

November 2025

Parks and Recreation

PARK AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Impact of Investing in Our Young Professionals

Alondra Guerrero and Francisco Vasquez are true success stories of community based participation, involvement in recreation activities and career opportunities in the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department.

Francisco and Alondra participated in the first San Diego Parks Foundation and City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department's Park Ambassador program in 2023. This first program was held at Martin Luther King Recreation Center.

As part of the program, both Ambassadors participated in community events, coached youth sports, assisted with special events, attended City Council meetings, spoke publicly in Council and engaged with philanthropic organizations while in the program.

In 2023 both were recruited by their local recreation centers to participate in the City of San Diego's Employ and Empower Internship Program in addition to the Next Steps Park Ambassador Program.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Park Ambassador Program	2
Balboa Park Division	4
Citywide Recreation Services	5
San Diego Parks Foundation	15
Jerabek Park Improvement	19
Open Space Division	21
Community Parks I Division	23
Kate Sessions Day at Oak Park	25
Community Parks II Division	28
Aquatics	29
Safety and Training	30
Administration	31
Personnel	32
Employee KUDOS	35
Around the Department	38

At the conclusion of their internship, both were encouraged to apply and interview for hourly recreation positions. Both Alondra and Francisco were successful in obtaining hourly recreation positions with the City of San Diego's Parks and Recreation Department.

Through the Park Ambassador Program and the Next Steps Park Ambassador Program, both Alondra and Francisco gained valuable insight that prepared them for the application and interview of the position of Assistant Recreation Center Director. Both were successful and were selected. Alondra was selected for Paradise Hills Recreation Center and Francisco was assigned to Skyline Hills Recreation Center.

*“Every expert was once a beginner.
Every leader was once a learner.”*

-Robin Sharma, Writer

PARK AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Continued

Impact of Investing in Our Young Professionals

I'm Alondra, I love baking in my free time or rooting for the Houston Rockets. Because of the Parks Foundation Park Ambassador Program, I was provided a door to a career I didn't know was possible. I've developed key leadership skills, learning to take initiative and guide teams effectively. The program has also enhanced my communication abilities, empowering me to articulate ideas clearly and confidently. It has given me a solid understanding of key fundamentals.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the San Diego Parks Foundation.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Park Ambassador Program

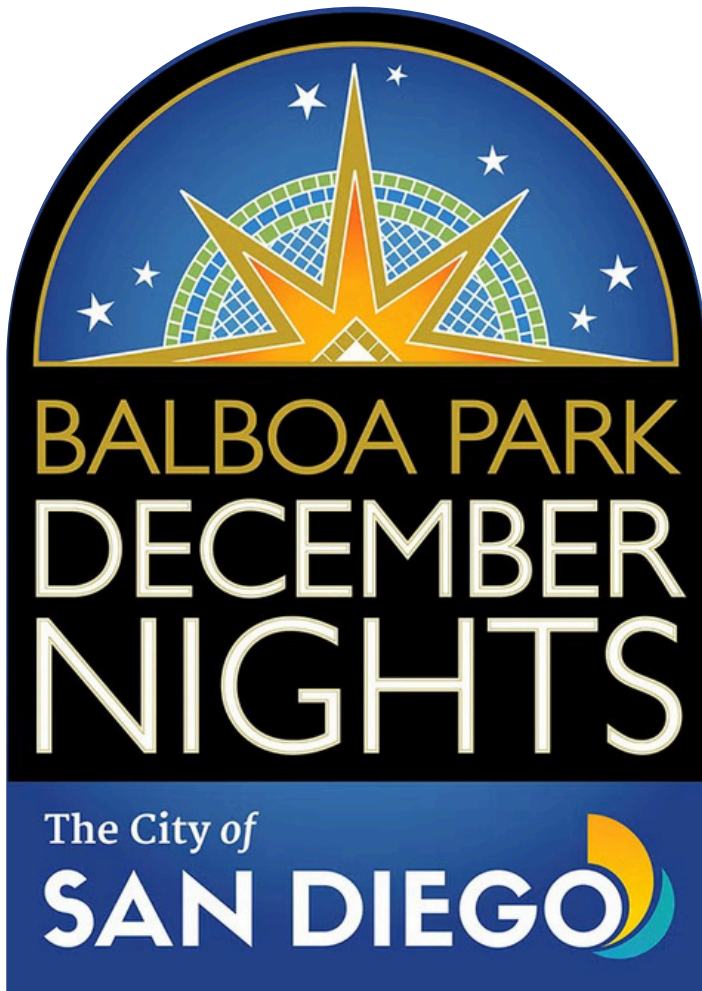


I'm Francisco Vasquez, Jr. and I love playing chess! The park ambassador program really brought me out of my bubble and showed me how to become better, both professionally and personally. It opened my eyes to all the possibilities within the City while helping me improve who I was, from learning how to write resumes to becoming CPR certified at just the age of 17. I graduated the park ambassador class of 2023 where I then became a Rec Leader 1, half-time benefited Rec Leader 2 and now a full-time supervisor as an Assistant Center Director for the City of San Diego. I'm beyond grateful for the entire team behind this program because I wouldn't be here without them.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the City of San Diego's Internship Programs.

BALBOA PARK DIVISION

December Nights on Dec. 5 and 6



Click [here](#) for more information.

Join us on December 5 and 6 for the City of San Diego's largest free holiday festival in beautiful Balboa Park. The family friendly event brings San Diegans together to enjoy the lights, the sounds, the attractions and of course, the amazing food.



Friday
December 5, 2025
3 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday
December 6, 2025
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.



CITYWIDE RECREATION SERVICES

Instagram

Join us on Instagram! Stay up-to-date and discover all the exciting programs and events we have to offer.

SCAN HERE

@sdparksandrec



More Information

 <https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation>

The City of
SAN DIEGO
Parks and Recreation Department

2025-2026

WINTER EVENTS

STARTING IN DECEMBER

Join us for holiday celebrations that include food, entertainment, snow days, crafts, jumpers, cookies with Santa and more!



Scan the QR code
or click the link
for event details!

<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/event-calendar>



The City of
SAN DIEGO
Parks and Recreation Department

2025-2026

EVENTOS DE INVIERNO

A PARTIR DE DICIEMBRE

¡Participa en las celebraciones navideñas que incluyen comida, entretenimiento, días de nieve, manualidades, brincolines, galletas con Santa Claus y mucho más!



¡Escanea el código QR o haz clic en el enlace para obtener más información sobre el evento!

<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/event-calendar>





Join us in Balboa Park for San Diego's biggest free holiday festival—lights, music, and great food! December 5 from 3:00pm to 11:00pm and December 6 from 11:00am to 11:00pm. For more information: <https://www.sandiego.gov/december-nights>

¡Participa en Balboa Park en el festival navideño gratuito más grande de San Diego: luces, música y comida deliciosa! El 5 de diciembre de 3:00pm a 11:00pm y el 6 de diciembre de las 11:00am a 11:00pm. Para más información visita: <https://www.sandiego.gov/december-nights>

DATE Fecha	LOCATION Ubicación	EVENT Eventos	TIME Tiempo
12/5	Balboa Park - Interior Courtyard of the Casa del Prado Building	San Diego Civic Dance Arts Performance Stage at December Nights	5:15pm, 6:15pm, 7:15pm, 8:15pm & 9:15pm
12/5	South Clairemont Recreation Center	Cookies with Santa	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
12/5	Balboa Park - Botanical Building	December Nights Holiday Decoration & Poinsettia Display	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
12/5	Hourglass Recreation Center	Movie in the Gym	5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
12/6	Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center	Snow Day in The Park	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
12/6	Balboa Park - Interior Courtyard of the Casa del Prado Building	San Diego Civic Dance Arts Performance Stage at December Nights	6:15pm, 7:15pm, 8:15pm & 9:15pm
12/6	Pacific Beach Recreation Center	Morning with Santa	9:30 am - 11:30 am
12/6	Hilltop Recreation Center	Winter Wonderland	11:00 am - 3:00 pm
12/6	Tecolote Canyon	Restoration event with the Rangers	9:00 am - 11:00 am
12/6	South Bay Recreation Center	Kids Night Out	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
12/6	Park de la Cruz Gymnasium	Winter Carnival	11:30 am - 2:00 pm
12/6	Montgomery-Waller Recreation Center	Winter Wonderland/Snow Day	10:00 am - 3:00 pm
12/6	Balboa Park - Botanical Building	December Nights Holiday Decoration & Poinsettia Display	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
12/10	Southcrest Recreation Center	Churros with Grinch	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
12/10	La Jolla Recreation Center	Build Your Own Gingerbread House	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
12/12	Lopez Ridge Recreation Center	Christmas Movie & Cookie Decorating Night	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
12/12	North Clairemont Recreation Center	Cookies with Santa	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
12/12	Doyle Recreation Center	Senior Luncheon	11:00 am - 1:00 pm
12/12	Scripps Ranch Recreation Center	Winter Movie in the Gym	4:00 - 6:00 pm Movie starts at 6:30 pm

DATE Fecha	LOCATION Ubicación	EVENT Eventos	TIME Tiempo
12/12	San Carlos Recreation Center	A Jolly Movie Night	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
12/12	Standley Recreation Center	Dinner with Santa	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
12/12	Allied Gardens Recreation Center	Winter Holiday Event	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
12/12	South Bay Recreation Center	Merry Grinchmas Event	5:30 pm - 7:30pm
12/12	Kearny Mesa Recreation Center	Let's Chill	4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
12/12	Bud Kearns Pool	Bud Kearns Pool Winter Wonderland	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
12/12	Montgomery-Waller Recreation Center	Toy4Tots Toys Distribution	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
12/12	Carmel Mountain Ranch Sabre Springs Recreation Center	Crafts & Cocoa	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
12/12	Mid-City Gymnasium	Movie Night	5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
12/13	Colina Del Sol Recreation Center	Winter Wonderland	10:00 am - 3:00 pm
12/13	Doyle Recreation Center	Breakfast with Santa	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
12/13	Skyline Hills Recreation Center	The Grinch Ugly Sweater Party	9:00 am - 11:00 am
12/13	Stockton Recreation Center	Breakfast with Santa	9:00 am -1:00 pm
12/13	Standley Recreation Center	Breakfast with Santa, Toys for Tots	9:00 am - 11:00 am
12/13	Adams Recreation Center	Brunch with Santa	11:00 am - 1:00 pm
12/13	Cabrillo Recreation Center	Cookies with Santa	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
12/13	Teralta Park	Winter Extravanganza	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
12/14	Chollas Lake Park	The Spirit of Giving at Chollas Lake	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
12/17	Nobel Recreation Center	Cookies with Santa	11:00 am - 1:00 pm
12/17	Azalea Recreation Center	Winter Snow Day	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
12/17	Silver Wing Recreation Center	Cookies with Santa	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
12/17	Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation	Churros & Hot Chocolate With Santa & The Grinch	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
12/17	South Bay Recreation Center	Gringerbread House Decorating Party	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
12/18	Encanto Rec Center	Dinner in Whoville	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
12/19	Cadman Recreation Center	Holiday Cheers	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
12/19	Ocean Beach Recreation Center	Winter Wonderland	11:30 am - 2:00 pm
12/19	Tierrasanta Recreation Center	Cozy Winter Celebration	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

DATE Fecha	LOCATION Ubicación	EVENT Eventos	TIME Tiempo
12/19	North Park Recreation Center	Breakfast for Dinner with Santa	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
12/19	Bay Terraces Community & Senior Center	Grinchy Cocoa Night	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
12/19	Willie Henderson Sports Complex	Cookies with Santa	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
12/19	Tierrasanta Recreation Center	Cozy Winter Celebration	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
12/20	Municipal Gym	Breakfast with Santa	10:00 am - 12:30 pm
12/20	Memorial Recreation Center	Breakfast with Santa	10:00 am - 2:00 pm
12/20	Ocean Air Community Park	Snow Day	8:30 am - 11:30 am
12/20	Mountain View Community Center	Winter Wonderland	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
12/20	Kumeyaay Lake Campground	Native Plant Holiday Wreath Making	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
1/3	Tecolote Canyon	Restoration with Rangers	9:00 am - 11:00 am
1/10	Swanson/Standley Pools	Polar Bear Plunge, Sun Bear Splash	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
1/17	Tecolote Recreation Center	Tecolote Snow Day	11:00 am - 1:00 pm
1/23	South Bay Recreation Center	Love on the Easel	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
1/26	Park de la Cruz Community Center	AgeWell Services Senior Resource Fair	10:00 am - 12:00 pm

DATE Fecha	TIME Tiempo		
1/30, 2/6 & 2/13	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Civic Dance Arts' Award-Winning Dance Show featuring 66 dancers in a two-hour infusion of color, beauty and joy that showcases the power of dance to uplift and touch lives. For more information visit: https://cividdancearts.org/shows/tickets.html Espectáculo de danza premiado de Civic Dance Arts con 66 bailarines en una presentación de dos horas llena de color, belleza y alegría que demuestra el poder de la danza para elevar y emocionar vidas. Para más información visite: https://cividdancearts.org/shows/tickets.html	
1/31, 2/7 & 2/14	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm & 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm		
2/1 & 2/15	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm		

*Some events may require registration and/or cost. Visit event calendar for more details.

*Algunos eventos necesitan registro y/o tienen un costo. Consulta el calendario de eventos para más detalles.

<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/event-calendar>

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF RECREATION PROGRAMMING IN SAN DIEGO!

We want to hear from you!

Do you have programs that you would like to see at your local recreation center? Do you have a preference on how you want to receive information from the Department? Do you have barriers to participation? Join us for an in-person Town Hall meeting, as your input is vital in helping guide our efforts to improve our recreational operations to meet your needs.

UPCOMING TOWN HALLS

27 OCT.	Council District 9 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. City Heights Rec. Center 4380 Landis Street, San Diego, CA 92105	09 DEC.	Council District 2 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. South Clairemont Recreation Center 3605 Clairemont Drive, San Diego, CA 92117
13 NOV.	Council District 8 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Montgomery-Waller Rec. Center 3020 Coronado Ave, San Diego, CA 92154	11 DEC.	Council District 5 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Carmel Mountain Ranch Sabre Spring Rec. Center 10152 Rancho Carmel Drive, San Diego, CA 92128
14 NOV.	Council District 4 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Martin Luther King Rec. Center 6401 Skyline Drive, San Diego, CA 92114	 In-person meetings will include: •A presentation, questions and answer session and interactive tables to provide feedback. •Chance to win a \$25 gift card for attending and participating. •Light snacks and childcare will be provided.	
19 NOV.	Council District 3 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. North Park Rec. Center 4044 Idaho Street, San Diego, CA 92104		
21 NOV.	Council District 6 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Hourglass Field Community Park & Fieldhouse 10440 Black Mountain Rd, San Diego, 92126		
24 NOV.	Council District 7 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Allied Gardens Rec. Center 5155 Greenbrier Ave, San Diego, CA 92120		
03 DEC.	Council District 1 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Carmel Valley Rec. Center 3777 Townsgate Drive, San Diego, CA 92130		

In-person meetings will include:

- A presentation, questions and answer session and interactive tables to provide feedback.
- Chance to win a \$25 gift card for attending and participating.
- Light snacks and childcare will be provided.



Scan to Take Survey

Scan the QR code to take the Community Recreation Needs Survey. Submit feedback by Feb. 28, 2026. Survey Link: sandiego.gov/parksurvey

¡AYUDE A DAR FORMA AL FUTURO DE LA PROGRAMACIÓN RECREATIVA EN SAN DIEGO!

¡Queremos conocer su opinión!

¿Tiene programas que le gustaría ver en su centro de recreación local? ¿Tiene alguna preferencia sobre cómo desea recibir información del Departamento? ¿Tiene usted barreras para participar? Únase a nosotros para una asamblea comunitaria presencial, ya que su aporte es vital para ayudarnos a guiar nuestros esfuerzos para mejorar nuestras operaciones recreativas para satisfacer sus necesidades.

PRÓXIMAS ASAMBLEAS COMUNITARIAS

27 OCT.	Distrito 9 del Concejo 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Centro de Recreación City Heights Centro 4380 Landis Street, San Diego, CA 92105	09 DIC.	Distrito 2 del Concejo 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Centro de Recreación South Clairemont 3605 Clairemont Drive, San Diego, CA 92117
13 NOV.	Distrito 8 del Concejo 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Centro de Recreación Montgomery-Waller Centro 3020 Coronado Ave, San Diego, CA 92154	11 DIC.	Distrito 5 del Concejo 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Centro de Recreación Carmel Mountain Ranch/Sabre Spring Centro 10152 Rancho Carmel Drive, San Diego, CA 92128
14 NOV.	Distrito 4 del Concejo 6:00-7:30 p.m. Centro de Recreación Martin Luther King Centro 6401 Skyline Drive, San Diego, CA 92114	 Las reuniones en persona incluirán: • Una presentación, sesión de preguntas y respuestas y mesas interactivas para brindar retroalimentación. • Oportunidad de ganar una tarjeta de regalo de \$25 por asistir y participar. • Habrá refrigerios ligeros y servicio de cuidado de niños.	
19 NOV.	Distrito 3 del Concejo 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Centro de Recreación North Park Centro 4044 Idaho Street, San Diego, CA 92104		
21 NOV.	Distrito 6 del Concejo 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Parque comunitario Hourglass Field y Gimnasio 10440 Black Mountain Rd, San Diego, 92126		
24 NOV.	Distrito 7 del Concejo 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Centro de Recreación Allied Gardens Centro 5155 Greenbrier Ave, San Diego, CA 92120		
03 DIC.	Distrito 1 del Concejo 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Centro de Recreación Carmel Valley Centro 3777 Townsgate Drive, San Diego, CA 92130		



Escanear para realizar la encuesta

Escaneelcódigo QR para completar la Encuestasobre necesidades de recreación de la comunidad. Envíe sus vcomentarios antes del 28 defebrero de 2026.

Enlace de la encuesta: sandiego.gov/parksurvey

Help Shape the Future of Recreation Programming!

We want to hear from you!

Are you a leader or representative of a local community organization in San Diego? Do you have ideas for recreation programs or ways to improve public information? Are there barriers preventing community members from participating in programs?

Join a Virtual Focus Group to provide us feedback on how recreational services can be improved to better meet your needs.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL FOCUS GROUPS

07 NOV.	Council Districts 3, 6, and 7 Time: 11:30 a.m.
10 NOV.	Council Districts 4, 8, and 9 Time: 11:00 a.m.
13 NOV.	Council Districts 1, 2, and 5 Time: 11:30 a.m.
20 NOV.	Council Districts 4, 8, and 9 Time: 4:00 p.m.
04 DEC.	Council Districts 3, 6, and 7 Time: 3:30 p.m.
18 DEC.	Council Districts 1, 2, and 5 Time: 4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Keen Independent Research at sdparksneeds@keenindependent.com

21 JAN.	All Council Districts Time: 11:30 a.m.
11 FEB.	All Council Districts Time: 4:00 p.m.

Virtual meetings will be:

- Held via Zoom
- 45-minute sessions
- Include a presentation, a Question & Answer segment, and interactive survey

Registration required to attend.



Scan to Register

Scan the QR code to register to attend a Focus Group

¡Ayuda informar el futuro de la programación recreativa!

¡Nos gustaría saber su opinión!

¿Es usted líder o representante de una organización comunitaria local en la ciudad de San Diego?
¿Tiene ideas para programas de recreación que el gustaría implementar en su centro recreativo o parque local? ¿Existen obstáculos que le impidan participar en los programas o servicios?

Participe en un grupo de enfoque virtual para darnos comentarios sobre su experiencia, ideas, obstáculos y cómo se pueden mejorar nuestros servicios recreativos.

GRUPOS DE ENFOQUE VIRTUALES

07 NOV.	D istrictos del consejo 3, 6 y 7 Tiempo: 11:30 a.m.
10 NOV.	Distritos del consejo 4, 8 y 9 Tiempo: 11:00 a.m.
13 NOV.	Distritos del consejo 1, 2 y 5 Tiempo: 11:30 a.m.
20 NOV.	Distritos del consejo 4, 8 y 9 Tiempo: 4:00 p.m.
04 DIC.	Distritos del consejo 3, 6 y 7 Tiempo: 3:30 p.m.
18 DIC.	Distritos del consejo 1, 2 y 5 Tiempo: 4:00 p.m.

21 ENE.	Todos los distritos del consejo Tiempo: 11:30 a.m.
11 FEB.	Todos los distritos del consejo Tiempo: 4:00 p.m.

Reuniones virtuales serán:

- Realizada través de Zoom
- Sesiones de 45 minutos
- Incluye una presentación, un segmento de preguntas y respuestas y una encuesta interactiva.

ES NECESARIO REGISTRARSE PARA PARTICIPAR.



ESCANEAR PARA REGISTRARSE
Escanee el código para registrarse y participar en un grupo de enfoque.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Keen Independent Research por correo electrónico
sdparksneeds@keenindependent.com



SAN DIEGO PARKS FOUNDATION

A Walk in the Park



The San Diego Parks Foundation hosted *A Walk in the Park* fundraising event on Nov. 6, 2025, on the rooftop of the San Diego Football Club headquarters. The event was attended by 157 people and showcased the collaboration of the San Diego Parks Foundation and the City of San Diego to provide meaningful programs and projects to communities in San Diego.



*"Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and
shadows will fall behind you."*

-Walt Whitman, Poet

Volleyball Clinic with the San Diego Mojo Team



Parks and Recreation hosted a Volleyball Clinic with the San Diego Mojo Professional Volleyball Team on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2025 at Mid-City Gym. Fifty teens were in attendance for this free program.

Projects In Progress

The La Jolla Tree Lighting Project will be from Dec. 2, 2025 through Jan. 16, 2026.

Fanuel Park in Mission Beach will soon have a new play structure and play surface for the community to enjoy. This project is expected to start in Dec. 2025.

New LED field lighting will be installed at Southcrest athletic field. This project is slated to start in Dec. 2025.

Park Ambassador Graduation



The Park Ambassador Graduation was held on Nov. 12, 2025, after completing a 9-week program for 25 new Park Ambassadors.



*"The best way to predict the future is to
invest in those who shape it."*

-Peter Ducker, Educator

Project Completed: Scripps Sod Project



EB Scripps sod project - The area was prepped by Citywide Maintenance Services Division and new sod was laid for use and beautification of coastal areas. The turf should be opened for public use in Dec. 2025.

Upcoming Events

- Teen Activity Committee Volleyball at Balboa Park Activity Center on Dec. 2 and 3, 2025, starting at 5:00 p.m.
- City Wide Flag Football Tournament at Robb Field on Dec. 13, 2025, starting at 9:00 a.m.
- Drone Competition Dec. 17, 2025 at Southcrest Recreation Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Multiple Winter Celebrations throughout the month of December.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the San Diego Parks Foundation.



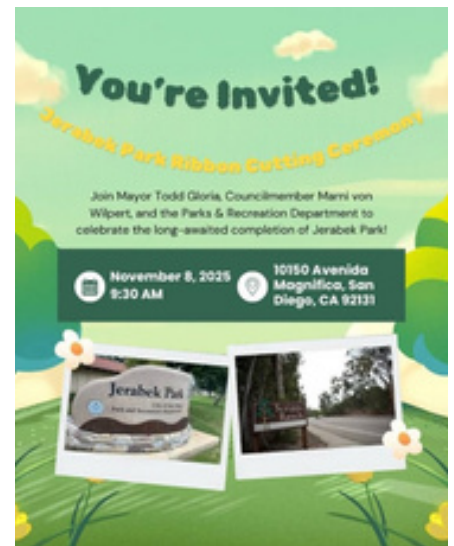
“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”
-Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

JERABEK PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Jerabek Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Jerabek Park Improvement Project marks a transformative milestone for the Scripps Ranch community, delivering upgrades that elevate accessibility, recreation, and overall park enjoyment.



Click [here](#) for the article on Inside San Diego.

On Nov. 8, 2025 the City of San Diego's honorable Mayor Todd Gloria joined members of the Scripps Ranch community in celebrating the completion of major upgrades to Jerabek Park, an event more than 30 years in the making and representing nearly an \$8 million investment. This momentous achievement was made possible through a combination of state and local funding, including a dedication of \$4 million from Assemblymember Brian Maienschein.

JERABEK PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT *Continued*

Jerabek Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The revitalized Jerabek Park now stands as a vibrant, and inclusive updated community destination. Among the many improvements are two new children's play areas, a modern comfort station/concession building, picnic shelter, accessible sidewalks and bleachers, and a fully resurfaced parking lot. Additional Park furnishings further enhance the visitor experience, ensuring that Jerabek Park will serve as a beloved gathering place for generations to come. The project also introduces new outdoor fitness areas, expanding recreational opportunities for visitors of all ages. This project not only transforms a neighborhood park but celebrates the power of community perseverance, investment, and vision bringing to life amenities that truly serve and uplift the entire Scripps Ranch community.



OPEN SPACE DIVISION

Eagle Scout Project: 4 Corners at Mission Trails



At Mission Trails Regional Park, Park Ranger Steven Blankenship has been working on this project with a scout for over a year. They determined the project and scope of work, scouted the park for locations, worked on design modifications and material acquisition, and coordinated with Troop 226 and ranger staff to get the shaded bench installed on Nov. 26, 2025.

OPEN SPACE DIVISION

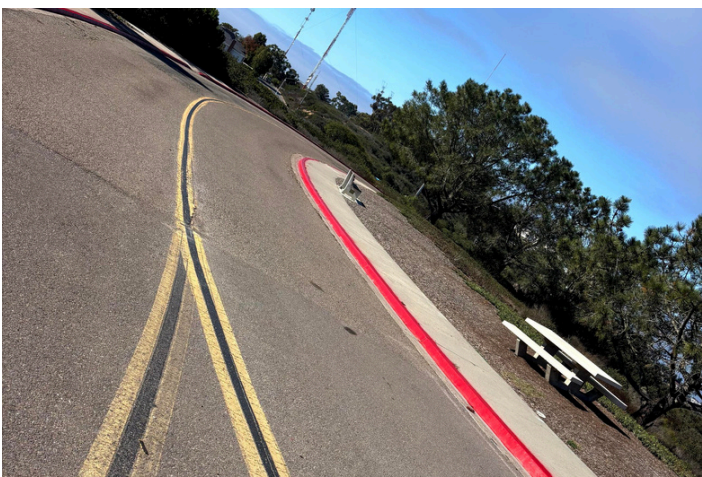
Continued

Halloween Party at Chollas Lake Park



COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

Beautification Project at Mt. Soledad Park



Photos from Group Beautification Service Project at Mt. Soledad Park in preparation of a huge Veteran's Day event.

Beautification Project at Breen Community Park



On Nov. 13, 2025, Certified California Native Landscaper Stephanie Lawrence partnered with Mira Mesa area maintenance and 25 Dexcom volunteers donating time, expertise and about 200 native plants to help incorporate California native plants. Enhancing the park's visual appeal, reducing maintenance and water usage, and supporting local wildlife such as hummingbirds and butterflies.

"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret patience."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson, Philosopher and Abolitionist

PARKS AND RECREATION VOLUNTEERS

Kate Sessions Day at Oak Park



“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson, Poet

PARKS AND RECREATION VOLUNTEERS *Continued*

Kate Sessions Day at Oak Park



Photos courtesy of the
Communications Department

PARKS AND RECREATION VOLUNTEERS *Continued*

Kate Sessions Day at Oak Park



Click [here](#) for the Fox 5 News article.

Click [here](#) for the Inside San Diego article.



"I must have trees. They are my friends."

-Kate O. Sessions, Mother of Balboa Park

COMMUNITY PARKS II DIVISION

12th Annual Dinner with the Encanto Bulls



The Department's 12th Annual Thanksgiving dinner event at Encanto Recreation Center took place on November 20, 2025 where over 130 meals were served to park patrons and offered activities including a cake walk, door prizes, sign-ups for basketball, a DJ, and dancing. Great job by the Encanto staff.



AQUATICS

Carmel Valley Pool Swimmer Shares His Story



Arthur Salazar lost part of his leg to flesh eating bacteria he got while on the beach. He has been coming to Carmel Valley Pool regularly to exercise and relax. He talks about his story, why he loves Carmel Valley Pool and the staff there and the importance of being able to come swim.

“The water is your friend. You don’t have to fight with water, just share the same spirit as the water, and it will help you move.”

-Aleksandr Popov, Swimmer

SAFETY AND TRAINING

Safety Tip: Holiday Safety and Stress Management

Did you know that stress and distractions during the holidays can lead to accidents? Here are three quick tips to stay safe and stress-free:

- Stay Focused on Tasks: Avoid multitasking and stay mindful of your surroundings.
- Manage Holiday Stress: Take breaks, breathe deeply, and prioritize self-care.
- Practice Safe Decorating: Use a sturdy ladder and avoid overloading electrical outlets.



By staying mindful and managing stress, we can enjoy a safe and happy holiday season!

“Be healthy and take care of yourself, but be happy with the beautiful things that make you, you.”

-Beyonce, Singer-songwriter

Upcoming Trainings

Training Schedule

Due Date Name

12/03/25 - 2025 Chainsaw Certification – NEW!
12/08/25 - 8:30 a.m. Conversations with the Director Session 1
(NEW Time)
12/09/25 - 12:30 p.m. Conversations with the Director Session 2
01/30/26 - Cybersecurity Training
01/30/26 - Sexual Harassment Training
01/30/26 - California Public Records Act Compliance (FY 2026)

Pre-register for all trainings in Success Factors (no need to register for Conversations w/Director).

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



Office Hours:

The Aero Drive training office is available for employees to complete SuccessFactors trainings on Mondays from 9 AM to 12 PM.

Employees must receive permission from their supervisor in advance and inform the training office by e-mailing [@SDPR_Safety and Training](mailto:@SDPR_Safety_and_Training).

*The Chromebooks in the training office will not allow employees to complete their timecards. Please plan accordingly.

ADMINISTRATION

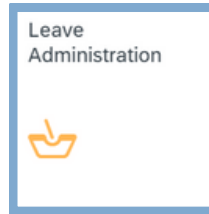
Payroll Reminders

CY2025 Pay-In-Lieu and CY2026 Pay-In-Lieu Election

Per Employee Notification emails sent out citywide on Nov. 14, and 26, 2025:

Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Pay-In-Lieu and Compensatory Time Off Cash-outs will be cashed out on paycheck of Dec. 5, 2025, by Dept. of Finance.

Open enrollment for pay-in-lieu for CY2026 is Nov. 14 – Dec. 31, 2025, no extensions.



Click [here](#) for Pay-In-Lieu FAQ.

Helpful P&R Links

[CityNet](#)

[Personnel](#)

[Inside SD](#)

[Get-It-Done](#)

City Job Links

[Open Jobs](#)

[Transfer Opportunities](#)

[Promotional Jobs
for City Employees Only](#)

*“During your life, never stop dreaming.
No one can take away your dreams.”
-Tupac Shakur, Rapper*

Volunteer and Intern Office Updates



Department Picture Contest

Congratulations to the Picture Contest's August winner, **Rudy Ordonez**, Park Ranger, Open Space Division.

Paid Intern Resources

Use [this link](#) to learn more about the new paid intern hiring process.
Use [this link](#) to access the Intern Supervisor Step-By-Step Guide.

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

November 2025 Contest Winner

Rudy Ordonez
Open Space

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 day 15 of each month.

Volunteer Links

[City Internship Program](#)

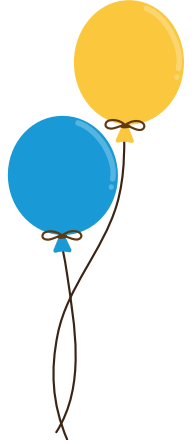
[Better Impact](#)

[Volunteer Page](#)

PERSONNEL

Service Awards

Division	Name	Classification	Years of Service
CP II	Ricardo Aguilar	Recreation Leader 1	15
PR	Jennifer Baez	Park Ranger	5
OS	Laura Ball	Project Officer 2	25
CP II	Elleese Fillmore	Assistant Recreation Center Director	15
CRS	Tiffany Goff	Recreation Specialist (Dance)	20
Golf	Brian Irvin	Seven Gang Mower Operator	25
CP II	Dajasia Morales	Recreation Leader 1	10
CP I	Alysandra Perez	Recreation Center Director 3	10
MBSP	Carla Raya	Associate Management Analyst	10
CP I	Gabriel Ryan	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	25
AS	Shannon Scoggins	Landscape Designer	10
CMS	Clayton Walsten	District Manager	35
BP	Mathew Wetherby	Custodian 2	10



**YOU ARE
THE BEST!**

Promotions

Division	Name	Classification
CP II	Edel Ahrens	Pool Guard 2
CP I	Erin Holbech	Recreation Center Director 2
CP II	Stephanie Allen	Swimming Pool Manager 1
CP II	Isabella Cubillas	Swimming Pool Manager 1
CP II	Daniel Dorantes Baeza	Swimming Pool Manager 3
CP II	David Fullen	Aquatics Recreation Specialist
CP II	Luis Ochoa Goff	Swimming Pool Manager 1
CP II	Dulat Sarbassov	Pool Guard 2
CP II	James Stewart	Pool Guard 1
CP II	Jesus Tobias Navarro	Light Equipment Operator
CP II	Vanessa Viramontes	Assistant Recreation Center Director

**LET'S
CELEBRATE
you**



"Train people well enough so they can leave. Treat them well enough so they don't want to."

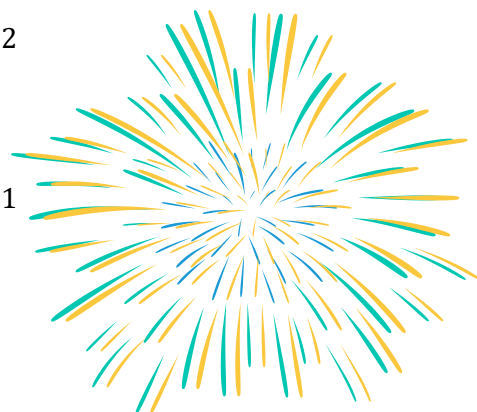
-Richard Branson, Business Magnate

PERSONNEL

Continued

New Hires and Rehires

Division	Name	Classification
CP II	Angela Allen	Recreation Aide
CP II	Rodolfo Cano	Recreation Aide
CP II	Patricia Castillo	Recreation Aide
CP II	Efren Chagoya Quintana	Recreation Aide
CP I	Evan Cooper	Recreation Aide
CP II	Elisabell Cota	Recreation Aide
CP II	Delilah Diez Espana	Recreation Aide
Golf	Sean Downing	Golf Operations Assistant
CP II	Pablo Estrada	Pool Guard 1
CP II	Christopher Famania Loaiza	Recreation Aide
Golf	Daniel Florian	Golf Operations Assistant
CP I	Anabel Foster	Recreation Aide
CP I	Natalie Galvez	Recreation Aide
CP II	Shirah Hancock	Recreation Leader 2
CP II	James Herlihy	Pool Guard 1
CP II	Paulina Jimenez	Recreation Aide
CP I	Troy Jones	Recreation Aide
CP II	Sebastian Kinnamon	Recreation Aide
BP	Thomas Krause	Clerical Assistant 2
CP I	Gustavo Machado Perez	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2
CP II	John Matheson	Pool Guard 1
CP II	Alejandro Mendoza	Pool Guard 1
CP II	Maggie Nguyen	Pool Guard 2
CP I	Jonathan Oregel	Grounds Maintenance Worker 1
CP II	Paola Padilla	Recreation Aide
CP II	David Peevy	Intern
CP II	Savannah Ransom	Pool Guard 1
CP II	Maritza Rivera	Recreation Aide
BP	Alejandra Santillan	Custodian 1
Golf	Robert Swigart	Golf Operations Assistant
CP II	Matthew Talbot	Pool Guard 1
CP II	Giulia Verardi	Pool Guard 1
CP I	Cooper Zei	Recreation Aide



CONGRATS!



PERSONNEL

Continued

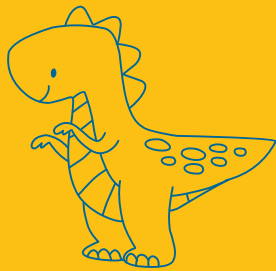
Service Retirement

Division	Name	Classification	Years of Service
Golf	Mark Gavaghan	Light Equipment Operator	25
CP I	Lee Hayes	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	28
OS	Paul Kilburg	Senior Planner	29
MBSP	Mike Rodrigues	District Manager	44

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LATEST RETIREES

Mark Gavaghan
Light Equipment Operator

No Photo Available.



25 years of dedicated service.

Lee Hayes
Grounds Maintenance Worker 2

No Photo Available.



28 years of dedicated service.

Paul Kilburg
Senior Planner



29 years of dedicated service.

Mike Rodrigues
District Manager



44 years of dedicated service.



"In every real man, a child is hidden that wants to play."

-Friedrich Nietzsche, Philosopher

EMPLOYEE KUDOS

FY25 Citywide Employee of the Year Winner



Congratulations to Moises Vasquez-Calderon in the Open Space Division for being recognized as one of the FY25 Department-wide Employees of the Year and moving on to being selected for the FY25 Citywide Employee of the Year Award. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated and recognized.

Moises has led, executed and finished several major projects and dozens of smaller maintenance projects that continue to improve our open space parks. Moises is a hardworking, self-motivated leader who loves his job and his City family at Open Space Parks. He shows his can-do attitude daily through his professionalism and dedication to his job. He is the gold standard of parks.

Click [here](#) to review all Inside San Diego articles.

Moises Vasquez-Calderon
Grounds Maintenance Manager



Open Space Division



Note of Appreciation to Brush Management

No complaint....Just wanted to say thank you to Park & Rec Brush Management crew who were out immediately after my request. Columbus and his crew immediately cleared the area of my concern in minutes. THANK YOU! And special shout out to Columbus for his thoroughness!

Mary

-Submitted to GID

“Appreciation is a wonderful thing: It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.”
-Voltaire, Philosopher

EMPLOYEE KUDOS

Letter of Appreciation to Mary Zanolelli

Hello,

My name is Adrienne Reighard, and I am a 3rd grade teacher at Innovations Academy in San Diego. I'm writing to share my sincere appreciation for the phenomenal experience our students had during a recent field trip to Tecolote Natural Park, where Mary facilitated a highly engaging and deeply meaningful learning experience for our class.

Our 3rd grade team has been studying Kumeyaay history, traditions, and native plants, and this field trip aligned beautifully with our social studies, science, and ELA standards. It was truly one of the most hands-on and impactful learning opportunities our students have had this year.

Mary was incredibly intentional and thoughtful in the way she structured each activity. She guided students through:

- A traditional Kumeyaay game, encouraging teamwork, problem-solving, and cultural appreciation
- Making a brush out of yucca, helping students understand how local plants were used in everyday life
- Preparing acorn mush, giving students a tangible connection to traditional foodways
- Exploring native plants and their uses
- Learning about Kumeyaay history and land stewardship, supporting our social studies standards around Indigenous cultures of California

Students were fully engaged the entire time! They were asking questions, making connections to our classroom learning, and showing genuine curiosity. Many of them said it was their favorite field trip they've ever been on.

Mary's expertise, patience, and passion for sharing Kumeyaay culture were evident throughout the entire visit. Her ability to connect with students and facilitate meaningful hands-on learning made a tremendous impact on our class, and we are so grateful.

If you need any additional details, I'm happy to provide them. Thank you for supporting such high-quality educational programming - we would absolutely love to return.

Warmly,
Adrienne
3rd Grade Teacher
Innovations Academy

-Submitted by Steven Smith, Senior Pak Ranger

*"Act the way you'd like to be and soon you'll be
the way you act."*

-Bob Dylan, Singer-Songwriter

EMPLOYEE KUDOS

Letter of Appreciation to David Lee

Dear Jennifer,

It has been my pleasure to have been presenting "Hawk Talk " at the Mission Trails Regional Park's Visitor Center, for over six years. During this time David Lee, the Visitor Center Director, has always been there for me. The Center is always spotless, the tables and chairs set up for the presentation, the protective tarp and easels laid out, my stool in the appropriate place and the sign advertising the "Hawk Talk " program placed outside by the road. He knows I am busy with the birds and other materials so he handles the take down. When I do other events with my raptors such as camp presentations or talks with different audiences in the different rooms, David is a reliable presence making sure my needs are met. He is efficient, anticipating the unusual. Visitors are unaware of his presence because of his unassuming, quiet yet friendly attitude and professionalism.

In my opinion, David does not get the credit he so richly deserves.

I wanted you to know how grateful I am to have such a valuable individual assisting me.

Sincerely,
"Dr. Bob"

-Submitted by Julie Aeilts, Senior Park Ranger

Note of Appreciation to Mary Zanotelli

Hello! We, the 7th grade team from Innovations Academy charter school, wanted to reach out and share what a great experience we had with Mary Zanotelli and all the rangers on our field trip to Tecolote Canyon last month! Mary hosted a wonderful day of learning and exploring, the students were all very engaged and came back to school with lots of positive stories. She made sure to relate her teaching to the science unit we were covering in class at that time. We will be sure to recommend this field trip with Mary to other teachers as a great opportunity for their classes!

Sincerely,
Nicole
7th Grade Math & Science Teacher

-Submitted by Steven Smith, Senior Park Ranger

**"Coming together is a beginning, staying together
is progress, and working together is success."**

-Henry Ford, Industrialist



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Training Office: XGofer Training at Linda Vista Rec Center



“None of us is as smart as all of us.”

-Ken Blanchard, Author



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

*Employee Assistance Program Meeting
at Linda Vista Rec with Mayor Todd Gloria*



“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”
-Martin Luther King Jr., Activist



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Park Ranger Division: Spooktacular - Trunk or Treat



On Thursday, Oct. 30, Shoreline and Mission Bay Park Rangers participated in Trunk or Treat at the San Diego Police Department, Western Division Substation. The night was Spooktacular, filled with treats and scary good fun. Nearly six large bags of candy were given out, and about 200 costumed young visitors stopped by the booth. The event was such a success, the Police Department hope to expand next year's Trunk or Treat event.

Open Space Division: Understanding the MSCP Training





AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Community Parks I Division: Pickleball Tournament at Ocean Air Rec Center



Ocean Air Recreation Center hosted a Pickleball Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 15. This event was organized by Michael Gentry, RLI.

-Submitted by Denise Lamb, Center Director



“Play is our brain’s favorite way of learning.”

-Diane Ackerman, Poet

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!

