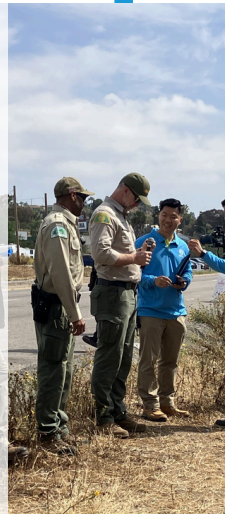


PARKS AND RECREATION

PARK POST



April 2026

Parks and Recreation

ARBOR DAY IN SAN DIEGO

Gompers Neighborhood Park



Arbor Day is an internationally recognized day dedicated to planting and caring for trees, underscoring the vital role urban forestry plays in creating healthier, more sustainable communities. The City of San Diego celebrated Arbor Day at Gompers Neighborhood Park on April 24, bringing together staff, volunteers, and community members for a meaningful day of environmental stewardship. This event was a collaboration with the Parks and Recreation and

Transportation departments, alongside their Directors, Andy Field and Naomi Chavez. Nearly 70 trees were planted throughout the park and along nearby neighborhood streets. Residents expressed excitement and appreciation for the new greenery, which will provide shade, improve air quality, and enhance the community's beauty for years to come. Events like this not only expand San Diego's urban canopy but also strengthen community pride, environmental awareness, and long-term climate resilience.

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“Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.”
-John F. Kennedy, 35th US President

Gompers Neighborhood Park



Arbor Day at Gompers Neighborhood Park was a collaboration with the Transportation Department, the Community Parks II Division, Citywide Maintenance Services Division, and the Volunteer Office. A special thank you to the dedicated volunteers and students from New Millennium Tech, whose enthusiasm and teamwork helped make the event a success. This effort reflects the City's ongoing commitment to cultivating a greener San Diego and builds on past achievements, including recognition with a Gold Leaf Award for excellence in urban forestry.



"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

Important Upcoming Dates



Summer is right around the corner, and the Parks and Recreation Department is bringing exciting citywide events and activities to communities across San Diego!

From outdoor movies and evening park events to youth enrichment and nutrition programs, there are plenty of opportunities to stay active, connected, and engaged all season long.

Here are a few important upcoming dates:

- May 6 – Park Talk SD
- May 16 – Summer Registration begins
- May 29 – Movies in the Park begins
- June 5 – Parks After Dark begins
- June 8 – Summer Lunch Program begins

For more information, visit <https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation>

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Ellen Browning Scripps Neighborhood Park Walkway Widening



The turf area along Coast Blvd. at EB Scripps NP was constantly being trampled due to excessive foot traffic; the old 5-foot-wide sidewalk was unable to keep up with the increasing use. A collaboration of City forces teamed up to provide a new 10-foot-wide walkway in its place. Big thanks to the Public Utilities Department for helping

address the removal of hazardous asbestos cement pipe, to Facilities Services plumbing crews for installing a new irrigation backflow preventer and main line connection, to Transportation Department concrete crews for demolition and replacement of the walkway, and last but not least, Citywide Services and Shoreline Division teams for relocation of irrigation systems and installation of new turf. As Councilmember LaCava said, this work was completed under budget and ahead of schedule.



The widening of this popular walkway eliminated the dirt footpath and restored the beauty of this iconic park. Thank you to Councilmember La Cava and the community organizations that made this project their number one priority.

The sidewalk widening project was long awaited and the parking spaces are once again clear, and pedestrians are enjoying the new heavy use pathway. On April 10, local leaders were hand on to cut the ribbon on the new walkway. The project included the removal of 450 lineal feet of 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk and installed a new 10-foot-wide concrete sidewalk as a replacement.



“The best tool is the one that fits the human hand and mind.”

-Henry Dreyfuss, American Industrial Designer

PARK RANGER DIVISION

Chick Fencing Repair Party

On April 1, the Park Ranger teams from Mission Bay, Shoreline, and Citywide divisions collaborated on an important conservation effort at Fiesta Island. Their work focused on repairing and reinforcing protective fencing around one of the largest nesting sites for the Least Tern, a critically endangered shorebird.

Each summer, San Diego becomes a vital nesting ground for these birds, with Mission Bay serving as a key habitat. Because Least Terns nest directly on the ground, their eggs are especially vulnerable to disturbance from predators, human activity, and environmental factors. This makes well-maintained fencing not just helpful- but essential for their survival.

The coordinated effort across multiple ranger teams highlights the importance of proactive land management and habitat protection. By maintaining secure nesting areas, the city is actively supporting the recovery of this fragile species while preserving the ecological health of Mission Bay.



“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

PARK RANGERS COLLABORATE

Career Fair at Twin Peaks Middle School



On March 25, Los Peñasquitos Rangers and Mission Bay Park Rangers participated in the Twin Peaks Middle School Career Fair. During the event, Rangers spoke with students about what it means to be a Park Ranger for the City of San Diego and highlighted how dynamic and varied the role can be daily.

Students asked thoughtful questions about the day-to-day responsibilities of the job, as well as the steps and experience required to pursue a career in this field. At the booth, Rangers also brought interactive materials from both Open Space and Mission Bay Parks, including sea lion bones and pelt, as well as a red diamond rattlesnake, species commonly found in our local canyon and coastal ecosystems.

Overall, the event was a great success. It provided an opportunity to educate students about the Park Ranger profession and, hopefully, inspired some to consider pursuing this rewarding career path in the future.

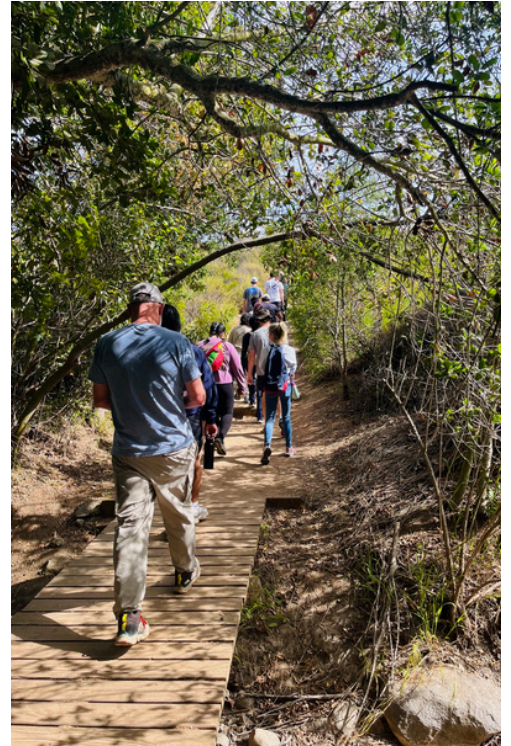


“Nature is not a place to visit. It is home.”

-Gary Snyder, American Poet

OPEN SPACE DIVISION

GROW SD Visits Mission Trails Regional Park



GROW SD participants learned a little more about Mission Trails Regional Park and the daily life of a Park Ranger from Senior Park Ranger Julie Aeilts.



Earth Day at Mission Trails Regional Park



Mission Trails Regional Park celebrated Earth Day on April 22nd with a free community event at the Visitor & Interpretive Center. Guests enjoyed a full afternoon of activities including ranger led hikes, live hawk and snake exhibits, live music, arts and crafts, and information booths from various agencies. The event brought together a group of community partners including City Park Rangers, the MTRP Foundation, Project Wildlife, San Dieguito River Park, City of La Mesa, County of San Diego, SDSU, and many others, all sharing a common mission to educate, inspire, and promote conservation and stewardship in the community.



“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”

-Robert Swan, Conservationist

Earth Day at Mission Trails Regional Park



OPEN SPACE DIVISION

Continued

First Tecolote Nature Nights



Sixty guests enjoyed Tecolote Nature Center's first Nature Nights event on Earth Day, April 22. The after-work event began with a social featuring a nacho bar and refreshments like the appropriately named "Kestrel Cooler," followed by a presentation by Hillary Hankey of Avian Behavior Conservancy about Kestrel research. Attendees even got to meet a live Kestrel!

Afterward, guests mingled and explored the nature center. The next Nature Nights event, "Celebrating Snakes," will take place in August.



THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SERVICES

Spring Break Outings with Kids and Teens



THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SERVICES

Continued

Deaf Field Day



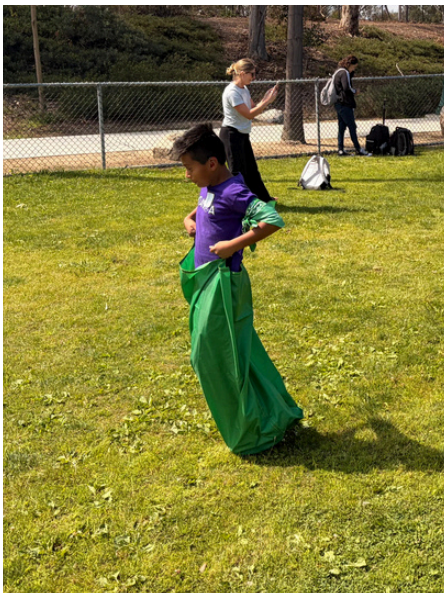
In coordination with local Deaf and Hard of Hearing Schools, Therapeutic Recreation Services hosted a Deaf Field Day on April 15. This event was previously held annually prior to the COVID pandemic. Over 175 people attended this year including students, teachers, staff, and parents. A couple deaf seniors even joined to help serve lunch!



THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SERVICES

Continued

Deaf Field Day



CITYWIDE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Old Trolley Barn



Citywide Maintenance Services Division's Support Services providing 42 concrete grinds at Old Trolley Barn to provide a safer walkway in our parks.



Teralta Park

Citywide Maintenance Services Division's Support Services, Turf Crew, and Park Forestry Unit completed grading / beautification project at Teralta Park. The team removed old materials and installed 180 cubic yards of Class II road base to enhance usability and create greater play value for the community.



COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION

Spring Egg Hunt at Ocean Air Recreation Center



Park Beautification Project at Torrey Hills Park



"No one has ever become poor by giving."

-Anne Frank, Diarist

COMMUNITY PARKS II DIVISION

Earth Day at Willie Henderson Sports Complex



On April 22, in celebration of Earth Day and as part of San Diego Football Club's (SDFC) "Woven Into One Planet Month" campaign, the Willie Henderson Sports Complex staff partnered with SDFC employees who volunteered their time. Over 80 cubic yards of mulch were spread, the recreation center wall and playground was repainted, graffiti was removed from baseball backstops and trash cans, picnic tables were refreshed, and a significant amount of trash from the park and both parking lots was collected. They also painted new game lines on the court. Their efforts beautified the community and strengthened pride in our local parks.



Chicano Park Day on April 25



AQUATICS

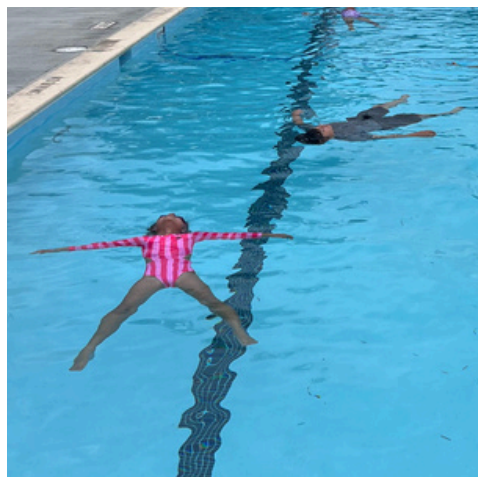
Spring Break Camp 2026 at Colina del Sol Pool



AQUATICS

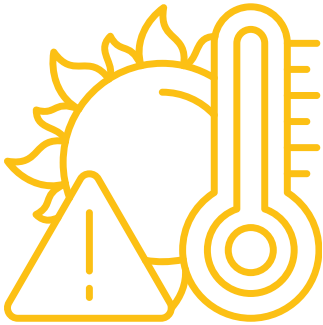
Continued

Parent Tot Swim Workshop at Kearny Mesa Pool



SAFETY AND TRAINING

Heat Illness Prevention



Did you know that heat exhaustion can happen even on mild days if you're dehydrated? Here are three quick tips to stay cool:

- Drink Water Often: Don't wait until you're thirsty.
- Take Shade Breaks: Rest in cool areas during high temperatures.
- Know the Signs: Headaches, dizziness, and cramps mean you need to stop immediately.

By watching for early signs, we prevent serious heat-related illnesses.

“Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air.”
-Ralph Waldo Emerson, American Poet, Essayist and Philosopher

Upcoming Trainings

Training Schedule

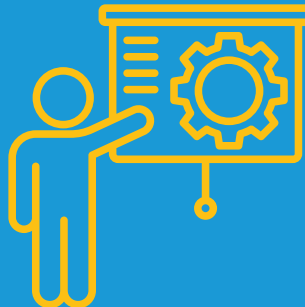
Date Name

5/06/26 – HAZMAT for Handlers
5/13/26 – Quarterly Supervisor Meeting
5/20/26 – HAZMAT for Handlers
5/21/26 – AED Liaison Training
5/28/26 – AED Liaison Training
6/10/26 – HAZMAT for Handlers
6/24/26 – HAZMAT for Supervisors

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)

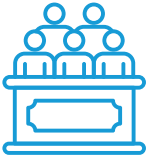
*The Chromebooks in the training office will not allow employees to complete their timecards. Please plan accordingly.

Pre-register for all trainings in Success Factors.

ADMINISTRATION

Payroll Reminders

When employees are summoned for jury duty, all three of the following are required to use the jury duty absence code—no exceptions:



1. Copy of Jury Duty summons
2. Court attendance timesheet
3. Online request for leave of absence (or paper)



“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”

-Albert Einstein, Theoretical Physicist

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 Office Community Engagement and Outreach

Parks and Recreation joined the California Volunteer Press Conference and Service Project held on April 13. CalVolunteers funds many programs including Employ and Empower.



Volunteer Links

[City Internship Program](#)

[Better Impact](#)

[Volunteer Page](#)

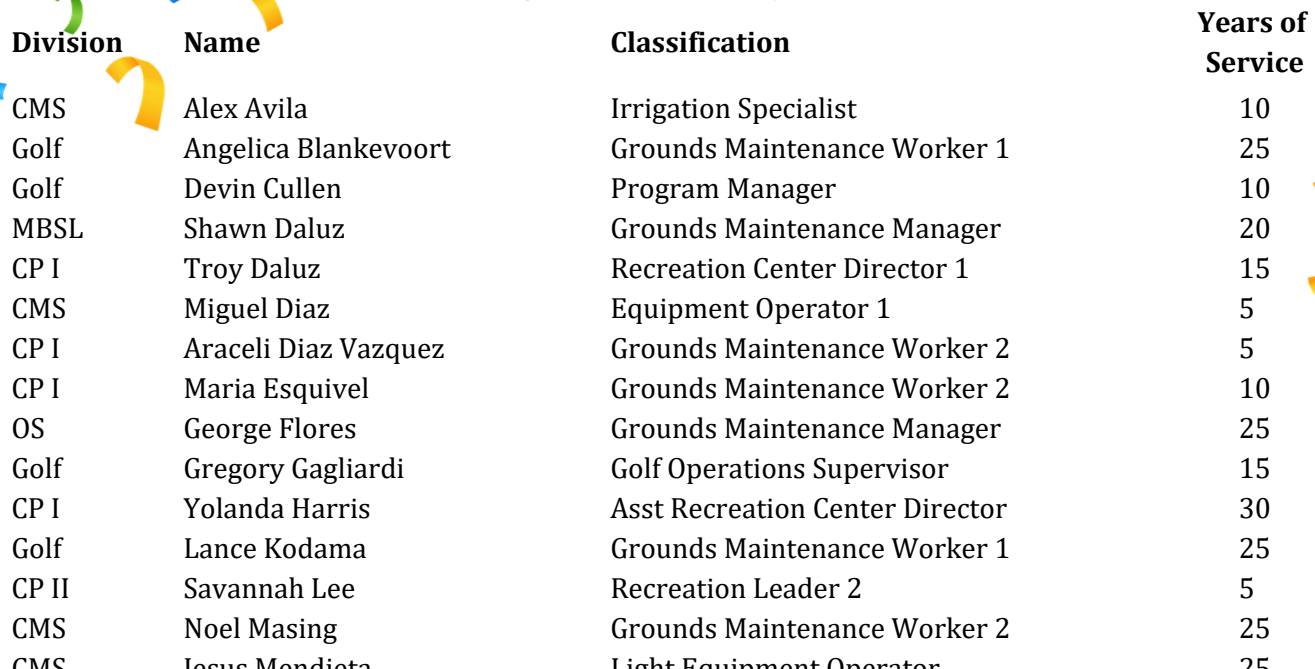


The Volunteer Office proudly represented the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department at this year's Be My Neighbor Day, joining community partners to create an engaging and welcoming space for local families. Through our presence at the event—and with nearly 2,000 participants—we were able to share information about service projects, volunteer opportunities, and employment and internship programs, helping inspire youth and families to get involved, stay connected, and give back to their neighborhoods.

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

PERSONNEL

Service Awards



Division	Name	Classification	Years of Service
CMS	Alex Avila	Irrigation Specialist	10
Golf	Angelica Blankevoort	Grounds Maintenance Worker 1	25
Golf	Devin Cullen	Program Manager	10
MBSL	Shawn Daluz	Grounds Maintenance Manager	20
CP I	Troy Daluz	Recreation Center Director 1	15
CMS	Miguel Diaz	Equipment Operator 1	5
CP I	Araceli Diaz Vazquez	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	5
CP I	Maria Esquivel	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	10
OS	George Flores	Grounds Maintenance Manager	25
Golf	Gregory Gagliardi	Golf Operations Supervisor	15
CP I	Yolanda Harris	Asst Recreation Center Director	30
Golf	Lance Kodama	Grounds Maintenance Worker 1	25
CP II	Savannah Lee	Recreation Leader 2	5
CMS	Noel Masing	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	25
CMS	Jesus Mendieta	Light Equipment Operator	25
MBSL	Marie Newsome	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	20
CP II	Velma Rivera	Recreation Leader 1	10
MBSL	Denise Rivera Hernandez	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	5
CP II	Rafael Rodriguez	Grounds Maintenance Worker 3	20
CP I	Ernesto Rosas	Grounds Maintenance Worker 2	5
AS	Risa Saiga	Geographic Information Systems Analyst 2	5
OS	Vanessa Sojo	Grounds Maintenance Manager	10
OS	Ivan Trujillo	Grounds Maintenance Manager	10



Way to go

“Dance with the waves, move with the sea. Let the rhythm of the water set your soul free.”

-Christy Ann Martine, Canadian Poet

PERSONNEL

Continued

New Hires and Rehires

Division	Name	Classification
CP II	Hailey Kaleo	Pool Guard 1
MBSL	Kevon Mitchell	Grounds Maintenance Worker 1
CP I	Amelie Graham	Recreation Aide
MBSL	Jaime Ojeda Carrillo	Grounds Maintenance Worker 1
CP II	Brian Pinnick	Water Safety Instructor
BP	Arleen Shinder	Recreation Leader 1
MBSL	Alicia Viramontes	Grounds Maintenance Worker 1
OS	Jason Woo	Intern



CONGRATULATIONS!

Service Retirements

Division	Name	Classification	Years of Service
CP II	Francisco Castruita	Area Manager	42
OS	Andrew Martin	Pesticide Applicator	17

Francisco Castruita
Area Manager



42 years of dedicated service.

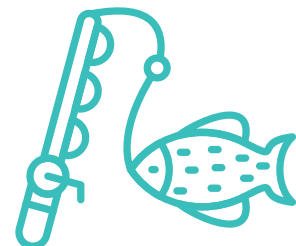
We wish you
all the
Best!

Andrew Martin
Pesticide Applicator



17 years of dedicated service.

#RELAX



EMPLOYEE KUDOS

FY26 Third Quarter - Employee of the Quarter

Matthew Benoit
Grounds Maintenance Manager



Citywide Maintenance Services

Carmelo Esquer
Grounds Maintenance Worker 2



Open Space/MAD

Savannah Lee
Recreation Leader 2



Community Parks II

Julio Morales
Grounds Maintenance Manager



Open Space/MAD

Francisco Rios Sandoval
Park Utility Supervisor



Citywide Maintenance Services

Da 'Ron Terry
Grounds Maintenance Worker 2



Mission Bay / Shoreline Parks

Jose Vengas Valle
Grounds Maintenance Worker 2



Community Parks I

Quincy Waltar
Recreation Leader 1



Community Parks I

Congratulations

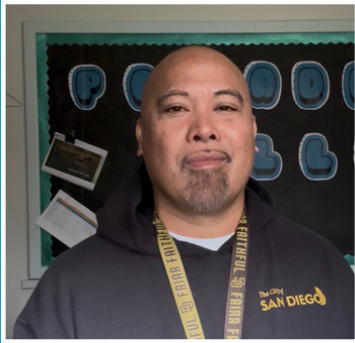
My heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to all these employees who are some of our many, many wonderful employees who exemplify the Parks and Recreation "Heart of Service." I'm proud to say that's why we're the best darned department in the City of San Diego!

-Andy Field, Director

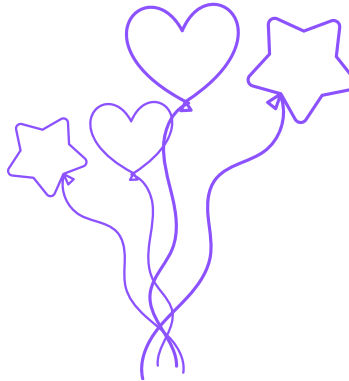
EMPLOYEE KUDOS

FY26 Third Quarter - Heart of Service Winners

Ron Agustin
Area Manager



Community Parks II



Kyle Conners
Park Ranger

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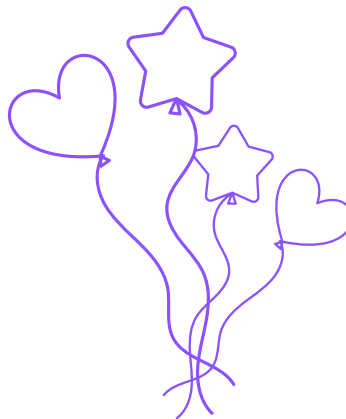


Park Ranger

Theresa Landry
Recreation Leader 2 (Dance)



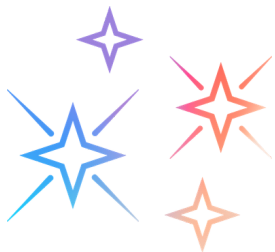
Citywide Recreation Services



Haley Marshall
Therapeutic Rec. Specialist



Citywide Recreation Services



you're doing great!



"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

-Coretta Scott King, Civil Rights Leader and Activist

EMPLOYEE KUDOS

Parks and Recreation is on CityNet

Parks and Recreation Crews Prepare City Beaches for Spring and Summer Crowds



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



Click [here](#) for the Instagram post.

Open Space Division: Chollas Creek Cleanup



Kudos to the Parks and Recreation team who worked to pull together a very successful clean up event along Chollas Creek near 54th Street! Hosting over 200 volunteers and completely filling a 40 yard dumpster with items removed from the environment, the event was safe and rewarding for all who participated. Remarks from City Council Office staff, Park Rangers, and an in-person visit from Assemblymember Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins of California's 79th District were well received.

EMPLOYEE KUDOS

Letter of Appreciation to Mary Zanotelli

Au Clair de Lune
April 15, 2026



thank you

Dear Friends of Telcolote Canyon Natural Park and Nature Center,

On behalf of everyone at Au Clair de Lune, I wanted to extend our heartfelt thanks, and especially our deepest gratitude to Mary Zanotelli, who was our ranger during our visit on the morning of April 15.

The children were absolutely captivated by Mary's enthusiasm, warmth, and incredible knowledge. She brought the canyon to life in such a special way that I am quite certain some of our students may now be reconsidering their future career paths after meeting her. Her passion was truly contagious, and it left a lasting impression on both the children and our teachers.

We are also so pleasantly surprised by how many thoughtful and well-prepared activities had been organized for the children. Every part of the morning was engaging, educational, and beautifully structured. The level of organizations and care that went into the visit was exceptional, and it made the experience memorable for everyone involved.

It was such a joy to see our students so curious, attentive, and excited to learn in this beautiful natural environment. Experiences like this are invaluable in early childhood education, and we are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and heart that was dedicated to making this morning so special.

We are already looking forward to returning next year.

With warmest thanks,

Anne-Laure
Head of School
Au Clair de Lune



The City of
SAN DIEGO
Parks and Recreation Department

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

-Albert Einstein, Theoretical Physicist





AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Open Space Division: Dress Like A Ranger



Young guests enjoy the “Dress Like A Ranger” activity at the Tecolote Nature Center. This is a permanent activity option in the Children’s Nature Library. Additionally, there is a magnetic matching game, a felt board activity, animal puppets, puzzles, books and natural instruments.



Open space Division: Safe Travels Joe Kearns



“Every person is defined by the communities they belong to.”

-Orson Scott Card, American Novelist and Critic



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Open Space Division: Relocation of Southern Pacific Rattle Snakes



Senior Ranger Steve Smith helps out Tecolote Nature Center by relocating a Southern Pacific rattlesnake from the public grounds deep into Tecolote Open Space Park.



Community Parks I Division: Spring Egg Hunt at San Carlos-Tierrasanta

The San Diego Fire Department in action at the San Carlos-Tierrasanta Spring Egg Hunt, with approximately 1,500 people present.



*“We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”
-Most Often Attributed to Native American Wisdom*

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!

