

**CITY OF WHITTIER NEWS RELEASE
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CONTACT: Jim Kurkowski, Director of Parks, (562) 464-3375

Whittier Greenway Trail Awarded CPRS Award of Excellence

The Whittier Greenway Trail has been recognized by the California Parks and Recreation Society during its 62nd annual awards program last Friday, March 12, 2010. The Greenway Trail won top honors in the "Specialty Park" category for all California cities in the same population category. Mayor Bob Henderson was on hand to receive the award, accompanied by City staff from Parks and Community Services.

The Award of Excellence recognizes planning of outdoor park and recreation spaces that promotes participation in recreational experiences, strengthens community image and sense of place, strengthens safety and security, increases cultural unity and protects environmental resources.

The Whittier Greenway Trail was dedicated in January 2009 and has been used extensively by residents walking, riding bicycles, and jogging. The Trail was constructed on an abandoned railroad right-of-way using transportation, air quality and parks funds.

"The Greenway Trail, while providing a scenic greenbelt area through the center of Whittier, also benefits the City by alleviating traffic congestion and improving air quality," said Bob Henderson, Mayor and member of the City Council's Greenway Trail Subcommittee.

Mayor Pro Tem Greg Nordbak noted that "the Trail provides a safe and pleasant alternative pathway for our active residents. I encourage those who aren't yet active to get out and walk or bike the Greenway. Remember that pet owners can walk their dogs on a leash along the Trail."

"The Greenway Trail is a wonderful asset for us," City Council Member and Greenway Trail Subcommittee member Owen Newcomer said. "Not only is it a pleasant, safe and convenient way for walkers and bike riders to get around town, throughout the Trail, Whittier's history is celebrated in a way that can be seen and appreciated by everyone."

City Council Member Cathy Warner commented that "It is gratifying that families are using the Trail to reconnect with each other in the afternoons and evenings after school and work. There seems to be a real sense of community among regular Trail users."

"The Trail has become one of the most popular destinations in Whittier," said Council Member Joe Vinatieri. "Our family uses it all the time and we hope that the health benefits and just plain fun of being on the Trail will be experienced by many others".

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