



City of Irvine 2022 Program Synopsis

Awards & Recognition



City of Irvine
Program Synopsis: Awards and Recognition

2022

- For the seventh consecutive year, the City of Irvine park system has been ranked among the **top 10 in the nation by the [Trust for Public Land](#)**. Irvine ranked eighth in the country and second in California in the national nonprofit's annual ParkScore Index, which is recognized as the national gold-standard comparison of park systems across the 100 most populated cities in the United States. The index is based on factors including park access, acreage, investment, and amenities.
- *WalletHub.com* has ranked the City of Irvine as #3 on their list for **[Best City to Raise a Family](#)**. WalletHub conducted their study based on metrics that consider essential family dynamics, such as the cost of housing, the quality of local school and health care systems, and the opportunities for fun and recreation.
- The City of Irvine's Great Park has been named a winner of the **[2022 National Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse Award](#)** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These awards highlight the accomplishments of federal agencies, states, Tribes, local partners, and developers in restoring and reusing contaminated land at federal facilities.
- The City of Irvine's Community Services Department has been honored with two awards for the California Parks & Recreation Society (CPRS) Celebrating Excellence 2021 program. The Irvine Global Village Festival received the ***Creating Community Award of Excellence*** for its 20-year history of bringing our diverse community together. In addition, The City's Art Beat catalog received the ***Marketing & Communications Award of Excellence*** for its strategic re-design to better serve customers.
- The Community Services Youth Outreach team has been recognized with a ***California Park & Recreation Society Parks Make Life Better Award for District 10***. The team's adapted virtual Youth Action Team in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was recognized as a program that has made a substantial and meaningful impact on the community and the members it serves.
- Irvine is 2022's **[5th Happiest City in America](#)** according to a recent study from the personal finance outlet *WalletHub.com*. The study evaluated cities across three key dimensions of emotional and physical well-being; income and employment; and community and environment. More than 180 of the largest U.S. cities were included in this study.
- Irvine is the **[4th greenest city in America](#)**, according to a recent study from the personal finance outlet *WalletHub.com*. WalletHub compared the 100 largest cities across 28 key "green" indicators ranging from greenhouse-gas emissions

per capita to number of smart-energy policies and initiatives to green job opportunities.

- The City of Irvine has received two *Helen Putnam Awards for Excellence* from the League of California Cities. The City of Irvine received two awards for its wildfire preparedness efforts — specifically its updated all-hazard evacuation map — and IrvineREADY!, the City’s web-based platform that allows planning, building, and engineering applications to be submitted online. The Helen Putnam Award for Excellence program recognizes outstanding achievements by California's 482 cities and seeks to recognize and promote the outstanding efforts and innovative solutions by city governments.
- For the 16th consecutive year, the City of Irvine is the [Safest City](#) of its size for Part I violent crime, according to FBI data for calendar year 2020. Information released shows Irvine has the lowest rate of violent crime per capita of any city in the nation with a population of 250,000 or more. The FBI’s Annual Uniform Crime Report measures Part I crime, which includes murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, auto theft, and arson.
- Irvine has been ranked No. 10 in *Commercial Café’s* list of [Best Cities for Working Remotely in the U.S.](#) The ranking took into account the internet speeds, assortment of restaurants, crime rates, and affordability for each city to compile the ranking.
- The City of Irvine park system has been ranked 7th in the nation by the Trust for Public Land in their annual [ParkScore Index](#) which ranks the nation’s 100 largest cities based on factors including park access, acreage, investment, and amenities. Irvine is the second-ranked city in California, and this is the sixth consecutive year the City’s parks have ranked in the top 10 nationally. Irvine earned a perfect score in parkland percent of city area, the number of basketball hoops per 10,000 residents, and the number of recreation/senior centers per 20,000 residents.
- Congratulations to the City of Irvine’s Purchasing division for receiving the prestigious National Procurement Institute’s [Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award](#) (AEP) for the 16th year in a row. This national award recognizes organizational excellence in public procurement. Awardees demonstrate high levels of innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity and leadership. The continuously evolving AEP criteria are designed to measure state-of-the-art public procurement best practices.
- Irvine is the [Best City for Leading an Active Lifestyle](#) according to the website STORAGECafe. The ranking after close analysis of 18 key metrics, including the ability to walk and bike to locations, the number of gyms in each town, and a large amount of community amenities.
- The 2020 Irvine Global Village Festival has been recognized with a [Thumbs Up Award](#) from the California/Nevada Festival & Events Association (CalFest). The

award showcases events that exhibited resourcefulness in staging events in pandemic conditions. For the festival's 19th year in 2020, City of Irvine staff created a mix of modified in-person events, online experiences, and at-home activities to bring the community together and continue the City tradition. This effort was recognized by CalFest with an award to “applaud new and seasoned events for their ability to pivot and entertain audiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

- The City of Irvine has been ranked as the **3rd Best City to Raise a Family** in a 2021 study from the personal finance outlet WalletHub.com. WalletHub compared more than 180 U.S. cities based on criteria that consider essential family dynamics such as the cost of housing, local school quality, and recreation opportunities.
- The City of Irvine in 2021 has once again been designated as a **Bicycle Friendly Community at the Silver level** by the League of American Bicyclists. This designation means Irvine is working to create safer streets and better bicycling for everyone by improving bikeways and remaining innovating to ensure the joy of biking is safe and accessible to everyone. The City of Irvine has over 364 miles of on-street and off-street bikeways connecting residents to nearby offices, shopping, entertainment, and parks.
- According to a recent survey by WalletHub, Irvine has been ranked as the **#1 place to start a business in California**. WalletHub compared the city's business environment, access to resources, and business costs to determine the best cities to launch a business.
- The City of Irvine's Geographic Information System (GIS) team has been ranked No. 2 by PSD Citywide in their awards of the **top 25 most mature public sector Geographic Information System programs in North America** based on findings from the Geospatial Maturity Index Survey. The City is the first U.S. participant to earn a spot in the top three GIS programs in the history of the survey.
- Irvine has been ranked #5 on Niche's list of **Cities with the Best Public Schools in America** based on the grades of all the public schools in the districts that serve the Irvine area, and the amount of students which they serve.
- In Niche's list of **Best Cities to Raise a Family in America**, Irvine ranked as #10 on the list. This study takes into account key factors, such as the quality of local schools, safety, affordability, and access to family amenities, such as parks, libraries, cultural activities, and family-oriented activities.
- The City of Irvine has been ranked in the top 15 cities in WalletHub's list of **Happiest Cities in the U.S.** To compile the data, WalletHub compared more than 180 of the largest U.S. cities across 31 key indicators of happiness, including depression rates, income-growth rate, and average leisure time spent per day.

- LawnStarter has ranked the City of Irvine as #1 on their list of [*Best Cities to Own an Electric Car*](#). LawnStarter compared the 200 biggest U.S. cities across 11 metrics, such as average parking rate, number of electric vehicle charging stations, and electricity cost.
- The City of Irvine has ranked [*#8 on WalletHub's list of Healthiest Cities in America*](#), and tied for third among cities with the highest percentage of physically active adults nationwide. To create the survey, WalletHub took into account indicators of health, such as medical visits, fruit and vegetable consumption, and the number of COVID-19 cases.
- For the fourth straight year, the City of Irvine in 2020 ranked [*No. 1 in fiscal strength across*](#) the country by Truth in Accounting – a think tank that calculates how a City would fare financially after all the bills were paid. Irvine was given a surplus score of \$4,100 per taxpayer, earning the distinction as the most fiscally healthy large city in the United States.
- The City of Irvine has been ranked in the top 20 in LawnStarter's list of [*2021's Best Cities for Living Without a Car*](#). The ranking was based on methodology based on scores regarding accessibility options, commute methods, safety, and climate data. The City of Irvine was ranked as #17, and scored particularly well in the safety and climate category.

2020

- The City of Irvine has been ranked the [*Safest City of its size for Part I violent crime*](#), according to FBI data for calendar year 2019. Information released shows Irvine has the lowest rate of violent crime per capita of any city in the nation with a population of 250,000 or more. This is the 15th consecutive year Irvine has had the lowest per capita violent crime rate for its size.
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- Irvine has been ranked #4 on WalletHub's list of [*2021 Best College Towns & Cities in America*](#). Wallethub compared more than 400 U.S. cities based on 30 key indicators of academic, social, and economic opportunities for students, and ranked each city based on data regarding the cost of living, quality of higher education, and crime rate.
- The City of Irvine has been ranked 2020's [*2nd Best City for Veterans*](#) in a study by the personal finance outlet WalletHub.com. The study considered and ranked cities by elements including employment factors like job growth and unemployment rates; economy factors, like affordable housing and educational opportunities; and quality of life factors such as family-friendliness, and available military discounts.
- The City of Irvine was presented with the Greater Irvine Chamber's [*Community Impact Award*](#) for our leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City was

recognized for its mask distribution, rental assistance grants, COVID-19 testing, and community outreach, among other instances.

- For the 15th consecutive year, the City of Irvine’s Purchasing Division has received the prestigious National Procurement Institute’s [*Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award \(AEP\)*](#). This national award recognizes organizational excellence in public procurement. Awardees demonstrate high levels of innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity and leadership. The continuously evolving AEP criteria are designed to measure state-of-the-art public procurement best practices. The City of Irvine is one of only 69 cities nationwide to receive the award.
- The City of Irvine was voted “[*Best City to Live in*](#)” by *Orange County Register* readers in the 27th annual *Best of Orange County* publication. This is the fifth consecutive year Irvine has won this award.
- The University of California, Irvine has been ranked #8 in *U.S. News & World Report’s* list of “[*Best Colleges*](#)” among the nation’s public universities. Rating are derived from 15 diverse indicators of academic quality; 1,922 institutions were considered for the 2021 report. This is the sixth consecutive year the university has placed in the top 10.
- The City of Irvine has been awarded the inaugural *Local Recognition of Rights Award* by the [*Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights*](#) for the City Council’s adoption of [*Ordinance 19-17*](#), which bans smoking in all public places within the City. The award program recognizes local governments across the U.S. which adopt laws that expand civil and environmental rights at the municipal level.
- SmartAsset has ranked Irvine among the [*top 25 bike-friendly cities nationwide*](#). The rankings were based on data for the 100 largest U.S. cities on metrics such as the percentage of commuters who bike to work, bicyclist fatalities, and miles of protected lanes.
- Irvine has been ranked #17 on the list of [*most pet-friendly cities in America*](#). Irvine was awarded the ranking based on our availability of pet-friendly dining, and our 16,000 acres of parkland, sports fields, and dedicated open space. The rankings were based on criteria set by Stacker with data metrics evaluated by WalletHub.
- The City of Irvine has been nationally recognized by LendEDU for having one of the [*highest percentages of solar-powered homes in the U.S.*](#) with .27% of homes powered by the sun. Irvine ranks #1,095 in the country and #384 in the State of California, making Irvine one of the most eco-friendly places in the country.

- The American Fitness Index has ranked Irvine as [*America's 7th Fittest City*](#). The 2020 Fitness Index evaluated America's 100 largest cities using 33 health behaviors, chronic diseases, and community infrastructure indicators.
- Personal finance website Money.com has ranked UC Irvine among the [*Top 10 Colleges in California*](#). The rankings were based on scores for affordability, quality of education, and student outcomes, such as graduation rate and average salary within three years of graduating. UC Irvine graduates make an average of \$57,700 within three years of graduating, and the school holds an 85% graduation rate.
- Irvine ranked [*4th Happiest City in America*](#) by WalletHub, a personal finance website. The finding is based on 31 relevant metrics that were grouped into three dimensions: emotional and physical well-being, work environment, and community and environment.
- The City of Irvine was recently awarded the [*Integrated Pest Management Achievement Award*](#) by the California Environmental protection agency Department of Pesticide Regulation for our efforts to control pests in a non-toxic manner. The citywide pest management policy prioritizes the City's use of organic means to control pests in all City properties, while limiting the use of pesticides where the community gathers.
- For the second year in a row, the City of Irvine's Community Services Department has been selected to receive the *California Park & Recreation Society Marketing and Communications Award of Excellence*. The award comes as a result of the redesign of the Orange County Great Park website and social media platforms.
- The City of Irvine's 2019-20 Operating Budget has earned the *Excellence Award* from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers. This award demonstrates the highest professional standard for operating budgets, and recognizes the criteria set by the Society in meeting overall budgeting excellence.
- The City of Irvine has been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 27th consecutive year. The award, which recognizes the City's budgetary achievements for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, represents the highest form of recognition in government budgeting for a municipal entity.
- For the third consecutive year, the City of Irvine has been ranked [*No. 1 in fiscal strength by Truth in Accounting*](#). Analyzing how America's largest 75 cities would fare financially after all the bills are paid, Irvine was given a surplus score of \$4,100 per taxpayer.

2019

- The personal finance website WalletHub has ranked Irvine as the [*#1 safest city in California*](#). Comparing 182 cities across the nation, WalletHub analyzed data based on each city’s community safety, their risk of natural disasters, and their financial safety score, which takes into account each city’s record of unemployment, poverty, and foreclosure rates, credit scores, and debt-to-income ratios for their population.
- The City of Irvine has been selected as a [*2019 Beacon Sustainability Spotlight award winner*](#) by the Institute for Local Government. The Beacon Program supports and recognizes voluntary action by local governments throughout California to address climate change, promote energy innovation, and create more sustainable communities. The City was recognized for our efforts to reduce electricity and natural gas consumption at City facilities and was also awarded the top platinum level award in the Sustainability Best Practices category for our environmental programs.
- For the sixth year in a row, Heritage Park has earned the title of Best Playground by *Parenting OC* in their “[*Best of OC Awards*](#).” Heritage Park was noted having multiple playgrounds, a splash pad, barbecues, and picnic tables that span over 35 acres.
- Irvine is ranked the [*#1 safest U.S. City*](#) by 24/7 Wall St. The ranking considered cities among 100,000 people and based the rankings on the FBI’s latest crime stats and demographics figures such as population growth, income, and poverty.
- Irvine remains the Safest City of 250,000 or more in the nation for the 14th consecutive year, based upon FBI statistics for violent crime.
- Irvine was voted “[*Best City to Live in*](#)” for the fourth consecutive year by *Orange County Register* readers in the 26th annual *Best of Orange County* publication.
- Irvine was ranked #3 in list of 2019’s [*Greenest Cities in America*](#). The study, conducted by the personal finance website, WalletHub, considered “green” indicators such as greenhouse-gas emissions, smart-energy policies, and green job opportunities.
- The University of California, Irvine has been ranked by *Money*, formerly known as *Money Magazine*, as #1 on its 2019-2020 list of the nations “[*Best Colleges*](#).” The ranking took into account data including tuition fees, family borrowing, and career earnings.
- Irvine ranked #3 as [*Best Places to Raise a Family*](#) by the personal finance website WalletHub based on scores for family fun, health and safety, education and child care, affordability, and socio-economic criteria.
- The national nonprofit The Trust for Public Land ranked Irvine’s park system [*6th best park system in the United States*](#). The methodology used for

2019 includes the main criteria of park access; park size and investment; and popular amenities.

- The City of Irvine Human Resources & Innovation Department received the Henry Reining Outstanding Organization Award for the many initiatives focused on wellness and employee engagement. This award honors contributions to good government and improved quality of life in Southern California.
- The City of Irvine Fiscal Services Division, for the 40th consecutive year, was presented with the [*Award of Financial Reporting Achievement*](#) by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its [*Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*](#) for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018.
- *Inside Irvine*, the City's quarterly community magazine, received the Excellence in Public Information and Communications Award from the California Association of Public Information Officials.
- [*Irvine Ranked No. 1 in Latest Fiscal Strength Survey*](#) for the second consecutive year.
- The City of Irvine has been named 2019's [*2nd Happiest City in America*](#) by the personal finance website WalletHub. The distinction considered factors such as emotional and physical well-being, income and employment, and community and environment when ranking each city.
- Public Safety's Office of Emergency Management and the Public Works Department have been recognized by the National Weather Service (NWS) for the citywide preparedness of the [*NWS's "StormReady" program*](#). The program is a voluntary initiative designed to help communities save lives, protect property, and enhance community resiliency during all types of severe weather.
- The Irvine Police Department was awarded the *Case of the Year Award* for their Orange County Golden State Killer Task Force. The award was given by the Orange County Homicide Investigators Association. The task force was honored for their tireless work which was completed in order to bring justice to the "Golden State Killer," also known as "The East Area Rapist," who is accused of killing 12 women and raping 45 in the 1970s and 1980s.
- The City of Irvine was selected as the 2018 [*California Park & Recreation Society*](#) (CPRS) [*Marketing and Communications Award of Excellence*](#) recipient for the "Your Irvine" marketing campaign. Through this statewide award, the City has been recognized for the highest achievement in promoting and increasing public awareness of its parks, facilities, recreation, and leisure services programs.
- The City of Irvine's Budget Office was awarded national and state awards: The national award came from the [*Distinguished Budget Presentation Award*](#) by the

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The award represents the highest form of recognition in government budgeting for a municipal entity. In addition, the City received the [Excellence Award for Fiscal Year 2018-19 Operating Budget](#) from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers.

2018

- The City of Irvine has received the *Rose Award* from the Orange County Taxpayers Association for its efforts to protect taxpayers. The City was awarded this honor for placing Measure C on the ballot in the June 5 election, making Irvine compliant with Proposition 62, which requires 2/3 vote of the City Council to propose taxes.
- The City of Irvine was awarded for its “exemplary Information Technology (IT) practices” by MISAC, the Municipal Information Systems Association of California.
- Irvine remains the Safest City of 250,000 or more in the nation for the 13th consecutive year, based upon FBI statistics for violent crime.
- Irvine was voted “[Best City to Live in](#)” for the third consecutive year by *Orange County Register* readers in the 25th annual *Best of Orange County* publication.
- In 2018, IPD’s Office of Emergency Management developed a first-of-its kind Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program delivered entirely in the Mandarin language. IPD received an award for this effort from the California Emergency Services Association. The team was also asked to present on the program at the National CERT Conference in summer 2018.
- Irvine ranked #27 overall among 300 U.S. cities for [Best Real Estate Markets](#). The ranking was prepared by WalletHub, a personal finance website, based on factors such as housing market attractiveness and economic strength.
- Irvine ranked #2 as [Best Places to Raise a Family](#) by the personal finance website WalletHub based on scores for family fun, health and safety, education and child care, affordability, and socio-economic criteria.
- Irvine is 10th on the list of [50 Safest College Towns in America](#). The rankings compiled by SafeWise, a professional review and comparison website, are based on the most recent FBI crime data.
- Irvine ranked #10 as the [Most Pet-Friendly Cities in America](#) by the personal finance website WalletHub based on our outdoor pet-friendliness and pet health & wellness scores.

- The national nonprofit The Trust for Public Land ranked Irvine’s park system [10th best park system](#) in the United States. The methodology used for 2018 includes the main criteria of park access; park size and investment; and popular amenities.
- 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 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

- Irvine remains the Safest City of 250,000 or more in the nation, based upon FBI statistics for violent crime.
- 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.
- A *Tree City USA*, honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for Irvine's commitment to community forestry to help promote a healthier city.
- 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

- Irvine remains the Safest City of 250,000 or more in the nation, based on FBI statistics for violent crime.
- 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
- A *Tree City USA*, honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for Irvine's commitment to community forestry to help promote a healthier city
- 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.
- A ***Tree City USA***, honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for Irvine's commitment to community forestry to help promote a healthier city.
- 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.
- A **Tree City USA**, honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for Irvine’s commitment to community forestry to help promote a healthier 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.
- A ***Tree City USA***, honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for Irvine’s commitment to community forestry to help promote a healthier city.
- 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.
- A **Tree City USA**, honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for Irvine's commitment to community forestry to help promote a healthier city.
- 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.
- A ***Tree City USA***, honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for Irvine’s commitment to community forestry to help promote a healthier city.
- 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.