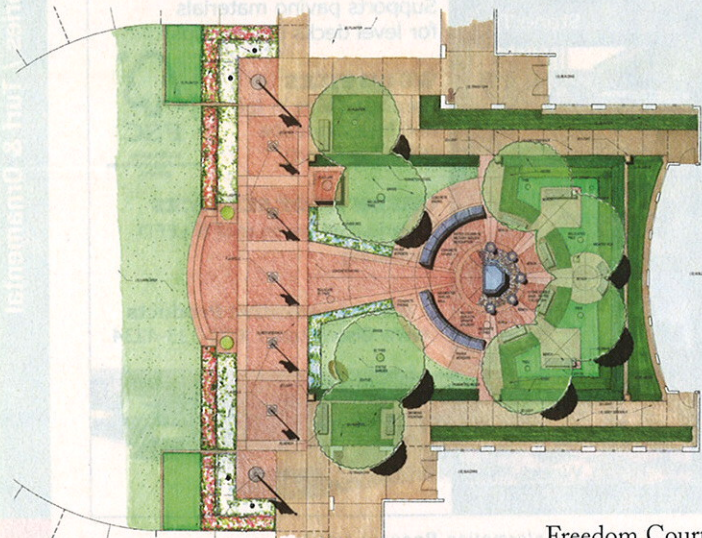


FREEDOM COURTYARD AT CENTRAL PARK RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CALIF

By Robert J. Mueting, RJM Design Group PHOTOS COURTESY OF RACHELLE CANGIANO

Robert Mueting, principal landscape architect at RJM Design Group, Inc. and George Wiens, principal architect at WLC Architects, represented the two firms who donated their services for the Veterans/Armed Forces Reflection Area known as Freedom Courtyard at Central Park in Rancho Cucamonga, California. The conceptual plan received a round of applause, at the city council meeting in fall 2010. The master plan is based on residents' ideas generated at a June workshop. The preliminary design for the future Veterans/Armed Forces Reflection Area project was unveiled at the city's 2010 Veterans Day celebration at Central Park.



Freedom Courtyard will feature a monument that honors the different branches of the military and will have a space to formally retire old flags at Central Park. A central pillar that represents strength anchors the proposed project; the water emerging from the top represents a wellspring of freedom. The pillar represents our nation's freedom supported by our five branches of the military. Each of the five branches will have a plaque with the official seal. The five boulders are symbols of the strength and dependability of the armed services, which we have consistently called upon to protect our nation's ideals and principles.



Reflect Past, Present and Future

There will also be a historic military timeline, a flag retirement urn, art sculpture, benches and landscaping featuring red, white and blue colors. The walkways, benches, and landscaping surround and protect this quiet reflection area. It is a place to remember, to share, to learn and a place to reflect on the past, present, and future challenges and sacrifices made for freedom.



Embark on a Purpose

The Freedom Courtyard is to honor those who have served and will serve our country; recognize that freedom isn't free; present educational opportunities to all who visit the courtyard; provide a gathering place for all to appreciate those who have given their lives for our country; offer a place of quiet reflection; afford families a place to go with their loved one about to deploy; make available a place for veterans to gather; provide a centralized location for official flag retirement ceremonies; bestow a centralized location to write a note and leave it for a soldier; and mark a place where we can reflect upon and appreciate our freedom.

Project Team

City of Rancho Cucamonga
Kevin McArdle, *Community Services Director*
Karen McGuire-Emery, *Senior Park Planner*
Nettie Nielsen, *Community Services Superintendent*
Dave Moore, *Community Services Superintendent*

RJM Design Group, Inc.
Robert Mueting, *Principal Landscape Architect*
Larry Mouri, *Associate Landscape Architect*
Benjamin Brown, *Landscape Architect*

WLC Architects
George Wiens, *Principal Architect*
Lisa Cox, *Project Architect*

Top: Site plan and concept for the future "Freedom" Courtyard at Central Park.

Middle: Upon complete construction, Freedom Courtyard will provide a majestic tribute to those who have served, are currently serving and who will serve the United States armed forces.

Bottom: The seals of the five branches of the armed services, with information on each branch and educational time-line provides a space for visitors of all ages to honor our nation's soldiers.

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