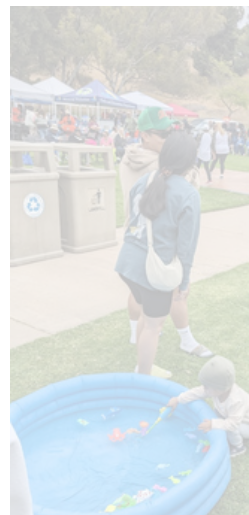


PARKS AND RECREATION

PARK POST



May 2025

Parks and Recreation

I LOVE MY PARK DAY



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I Love My Park Day 2025 was hosted at Martin L. King Recreation Center on May 17, 2025 from 11am-2pm. There were over 1500 community members in attendance to enjoy performances by 12 groups on the community stage, Feeding San Diego distribution of food for 500 families, 23 neighborhood resource tables and 19 recreation centers who provided information regarding summer programs such as sports, camps and Park After Dark. In addition to recreational activities, the Park Rangers, Police Department and Fire Department were on site to engage with community members.

The entire event was free, interactive, educational and a wonderful event to kick off the summer season. Thanks to the support of the San Diego Parks Foundation and the outstanding City staff that made this annual event possible.

I LOVE MY PARK DAY

Continued



I LOVE MY PARK DAY

Continued



I LOVE MY PARK DAY

Continued



"Play is the highest form of research."
-Albert Einstein

CITYWIDE RECREATION SERVICES

Adaptive Golf Tournament



“How wonderful it is that nobody
needs wait a single moment before
starting to improve the world.”

-Anne Frank

Recreation Links

[Recreation Services](#)

[P&R Event Calendar](#)

[P&R Website](#)



Hosted by Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) and Torrey Pines Golf Course team, the tournament provided an inclusive opportunity for 30 individuals with disabilities to enjoy golf in a supportive environment. The event featured adaptive equipment and tailored support to accommodate various abilities, promoting physical activity, social interaction, and skill development. Participants of all experience levels were welcomed, fostering community engagement and enhancing quality of life through recreational sport.

Kudos to **TRS and Golf** personnel for working together to make this tournament a success.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Keen Independent invites you to provide input on City of San Diego parks, recreation programs and services. Your feedback will help the San Diego Parks and Recreation Department serve the community even better. We report results in aggregate, so you will not be individually identified.

Contact us for
more information:

[sdparksneeds@
keenindependent.com](mailto:sdparksneeds@keenindependent.com)

(602)767-7067

[keenindependent.com/
studies/sdparksneeds](https://www.keenindependent.com/studies/sdparksneeds)

Keen Independent
Research
2929 East Camelback
Road, Suite 115
Phoenix, AZ 85016



Scan the QR code
to participate ↑

COME PLAY OUTSIDE
PRESENTS

PARKS AFTER DARK

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THIS SUMMER!

June 14 thru August 9, 2025

Thursday, Friday & Saturday Nights 5-8pm

***Memorial Rec Center Starts June 13**

***No events June 19, July 3, 4 & 5**

Happening at these locations:

- City Heights Rec Center • Linda Vista Rec Center
- Memorial Rec Center • Skyline Hills Rec Center
- Silver Wing Rec Center: **June 14 - July 19 (5 weeks only)**

About the Event

Parks After Dark is a FREE, family-friendly event offering music, entertainment, community resources, arts and crafts, youth sports clinics, health & fitness activities, and much more! Volunteers are needed to help create a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for families in our local communities.

Volunteer Roles & Responsibilities

- Assist with setting up and organizing event activities
- Help manage activities for all ages
- Support youth sports clinics and encourage participation
- Direct attendees to various community resources and food stations
- Provide general assistance during the event and ensure the safety and well-being of participants
- Assist with clean-up and breakdown of events

Volunteer Requirements

- Friendly, enthusiastic, and reliable
- Background Check may be required
- Ability to work well with people of all ages and backgrounds
- No prior experience required—just bring your positive attitude!

How to Volunteer

Join us in creating a fun and safe environment for families to connect and enjoy the summer nights together! Use the following links to signup to volunteer:

[City Heights Recreation Center Signup](#)
[Linda Vista Recreation Center Signup](#)
[Memorial Recreation Center Signup](#)
[Silver Wing Recreation Center Signup](#)
[Skyline Recreation Center Signup](#)

Volunteer [Fingerprint Form](#)

For questions, email SDVolunteer@sandiego.gov.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

P&R Role in Developing Nature Exploration Areas

Children today spend less time outdoors than ever before, with studies showing an average of just four minutes per day in unstructured outdoor play. Recognizing the importance of reconnecting youth with nature, the City of San Diego's Parks and Recreation Department has taken an innovative approach - designing and building Nature Exploration Areas (NEAs) in our parks.



Developed entirely in-house, with bare bone budgets (typically under \$10K), NEAs are made possible through teamwork across the department - Operations, Support Services, and Asset Management. In 2016, the first pilot NEA was built in Morley Field with sustainability and accessibility in mind, utilizing repurposed materials such as fallen eucalyptus logs, reclaimed boulders, and salvaged sand from decommissioned projects.



P&R Role in Developing Nature Exploration Areas

What's Next?

Due to overwhelmingly positive feedback, the department has steadily expanded the program with NEAs at Morley Field, Golden Hill CP, Gershwin NP, and Dennis V. Allen NP, with plans to eventually integrate an NEA within each Council District. Construction of the department's newest NEA is almost complete at Marie Widman with plans to open soon. Developing future NEAs adjacent to Recreation Centers will help fulfill the goal integrating programming such as fort-building workshops, storytelling sessions, and interactive nature-based activities. NEAs placed near recreation centers allow for supervised programming and additional materials like natural clay, fabrics and twine for forts, basket-weaving supplies, and even seasonal mud play days.

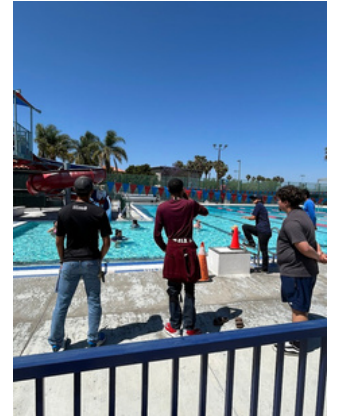


As we continue to shape the future of parks in San Diego, these Nature Exploration Areas serve as a testament to what can be achieved through creativity, collaboration, and a shared commitment to connecting children with the natural world.



AQUATICS

Trainings to Prepare for Summer



With the summer season upon us, the pools are preparing to have more participants in the water. Aquatics staff attended trainings to help prepare employees for the surge in pool attendance. Camp Counselor, Pool Manager, and Water Safety Instructor trainings were held this month.

The Camp Counselor training was held at City Heights on Monday, May 19th. This training included land and water awareness. Pool Manager training was held on Wednesday, May 21st at Tierrasanta Pool. Additionally, on Saturday, May 25th at Tierrasanta Pool, there were 25 City of San Diego staff training along with 35 other staff from around San Diego County and beyond to be Swim Instructors (Water Safety Instructors). This training was in collaboration with the San Diego County Aquatic Council, termed the WSI Blowout.

Saturday, June 7th will be the Annual All City Aquatic Staff training to prepare for summer. Kudos to the **Aquatics Team** for preparing employees to help keep the community pools a safe place to recreate this summer.

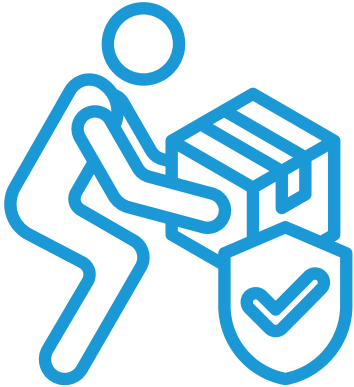


I Love My Park Day with Aquatics



SAFETY AND TRAINING

Safety Tip: Safe Lifting Techniques



Did you know that improper lifting is a leading cause of workplace injuries? Here are three quick tips for safe lifting:

1. Lift with Your Legs, Not Your Back: Keep your back straight and bend your knees when lifting.
2. Avoid Twisting: Turn your whole body instead of twisting at the waist.
3. Ask for Help: Use equipment or get assistance for heavy loads.

By practicing proper lifting techniques, we can prevent back injuries and stay strong!

“To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fall when we fail to try.”

-Rosa Parks

Upcoming Trainings

June Training Schedule

Due Date	Name
6/02/25	New Employee Training
6/09/25	Defensive Driving Training
6/10/25	Race & Equity Academy (Foundations)
6/11/25	Brush Management Overview Training
6/12/25	HAZMAT for HANDLERS Training
6/15/25	Records Management Awareness Training DUE
6/18/25	HAZMAT for Supervisors Training
6/18/25	Career Advancement Session
6/18/25	Spring Tailgates DUE
6/26/25	Interview and Resume Workshop

Register for all trainings in Success Factors.

**Training Office
is located at
9485 Aero Drive**



ADMINISTRATION

Payroll Updates

Current Payroll Specialists and Assigned Divisions:

Carolyn Galvan

Citywide Maintenance Services
Balboa Park
Mission Bay / Shoreline

Adriana "Addie" Arias

Administrative Services
Golf Division
Citywide Recreation Services

Lakisha Alomar

Community Parks I

Rochelle San Nicholas

Community Parks II (split)

Salina Villegas

Community Parks II (split)

Tatiana Willis

Open Space / MADs
Park Rangers
Civic Dance

Helpful P&R Links

[CityNet](#)

[Personnel](#)

[Inside SD](#)

[Get-It-Done](#)

City Job Links

[Open Jobs](#)

[Transfer Opportunities](#)

[Promotional Jobs
for City Employees Only](#)

*"The future depends on what you do today."
-Mahatma Gandhi*

Volunteer and Intern Office Updates



Employ and Empower and Unpaid Internships

Review CityNet for updated Intern information [here](#). Coming soon, an update on Parks and Recreation for FY26 intern changes.

Department Picture Contest

Congratulations to the Picture Contest's first winner, **Julliette Suleiman**, Area Manager. Submit your picture to SDVolunteer@sandiego.gov for a chance to win! See details below.

For more information on the **Volunteer Fingerprinting**, **Park Post submissions**, **CalFresh Volunteer Program**, and **Volunteer Maintenance Support** email SDVolunteer@sandiego.gov.

**May 2025
Contest Winner**
Julliette Suleiman
CPI

Discretionary Time
awarded to winner.

NEW Department Picture contest

Capture the essence of Parks and Recreation.

Submit to SDVolunteer@sandiego.gov.

Title submission: "Picture Contest"

Include full name, date, and division.

Due by 15th of each month.

Volunteer Links

[City Internship Program](#)

[Better Impact](#)

[Volunteer Page](#)

VOLUNTEER ONE STOP SHOP

Volunteer Fingerprinting Event for Parks and Recreation applicants.

Register to volunteer in your community for Parks After Dark, coaching, Movies In the Park, events, program assistant, and more.

SHIFT SCHEDULE

- 9:30 AM TO 10:30 AM
- 10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM
- 11:30 AM TO 12:30 PM
- 12:30 PM TO 1:30 PM

The City of
SAN DIEGO
Parks & Recreation Department

**LIMITED
REGISTRATION.**

**REGISTER
NOW!**



06/14/2025

7064 Levant St., San Diego, CA 92123

**LINDA VISTA
RECREATION
CENTER**

9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT WITH MCarriedo@sandiego.gov

PERSONNEL

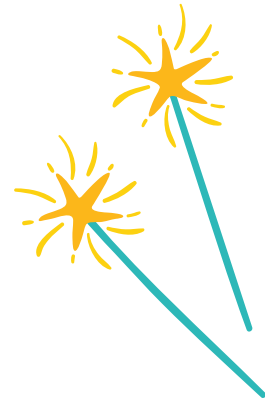
Promotions

Division	Name	Classification
GOLF	Kai Binger	Golf Operations Assistant
CP II	Raul Contreras	Recreation Specialist
CMS	Alberto Cortez	Equip Technician 2
OS	Nicholas Des Lauriers	Grounds Maintenance Manager
CP II	Jose Duran	Recreation Center Director 2
CP II	Lexus Jackson	Recreation Center Director 3
CP II	Jordan Oden	Recreation Center Director 1
AS	Kemii Soundara	Recreation Specialist



New Hires

Division	Name	Classification
CP I	Vivianne Atkins	Recreation Center Director 2
CRS	Patrick Ball	Recreation Leader 2
CP II	Ivan Balmaceda	Pool Guard 1
CP II	Edgar Jimenez	Pool Guard 1
GOLF	Robert Lewis	Golf Operations Assistant
CRS	Angela Lightner	Therap Recreation Specialist
CP II	Dulat Sarbassov	Pool Guard 1
GOLF	Patrick Shinsky	Golf Operations Assistant
GOLF	Brandon Stecher	Golf Operations Assistant



The City of
SAN DIEGO
 Parks & Recreation Department

*"A boat doesn't go forward if each one
 is rowing their own way."*

-Proverb

PERSONNEL

Continued

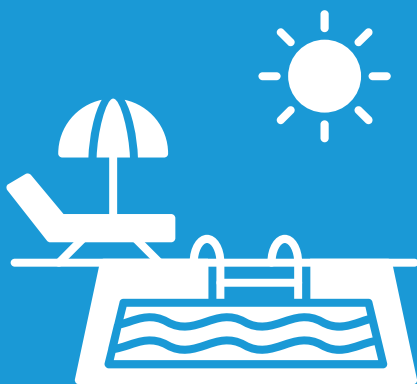
Service Awards

Division	Name	Classification	Years of Service
CMS	Michael Alba	Light Equipment Operator	5
Golf	John Brosnan	Golf Operations Assistant	5
CMS	Jim Brown	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	30
PR	Heidi Couture	Park Ranger	15
Golf	Sofia Durazo	Grounds Maintenance Worker 1	25
Golf	Sean Farrell	Golf Operations Assistant	5
MBSL	Apolinar Leyva, Jr.	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	20
CP I	Sophia Monroy	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	5
MBSL	Lawrence Mothershed	Grounds Maintenance Supervisor	25
CP II	Jose Villanueva, Jr.	Area Manager	25
Golf	Elizabeth Zachau	Clerical Assistant 2	40

Service Retirement

Division	Name	Classification	Years of Service
CMS	John Arce	Park Utility Supervisor	29

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LATEST RETIREE



John Arce
Park Utility Supervisor



29 years of dedicated service.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

FY25 Third Quarter Winners

Sarai Aguilar

No Photo Available



Pesticide Applicator

Kai Binger



Recreation Aide

Jose Delgado

No Photo Available



Equipment Operator 1

Warren Gilliard



Recreation Leader 1

John O'Brien



Recreation Center Director 3

Rafael Padilla



Aging Recreation Specialist

Matthew "Sparky" Peck



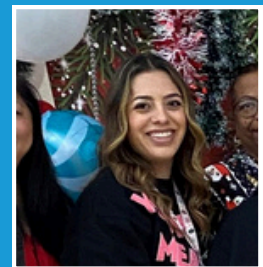
Electrician

Darlene Smith



Recreation Leader 1

Viviana Zermeno



Area Manager

To view full description of award winners, use this [link](#).

Employees, submit your nomination to recognize exceptional sustained job performance [here](#).

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."
-Albert Schweitzer

EMPLOYEE KUDOS

Civic Dance Celebrates an Upcoming Retirement



Leslie Padilla, Civic Dance Instructor, is retiring next month after 20 years of service and 45 years of involvement with the program. For decades she has poured her heart and soul into the San Diego Civic Dance Arts (SDCDA) program and students making a tangible difference in the SDCDA community through her dedication, creativity, humor, and compassion. We honor Leslie and her lifetime of work knowing we all have been changed for good because of her!



CityNet Employee Spotlight Recognition



The City of San Diego recognizes the Parks and Recreation Department's Golf Division's **Devin Cullen**, Program Manager, and his team for their efforts with the PGA Tour. Torrey Pines Golf Course hosted the Farmer's Insurance and the Genesis Tournaments, back-to-back.



City employees, to see the full article click [here](#).

Download the City of San Diego Golf App [here](#).

Do you know Devin?

As Director of Agronomy for Torrey Pines Golf Course, Devin successfully completed a task nearly unheard of in PGA Tour history: hosting two PGA events in less than one month.



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Division Collaboration Between: Balboa Park and Community Parks I



Yvonne "Bonny" Morin, Andres "Peanut" Moreno, and Edwin "Power Washer Extraordinaire" Heller from the Balboa Support crew are absolute Angels. They helped CP1 immensely with the removal of the graffiti off the walls and flooring of the Civic Center Downtown. These large and small graffiti pieces that were on the porous surfaces of the walls and flooring were difficult to remove, yet, with their combined expertise, they were able to help us in an effective and timely manner. Their diligence and support helped us respond as soon as possible to a high priority complaint and helped us close many Get It Done's as well.

Thank you and Kudos to the Balboa Park Support Crew on behalf of your friends in CPI!

-Submitted by Caitlin Shankles, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor

City Heights Bridge to Pool Grant Exit Survey

Over 20 classrooms have been participating in the Bridge to Pool Program throughout the City. Participating classrooms go to the pool to get Water Safety Training lead by City staff. This program is funded through a grant from the Prevent Drowning Foundation. Kudos to **Sinthya Carranza**, District Manager for writing the grant and especially all the **Aquatics personnel** that make this event possible for schools in the City.



"Opportunities don't happen. You create them."

-Chris Grosser

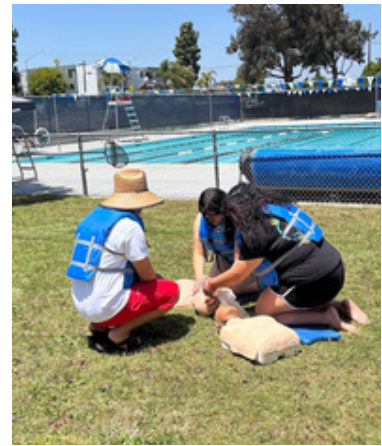


AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

*Proclamation from San Diego City Council:
May is Water Safety Month*



Wear Your Lifejacket to Work Day





AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Community Parks I: Troop 4665 Gives Back to the Community



On Sunday, May 18th, Girl Scout Troop 4665 from Allied Gardens gave back to their community in a meaningful way by planting a tree using funds raised during this year's cookie sale. The troop generously provided the tree, wooden stakes, and fertilizer for the planting.

A heartfelt thank you to the Allied Gardens GMW Team, Cris Amezcua, and Jerry Abbott for supporting and assisting with this wonderful project!

-Submitted by Lacy Bradshaw, Area Manager

Community Parks II: Bay Terraces Tree Planting Event



On Friday, May 16th, Bay Terraces hosted a Tree Planting event funded by the "Ready Set Grow" grant. Parks and Recreation maintenance staff and arborists collaborated with the Transportation Department and local volunteers to plant eight trees for the community. The event started with the "Electric Slide" lead by Bay Terraces Seniors.

"What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity."

-George Elliot



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

RCF Budget Training and Vendor Showcase at Aero Drive



Citywide Recreation Services and the Training office collaborated to host the Recreation Center Fund (RCF) Budget Training and Vendor Showcase on Thursday, May 29th. Recreation supervisors and managers met with programming vendors listed on the Qualified Vendor List for a live-action pitch for programming opportunities. Attendance for the Vendor Showcase was either before or after employees attended the annual RCF Budget Training.

Kudos to **CRS** and **Training personnel** for a successful event and training.

*“The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go
beyond them into the impossible.”*

-Arthur C. Clarke

RECOGNIZED EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS



Employee Organizations

EAP

Benefits



Municipal Employees Association (MEA)

9620 Chesapeake Dr Ste 203
San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: 619-264-6632

Fax: 858-300-3898

Web: www.sdmea.org

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (Local 127)

3737 Camino Del Rio South Ste 400
San Diego, CA 92108

Phone: 619-640-4939

Fax: 619-640-8171

Web: <http://www.afscme127.org>

MY SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Employee Benefit Association

9620 Chesapeake Dr., Suite #104, San Diego, CA 92123

Main: (888) 315-8027 | Fax: (619) 431-3078

support@sdpeba.org

info@sdpeba.org

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

San Diego City Employees' Retirement System

401 West A Street, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101

Phone: (619) 525-3600

Toll Free: (800) 774-4977

FAX: (619) 595-0513

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Additional Links

[SDPEBA](#)

[Fiscal/Annual Calendar](#)

[SDCERS](#)





THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

