



LIONS PARK WAS REIMAGINED AS A BOLD, AVIATION-INSPIRED DESTINATION WHERE THOUGHTFUL DESIGN, INCLUSIVE PLAY, AND COMMUNITY HERITAGE COME TOGETHER TO CREATE ONE OF COSTA MESA'S MOST IMAGINATIVE PUBLIC SPACES.



LION PARK PLAYGROUND

Costa Mesa, CA
June 2022
1XX square feet

PROJECT SUMMARY

Lions Park in Costa Mesa was revitalized into an imaginative, aviation-themed destination known locally as “Airplane Park.” Designed by David Volz Design and built by Handy Industrial, the project blends history with modern play value. The upgraded 10-acre space now offers inclusive play areas, open lawns, and improved recreational amenities, creating a vibrant community hub that supports families, youth, and daily civic activity.



*THROUGH SCULPTURAL FORMS,
STRATEGIC SURFACING, AND A
DISTINCTIVE THEMATIC VISION, THE
REDESIGNED PARK ELEVATES
EVERYDAY PLAY INTO AN IMMERSIVE,
HIGH-DESIGN EXPERIENCE THAT
ENGAGES FAMILIES AND ENRICHES THE
SURROUNDING CIVIC CAMPUS.*

UNIQUE CHALLENGES & CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

Reimagining a beloved historic park required balancing nostalgia with the needs of a growing and diverse community. One challenge involved integrating a bold aviation theme—reflecting Costa Mesa’s ties to nearby airfields—while ensuring the space met current standards for safety, accessibility, and inclusive play. The design team incorporated topography changes, sculptural forms, and play features that encourage climbing, exploring, and multi-sensory engagement. Durable surfacing solutions were used strategically to support high-traffic zones and maintain long-term safety compliance. Additional challenges included designing for both structured and unstructured play, creating shaded gathering areas, and preserving openness for community events. These thoughtful adaptations resulted in a cohesive, imaginative space that feels both timeless and contemporary.

PARTNERSHIP

Close collaboration between the City of Costa Mesa, David Volz Design, and Handy Industrial ensured the project achieved its design and community goals. Each partner contributed essential expertise—visioning, technical precision, and construction quality—to create a durable, engaging public space. Their teamwork maintained alignment on safety, accessibility, and long-term performance, resulting in a revitalized park that reflects shared commitment and community pride.

COMMUNITY RECEPTION

Residents have warmly embraced the renewed Lions Park, especially the aviation-themed play elements that captivate young children. Families appreciate the shaded seating, open lawns, and accessible pathways that support casual gatherings and everyday use. The park’s proximity to the library and civic buildings has increased foot traffic and made it a more active community destination. Visitors consistently highlight the park’s improved safety, creativity, and welcoming atmosphere.