



MEDIA RELEASE

Desert Recreation District receives \$4.5 million Grant for Thermal Community Park Project

Funds for the Park, already in the Design Stage, will help Propel the Project to Construction

Indio, CA (December 9, 2021) – The California State Parks’ Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program has awarded Desert Recreation District \$4,500,000 for the Thermal Community Park project. The grant is part of a new round of awards that were funded by \$153 million approved by the California Legislature in the 2021-'22 state budget and \$395.3 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), according to the California Department of Parks and Recreation website. A complete list of grant awardees can be seen at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29939.

The Thermal Community Park is a 10-acre site designed by local residents with the assistance of Desert Recreation District and Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI). It will be the first community park in Thermal and is centrally located so outdoor recreation and programming is easily accessible to all residents.

Desert Recreation District’s General Manger, Kevin Kalman, said “we are thrilled that the Thermal Park project was selected, and we are grateful to all of our partners for their hard work to get the Park to this point.” Kalman went on to say, “The Thermal community has been very patient as we have been working to amass the funds needed to develop the park. They created the vision for the park, and we are excited to turn that vision into reality. Desert Recreation District is also at-the-ready to assist our partners at the Cities of Indio, Coachella and Cathedral City who also received grants to further enhance the parks and recreation system throughout the Coachella Valley.”



The competitive grant program from which this award came creates new parks and new recreation opportunities in underserved communities across California as part of Governor Newsom’s “Outdoors for All” initiative to enable all Californians, regardless of where they live or financial status, access to parks and open space.

An advocate of the park projects in the often-underserved eastern Coachella valley, Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez stated, “I look forward to working with the Desert Recreation District and the Thermal community to get this done for the community, and I thank the State of California, Governor Gavin Newsom and his ‘Outdoors for All’ initiative, and especially our parks champion, State Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, for this amazing news!”

The Thermal Community Park is the third community park Desert Recreation District has developed in recent years, with the North Shore Community Park opening in the Fall of 2018, and Oasis del Desierto (Oasis of the Desert) having just celebrated its grand opening on October 1 of this year.

About Desert Recreation District

[Desert Recreation District](#) (DRD) is the largest park and recreation district in California, covering over 1,800 square miles and serving more than 380,000 residents throughout the greater Coachella Valley. In addition to managing, maintaining, and assisting in maintaining more than 30 parks and recreation facilities and creating and delivering quality programs, services, and classes, thanks to strategic partnerships we have been able to bring essential services such as Rapid-Response Food Distributions, COVID-19 Testing, Flu Shots, a Distance-Learning Program and more to Valley residents. This community collaborative approach allows us to not only provide barrier-free and safe recreational activities, but to also bring critical resources where they are needed, thereby helping to create stronger communities and healthier citizens.

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