

Parks and Recreation Department

“Park Talk SD: Parks and Recreation’s Informational Meeting for All”

May 7, 2025

Parks and Recreation Director’s Report Reported by Deputy Director Sarah Erazo

Budget Review Updates: The Department presented the overview of the Fiscal year 2026 draft budget that was presented April 15, 2025 at City Council Meeting and the Budget Review Committee on May 6, 2025. Reductions and impacts were mentioned as outlined in the draft budget. Click link below to review draft budgets:

Parks and Recreation FY26 Draft budget - April 15, 2025

<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-04/fy2026prdraftbudgetpresentation.pdf>

Budget Review Committee – May 6, 2025

<https://sandiego.hylandcloud.com/211agendaonlinecomm/Documents/ViewDocument/Neighborhood%20Services%20Branch%20Overview.pptx.pdf?meetingId=6505&documentType=Agenda&itemId=245656&publishId=971009&isSection=false>

Parks and Recreation Department Staff Reports

Community Parks I

Reported by District Manager Jerry Abbott

Park Projects Updates:

The Community Parks I division has many active park projects that opened in the last month.

- Walker Elementary – Mira Mesa
- Whitman Elementary Joint Use – Clairemont

Recreation Updates:

- CPI hosted 22 Egg Hunts across the city
- Solana Highlands Tree Planting project happened in early April
- Community Parks I currently has over 40 Capital Improvement/Self-Help/Telecom projects
- Currently using Jim Howard Hall at Robb Field for a SDPD break station. Additional Police presence has helped curb the amount of overnight campers that have been on site.
- 619 Building in NTC burned down on March 12, considered a total loss. We have received bids and just received the HazMat report and will be working to start demolition in the near future.
- Gym Floor repairs at Rancho Bernardo were completed
- Water Fountain at Lawn Bowling area Rancho Bernardo installed this week, Turf install by end of the month at Lawn Bowling Area

Administrative News:

- Cris Amezcua – new CPI District Manager
 - Anna Sonnenburg and Jaime Diez – parks and facilities NORTH of 52 freeway
 - Jerry Abbott and Cris Amezcua – parks and facilities NORTH of 8, south of 52 freeways
- Oscar Eusebio – New Area Manager assigned to University City area
- Center Director hirings and promotions:
 - Brian Boyd is at Pacific Beach Recreation Center
 - Jarod Carlock is at Kearny Mesa Recreation Center
 - Alissa Cordova is at San Carlos Recreation Center
 - Carol Herrera is at Cabrillo Recreation Center
 - John O'Brien is at Serra Mesa Recreation Center
 - Brian Vaira is at Hilltop Recreation Center
 - Anabel Wood is at Standley Recreation Center
 - Erin Holbech is at Lopez Ridge Recreation Center

Community Parks II

Reported by District Manager Sinthya Carranza

Recreation Updates:

DISTRICT 41

- Colina
 - March 15 Colina 10&12U basketball Teams placed 2nd in both divisions at the City Wide Tournament.
 - March 28 - Spring Egg Hunt was a tremendous success over 150 participants attended the event.
 - April 23 - We had a cleanup project at Colina with SD FC 25 volunteers spread mulch on various areas throughout the park playground area. We had Arbor Day on
 - April 24 – Colina Hosted Arbor Day Many special guests were in attendance including P&R Director Andy Field, Councilmember Sean Elo- Rivera. Nearly 500 people attended the event.
 - Upcoming Events:
 - Movie in the parks at Colina 7/11/25, and Rolando Park Elementary 8/9/25
 - Teen Nite at Colina June 7 through Aug 8th. No July 4th week.
- Park De La Cruz
 - Spring Egg Hunt April 12 – Had over 300 participants including the Fern Street circus.
 - Movie in the park 6/20/25
 - Summer basketball Skate Camp 3 sessions in the summer.
 - Upcoming events in City Heights area include:
 - Hollywood Park Sports Day, Saturday, May 17th from 10-3pm. Registration required for participation. CD9 Partnership with P&R and CH CDC.
 - Parks After Dark at City Heights Community Park (Officer Jeremy Henwood Memorial Park) beginning on June 14th kick-off event. Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5-8pm
 - City Heights Youth Soccer Tournament – June 14-15 from 9am-4pm. Partnership with Rotary 33. 32 teams from 6-17 years of age. Free for all.
 - Bike City Heights Program – Continues with monthly events on May 24th, June 21st, August 30th, September 20th. Each

Saturday at 10am at Teralta Park. Free event with bike rides to local venues and safety clinics. Partnership with CH CDC.

- City Heights Climbing Club brings kids and their families to Mesa Rim Climbing Gym once a month to experience rock climbing. Free of charge with gear rental, entry, transportation and dinner. Goal is to make rock climbing accessible for all, particularly underrepresented families. Next event is May 9th.
- Summer camp and futsal at Mid-City Gym and Azalea Parks along with typical summer programming at each area site.
- Past special events include:
 - Bailando in the Heights took place on Saturday, May 3rd with 400 people in attendance for the 4-hour musical event with the US Navy Band as the main attraction.
 - Various spring egg hunts at Azalea, City Heights and Park de la Cruz.
 - Various park beautification projects with volunteers groups at McCain Carter Mini Park, Teralta and Central Avenue with over 100 volunteers in total.

DISTRICT 42

- Our 2024 Youth Basketball Championships took place March 7th - 9th
 - 54 teams advanced to our 2024 tournament: [GotSport](#)
 - 210 Teams participated this 2024 Basketball Season: [GotSport](#)
- We are currently in our Spring Sports Season
 - Soccer: 97 Teams, 1,261 participants
 - 16 Leagues: [GotSport](#)
 - Volleyball: 97 Teams, 925 participants;
 - 15 Leagues: [GotSport](#)
- There was an addition of a Rec. Specialist for the Youth Sports Committee
- Part events Special Events:
 - Various Spring Egg Hunts
 - Day of the Child Event 4/27/25 @ Montgomery Waller; 3,000 in attendance

DISTRICT 43

- Opened new futsal and basketball outdoor courts at Neal Petties/Mt. View Community Park last week on April 30th. Mayor Gloria held a press

conference to officially open the courts and had students from Baker Elementary School play the inaugural game on the futsal courts.

- Mt. View Community Center also hosted the last drone racing competition of the school year on Thursday May 1st. Local schools competed with over 100 kids participating. San Diego Parks Foundation provided food and refreshments to all participants. The event was put on by Parks and Recreation staff.
- A new ADA pedestrian walkway was completed at Marie Widman Neighborhood Park on Monday April 28th. This temporarily replaces the bridge that collapsed after last year's January rains and allows ADA access from the Northern portion of the park to the Southern side.
- Martin Luther King Community Park will host the 2nd Annual I Love My Park Day on Saturday May 17th from 11am to 2pm. Will feature different neighborhood music and dance groups, a petting zoo, fun jumps and activities from different participating recreation centers and swimming pools. The event is sponsored by the San Diego Parks Foundation and is put on by San Diego Parks and Recreation staff.

AQUATICS

- CH-April 13th-Spring Water Festival-under water egg hunt, water competency assessments and swim lessons-over 120 attendees.
- KM and CDS-March 29th & April 13th-Parent & Tot Workshops over 20 participants
- Sw/St- April 25th-Collaboration with TRS- water safety
- Swim Team and Water Polo-Coaches Training in June
- Water Polo Games - March 29-Bud Kearns and April 26-Allied Garden
- Swim Meets - March 22-Carmel Valley, April 19- Allied Gardens, May 24-Kearny Mesa
- Spring Bridge to the Pool Events at various sites with multiple schools-Water Safety Presentations Sponsored by PDFSD
- May 16th at CDS- Wear Your LifeJacket to Work Day+BTP with Carwford HS- 10:30am-3:00pm-Selfie station
- May 20 at 10am- Water Safety Awareness Month Proclamation All water Competency Large Group lessons with be free

Past Special Events:

- BK, AG, NB, SW/ST- May 2nd-4th-Hosted County Cup Water Polo Tournament- over 300, over 1K spectators-teams from NorCal to Hawaii
- High School Swim Team Season-multiple pools from various High Schools
- TCP & CH-Jr Beach Guard Tryouts several weekends-with over 700 participants

Park Projects Updates:

- Colina - Accomplishments this year 2025 we have had 3 cleanup projects and arbor day that had in total over 600 volunteers participate.
- Park De La Cruz - Various park beautification projects with volunteers groups were held at McCain Carter Mini Park, Teralta and Central Avenue with over 100 volunteers in total.
- Aquatics - Pool closures May 21 and June 7
- Current construction projects at MLK Jr, Clairemont and Mira Mesa Pool

Balboa Park

Reported by District Manager Anthony Harrington

Park Updates:

- Dave Freeman Tournament
 - On May 2nd to May 4th, tournament was hosted by the San Diego Badminton Club. Players from all around the world participated in this multi-skill level, open tournament.
- Officer Tonahill and Officer Ruopp Memorial Park Sign Installation
 - On Wednesday, April 30th, Parks and Recreation installed a new sign for the recently renamed Officer Tonahill and Officer Ruopp Memorial Park, formerly known as Grape Street Dog Park.
- Village Grill Update
 - The City has selected highly regarded San Diego restaurateurs, Jeff Motch and Clea Hantman to renovate, operate, and lease the old "Village Grill" restaurant site near the Spanish Village Art Center. Jeff and Clea's fast-casual concept was selected through a competitive RFP process. They currently co-own Panama 66 in Balboa Park and Blind Lady Ale House in Normal Heights.

- Balboa Park Prioritization Framework final report is now uploaded to view online. It provides a framework for prioritizing capital improvement projects within Balboa Park.
 - a. <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-04/bpcprioritazionframework2025.pdf>

Balboa Park Event Updates:

- Balboa Park Powwow
 - The annual Balboa Park Powwow, hosted by the San Diego American Indian Health Center, invites you to experience a weekend full of tradition, vibrant performances, and cultural pride on May 10th and 11th.
 - Location: Lawn on the corner of Park Blvd and Presidents Way
 - Time: 10:00am – 6:00pm
 - Expected Attendance: 1,500
- March for Babies
 - Date: Saturday, May 17th
 - Location: West Mesa
 - Time: 7:30am – 11:30am
 - Estimated Attendance: 1,000
- Rock n Roll Running Series
 - Date: Saturday, May 31st for 5K; Sunday, June 1st for Half/Full Marathon
 - Location: West Mesa
 - Time: 7:00am – 11:00am for 5K; 5:00am – 12:00pm for Half/Full Marathon
 - Estimated Attendance: 4,100 for 5K; 27,000 for Half/Full Marathon
- New 6-month event calendar for Balboa Park can be found online by following the link below:
 - i. <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/bpsixmonthcalendar.pdf>

Recreation Updates:

- Balboa Park Activity Center will be hosting various tournaments in the May and June.

- CIF Badminton Finals on Saturday, May 17th
- San Diego Table Tennis Association Tournament on May 23rd-25th
- Citywide Volleyball on June 13th-14th
- Summer Badminton Program starts June 3rd
- Municipal Gym Programs begin mid-June
 - 10U and Peewee Futsal
 - Peewee Summer Basketball League
 - Fundamental Basketball Class
 - Movies in the Park at Morley Field Sports Complex (start at sunset)
 - June 21st – Moana
 - July 12th – Inside Out 2
 - August 9th – Mufasa – The Lion King
- Municipal Gym is hosting 2 soccer teams and 1 volleyball team (first year).

Stay Connected:

To receive communication emails from the Parks and Recreation on future Area Committee meetings, please sign up for Constant Contact by clicking the link and opting in to receive email communications: [Sign up for Constant Contact](#)

Visit our Event Calendar online to see what is happening around the city by going: <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/event-calendar>

Follow Parks and Recreation Department on Instagram to stay up-to-date on the programs, activities, and events the department is offering: <https://www.instagram.com/sdparksandrec/#>

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 6:00pm