



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Dana Point Completes Enhancements to Leyden Park Honoring City's Much-Loved Louise Leyden**

**Dana Point, CA (October 17, 2018)** -- The County of Orange dedicated the Louise Leyden Park on April 27, 1975. Now more than 40 years later the City of Dana Point has honored her memory by updating the park and adding a number of new modern enhancements.

Louise Leyden was an influential member of the early Capistrano Beach community well known for both her beautiful landscape paintings and civic activity in the Dana Point community.

Thanks to an article by former Dana Point Mayor Carlos Olvera illustrating the importance of Louise Leyden's life, Dana Point staff determined her namesake park needed a few design and landscaping changes.

The newly-completed park renovations include two interpretive panels. The first explains the history behind the creation of the park, the second tells the story of Louise Leyden's life and her accomplishments in art and involvement in the community. Landscape improvements include removal of 11 non-native *Melaleuca quinquenervia* trees, which have been replaced with Fig trees that Louise loved in her own yard. The existing monument sign will be replaced with a new welcome sign that highlights an original Louise Leyden plein air painting. The existing landscaping will be enhanced with flowers and shrubs that Louise enjoyed and had at her Capistrano Beach home.

To further modernize the park, the City has made the park paths more wheelchair accessible. A new wheelchair accessible picnic table is being added and a wheelchair accessible drinking fountain was also installed that supports refillable water bottles and refillable dog bowls for the many dog walkers that enjoy the park.

“We are honored to be able to commemorate Louise’s love of her local community by bringing more of her spirit and legacy into the park that bears her name,” said Dana Point City Manager Mark Denny

For more information go to [www.danapoint.org](http://www.danapoint.org).

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