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Take Your Best Shot, Orinda City photo contest celebrates July as "Parks Make Life Better Month"

By Laurie Snyder

WHEREAS, California's residents value their local parks and recreation services, as they provide access to the serenity and inspiration of nature, outdoor spaces, and places for play and exercise; facilities for directed and self-directed recreation; activities that facilitate social connections, human development, the arts, and lifelong learning; and positive alternatives for youth that help lower crime and mischief.... - California Assembly Concurrent Resolution 50, June 14, 2013

The serenity and inspiration of nature - that says it all about living in Orinda. A truly special place where the built environment co-exists harmoniously with redwoods and old growth oak trees, there is also plenty of open space for bicycling, ambling or full-on hiking. Parks located in the heart of the city are also frequented by walkers, as well as by bibliophiles engrossed in their latest tomes and moms helping eager tots take flight on nearby swings.

In recognition of this important role played by open spaces in the lives of Orindans, the Parks and Recreation Department has launched a contest to help locals show the world why they love their city. Orindans of all ages are encouraged to submit photographs that show how Orinda parks are making life better for residents and the community as a whole.

Photographs will be judged by a panel of representatives from the Orinda Library, city government, Orinda Community Center Auxiliary, and other organizations. The contest is being co-sponsored by the Orinda News. Category winners will each receive a \$25 prize, and the photographer of the best overall shot will win \$50. Photos received may be used for display at city facilities or in promotional materials, including the city's website or activity guides.

The Rules

Professional photographers may only enter work in the professional category. Amateurs are welcome and strongly encouraged to participate. Multiple photo submissions are welcome - but only one image may be entered per category: Play, Nature, Exercise, Positive Spaces, Gathering Places, Forever - Valued Today and Always.

Images must be taken within Orinda's city limits, and each shot must be submitted in digital format (300 dpi minimum resolution; high resolution preferred), and accompanied by a completed contest entry form, which is available online at: www.cityoforinda.org.

Images that have been altered significantly will not be accepted. Photographers are responsible for securing permission to use images of any individuals in their submitted works from those individuals prior to submission. Images larger than 10 MB should be placed on CD or DVD and mailed to: Orinda Parks and Recreation Department, Parks Make Life Better Photo Contest, 28 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563. Smaller images may be emailed to OrindaParksRec@cityoforinda.org. For additional rules, visit the city's website. For questions, call: (925) 254-2445. Deadline: Aug. 9.

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[back](#)

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