



REPORT

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED: April 7, 2026

REPORT NO.: 202

ATTENTION: Parks and Recreation Board
Agenda of April 16, 2026

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2025 Donations Received from the San Diego Parks Foundation

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE BOARD.

BACKGROUND

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, the City of San Diego received in-kind donations from the San Diego Parks Foundation that supported recreation programs, community events, and park improvement projects in City parks, with a primary focus on Communities of Concern. These in-kind contributions advanced the City's equity goals by prioritizing investments in Communities of Concern, reducing barriers to participation, and improving access to safe, high-quality parks, programs, and community experiences for historically underserved populations.

Council Policy 100-02 (Donation Acceptance) requires City Council approval for donations with an aggregate value of \$250,000 or greater. The total value of in-kind donations received from the San Diego Parks Foundation during FY 2025 is \$1,875,500.

DISCUSSION

The San Diego Parks Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded in 2018 to support, enhance, and activate parks and open spaces throughout the City of San Diego. The Foundation partners with the City, community organizations, and private donors to fund park improvements, expand recreational access, and deliver programs that promote health, equity, environmental stewardship, and community connection. A core focus of the Foundation's work is directing resources to Communities of Concern to advance equitable access to high-quality parks and recreational opportunities citywide.

During FY 2025, the City received in-kind donations from the San Diego Parks Foundation that supported recreation programs, community events, and park improvement projects in City parks, primarily in Communities of Concern. These donations supplemented City resources, expanded service delivery, and enabled programmatic and physical enhancements that would otherwise be difficult to achieve within existing operating and capital budgets. In

accordance with Council Policy 100-02, acceptance of these donations requires City Council approval due to the aggregate value exceeding \$250,000. A summary of the donations by category is provided below.

Recreation Programs

In-kind donations supported a range of recreation programs designed to increase access to structured, safe, and inclusive recreational opportunities for youth, families, and residents of all ages. Programs included Come Play Outside camps and activities such as Nature Camps, Deep Sea Fishing Trips, Level Up Camps, Citywide Sports Leagues, and the Park Ambassador Program.

These programs promoted physical activity, outdoor learning, social connection, and positive youth development, while also increasing awareness and use of neighborhood parks. Many of the programs targeted underserved communities and reduced financial barriers to participation through no-cost or low-cost offerings. The total value of in-kind contributions supporting recreation programs during Fiscal Year 2025 was \$493,000.

Community Events

In-kind donations also supported community events that activated parks, fostered community cohesion, and provided safe, family-friendly programming during evenings and weekends. Events included Parks After Dark, Movies in the Park, and year-round seasonal events hosted in City parks.

These events increased park usage, strengthened community connections, and contributed to positive outcomes such as improved perceptions of safety, increased civic engagement, and greater access to cultural and recreational experiences. The total value of in-kind contributions supporting community events during Fiscal Year 2025 was \$915,500.

Park Improvement Projects

In-kind donations supported a range of park improvement projects that enhanced infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and overall park usability across the city. At San Ysidro Larsen Field Community Center, funding supported the installation of retractable backboard standards to enhance indoor sports programming. Marcy Neighborhood Park hosted a playground ribbon-cutting event to celebrate recent improvements and promote community engagement. At Montgomery Waller Community Park, infield laser leveling and soil improvements improved field quality and playability. Southcrest Community Park underwent significant upgrades, including outdoor court renovations and field lighting replacement to enhance safety and usability. Additionally, NTC Liberty Station received funding for tree planting to expand the urban canopy and support environmental sustainability. Collectively, these projects improved recreational amenities, supported community programming, and enhanced the overall quality and accessibility of park facilities across the city.

Additional projects were completed in Mission Hills, Golden Hill, Torrey Hills, and Rancho Bernardo, further advancing park and recreation improvements in these communities. Notably, the Rancho Bernardo project converted an underutilized lawn bowling field into a multipurpose field, significantly expanding recreational opportunities and increasing flexibility for community use. Other efforts included a mix of facility enhancements,

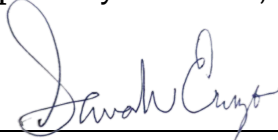
maintenance, and community-focused investments that improved usability, safety, and the overall visitor experience.

Collectively, these projects strengthened the quality, functionality, and accessibility of park facilities citywide while delivering environmental benefits and supporting long-term community well-being. The total value of in-kind contributions supporting park improvement projects during Fiscal Year 2025 was \$467,000.

CONCLUSION

Acceptance of these in-kind donations formalizes the City's continued partnership with the San Diego Parks Foundation and acknowledges the significant role philanthropic support plays in expanding recreational access, activating public spaces, and improving park infrastructure citywide. These contributions directly support the City's goals related to equity, community well-being, and environmental sustainability, particularly within Communities of Concern.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Erazo
Deputy Director, Citywide Recreation Services Division

Attachment(s): A. San Diego Parks Foundation Donation for July 1 2024 through June 30
2025

cc: Council Districts – Citywide
Rania Amen, Chief Community Services Officer and City Engineer, Office of the Mayor
Emily Piatanesi, Policy Advisor, Office of the Mayor
Andy Field, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Tom Tomlinson, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department



San Diego Parks Foundation Donation to the City of San Diego Parks & Recreation to support SDPF Mission and Partnership to help make San Diego Parks accessible for ALL San Diegans

Time Period July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

The below figures include hard costs and time allocations for San Diego Parks Foundation Staff (2 FTE) and volunteers, Park Ambassadors.

Programming	Donation	Description
City Wide sports	\$40,000.00	Awards, shirts, media, food, clinics, staffing cost for Park Ambassadors to support program
Fishing Trips	\$20,000.00	Boat cost, food, lic., awards
I Love my Park Day	\$55,000.00	Full event planning: Entertainment, media, activities, food, swag, games, equipment, staff, shirts, crafts, supplies, volunteers and Park Ambassadors, community resource vendors
Movies in the Park	\$25,000.00	Food, jumpers, crafts, addition of new park
Park Ambassadors	\$110,000.00	Complete program administration, Park Ambassador stipend cost, food, media, shirts, supplies. Management of all volunteer activities
Seasonal Events	\$175,500.00	Activities, media, entertainment, staffing, crafts, food, supplies



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Level Up camps	\$250,000	Contractor cost, staffing, supplies, activities, food, administrative needs
Aquatics-swim lessons	\$15,000.00	Swim lessons
Aquatic-PAD	\$10,000.00	Memorial & City Heights for Park After Dark events
PAD	\$650,000.00	Entertainment, activities, food, surveys, banners, media, supplies, crafts, swag, fliers, staffing cost, and misc.
Teen Nite	\$10,000	Activities, media and entertainment
Nature Camp	\$25,000	Staffing, field trips, food, supplies, crafts, media, and activities.
Drone Events	\$8,000	Supplies, staffing, food, media
Misc and Staff Appreciation support for Parks & Rec	\$15,000	Media, extra supplies
TOTAL PROGRAMS:	1,408,500	
Projects	Donation	Description
Rancho Bernardo	\$230,000	Staffing, media, supplies
Mission Hills	\$5,000	Cobble stone supplies



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Marcy Park Ribbon Cutting	\$5,000	Activities, food & supplies
Cesar Chavez	\$18,000	Retractable backboard standards
Southcrest Outdoor Courts	\$107,000	Lights, backboards, rims, surfacing
Torrey Hills Park	\$10,000	Backboard standards
Trees	\$61,000	Trees
Montgomery Waller Field	\$13,000	Field renovation
Golden Hill Gym Floor Renovation	\$18,000	Indoor Gym Floor Renovation
TOTAL PROJECTS:	\$410,000	
TOTAL DONATION:	1,875,500.00	