



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Park and Recreation Department FAST FACTS

The City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department operates and maintains a diverse and valued park system that serves millions of residents and visitors each year. The City park system does more than fulfill the public's need for leisure, it also supports San Diego's economic base through tourism; and it greatly enhances the City's ability to attract and retain businesses.

As of January 2009, the Park and Recreation Department was responsible for the management of:

- Park land** 39,639 acres of developed and undeveloped park land and open space.
- Regional Parks**
- Mission Bay. At 4,235 acres, approximately half land and half water; Mission Bay is the largest man-made public aquatic recreational area in the world entertaining more than 16 million visitors a year.
- Balboa Park. At 1,172 acres, Balboa Park is a significant horticultural and cultural resource with more than 15,000 trees, and 14 specialty gardens, nearly 100 arts, educations, recreational, social and sports organizations; fourteen museums, and is home of the World Famous San Diego Zoo and Old Globe Theatre. Balboa Park entertains more than 13 million visitors a year.
- Mission Trails Regional Park. One of the largest urban parks west of the Mississippi, Mission Trails is nearly 5,900 acres of open space and provides visitors the chance to participate in a wide variety of hikes and multi-educational programs. Mission Trails also includes Kumeyaay Lake Campground.
- Major Open Space Parks**
- Tri-Canyon Open Space Parks include Marian Bear Memorial Park, Rose Canyon Open Space and Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and Nature Center. It comprises 1,500 acres and miles for hiking, biking, walking and bird watching, in unique natural habitats.
- Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, made up of over 4,000 acres is home to many rare and endangered plant and animal species. Visitors using the 37 miles of multi-use trails have the opportunity to pass through 14 different habitat types and view a waterfall.
- Black Mountain Park is comprised of 2,352 acres, has trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use and has over 80 species of birds. The center piece of the park is the 1,554 foot summit of Black Mountain which provides 360 degree views of the area.
- San Pasqual - Clevenger Canyon Open Space offer great hiking and bird watching, including a challenging 1,755-foot summit.
- Otay Valley Regional Park is comprised of 2,029 acres, has trails and staging areas and is a joint effort of the City of San Diego, City of Chula Vista, and County of San Diego.
- San Diego River** This proposed regional park will stretch from the Pacific Ocean to its headwaters in the Cuyamaca mountains. This effort between the Cities of San Diego and Santee, the County of San Diego, and the State of California through the San Diego River Park Conservancy will enable the public to access riverside trails and view riparian habitat.

Beaches	12.3 miles of Oceanfront shoreline and 9.0 miles of Mission Bay shoreline.
Shoreline Parks	Extend from Torrey Pines City Park south to Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. This coastal system includes 65 view areas and coastal access points.
Recreation	53 recreation centers and two visitor centers provide programs, activities and events throughout the year to all ages, abilities and income levels.
Golf	Three municipal golf complexes: award-winning Torrey Pines; Balboa Park, the oldest golf course in San Diego; and Mission Bay (lighted).
Aquatics Program	Swimming lessons, water safety classes, youth, adult, senior and disabled programs including swim and polo teams, and fitness classes provided at 13 swimming pools.
Therapeutic Recreation Services	A variety of programs that are delivered for people with disabilities so that they can achieve a maximum level of independence in their leisure and recreational lifestyles. More than 50,000 people are served each year.
Volunteers	More than 26,000 volunteers assisted staff in FY 2008 by donating in excess of 175,000 hours to enrich the lives of park users and to preserve parks for future generations.
Senior Services	Senior Services provides information, referral services, monthly dances, and trips to community-based senior centers and other senior programs offered in San Diego. More than 50,000 people participate in these programs annually.
Skate Parks	5 (unsupervised, as of January 1, 2009) skate parks.
Dog Off-Leash Areas	14 designated off-leash dog areas.
Fishing	There are two fishing piers: one at Ocean Beach (longest Pier in Southern California) and the other at Pacific Beach. One youth fishing lake is located at Chollas Lake.
Joint Use Agreements With Local School Districts	Approximately 100 Joint-Use Agreements with local school districts that provide additional recreational opportunities during non-school hours.
Maintenance Assessment Districts (MAD)	48 maintenance assessment districts throughout the city providing property owners the opportunity to pay for enhanced improvements, maintenance, services, and more in their communities, beyond those generally provided by the City.
Mt. Hope Cemetery	City of San Diego's only cemetery owned and operated by the city. Since 1869, Mt. Hope Cemetery has provided interment options at reasonable costs. Prominent San Diegans including Alfonzo Horton and Kate Sessions are buried at this 80-acre site.