

City of Irvine 2017 Program Synopsis

Awards & Recognition

City of Irvine
Program Synopsis: Awards and Recognition

2017

- University of California, Irvine ranked ***7th Safest College in America*** by the National Council for Home Safety and Security. https://www.alarms.org/safest-colleges-2017/
- 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. https://www.niche.com/places-to-live/rankings/cities/best-cities/
- Irvine ranked ***7th Best Place for Hispanic Entrepreneurs*** among the 150 largest U.S. cities by the personal finance website WalletHub. https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-cities-for-hispanic-entrepreneurs/6491/
- Irvine ranked ***4th Best City for Working Parents*** by SmartAsset. https://smartasset.com/mortgage/best-cities-working-parents-2017
- Irvine ranked among ***2017 Best Cities for a Green Career*** by personal finance website, GoodCall.com. https://www.goodcall.com/data-center/2017-best-cities-green-career/
- Irvine ranked ***3rd Happiest City in the U.S.*** in a report by WalletHub. https://wallethub.com/edu/happiest-places-to-live/32619/
- Irvine ranked among ***2017 Best Cities for Cybersecurity Professionals*** in a report by personal finance website, GoodCall.com. https://www.goodcall.com/data-center/2017-best-cities-cybersecurity-professionals/
- Irvine ranked ***5th Best City to Be a Homeowner*** by SmartAsset. https://smartasset.com/mortgage/the-best-cities-to-be-a-homeowner
- Irvine ranked among ***Top 150 Cities for Millennials*** by Millennial Personal Finance. http://www.millennialpersonalfinance.com/best-cities-millennials/
- Irvine ranked ***10th Best City for Women*** by American City & County. http://americancityandcounty.com/public-safety/25-best-cities-women#slide-0-field_images-73291
- Irvine ranked ***#1 Major City in Fiscal Strength*** by The Fiscal Times. http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2017/01/09/How-Strong-Are-Your-Citys-Finances-116-US-Cities-Ranked
- 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 https://smartasset.com/mortgage/the-best-cities-for-teens

- 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 http://www.livability.com/top-10/college/10-best-college-towns/2016/ca/irvine
- Irvine's Adventure Playground at University Community Park ranked ***One of the Ten Best Playground in Orange County*** by O.C. Register http://www.ocregister.com/articles/park-722210-playground-play.html
- Irvine identified as having the ***8th Best Park System in the U.S.*** by the Trust for Public Land https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/best-city-parks-in-us-trust-for-public-land-ranking-2016.
- Irvine ranked the ***3rd Best American City for Working Parents*** by Money Magazine http://www.msn.com/en-us/money/careersandeducation/the-top-10-american-cities-for-working-parents/ss-BBryaOV?ocid=SL5JDHP#image=9
- 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 https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/mortgages/best-cities-quality-of-life-full-ranking/
- 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 https://youtu.be/3O-Frt7bbSM?list=PL3PtwVD12EJlFbqx5ls_a4hYT4NOlGaqY; www.cityofirvine.org/ictv; and https://youtu.be/VPpmNa4tccU?list=PL3PtwVD12EJlFbqx5ls_a4hYT4NOlGaqY
- 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 http://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-to-raise-a-child/
- The ***10th Most Beautifully Landscaped City Hall in the U.S.*** by LawnStarter https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/city-rankings/best-landscaped-city-halls/.
- 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 https://local.niche.com/rankings/cities/best-cities/.
- 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 http://www.evelo.com/blog/best-active-retirement-cities/.
- 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 https://wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-for-jobs/2173/#main-findings.

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 http://www.allgov.com/news/controversies/chicago-most-segregated-city-in-us-irvine-california-the-least-150509?news=856439.
- 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 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 Livibility.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 *i*Shuttle 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 *i*Shuttle 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.