



Park Ranger Division

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR
(Chief Park Ranger)
Michael Ruiz**

Fiscal Year 2026

Overview

Park Ranger Division provides overall direction, leadership, management, and planning for the Parks and Recreation Department Park Ranger Program.

Responsibilities include overseeing, planning, and directing the Park Ranger Program department wide with daily oversight of the park Rangers in the coastal area, Mission Bay and Shoreline Parks, Balboa Park, Presidio Park, Mission Hills, Downtown, and Community Parks. The Division head is responsible for policies, procedures, training, and programs related to education, resource manage, habitat restoration, enforcement, and emergency response activities. The division plans and assists in the coordination of activities and functions of core services, provides land and resource management, and coordinates special events and projects, educational outreach to schools and the community, develops and implements safety programs, procedures, and provides coordination with law enforcement, fire and other emergency service agencies.

The Park Ranger staff in the Park Ranger Division work with local, state, and federal agencies and many committees, boards, councils, and non-profit organizations that serve in an advisory capacity to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Park Ranger Division
Chief Park Ranger: Michael Ruiz

Telephone: (619) 235-1153

Email: Mfruiz@sandiego.gov

Park Areas: All

Council Districts: Citywide

Overview: The Chief Ranger is responsible for policies, procedures, training, and programs related to education, resource manage, habitat restoration, enforcement, and emergency response activities. Oversees and implements the Park Ranger training program to include in-service training plans and professional development; developing, implementing, and monitoring training and the operations of Citywide park ranger programs; providing inter-agency coordination with law enforcement agencies; developing and implementing safety programs, procedures, and guidelines; identifying training opportunities; assessing the operations of the Park Ranger Program in order to maximize service delivery to the community and work with Department management, local and regional entities, community groups, and law enforcement agencies on these efforts; researching and identifying programs to meet the needs of the community, as well as identifying opportunities for improvement; coordinating and implementing special events.

Park Ranger Division
Balboa Park, Presidio Park, Mission Hills, & Downtown Parks
SUPERVISING PARK RANGER: Mike Cassidy

Telephone: 619-235-1120
Email: MCassidy@sandiego.gov

Park Areas: Balboa Park, Presidio Park, Mission Hills, & Downtown Parks

Council District: 2, 3 & 8

Overview: This program provides for the management, administration, operation, education, regulation and enforcement of parklands and facilities within Balboa Park, Presidio Park, Mission Hills, Chicano Park and Downtown parks. The areas consist of parklands and facilities within the National Historic Landscapes of the 1,200 acres of Balboa Park, the 40 acres of Presidio Park. The program also provides historic, cultural, and resource management, park use permit and special event oversight, right-of-entry permit management, and liaison to various cultural institutions, non-profit organizations, community groups, schools, other departments and agencies. The Ranger Program focuses on education, resource management, safety, and enforcement of the San Diego Municipal Code, State, and federal laws.

Contacts:

Nicholas Roth, Senior Park Ranger

- Telephone: (619) 235-1122
- Email: NRoth@sandiego.gov
- Park Ranger Duty Line: (619) 235-1122

Park Ranger Division
Mission Bay Park and Shoreline Parks District
SUPERVISING PARK RANGER: Karolynn Estrada-Sparlin

Telephone: 858-581-7614
Email: Cmestrada@sandiego.gov

Park Areas: Mission Bay Park and Shoreline Parks

Council District: 1 & 2

Overview: This program provides for the management, administration, operation, education, regulation and enforcement of parklands and facilities within Mission Bay and Shoreline Parks. The areas consist of parklands and facilities within the 4,400-acre Mission Bay Park and 26.2 miles of the Mission Bay shoreline, which includes 2,288 acres of recreational water surface, 1,887 acres of park land, 1,019 acres of turf, and 134 acres of marsh. Shoreline Parks includes 13.6 miles of City coastline from Torrey Pines City Park to Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. The City's coastline includes 100 acres of naturally maintained beaches, 150 acres of fully maintained beaches, 390 acres of shoreline parkland, 2.4 miles of oceanfront boardwalk, a 1,931-foot concrete fishing pier (Ocean Beach Pier) and an 800-foot wood fishing pier (Crystal Pier) in collaboration with the Lifeguard Service

operations. The Ranger Program focuses on education, resource management, safety, and enforcement of the San Diego Municipal Code, State, and federal laws.

Contacts:

MISSION BAY PARK RANGERS

Richard Dhu, Senior Park Ranger

- Telephone: (858) 581-7602
- Email: RDhu@sanidiego.gov
- Mission Bay Park Ranger Duty Line: (858) 851-7602

SHORELINE PARKS RANGERS

Joel Prospero, Senior Park Ranger

- Telephone: (858) 581-9982
- Email: JProspero@sanidiego.gov
- Shoreline Parks Ranger Duty Line: (858) 581-9982

**Park Ranger Division
Citywide Park Ranger District
SUPERVISING PARK RANGER: Roberto Bejar**

Telephone: (619) 985-3319
Email: RBejar@sanidiego.gov

Park Areas: All

Council Districts: Citywide

Overview: This program provides for the management, administration, operation, education, regulation, enforcement and support to all the Park Ranger Districts, with support to Community Parks. The Citywide Park Ranger Unit is responsible for oversight and response to Sidewalk Vending and Expressive Activity education and enforcement. They oversee the Administration Appeal Hearing process for the department and impounds, as well as monitor park security contracts throughout the park system and support the search and rescue activities in all parks. The Ranger Program focuses on education, resource management, safety, and enforcement of the San Diego Municipal Code, State, and federal laws.

Contacts:

Nathan Collins, Senior Park Ranger

- Cell Phone: (619) 985-3319
- Email: NRCollins@sanidiego.gov
- Citywide Park Ranger Duty Line: (619) 985-3319

Vacant, Senior Park Ranger

- Cell Phone: (619) 985-3319
- Email: TBD
- Citywide Park Ranger Duty Line: (619) 985-3319

Park Ranger Division
Budget and Administrative Analysis
ASSOCIATE MANAGEMENT ANALYST: Andre Smith

Telephone: 858-463-1533
Email: Smitham@sandiego.gov

Park Areas: All

Council Districts: Citywide

Overview: This program provides for the overall division budget, administrative, clerical support, and management of the administrative analysis, appeals and processing of citations and fines. Responsibilities include administering departmental policies and procedures; preparing and administering the division budget; processing citations and fines, tracking citation activity; planning and coordinating work assignments. Clerical support is provided to the division, including document preparation, accounting, purchasing, and payroll.

The fiscal staff are responsible for budget preparation and control in long-range financial planning and productivity improvement studies for the division; reviewing findings and recommendations; conferring with supervisors, department staff, and others in the solution of administrative, fiscal, organizational, productivity, and administrative analysis; compiling of data for workload, revenue, and activity reports to management; and preparing correspondence and reports. A working knowledge of all sites, rules, regulations, municipal codes, policies, fees, and operations is required to answer customer inquiries and produce information relating to regulations, citations and fines.