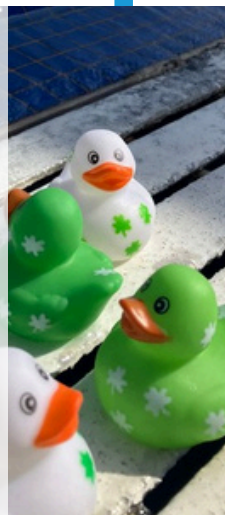
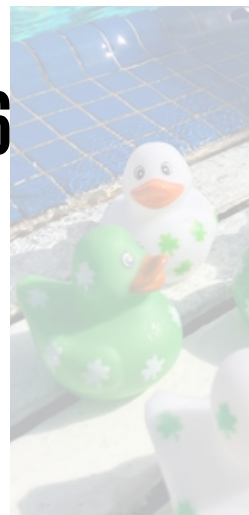


PARKS AND RECREATION

PARK POST



March 2026

2025 CPRS AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

2025 CPRS Facility Design Award of Excellence



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The City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department is proud to share that the restoration of the Botanical Building in Balboa Park has been recognized as a 2025 California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) Award of Excellence recipient in the Facility Design category. Originally built for the 1915–16 Exposition, this historic structure, one of the largest lath buildings in the world, has long served as a defining landmark of the park alongside the iconic Lily Pond. Today, the Botanical Building features a diverse and evolving collection of more than 2,100 permanent plants, thoughtfully arranged to respond to varying light conditions within the structure. The garden includes tropical and shade-loving species on the east side, vibrant and drought-tolerant plantings on the sunnier west side and a transition zone through the center, creating a layered, immersive experience that will continue to grow and mature over time.

*“Every accomplishment starts
with the decision to try.”*

-John F. Kennedy, 35th US President

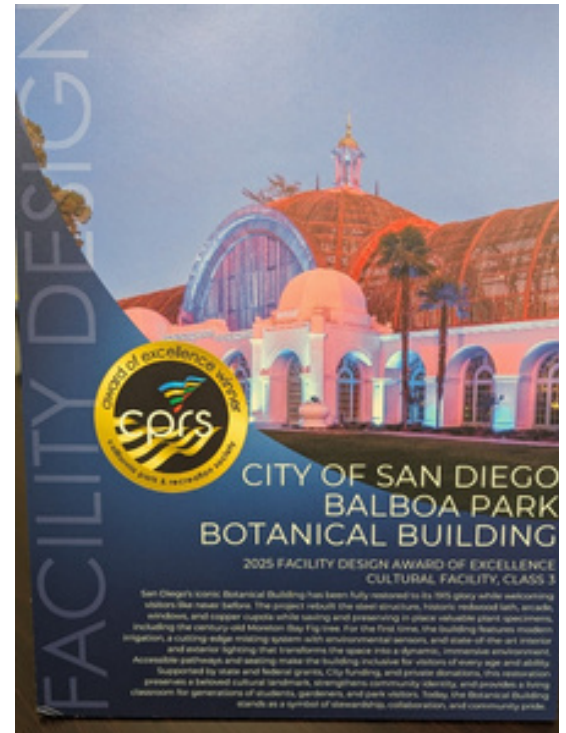
2025 CPRS Facility Design Award of Excellence



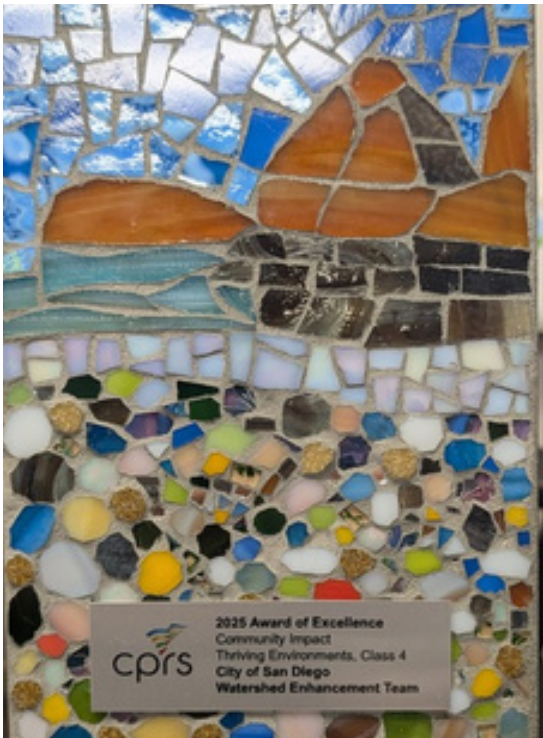
The restoration returned many of the building's defining architectural features to their original 1915 design, including the graceful arcades, Palladian-style windows, and monumental doors on the east and west facades. Structural framing was repaired and reconstructed throughout, addressing decades of deterioration while preserving the building's historic character. Accessibility improvements were also central to the project, with upgraded pathways, improved circulation, and new seating areas that create a more welcoming and inclusive experience for visitors of all ages and abilities. The building now includes interior misting systems, enhanced lighting, and new water features that support plant health while creating a dynamic, sensory-rich environment for visitors.



This award-winning project reflects the City's commitment to sustaining and stewarding cultural and natural resources while creating memorable and inclusive public spaces. As a free and welcoming destination for residents, students, and visitors from around the world, the restored Botanical Building continues to serve as a place where history, nature, and community come together.



2025 CPRS Community Impact Award of Excellence



The Watershed Enhancement Team (WET) is proof that a few dedicated people can make a huge difference. Born in 2022 from a simple idea—neighbors helping nature—this tiny but mighty volunteer group has transformed the San Diego River Park through weekly cleanups, trail care, and habitat restoration. With no operational budget, WET has removed thousands of pounds of trash, cleared invasive species, and kept miles of trails open and safe for everyone. But the magic goes beyond the work—seniors, students, and local groups come together each week, building friendships, learning new skills, and strengthening their community. WET shows what’s possible when people take ownership of the places they love. It’s not just about maintaining a park—it’s about restoring connection, purpose, and pride along the San Diego River.



“If you’re always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be.”

-Maya Angelou, Poet, Activist, and Scholar

CITYWIDE RECREATION SERVICES

2026 Parks Make Life Better Spotlight Award Winner

We're excited to share that the **Parks After Dark Program** has been selected as a **2026 Parks Make Life Better Spotlight Award winner!** This recognition celebrates the incredible impact our department and partners have made in bringing safe, fun, and family-centered summer programming to five Recreation Centers: Skyline Hills Recreation Center, Silver Wing Recreation Center, City Heights Recreation Center, Memorial Recreation Center, and Linda Vista Recreation Center.

In 2025 alone, the Parks After Dark series hosted 99 free evening events and welcomed more than 36,000 community members into active, inviting park spaces. With live entertainment, cultural performances, youth activities, enrichment opportunities, and vital resources like free meals and health and wellness support, the program continues to strengthen neighborhood connections and highlight parks as trusted hubs for all ages.

A heartfelt thank-you to our dedicated staff, volunteers, County of San Diego, San Diego Parks Foundation, and all community partners who bring this program to life each summer. This award reflects your commitment to creating safe, inclusive, and joyful spaces where San Diegans can come together and thrive.



SAN DIEGO PARKS FOUNDATION

Drone Program



Undertow Gold Tournament at Torrey Pines Golf Course



MLK Day Parade and Celebration Sponsor



ADM Lunch Sponsor



Spring Egg Hunts



Spring Egg Hunts

Come out and visit your local recreation center for some spring fun!



Encanto Park
 April 4th
 10am-1pm
 6508 Wunderlin Ave
 San Diego, CA 92114

Penn Athletic Field
 April 4th
 11am- 1pm
 2555 Dusk Dr
 San Diego, CA 92139

Cesar Chavez Comm. Center
 April 4th
 10-12:30pm
 455 Sycamore Road
 San Diego, CA 92173

MLK JR Park
 April 11th
 10am- 1pm
 6401 Skyline Dr,
 San Diego, CA 92114

Linda Vista Park
 March 28th
 11am-1pm
 7064 Levant St
 San Diego CA 92111

Mountain View Park
 March 28th
 10am-12:30
 641 S Boundary St. San Diego, CA 92113

City Heights Park
 March 28th
 10am-12pm
 4380 Landis St
 San Diego, CA 92105

Southbay Park
 April 1st
 4pm-1885 Coronado Ave
 San Diego, CA 92154

Golden Hill Park
 March 8th
 11am-1pm
 Golf Course Dr,
 San Diego, CA 92102

Southcrest Park
 March 25th
 5:30- 7:30pm
 4149 Newton Ave,
 San Diego CA 92113

Paradise Hills Park
 March 28th
 10-12pm
 6610 Potomac St
 San Diego, CA 92139

Memorial Park
 March 28th
 10:30am - 1:30pm
 2902 Marcy Ave
 San Diego CA 92113



Citywide Basketball Tournament



*“The strength of the team is each individual member.
The strength of each member is the team.”*

-Phil Jackson, Basketball Coach

Willie Henderson Sports Complex Court Project



San Diego Parks Foundation Updates

January through March 2026

- Jan. 22 and Feb. 10 -Drone competition at Mt. View Recreation Center with 120 participants and attendees.
- January - Undertow Golf Tournament was held at Torrey Pines
- Jan. 23 - Martin L. King Day celebration and sponsorship. Parade and festival. 2300 in attendance
- Feb. 10 and 11 - Annual Department Meeting sponsorship for all meals.
- March 6 - Sport Day at Park De la Cruz in conjunction with Council District 9. There were 175 in attendance.
- March 8 - Spring Egg Hunt at Golden Hill Recreation Center - 500 in attendance
- March 20 and 21 at parks throughout the city - Citywide basketball tournament - over 2,400 players this season, with 44 teams advancing to postseason play.
- Mar. 25- started a new Park Ambassador cohort at Martin L. King Recreation Center from 5-7:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

Projects

- March 7 - Colina Del Sol Ribbon Cutting for the outdoor courts in conjunction with San Diego Football Club - 300 in attendance
- February and March - Willie Henderson Sports Complex outdoor court project underway to replace old asphalt.

Upcoming event & projects

- Spring Egg Hunt sponsorships - March through April 11.



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

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Sunset Point Comfort Station

The City of San Diego's Parks and Recreation Department has been implementing several new comfort station projects throughout the San Diego Bay. The Department is proud to announce that the new Sunset Point comfort station has just been completed. The new comfort station improvements at Sunset Point include the following:

- A resurfaced parking lot
- addition of new parking lot lights for security
- an ADA pathway to the existing firepits along the ocean front
- a modular wetland to drain the surface rain runoff from the parking lot before it is discharged to the storm drain
- a brand-new comfort station



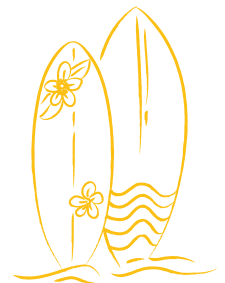
The new comfort station features several handwashing stations along with bottle-filling areas, a storage facility for the operations and management staff and four separate nongender-specific bathrooms with an additional ADA accessible bathroom.

This new addition to the waterfront is key to keeping our parks clean and safe and we look forward to the community receiving this new and improved amenity.



“The ocean stirs the heart, inspires the imagination, and brings eternal joy to the soul.”

-Robert Wyland, Artist and Conservationist



DEPARTMENT COLLABORATIONS

Tree and Flowers Planting at Mid-City CAN



Special Thanks to:

- Citywide Maintenance Services Division
- Community Parks II Division
- Transportation Department
- Mid-City Community Advocacy Network (CAN)

Photos by Ron Sanchez, Mid-City CAN with Gabriel Santilian, Youth Council



DEPARTMENT COLLABORATIONS

Continued

Tree and Flowers Planting at Mid-City CAN

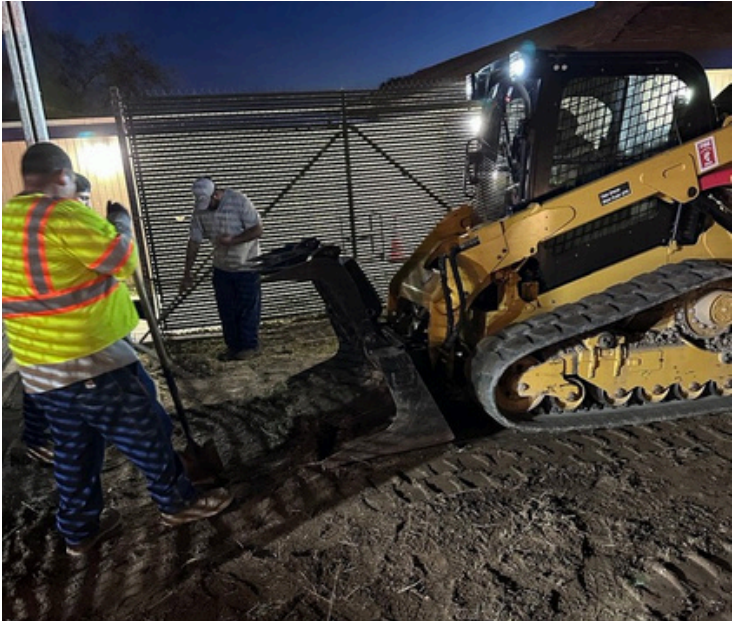


*“If everything was perfect, you would never learn
and you would never grow.”*

-Beyonce, Singer-songwriter

CPII AND CMS DIVISION COLLABORATION

Memorial Senior Center Park Beautification Project



“What we hope ever to do with ease, we must first learn to do with diligence.”
-Samuel Johnson, 18th Century English Writer



OPEN SPACE DIVISION

Friends of Rose Canyon and Park Rangers are Recognized

Friends of Rose Canyon and Open Space Rangers are featured in the Global Conservation Consortium of Oaks Newsletter for their efforts in the Re-Oaking Project.



Click [here](#) to view the Global Conservation Consortium Oak's March 2026 Newsletter

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

-Rachel Carson, Marine Biologist, Author and Environmentalist

Educational Outreach



Open Space Park Rangers Matt Hopkins and Haley Marshal connected with students through hands-on educational outreach. A total of 4,520 students participated.



Animal Track and Sign Training



The Open Space Division Park Rangers recently completed Animal Track & Sign Training with the San Diego Tracking Team—an energizing skill boost that enhances their ability to steward thousands of acres of protected land and the wildlife that thrives within it.

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”

-Albert Einstein, Theoretical Physicist

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SERVICES

Various Participant Activities



COMMUNITY PARKS II DIVISION

Willie Henderson Sports Complex Revitalization



Through an inspiring collaboration between the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department's Volunteer Office, San Diego Football Club, and dedicated community members, Willie Henderson Sports Complex experienced a beautiful revitalization. Together, volunteers, families, players, and staff rolled up their sleeves to refresh landscaping, enhance recreational spaces, and breathe new life into this treasured neighborhood hub. Willie Henderson Sports Complex continues to shine as a symbol of resilience, opportunity, and community spirit, and this revitalization ensures it will serve future generations.



Egg Hunt at Presidio Recreation Center



COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

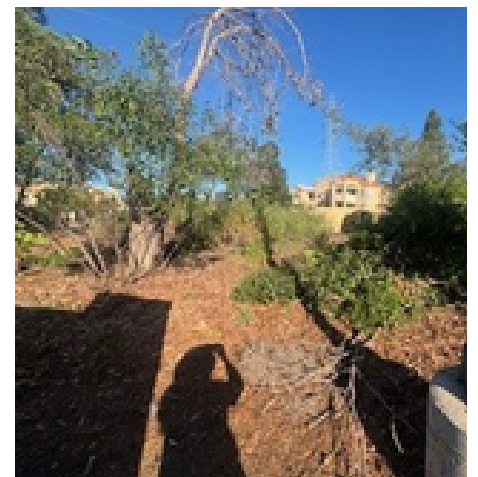
Egg Hunt at Lopez Ridge Recreation Center



COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

Continued

Service Project at Lopez Ridge Recreation Center



AQUATICS

Clover Meet at Carmel Mountain Ranch Pool



On March 14, the Carmel Mountain Pool hosted the first Clover Classic Meet, welcoming about 100 attendees. The relay-style event featured a series of fun and lively races, including the Rainbow Relay (swimming across the pool in a rainbow raft), the Lucky Duck Relay (swimming with a rubber duck balanced on participants' heads), the Shamrock Shake Relay (backstroke with a tambourine in each hand), and the Gold Rush Relay (retrieving gold coins from the bottom of the pool). Lifeguards also helped children enjoy snacks and create themed crafts throughout the event.



*“Community means many things, but at the pool
it means we all share the water.”*

-Common Aquatics Philosophy

Parent-Tot Workshop at Kearny Mesa Pool



Accidental drowning remains the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4. To help address this critical issue, pools across the City are offering workshops that provide families with essential water safety education. On March 22, the Kearny Mesa Pool hosted a Parent-Tot Workshop in partnership with Rady Children's Hospital, welcoming 35 participants. The event featured a safety presentation, a parent-tot swim class, a CPR station, and a visit from Josh the Otter for photos. Parents learned how to safely support their infants and toddlers in the water and introduce basic water safety skills. These workshops will continue throughout the spring and summer.



“Swimming is simply moving meditation.”
-Cesar Nikko Caharian, Swimming Proponent and Coach

CITYWIDE SPORTS COMMITTEE

Spring Cheerleading Showcase



On March 21, the Spring Citywide Cheer Showcase brought together eight talented teams from Paradise Hills, MLK, Skyline, Penn, Silver Wing, and Encanto. The event was packed with energy, teamwork, and impressive performances that celebrated the dedication and hard work of all participants.

A heartfelt thank-you to all the teams who participated. Each showcase continues to grow, and it's inspiring to see the increasing involvement across recreation centers.



Great job to everyone for continuing to provide high-quality programs that make a positive impact in our community. Stay tuned for more details about our upcoming Cheer Night at Petco program!



District Basketball Tournament at Community Parks I



On March 13th and 14, our District Playoffs brought together teams from the Community Parks I division for an exciting and competitive tournament. A total of 28 teams participated. Athletes showcased their hard work, teamwork, and sportsmanship, making it a great event for players, families, and staff alike. Games were hosted at North Clairemont and Hourglass Recreation Centers, and the sites provided a welcoming, well-organized environment for all participants. We extend a sincere thank you to the staff at both locations for their time, effort, and commitment to making the tournament a success.

After a full weekend of competition, the following teams earned their spots in the upcoming Citywide Tournament:

10 and Under Division:

Allied Gardens - Champion, North Clairemont Tar Heels, San Carlos (Coach Courtney), Serra Mesa Black, North Clairemont Drip City, and North Clairemont Warriors

12 and Under Division:

Hourglass (Coach Jesse) - Champion, Hourglass (Coach George), Allied Gardens (Coach Jake), Kearny Royal, North Clairemont Soldiers, and North Clairemont Big Tuna

14 and Under Division:

Linda Vista - Champion, Serra Mesa, North Clairemont Warriors, and Allied Gardens (Coach Fred)

We are incredibly proud of all the teams who participated and represented their recreation centers with enthusiasm and determination. Congratulations to those advancing, and best of luck as they move on to compete at the Citywide level!



District Basketball Tournament at Community Parks II

From March 12-14, the Basketball Committee successfully organized and hosted the District Basketball Tournaments. Games were held at various locations around the Division. The participating teams were excited to showcase their skills and demonstrate the hard work they put in throughout the season. This year, the tournament provided an opportunity for four teams from each division—10 and Under, 12 and Under, and 14 and Under—to advance to the citywide competition, raising the level of excitement and competitiveness across all divisions.



District 41 Tournament

Organizer(s):

- Dominique Key
- Nayeli Juarez
- Matthew Ensminger

Host Site(s):

- Balboa Park Municipal Gym



District 41 Winners

- 10 and Under
Colina del Sol Rec Center
- 12 and Under
Colina del Sol Rec Center
- 14 and Under
Colina del Sol Rec Center



District 42 Tournament

Organizer(s):

- Belinda Fimbres

Host Site(s):

- San Ysidro Larsen Field Community Center

District 42 Winners

- 10 and Under
Champions: South Bay Rockets Coach Kevin
Finalist: Larsen Field Gophers Coach Isaac
- 12 and Under
Champions: South Bay Rockets Coach Lynard
Finalist: Silver Wing Scorpions Coach Eric
- 14 and Under
Champions: Montgomery Waller Aces Coach Nico
Finalist: South Bay Rockets Coach Lynard

District Basketball Tournament at Community Parks II

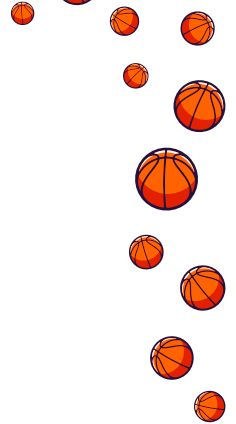
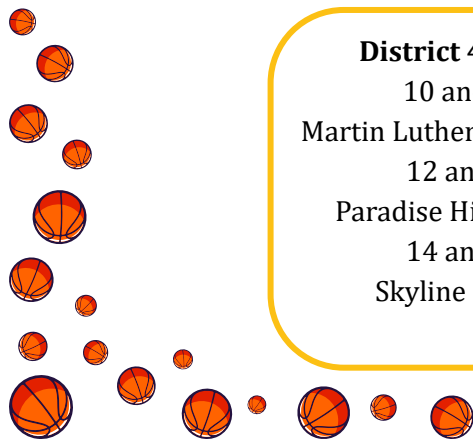


District 43 Winners

- 10 and Under
Martin Luther King Rec Center
- 12 and Under
Paradise Hills Rec Center
- 14 and Under
Skyline Rec Center

District 43 Tournament

- Organizer(s):
- Thai Bell
- Host Site(s):
- Martin Luther King Rec.
 - Mountain View Community Center
 - Municipal Gym



"Every setback is a message. Listen to it, learn from it, and come back sharper."

-Kobe Bryant, Basketball Player

Citywide Basketball Tournament



Between March 19 and 21, the Basketball SPORTS Committee hosted the Annual Citywide Basketball Tournament. This 3-day tournament is held at 5 different gyms throughout the City of San Diego.

The games were played at Memorial, Mtn. View, Park De La Cruz, Muni Gym, and City College.

Our Basketball Committee worked hard to ensure this tournament was successful, and kids got an experience of a lifetime.

The tournament had two amazing sponsors to help enhance the experience:

- San Diego Parks Foundation assisted by providing an arts-and-crafts area for the kids, churros and ice cream for everyone in attendance, and a DJ to create a great atmosphere.
- San Diego City College, for the 3rd year in a row, has opened its doors to us and given the kids a chance to play in a college venue.



“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.”

-Michael Jordan, His Airness

Citywide Basketball Tournament



Champions

- 10U Coed North Park
- 12U Girls Encanto
- 12U Coed Encanto
- 14U Girls Serra Mesa
- 14U Coed Skyline

Finalist

- 10U Coed Allied Gardens
- 12U Girls North Clairemont
- 12U Coed Colina
- 14U Girls Montgomery Waller
- 14U Coed Lind Vista



Committee Members:

- Enrique Duran – Chair
- Domnique Key – Rec Specialist
- Angel Contreras – Chair
- Lacy Bradshaw
- Alissa Cordova
- Shane Masek
- Belinda Fimbres
- Thai Bell
- Audrie Magdaleno
- Matt Ensminger
- Nayelli Juarez



“Greatness is built when no one is watching - in the quiet hours when you choose to keep going.”

-Kobe Bryant, Basketball Player

SAFETY AND TRAINING

Chemical Shed and Hazmat Safety



Did you know that proper chemical storage can prevent fires, injuries, and costly cleanups? Here are three quick tips for shed compliance:

- **Label Everything:** Make sure all chemicals have correct printed labels.
- **Keep It Organized:** Store fuels, cleaners, and pesticides in their designated spots.
- **Maintain Spill Kits:** Keep kits stocked and ready for any emergency.

By keeping sheds clean and compliant, we protect our staff and community.

“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes... including you.”

-Anne Lamott, Novelist

Upcoming Trainings

Training Schedule

Date *Name*

3/10/26 – 4/23/26 CPR Trainings
4/01/26 – Fact Finding Fundamentals & FMLA [TEAMS]
4/08/26 – Fact Finding Fundamentals & FMLA [TEAMS]
4/21/26 – Fact Finding Fundamentals & FMLA [In Person]
4/28/26 – RCF Procurement Training – NEW!
4/29/26 – RCF Procurement Training – NEW!

Due Dates:

5/29/26 - Workplace Violence Prevention
5/29/26 - Workplace Violence Prevention Plan – Supervisory Training
5/29/26 - AI Policy Acknowledgement
5/29/26 - Records Management Awareness

**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 a.m. to 12 noon.

Employees must receive permission from their supervisor in advance and inform the training office by e-mailing

[SDPR-
SafetyandTraining@sandiego.gov](mailto:SDPR-SafetyandTraining@sandiego.gov)

*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

Please fill out emergency contact in SAP, under My Information section. If you would like a paper Emergency Contact in your personnel file, please contact your payroll specialist.



Please make sure your address and phone number(s) are up to date in SAP under My Information, in Personal Profile tile.



Helpful P&R Links

[CityNet](#)

[Personnel](#)

[Inside SD](#)

[Get-It-Done](#)

City Job Links

[Open Jobs](#)

[Transfer Opportunities](#)

[Promotional Jobs
for City Employees Only](#)

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

-African Proverb

Volunteer and Intern Office Updates

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The volunteer office recently attended the San Diego FC Kids Fest alongside the San Diego Parks Foundation to promote City of San Diego Parks and Recreation programs and connect with families across the community. During the event, information was shared about service projects, volunteer opportunities, and internship programs. This helps youth and families get involved and give back.



This was a great opportunity to build relationships, recruit future volunteers, interns and staff, and highlight the many programs available through our parks and recreation



system. We were proud to add a strong community-based presence and help send off the flow ball (pictured on left) of the season with energy, engagement, and community spirit.



Volunteer Links

[City Internship Program](#)

[Better Impact](#)

[Volunteer Page](#)

Invite the Volunteer Office to your Community Event by emailing SDVolunteer@san Diego.gov.

One Stop Shop at Skyline Rec. on Saturday, May 2

Volunteer ONE STOP SHOP

The City of
SAN DIEGO
Parks & Recreation Department

Event

SATURDAY | MAY 2

Starting at
9:30 A.M.

Space is limited.
Register Now.

Fingerprint scans by
appointment only.

Volunteer Fingerprinting Event for Parks and Recreation applicants.

Register to volunteer in your community for Spring Egg Hunts and Spring Events, coaching, events, program assistant, and more.



SKYLINE REC. CENTER



8285 Skyline Drive, San Diego, CA 92114



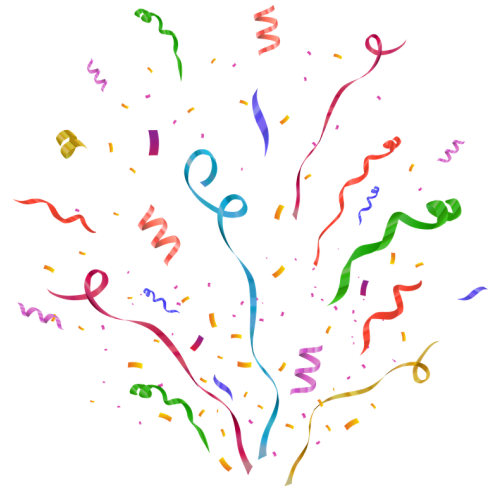
SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT WITH

MCarriedo@sandiego.gov

PERSONNEL

New Hires and Rehires

Division	Name	Classification
CP II	Julia Ausland	Pool Guard 1
CP I	Anahi Felix	Asst Recreation Center Director
CP I	Yvette Gurrola	Recreation Aide
MBSL	Luis Huerta	Grounds Maint Worker 1
CP I	Kelsey Kruse	Intern
CP II	Fatamata Patton	Intern
CP II	Moises Perez Rangel	Pool Guard 1
CP I	Serenitie Rainey	Recreation Aide
CP II	Nicole Sanchez	Recreation Aide
CRS	Sophia Snider	Intern
CP II	Shane Sobarnia	Pool Guard 1
MBSL	Alan Torres Diaz	Grounds Maint Worker 1
CP II	Aaron Valencia	Intern
CP II	Justin Vu	Recreation Aide
MBSL	Robert Williams	Grounds Maint Worker 1
CP II	Marley Worthington Garza	Intern



Service Awards

Division	Name	Classification	Years of Service
CRS	Angela Beasley	Senior Management Analyst	35
CP II	Taevee Davis	Recreation Center Director 3	15
CMS	Jose Delgado	Equipment Operator 1	30
CP II	Rhonda Harris	Recreation Leader 2	10
CMS	Joel Herrera	Aquatics Technician 2	25
CP I	Luke Kosta	Recreation Center Director 3	10
AS	Danielle Nourie-Burns	Supervising Management Analyst	15
AS	Carlos Parra	Associate Eng-Civil	10
CMS	Jose Rios	Seven-Gang Mower Operator	25
CP II	John Rivera	Recreation Aide	10
CP II	Victor Rodriguez	Grounds Maint Worker 2	25
CRS	Ricardo Valenzuela	Recreation Leader 2 (Dance Instr)	15



PERSONNEL

Continued

Service Retirement

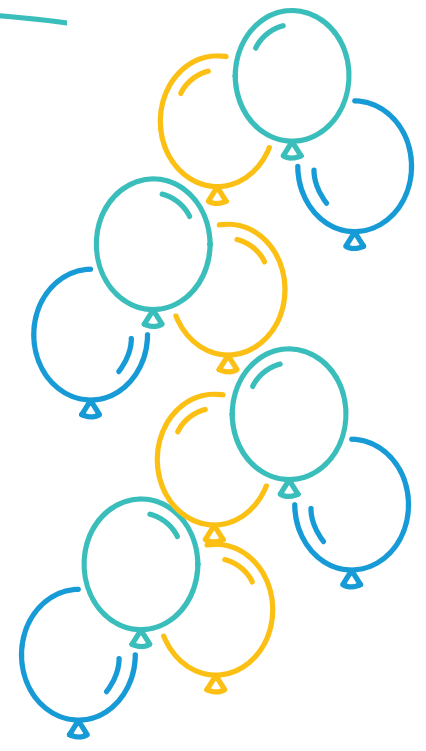
Division	Name	Classification	Years of Service
CMS	Brian Belew	Aquatics Technician Supervisor	26



Brian Belew
Aquatics Technician Supervisor



26 years of dedicated service.

A blue-bordered box containing a photograph of Brian Belew, a man wearing a white cap and a grey hoodie, holding a blue folder. The text above and below the photo identifies him and his years of service.

THANK YOU



*“At the beach, life is different.
Time doesn’t move hour to hour
but mood to moment.”*

-Sandy Gingras, Author



IN REMEMBRANCE

Angel Castro

Angel Castro dedicated her entire career to the Parks and Recreation Department, spanning nearly 45 years of public service. She began her City of San Diego career as a Recreation Aide in 1981, taking great pride in being a City employee and in serving the community throughout her career. Over the years, she held a variety of roles, including Recreation Aide, Recreation Leader, Assistant Recreation Center Director, Recreation Center Director, and most recently, Area Manager.

In her roles, Angel served countless communities throughout the city, including University City, Rancho Bernardo, Mira Mesa, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Clairemont, Ocean Beach, Ocean Air, Carmel Valley, Santa Clara, Carmel Mountain Ranch/Sabra Springs, and La Jolla. Angel deeply believed in public service and was committed to making a positive impact in the lives of others. Angel had a deep love for special events and took great pride in creating memorable experiences for the communities she served. She organized and supported numerous community events, including Movies and Concerts in the Park, Breakfast with Santa, Spring Egg Hunts, and Halloween Carnivals to name only a few.



“What is lovely never dies, but passes into other loveliness.”

-Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Poet

IN REMEMBRANCE

Continued

Angel Castro



At department events Angel was a familiar and welcoming presence, known for her warmth and approachability. She mentored countless City employees over the years, making each person feel valued and like part of a family. Outside of work, Angel was an amazing cook who loved bringing people together through food and loved shopping at Costco. Angel was a proud Clairemont resident (from childhood to current).



Angel unexpectedly passed away on February 22, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of service, leadership, and compassion.

“Grief is the price we pay for love.”
-Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of England

EMPLOYEE KUDOS

Parks and Recreation Employee is Recognized

Employee Spotlight: Do you know David?



David Salenius, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor working in Community Parks I has been recognized on CityNet.



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

Parks and Recreation is on CityNet

City Teams Help Balboa Park Visitors Navigate Changes to Parking Rules

Click [here](#) for more information on Balboa Park Parking.

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



Click [here](#) for more information on the Digital Navigator Program..

“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.”

-Zig Ziglar, Author

KUDOS

Park Ranger Wildlife Conservation Heroes



On Wednesday, March 11, a group of dedicated scientists gathered at Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP) to demonstrate survey techniques for the endangered Light-footed Ridgeway's Rail in OVRP river habitat. The group included one of Southern California's leading scientists on the species, a binational researcher from Mexico, a master's degree student conducting her capstone project on Southern California Ridgeway's rail populations, and a California State Parks natural resource manager who surveys the rail population.

Together, they provided a hands-on field demonstration for our park rangers to strengthen our ability to collect meaningful scientific data and better understand the existing population within our park. Opportunities like this are very rare. In fact, this was the first time in more than 25 years that specialists working on this species have directly invited park rangers and biologists to learn alongside them within one of our own city parks.

I am deeply grateful to Ranger Whitney Haluza, Sarah Knowlton, and Wendy Miller for their desire to keep learning and for their willingness to participate in strengthening our ranger program's knowledge and field skills. Their commitment reflects the spirit of stewardship that is essential for responsible natural resource management and wildlife conservation.

It is truly a privilege for me to share my experience and passion with the next generation of rangers who will carry this work forward. Seeing their curiosity, dedication, and respect for the land gives me great confidence that the legacy of stewardship will continue to grow.

I feel fortunate to work in an environment where so many people share a deep passion for protecting our natural landscapes and the wildlife that depend on them. Moments like this remind us that conservation is strongest when scientists, land managers, and rangers come together to learn from one another and work toward a common purpose.

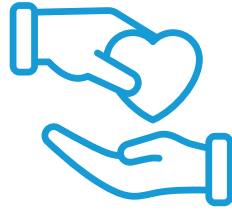
Respectfully,
Senior Ranger Mika Shimada-Cicirelli

FANTASTIC!

KUDOS

Letter of Appreciation for Carmelo Esquer

To: Mr. Andy Field, City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Department
Subject: Commendation for Carmelo



Dear Mr. Field,

I am writing this letter of commendation for Carmelo, one of your employees who works as a maintenance worker at Mission Trails Regional Park Nature Center.

On Monday, March 9th, 2026, my wife Cathy and I were walking the Nature Center Loop with our six year old grandson. About 1 pm in the afternoon, my wife slipped and fell backwards hitting the back of her head on rocks, and tearing the skin on her left arm in two places. She was alert, did not loose consciousness, but was bleeding from her head. We started walking slowly to work our

way back to the Nature Center. After about 15 minutes, we flagged down a city pickup driven by Carmelo on the dirt road leading to Jackson Drive. We explained the situation to Carmelo. We were still a distance away from our car at the Nature Center, but knew the potential seriousness of the situation. As a retired Fire Battalion Chief, I wanted to get my wife to Kaiser Emergency Hospital to get checked out as soon as possible. Carmelo drove us to the Nature Center where we immediately drove to the emergency room where my wife got a CT Scan and medical care. Cathy is fine and healing today due to Carmelo's quick and caring action. Carmelo did say he is about to start his retirement soon, and this was his first time in twenty four years that he gave someone a ride in his city vehicle.



Thank you and Carmelo so much. We are very grateful for his help.

Sincerely,
Terrance and Cathy



*Deeply
appreciate
you.*

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity.”

-Melody Beatie, Author



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

*St. Patrick's Day:
Potluck at Aero Drive*



*Citywide Recreation Services:
Therapeutic Recreation Services Presented at CPRS*



*“A mentor is someone who allows you to see
the hope inside yourself.”*

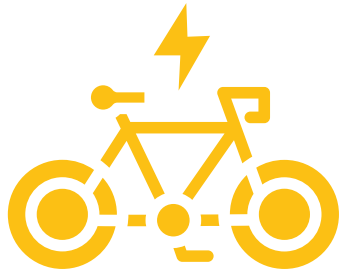
-Oprah Winfrey, Media Proprietor



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Open Space Division: Training From San Diego Police Department

Open Space Park Rangers receive training from an SDPD motor officer on e-motorcycle enforcement and recent updates to related laws.



Citywide Maintenance Services: Repairs at Presido Park



“Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.”

-Jim John, Entrepreneur



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Community Parks I: Island's Spirit at South Clairemont Rec. Center



Community Parks I Division: Youth Pickleball at Ocean Air Rec.



Ocean Air Recreation center is offering youth pickleball classes. Each child participant received a cool bag. Recreation Leader, Mike Gentry secured the donation of the bags and teaches the class.

"No one is an island; everyone needs others."

-Samoan Proverb

EMPLOYEE RESOURCE LIST

Recreation Resources

Recreation Resource Websites

[CPRS Website](#)

[NRPA Website](#)

California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS)

7971 Freeport Boulevard,
Sacramento, CA 95832
Phone: 916-665-2777
Website: cprs.org



National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

PO B OX 530282
Atlanta, GA 30353-0282
Phone: 800-626-6772
Website: nrpa.org



Park Ranger Resources

Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR)

12675 N. Sunrise Shadow Drive
Marana, AZ 85658
Email: ask.a.ranger@anpr.org
Website: anpr.org



Park Ranger Association of California (PRAC)

PO Box 153
Stewarts Point, CA 95480
Phone: 707-844-3949
Website: calranger.org



Park Ranger Resource Websites

[ANPR website](#)

[PRAC website](#)

Aquatic Resources

Aquatic Resource Websites

[SDACC website](#)

[SCCPOA website](#)

San Diego Aquatics Center Council (SDACC)

Email: sdaqaticscenter.council@gmail.com
Website: sandiegoaquaticscenter.org

SAN DIEGO AQUATICS CENTER COUNCIL

Southern California Certified Pool Operator Association (SCCPOA)

Email: scppoa@outlook.com
Website: scppoa.org



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!

