



City of Irvine 2018 Program Synopsis

Awards & Recognition



City of Irvine
Program Synopsis: Awards and Recognition

2018

- Irvine ranked **#15** on the list of [*Best Cities for Young Families*](#) in the U.S. by Consumer research group ValuePenguin.
- The City of Irvine in 2018, for a second straight year, has been [ranked No. 1 in fiscal strength](#). The Truth in Accounting ranking of America's 75 largest cities calculated the funds that would be left over after the bills are paid. Irvine was given a surplus score of \$5,200 per taxpayer, earning the distinction as the most fiscally healthy large city in the United States. Truth in Accounting is a nonprofit that looks at public agencies' fiscal practices.
- Irvine ranked **#13** for *Fittest City in America* by American College and Sports Medicine [American Fitness Index](#).
- Irvine received the 2017 *Award of Excellence for Facility Design* from the [California Park & Recreation Society](#) for Quail Hill Community Center.
- Irvine ranked **#15** on Livability.com's list for the [2018 Top 100 Best Places to Live](#) list based on our parks and open space, strong local economy, access to medical facilities and low crime rates.
- The City of Irvine received the [Government Finance Officers Association's](#) (GFOA) award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- The City received two other prestigious awards for the financial report: The GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award honoring the City's commitment to the highest principles of governmental budgeting, and the award for Excellence in Operational Budget from the [California Society of Municipal Finance Officers](#).

2017

- Public-Private Partnership Award recipient for the Orange County Great Park Sports Complex by the [Orange County Business Council](#), Turning Red Tape Into Red Carpet.
- *Organic Leadership Award* presented to the City of Irvine by Beyond Pesticides and Pepperdine University for the adoption of Irvine's Integrated Pest Management Policy.
- Irvine Receives Honorable Mention Recognition at [U.S. Green Building Council's Orange County Chapter Eco-Awards](#).

- Irvine ranked [**5th Most Livable City in the U.S.**](#) by SmartAsset based on several factors including safety and access to jobs.
- Irvine ranked **3rd Most Prosperous City** among the nation's 100 largest, according to a study by the [Economic Innovation Group](#), as reported by the [Orange County Register](#).
- Irvine ranked 15th for [**Best College Towns in America**](#) by 24/7 Wall Street based on 24/7 Wall Street analysis of the nation's best cities to live in.
- Irvine ranked [**9th Best Place to Raise a Family**](#) among the 150 largest U.S. cities by the personal finance website WalletHub.
- University of California, Irvine ranked [**9th Top Public School, National Universities**](#) by U.S. News & World Report.
- The Trust for Public Land ranked Irvine's park system the [**7th Best Park System in the U.S.**](#) based on acreage, facilities and investment, and access.
- University of California, Irvine ranked [**7th Safest College in America**](#) by the National Council for Home Safety and Security.
- Irvine ranked [**10th Best City to Live in America**](#) by Niche.com, based on crime, public schools, cost of living, job opportunities, and local amenities.
- Irvine ranked [**7th Best Place for Hispanic Entrepreneurs**](#) among the 150 largest U.S. cities by the personal finance website WalletHub.
- Irvine ranked [**4th Best City for Working Parents**](#) by SmartAsset.
- Irvine ranked among [**2017 Best Cities for a Green Career**](#) by personal finance website, GoodCall.com.
- Irvine ranked [**3rd Happiest City in the U.S.**](#) in a report by WalletHub.
- Irvine ranked among [**2017 Best Cities for Cybersecurity Professionals**](#) in a report by personal finance website, GoodCall.com.
- Irvine ranked [**5th Best City to Be a Homeowner**](#) by SmartAsset.
- Irvine ranked among [**Top 150 Cities for Millennials**](#) by Millennial Personal Finance.
- Irvine ranked [**10th Best City for Women**](#) by American City & County.
- Irvine ranked [**#1 Major City in Fiscal Strength**](#) by *The Fiscal Times*.
- Sunset Magazine ranked Irvine as one of the **Best Places to Live 2017** in highlighting its **20 Western Dream Towns**.

2016

- American Public Works Association (APWA) awarded the City of Irvine with *three Project of the Year awards* for, Adventure Playground, Irvine Boulevard Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge and Peters Canyon Wash Capture and Reuse Pipeline.
- Irvine rated the [#1 City for Teens](#) in the nation among the 100 largest cities by SmartAsset, an online company that provides financial advice
- Irvine ranked #2 on Livability.com's [10 Best College Towns, 2016](#) based on a supportive environment for students to thrive both academically and socially
- Irvine's Adventure Playground at University Community Park ranked [One of the Ten Best Playground in Orange County](#) by O.C. Register
- Irvine identified as having the [8th Best Park System in the U.S.](#) by the Trust for Public Land.
- Irvine ranked the *3rd Best American City for Working Parents* by Money Magazine
- Irvine rated *9th Most Family Friendly City* in California by Estately Real Estate, including 3rd for schools, 3rd lowest crime rate, 10th shortest commute, 10th most affordable housing marketing and 11th lowest cost of living.
- Ranked the [#2 City in California for Quality of Life](#) by NerdWallet.com
- ICTV, the City's cable channel station, won *Two 1st Place Star Awards and One 2nd Place Star Award* from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors for its work on the 2015 Solar Decathlon including [Solar Decathlon 2015](#) and [Solar Decathlon Minute: Day 5](#).
- Irvine ranked the [4th Safest U.S. City to Raise a Child](#) by the SafeWise Report based on crime data, graduation rates, school rankings, after-school programs and open spaces
- The [10th Most Beautifully Landscaped City Hall in the U.S.](#) by LawnStarter [.](#)
- Irvine rated the [#11 Best City to Live in America](#) based on crime, public schools, cost of living, job opportunities, and local amenities by Niche [.](#)
- Ranked [#1 Best City for an Active Retirement in America](#) by Evelo Bicycles based on walking and biking opportunities, park acreage, weather, environmental quality and accessible health care.
- The [#7 Best City to Find a Job in the U.S.](#) by WalletHub.com based on 17 key metrics including job opportunities, employment growth and low unemployment.

2015

- Ranked the *Safest City in America* by 24/7 Wall Street based on a range of variables including crime rates, educational attainment and unemployment rate.
- Ranked the *1st Best City in the Nation for Veterans* by WalletHub.com based on 10 essential metrics including job opportunities, veteran-owned businesses, veteran wage growth and availability of VA health facilities.
- Irvine ranked the *Lowest Violent Crime Rate* in America for the 11th straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with more than 100,000 residents.
- City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) selected winner of *2015 Individual and Community Preparedness Award* by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Excellence in Volunteer Sustainability.
- City of Irvine Purchasing Department conferred *2015 Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award* by National Procurement Institute.
- Irvine's Heritage Park recognized as the *Best Playground in Orange County* by Parenting OC Magazine.
- Irvine FOR Families program selected as *Community Organization of the Year* by Crime Survivors, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides advocacy and support for victims and survivors of crime.
- Irvine employees Officer Sean-Paul Crawford, Officer Jenny Lindsey and FOR Families Specialist Debbie Brunn recognized by Crime Survivors, Inc. with *Above and Beyond Award* for assisting victims of crime, helping to empower them to survive and thrive.
- Irvine awarded the United States Conference of Mayors 2015 *City Livability Award* as one of the "Most Livable" Cities in America.
- Ranked the *11th Best City in the Nation for Families* by WalletHub.com based on 30 key metrics including community safety, number of playgrounds and job opportunities.
- Irvine identified by fivethirtyeight.com as the [*Most Integrated Major City in the U.S.*](#) based on a diverse population both citywide and scattered throughout its neighborhoods.
- Irvine ranked #1 in Parenting O.C. Magazine's article *Best Cities for Families in Orange County* among upscale residential communities.
- Irvine rated *#3 Small American City of the Future 2015/16* for economic potential by fDi (Foreign Direct Investment) Intelligence, a division of Financial Times Ltd.

- Irvine ranked **7th Most Interesting City in America** by SmartAsset.com based on cultural diversity, a steady flow of new residents with new ideas and perspectives, and new opportunities for restaurants and shops to open or expand.

2014

- Irvine named **No. 7 Best City for an Active Lifestyle** among most populous cities in U.S. by WalletHub.com, an online financial adviser, based on average monthly fitness club fees and number of swimming pools and parkland acres per capita.
- Ranked the **3rd Best City in the Nation for Veterans** by WalletHub.com based on 10 essential metrics including job opportunities, veteran-owned businesses, veteran wage growth and availability of VA health facilities.
- Irvine ranked the **Lowest Violent Crime Rate** in America for the 10th straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with more than 100,000 residents.
- Irvine identified as having the **4th Largest Percentage of Households Reporting Internet Subscriptions Nationwide** by Government Technology magazine.
- Ranked No. 32 on **U.S. Cities with the Most Doctoral Degree Holders** list by On-Line Ph.D. Programs, a comprehensive online guide to earning a Ph.D.
- Ranked the **28th Best City in America for Studying Computers and Technology** by Computer Science Degree Hub, a guide on accredited computer degree programs.
- Rated the **#1 City in California** for the fourth consecutive time by *Money Magazine's* Best Place to Live 2014 list.
- Ranked the **6th Best City to Live** in America. by 24/7 Wall Street based on a range of variables, including crime rates, employment growth, educational attainment, and housing affordability.
- Ranked the **11th Best City in the Nation for Hispanic Entrepreneurs** by WalletHub.com based on 19 key metrics such as Hispanic entrepreneurship rates, corporate tax systems and the share of businesses owned by Hispanics.
- Ranked the **4th Safest City in the Nation** by MyLife, a social media website, based on law enforcement officers, traffic fatalities, violent crimes, property crimes, sex offenders and percentage of residents enrolled in health care.
- Ranked the **4th Best City in the Nation for Pet Lovers** by WalletHub.com based on 14 essential metrics including ownership and maintenance costs, health care and outdoor spaces in each city.
- **National Association of Government Communicators Award** for U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon 2013 held at the Orange County Great Park.

- Government Finance Officers Association *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* for comprehensive annual financial report.
- Ranked **3rd Best City in the Nation to Raise Children** by MyLife.com based on low crime rate, public schools, public parks, average family income and cost of living.
- Ranked the **5th Best City in the Nation for Families** by WalletHub.com based on 31 key metrics including jobs, housing, schools, health care systems and opportunities for recreational and leisure activities.
- Rated **3rd Best City in California for Young Adults** by PublicCEO.com based on median salary for college grads, percent of residents between ages 20 and 34, and safety in the community.
- The California Police Chiefs Association awarded its most prestigious award, the *Joe Molloy Award*, to Irvine Police Chief Dave Maggard, for his dedication and service to law enforcement and his professionalism, leadership, energy, and commitment to the mission of the Association.
- Irvine ranked first in 24/7 Wall Street's 2014 listing of *Best-Run Cities in America* based on economy, job market, crime level, and welfare of the population.
- Rated as the **35th Best Place to Live in the U.S in 2014** by Livability.com based on what Americans value most in their communities including education, housing, transportation, infrastructure and community interaction.
- Irvine ranked No. 5 for *Best Places for Young Families and Working Parents*, No. 5 for *Best Places for Soccer Moms and Dads*, and No. 16 for *Best Cities for Job Seekers* for California cities with populations over 40,000 as reported by NerdWallet Finance, a personal finance website.
- *Irvine Gives*, the City's online resource for charitable giving, recognized with the California Parks and Recreation Society's *Award of Excellence*.

2013

- Irvine is the **Fourth Best City in the U.S. to Find a Finance Job**, according to Accounting Principles, a nationwide recruiter for accounting and finance professionals.
- Ranked as one of the **Top 10 U.S. Cities for Recreation and Living an Active Lifestyle** by NerdWallet.com based on recreational options, open space and community parks.
- Irvine identified as having the **Lowest Violent Crime Rate** in America for the ninth straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.

- Based upon FBI statistics on violent crime, Irvine ranked as the **Safest City** in 2012 of communities with more than 200,000 by Law Street, an online site on law and public policy.
- Ranked **Best City to Live In** by the Orange County Register's annual "The Best of Orange County."
- Named a **Bicycle Friendly Community** by the American League of Bicyclists, recognizing Irvine's support of cycling on its extensive citywide trail system.
- City Clerk Sharie Apodaca presented the City Clerk's Association of California **Award of Distinction for Voter Outreach** for outstanding efforts to increase public awareness and encourage civic participation in the election process.
- Irvine ranked third in 24/7 Wall Street's 2013 listing of **Best-Run Cities in America** based on local economy, fiscal management and quality of life measures.
- Irvine's **Jobs-to-Population Ratio** of 94.8% is No. 1 for American cities with more than 200,000 residents.
- Southern California Edison **Silver Tier Recognition** for City's energy efficiency measures in municipal operations and promotion of energy conservation.
- California Park & Recreation Society **Creating Community Through Partnerships and Service Opportunities** award for City's Keen Center for Senior Resources.

2012

- The O.C. Great Park named a **Frontline Park** by the City Parks Alliance, a national organization recognizing urban park excellence, innovation, and stewardship across the country.
- The Orange County Business Council **2012 Workforce Housing Scorecard** gave Irvine the highest cumulative ranking for O.C. cities between 2010 and 2035 in balancing jobs growth and housing supply.
- Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for City's FY2012-13 budget.
- Irvine ranked the 6th best place to live in the nation on Money Magazine's list of **Best Places to Live in America** based on strong job opportunities, great schools, low crime, quality health care and options for recreation.
- Ranked **Best City to Live In** by the Orange County Register's annual "The Best of Orange County."
- Named a **Bicycle Friendly Community** by the American League of Bicyclists.
- City Parks Alliance "**Frontline Park**" designation for urban park excellence for month of December for the Orange County Great Park.

- Forbes magazine online story ranked Irvine No. 6 among U.S. cities with the ***Happiest Young Professionals*** based on criteria including work-life balance, work environment, job resources, compensation, and growth opportunities.
- Orange Coast Magazine ***Most Whimsical Garden Award*** for the Orange County Great Park Farm + Food Lab.
- National Institute for Senior Center Excellence ***Award Winner-Senior Nutrition, Fitness and Health Category*** for City's EarthBox gardening program.
- First place ***Print Media – Best Direct Mail AdWheel Award*** from the American Public Works Association for *iShuttle* residential outreach program.
- Internet Marketing Association's 2012 Impact Award for ***Best Website Aesthetics*** for the Orange County Great Park website.
- Third place winner in the 2012 ***National Cans for Cash Recycling Challenge – Most Innovative Campaign***, with \$5,000 grant donated to Human Options.
- Irvine identified as having the ***Lowest Violent Crime Rate*** in America for the eighth straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.
- Internet Marketing Association Impact Awards: ***Best Website Aesthetics*** for the Orange County Great Park website.
- Orange County Transportation Authority's ***Diamond Award*** for "Outstanding Marketing Program" for the City's *iShuttle* program.
- ***Playful City USA*** designation from KaBoom!, a national non-profit organization promoting children's recreation and creation of more places for children to play.
- Southern California Association of Governments' ***Compass Blueprint Recognition Award*** for Irvine Business Complex Vision Project.
- National League of Cities ***Cultural Diversity Award*** second place winner for the development of creative and effective programs that improve and promote cultural diversity within the community.
- City of Irvine recognized as an ***Energy Leader*** in partnership with Southern California Edison.
- Ranked second in ***America's Best Run Cities*** by 24/7 Wall Street based on financial health, standard of living and municipal services.

2011

- Identified as ***#1 Safest City in America*** with a population over 100,000 by CQ Press in its annual publication titled "*City Crime Rankings 2011-2012: Crime in Metropolitan America.*"

- Named the **#1 Best Family-Friendly City in Orange County** for cities with over 100,000 population by Parenting OC magazine.
- Recipient of Orange County Business Council’s 2011 **Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Award - Responding to Globalization**.
- Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for City’s FY2011-12 budget.
- Irvine ranked 5th on Businessweek.com’s **Nation’s Best Cities** list based on overall quality of life. Irvine had the best schools ranking among the 50 cities on the list.
- Irvine identified as having the **Lowest Violent Crime Rate** in America for the seventh straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.
- University of California Master Gardener Program **Master Gardener “Search for Excellence” 2nd Place Award** for the O.C. Great Park Farm + Food Lab.
- Interactive Media Awards (IMA) for the O.C. Great Park Website: **Outstanding Achievement – Community** and **Outstanding Achievement – Government**.
- Ranked **Best City to Live In** by the Orange County Register’s annual “The Best of Orange County.”
- Irvine was named a **Top 100 place to Live in the U.S.** in RelocateAmerica’s 14th annual rankings. Irvine received high marks for its master-planned villages, quality of schools, property values, low crime rate, parks and open space.
- Interactive Media Council’s **Outstanding Achievement for a Community and Government Website** for the Orange County Great Park website recognizing design, content, feature functionality, usability, and technical standards.
- Irvine is ranked #1 for talent pool, #4 for economic potential and #6 for business friendliness for cities with 100,000-250,000 population on Financial Times’ Foreign Direct Investment Magazine’s **“American Cities of the Future”** list.
- American Planning Association’s Donald E. Hunter **Excellence in Economic Development Planning Award** honorable mention for the Irvine Business Complex Mixed Use Vision Plan.
- California Park and Recreation Society **Award of Excellence-Park Planning** for Bommer Canyon Community Trailhead.
- **Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award** by the National Purchasing Institute and California Association of Public Purchasing Officers.
- U.S. Conference of Mayor’s **Most Innovative Campaign** award for City’s “Cash for Cans” recycling program, with \$5,000 award donated to the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Program.

- City of Irvine recognized as an ***Energy Leader*** in partnership with Southern California Edison.
- ***Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting*** from the Government Finance Officers Association (32nd consecutive year).
- Bike to Work Week Challenge ***1st Place Award*** for most bicycle miles pledged.
- Web Marketing Association ***Standard of Excellence Award*** for City’s environmental programs website.
- Southern California Gas Company ***Certificate of Participation*** for City’s Energy Efficiency Programs, saving an estimated 14,092 therms of gas.

2010

- ***Excellence in Planning Implementation Award*** for the Irvine Business Complex (IBC) Vision Plan by Orange County Chapter of American Planning Association.
- ***Special Recognition Award*** for IBC Vision Plan by the Southern California Association of Governments Compass Blueprint program for excellence in the advancement of livability, mobility, prosperity and sustainability.
- Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada ***Distinguished Budget Presentation Award*** for City’s FY2010-11 budget.
- A ***Tree City USA***, honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for Irvine’s commitment to community forestry. Irvine has received this national designation for 21 years.
- Ranked ***Best City to Live In*** by the Orange County Register’s annual “The Best of Orange County.”
- California Park and Recreation Society ***Award of Excellence-Youth Development*** for Irvine’s Youth Wellness Committee.
- The ***Speedo Jr. National Championships***, the ***ConocoPhillips National Championships*** and the ***Mutual of Omaha Pan Pacific Championships*** – all national or international swimming competitions – were held in Irvine.
- Selected as one of the ***100 Best Communities for Young People*** by America’s Promise Alliance, for helping young people overcome challenges to succeed.
- Southern California Association of Governments (Regional) ***Compass Blueprint Awards Honorable Mention*** for the O.C. Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.
- Ranked as the top city in California on Money Magazine’s July 2010 list of ***Best Places to Live in America*** based on housing, finance and quality of life.
- ***Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award*** by the National Purchasing Institute and California Association of Public Purchasing Officers.

- ***Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting*** from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- City of Irvine recognized as an ***Energy Leader*** in partnership with Southern California Edison.
- U.S. Secretary of Defense Employer Support ***Freedom Award*** recognizing the Irvine Police Department for support of City employees in armed forces reserve and National Guard units, one of 15 cities nationwide receiving this honor.
- Ranked the ***Fifth Best City in the Nation for Business Start-ups*** by Bloomberg Businessweek.
- Irvine identified as having the ***Lowest Violent Crime Rate*** in America for the sixth straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.
- California Park and Recreation Society ***Awards of Excellence*** for Lunch Time Activities program and Financial Literacy Initiative program.
- National Cans for Cash City Recycling Challenge ***Most Innovative Campaign*** with \$5,000 award donated to Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Program.

2009

- Irvine’s city television channel (ICTV 30) awarded ***1st place for “Irvine News”*** program by National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors.
- ***2009 Excellence in Victim Services Award*** by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
- Ranked as Orange County’s ***No. 1 Best City to Live In*** by the Orange County Register.
- Irvine identified as having the ***Lowest Violent Crime Rate*** in America for the fifth straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.
- Multiple “Smarter City” national rankings by Natural Resources Defense Council for ***Recycling*** (#4), ***Standard of Living*** (#5), ***Green Building*** (#6), and ***Transportation*** (#7).
- American Planning Association (National) ***Focused Planning Issue Award*** for the O.C. Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.
- California’s top City in BusinessWeek’s annual ***Best Small Cities for Business Startups***.
- U.S. Conference of Mayor’s ***Most Innovative Campaign*** for City’s “Cash for Cans” recycling program (2nd consecutive year).

- The League of California Cities' 2009 Award for the *Advancement of Diverse Communities* to City Manager Sean Joyce.
- Childcare Connections Collaborative *Excellence in Childcare Planning Award* for policies favorable to developing additional childcare facilities within the City.
- American Institute of Architects (National) *Honor Award in Regional & Urban Design* for the O.C. Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.
- *A Tree City USA*, honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for Irvine's commitment to community forestry to help promote a healthier city.
- Irvine Station Parking Structure, honored by the *International Parking Institute* with an Award of Merit.
- American Society of Landscape Architects (National) *Professional Honor Award for Research* for the O.C. Great Park Restoration Ecology Processes to Advance Natural Landscape Design.
- *A Bicycle Friendly Community* by the American League of Bicyclists, recognizing Irvine's support of sport and transportation cycling on its extensive, citywide trail system.
- *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- American Planning Association's *Innovation in Green Community Planning Award* for Hines California Green Master Plan in the Irvine Business Complex.
- American Planning Association's *Award of Merit for Best Planning Practices* for the City's Energy Plan and leadership toward energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction, and environmental conservation.
- *Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award* by the National Purchasing Institute and California Association of Public Purchasing Officers.
- American Society of Landscape Architects (National) *Professional Honor Award for General Design* for the O.C. Great Park Observation Balloon Preview Park.
- American Public Works Association *Project of the Year* for food rescue program with Second Harvest Foodbank.

2008

- *Green California Leadership Award* for the distribution of 60,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs to Irvine residents through "A Brighter Future for Irvine" program.
- American Planning Association (O.C. & California) *Focused Planning Issue Award* for the Orange County Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.

- Ranked as *One of the Best Places to Live in America* by Money Magazine.
- State of California *Flex Your Power Award* for the City's community Energy Partnership program.
- American Public Works Association *Public Works Week Award* for the City's environmental programs website outreach.
- Web Marketing Association *Government Standard of Excellence Award* for the City's environmental programs website.
- National Cans for Cash Recycling Challenge *Most Innovative Campaign* with \$5,000 award donated to the Irvine Public Schools Foundation.
- Selected as one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People* by America's Promise Alliance, for helping young people overcome challenges to succeed.
- American Institute of Architects (California Council) *Honor Award in Regional & Urban Design* for the O.C. Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.
- Irvine identified as having the *Lowest Violent Crime Rate* in America for the fourth straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.
- *Tree City USA Award* by the Arbor Day Foundation (18th consecutive year).
- *Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award* by the National Purchasing Institute and California Association of Public Purchasing Officers.
- Named *Best Big City for Families in Orange County* by Orange County Parenting Magazine.
- Orange County Great Park selected as part of the *Sustainable Sites Initiative* by American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the United States Botanic Garden.
- Named as *One of the Best Cities to Live During a Recession* by BusinessWeek.com.
- American Society of Landscape Architects *National Honor Award for Analysis & Planning* for the O.C. Great Park Comprehensive Master Plan.
- Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California *2008 Award of Excellence* for the Culver Drive Realignment and Widening Project.
- *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* from the Government Finance Officers Association.

2007

- ***Outstanding Planning Award*** from the Orange County chapter of the American Planning Association for Affordable Housing Strategy.
- Named ***Advocate of the Year*** by the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing for efforts to promote high-quality affordable housing.
- One of the ***100 Best Communities for Young People*** by America’s Promise – Alliance for Youth.
- California Society for Ecological Restoration ***Members Award*** won by the O.C. Great Park Design Studio for Emphasis of Restoration & Scientific Educational Opportunities.
- ***Achievement Award*** by the California Parks and Recreation Society for “ReadyFitGo” program promoting a healthier Irvine.
- Irvine Animal Care Center named ***Shelter of the Year*** at the 53rd Annual Show Dogs of the Year Awards in New York City.
- ***Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award*** by the National Purchasing Institute and California Association of Public Purchasing Officers.
- Irvine identified as having the ***Lowest Violent Crime Rate*** in America based upon FBI statistics for cities with a population of more than 100,000 residents.