



Fontana park design garners four awards

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FONTANA - The city's newest attraction has been recognized as one of the state's best-designed regional parks.

Corona-based BMLA Landscape Architecture, which designed Fontana Park, earned three awards of excellence and one award for achievement from the California Parks and Recreation Society's 2008 Awards Committee.

Awards of excellence include:

First place - Facility Design/Extreme Sports, for its skate park.

First place - Facility Design/Community Centers, for the 43,000-square-foot Jessie Turner Health and Fitness Center.

First place - Community Park Planning.

The company's achievement award was a second-place honor for design of the Aquatic Center, which features a 14-lane collegiate-size pool and a splash area with two water slides.

Baxter Miller, president of the company, said Tuesday the vision for the park's design over the course of five years was to make a statement

about the city of Fontana.

"You want to do something you can be proud of as a community, not just as a designer," Miller said.

The committee received 231 award nominations. In December, they announced 46 awards of excellence, 22 achievement awards and a handful of professional and service awards across six categories.

Winners will receive their awards at an industry conference in March.

About 30,000 visitors attended the 40-acre park's grand opening late last year.

The park cost an estimated \$61.5 million to construct. Maintenance and programs at the park will cost the city about \$2 million a year to operate, according to officials.

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