



PARKS AND RECREATION PARK POST



December 2025



Parks and Recreation

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Andy Field, Director



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As the holiday season is upon us and we come to the end of 2025, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and thanks for your hard work, dedication, and professionalism. It is an honor and a privilege to serve alongside all of you, bringing high-quality parks and programs to all San Diegans. I am proud of the work you do each day and appreciate your commitment to the "heart of service" daily.

This past year has been one of the most challenging in my career, but as they say, challenges bring opportunities. The City's budget development process was difficult, but we were able to avoid layoffs within our department. We have had some significant successes in 2025. We hosted two major golf events at Torrey Pines Golf Course, the Farmers Insurance Open and the Genesis Invitational. Parks After Dark expanded to encompass five locations (City Heights, Linda Vista, Memorial, Silver Wing, and Skyline Hills). We were able to reopen the Carmel Mountain Ranch Pool and the Memorial Senior Center in Logan Heights. 2025 was the first full year of operation for our new Botanical Building in Balboa Park, proudly managed by City staff. Two

very large projects – East Village Green and Mira Mesa Community Park and Aquatic Center – are scheduled to open in 2026. We have had increased attendance and participation at many of our seasonal events and our growing City Sports Leagues. Every division and every Department employee had a role in helping make these big things happen for our park system. Together, we have made our park spaces welcoming for all San Diegans!

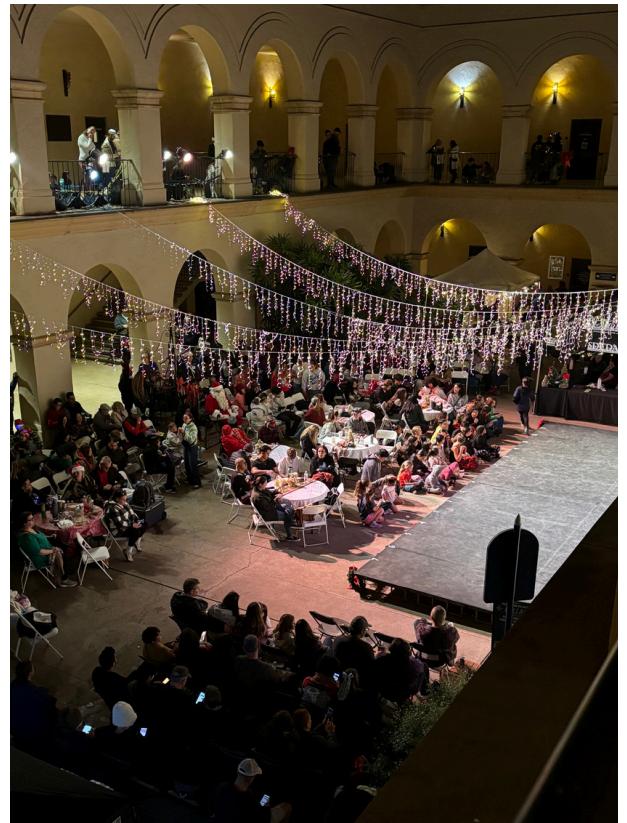
Thank you for all that you do. I hope that you find peace and happiness during this holiday season with your families and friends. With much excitement, I look forward to working alongside you in 2026 to continue to provide quality parks and programs to San Diegans. I wish you Happy Holidays and the most enjoyable New Year!



"No one has ever become poor by giving."
-Anne Frank, German Diarist

DECEMBER NIGHTS

Balboa Park Hosts December Nights 2025



“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”

-Hamilton Wright Mabie, Essayist

DECEMBER NIGHTS

Balboa Park Hosts December Nights 2025



DECEMBER NIGHTS

Continued

Balboa Park Hosts December Nights 2025



DECEMBER NIGHTS

Continued

Civic Dance Arts Performs at December Nights



For December Nights, our San Diego Civic Dance Arts (SDCDA) village came together to bring the magic of the holidays and the light of connection and dance to thousands of attendees! We had 12 shows over the course of two days. Performing-level dancer shows were held in the evenings. On Saturday, recreation level performances showcased the talents of hundreds of youth dancers from the following recreation centers: Canyonside, Hourglass, Kearny Mesa, City Heights, and the War Memorial Building. A great and memorable time was had by all!

DECEMBER NIGHTS

Continued

Civic Dance Arts Performs at December Nights



“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass; it’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

-Vivian Greene, Writer

DECEMBER NIGHTS

Continued

Civic Dance Arts Performs at December Nights



Click [here](#) to learn more about San Diego Civic Dance Arts.

Click [here](#) for enrollment information.



CITYWIDE RECREATION SERVICES

Division Holiday Celebration



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	San Diego Civic Dance Arts in partnership with San Diego Civic Dance Association presents	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://civicdancearts.org/shows/tickets.html
1/30, 2/6 & 2/13	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm		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.
1/31, 2/7 & 2/14	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm & 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm		Para más información visite: https://civicdancearts.org/shows/tickets.html
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!

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 el 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.	Distritos 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
sdsparksneeds@keenindependent.com



CORAL GATE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

City of San Diego Celebrates Upgrades at Coral Gate



The City of San Diego recently completed major improvements at Coral Gate Neighborhood Park in San Ysidro, marking its first substantial upgrades since the park opened in the early 2000s.

The \$4.94 million renovation included new play equipment and safety surfacing, upgraded security lighting, ADA access, and site furnishings. Other enhancements include a drinking fountain, turf area, picnic tables, stormwater improvements, and additional trees and vegetation.



Responding to community input, the playground features a seaside design and a range of age-appropriate equipment for children of all abilities. Highlights include a 2-5 structure and a 5-12 structure with a unique geometric layout and continuous circuits that encourage exploration and provide repeated play experiences. Freestanding components like the We-Go-Round® and We-saw™ offer opportunities for collaborative play, while the ZipKrooz® zip line provides a safe, exciting adventure. The swing set includes inclusive molded bucket seats with harnesses and chains, providing stability for children with limited upper-body strength.

“We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men.”

-Herman Melville, Writer

CORAL GATE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Continued

City of San Diego Celebrates Upgrades at Coral Gate



Councilmember Vivian Moreno said, "Thanks to the community's advocacy, Coral Gate Park is now a safe, modern, and accessible space where families can gather and make memories."

This project is the result of a successful collaboration between Parks and Recreation, Engineering and Capital Projects, and the community, and was funded in part with \$1.2 million in HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.



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

INSIDE
SAN DIEGO

Written by: Ilisa Goldman,
Landscape Architect

DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

Division Safety Award Celebrations



DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

Division Safety Award Celebrations



“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”

-Pablo Picasso, Painter

COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

Santa Spreading Joy to the Community Parks



CPI Santa had an exceptionally busy and joyful season, spreading holiday cheer, positivity, and warmth at multiple special events throughout the division. CPI Santa's presence helped elevate each event, create lasting memories for families, and reflect the spirit of community, generosity, and fun we strive to provide.



COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

Continued

Cookies with Santa at North Clairemont Recreation Center



North Clairemont Rec. Center Outdoor Court Resurfacing



"We were born to unite with our fellow men, and to join in community with the human race."

-Cicero, Roman Philosopher

COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

Continued

Breakfast with Santa at Standley Recreation Center



COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

Continued

Allied Gardens Recreation Center Winter Event



COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

Continued

Winter Wonderland at Hilltop Community Park



“Almost all creativity involves purposeful play.”
-Abraham Maslow, Psychologist



COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

Continued

Cookies with Santa at Nobel Recreation Center



COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

Continued

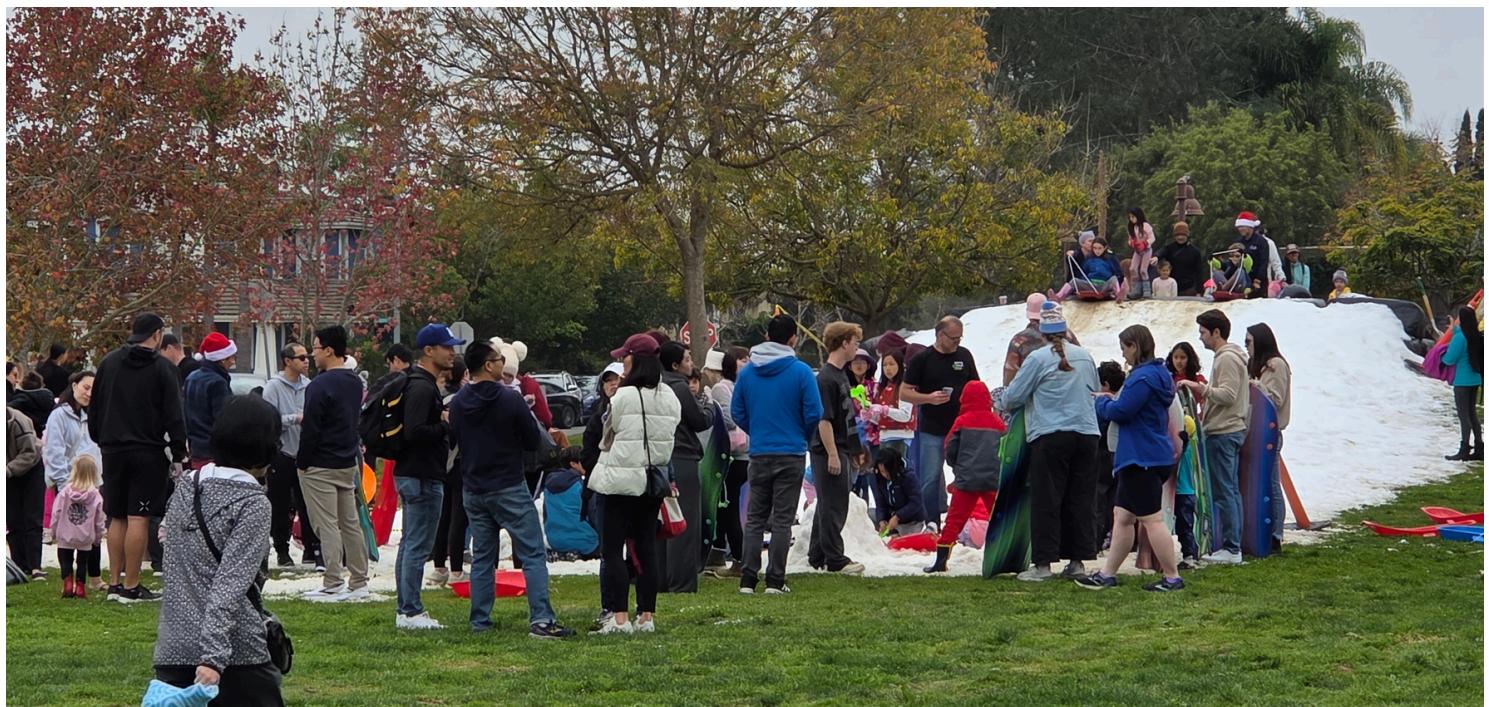
Cozy Winter Celebration at Tierrasanta Recreation Center



COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

Continued

Snow Day at Ocean Air Recreation Center



“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

-Martin Luther King Jr., Activist

PARK RANGER DIVISION

Beautification of Fiesta Island Campground



On Wednesday, Nov. 5, Mission Bay Park Rangers partnered with HandsOn San Diego and Xylem Watermark Group to beautify the Fiesta Island Youth Campground. The Xylem volunteers quickly got to work removing invasive plants, overgrown brush and maintaining trails. Within the span of an hour, they were able to fill up an entire 40-Yard dumpster. The group demonstrated great teamwork, and special thanks to the Park Rangers and Volunteer Leaders that led the groups so effectively. The Youth Camp is ready for the aquatic camping season!



CITYWIDE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Erich Kast - 2025 Shining Star Award Winner



Erich Kast, Park Arborist for the Parks and Recreation Department's Citywide Maintenance Services, was presented the 2025 Shining Star Award from the San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council. He was nominated by several of his peers in the region regarding his excellence in tree maintenance and tree protection in San Diego's City Parks.

"Celebrate what you want to see more of."

-Tom Peters, Author

CITYWIDE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Continued

Erich,

I want to congratulate you for this year's Shining Star Award from the San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council! You were nominated by several of your peers in the region regarding your excellence in tree maintenance and tree protection in San Diego's City Parks. We appreciate all you do to promote the region's urban forest, and on behalf of the SDRUFC Executive Committee we would like to invite you to this year's event to receive your award.

Brian Widener
City Forester
City of San Diego
Transportation



Erich,

Congratulations on this award and thank you for your continued contributions to our Park Forestry program, collaboration with the Transportation Department's Urban Forestry group and your commitment to protecting and maintaining trees as well as the arboriculture industry as a whole! This award is well deserved and an honor to be presented with by this group that consists of several agencies and professionals in the tree world of San Diego. I know its not always easy to be the one and only Parks Arborist, but I hope you understand that you are appreciated and are recognized for your dedication, passion, and hard work you do every day!

Albert Sais Jr.
District Manager
City of San Diego
Parks and Recreation



*"Excellence is an art won by training and habituation."
-Aristotle, Philosopher*



Environmental
Services

52nd Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program

Dec. 26, 2025 – Jan. 16, 2026

Drop off trees during daylight hours only

Residential Customers ONLY

Sorry...

- **NO** ornaments, lights or tree stands
- **NO** plastic bags or trash
- **NO** commercial or fundraising trees

Happy Holidays!

Drop-off sites are listed on next page.

For more information on the Christmas Tree Recycling Program and holiday waste reduction tips, visit sdrecyclingworks.com or contact the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department Recycling Hotline at **858-694-7000**.

For Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese translations, scan QR code or visit sdrecyclingworks.com



OPEN SPACE DIVISION

Kwaay Paay West Trail Work



Mission Trails Regional Park volunteers and Park Ranger staff have spent the last few months working on the Kwaay Paay West trail. They have been hard at work repairing erosion damage, installing a new staircase and check steps, creating additional drainage features, and reworking the tread to improve trail sustainability and appearance. The public has taken notice, and we've already received several compliments on the work. Thank you all for your hard work out there and thank you to the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation for helping to acquire the materials that are supporting this effort.



OPEN SPACE DIVISION

Continued

Open Space Division Rangers Table at December Nights



An educational outreach table was staffed by Open Space Park Rangers in the family fun zone at the annual December Nights Holiday event in Balboa Park.



Trail Maintenance at Mission Trails Regional Park

Rangers work to improve an eroded section of trail at Mission Trails Regional Park.



"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."

-John Muir, Naturalist and Activist

OPEN SPACE DIVISION

Continued

Watershed Enhancement Team (WET) Accomplishments



The Watershed Enhancement Team (WET), a small, dedicated crew of volunteers and Rangers from the San Diego River Park, celebrated their forth successful year in the San Diego River Watershed. Together the team removed an estimated 38,990 lbs of trash, trimmed 4,805 linear feet of trail, and removed 170 cubic yds of invasive species in 2025! Volunteers participated in 45 weekly events, donating over 603 hours of service to improving the health of the San Diego River and canyon tributaries! Many thanks to our incredibly hardworking volunteers, the new San Diego River Park Rangers for diving right in to support this effort, Rangers from Open Space Canyons for helping haul countless truckloads of trash, MTRP for kindly sharing their dumpster, and ESD for helping us with disposal! Stellar work, everyone!!!

CITYWIDE SPORTS COMMITTEE

2025 Cheer Showcase



Eight recreation centers participated, with 11 teams and a total of 172 participants. Each team had two minutes to showcase their cheers and/or dance routines, creating an exciting and energetic event. It was truly a fun-filled day, and it was wonderful to see so many families and community members out supporting the performers and enjoying the show. A huge shout-out and thank you to the Cheer Committee for their hard work and dedication in making this event possible:

Alissa Cordova (San Carlos), Alyssandra Perez (Linda Vista), Alondra Guerrero (Paradise Hills), Mike Marcelino (MLK), Trina Fowler (Colina), Taevee Davis (City Heights), Maya Birdsong (Allied Gardens), and Lacy Bradshaw (Navajo Area).

Great job to everyone involved—we look forward to an even bigger showcase next year!



CITYWIDE SPORTS COMMITTEE

Continued

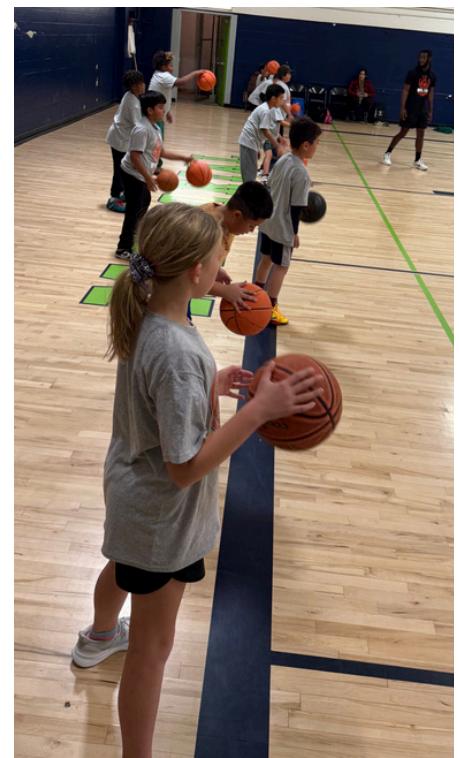
2025 Youth Basketball Clinic



The 2025 Basketball Clinic, hosted by the Sports Committee, was held on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, at Memorial Recreation Center. The clinic was open to youth ages 5–17 and offered participants the opportunity to learn and practice basketball fundamentals in a fun and supportive environment.

Participants rotated through skill stations focusing on dribbling, passing, shooting, footwork, and defensive techniques, while also learning the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and game rules. The clinic concluded with scrimmage-style games, allowing participants to apply the skills they learned in live play.

A special shout-out to the Basketball Committee for their hard work and dedication in organizing and conducting a successful clinic. Their commitment helped create a positive and engaging experience for all participants.

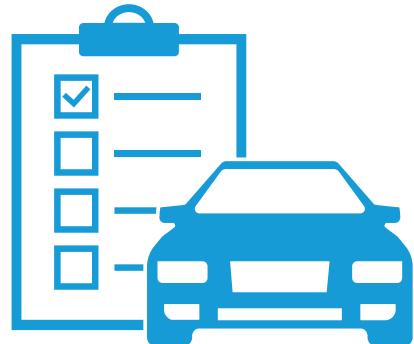


SAFETY AND TRAINING

Safe Driving and Incident Reporting

Did you know that most vehicle incidents happen at low speeds and can be prevented with simple habits? Here are three quick tips to stay safe:

- **Do a Walk-Around:** Check for obstacles, trailers, or people before moving any City vehicle.
- **Stay Distraction-Free:** No texting, eating, or multitasking while driving.
- **Report Immediately:** If a vehicle incident happens, report it right away to your supervisor AND Station 38.



By driving alert and reporting quickly, we protect everyone on the road.

*“The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity.
The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.”*
-Winston Churchill, Former Prime Minister of UK

Upcoming Trainings

Training Schedule

Date	Name
------	------

Training Updates Summary:

1/27/26 - ActiveNet Training (Day 1)
1/28/26 - ActiveNet Training (Day 2)
1/29/26 - ActiveNet Training (Day 3)
2/03/26 - Employee Accountability
2/18/26 - Employee Accountability
2/24/26 - ActiveNet Refresher
2/25/26 - Employee Accountability
2/26/26 - ActiveNet Refresher

Due Date	Name
----------	------

1/30/26 - Cybersecurity Training
1/30/26 - Sexual Harassment Training
1/30/26 - California Public Records Act
Compliance (FY 2026)

**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.

Pre-register for all trainings in Success Factors.

ADMINISTRATION

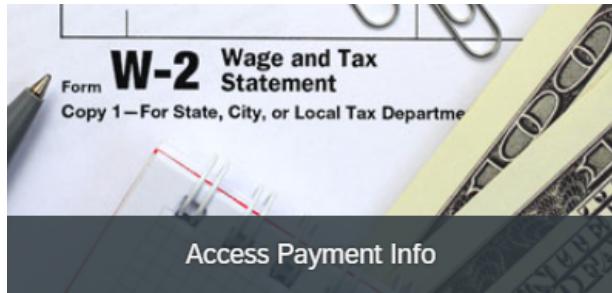
Payroll Reminders



Depending on your selection, paper or electronic, W2s will be available end of January.

If electronic, W2 will be available to print in SAP.

Please remember to enter time on your timecards daily or by payday Friday.



"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

-Winston Churchill, Former Prime Minister of UK

Volunteer and Intern Office Updates



Paid Intern Resources

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

For more information on **Unpaid Internships, Volunteer Fingerprinting, Park Post submissions, Workfare/Work Project**, and **Volunteer Maintenance Support** please email SDVolunteer@sandiego.gov.

Helpful P&R Links

[CityNet](#)

[Personnel](#)

[Inside SD](#)

[Get-It-Done](#)

City Job Links

[Open Jobs](#)

[Transfer Opportunities](#)

[Promotional Jobs
for City Employees Only](#)

Volunteer Links

[City Internship Program](#)

[Better Impact](#)

[Volunteer Page](#)

Department Picture Contest

Congratulations to the Picture Contest's August winner, **Denise Lamb**, Center Director, Community Parks I Division.

PERSONNEL

Service Awards

Division	Name	Classification	Years of Service
CMS	Adolfo Avalos	Seven Gang Mower Operator	20
CP I	Angelina Black	Area Manager	35
CMS	Jose Cecena	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	20
BP	Grant Lucia	Nursery Gardener	20
CP II	Carlos Rios	District Manager	35

Transfers to Parks and Recreation Department

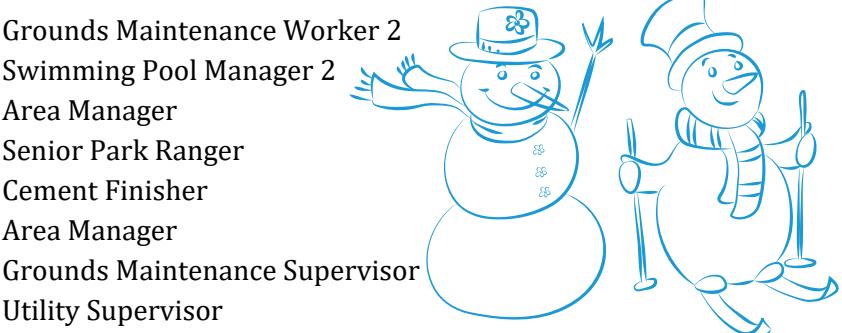
Division	Name	Classification
AS	Carmen Bracamontes	Account Clerk
AS	Donny Nguyen	Supervising Management Analyst
MBSP	Jaime Ocampo Jr.	Equipment Operator 2

Welcome

Promotions

Division	Name	Classification
CP I	Kevin Bear	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2
CP II	Jorge Clayton	Swimming Pool Manager 2
CP II	Raul Contreras	Area Manager
PR	Jose Cruz Lopez	Senior Park Ranger
CMS	Leigh Dabler	Cement Finisher
CP II	Matthew Ensminger	Area Manager
CP I	Jose Martinez	Grounds Maintenance Supervisor
OS	Columbus Palmer	Utility Supervisor
CP I	Luis Salceda-Guzman	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2
BP	Michael Serpa	Grounds Maintenance Worker 3
CMS	Diego Sesma	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2
MBSP	Carrington Trisby	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2
BP	Francisco Velasquez	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2
CMS	Xavier Williams	Light Equipment Operator
BP	Armando Zepeda	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2

Congratulations!



PERSONNEL

Continued

New Hires and Rehires

Division	Name	Classification
AS	Ava Agustin	Intern
CRS	Yasmin Campos	Recreation Specialist
Golf	Jill Champion	Golf Operations Assistant
CP II	Hayden Cox	Pool Guard 1
CP II	Cody Dilloway	Pool Guard 1
CP I	Avani Husges	Asst Recreation Center Director
CP II	Stone Kipnis	Pool Guard 1
BP	Jose Loera Campos	Custodian 1
CP II	Donald Lucas	Pool Guard 1
Golf	Scott Mc Garty	Golf Operations Assistant
CP II	Christopher McElroy	Swimming Pool Manager 1
BP	Matthew Milligan	Custodian 1
OS	Justine Pasa	Asst Recreation Center Director
Golf	Thatsada Phomthirath	Golf Operations Assistant
OS	Vanessa Pulido	Intern
CP II	Marayah Rodriguez	Recreation Aide
CP II	Isabel Rosado	Asst Recreation Center Director
CP I	Luis Salceda-Guzman	Grounds Maintenance Worker 1
CP II	Julia Sanchez Garcia	Aquatics Recreation Specialist
CP I	Andrea Sandoval Robles	Asst Recreation Center Director
CP II	Sophia Soltero	Pool Guard 1
CP II	Ian Spears	Pool Guard 1
CP II	Jayden Wade	Recreation Leader 1



GREAT JOB

Service Retirement

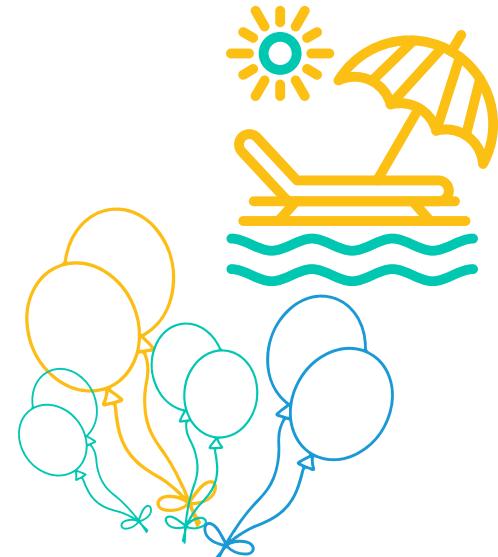
Division	Name	Classification	Years of Service
CP II	Tracy Simmons	Supervising Aquatics Recreation Specialist	29



Tracy Simmons
Supervising Aquatics Rec Specialist



29 years of dedicated service.



EMPLOYEE KUDOS

Da'Ron Terry Recognized by Mayoral Decree



For his dedication, caring, diligence, and commitment to the Ocean Beach Community in performing his GMWII duties to the best, which we hope inspires others.

This was presented on Dec. 2 by Phil Cenedella, Chair of the Ocean Beach Community Foundation subcommittee.



EMPLOYEE KUDOS

CityNet Employee Spotlight: Tracy Simmons

Click [here](#) to learn about the City of San Diego's Aquatics Program offerings.

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

Thank you for being part of our team!



Do You Know Tracy?

Dec. 12, 2025

Tracy Simmons has worked for the City of San Diego in the Parks and Recreation Department's Aquatics District for 29 years!

City employees: Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Letter of Appreciation to Mary Zanotelli

Greetings,

I have had the pleasure of chaperoning two field trips to the Tecolote Nature Center this fall (and several in past years as well!) We had such a fantastic time that I think even the kids were surprised since they had been there before and felt it wasn't a very novel outing.

With both 7th grade and then 3rd grade, Park Ranger Mary and her team had come up with highly engaging activities that were age appropriate, related to their in-class studies and FUN! Mary has such a delightful way of sharing her love of nature, and she makes every child feel valued as a person and inspired as a scientist.

Tecolote Canyon truly is a treasure in our backyard, and I'm so fortunate to have witnessed so many local kids enjoy it while learning about history and science.

Thank you!

Naomi
Innovations Academy parent/Bay Park resident

“Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart.”

-Winnie the Pooh, Fictional Character

EMPLOYEE KUDOS

Letter of Appreciation to Benjamin S. Sison Jr.

December 5, 2025

Mr. Jaime Diez
District Manager
Mira Mesa Community Park

*It means
a lot!*

Dear Mr. Diez,

Our group, the Mira Mesa Glams—composed of approximately 30 senior citizens from Mira Mesa, Rancho Peñasquitos, Poway, Rancho Bernardo, 4S Ranch, and nearby communities—is deeply grateful for the safe and welcoming space at Mira Mesa Community Park. From 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. each morning, we gather to line dance, exercise, share food, and build meaningful fellowship together like one big family.

Every morning upon our arrival, we are warmly greeted by Mr. Benjamin S. Sison, Jr. He diligently maintains the cleanliness and safety of the park grounds and restrooms. We regularly observe him vacuuming the cemented area where we dance, emptying trash bins, clearing fallen leaves, and managing the landscaping—all before most people arrive. Because of his hard work, the tables, benches, and surroundings are always well-maintained.

Mr. Sison consistently demonstrates respect for us seniors and prioritizes our safety whenever he operates the park cart or truck. He is always quick to respond and genuinely kind whenever we need assistance. His dedication helps keep the park clean and safe for the entire community.

We would be very grateful if Mr. Benjamin S. Sison, Jr. could continue maintaining Mira Mesa Community Park to the excellent standard we experience each day. His commitment truly makes a positive and meaningful difference in our lives and throughout the community.

Thank you very much for your attention and continued support.

Sincerely,
The Mira Mesa Glams



*Thank
you*



*“Let us be grateful to people who make us happy;
they are the charming gardeners who make our
souls blossom.”*

-Marcel Proust, Novelist

EMPLOYEE KUDOS

Letter of Appreciation to Steven Blankenship

Steven,

We cannot thank you enough for such an incredible guided hike. We all learned so much, and my team absolutely loved the experience. We truly appreciate the time you took to share the history of our amazing city and to teach us about the flora and fauna we encountered along the way. Your knowledge and enthusiasm made it a memorable experience for all of us.

We wish you the happiest of holidays and thank you again for such a wonderful day.

Best regards,

Lisa Merzwski
Supervising Criminalist
Firearms Unit & Crime Scene Reconstruction
City of San Diego



Ranger Steven continues to build community and connect folks from other departments to our park.

-Submitted by Julie Aelts, Senior Park Ranger

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

-William Arthur Ward, Writer



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Open Space Division: Celebrating the Retirement of Paul Kilburg



Community Parks I: Service Project at Standley Rec. Center



Volunteers at Standley Community Park cleaned a large storage room. Thank you to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints volunteers. They have been volunteering once a month, helping in different sections of the University City Area and doing an amazing job. Their hard work and dedication is appreciated.

“The earth has music for those who listen.”
-William Shakespeare, Playwrite



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Community Parks I Division: 2025 Fall - 12U Volleyball Champions



Hourglass Field Community Park and Fieldhouse hosted the Fall 12 and Under Youth Volleyball League for Community Parks I. The Ocean Air Rec team are the 2025 Champions.



Community Parks I: Movie and Cookies at Lopez Ridge Rec.



“I embrace mistakes. They make you who you are.”
-Beyoncé, Singer-songwriter



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

*Community Parks I Division:
Happy Holidays from Coastal Area Team*



COMMUNITY PARKS I
COASTAL AREA TEAM 2025



*"We were born to unite with our fellow men,
and to join in the community with the
human race."*

-Cicero, Roman Philosopher

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.



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[SDPEBA](#)

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[SDCERS](#)





THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

