

## Demuth Park Neighborhood - From Postwar Boom To Desert Bloom

By K. Stenlund

Palm Springs is home to 25 neighborhoods organized through the City's Office of Neighborhood Involvement, one of which is the Demuth Park Neighborhood.



This picturesque neighborhood overlooks the greenery of Palm Springs' largest park -- the beautiful, 61-acre Demuth Park which is located off of Mesquite Avenue east of El Cielo.

It's an ideal environment for everything from a picnic to a wide variety of outdoor sports and activities. All with a stunning mountain view in the background!

The neighborhood originated as the first new housing of the postwar boom in Palm Springs. It was known then as the Veterans Tract.

It was also the site of the largest fire in Palm Springs history when lumber used for building materials went up in flames. Even though half of the materials were saved through heroic measures, it delayed the project about six months during a time when the demand for additional housing was immediate.

This being Palm Springs, it goes without saying that Demuth Park has a celebrity history as well. Actor Robert Dix, along with his wife, Darlene Lucht (from the Frankie Avalon beach movies), resided on Mountain View Drive. Acclaimed composer Paul Sawtell lived on South Paseo Dorotea. And the home of big band singer (and real estate superstar) Eadie Adams is on South Calle Santa Cruz.

Currently, the Demuth Park Neighborhood is a wonderful melting pot. The area has a creative spirit, and has attracted many types of artists, tradespeople and business owners, among others. A true variety of interests are represented here, and all are enjoying the fabulous location and beautiful surroundings together with a kind of "live and let live" attitude that is very warm and welcoming.

The architecture includes many postwar style ranch homes, a number of 1970's California-style ranch homes, and a sprinkling of newer homes of varying styles. The landscaping runs the range from greenscape to desertscape. During the last housing boom, many investors snatched up these comparatively affordable homes to make a quick profit. When the market changed, rather than sell off these homes, many opted to hold on to them due to their affordability. Some became vacation properties while others are year-round rental investments.

Also within this community is the Cielo Vista Charter School at 650 Paseo Dorotea, which is described as "an innovative school of choice." In addition, a well-established

commercial area is located toward the outer northeast section, bordering Ramon Road and Gene Autry Trail. It has a vast array of businesses, from bustling office parks to the well-known Exotic Motor Cars dealership. Look closer and you'll be happy to find excellent auto, home and other service businesses and dealers, animal hospitals, print shops, a specialty grocery store and even a scuba shop. The future home of the new Palm Springs Animal Shelter will be adjacent to Demuth Park.

Life is good in the Demuth Park neighborhood!

For more information about the neighborhood, visit [www.DemuthPark.org](http://www.DemuthPark.org).