



City of Irvine 2018 Program Synopsis

# Awards & Recognition





## City of Irvine

### Program Synopsis: Awards and Recognition

#### **2018**

- 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 [9<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Raise a Family](#) among the 150 largest U.S. cities by the personal finance website WalletHub.
- University of California, Irvine ranked [9<sup>th</sup> Top Public School, National Universities](#) by U.S. News & World Report.
- The Trust for Public Land ranked Irvine's park system the [7<sup>th</sup> Best Park System in the U.S.](#) based on acreage, facilities and investment, and access.
- University of California, Irvine ranked [7<sup>th</sup> Safest College in America](#) by the National Council for Home Safety and Security.
- Irvine ranked [10<sup>th</sup> Best City to Live in America](#) by Niche.com, based on crime, public schools, cost of living, job opportunities, and local amenities.
- Irvine ranked [7<sup>th</sup> Best Place for Hispanic Entrepreneurs](#) among the 150 largest U.S. cities by the personal finance website WalletHub.
- Irvine ranked [4<sup>th</sup> 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 [3<sup>rd</sup> 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 [5<sup>th</sup> Best City to Be a Homeowner](#) by SmartAsset.
- Irvine ranked among [Top 150 Cities for Millennials](#) by Millennial Personal Finance.
- Irvine ranked [10<sup>th</sup> 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 [\*\*8<sup>th</sup> Best Park System in the U.S.\*\*](#) by the Trust for Public Land.
- Irvine ranked the **3<sup>rd</sup> Best American City for Working Parents** by Money Magazine
- Irvine rated **9<sup>th</sup> Most Family Friendly City** in California by Estatefy Real Estate, including 3<sup>rd</sup> for schools, 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest crime rate, 10<sup>th</sup> shortest commute, 10<sup>th</sup> most affordable housing marketing and 11<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Place Star Awards and One 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 [\*\*4<sup>th</sup> 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 [\*\*10<sup>th</sup> 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 **1<sup>st</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 **11<sup>th</sup> 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 **7<sup>th</sup> 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 ***3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> straight year based upon FBI statistics for cities with more than 100,000 residents.
- Irvine identified as having the ***4<sup>th</sup> 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 ***28<sup>th</sup> 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 ***6<sup>th</sup> 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 ***11<sup>th</sup> 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 ***4<sup>th</sup> 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 ***4<sup>th</sup> 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 ***3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **5<sup>th</sup> 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **35<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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" 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (32<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year).

- Bike to Work Week Challenge **1<sup>st</sup> 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 ***1<sup>st</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (18<sup>th</sup> 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.