

During the recent grand opening ceremony of the new Coca-Cola Distribution Center in Glendale Business Park, I couldn't help but think back on the history of this beautiful 383-acre development. Located in the western area of our city, Glendale Business Park is in one of the hottest real estate areas in the metropolitan region. But it wasn't always that way. Originally named Glen Harbor Business Park, the center opened in 1989. It was a great idea, but way ahead of its time.

Located just north of our Glendale Airport, the business park offers office, commercial, retail and industrial opportunities. First class amenities provide a quality work environment with over 27 acres of landscaped open space including four lakes, walking trails, ramadas and picnic areas.

Parker-Hannifin Corp. was the first tenant in 1989, followed by Kay-Bee Toys Distribution Center. The Conair Corporation built a 300,000 square-foot distribution warehouse and minor manufacturing operation in Glendale Business Park. But then the economic downturn hit. While the business park remained well maintained, land sales languished.

In 1993 the economy turned around and land in Glendale Business Park was being absorbed at a faster rate than ever before. In 1999 a 26,000 square foot industrial "spec" building was completed. Since that time, Serta Mattress and Arizona School Furnishings, among others, have built facilities in the business park, adding hundreds of quality jobs. The Coca Cola facility is 120,000 square feet in size on 13 acres of land. It adds another 130 jobs .

Despite all the economic activity generated at Glendale Business Park, it remains one of the least known assets in our city. A drive along the one-mile curvilinear Glen Harbor Boulevard from Glendale Avenue to Northern Avenue will give you a chance to see one of the most attractive business parks in the valley – a real treasure in our city. I hope you will check it out the next time you are in western Glendale.