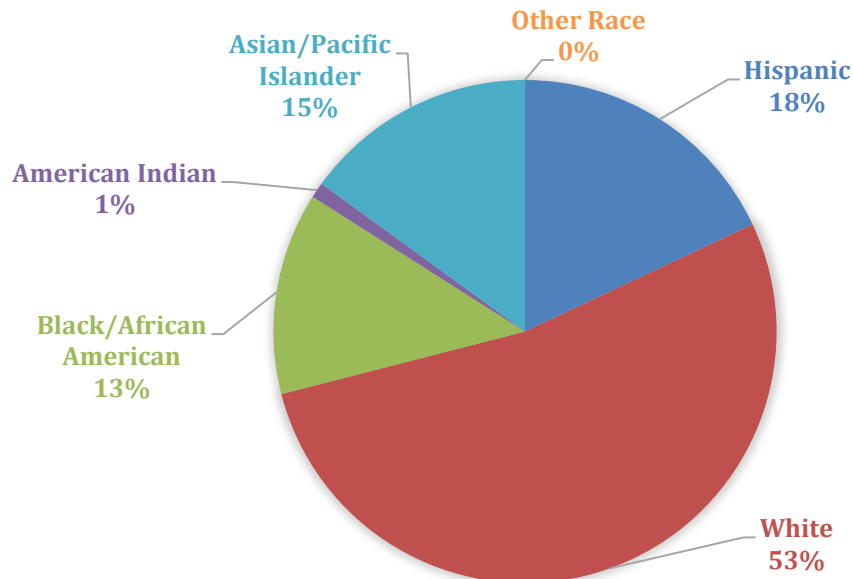
Walk with Ease Program Fruitridge Community Center, 2019

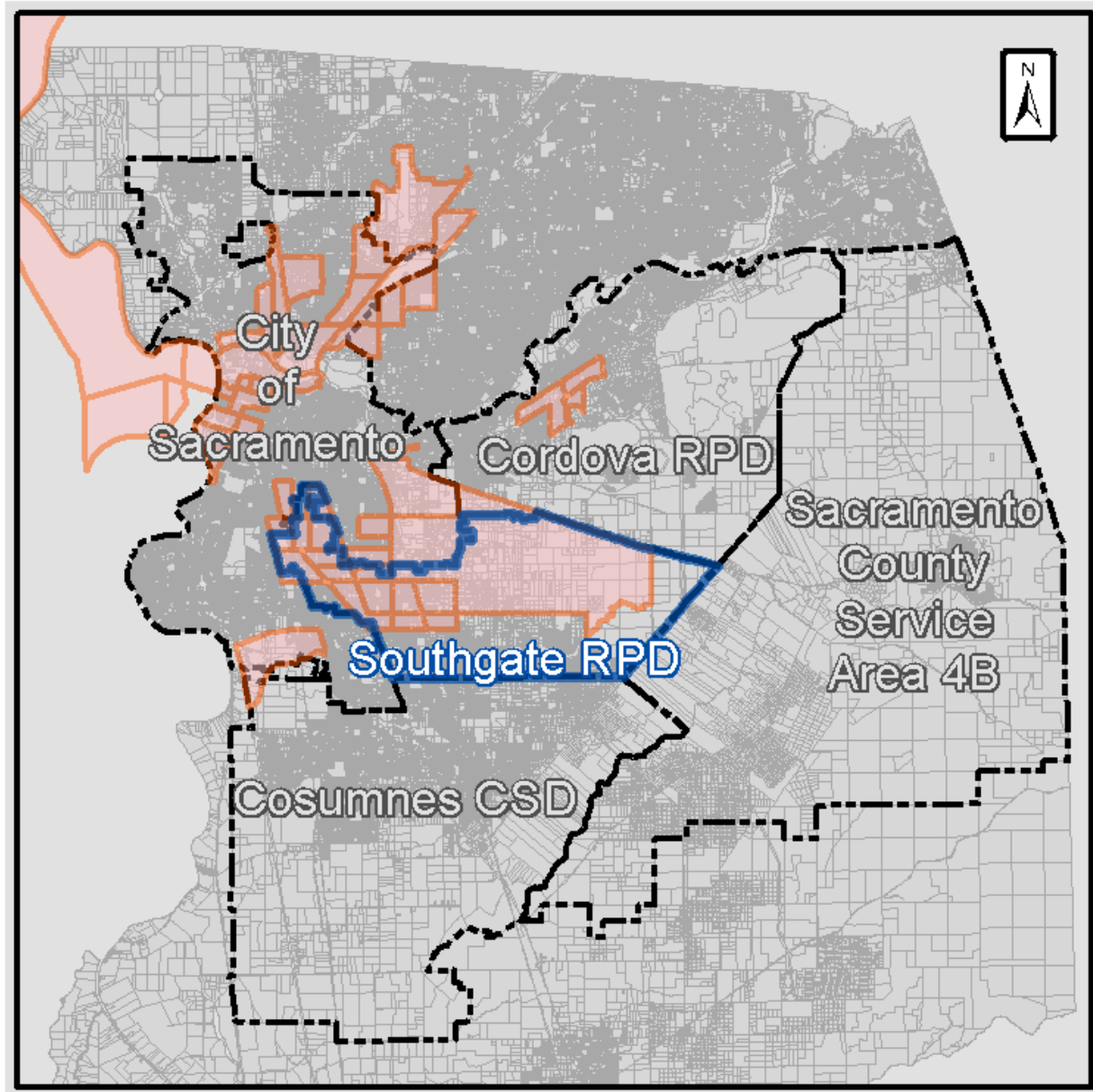
DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ETHNICITY & INCOME

2020 CENSUS DISTRICT RESIDENT'S ETHNICITY



1990 CENSUS DISTRICT RESIDENT'S ETHNICITY





District Resident's Income

In addition to being ethnically diverse, District resident's income is also diverse. Red signifies low-income communities designated for the purpose of AB 1550. The District resident's income shown in red represents a region that earns 80% below the statewide median income, or at or below the threshold designated as low-income by the California Department of Housing and Community Development's 2016 State Income Limits.



Section 4 - Timeline of Significant Events in Southgate's History



DISTRICT FORMED

Originally named Southgate Park, Recreation, and Parkway District.

Initial Board of Trustees established.

First two parks are acquired.



RUTTER SWIM, FLORIN CREEK REC CTR OPEN

Rutter Swim Center built under joint-use agreement with Elk Grove Unified School District.

Florin Creek Recreation Center opens to the public.



SOUTHGATOR NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED

Southgate innovates with publication of its first quarterly newsletter/activity guide, sent to all District residents.



RIZAL COMMUNITY CENTER OPENS TO PUBLIC

Project in partnership with the Filipino Community, this 10,000 square foot community center funded with assistance from Federal grant funds.



FIRST LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FORMED

This new funding mechanism provides vital revenues to fund maintenance and operations of various parks and projects.



FRUITRIDGE AQUATIC CENTER OPENS

Located adjacent to the Fruitridge Community Center, this facility serves a need in northern portions of the community, providing lessons and recreational activities

1956

1959

1972

1973

1974

1978

1983

1983

1983

1986

1991

1993



DISTRICT RENAMED

Legal name becomes "Southgate Recreation and Park District."



SERVING A GROWING POPULATION

Population increases in the region; the District now serves more than 28,000 residents and is 13.3 square miles in size.



NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER, RANGER PROGRAM

Trailhead Park administrative headquarters provides centralized location for District business.

First ranger program launched and housed at Crofoot Nature Center.



DISTRICT GROWS EAST TO VINEYARD AREA

Southgate annexes area in eastern portion of the District known as the "Vineyard area," this region will see extensive future community development



FIRST DINNER WITH SANTA HELD

Southgate hosts first annual "Dinner with Santa" at Fruitridge Community Center, engages with hundreds of families in need. Becomes a community tradition.



DISTRICT ASSUMES OPERATIONS AT KLOSS SPORTS COMPLEX

Unique agreement between District and County of Sacramento for this Elk Grove facility; Southgate operates a facility outside its service area.



GERRY GREEN / SETA HEAD START FACILITY

Located adjacent to Fruitridge Community Park, this collaborative effort with SETA becomes site of the Fruitridge Head Start Early Learning Program.



FLETCHER FARM COMMUNITY CTR OPENS

Named for the Fletcher family, longtime Florin area residents. The center fills a need for a mid-size event center for local needs.



NEW CENTURY TURNS AND DISTRICT SEES IMPRESSIVE GROWTH

Major developments in southern and eastern portions of District contribute to growing population and size, now over 100,000 residents and 45.2 square miles of service area.



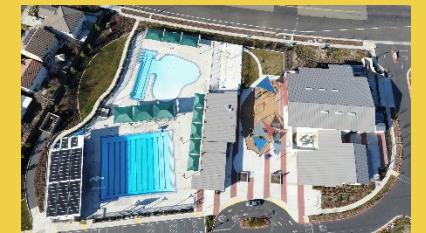
LAGUNA CREEK BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN CORRIDOR

The initial 1.3 miles of this ambitious trail corridor are built, planned to eventually link to other corridor systems in neighboring jurisdictions.



DISTRICT CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY; R.E.C. VAN LAUNCHES

A successful 50 years of service to the community is celebrated by the community throughout the year. 2006 also sees the launch of the District's mobile REC van.



COMMUNITY CENTER, AQUATIC COMPLEX, & SUPPORT FACILITY OPENS

The community celebrates the opening of the Pat O'Brien Community Center, New Aquatic Center, and Scott Hokama Support Facility, all major facilities

1994

1995

1998

1998

2000

2000

2002

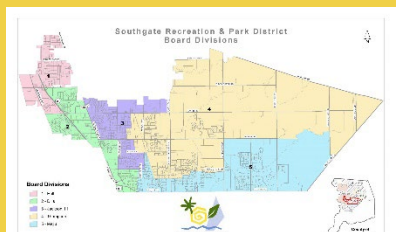
2003

2006

2010

2019

2021



BOARD OF DIRECTORS TRANSITIONS TO ELECTIONS BY DIVISION

To more equitably represent all the various and diverse District communities, Directors are now elected by District.



WILDHAWK GOLF CLUB OPENS TO PUBLIC

The District's first golf course opens and is widely praised for its design in the rural Vineyard area. Includes 18-hole championship course, restaurant, maintenance shop and cart barn.



DISTRICT LAUNCHES FIRST INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

Responding to the growing use of new technologies, Southgate creates and launches its first website with news, program information, maps, and more.



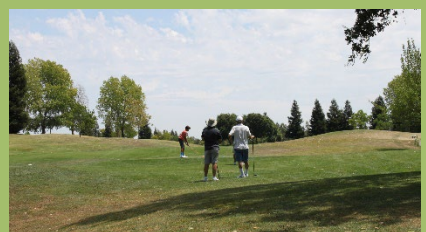
FLORIN CREEK REC CENTER SEES MAJOR RENOVATIONS

Considered one of the District's flagship facilities, the center gets much-needed renovations bringing new opportunities for events, rentals and more.



POPULATION AND ACREAGE SEES NEW HEIGHTS

By 2010, the District's growing population exceeds 117,000, and Southgate owns and operates more than 700 acres of parks and open space.



CHALLENGES FROM COVID, BUT NEW RECORDS SET

Ongoing impacts from COVID-19 affect how the District provides services; yet a new high is reached as WildHawk Golf Club sees record rounds of 76,000.



Section 5

Parks, Trails, and Facilities by Decade



Florin Creek Recreation Center Renovations, 2006

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PARKS, TRAILS, AND FACILITIES BY DECADE

Parks/Trails listed in **GREEN**

Facilities listed in **BLUE**

1950s	-----1957	 Crofoot Clubhouse
	1957	 Crofoot Park
	1957	 Kenneth B. Royal Park
1960s	-----1969	 Sky Park
1970s	-----1970	 Florin Creek Trail
	1971	 Kennedy Park
	1972	 Florin Creek Recreation Center <i>(Renovated in 2010)</i>
	1972	 Southgate Corporation Yard <i>(Bldg. 2 added 1989; Bldg. 3 added 1994)</i>
	1972	 Daylor Sports Fields
	1973	 Florin Creek Park <i>(Added Flood Detention Basin 2016)</i>
	1973	 Jack W. Davis Park <i>(Renovated in 2017; expanded in 2019))</i>
	1973	 Nicholas Park <i>(Renovated in 2022)</i>
	1973	 Rutter Swim Center <i>(Closed in 2018)</i>
	1975	 Pacific Park
	1978	 Jack N. Sheldon Administrative Headquarters
1980s	-----1980	 Bowling Green Park
	1980	 Fruitridge Community Park <i>(Renovated and expanded in 2013)</i>
	1981	 Olde Florintown Park <i>(Parking lot expansion in 2018)</i>
	1981	 Fruitridge Community Center <i>(Expanded in 1998)</i>
	1981	 Southwoods Park
	1982	 Jose P. Rizal Community Center
	1986	 Fountain Plaza Park
	1986	 Rainbow Park <i>(Garden expansion in 2013)</i>
	1987	 Norman S. Waters Park
	1987	 Sunrise Florin Park
	1988	 Howard P. Tillotson Parkway <i>(Extensions through 2022)</i>
	1988	 Brittany Park
	1988	 Toby Johnson Park
	1988	 Vintage Park
	1989	 Caymus Park
1990s	-----1991	 Fruitridge Aquatic Center
	1992	 Churchill Downs Community Park
	1992	 Cottonwood Park
	1992	 Danbury Parkway
	1992	 Illa Collin Park

PARKS, TRAILS, AND FACILITIES BY DECADE

1990s-----	1992	Jack N. Sheldon Park
	1992	Edwin A. Smith Community Park
	1992	Willowood Park
	1992	Woody Hampton Park
	1994	Gerry Green Head Start Facility
	1998	Fletcher Farm Community Center
	1998	WildHawk Golf Club
	1999	Calvine Station Park
	1999	Carlisle Woods Park
	1999	Dunmore Park Preserve
	1999	Hardester Park (<i>Expanded in 2004</i>)
	1999	Vineyard Park
2000s -----	2002	Laguna Creek Parkway (<i>Planned future extensions</i>)
	2003-future	Churchill Downs Power Line Open Space Corridor
	2003	Silver Leaf Park
	2003	Tamarindo Park
	2004	Robert D. Cochran Park
	2005	Little Hawke Park
	2009	Boulder Glen Park
2010s -----	2010	Ted M. Klein Park
	2010	Calvine Crossing Park
	2013	Florin East Grammar School (<i>Built 1916, renovated 2006, leased 2013</i>)
	2018	Florin Farm and Open Space Park
	2018	Heritage Park
	2019	Don & Brenda Nottoli Community Park
	2019	Jimmie R. Yee Park
	2019	New Aquatic Center
	2019	Pat O'Brien Community Center
2020s -----	2019	Scott Hokama Support Facility
	2021	Larry Gury Community Park (<i>Expansion, flood detention basin in 2022</i>)
	2022	Elder Creek and Gerber Creek Open Space Preserve/Trail
	2022	Gerber Creek Open Space Preserve/Trail
	Pending.....	North Vineyard Station Power Line Open Space Corridor, Giant Panda Park, Tillotson Plaza Park



Section 6

Parks, Trails, Open Space, Facilities, and Landscape Corridors



Planning the Design of WildHawk Golf Club, 1996

PARKS

1. Boulder Glen Park

Address: Caymus Drive and Tillotson Parkway

Year Built: 2009

Type: Mini Park

Size: 2.2 acres

Amenities: Play area, benches, open space, Tillotson Parkway connection

Boulder Glen Park is conveniently located along the Tillotson Parkway, just east of Elk Grove-Florin Road. The park is the perfect spot for a quick rest while exercising along the parkway, or for a simple play outing with the family. It is one of Southgate's many parks that adjoin Tillotson Parkway, providing easy interconnection to a broad range of recreational areas throughout the eastern portion of the District.

Boulder Glen Park is named after the subdivision in which it is located. Playing off the "boulder" theme for the park name, the park's playground includes rock-climbing features to satisfy the adventurous playground enthusiast and stimulate creative play.

2. Bowling Green Park

Address: 42nd Street and 49th Avenue

Year Built: 1980

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 6.8 acres

Amenities: Playground, benches, picnic area, barbecue, lighted basketball courts, lighted soccer fields, parking

Bowling Green Park packs a lot of punch into a compact site. Whether you are planning a play outing, participating in court sports, or a full-blown soccer tournament, Bowling Green Park has something for everyone. Located in the Bowling Green subdivision, it sits adjacent to Highway 99 on its easterly side. Its lighted soccer fields are familiar icons often seen by travelers heading south on Highway 99 at night. Its play area features a fun "spaceship" theme for imaginative play.

3. Brittany Park

Address: Brittany Park Drive and Kentshire Way

Year Built: 1988

Type: Mini Park

Size: 0.6 acres

Amenities: Playground equipment, benches, barbecue, Tillotson Parkway connection

Brittany Park is a quiet green space along Tillotson Parkway, to the west of Elk Grove-Florin Road, in the Brittany Park subdivision. This cute park is a great place for local children to play and for adults to relax in a naturally shaded setting. A train-themed playground was added in 2007. It's easy access to Tillotson Parkway accommodates an extended walk, run, or bike ride.

4. Calvin Crossing Park

Address: Almadine Drive and Obsidian Way

Year Built: 2010

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 4.9 acres

Amenities: Playgrounds, picnic shelter, benches, barbecue, sports field, half basketball court, soccer field

With a wide range of amenities, Calvin Crossing Park is a popular spot for a variety of recreational and social outings. The park reflects the name of the Calvin Crossing subdivision. Large enough to accommodate field sports, visitors can also take advantage of fun play equipment or have a family party in the park's shaded picnic structure. Lots to do, and room to do it in!

5. Calvin Station Park

Address: 8308 New Point Drive

Year Built: 1999

Type: Mini Park

Size: 1.8 acres

Amenities: Playground equipment, picnic areas, shade structure, barbecue, open space

Calvin Station Park in the Calvin Station subdivision is a small but welcoming oasis for neighborhood families and children to take part in outdoor play and come together for casual gatherings. The park is nestled into the subdivision of the same name, just north of Calvin Road and easy to find.

6. Carlisle Woods Park

Address: Carlisle Avenue and Caymus Drive

Year Built: 1999

Type: Mini Park

Size: 2.6 acres

Amenities: Playground equipment, picnic areas, shade structure, barbecue, soccer field

Don't be fooled by its small size: Carlisle Woods Park has a lot of versatility. The park's soccer field provides a generous open space for a number of field games, while nearby shade structures and seating can accommodate a family picnic or barbecue. Fun play equipment will keep the youngsters active and entertained. Carlisle Woods Park is located in the Carlisle Woods subdivision.

7. Caymus Park

Address: 8084 Caymus Drive

Year Built: 1992

Type: Mini Park

Size: 1.3 acres

Amenities: Playground equipment, picnic areas, barbecue, basketball court, shade structure

PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE, FACILITIES & LANDSCAPE CORRIDORS

Mature trees and plenty of shade highlight Caymus Park, located in the Churchill Downs community. Located along the main neighborhood arterial, Vintage Park Drive, the park is easy to get to – by car, foot or bike. Amenities at Caymus Park include playground equipment, picnic shelter and tables, and a half basketball court, so visitors of all ages will enjoy their visit. The park sits at the corner of Caymus Drive, providing the name for the park site.

8. Churchill Downs Community Park

Address: Vintage Park Drive and Waterman Road

Year Built: 1992

Type: Community Park

Size: 28.7 acres

Amenities: Playgrounds, restrooms, basketball court, tennis courts, soccer field, sand volleyball, picnic area, parking lot, Tillotson Parkway connection

One of Southgate's largest and most ambitious parks, Churchill Downs Community Park offers something for everyone. This park provides acres and acres of open space, sports and recreational amenities, along with connectivity to Tillotson Parkway. From basketball, to tennis, to soccer or sand volleyball, to playgrounds and more, Churchill Downs Community Park has the features for a fun day in the park. Easy to get to and plenty of parking make visiting the park convenient. The park's location along Tillotson Parkway (including a pedestrian/bicycle bridge in the Kingsbridge Open Space) makes it easily accessible to those who enjoy biking or walking.

The park's orientation and numerous walkways make it great for walking and running circuits. And, as a result of decades long planning, the park sits just south of Southgate's newest community and aquatic center, so the entire corridor here is a virtual park and recreation mecca. A "must-see" for any park aficionado!

9. Cottonwood Park

Address: 8604 Willow Grove Way

Year Built: 1992

Type: Mini Park

Size: 1.6 acres

Amenities: Playground, picnic area, full basketball court, shade structure

A small and peaceful spot in a quiet neighborhood, Cottonwood Park provides a nice place to play, shoot the hoops, or have a simple picnic among green grass and mature landscaping. This mini-park was named for its surrounding subdivision.

10. Crofoot Park

Address: 7259 Circle Parkway

Year Built: 1957

Type: Mini Park

Size: 2.1 acres

Amenities: Playground, picnic area, nature area, parking

PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE, FACILITIES & LANDSCAPE CORRIDORS

This park was one of the District's first two parks, along with Kenneth B. Royal Park. E.J. Crofoot was a local developer with business interests in the area in the 1950s, and he was executive vice president of Park Place, Inc., which donated the land and building to the District in 1957. Crofoot Park is a cozy green oasis in the Parkway Estates neighborhood. Nestled next to the small clubhouse, the park has served families in the Parkway area for decades. Play equipment and areas to relax are the key features of the park. The land for this park and the adjoining clubhouse were donated to the District by the Crofoot Family in 1950s as the Parkway community was developed.

11. Daylor Sports Fields

Address: 6131 Orange Avenue

Year Built: 1972

Type: Sports Fields

Size: 5.8 acres

The Daylor Sports Fields are adjacent to William Daylor High School, Elk Grove Unified School District's first continuation high school. The spacious fields can accommodate softball and soccer games. Southgate Recreation & Park District operates these fields under a lease and easement agreement with the school district.

12. Don & Brenda Nottoli Community Park

Address: 9485 Hanfield Drive

Year Built: 2019

Type: Community Park

Size: 14.3 acres

Amenities: Play equipment, shaded picnic areas, lighted sports fields, full basketball court, two tennis courts, half basketball court, dog park, parking area, public restrooms

This vibrant park in the Vineyard Point subdivision is home to Southgate's first-ever dog park, consisting of three fenced-in off-leash dog areas to keep Fido active and happy! Along with the dog park, the 14-acre site delivers plenty of sports, recreational and leisure space, plus acres of turf, trees and landscaping. The design theme of the park and its features lend a nod to the region's early rural and agricultural roots. You'll notice those elements as you enter the park and check out the fun playground equipment and other details.

Don & Brenda Nottoli Community Park was named in honor of Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli and his wife and ever-present supporter, Brenda Nottoli. Don was first elected to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in 1994 and he has been a tireless advocate for Southgate Recreation & Park District. Lifelong residents of South Sacramento County, Don and Brenda have a lifelong interest in the care of animals and local natural resources.

13. Edwin A. Smith Community Park

Address: 8200 Meadowhaven Drive

Year Built: 1988

Type: Community Park

Size: 12 acres

PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE, FACILITIES & LANDSCAPE CORRIDORS

Amenities: Softball field, full basketball court, two lighted tennis courts, playground, picnic areas, parking lot, Tillotson Parkway connection

In 2021 this park was named in honor of the late Southgate Board Member Edwin A. Smith. Smith served on the District Board for 36 years (from 1976 to 2012) and was credited with helping guide the District through large periods of service area growth, program and facility development, financial sustainability, legislative advocacy and more. This park was previously named Countryside Community Park.

The park is a focal point for the community, most notably identified by its beautiful and dramatic white steel pavilion structures that provide shade over picnic areas. The park serves as the westerly trailhead for Tillotson Parkway, leading users to approximately 4.5 miles of landscaped pedestrian and biking pathways.

The park's wide range of amenities makes it a perfect venue for large groups, parties, special events or group sports activities. On-site parking makes visiting the park convenient. At 12 acres in size, the site has plenty of activity areas, and it never feels cramped, so bring your group and enjoy your visit.

14. Florin Creek Park and Multi-Use Flood Control Basin

Address: 7468 Persimmon Avenue

Year Built: 1973

Type: Community Park

Size: 17.3 acres

Amenities: Playgrounds, shaded picnic area, barbecue, petanque court, outdoor amphitheater, trail, soccer fields, nature area, pond, parking, Florin Creek Trail connection

Florin Creek Park is one of Southgate's earliest developed parks and remains today as a lovely expanse of green, enjoyed by children and adults alike. A large pond at the park is periodically used for California State Department of Fish & Game's event "Fishing in the City," in which fish are planted to teach youth to enjoy fishing, a sport they may never otherwise experience. Plenty of pathways throughout the park create a pleasant walking circuit, and an outdoor amphitheater (adjacent to the Recreation Center) provides a unique entertainment or event location.

In 1972, a park-naming contest was held for this site, and the winner was a local 5-year-old boy who submitted the name "Florin Creek Park" because the Florin Creek runs behind the park.

In 2016 Florin Creek Park was expanded and developed in to a joint-use stormwater detention basin. New land was acquired and the park was dug out to create two stormwater detention basins as deep as nine feet. This joint use project will help protect the neighborhood residents from flooding. This award-winning project was a tremendous effort between many local and regional agencies.

15. Florin Farm and Open Space Park

Address: 7060 McCurdy Lane

Year Acquired: 2017

Type: Open Space

Size: 10.3 acres

Amenities: Open grass lands

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The Florin Farm and Open Space Park was acquired in partnership with Sacramento County. It is intended to represent the agricultural history of the Florin area. It is anticipated that as adjacent multi-family properties develop, this future park site will see further improvement. Currently, it offers an open grassland respite in an otherwise heavily industrialized area.

16. Fountain Plaza Park

Address: El Paraiso Avenue and Hobnail Way

Year Built: 1986

Type: Mini Park

Size: .9 acres

Amenities: Picnic area, shade structure, shuffleboard

This park is a hidden gem in the Lemon Hill neighborhood, tucked into a small space next to Clayton B. Wire Elementary School. The park is popular with families picnicking or just relaxing. This property for this park was obtained from the County of Sacramento in 1984 by the annexation of County Service Area #4A Fruitridge. Southgate later developed the site into a park.

17. Fruitridge Community Park

Address: 4000 Fruitridge Road

Year Built: 1980

Type: Community Park

Size: 11.4 acres

Amenities: Play areas, picnic areas, shade structure, lighted basketball court, soccer fields, lighted parking areas

As you travel along Fruitridge Road you might miss this park site, as it is somewhat hidden behind the Fruitridge Community and Aquatic Center; but once you enter the park, you'll be surprised at its size and features! The park's amenities are sure to fulfill a variety of recreational and sports activities, including basketball, soccer and more. The District will expand the park with 1.5 acres of new property from the Yoshino family adjacent to the Aquatic Center that will be developed in 2022 with a \$2.3 million grant from the State of California.

Getting to Fruitridge Community Park is easy: you can drive to one of the park's parking lots, or there are several convenient pedestrian access points for the surrounding neighborhoods. Mature trees line the perimeter of the nearly 10-acre park, providing pleasant seasonal scenery changes. This is truly an active park enjoyed by young and old alike.

The Fruitridge Community Park is one of five properties obtained from the County of Sacramento in 1984 by the District's annexation of County Service Area #4A Fruitridge.

18. Giant Panda Park

Address: Giant Panda Drive and Selborne Court

Year Built: Future park

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 4.6 acres

This future park will serve newly developing neighborhoods within the Churchill Downs community. Future planning with local residents will determine this park's ultimate design and amenities.

19. Hardester Park

Address: Hardester Drive and Ardith Drive

Year Built: 1999

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 5.8 acres

Amenities: Playground, picnic area, barbecue, two tennis courts, soccer field, Tillotson Parkway connection

Hardester Park has a lot to offer in a unique site configuration. It contains playground equipment and tennis courts, along with relaxing areas and shade for picnics. Its green spaces and amenities help buffer the adjacent railroad tracks from the neighborhood, a nice bonus for a neighborhood park. Hardester Park was named for the street the park is adjacent to. The park's shape includes a dogleg to the north, where a meandering pathway leads pedestrians and bicyclists directly to regional greenbelt Tillotson Parkway. The same pathway can alternately take users south, to access Calvine Road.

20. Heritage Park

Address: 8255 Florin Road

Year Acquired: 2017

Type: Mini Park

Size: 2.3 acres

Amenities: Open grass lands, wildflowers

Heritage Park was acquired in partnership with Sacramento County and was named by the County to reflect the historical significance of the town of Florin as it relates to agricultural and significant population of Japanese Americans who farmed the lands around Florin, but were interned in camps throughout the west following Franklin D. Roosevelt signing executive order 9066 in 1942. Minor improvements to the park were made in 2018. It is anticipated that as adjacent multi-family properties develop that this site will see further improvement. Currently, it offers open grasslands and wildflowers that wrap around a stretch of Florin Creek and a landscaped walkway fronting on Florin Road.

21. Illa Collin Park

Address: Vintage Park Drive and Fintown Court

Year Built: 1992

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 9 acres

Amenities: Playground, picnic area, baseball and soccer fields, basketball court, Tillotson Parkway connection

Illa Collin Park is easily accessible, located just north of Calvine Road along Vintage Park Drive in the Vintage Park subdivision. Bordered on its west flank by railroad tracks, you can expect to see an occasional train passing by as you enjoy this park's offerings. This is a terrific park to romp on baseball-themed playgrounds, or to take part in field games or a pick-up game of basketball.

Portions of Illa Collin Park are shared with the adjacent Calvine High School under a joint-use agreement with Elk Grove Unified School District. Originally named "Calvine Dairy Park," the park was later renamed in honor of former Sacramento County Supervisor Illa Collin, an unwavering supporter of Southgate Recreation & Park District during her 28 years on the Board of Supervisors. Collin's political career included supporting social programs and efforts to protect the environment. Collin helped create the Sacramento Tree Foundation and the American River Parkway Foundation.

22. Jack N. Sheldon Park

Address: Orange Avenue and Florin Mall Drive

Year Built: 1992

Type: Community Park

Size: 13.1 acres

Amenities: Playground, six lighted tennis courts, baseball/softball field, soccer field, picnic area, barbecue, parking, model airplane area, restroom, Florin Creek Trail connection

Jack N. Sheldon Park is the southernmost point of several multi-use park and recreation facilities located along Florin Mall Drive, with Hampton Park and Rizal Community Center located just to the north. Sheldon Park's major feature is a complex of six lighted tennis courts, making finding an open court for your friendly (or competitive) match stress-free. This popular park is also a great site for baseball and soccer games.

Sheldon Park was named for longtime Southgate Board Member Jack N. Sheldon. The park's original name was "Trailhead Park," as it served as the trailhead for the Florin Creek Trail, linking the west and east side of Highway 99 via an undercrossing, and was later renamed in honor of Sheldon.

23. Jack W. Davis Park

Address: 16th Avenue and 44th Street

Year Built: 1973

Type: Mini Park

Size: .9 acres

Amenities: Full basketball court, handball court, exercise equipment, picnic area, barbecue, playground

Don't let this park's small footprint fool you: Jack W. Davis Park is packed with amenities including basketball, handball, picnic, and play areas. Major improvements to this park were made in 2017 when volunteers came together to build a KaBOOM! playground and celebrate the completion of a new full-size basketball court. That ambitious project was made possible by many organizations including KaBOOM!, Kaiser Permanente, The Sacramento Kings Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the Fruitridge Community Collaborative, local contractors, volunteers and more. The South Oak Park Community Association also provided an amazing, colorful mural to honor the people and achievements of the neighborhood.

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This park is one of five properties obtained from the County of Sacramento in 1984 by the annexation of County Service Area #4A Fruitridge. The park was named for Jack Davis, a local rancher and a teacher and principal at Fruitridge Elementary School for many years. A former student of Fruitridge Elementary in the 1960s remembered principal Davis as a large, imposing figure that knew each student by name. A unique recollection was of Davis as an early recycler. Each day after the school's lunch period, Davis would have each student place their food scraps in a bin, which he would collect and use for food for pigs on his ranch.

24. Jimmie R. Yee Park

Address: 8755 Nakota Way

Year Built: 2019

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 3.3 acres

Amenities: Playground, half basketball court, picnic area, shade structure, barbecue

Jimmie R. Yee Park, located in the Caselman Ranch subdivision, provides numerous recreational and aesthetic amenities to the neighborhood, including playgrounds for tots and older children, basketball and multi-use open space. Thoughtful and creative features were designed into the playgrounds, of which some elements appear to grow out of rock beds and log piles. The play areas are dotted with elements found in nature, stimulating play and reflecting local plants and animals.

This park was named in honor of Jimmie R. Yee, a longtime local leader whose service to the community dates back to 1963. In addition to serving on many commissions and boards, Yee served two terms on the Sacramento City Council and two terms as a member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors for District 2, which includes much of the Southgate Recreation and Park District. A structural engineer during his professional life, Yee founded one of the Sacramento valley's largest consulting engineering firms and provided design services for many Sacramento trademark buildings.

25. Kennedy Park

Address: 7037 Briggs Drive

Year Built: 1973

Type: Mini Park

Size: 3.2 acres

Amenities: Playground, soccer field, picnic area

Kennedy Park is located in the Lindale community and adjoins Samuel Kennedy Elementary School. Though small in acreage, the park's linear design and orientation provides convenient pedestrian connection between two sides of the neighborhood and maximizes its accessibility to the surrounding residents. The park features open space for soccer and a playground.

Portions of Kennedy Park are shared with the adjacent school under a joint-use agreement with Elk Grove Unified School District. Both the school and the park were named for Samuel Kennedy, who was a Florin community leader and a fruit grower who served on the Florin School Board of Trustees for 25 years.

26. Kenneth B. Royal Park

Address: 4711 C Parkway

Year Built: 1957

Type: Mini Park

Size: 2.7 acres

Amenities: Open space, picnic area

This park was one of the District's first two parks, along with Crofoot Park. They were both donated in 1957 by Park Place, Inc. to enable the establishment of the District. A simple green open space, the park provides an expanse of grass surrounded by mature trees, and a picnic area for residents of the Parkway neighborhood. The design of this park was leading edge at the time. The well-built homes face the park on three sides for nice views and added park security. For many years this park was the final celebration site for the popular annual Parkway Estates Fourth of July parade.

Royal Park was renamed to honor the memory of fallen Sacramento County Deputy Kenneth B. Royal, who was killed in Sacramento in 1968 while responding to a felony incident.

27. Larry Gury Community Park

Address: 9875 Wildhawk West Drive

Year Built: 2021

Type: Community Park

Size: 22.4 acres

Amenities: Full and half basketball court, funnel shot hoop area, barbecues, perimeter exercise stations, adult exercise area, two playgrounds, shade structure, picnic areas, baseball backstop, turf play fields, and parking lot

Larry Gury Park is one of Southgate's most stunning parks, with a full array of sport and health-oriented amenities. The park's name honors one of Southgate's most highly regarded and successful general managers, Larry Gury. Gury served in recreation and administrative positions for 18 years during his tenure at Southgate, including as General Manager from 1995 to 1998. He was recognized by the California Special Districts Association as General Manager of the Year in 1998. Gury led the District through numerous challenges and was well known for his passions for customer service, fitness, innovation, and the park and recreation industry. In 2021, Gury was the recipient of the "Partnership for Quality Living's Hall of Honor Exceptional Leadership Award" recognizing his extensive contributions to the quality of life in northern California.

28. Little Hawke Park

Address: Sorenstam Drive and O'Meara Way

Year Built: 2005

Type: Mini Park

Size: 2.2 acres

Amenities: Playground, picnic areas, soccer field, shade structures

A small park in an active community, Little Hawke Park is surrounded by the Wildhawk subdivision in the Vineyard area, just south of WildHawk Golf Club (providing the thematic name for the park). A neighborhood park should be easy to get to, and this one is, centrally located where families can easily access

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the park's play, picnic area, and open space. Little Hawke Park is a fun space for active play or a simple afternoon of kite flying.

29. Nicholas Park

Address: 6590 47th Avenue

Year Built: 1973

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 9.7 acres

Amenities: Playground, two lighted soccer/softball fields, picnic area, barbecue, lighted parking lot

Known in the past as one of the first and most popular softball complexes, Nicholas Park sits just south of 47th Avenue and east of Highway 99, making it a central location for your group field games or tournaments. Play areas will keep the kids entertained, and a lighted parking area can easily accommodate athletes from outside of the local neighborhood. One of its lighted softball fields is being converted to lighted football and soccer fields and the park is getting a major renovation in 2022 with the help of a \$3.6 million grant from the State of California.

Nicholas Park was named after the Nicholas family who owned significant acreage in the area for many years. The District acquired the park site acreage from the Nicholas family in the early 1970s.

30. Norman S. Waters Park

Address: 8322 Elsie Avenue

Year Built: 1987

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 5.4 acres

Amenities: Playground, tennis courts, blacktop game area, baseball/softball field, soccer field, shade structure, picnic area

Norman S. Waters Park is a quintessential neighborhood park, maximizing its impact in a tidy footprint. With two separate playgrounds and an area for blacktop games, it is a great spot for children to go outside, get active and be creative. Field games and softball areas provide additional sporting opportunities.

Norman S. Waters Park was named for former California State Assemblyman Norman "Norm" Waters. Waters was elected in 1976 to the California Assembly's 7th District, which included the Southgate area. Waters was integral to state discussions about agriculture and natural resources during his 14 years in office, and in 1983 Waters authored legislation to appropriate funds for the park from State Bond monies.

31. Olde Florintown Park

Address: Florin Road and McComber Street

Year Built: 1981

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 9.4 acres

Amenities: Playground areas, two lighted ball fields, two lighted soccer fields, lighted full basketball court, picnic area, shade structure, barbecue. Two parking lots serving the park are located at 8377 Florin Road and 7118 McComber Road (undeveloped).

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Olde Florintown Park is located in the historic Florin community – once known as the “Strawberry Capital of the World.” Although set in a mostly industrial neighborhood, the park is easy to access, just north of Florin Road; and provides a multitude of recreational offerings. This park is a great location for softball, baseball or soccer on lighted fields, and once there, you’ll find plenty of space for picnicking and children’s play.

Olde Florintown Park’s name is a nod to the historical significance of the Florin area. During the early 20th century, Florin's economy focused mostly on agriculture, with Japanese immigrants living and successfully farming in Florin. During World War II, the Federal Government sent Japanese and Japanese-Americans to internment camps, greatly impacting the character of Florin.

32. Pacific Park

Address: 6201 41st Street

Year Built: 1975

Type: Mini Park

Size: 1.3 acres

Amenities: Open space, ball fields

Pacific Park is nestled along the south and east edges of Pacific Elementary School and consists mostly of passive open space and areas to play soccer, softball and baseball. In addition to providing open space for field games, the park is a natural access point for students entering the school grounds from the surrounding neighborhood.

Pacific Park was obtained from the County of Sacramento in 1984 by the annexation of County Service Area #4A Fruitridge. The park shares the name of Pacific Elementary School, which at one time was part of the “Pacific School District” (named for the ocean) prior to being annexed by the Sacramento City Unified School District.

33. Rainbow Park

Address: 6121 Martin Luther King Boulevard

Year Built: 1986

Type: Mini Park

Size: 1.7 acres

Amenities: Playgrounds, two full basketball courts, community garden

Parks are true community assets, and they can change over time to respond to community needs. Rainbow Park was originally a traditional small park with play areas and basketball courts but evolved to include a large community garden where neighborhood residents can experience fresh, local food by growing their own fruits and vegetables. In addition to the nutritional benefits, gardening provides a fun and natural way to get fresh air, exercise, and spend time with family, friends and neighbors.

The property for Rainbow Park was obtained from the County of Sacramento in 1984 by the annexation of County Service Area #4A Fruitridge, and later developed into the park by Southgate. After construction of this park a naming contest was held, with the goal to find a moniker that highlighted the cultural diversity of the local area. A local schoolgirl came up with the name and won the contest.

34. Robert D. Cochran Park

Address: Westray Drive and Waterman Road

Year Built: 2004

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 6.2 acres

Amenities: Playground, half basketball court, soccer field, softball/baseball field, shade structure, picnic area, barbecue

Talk about a great location! Robert D. Cochran Park sits along Waterman Road, south of Vintage Park Drive, in a large and active community. It connects to Tillotson Parkway and is also just across the street from the southern entrance to Churchill Downs Community Park, forming a unique hub for the community to access various park and recreational activities. At Cochran Park you can engage in popular park activities, including playground time for the kids, organized field games, or a family birthday party under a shaded gazebo.

This park was named in honor of longtime Southgate Board Member Robert D. Cochran, who served on the District Board for an impressive 31 years, and was named Board Member of the Year by the California Special Districts Association in 1995. Cochran was first appointed in 1968 and served for the next three decades before retiring from the Board.

35. Rutter Park

Address: 7420 Palmer House Drive

Year Built: 1978

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 6.3 acres

Amenities: Playgrounds, exercise equipment, soccer field, shade structure

Rutter Park adjoins and enhances the open space areas surrounding James Rutter Middle School, creating a large, landscaped space for this established community. The park's green grass and mature trees soften the view for several blocks as you travel along Palmer House Drive. Rutter Park is a perfect spot for a family picnic, a game of soccer, or to simply enjoy open space. Additionally, the adjacent Middle School features baseball/softball fields used by the community.

Both the park and school names honor renowned horticulturist, James Rutter. In the 1850s, Rutter planted the prize-winning Florin Flame Tokay grape, and for almost a century, Florin was the center of the Tokay grape production. Among his many accomplishments, Rutter was the first grape grower in Sacramento County, the first person to raise Tokay grapes in California, and had the first irrigation pumping system in the state.

36. Silver Leaf Park

Address: Country Ranch Drive and Silver Meadow Way

Year Built: 2003

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 5.4 acres

Amenities: Playground, half basketball court, soccer field, picnic area, barbecue, shade structure, exercise equipment

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Silver Leaf Park is a perfect park for all ages, situated nicely into five acres of fun. Kids will love the two play areas, swings, and half basketball court, while adults can stroll through the park or just take in fresh air among the park's lush green landscaping.

Silver Leaf Park sits in the Vineyard region west of Vineyard Road, between the Silver Legends and Silver Meadows subdivisions, providing a thematic connection for the park's name.

37. Sky Park

Address: 5430 North Parkway

Year Built: 1969

Type: Mini Park

Size: 3.8 acres

Amenities: Playground, two tennis courts, baseball/softball field, picnic area, barbecue, horseshoe pit, soccer field, petanque court

Sky Park is one of Southgate's older parks, but it stands the test of time. It sits prominently at the end of 6th Parkway and provides a large, visual spread of green as you enter the Sky Parkway neighborhood, north of Florin Road. Once there, you'll find plenty of amenities, including two tennis courts, play areas and multi-use sports fields. Sky Park has been a popular recreational and picnic location for thousands of neighborhood families for decades.

The name of the Sky Parkway subdivision - and the park - goes back to the 1940s when a private airfield known as "Sacramento Sky Ranch" operated on acreage at the northwest corner of Florin Road and Stockton Blvd. The airfield property later became the site of the old Florin Mall Shopping Center.

38. Southwoods Park

Address: Valley Wood Drive

Year Built: 1981

Type: Mini Park

Size: 3.8 acres

Amenities: Playground

Southwoods Park is a simple green space, named for the surrounding Southwoods subdivision. Its unique and somewhat irregular shape is rather functional, as it provides pedestrian access into the park from two distinct areas of the neighborhood. It was assembled over the years by District planning staff obtaining corners from three separate subdivisions after many years of negotiation.

A great spot for quiet relaxation and enjoyment of the park's mature landscaping, or for watching the kids partake in playground fun.

39. Sunrise Florin Park

Address: 7245 Fletcher Farm Drive

Year Built: 1987

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 7 acres

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Amenities: Playground, two lighted tennis courts, half basketball court, picnic area, shade structure, horseshoe pit, lighted parking area

Conveniently located just south of Florin Road along Fletcher Farm Drive, this large park has a wide range of fun and recreational activities to enjoy. Bring a friend and your tennis racquet for a lively match under lights, or bring a picnic and let the kids burn some excess energy on the park's farming theme play equipment. You can even try your hand at pitching horseshoes at the park's horseshoe pit. The park's great location and nice parking area make visiting the park easy.

Sunrise Florin Park was named to reflect the Sunrise Florin subdivision, located just south of Florin Road along Fletcher Farm Drive. The adjacent Fletcher Farm Community Center enhances visitor opportunities at this site.

40. Tamarindo Park

Address: Tiogawoods Drive and Tamarindo Bay Drive

Year Built: 2003

Type: Mini Park

Size: 4 acres

Amenities: Playground, soccer field, baseball/softball field, picnic area, shade structure, barbecue

Head into the Tamarindo subdivision (just west of Elk Grove-Florin Road and south of Gerber Road), and you'll be impressed by Tamarindo Park. Beautiful trees line the perimeter of the park, and the central portion of the park is large and open for field games and active play.

The park is bordered on three sides by sidewalks and neighborhood streets, allowing for vistas across the park acreage. Tamarindo Park is the perfect spot for a quick walk with the dog, or an outing with the kids.

41. Ted M. Klein Park

Address: Vintage Park Drive and Fall Valley Way

Year Built: 2010

Type: Mini Park

Size: 1.8 acres park, 2.8 acres open space

Amenities: Playground, picnic areas, barbecue, shade structure, Laguna Creek Bike Trail connection

Ted M. Klein is nestled cozily into the Bradshaw Vineyards subdivision. The park is a perfect spot for children to interact and play, but it also provides a unique spot for relaxation, and nature and wildlife watching, as the site is adjacent to the Bradshaw Vineyards Open Space Preserve and native oak tree grove along the Laguna Creek Parkway. Bring a barbecue dinner and spread out, while enjoying the great outdoors at this versatile park.

In 2021 this park was named in honor of longtime District advocate, youth sports coach, volunteer fundraiser, and Southarea Recreation, Inc. Board Member, Ted M. Klein. Klein has been an SRI Board member for more than 30 years, during which he has held positions including President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The site was originally named "Bradshaw Vineyards Park."

42. Tillotson Parkway Plaza Park

Address: 8201 Elk Grove-Florin Road

Year Built: Future park

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 4.8 acres

This future park will be constructed on a currently undeveloped parcel along the Tillotson Parkway at Elk Grove-Florin Road. Future planning with the community will determine the park's ultimate design and amenities.

43. Toby Johnson Park

Address: Boron Way and Cutler Way

Year Built: 1992

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 5.7 acres

Amenities: Playgrounds, picnic area, shade structure

This family-friendly park offers neighborhood residents a lovely green respite with open space, shade, and two “space-themed” play areas for the kids. The park sits adjacent to Isabelle Jackson Elementary School and was originally named Countryside Park. It is a great location for a picnic or a quick walk, as there are paved pathways throughout the park.

Toby Johnson Park was named in tribute to former longtime Sacramento County Supervisor Toby Johnson. Johnson was a rancher, an educator, and served four terms on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, representing District 5. Before entering public office, Johnson spent almost three decades as a teacher, principal and superintendent in Sacramento County schools. His tireless advocacy was key in helping the District successfully expand its park acreage during the 1980s and 90s, by ensuring that financing for roads, sewers, fire stations, libraries, schools and parks would be in place for new communities.

44. Vineyard Park

Address: Grand Cru Drive and Torino Way

Year Built: 1999

Type: Mini Park

Size: 1.7 acres

Amenities: Playgrounds, open space field, picnic area, shade structure, barbecue

Vineyard Park is a traditional mini park, with a small play area, a picnic area, and passive open space. It is easy to access, located just north of Calvine Road, approximately halfway between Elk Grove-Florin and Waterman Roads. It is a nice amenity for the local residents, softening this fairly large residential subdivision. It is named for the subdivision of California Vineyards.

45. Vintage Park

Address: 8029 Helmsdale Way

Year Built: 1988

Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 6.8 acres

Amenities: Playgrounds, two basketball courts (one with lights), two lighted tennis courts, soccer field, picnic areas, shade structure, barbecues

Vintage Park is one of the most defining elements of the Vintage Park subdivision. The park's visual prominence impresses as you travel along the sweeping curve of Vintage Park Drive. The park's unique sunken basketball court provides an amphitheater effect for the adjacent picnic structure (perfect for parties), and the two play areas are a hit with kids of all ages.

Set just north of and adjacent to Mary Tsukamoto Elementary School, the park/school hub provides a natural epicenter to the neighborhood. With both lighted basketball and tennis courts, you can extend your recreational activities into the evening and take part in your pastime after the sun goes down. Plenty of on-street parking surrounds the park.

46. Willowood Park

Address: 7901 Iona Way

Year Built: 1992

Type: Mini Park

Size: 1.5 acres

Amenities: Playground, volleyball court, picnic area, horseshoe pit, barbecue

Willowood Park may be small but visit the park when its many flowering trees are in bloom and you're in for a treat. Simple, but full of shade structures, seating areas and landscaping, the park includes a play area for the kids, yet adults will also enjoy spaces for volleyball or a game of horseshoes. The surrounding subdivision was originally called Sunrise Willowood, providing the natural connection for the park name.

47. Woody Hampton Park

Address: 7320 Florin Mall Drive

Year Built: 1992

Type: Community Park

Size: 14 acres

Amenities: Two baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, playground, picnic area, shade structure, sand volleyball

Hampton Park is one of Southgate's largest park sites, and its central location along Florin Mall Drive makes it a popular destination for numerous sports. The park is bounded on the north by the Jose P. Rizal Community Center and the south by Jack N. Sheldon Park - a length of more than a quarter of a mile - and there is likely something for everyone in this corridor of public park space. It provides a large vista of green space that softens this mostly residential neighborhood and provides ample options for ball and field sports. The park's ball field backstops, team and spectator areas are excellent for organized team play, and parking is never an issue, with ample on street parking and a nearby lighted lot at the Rizal Community Center.

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Woody Hampton Park was named for Woodrow “Woody” Hampton, a longtime community activist and friend of Southgate Recreation & Park District. Hampton was involved in various organizations including the Community Development Block Grant South Sacramento Target Area Committee, where he successfully advocated for funding allocations for District facilities. He volunteered with many Southgate special events, such as fundraisers with Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills in support of youth sports activities.

TRAILS, PARKWAYS, OPEN SPACE & LANDSCAPE CORRIDORS

1. Churchill Downs Power Line Open Space Corridor

- ***Nicholas Estates segment:***

Location: South of Kingsbridge Open Space, north of Calvine Road along Waterman Road

Year Built: Approximately 2003

Type: Open Space Corridor / Trail

Size: Approx. 8.5 acres

This area features open space with trail connectivity to the surrounding neighborhoods. This open space is part of the corridor of four large power lines in the Churchill Downs neighborhood. The Kingsbridge Open Space is to the north of this area. There are undeveloped parcels to the south. The power line corridor extends north from Calvine Road to Florin Road and beyond.

- ***Kingsbridge Open Space/Trail segment:***

Location: Waterman Road, north of Calvine Road

Year Built: Future

Type: Open Space/Trail

Size: 17.6 acres

This area, named for the nearby subdivision, is features open space with trail connectivity in surrounding neighborhoods. This area is part of the power line corridor in the Churchill Downs neighborhood. There are Nicholas Estates and other open space parcels to the south, and Churchill Downs Community Park to the north.

2. Danbury Parkway

Address: Montreux Way and Baytown Way

Year Built: 1999

Type: Parkway / Trail

Size: 3.6 acres (0.5 miles)

The Danbury Parkway is a pleasant green belt that links Illa Collin Park to Tillotson Parkway and can take users south to access Calvine Road. Its trees and green spaces help buffer the railroad tracks from the adjacent neighborhood. Danbury Parkway is named after the subdivision in which it was built. The parkway's most distinct feature is a charming bike and pedestrian bridge at Strawberry Creek that delivers users to a grove of maturing trees.

3. Dunmore Park Preserve

Location: Excelsior Road, south of Florin Road

Year Built: 1999

Type: Nature and Wetlands Preserve

Size: 33 acres

Amenities: Walking trail, open space, wetlands, parking lot

If you're looking to connect with nature in a rural setting (without driving for hours), Dunmore Park Preserve offers a unique local experience. This 33-acre preserve includes a walking trail through natural wetlands where you will experience nature in an undeveloped area of southeast Sacramento County. Seasonal changes in the wetlands create year-round variations in the flora and fauna of the preserve. A great educational outing for a scouting or youth group!

Dunmore Park Preserve was named for local builder/developer and longtime District supporter, George P. Dunmore, who generously donated the land for the preserve to Southgate.

4. Elder Creek and Gerber Creek Open Space Preserve/Trail

Location: Florin-Vineyard area, between Florin Road and Gerber Road to the north and south, and Elk Grove-Florin Road and Bradshaw Road to the west and east

Year Built: Under construction 2021

Type: Open Space Preserve / Trail

Size: Approximately 110 acres

The Elder Creek and Gerber Creek Open Space Preserve is a corridor that includes the floodways and uplands to Elder and Gerber Creeks. Required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to contain and buffer the 100-year floodplain for Elder and Gerber Creeks, the Preserve will be jointly operated by the Sacramento County Department of Water Resources and the Southgate Recreation & Park District. The County will manage flood control elements of the corridors while Southgate will maintain and operate the multi-use trail and general upkeep of the properties. After decades of planning, significant segments of the Preserve native plantings and trail are anticipated through 2022 with other sections phased with development in the North Vineyard Station Specific Plan and Florin-Vineyard Community Plan Areas. Ultimately, a multi-mile pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian network will be aligned within the Preserve corridors, linking to parks and other trail networks in the Florin-Vineyard Area.

5. Florin Creek Trail

Location: Florin Creek Park to Rutter Park (including undercrossing at Highway 99)

Year Built: 1970s

Type: Parkway/Trail

Size: Approximately 1.3 miles in length

The 1.3-mile-long Florin Creek Trail extends from Florin Creek Park on the west (under Highway 99) to Rutter Middle School on the east along the Florin Creek open space corridor. It connects several neighborhoods and provides convenient off-road access to several parks and community facilities including Florin Creek Recreation Center, Jose Rizal Community Center, Southgate Library, William Daylor High School, and Rutter Middle School.

6. Gerber Creek Open Space Preserve/Trail

Location: Vineyard Springs Community Plan Area, south of Gerber Road and west of Vineyard Road

Year Built: Under construction 2021

Type: Open Space Preserve / Trail

Size: Approximately 25 acres

As future development occurs, a pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian trail will be aligned within Gerber Creek and secured in an open space Preserve. These trails are planned to pass by neighborhood parks and be linked to and managed similarly to the Elder and Gerber Creek Open Space Preserve and will be phased with development.

7. Howard P. Tillotson Parkway

Location: Edwin A. Smith Community Park to Smedberg Middle School

Year Built: 1988 – 2022

Type: Parkway/Trail

Size: Approximately 4.5 miles in length

Tillotson Parkway is a well-used community asset, providing an extensive and safe off-street route for walking, biking, and even skating. The 4.5-mile parkway is considered one of Southgate's most significant and impactful park-related developments. It was carefully planned and constructed over a number of years as development in the eastern portion of the District grew. It connects numerous neighborhoods, roadways, and parks via a meandering greenbelt that contains landscaping, trees, a wide pathway, and occasional areas for recreation. Many developed park sites connect to the Parkway, including Edwin A. Smith Community Park, Brittany Park, Hardester Park, Illa Collin Park, Boulder Glen Park, Cochran Park, and Churchill Community Park. In the future, there will be a connection to the Laguna Creek Trail through Smedberg Middle School at the Ogden property.

Subdivisions in the area were developed with the Parkway in mind, and link to it through numerous cul-de-sac and street access points. This provides thousands of local residents with the ability to experience the convenience and beauty of this recreational amenity without having to drive a car. Interestingly, beneath the Parkway, from Power Inn Road to Elk Grove Florin Road, are two major sewer interceptor pipelines owned by the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District.

In 1987, Tillotson Parkway was named in honor of former longtime Southgate Board member Howard P. Tillotson. During his 22 years on the Board of Directors, Tillotson was a vocal advocate for off-street biking and hiking activities.

8. Laguna Creek Parkway

Location: Along Laguna Creek in the Vineyard Area

Acres: 128 Acres

Year Built: 2002 and Future

Type: Bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian and multi-use parkway

Size: When fully completed it will be approximately 8 miles within the District

Amenities: Trail, picnic area, parking area

PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE, FACILITIES & LANDSCAPE CORRIDORS

The Laguna Creek Parkway is a linear open space corridor along sections of the Upper Laguna Creek. Here you'll find a unique way to engage with nature whether on foot, bicycle, or horse. A gravel parking area just east of Vineyard Road at Clover Ranch Drive provides a convenient meet-up spot for equestrian trailering rigs, offering easy ingress/egress. The Class 1 trail meanders through the open space preserve between Vineyard Road and Excelsior Road and is about 2/3 of a mile. The trail continues across Vineyard Road just north of Crystal Creek Drive for 1/3 of a mile then terminates.

The Laguna Creek Parkway Trail is an important resource for many reasons. It serves as a regional connector as part of the Sacramento River and American River Parkway trail systems, which will ultimately form an 80-mile loop connecting Southgate and South Sacramento communities to City of Sacramento, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Folsom and El Dorado Hills. Beyond its recreational benefits, this multi-use corridor preserves the open space and habitats along the creek from development and facilitates drainage, flood control, and water quality.

9. Landscape Corridors

Locations: Throughout the District along roadways, arterials, medians, and entrances to neighborhoods

Acres: Approximately 35 (in 17 separate neighborhoods or subdivisions)

Years Built: Multiple

Amenities: Typically consist of grass, shrubs/trees, and meandering walking path. Often adjacent to a sound wall separating housing from roadways.

As community planning and residential development approaches evolved in Sacramento County, more attention was paid to how neighborhoods were buffered from adjacent streets and roadways. Harsh transitions, which may have at one time consisted of only a sidewalk and fence or sound wall, were planned differently, encouraging a more landscaped and aesthetically pleasing approach. Pedestrian, bicycle and other transportation alternatives are able to take place more safely and in a more enjoyable environment. Today, these corridors are generally required to be installed by the developer, then dedicated to local agencies for ongoing maintenance. Southgate maintains many acres of these types of corridors and they improve overall community appeal and pedestrian safety.

10. North Vineyard Station Power Line Open Space Corridor

Location: Gerber Road to Florin Road near Waterman Road

Year Built: Future

Type: Open Space Corridor / Trail

Size: 28 acres

The North Vineyard Station Power Line Open Space Corridor is identified in the North Vineyard Station Specific Plan. It primarily follows a north to south alignment and is planned to include approximately 1-mile of class 1 multi-use path connecting residents to the Elder Creek and Gerber Creek Preserve and the Churchill Downs Power Line Open Space Corridor.

COMMUNITY CENTERS, AQUATIC FACILITIES, MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS, AND GOLF COURSE

1. Crofoot Clubhouse

Address: 7259 Circle Parkway

Year Built: Circa 1950s

Size: 1,200 square feet (original clubhouse); 640 square feet (prefabricated building)

Amenities: Meeting space, small parking area, play area

The Crofoot Clubhouse is a quaint throwback to the 1950s when the surrounding Parkway subdivision was burgeoning with young families and new residential and commercial developments. EJ Crofoot was a local developer with business interests in the area in the 1950s, and he was executive vice president of Park Place, Inc. which donated the land and building to the District in 1957. The Crofoot Clubhouse was the site of Southgate's first administrative office building. The Clubhouse was later converted to a preschool, which housed a successful early childhood education program for many years.

In the 1970s, there was a movement to further environmental awareness in the South Sacramento area, and during this era a prefabricated building was added to the Crofoot site that became the location of an interpretive nature center. Norman F. Marsh, a teacher at Bowling Green Elementary School at the time, was passionate about outdoor education and involving his students and local youth in the study of nature and the environment. Mr. Marsh assisted with and donated many items to the nature center, which was eventually renamed the "Norman F. Marsh Nature Center." The administrative office for the District briefly moved into the prefabricated addition (before moving to Trailhead Park in 1978). The nature center was eventually discontinued and turned into a District recreation and sports office.

2. Fletcher Farm Community Center

Address: 7245 Fletcher Farm Drive

Year Built: 1998

Size: 2,500 square feet

Amenities: Lobby area, main room, outdoor patio, kitchenette, parking lot

Fletcher Farm Community Center is a fantastic event space that can accommodate a wide variety of activities and rentals. The building's award-winning design reflects a subtle barn-like architecture, and includes a reception area, main room, outdoor patio and parking area. The center accommodates up to 90 guests and has a banquet capacity of 70, and it also includes a kitchenette area and audio-visual capabilities. The center is perfect for meetings, parties, receptions, birthdays, luncheons and more.

The center is adjacent to Sunrise Florin Park and is easy to get to just off Florin Road. The center was named in honor of the Fletcher Family, who had a long and inspiring history in the Florin area. The building's

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original name was Florin Community History Center, but was renamed in 2011 for Bob and Theresa Fletcher, the husband and wife who donated to the District the 1.3 acres of land where the center sits.

Bob Fletcher was a California agriculture inspector who, ignoring the resentment of neighbors in the middle of World War II, managed the fruit farms of Japanese families forced to live in internment camps saving the profit for them. He also worked his own land where he and his wife Theresa raised hay and cattle. Fletcher was a volunteer firefighter in Florin for many decades before becoming the town's fire chief, and after retirement served on the Florin Fire District and Florin Water District Board of Directors.

3. Florin Creek Recreation Center

Address: 7460 Persimmon Avenue

Year Built: 1972 (Remodeled 2009)

Size: 3,500 square feet

Amenities: Lobby area, main room, small meeting room, outdoor balcony and amphitheater, kitchenette, parking lot

The first thing you will notice about the Florin Creek Recreation Center is its distinctive design: a graceful Polynesian-inspired building with a sweeping roofline and stunningly landscaped elevated front entrance. The building dominates Florin Creek Park, which delivers stunning views from the center's windows and doors. The unique visuals continue once inside, with ample natural light from the center's high windows. Step out onto the center's balcony and you will observe the grassy amphitheater area below - a picturesque spot for weddings or performances.

The main activity room at the center accommodates up to 150 guests and has a banquet capacity of 120. A smaller meeting room accommodates 20 guests and may be used as a dressing room or green room. A small kitchen and audio-visual capabilities round out the Center's features.

Florin Creek Recreation Center was Southgate Recreation & Park District's first large-scale recreation facility project, constructed in 1972, but updated over the years and significantly remodeled in 2009. The center, like the park area surrounding it, reflects the name of the adjacent Florin Creek waterway.

4. Florin East Grammar School

Address: 8383 Florin Road

Year Built: Circa 1913

Size: 4,083 square feet

Amenities: Three meeting rooms, large kitchen, garden/patio area, large barbecue

The Florin East Grammar School is truly a historic gem! Set in the quaint community of Florin, this facility was the location of the historical Florin East Grammar School, which dates back to 1916. Today, the building is owned by the County of Sacramento, and is operated by Southgate Recreation & Park District under a lease agreement. The District offers this unique venue and outdoor patio for rental for small and medium-sized gatherings. Additionally, District Board of Director meetings are currently held there.

The Center is extremely versatile due to its number of rooms and outdoor areas. Ample windows throughout the center provide natural light and open visuals to the property's beautiful, landscaped grounds. Polished wood floors elevate many of the facility's spaces. Your guests will find the center easily accessible, right along

PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE, FACILITIES & LANDSCAPE CORRIDORS

Florin Road near McComber Street. The center accommodates up to 150 guests and is perfect for reunions, weddings, anniversaries and more.

When it was first built, the school was initially open to all children, but later served only the Asian community from 1921 to 1939. It was last used as a school in 1952. Over the years, the facility has housed a variety of uses, including Sacramento County Code Enforcement, Sacramento County Therapeutic Recreation Services and Elk Grove Unified School District's Adult Education program.

5. Fruitridge Aquatic Center

Address: 4000 Fruitridge Road

Year Built: 1991

Size: 25-yard, seven lane pools

Amenities: Large deck area, shade structure, maintenance building and office building

The Fruitridge Aquatic Center is co-located with the Fruitridge Community Center and Community Park. The aquatic center is used extensively for swim lessons, lifeguard training, aquatic classes, recreational swim, special events, and pool party rentals.

For rentals, the pool complex can accommodate up to 120 guests, and includes lifeguards. Optional amenities available to rent include a movie screen and projector, and an inflatable aqua fun-run water play structure.

Southgate officially opened this pool to the community in 1991 and has consistently prioritized using this facility for District-sponsored events like Float-In Movie Nights and Ice Cream Family Splashes, in addition to providing important swim lessons to teach area youth water safety skills. Free swim lessons were available for many years thanks to donations made by Adams Pool Specialties. The pool was home to the competitive youth swim team Sac Town Tsunami for many years.

6. Fruitridge Community Center

Address: 4000 Fruitridge Road

Year Built: 1981 (Remodeled 1998)

Size: 7,825 square feet

Amenities: Lobby area, main room with movable partitions, small meeting rooms, fully appointed kitchen

A longtime focal point in the Fruitridge area, the Fruitridge Community Center is a popular locale for a variety of events and uses. At more than 7,800 square feet in size, it includes a main hall along with smaller meeting rooms and a well-appointed kitchen. The main hall accommodates up to 250 guests, with a banquet capacity of 200. Movable partitions enable the hall to be divided into five private meeting areas, making it an exceptional space for workshops or meetings that require breakout session areas. The Center is ready for presentations with audio-visual capabilities. Fruitridge Community Center fits the bill for events of many sizes, such as birthdays, anniversaries, reunions, weddings, and more.

Fruitridge Community Center was named for the area and the main road the Center sits along. The Center was built by the County of Sacramento when the Fruitridge area was within the County of Sacramento's County Service Area 4A, prior to annexation by Southgate. It was expanded and significantly remodeled in 1998 when the District began operations at the center. In addition to rental availability, the District added new programming, events, and activities for seniors. The center also initiated a Community Services Program

PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE, FACILITIES & LANDSCAPE CORRIDORS

at Fruitridge, providing health screenings, tax help, and other assistance for the senior community, making this location an important community resource.

7. Gerry Green Head Start Facility

Address: 5746 40th Street

Year Built: 1994

Size: 4,081 square feet

Amenities: Preschool facility

This facility is a joint-use project with the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA) and is the site of the Fruitridge Head Start Early Learning program. SETA is a joint powers agency of the City and County of Sacramento. Its Head Start program's mission is to improve the lives of low-income children by providing comprehensive child development services that are family-focused, including education, health, nutrition, and mental health. The building was named for Gerry Green, a former member of the Southgate Board of Directors, who was a strong advocate for families and children in the Fruitridge community.

8. Jack N. Sheldon Administrative Headquarters

Address: 6000 Orange Avenue

Year Built: 1978

Size: 2,025 square feet

Amenities: Office space, parking area

This is the site of Southgate Recreation & Park District's main administrative office. When opened in 1978, this location provided the District with a large and accessible base of operations to the growing eastern portion of the District. The office houses management, finance, human resources and planning staff. The building was named for Jack Sheldon, a longtime member of the District Board of Directors, who had great appreciation for the hard-working staff in both administrative and field positions at the District.

9. Jose P. Rizal Community Center

Address: 7320 Florin Mall Drive

Year Built: 1982

Size: 10,000 square feet

Amenities: Lobby area, main activity hall/gymnasium, bleachers, polished wood flooring, scoreboard, indoor and outdoor stages, small meeting/changing room, well-appointed kitchen, lighted parking lot

Jose P. Rizal Community Center is large, but welcoming and versatile, home to a diverse array of events, programs and services. Throughout its operation it has been a prominent location for senior recreation and nutrition programs, sports activities, and private rentals.

At 10,000 square feet in size, this full amenity Center is an ideal location for sports events, dances, birthday parties, weddings, banquets, meetings, and more. The Center accommodates up to 350 guests, with a banquet capacity of 300. The lovely wood floor complements any decoration theme. Audio-visual capabilities are integrated into the Center.

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Jose P. Rizal Community Center was originally envisioned to fill a need in the Filipino community, but ultimately served a much broader segment of the South Sacramento community. Seeking a location for a cultural center, Filipino community leaders partnered with Southgate Recreation & Park District in order to apply for Federal funds for the development and operation of the Center. The Center was opened to the community in 1983, and later the District assumed full operations, offering services there to all.

Jose P. Rizal Community Center was named after the Philippine patriot, physician, and scholar who was an inspiration to the Philippine nationalist movement.

10. New Aquatic Center – Vineyard Community

Address: 8025 Waterman Road

Year Built: 2019

Size: 4,400 square foot activity pool; 6,500 square foot 10-lane competition pool

Amenities: Beach entry/lap pool, competition pool, diving boards, Aqua Fun Run, spray play area, bleachers, shade structures, locker rooms, maintenance building, snack bar and office building

Adjacent to the Pat O'Brien Community Center, the New Aquatic Center in the Vineyard community offers fun and educational aquatic activities to the entire Southgate Recreation & Park District service area and beyond. The largest of the District's two aquatic facilities, the center features a 4,400 square foot beach-entry activity pool with an adjoining lap swim area; a 10-lane, 6,500 square foot competition pool with one and three-meter diving boards; and a spray play area; along with an equipment room, locker rooms, office space and snack bar.

Opened in 2019, the Aquatic Center serves all ages, skills, and areas of interest. During the swim season, this facility offers a multitude of classes, lessons, and public swim hours, along with fun family special events. You can also take part in unique fitness activities like BOGA Board float fitness, aqua spin and water aerobics. The Aquatic Center is also available for private rentals, making it a perfect place for a large birthday party.

11. Pat O'Brien Community Center

Address: 8025 Waterman Road

Year Built: 2019

Size: 12,900 square feet

Amenities: Lobby/reception area, main hall/gymnasium, bleachers, scoreboard, activity rooms, outdoor patio area, large kitchen, lighted parking area

The Pat O'Brien Community Center is Southgate's newest, largest, and most high-tech community center. It sits on 12 acres along Waterman Road in the Vineyard Area and is a large multi-use facility. The Community Center itself is 12,900 square feet in size and consists of a large main hall/gymnasium, meeting rooms, office area, lobby, as well as a large patio. It is an accommodating and flexible venue for classes, sports, parties and community events.

This stunning facility was long awaited by the community and is the result of extensive planning and input. Southgate is offering a wide range of special interest classes in the areas of arts, cooking, sports and fitness, and other programming at the Center, making it a popular community asset. For rentals, the Center accommodates up to 350 guests, with a banquet capacity of 300. A large kitchen and audio-visual capabilities are available to support events of any type.

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This Center was named for former general manager and longtime park and recreation professional, Pat O'Brien. O'Brien served the District for 18 years, and as General Manager for Southgate from 1980 to 1989. He then served 22 years as the general manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, the largest regional park agency in the United States. O'Brien's contributions to Southgate and the park and recreation field were reflected in numerous accolades, including the California Park and Recreation Society naming its annual legislative award as the "Pat O'Brien" award in honor of his significant contributions to legislative advocacy on behalf of the parks and recreation profession.

12. Scott Hokama Support Facility

Address: 8025 Waterman Road

Year Built: 2019

Size: 6,600 square feet

Amenities: Full maintenance support facility

This facility was built to provide a hub for maintenance operations in the center of the District. This facility was named to honor the 25 years of dedicated service of Scott Hokama, longtime District maintenance manager. Hokama attended California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. His education was valuable in helping him with management duties such as budget preparation, contractor and vendor relationships. He was also certified in Backflow Assembly Testing and Playground Safety.

Along with his management duties, Hokama was known for working side-by-side with his staff, embracing the philosophy that if he asked staff to do a particular job, he should have done it before or be willing to do it as well. Working with staff in the field also provided essential time to converse, observe, and develop strong relationships with his crews. Hokama led his department with high expectations, but also with fun and empathy. He was also known for regularly bringing in Friday donut boxes for his staff to enjoy, and his annual gift of hams to his staff during the holidays.

13. Southgate Corporation Yard

Address: 7351 Florin Mall Drive

Year Built: 1972 - 1994

Size: Approximately 3 buildings for a total of 4,965 square feet

Amenities: Full maintenance support facility

This facility has been Southgate's main base of maintenance operations for many years. Its original footprint expanded over the years as the District grew in size and number of parks and facilities. Located centrally in the south of Florin area, the site offered efficient access throughout the District, until extensive growth in the eastern portion of the District required another support facility to increase efficiencies in maintenance operations. The Corporation Yard property is actually owned by the Elk Grove Unified School District, which operates the adjacent William Daylor High School.

14. WildHawk Golf Club

Address: 7714 Vineyard Road (corner of Vineyard and Gerber Roads)

Year Built: 1997

Size: 146 acres, 18-hole golf course

Amenities: Par 72 championship golf course, putting green, driving range, clubhouse, patio, pro shop, restaurant/grill, large parking area

WildHawk Golf Club represents one of Southgate Recreation & Park District's most innovative and bold development projects. The course consists of an 18-hole, par 72 course, with a 4,400 square foot clubhouse with a pro shop, dining area, large outdoor patio, 4,400 square foot cart barn, and 5,000 square foot maintenance facility. The course was completed and opened to the community in 1997.

The course has a distinctive rural character, and beautifully presents itself with rolling topography, thoughtful landscaping, and most importantly a fun and challenging design. WildHawk Golf Club has become one of Sacramento's most sought after public golf courses. Boasting some of the best greens in the area, the course features four sets of tees, interesting water features, and uniquely shaped and positioned bunkers.

In addition to year-round public play and tournament rentals, WildHawk takes pride in its numerous programs including golf lessons and clinics for juniors and adults, players clubs, and club fitting services.

The idea originated for a public golf course in the east area of the District after the closure of the old Lindale Golf Course, and subsequently, local golfers advocated for a new course in the Southgate service area. Decades later, residential and commercial development in the Vineyard area was approved by the County of Sacramento with the condition that land for a golf course ultimately be dedicated to the District. In 1993, the 146 acres of land for the course was gift-deeded to Southgate by AKT Developments. The name "WildHawk" was selected to reflect the presence of native hawks that were often observed in the region where the golf course is located.



Section 7

History of Board Members and General Managers



2006 Board of Directors, District's 50th Anniversary

CHRONOLOGY OF BOARD MEMBERS

1956 - DISTRICT FOUNDED SOUTHGATE PARK, RECREATION AND PARKWAY DISTRICT

1956

Basil E. Campbell.....1956-1957
Thomas O'Brien1956-1958
Harold Gates1956-1960
George White1956-1963
Jerome Crawford1956-1963

1957

John Ghelfi1957-1961

1958

Ross Hall1958-1965

1959 - DISTRICT RENAMED SOUTHGATE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

1960

Hollis Houston1960-1964

1961

Jack Coleman1961-1965

1963

Sherman Alford1963-1965
Richard Bussman1963-1965

1965

Bill Oliver1965
James W. Cook1965-1966
Carl N. Schonig1965-1967
Merle Mayer1965-1968
Howard Tillotson1965-1988
Jack Sheldon1965-1990

1966

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Mary Fedderman1966-1967

1967

Don MacLean1967-1968

Charles P. Bucaria.....1967-1975

1968

James R. McDonald1968-1971

Robert D. Cochran1968-1999

1971

Donald Webster1971-1974

1975

Kathryn Donohue1975-1986

Charles Riordan1975-1976

1976

Edwin A. Smith.....1976-2012

1986

Gerry Green1986-1990

Dr. Dennis W. McKibben.....1986-2000

1990

John Cockerham1990-2014

1992

Christine Thompson.....1992-present

1999

Shirley Wirth.....1999-2010

2000

Alex Laiewski.....2000

Rolfe Appel.....2000-2017

2010

Phyllis Evans2010-2018

2013

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Lisa Dills.....2013-present

2014

Erin Stewart..... 2014-2015

2015

Carole Phelps 2015-2016

2016

Monti Hall.....2016-present

2018

Manuel Mejia.....2018-present

Preston Jackson III.....2018-present

PROFILES OF PAST BOARD MEMBERS

Note: Limited historical records exist for many of the early District Trustees and Board Members during the 1950s and early 1960s. Those for whom records exist are profiled below.

Jack Sheldon

Board of Directors – 1965-1990



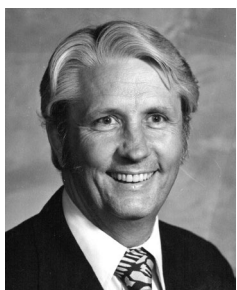
Jack Sheldon was a member of the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for 25 years, distinguishing him as one of the longest serving Board members. A World War II veteran and a longtime resident of the Parkway area of South Sacramento, Sheldon was already well-known in his community as a leader and the owner of a successful electrical contracting company prior to winning his first election to the Board.

Sheldon was a businessman at heart, but he also brought his experience as a parent involved in youth activities to his service on the Board. His focus on the Board tended toward improving process, fiscal management, and careful business planning. He is remembered for having a great eye for detail with financial matters and with complex District contracting issues. This was invaluable as the District developed more than 140 acres of new parks, two community centers, an administrative headquarters, and two aquatic centers during Sheldon's tenure.

Community service was important to Sheldon and he was generous with his time, also serving as a member of the Pacific Fire District Board of Directors. For his many years of dedication to the betterment of his community and to the goals of Southgate Recreation and Park District, Southgate renamed the former Trailhead Park as "Jack N. Sheldon Park and Administrative Headquarters."

Howard Tillotson

Board of Directors – 1965-1988



Howard Tillotson was a member of the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for 22 years, one of an elite group of Board members with more than two decades of service. Tillotson helped guide Southgate during a period of much expansion, as the District grew from 10 square miles to 45 square miles in size. Tillotson brought his experience as an educator and his personal involvement in activities such as Little League coaching, scouting, cycling and running to his role as a Board member.

A World War II veteran, Tillotson served his neighborhood as president of the Bowling Green Homeowners Association, which required him to occasionally interact with the District. He then won a seat on the District Board of Directors, but his public service did not end there. In 1975 he was appointed as a member of the South Sacramento Area Community Planning Advisory Council, and he also

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

served as a trustee for Southarea Recreation, Incorporated; a member of Southgate's Community Services Advisory Board; and on the Council of Recreation Agencies.

Tillotson was an avid cyclist and a running enthusiast, and he brought those passions to the District. He was a member of the recreational biking groups Sacramento Wheelmen and Sacramento Bike Hikers, and he routinely advocated for increasing biking opportunities in the District. He also helped establish a series of Billy Mills "Fun Runs" that the District held as fundraising opportunities. Throughout his tenure he was highly focused on increasing recreation and sport programming for the community.

Colleagues often recall Tillotson's down-to-earth and fun-loving personality and his engaging sense of humor, qualities he brought to the Board. In 1987, Southgate Recreation and Park District honored Tillotson by naming the regional parkway and bikeway corridor system in the District as the "Howard P. Tillotson Parkway."

Don MacLean

Board of Directors – 1967-1968

Don MacLean served on the Southgate Recreation and Park District for two years. He is recalled as a local activist who wanted to help make his community better, and serving on the District Board provided a natural opportunity for that. He resigned from the Board in 1968.

Charles P. Bucaria

Board of Directors – 1967-1975

Charles P. "Chuck" Bucaria served on the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for eight years during a period of expansion, development, and challenges for the District.

A longtime resident of the Parkway area, Bucaria was a successful real estate appraiser, but he also enjoyed politics and engaging in local matters. In 1966 he served on Southgate's Citizens Advisory Council before being first appointed to a vacant seat on the District's Board of Directors in 1967.

Bucaria was known for encouraging the District to do new and big things. For example, during his tenure, the District acquired the land south of Rizal Community Center as part of an effort to further expand District services east of Highway 99 – a way to get ahead of the massive development that would take place in that area in the future. He also worked with the Board to prepare and submit formal comments to other agencies on issues that could affect the District. Bucaria was a strong advocate for State legislation that established the provision of park land and fees from developers when developing new residential communities, known as the Quimby Act.

Bucaria's commitment to public service was reflected not only in his tenure on the District's Board, but in a number of other positions, including serving on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo); the South Sacramento Area Planning Advisory Council; and the Council of Recreation and Park Districts. He also represented Southgate on many county and state level committees and councils concerned with legislation that affected recreation and park services. Former General Manager Robert Overstreet recalled

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

that Bucaria often took on leadership positions in those efforts, even though Southgate was a rather small district at the time.

Bucaria resigned from the Board in 1975 to devote more time to his expanding business and teaching real estate appraising at American River College.

Robert D. Cochran

Board of Directors – 1968-1999



Robert Cochran served as a member of the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for an impressive 31 years, making him one of the longest-serving Board members. Cochran and his family were longtime residents of the Lindale neighborhood in the District. After the Lindale area was annexed into the District, Cochran recalled that one of his neighbors encouraged him to apply for a vacant seat on the District Board of Directors. He did, and was first appointed in 1968, and retained his seat for the next three decades before retiring from the Board.

As a longtime professional architect for a Sacramento-based firm Lionakis-Beaumont Design Group, Cochran brought an analytical and business mentality to the Board, which served the District well in several ways. First, because of his skills as an architect in the private sector, he was able to assist the Board through many technical issues related to park development and facility construction. He understood the contracting and construction process, and fellow Board members trusted his expertise and often looked to him for input and advice on important decisions. Secondly, Cochran was highly focused on financial stability and advocated for fiscal prudence during the District's annual budget planning process. The District dedicated Robert Cochran Park in his name in the Churchill Downs neighborhood.

Cochran considered himself to be a “devil’s advocate” on the Board, challenging issues to find the best solutions. He was proud of Southgate’s ability to successfully advocate for funding allocations and grants, and to recruit and retain talented staff. Cochran also understood that the ability for the District to continue to serve its residents could be threatened by external issues, such as annexation attempts tied to water rights. He was a strong advocate for getting surface water rights for the County of Sacramento, which was viewed as important in preventing annexations of the unincorporated area.

The California Parks and Recreation Society District 2 bestowed Cochran with a Citizen of the Year Award in 1979. He was also named Board Member of the Year in 1995 by the California Special Districts Association, in recognition of his many accomplishments.

Donald Webster

Board of Directors – 1971-1974

Donald Webster was appointed to the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors in 1971, and served until 1974. He also served as a member of the South Sacramento Area Community Planning Advisory Council.

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Kathryn Donohue

Board of Directors – 1975-1986



Kathryn Donohue served on the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for 11 years. She was a resident of the North Parkway area, and was already active in youth sports with her children prior to serving on the Southgate Board. During her three terms, Donohue was a strong and effective advocate for increasing local youth sporting opportunities in the District. She was involved in the development of the Florin Creek Bike Trail and the Jose P. Rizal Community Center.

Donohue first became interested in special districts through her husband's membership on the Pacific Fire District Board of Directors. Energized by the political process, she began attending Southgate Recreation and Park District Board meetings and realized that sometimes she was the only person in the room besides the Board of Directors. She was quoted, "It really made me mad. The District is there to fill the people's needs, and no one was telling them what they needed." Her concern over that lack of input helped her decide to run for a seat on the Board. She also recalled that her role as a housewife helped her win her seat, noting, "As a woman and a mother, I represent the people who use the parks the most." She and her family continued to participate in District programs for many years. She was also an active member of the Parkway Estates North Neighborhood Association.

Charles Riordan

Board of Directors – 1975-1976

Charles Riordan served on the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for one year, filling a vacancy left after the resignation of Charles Bucaria. Riordan had been active in park district and community affairs, including serving as chairman of the 1974 bond issue committee and on the District's committee for the annexation of the Lindale/Larchmont areas. He also served on the District's Acquisition and Development Committee in 1975.

Riordan was a father of 12 children, which helped drive his deep interest in sports, programs, and recreational facilities. He was a longtime employee of Pacific Telephone, and was also active in community and church organizations.

Edwin A. "Edd" Smith

Board of Directors – 1976-2012



Edwin A. "Edd" Smith served on the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors from 1976 to 2012. (At the time of this writing Smith was the longest serving Board member in the District's history.) Smith passed away unexpectedly in 2012 after an impressive 36 years of service to the Board and his community.

Smith became politically active while attending Cosumnes River College where he was a member of the school's Student Senate. He was also Vice Chairman of the Sacramento County Young Republicans Club. When he and his family became residents of North Parkway, Smith took his interest in local issues to the next level by becoming a member

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

of the Parkway Estates North Neighborhood Association, a soccer coach, and winning a seat on the Southgate Board of Directors. During this time he was employed by the State of California for 35 years, and also became an independent business owner.

Edd enjoyed being involved in the local political arena for the benefit of District issues, including forging positive relationships with Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. Smith worked closely on establishing the partnership between the Filipino Community and the District for the operation of Rizal Community Center. Former Sacramento County Supervisor Illa Collin praised Smith's "statesman-like negotiating skills" during negotiations with the Filipino Community on the Rizal Community Center.

At the District level, Smith was instrumental in assisting with the establishment of new Landscaping and Lighting Assessment Districts; negotiating developer agreements; and the creation of the non-profit organization Southarea Recreation, Inc. On a broader level, he helped create the joint powers authority for California Association for Park and Recreation Indemnity (CAPRI) - an important solution for local districts who often could not find affordable insurance. And, after passage of Proposition 13, Smith advocated for fair property tax allocations for special districts.

Smith accumulated a long record of involvement, including helping form the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD); being an original member of the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum to ensure adequate groundwater for the community and irrigation for parks; participating in the formation and many years on the board of the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority; serving as a LAFCo commissioner; a CARPD Board member; and a Board member of the California Special Districts Association. Smith was very involved in South Sacramento County Visions, especially with the Well-Managed Apartment Complexes Workgroup. In 2012, CPRS awarded Smith the prestigious statewide "Champion of the Community" Award. CPRS District II also awarded him a "Champion of the Community Award" in the same year, which was quite an accomplishment.

To further honor Smith's dedicated service to the region, in 2021 the District renamed Countryside Community Park to "Edwin A. Smith Community Park."

Gerry Green

Board of Directors – 1986-1990

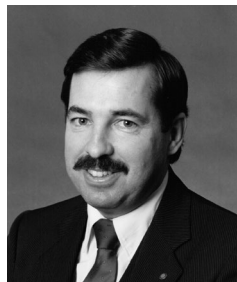
Gerry Green served on the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for four years, winning an elected seat in 1986. A resident of the Fruitridge area, Green was keenly interested in ensuring the availability of diverse recreation programs for youth and seniors in the Fruitridge community. As a disabled individual, Green brought a passion for increasing accessibility throughout District facilities. Unfortunately, Green passed away in 1990 before his full term ended. He advocated for several new programs at the Fruitridge Community Center including an astronomy club and a chess club.

After his passing, Southgate Recreation and Park District named the preschool educational building at Fruitridge Community Park as the "Gerry Green Head Start Facility."

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Dr. Dennis W. McKibben

Board of Directors – 1986-2000



Dr. Dennis W. McKibben was a member of the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for 14 years, from 1986 to 2000. An active community member, McKibben owned a successful podiatry practice in South Sacramento and was a Special Forces Marine veteran of the Vietnam War. Prior to his election to the Board, McKibben was also involved in the Valley Hi Rotary Club, Boy Scouts Scoutmaster, Parkway Soccer Club, Parkway Little League, and served many years as a trustee on the non-profit youth sports organization, Southarea Recreation, Inc. He served on the Board of the Pacific Fire Protection District.

Throughout his tenure, McKibben was deeply committed to enhancing youth recreational and sports programming in the District, but he became particularly interested in the successful development of the WildHawk Golf Club during the 1990s. He spent significant time and energy focused on key golf course issues including its design, construction, operations, and financing – with the goal that WildHawk Golf Club become one of the most well-run and successful public golf courses in Northern California. Additionally, McKibben’s experience as a podiatrist helped him consider park district issues with a unique focus on safety, such as with turf conditions for sports and play fields.

John Cockerham

Board of Directors – 1990-2014



A member of the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for 24 years, John Cockerham often leveraged his analytical skills in his role as a member of the District Board. A resident of the Bowling Green community, Cockerham served on the Southgate Board from 1990 to 2014. He advocated for fiscal discipline at the District and took special interest in the formation and administration of landscaping and lighting assessment districts. This included regular updates to policy and personnel manuals. He also advocated for increased programming for seniors at the Fruitridge Community Center and affordable swimming at the Fruitridge Aquatic and Rutter Swim Centers.

Cockerham attended many District programs and supported partnerships with school districts. He was active in the Sacramento Area Council of Recreation and Park Agencies and Sacramento LAFCo Special District Advisory Committee.

Professionally, Cockerham was an investigator for the Sacramento County Coroner’s Office, often referred to as a forensic scientist. Combined with his experience in the United State Army and performing crime-related laboratory work during his career, Cockerham was attuned to examining details and questioning the status quo. His strong background in biology enabled him to provide recommendations on many landscaping, botany and chemical applications.

Combining his personal interests with his Board role, Cockerham enjoyed botany – specifically roses – and has bred his own strains of roses. He donated his time and expertise to planting roses at District facilities including WildHawk Golf Club, and advocated for the creation of a community garden and participated in

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

gardening at Rainbow Park. He is also well known for his ceramic creations. Cockerham was also regarded for his strong interests in open space preservation, logical planning, and keeping up with the needs of the community.

Alex Laiewski

Board of Directors – 2000



Alex Laiewski was appointed to a short-term vacancy on the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors in 2000. Laiewski relished public service and volunteering, with a noteworthy record of involvement. He was a soccer and softball coach and devoted father. As a member of the Laguna Creek Watershed Council he volunteered many hours developing habitat conservation plans and organizing Creek Week cleanups and other educational events. Laiewski spent many hours researching and studying complex issues for the Vineyard Area Community Planning Advisory Council and the Sacramento County Planning Commission. He made many valuable contributions to smart development in the County of Sacramento, and especially the Vineyard Area.

Laiewski was well respected for his ability to bring consensus to difficult issues. He was able to analyze complex projects in the District and provide intelligent analysis and guidance. As a business owner and consultant he had many valuable management skills that benefited the District for the short time he was there. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Silver Springs Homeowners Association and was a member of the Volunteer Center of Sacramento.

Shirley Wirth

Board of Directors – 1999-2010



Shirley Wirth was appointed to the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors in 1999 and won her seat in subsequent elections. Prior to her service on the Southgate Board, Wirth served as Chair of South Sacramento Community Planning Advisory Council for two years. She was co-chairperson for the Larchmont-Lindale Homeowner Association and involved with her local neighborhood watch. She participated in South Sacramento County Visions and SouthCAST.

A proud resident of the Florin area, Wirth was always interested in finding ways to preserve and revitalize the unique and historical identity of the Florin Township. She also had a desire to preserve open spaces throughout the District and increase park security for the safety of all park users. She also volunteered at Samuel Kennedy Elementary School and was a School Site Council Member. She advocated for improvements to Florin Road and more intelligent planning of housing density.

In her professional career, Wirth worked as a manager for a Fortune 500 company for 16 years and also as a training and technology manager. She studied business administration and provided valuable input to the administration and operation of the District. Wirth shared her training and technology expertise with the District and helped advance the District technology in service to the community. She enjoyed trips on her Harley Davidson motorcycle with friends and family. Wirth passed away in 2010.

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Rolfe Appel

Board of Directors – 2000-2017



Rolfe Appel served on the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for 17 years, from 2000 to 2017. His tenure at Southgate represented an important part of his public service, but certainly not the entirety of it.

Early in his career, Appel served as a volunteer firefighter for the Florin Fire District. He then ran for the Florin Fire Board and was elected as a Director. Professionally, he served as a Lieutenant with the Sacramento Sheriff's Department, where he worked for 28 years with assignments in corrections, patrol, detectives, communications, training, courts, and contract services. He has taught criminal justice at Sacramento City College.

Appel was initially drawn to the District by way of recreational activities that his two children took part in, including swimming and youth basketball. He later applied for a Board vacancy, although was not appointed at that time. He ran in the next open election and won his seat in 2000.

Appel's leadership skills were very helpful during his tenure, as the District was expanding quickly. His expertise in law enforcement provided him a unique perspective on District security and services, including park patrol service contracts. Appel's years of management expertise were valuable in helping the District navigate many difficult situations, and contributed to many successes. He was always prepared at meetings and able to provide a fresh perspective on issues.

When asked about his key accomplishments as a Board member, Appel recalls being most proud of his ability to develop good working relationships with the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors; his laser focus on protection of District taxpayers' funds; and his successes in helping achieve consensus on the Board during challenging issues.

Appel was a longtime and active member of the Kiwanis Club of Elk Grove. He resigned from Southgate Board of Directors in 2017 due to moving out of the District.

Phyllis Evans

Board of Directors – 2010-2018



Phyllis Evans served on the Board of Directors for Southgate Recreation and Park District from 2010 to 2018. Her eight years on the Southgate Board were underscored by her focus on listening to the community. She enjoyed learning from others' perspectives and was able to help guide the District to more informed decisions to benefit the community. Evans was supportive of the development of parks and facilities, and enjoyed analyzing the various options of development projects. Evans worked for the Sacramento Army Depot for 16 years before becoming active in the

Retired Federal Employees Association.

A longtime resident of the Florin area, Evans was active in her community, including roles as a volunteer at Samuel Kennedy Elementary, a member of the Old Towne Florin Revitalization group, Florin Road Corridor Plan and a member and secretary of the South Sacramento Community Planning Advisory Council. She

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

volunteered on South Sacramento County Visions (including Connect Healthy and Motivated People to Prevent Substance Abuse) and SouthCAST. Evans was member of the Larchmont-Lindale Neighborhood Association and led the Neighborhood Watch for the protection and safety of her neighbors. She volunteered for the Florin Strawberry Festival, including tirelessly preparing strawberries. Her first experience with the District was signing her children up for swim lessons at the Rutter Swim Center when she would be there, as she recalls, “at the crack of dawn.” She advocated for online registration so the registration process would be more convenient for residents. She also enjoyed attending District special events and representing the District at meetings.

Erin Stuart

Board of Directors – 2014-2015



Erin Stuart was elected to the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors in 2014 and served for one year, before resigning her seat due to moving out of the District. With a science and recreation background, Stuart had a strong desire to preserve the environment for future generations, spurring her interest in the District.

Stuart was an avid gardener and constantly worked to improve the floral and vegetable gardens at her home. Stuart had experience working with the City of Rocklin Parks and Recreation Department’s after-school programs, and was an active patron of Southgate Recreation and Park District’s programs and facilities prior to serving on the Board.

Carole Phelps

Board of Directors – 2015-2016



Carole Phelps was appointed to the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors in 2015, filling a vacant seat. She served for one year and resigned her seat before moving out of her division. Her family participated in many of the District programs and events. At the time of this writing she still lives in the District and is a volunteer Trustee for Southarea Recreation, Inc. She is a valuable contributor to decisions regarding the allocation and use of District facilities by member organizations.

Phelps had experience as a Girl Scout and Brownie leader, a Cub Scout Den Leader, and a Cub Scout Cubmaster. In her professional career, Phelps worked as an enforcement analyst for the Physical Therapy Board of California. Her experience with that Board enabled her to excel in her short time on the Southgate Board of Directors. She was able to quickly analyze issues and provide well-thought direction and advice. Her positive energy and dedication to the community was an asset to the District.

PROFILES OF CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Division 1 – Monti Hall

Current Term of Office: 2018 to 2022



Monti Hall stepped up to fill a vacancy on the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors in 2016 and was subsequently elected in 2018. Monti's record of public and volunteer service provides him a natural foundation as a Board member.

Monti was born and raised in Fresno, and after high school he joined the Army where he served 13 years as an Infantryman. His military record includes several overseas deployments, and he is a combat veteran of the Gulf War in Iraq. He returned to California in 2000 and began a career in publishing and advertising. In 2012 he shifted

gears to focus his energy on community issues, locating to South Sacramento where he works on programs to assist veterans navigating the benefits process. He also volunteers as a mentor to mentally ill parolees and works to assist hungry families in his neighborhood. He helped establish and served as president of the Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association, providing many services to the community including special events at District parks and area schools, neighborhood cleanups, and working with Habitat for Humanity.

Monti's efforts as a Board Member for Division 1 are particularly focused on improving District neighborhoods and encouraging residents to participate with community organizations. He enjoys helping to create partnerships with Sacramento County departments and non-profit organizations to improve the quality of neighborhoods. Successful partnerships have included collaborations with the Sacramento County Sheriff Department and Code Enforcement to help improve the quality and safety of the neighborhood.

Monti holds a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Brandman University, and he is completing a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California. He is a father of three and a proud grandfather to one grandson. In his free time, Monti enjoys being outdoors, fitting in a hike when possible to enjoy the beauty of nature.

Division 2 – Lisa Dills

Current Term of Office: 2020 to 2024



Lisa was first appointed to a vacancy on the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors in 2012, and was subsequently elected to her seat in 2014, 2016 and 2020. Lisa considers Southgate Recreation and Park District and its services as key to the overall health and success of the community, and believes strongly in involvement and participation in community efforts.

Lisa grew up in and attended schools in Castro Valley, and later resided in Fremont, California before permanently locating to North Parkway with her husband, Rick, in

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

1999. Her professional career included working as a teller with Bank of America, and accounting work with a large trucking and distribution firm in the Bay Area.

After moving to Sacramento Lisa quickly found an outlet for her accounting skills by serving as treasurer for the fundraising organization “Bingo Boosters,” supporting youth sports activities. Lisa later enjoyed her affiliation as a member and officer of the Parkway Estates North Neighborhood Association (PENNA), where she served as Vice-President from 2000 to 2013, working on initiatives such as disaster preparedness, National Night Out events, and supporting local law enforcement. She also participated with South Sacramento County Visions and Connecting Health and Motivated People to Prevent Substance Abuse. She is also active with the Florin Road Partnership. Lisa regularly attends and volunteers at District special events and programs.

Lisa and Rick’s family includes four daughters, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. In her free time Lisa enjoys reading, camping with family and friends, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Division 3 – Preston Jackson III

Current Term of Office: 2018 to 2022



Preston Jackson III joined the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors in 2018, filling a vacant seat for District 3. Preston is passionate about improving access to parks, recreation, and fitness opportunities in support of healthy living for the District’s diverse population.

Preston was raised in Suisun City, California where he attended local schools. He studied at Solano Community College before transferring to CSU Sacramento, graduating with a B.A. in Communications and a Minor in Business Administration.

His professional background includes work in the mortgage industry and in financial sales and investments. His experience in those venues helped him transition in 2008 to employment with the California State Teacher’s Retirement System, where he currently works as a pension program manager and conducts education and outreach for members.

Making South Sacramento a great place to live, recreate and raise a family is Preston’s driving passion. He puts that into action through service, such as volunteering as a local Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, advocating for the upgrade of older District parks, and in establishing stronger relationships with local schools.

Preston and his wife Kimberlee are involved and active parents to two teenaged daughters and one teenaged son. Preston works to balance his busy work and family life, spending his free time with family in positive and fun ways such as camping, game and movie nights, or playing basketball.

Division 4 – Christine Thompson

Current Term of Office: 2018 to 2022



Christine Thompson was first appointed to the Southgate Board of Directors in 1992. She has been continuously re-elected, and her current term will mark 30 years of service on the Board. A longtime resident of the Rutter and Florin areas of the District, Christine has a stellar record of service in her community and with Southgate Recreation and Park District.

Christine was born and raised in Sonoma, California, where she spent her early educational years. She later attended Columbia and Delta Community Colleges and CSU, Sacramento, focusing on coursework in medical assisting. She entered the health industry at age 19 and worked for many years as a medical assistant for private physicians, and later in administrative positions with Foundation Health. Christine also held high-level positions in sales and restaurant management during her career, before retiring in 2008.

After moving to South Sacramento in 1972, Christine quickly became closely involved in her community. As a busy mother to two active daughters who took part in competitive softball and Southgate's competitive year-round USA Swimming program, Christine served on the Boards for Southgate Aquatics and Florin Girls' Softball organizations. These affiliations provided a natural foundation in 1987 for her service as a trustee for Southgate's affiliated youth sports support organization, Southarea Recreation, Inc. (SRI), where she has more than two decades of service. Christine is also an active Board Member for the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority; and a member of the South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Working Group.

Christine is fiercely proud of her family. Her daughter Trina is an avid marathoner, and works with Elk Grove Unified School District where she has been a teacher, teacher trainer, and is currently an elementary school vice principal. Her daughter Jamie is also a talented athlete who was an XTERRA champion triathlete before becoming a world-class para-cyclist, holding several world titles and Paralympic titles. Christine also keeps busy with her five grandchildren, and in their free time she and her husband Fred enjoying relaxing together and fishing.

Division 5 – Manuel Mejia

Current Term of Office: 2020 to 2024



Manuel Mejia was appointed to a vacant seat on the Southgate Recreation and Park District Board of Directors in 2018, but his involvement with the District dates back several decades.

Manuel was born in Richmond, California, but spent his early educational years in Santa Paula, California. At age 20, he moved to Sacramento and soon began working for the County of Sacramento's Code Enforcement Division, while also completing a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from CSU, Sacramento. His tenure with the County of Sacramento now exceeds three decades, holding numerous positions with the Planning Department where he is currently a Senior Planner.

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Manuel's professional background dovetails uniquely with his role as a Board Member. As a County planner, many of the projects he has worked on include subdivisions and commercial projects that have been either built or are planned within District boundaries, providing him a unique understanding of the planning, review, and development process.

Manuel also serves as a Board Trustee on Southgate's affiliated youth sports support organization, Southarea Recreation, Inc. (SRI), where he has served since 1998. In both his SRI and Board service, Manuel prioritizes engaging and meeting with local constituents and hearing directly from them about community needs.

Manuel and his wife, Teresa, have lived in South Sacramento since 1990. They have one grown son who attends CSU, Fullerton and works at Disneyland. In their free time, Manuel and Teresa love to travel, and they look forward to spending time further exploring the U.S. and other countries in the future. Manuel also enjoys watching professional sports, landscaping, and fitting in a round of golf when time allows.

CHRONOLOGY OF GENERAL MANAGERS

Donald Rush.....	1966-1967
Robert Wyckoff	1967-1970
Charles B. Hoefer	1970-1973
Robert G. Overstreet	1973-1977
Robert P. Thomas	1977-1980
Patrick J. O'Brien	1980-1989
John Flohr	1989-1994
Larry Gury	1995-1998
Brian May	1998-1999
Claudia Goss	1999-2000
Rod Cooper	2001-2004
Ward Winchell	2004-Current



District Silver Anniversary: Pat O' Brien, Robert Thomas, Robert Overstreet, Charles Hoefer, 1981

PROFILES OF GENERAL MANAGERS

Donald Rush

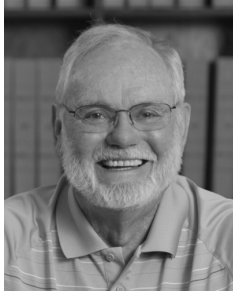
Administrator – 1966-1967

Donald Rush is considered to have been Southgate Recreation and Park District's first official administrator, although at that time it was a part-time position. Limited records exist regarding Southgate's staff during this period, however the District was still quite small in size, with minimal staff and only a few parks and facilities. The administrator during this period would have likely been focused mainly on organizing park and facility maintenance activities and close coordination with the District's early Board of Directors.

South Sacramento was experiencing a housing and development boom during the 1960s, placing new demands and challenges for public agencies. Setting a solid foundation for the District in terms of operations, record-keeping, financial accounting, and following legal requirements would have been a key responsibility for the administrator during that period.

Robert Wyckoff

General Manager – 1967-1970



During the late 1960s, Southgate Recreation and Park District's service area was expanding, and the District required a full-time professional administrator. The District's Board of Directors hired Robert Wyckoff as Southgate's first official General Manager in 1967.

Southgate had minimal staffing during this era, but Wyckoff recognized that the District's growing population required access to increased park and recreational programs and services. To address those needs, Wyckoff hired Southgate's first Recreation Superintendent in order to develop a more robust recreation program. He also worked on interagency collaborations to enhance District services, such as joint programs with schools and other public agencies.

One of Wyckoff's key legacies during his tenure was in creating a formalized public outreach program. He understood the importance of public outreach in meeting the community's needs. He initiated Southgate's first structured promotional efforts to share District news and advertise recreational offerings. He acquired the District's first simple printing press, and later began producing Southgate's first newsletter.

In addition to providing information to District residents, Wyckoff strategized that it could also be advantageous to provide news about Southgate to nearby neighborhoods just outside of District boundaries, as a way to position the District as a desired service provider. This was key, since discussions about service area annexations were occurring during this time, and Southgate was looking to expand its scope to support the growing recreational needs of the community.

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Past Southgate Board members remember Wyckoff as a great administrator and a “spark plug who always made things happen.” Wyckoff’s career before and after Southgate include an interesting and varied range of work, including serving as the Parks Director in Port Hueneme, California; and then as Executive Director of the USO in the 1960s (prior to Southgate); and later, in a variety of park management positions in California and Colorado. He also served a stint as Mayor of the City of Salem, Oregon in the early 1990s.

Charles B. Hoefer

General Manager – 1970-1973



Charles “Charlie” Hoefer was Southgate’s third General Manager, and was considered a “consummate park and recreation professional.” Serving and advancing the park and recreation profession defined the majority of Hoefer’s career.

Prior to joining Southgate Recreation and Park District as General Manager, Hoefer worked for the City of San Mateo as their Supervisor of Sports and Athletics. He was then recruited to join Southgate as General Manager, in part for his “big city” experience – a needed qualification at a time when Southgate was entering an unprecedented period of growth and new demands for park and recreation services.

During Hoefer’s tenure at Southgate, the Florin Creek Recreation Center and Rutter Swim Center were developed, both of which were major accomplishments and successful additions to the community. With the Rutter Swim Center, Hoefer worked closely with the Elk Grove Unified School District to establish the District’s first joint-use agreement. Under this innovative arrangement, the school district provided the land, and Southgate built the swim center and secured partial grant funding for the effort. Hoefer enjoyed delving into the details of the swim center’s construction, and kept involved in the detailed planning of the pool’s amenities and technical aspects of construction.

During Hoefer’s tenure, the District expanded its efforts in applying for grants and began using debt financing to fund development of new facilities. Hoefer was keenly focused on keeping the District’s budgetary and financial actions balanced and accurate.

Hoefer was generous with his professional time. Over the years, he became involved with the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) in leadership and volunteering roles, and was a past president of the Society. He also helped formalize a local commission of park district general managers and board members to help gain influence and advocacy power in the Sacramento region.

Past Southgate Board members recall Hoefer as a “can-do” manager who was unassuming, but effective. He had a great eye for staffing talent and a passion for the profession. After leaving Southgate, Hoefer became the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Santa Rosa – a position he held for 19 years before retiring. A family man, baseball fan, and avid golfer, Hoefer passed away in 2018 in Santa Rosa, California.

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Robert “Bob” Overstreet

General Manager – 1973-1977



Robert “Bob” Overstreet is considered one of Southgate Recreation and Park District’s most accomplished General Managers, a role he held from 1973 to 1977. Under his leadership, Southgate gained a distinguished reputation in the field due to noteworthy successes, including obtaining many grants, success in legislative funding allocations, improving interagency relationships, and more. During his tenure as General Manager, the District became highly regarded as a “powerhouse” recreation and park district in the State of California.

After becoming General Manager, one of Overstreet’s first major projects was to masterplan development of the Florin Creek Park. As part of that effort he worked closely with the City and County of Sacramento on trail connectivity issues. During his tenure the District developed numerous greenbelts and a nature center, including hiring the District’s first park ranger and launching interpretive programs. He initiated efforts to obtain grants for facilities in low-income communities, including the Fruitridge area. He also began the partnership process with the Filipino Community for the development of the Jose P. Rizal Community Center, which involved extensive interagency coordination and applying for federal grant funding.

Leveraging his political savvy, Overstreet was able to gain political influence for Southgate; and on a broader level he recognized the need for more political engagement within the park and recreation profession. To that end, he recommended and pushed for the California Park and Recreation Society’s first Legislative Committee, on which he later served.

An innovative leader, Overstreet worked with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to ensure landscaping of new freeway cloverleaf interchanges within the District was prioritized, providing enhanced entrances to the Southgate community along Highway 99. During his tenure the non-profit organization Southarea Recreation, Inc. (SRI) was formed, which fostered coordination with local youth sporting groups, helped District promotion through public outreach materials, and provided an engaged pool of potential new District Board members.

As General Manager, Overstreet was highly focused on refining what made Southgate unique and its role in the community. He placed emphasis on strategizing the District’s future and strengthening its relationship to the County of Sacramento.

After leaving Southgate, Overstreet continued his successful career in the parks and recreation field, including stints as a Director and Deputy City Manager in the cities of San Jose and Ventura; Director for the City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Department; and as CEO for his own management consulting firm working with numerous California cities, counties and special districts, and cities and regional governments in Eastern Europe.

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Robert P. Thomas

General Manager – 1977-1980



Robert P. “Bob” Thomas is a well-known figure in Sacramento politics and local government, with a distinguished record in public service with numerous agencies over more than 30 years.

Thomas earned a Master’s degree in parks and recreation administration from California State University, Sacramento. He began his career with the North Highlands Recreation and Park District and the County of Sacramento before joining Southgate Recreation and Park District as Assistant General Manager. His initial areas of focus at Southgate were keeping several significant projects on track, such as construction of the

Jose P. Rizal Community Center. He served as Southgate’s General Manager from 1977 to 1980.

The year after Thomas took the helm as Southgate’s General Manager, California voters passed Proposition 13 (the Jarvis-Gann Amendment), also known as the “People’s Initiative to Limit Property Taxation.” Under Proposition 13, the annual real estate tax on a parcel of property was limited to 1 percent of its assessed value. This resulted in Southgate quickly losing about 60 percent of its operational funding. Thomas, working closely with the Board of Directors, navigated this challenging period for the District to remain financially solvent and keep operations going. Thomas was forced to implement cutbacks in staffing and operations, and find new ways to reduce expenditures and increase revenues. During this time, under Thomas’s leadership, Southgate began its first efforts in fundraising – a new concept for the District – seeking contributions from local businesses and the community to support youth sports and recreation programs.

This new era of fiscal constraint also required Thomas to focus more on lobbying (in seeking legislative funding appropriations, for example), and on securing new sources of grant funds. With increased attention to these efforts Southgate saw much success and was able to continue with needed park development in the growing new areas of the District.

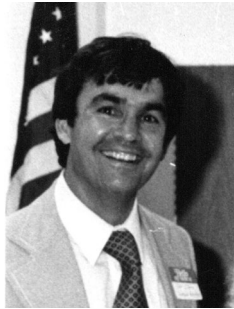
With his astute business sense and political savvy, Thomas excelled at interagency coordination and negotiating agreements with the development community. He was also skilled at mentoring staff to develop the District’s next generation of leaders.

After Southgate, Thomas worked for a time for the City of Santa Cruz, then returned to Sacramento as the City of Sacramento’s Director of Parks and Community Service, a post he held for 10 years. He was then appointed Deputy City Manager in 1991, serving in that position until being named Sacramento County’s Executive in 1996. He then returned to the City of Sacramento as City Manager from 1999 until 2005, when he retired from that position. In that same year, the American Society for Public Administration honored him as “Public Administrator of the Year.” Thomas has continued to work in the private sector in Sacramento since retiring from public service.

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Pat O'Brien

General Manager – 1980-1989



Pat O'Brien served as General Manager for Southgate Recreation and Park District from 1980 to 1989, guiding the District through a period of growth and innovation, initiating new funding approaches, and delivering quality programming and parks to the community. O'Brien is considered a fearless visionary who brought groundbreaking concepts to the District, and to the park and recreation industry as a whole.

As a youth, O'Brien held various jobs in aquatics and parks and recreation in San Mateo County. He attended San Francisco State University, receiving both a Bachelor of Arts and Master's degrees with a stint in the U.S. Army in between those degrees. In 1971, he began working for the District as a sports and aquatics supervisor, and rose through the ranks to become Recreation Superintendent and ultimately, General Manager, totaling 18 years of service.

O'Brien encouraged an entrepreneurial approach to the District during his tenure. He oversaw innovations including new advertising approaches, allowing credit card payments for programs, and regularly mailed newsletters to all District residents. He also understood that Southgate needed a bigger taxpaying population base in order to help fund the increasing needs of the community. He identified that some of the County of Sacramento's County Service Areas that existed at that time could be better served by Southgate, and he gained the support of the County Board of Supervisors in effecting annexation of those areas to the District.

One of O'Brien's most important accomplishments at Southgate was with Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District financing. He worked strategically at the legislative level to amend legislation allowing this funding approach for park and recreation districts, which can fund improvements and maintenance to specific areas of benefit. He received the California Parks and Recreation Society Presidents' Award for Outstanding Service in the Legislative Arena in 1983.

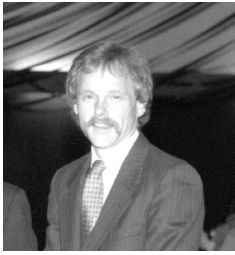
Following Southgate, O'Brien served 22 years as General Manager of East Bay Regional Park District, the nation's largest regional park and open space district. O'Brien's industry accolades include being named the 2002 Professional of the Year by the National Recreation and Parks Association, Pacific Southwest Regional Council; and a member of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. The California Park and Recreation Society renamed its annual legislative award as the "Pat O'Brien" Award in honor of his significant contributions to legislative advocacy on behalf of the parks and recreation profession. More recently, Southgate Recreation and Park District named its newest community center located in the Vineyard region of the District as the "Pat O'Brien Community Center."

O'Brien has remarked that his successful career was guided by "the desire to make substantive contributions to society and to people's lives." His passion for the parks and recreation profession and his ability to energize others into action are hallmarks of his career.

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

John P. Flohr

General Manager – 1989-1994



John Flohr worked for Southgate Recreation and Park District for 18 years before serving as General Manager. After several years working in the District's Recreation Department, and then serving as Southgate's Superintendent of Administration, he was appointed General Manager in 1989. While serving under General Manager Pat O'Brien, Flohr leveraged his keen business sense to initiate new ways of accomplishing the operational and administrative work of the District, using new approaches, computerization, and emerging technologies the next decade would bring.

Flohr's sharp analytical mind was instrumental in bringing technological advancements to the District, particularly with computerization. With his academic background in business, Flohr brought a true "business sense" to operations, including buying the District's first computer, introducing new computerized accounting systems, negotiating complex developer agreements, and setting up assessment district financing. In 1983, the California Recreation and Park Society District 2 recognized him with a Technical Merit Award for Microcomputer Technology Utilization in Park and Recreation Management.

One of Flohr's most important accomplishments in his 23 years of service was in establishing the District's first computerized irrigation monitoring system, being one of the first organizations in the country to do so. This allowed the District to collect weather and water usage data to automatically control and streamline the process of irrigation, thereby saving water and labor costs.

Flohr also oversaw creation of the District's first Landscaping and Lighting Assessment Districts, which were important in providing stable funding sources for ongoing park maintenance and construction costs. In addition, he understood the importance of District autonomy, and worked closely with the Board of Directors to fend off annexation attempts that threatened the opportunity for the District to best serve the growing Southgate community.

Larry Gury

General Manager – 1995-1998



Larry Gury was a South Sacramento native who had substantial educational and professional experience in the park and recreation field before joining Southgate Recreation and Park District. Gury served as the District's General Manager from 1995 to 1998.

Gury earned a B.A. in Recreation Administration from California State University, Sacramento, and a Master's in Public Administration from University of San Francisco. He worked for several local park districts before joining Southgate Recreation and Park

District in 1980 in its Recreation Department. Gury's youthful energy and good management skills helped him quickly advance into more senior positions including Recreation Superintendent and Assistant General Manager, before being named General Manager in 1995.

Throughout his 18-year career at Southgate, Gury exemplified a positive "can-do" attitude and he was able to motivate staff and colleagues through exceptional interpersonal skills. He mentored and challenged staff to

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

seek better ways of doing things and to reduce costs, while retaining quality programming, explaining, “We don’t look for excuses, we look for efficiencies.”

Gury brought a renewed energy and focus to the concept of customer service for the District’s residents and program participants. He helped develop new programs for underserved populations in the District, and enhanced recreation and sports programming through special fundraising events. Some of his more unique innovations included organizing the Billy Mills Fun Runs and Tony Lopez Youth Sports Nights, community fireworks events, and parachuters and live music at various park dedications and events.

When Southgate faced challenging issues during his tenure, Gury was unwavering and unafraid, leading to successful outcomes in many complex situations. One of the most consequential examples was in protecting a major District asset – the Tillotson Parkway – from more than two miles of extensive damage stemming from a construction project by a regional utility who needed to install huge underground infrastructure along its right-of-way in the Parkway. Years of landscaping growth and public amenities were at risk due to the originally identified open-cut trenching construction method. Gury worked tirelessly to educate the community, involve Southgate’s Board members in lobbying and advocacy, and negotiate with Sacramento County and the utility. Due to Gury’s leadership, Southgate was successful in persuading decision-makers to direct that a less invasive, but more expensive and complex tunneling method be used for construction, thereby protecting the Tillotson Parkway. This is considered a key legacy of Larry Gury’s tenure at Southgate.

Gury was also highly focused on completing the development and construction of the WildHawk Golf Club, the District’s first and only golf course. Construction, financing, and start-up challenges required close management and coordination with contractors and course operators. WildHawk Golf Club was successfully completed and opened in 1997 under Gury’s leadership.

In 1998, Gury retired from Southgate Recreation and Park District in order to commit full attention to his personal business venture, California Family Fitness, developing and managing a growing array of family-oriented health and fitness centers in the Sacramento region. In that same year, the California Special District Association named him General Manager of the Year. A large community park in the Vineyard Springs area has been named “Larry Gury Community Park” in honor of his efforts, including the strategic acquisition of 20 acres on Carmencita Road in the Laguna Creek watershed.

Most recently, Gury was the recipient of the Partnership for Quality Living’s 2021 Hall of Honor “Exceptional Leadership Award” in recognition of his extensive contributions to the quality of life in the region. Among those contributions is Gury’s work in wildlife habitat protection and education as demonstrated on his 400-acre family owned wildlife sanctuary, “Closed Zone Farms,” in the Upper Butte Sink Basin in northern California.

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Brian May

General Manager – 1998-1999



Brian May was recruited to the position of General Manager of Southgate Recreation and Park District in 1998 after the departure of Larry Gury. A longtime park and recreation professional in the Sacramento region, May had worked with local park and recreation agencies, and most notably, had served as the Assistant General Manager for the California Exposition and State Fair (Cal Expo) for a number of years.

During his time at Southgate, May prioritized continuing the District's strong financial position; providing safe, clean and quality facilities for the public; and increasing the visibility and success of the newly completed WildHawk Golf Club.

After a serving a short time as Southgate's General Manager, the opportunity arose for May return to Cal Expo in the prestigious position of Deputy General Manager. May returned to Cal Expo in 1999, enjoyed a successful career there, and ultimately retired from that organization in 2012.

Claudia Goss

General Manager – 1999-2000



Claudia Goss had been a Southgate Recreation and Park District employee for 12 years when she was appointed to the position of Interim General Manager after the departure of the District's prior General Manager. She was later named General Manager in late 1999 and was the District's first female General Manager. Prior to that, Goss had held numerous District positions including public information, government relations, and planning. She was promoted into the General Manager role during a time when park development, WildHawk Golf Club operations, and recreation and parks departments operations benefitted from her institutional knowledge of the District.

With extensive background in communications, Goss believed that Southgate should continue to improve its public outreach and marketing efforts to better communicate with a continually growing base of District residents. Several of Goss's most visible accomplishments during her tenure were overseeing the redesign of the official District logo; development of the District's first website with park and recreation program information, registration forms, and interactive District facilities map; and a major overhaul of the District's newsletter and recreation guide, "The Southgator," which went from an outdated tabloid-style newspaper to a colorful, more convenient and professionally designed booklet style publication.

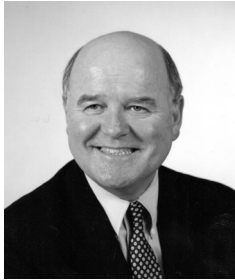
Goss was respected for her ability to get departments to work cooperatively, and developing the leadership of the quickly expanding Parks Department. As with prior District general managers, Goss emphasized the importance of recruiting and retaining outstanding personnel to serve the public and ensure District facilities were safe and well run. She ensured strong leaders were in place in key parks management, planning, and administrative positions.

Goss continued her career in local government after leaving Southgate, serving as the Public Affairs Manager for the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District for 17 years, prior to retiring from public agency service.

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

Rod Cooper

General Manager – 2001-2004



Rod Cooper joined Southgate Recreation and Park District as General Manager in 2001. He brought extensive experience in park and recreation management, including 12 years as the Director of the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department, a large agency that included 12 regional parks, 19 golf courses and hundreds of acres of parks and trails. Cooper had also served in parks and open space management positions for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, including time as Chief of Parks and Recreation and the Division of Water Craft; and he was involved in both national and regional park and recreation associations. He was also a member of the Coast Guard for three years.

Leveraging his extensive experience in golf course management and food and beverage operations, Cooper prioritized WildHawk Golf Club operations in order to improve revenues and increase efficiency. At a time of strong competition among public golf courses in the Sacramento region, Cooper understood the need to set WildHawk Golf Club apart by providing a high level of quality in maintenance, service, and food and beverage operations. The “Golf With Attitude” campaign was developed to attract younger golfers and increase interest in golf.

Cooper later joined the City of Irvine, working with the Orange County Great Park, a massive public space that combines a multitude of features including recreational and sports facilities, parkland, and environmental preserves.

Ward Winchell

General Manager – 2004-Current



As the District’s longest-tenured full-time employee (at this writing exceeding 31 years), Ward Winchell had more than 15 years experience with the District when he was named General Manager in 2004. Winchell first joined Southgate in 1989 as the District’s Business Supervisor, where his strong business and computer background helped Southgate manage its ever-evolving and complex administrative and operational needs. He earned a Master of Business Administration degree from California State University, Sacramento and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Winchell had the benefit of mentorship from the five General Managers he worked for, in addition to previous General Managers including Pat O’Brien, Bob Thomas and Bob Overstreet. He improved Board communication and policy development processes, and placed a new focus on the District’s employee benefits program – a critical element in staff retention and recruiting efforts. He guided the District through fiscal independence from the County of Sacramento and improved efficiencies in the District’s business practices and financial reporting systems. His strong public finance competence enabled the District’s Standard & Poors issuer credit rating increase from “non-rated” in 1990 to “AA” in 2020, and the District has earned numerous awards from the Government Finance Officer’s Association.

Winchell has a record of supporting the creation of new programs at Southgate. Understanding the importance of managing risk and liability, he improved Southgate’s safety program and initiated the District’s

HISTORY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL MANAGERS

first-ever Safety Committee and Employee Incentive Committee and wellness programs. Many recreation programs have won awards such as Walk With Ease, Walk With a Doc, the Recreation Engaging Children (REC) Van, and the Junior Giants free baseball program, and are appreciated by the community. Winchell has enjoyed establishing successful partnerships with local agencies and many other organizations to expand services and facilities available to community including the 44th Avenue Cul-de-Sac Pop-Up Park.

Creative communications and sophisticated marketing efforts, including social media channels, were launched during Winchell's leadership, with major enhancements to the District's website to further advance features and interactivity, earning the District five marketing awards. He has guided the District in obtaining periodic resident input through surveys, questionnaires, and workshops to help plan, design and prioritize District projects, and gauge resident satisfaction with District services and facilities.

Taking advantage of his years of experience in development projects, he has focused on strategic land acquisition of many important properties on behalf of the District. He has also supported the enhancement of trail planning and open space preservation and management including creek parkways and joint use floodwater detention basins. Winchell has guided capital project planning and the development of more than 60 parks and facilities during his tenure, including over 30 parks and 14 buildings and/or community center renovations. He was responsible for the development of the Pat O'Brien Community Center, New Aquatic Center, and Scott Hokama Support Facility; the WildHawk Golf Club; and the five awards-winning Florin Creek Park Joint-Use Flood Detention Facility. During the Jack Davis Park renovations he enjoyed working in partnership with the community, Habitat for Humanity and Kaiser Permanente on the KaBOOM! playground, Sacramento Kings basketball court and handball court mural.

Winchell is the District's longest serving General Manager, a testament to his acumen, experience and skills with Southgate's Board of Directors, state and local elected officials, District staff, community members, and outside agencies.



Section 8

Historical Awards and Recognition



Receiving the CAPIO Award for “Excellence in Communication for Website”, 2012

HISTORICAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Southgate Recreation & Park District has a long and proud history of creating exceptional parks, trails, open spaces, programs, facilities, and collaborative efforts with the community. Additionally, the District has benefitted from the leadership skills of dedicated Board Members and talented staff. The District believes it is important to commemorate efforts and people through awards and recognition programs, as these provide historical perspective of the many accomplishments Southgate has, and continues to make. These accomplishments, to date, are outlined below:

Special District Leadership Foundation Awards

District of Distinction Accreditation – 2012 to Present

- 1 of 37 Districts out of 2160 Independent Districts in California, 11th longest continuous accreditation in California
 - Only Park District out of 92 Park Districts in California with current certificate
- District Transparency Certificate of Excellence – 2014 to Present

Government Finance Officers Association – Fiscal Years ended June 30, 2006 to Present

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (2018 results)

- 1 of 2 Park Districts in California, 1 of 76 Park Districts in United States
- 1 of 53 Special Districts in California
- 1 of 289 Special Districts in the United States

Government Finance Officers Association – Fiscal Years beginning July 1, 2005 to Present

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award (2018 Results)

- 1 of 2 Park Districts in California, 1 of 15 Park Districts in United States
- 1 of 67 Special Districts in California
- 1 of 234 Special Districts in the United States

California Park and Recreation Society (District 2) – 2022

Facility Design & Park Planning Award, Outdoor Fitness Court at Edwin A. Smith Community Park

County of Sacramento Environmental Management Department – 2022

Food Safety Award of Excellence, WildHawk Golf Club

California Special Districts Association – 2022

Exceptional Public Outreach and Advocacy Award, *The Southgate Chronicles*

California Association of Recreation and Park Districts – 2022

Award of Outstanding Innovation, *The Southgate Chronicles*

HISTORICAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Golfdom Underdog Calendar Cover – 2022

Featuring Molly (Sam Samuelson owner), WildHawk Golf Club

Sierra Nevada Golf Course Superintendents Association – 2021, 2005

Distinguished Member of the Year Sam Samuelson, CGCS, WildHawk Golf Club

Professional Golfers Association Northern California – 2021

Public Merchandiser of the Year – Paul Henderson, PGA, WildHawk Golf Club

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento – 2021

Outstanding Community Partner

Partnership for Quality Living, Hall of Honor – 2021

“Exceptional Leadership Award” – Larry R. Gury (Southgate General Manager 1995-1998)

Standard & Poor’s Global Ratings AA Issuer Credit Rating – 2020

The District was first able to obtain an A- Issuer Credit Rating in 2004. The rating increased to A+ in 2010, to AA- in 2018, and AA in 2019. One of four Park Districts in California with a rating of AA or better.

California Parks and Recreation Society (District 2) – 2020

Facility Design & Park Planning Award –

“Pat O’Brien Community Center, New Aquatic Center, and Scott Hokama Support Facility”

California Parks and Recreation Society (District 2) – 2020

Recreation & Community Program Award – “Walk with Ease”

California Association of Recreation and Park Districts – 2020

Award of Outstanding New Facility –

“Pat O’Brien Community Center, New Aquatic Center, and Scott Hokama Support Facility”

California Association of Recreation and Park Districts – 2020

Award of Outstanding Innovative Program – “Walk with Ease”

California Association for Park and Recreation Indemnity — 2012 to Present

Ted Winslow Safety Award Cycles 12-16

Sacramento Environmental Commission – 2018

Outstanding Environmental Leadership –

“Florin Creek Park Multi-Use Flood Control Basin Project”

California Association of Recreation and Park Districts – 2018

HISTORICAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Outstanding Renovated Facility by Large District –
“Florin Creek Park Multi-Use Flood Control Basin Project”

California Parks and Recreation Society (District 2) – 2018

Recreation & Community Program Award –
“Florin Creek Park Multi-Use Flood Control Basin Project and Programs”

American Society of Civil Engineers Region 9 – 2017

Outstanding Sustainable Engineering Project –
“Florin Creek Park Multi-Use Flood Control Basin Project”

Jack Davis Park Community Empowerment Project – 2017

Kaiser Permanente, KaBOOM! Playground, Sacramento Kings Basketball Court,
Habitat for Humanity Project, County Supervisor Phil Serna, Fruitridge Collaborative and
South Oak Park Community Association. Community Handball Court Mural added in 2019

California Parks and Recreation Society (District 2) – 2017

Agency Showcase Marketing Award – “District Facility Marketing Plan”

American Society of Civil Engineers (Sacramento Section) – 2016

Outstanding Sustainable Project of the Year –
“Florin Creek Park Multi-Use Flood Control Basin Project”

44th Avenue Cul-de-Sac Pop-Up Park - 2016

California Sierra Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, County
Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, SacDOT, Caltrans, Franklin Boulevard Neighborhood
Development Corporation, and Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association

“Best of Elk Grove” Award for Best Public Golf Courses in Elk Grove Area - 2009-2014

WildHawk Golf Club

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America – 2014

Leo Feser Award for “Fear and Loathing and the ADA” Article –
Sam Samuelson and Jim Ferrin

California Association of Public Information Officers – 2012

Award of Excellence in Communications for Website

California Parks and Recreation Society (Statewide) – 2012

Champion of the Community Award - Board Member Edd Smith

HISTORICAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

California Parks and Recreation Society (District 2) – 2012

Champion of the Community Award - Board Member Edd Smith

California Parks and Recreation Society (District 2) – 2012

Agency Showcase Marketing Award – District Website

California School-Age Consortium – 2012

Afterschool Champion Award

Golf & Lifestyle Magazine – 2010

- Best Value (Bang for your Buck) - WildHawk Golf Club
- 3rd Best Bloody Mary - WildHawk Grille at WildHawk Golf Club
- 3rd Best General Manager - Paul Henderson, WildHawk Golf Club

Parkway Estates Neighborhood Assn. Community Award for Outstanding Service – 2010

Maintenance of Sky Park and New Gazebo

California Parks and Recreation Society (District 2) – 2008

Agency Showcase Marketing Award – The “*Southgator*” publication

KCRA 3 A-List – 2008

3rd Best Golf Course - WildHawk Golf Club

Golf Digest 2008 – Present

3.5 out of 5 rating - WildHawk Golf Club

Sacramento Tree Foundation Tree Hero – 2007

Austin B. Carroll Award

California Association of Recreation & Park Districts Award of Distinction – 2007

Best Innovative Program - “R.E.C. Van” (mobile recreation program)

California Parks and Recreation Society (Statewide) – 2005

Award of Excellence – “Golf With Attitude” Marketing Campaign

South Sacramento County Visions – 2005

South Sacramento Community Leadership Award

HISTORICAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Sacramento Magazine Best of Sacramento – 2003

Public Golf Course - WildHawk Golf Club

Super League of Soccer

Award for Great Contribution to the Community

California Special Districts Association – 1998

General Manager of the Year - Larry R. Gury

California Parks and Recreation Society (Statewide) – 1998

Award of Excellence in Facility Design – Florin History Community Center

Lemon Hill Circle Program – 1997

Special Recognition Award

California Parks and Recreation Society (Statewide) – 1997

Award of Excellence for Special Program Brochure – Poster (Second Place)

California Special Districts Association – 1995

Board Member of the Year - Robert D. Cochran

California Parks and Recreation Society (Statewide) – 1983

State President's Award for Outstanding Service in Legislative Arena - Pat O'Brien

California Parks and Recreation Society (District 2) – 1983

Technical Merit Award for Microcomputer Technology - John P. Flohr

California Parks and Recreation Society (District 2) – 1979

Citizen of the Year Award - Board Member Robert D. Cochran

HISTORICAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Debt Issuance & Rating History

Year	Current Debt	Guaranty/ Insurance	Amount	Debt Rating	District Rating
2021	WildHawk Golf Club Refinance COP 2021 - A Taxable	None	\$6,240,000	AA	AA
2020	Pat O'Brien Community Center and NAC 2020 COP Refinance	None	\$6,265,000	AA-	AA
2019	Larry Gury Community Park Opus Bank Lease Purchase Agreement	None	\$2,600,000	AA-	AA
2018	Pat O'Brien Community Center, NAC, and SF US Bancorp Tax Exempt Lease/Purchase Agreement	None	\$2,007,500	Not Rated	AA-
Year	Retired Debt	Guaranty/ Insurance	Amount	Debt Rating	District Rating
2015	WildHawk Golf Club 2015 Refunding Bonds	None	\$5,990,000	A+	A+
2010	Pat O'Brien Community Center and NAC 2010 COP	Assured Guaranty	\$5,210,000	AA+	A+
2005	Various Projects WestAmerica Bank Installment Sale Refinance 1996B COP (portion)	None	\$490,330	Not Rated	Not Rated
2005	WildHawk Golf Club 2005 Refunding Bonds	Ambac Assurance	\$8,350,000	AAA	A-
2004	District Projects 2004 Refunding Bonds	Ambac Assurance	\$4,565,000	AAA	A-
2002	WildHawk Golf Club 2002 Remarketing COP	US Bank Letter of Credit	\$7,700,000	A+	Not Rated
2002	WildHawk Golf Club Zions Bank Lease/Purchase Agreement	None	\$600,000	Not Rated	Not Rated
1998	WildHawk Golf Club 1998 Refunding COP	US Bank Letter of Credit	\$8,050,000	A+	Not Rated
1996 B	Various Projects 1996 COP – Series B	None	\$1,450,000	Not Rated	Not Rated
1996 A	WildHawk Golf Club 1996 COP – Series A	US Bank Letter of Credit	\$7,550,000	A+	Not Rated
1993	District Projects 1993 COP Series A and B Refinance	Capital Guaranty	\$8,065,000	AAA	Not Rated
1991	District Projects 1991 COP	Capital Guaranty	\$7,530,000	AAA	Not Rated
Historical Issuer Credit Ratings		2020	2015	2010	2005
District		AA	A+	A+	A-
County of Sacramento		AA-	A	A+	
State of California		AA	A+	A-	A



Afterword



Kaiser Permanente, KABOOM! Playground, Sacramento Kings Basketball Court, Habitat for Humanity Project, County Supervisor Phil Serna, Fruitridge Collaborative and South Oak Park Community Association at the Ribbon Cutting at Jack Davis Park, 2017

AFTERWORD

Afterword

This District history and archival project was originally conceived of by the District's Board of Directors and was implemented with the assistance of Claudia Goss. An original District resident born and raised in Parkway Estates, Claudia has a long history with the District and the region. Her mother taught at both Parkway Elementary and Pacific Elementary schools (in the District) and her father was a high school teacher and helped found the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society. In the 1980s, Claudia began working with the District as a Public Information Officer, and she worked her way up eventually earning the title of the first female General Manager and had a successful career as a public affairs professional. Her research for this project included going through hundreds of archived files, conducting phone and in-person interviews, online research, searching County elections records and other sources. Since the first issue in 1974, the *Southgator* has provided a wealth of information and documented Southgate's history. All the people Claudia interviewed related a sense of pride in their experience with Southgate, no matter how long ago it was. There were many great stories and recollections about Southgate's leadership and innovations over the past decades. Delayed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the project was completed in December 2021.

by Ward Winchell