

The City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department operates and maintains a diverse and valued parks system that serves millions of residents and visitors each year. The City's parks system does more than fulfill the public's need for leisure, it supports and provides opportunities for individual growth, cultural exchange and enrichment, and youth development including important opportunities for at-risk youth, and it also provides a robust and varied offering of programs for all, including individuals with disabilities and seniors. The parks system also preserves and maintains a significant portion of the San Diego region's diverse natural habitat, and supports San Diego's economic base through tourism; and it greatly enhances the City's ability to attract and retain businesses.

**As of January 2020, the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the management of:**

Park Land	42,263 acres of developed and undeveloped park land, joint use and open space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26,972 acres of open space</li> <li>• 5,977 water acres within the San Diego-La Jolla Underwater Park</li> <li>• 9,314 acres of regional, community, neighborhood, mini and joint use parks</li> </ul>
Regional Parks	<p>Balboa Park: At 1,172 acres, Balboa Park is a significant horticultural and cultural resource with more than 15,000 trees, and 14 specialty gardens, nearly 100 arts, education, recreational, social and sports organizations; 17 museums and cultural institutions, and is home of the World-Famous San Diego Zoo and Old Globe Theatre. Balboa Park entertains more than 20 million visitors a year.</p> <p>Mission Bay: At 4,235 acres, approximately half land and half water; Mission Bay is the largest man-made public aquatic recreational area in the world, entertaining more than 15 million visitors a year with 14 miles of shoreline.</p> <p>Mission Trails Regional Park: One of the largest urban parks west of the Mississippi, the City owns approximately 7,200 acres of open space within the park's 9,800+ acre draft planning area (plan update underway). Mission Trails provides visitors the chance to participate in a wide variety of hikes and multi-educational programs. Mission Trails also includes Kumeyaay Lake Campground and West Sycamore Open Space.</p> <p>Otay Valley Regional Park is comprised of 2,029 acres, has trails and staging areas and is a joint effort of the City of San Diego, City of Chula Vista, and County of San Diego. The park offers visitors a variety of scenic trails in a natural river valley.</p>
Beaches	13 miles of oceanfront shoreline.
Shoreline Parks	Extend from Torrey Pines City Park south to Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. This coastal system includes 65 view areas and coastal access points.
San Diego-La Jolla Underwater Park	The San Diego-La Jolla Underwater Park spans 5,977 acres of ocean bottom and tidelands. The park is a popular destination for snorkelers, scuba divers and kayakers.
Recreation	58 recreation centers and two visitor centers provide programs, activities and events throughout the year to all ages, abilities and income levels.
Golf	Three unique municipal golf complexes: Award-winning Torrey Pines Golf Course atop the coastline bluffs of the Pacific Ocean; home of the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) annual Farmers Insurance Open; and selected to host the 2021 US Open Golf Championship; historic Balboa Park located just minutes from downtown; and Mission Bay Golf Course, San Diego's only night-lighted 18-hole golf course and practice facility.

Aquatics Program	There are 13 City Pools which provide programming for youth, adults, seniors and individuals with disabilities. These programs include water fitness classes, recreational swim team and water polo, lifeguard training, lap and recreational swim, and swimming lessons. The City also operates three portable pools during the summer, which provide swimming lesson access to communities that do not have a permanent pool. In 2019, there were 7295 participants who enrolled in the "Learn to Swim" Program.
Therapeutic Services	A variety of programs that are delivered for people of all ages with disabilities so that they can achieve a maximum level of independence in their leisure and recreational lifestyles. More than 50,000 people are served each year.
Volunteers	Over 50,000 individual volunteer occurrences donating more than 672,847 hours were given by the community to assist staff in Calendar Year 2017; which adds enrichment to the lives of park users and preserves parks for future generations.
Age Well Services	Age Well Services provides information, referral services, bi-weekly dances, trips and special events to more than 20,000 older adults annually. The Senior Lounge in Balboa Park hosts over 1,500 guests each month.
Skate Parks	7 unsupervised skate parks.
Dog Off-Leash Areas	17 designated off-leash dog areas.
Fishing	There are two fishing piers: one at Ocean Beach (longest pier in Southern California) and the other at Pacific Beach. One youth fishing lake is located at Chollas Lake Park.
Joint Use Agreements With Local School Districts	Approximately 90 Joint-Use Agreements with local school districts that provide additional recreational opportunities during non-school hours.
Maintenance Assessment Districts (MAD)	55 maintenance assessment districts throughout the city providing property owners the opportunity to pay for enhanced improvements, maintenance, services, and more in their communities, beyond those generally provided by the City.
Mt. Hope Cemetery	City of San Diego's only cemetery owned and operated by the City. Since 1869, Mt. Hope Cemetery has provided interment options at reasonable costs. Prominent San Diegans including Alonzo Horton and Kate Sessions are buried at this 110-acre site.
Open Space Parks	<p>Black Mountain Park is comprised of 2,352 acres, has trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use and has over 80 species of birds. The center piece of the park is the 1,554-foot summit of Black Mountain which provides 360-degree views of the area.</p> <p>Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, made up of over 4,000 acres is home to many rare and endangered plant and animal species. Visitors using the 37 miles of multi-use trails may pass through 14 different habitat types and view a waterfall.</p> <p>San Pasqual - Clevenger Canyon offers hiking and bird watching, and a 1,755-foot summit.</p> <p>Tri-Canyon Open Space Parks include Marian Bear Memorial Park, Rose Canyon Open Space, and Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and Nature Center. The Tecolote Nature Center provides educational programs and special events throughout the year for all ages. The park system is comprised by a total of 1,796 acres.</p>
San Diego River Park	The park includes 376 acres along the San Diego River in the Mission Valley area. The San Diego River Garden features easy trails through a large native plant garden. The park contains 3 miles of paved walking and biking trails and is wheelchair accessible. Regular Ranger-led interpretive walks and volunteer events are conducted throughout the San Diego River Park and tributary canyons

Canyonlands	The Open Space Canyons Program oversees management of over 3,000 acres of canyon areas City-wide. The program takes the lead in coordinating the multiple Friends of Canyon volunteer groups and provides guidance and oversight for canyon related activities.
Brush Management	The Open Space Division conducts brush management bi-annually on approximately 904 acres of land that is located within 100 feet of a livable structure. The work is done in accordance with the San Diego Municipal code and the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department's Canyon Fire Safety Guidelines and Policies.
Gas Tax	This program maintains 85 landscaped medians on a regular basis such as weekly, monthly, or quarterly.