

Orangevale Recreation and Park District Formation (Written in 1989)

The Orangevale Recreation and Park District was formed in 1983 by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, on 21 May, 1987 voted to approve Orangevale Recreation and Park District's request to be an independent District. The change of designation from dependent to independent district was on the November 1987 General Election ballot, and the new status became effective January 4, 1988.

One of the reasons for the District's formation was Orangevale's unique character. Although considered a part of Sacramento's urban residential area, Orangevale differs from other communities in the northeastern portion of the County in that its Community Plan is based on the retention of large areas in agricultural usage and zoning. The surrounding communities – Folsom, Fair Oaks, and Citrus Heights – plan ultimately to phase out agricultural usage in favor of residential development.

This fundamental difference in long-range planning objective is a reflection of the Orangevale lifestyle. For example, the community has one of the largest horse populations per capita of any area in California. Therefore, horses should be considered in recreation planning not only in terms of facilities needed but as alternatives to organized activities. Orangevale's pattern of recreation use is in some ways quite different from that of surrounding urban areas. The northern half of the District especially has large areas of undeveloped natural open space which provide leisure and recreation opportunities. The semi-rural nature of the District also affects programs and facilities planning, since residents' leisure time priorities differ somewhat from those of residents of high-density urban areas.

History of Orangevale Recreation and Park District

In the early 1960's park and recreation services in the Orangevale area were provided by the County Parks Department. On January 3, 1962, however, the Board of Supervisors created Community Service Area Number 5 (CSA#5) on recommendation of an ad hoc citizens committee studying the reorganization of park districts and CSA's in the County. CSA #5 was staffed by the County Parks Department acting at the direction of an advisory board of area residents. It was intended to provide a basic level of recreation services until the area's population density was such that it could support a recreation district.

The boundaries of CSA #5 were substantially similar to that of the current District: the Placer County line to the north; the City of Folsom to the east; Fair Oaks Boulevard to the west; and for the most part Madison Avenue to the south. The CSA included approximately thirteen square miles, lapping over into the Citrus Heights planning area.

The first Orangevale Community Plan was initiated in 1968 by the County Planning Department in conjunction with a 24-member citizen's advisory committee and adopted by the Board of Supervisors on July 1, 1970. It recognized three methods of providing a Governmental entity for park services and financing. One was to annex Orangevale to the City of Folsom. This was opposed because the community would lose its identity. A second alternative, creating a separate new park district, was not considered economically feasible given the existing population base in 1970. The third option, of annexing CSA #5 to an adjacent park district, was recommended, and the Citrus Heights District was suggested as the appropriate district.

In 1970 the Board of Supervisors, acting on this recommendation, established the Sunrise Recreation and Park District from CSA #5, CSA #6 (Foothill Farms), Citrus Heights Recreation and Park District and a small portion of the Del Paso Recreation and Park District located north of Madison Avenue. Sunrise administered park services and facilities in the Orangevale area for thirteen years.

On April 25, 1983, by Resolution 83-435. The Board of Supervisors created the Orangevale Municipal Advisory Council to advise the Board on community services and to have active responsibility for parks and recreation. For this purpose the Board, acting as ex-officio directors of both the Fair Oaks and Sunrise Recreation and Park Districts, adopted resolutions to reorganize portions of the two districts into a successor -- Orangevale Recreation and Park District. This District was approved by the Board in concept on August 16, 1983 by Resolution 83-1084 under California Public Resource Code Section 5780. The Municipal Advisory council acted as the Orangevale Recreation and Park Board and Administrators of the District operations, but the Board of Supervisors was the official governing body of the then dependent park district.

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