

Balboa Park Looking for Wider Support

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Alison St John



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A San Diego city advisory group, the Balboa Park Committee, concludes the city alone will not be able to cover operation and maintenance of the Park into the future. KPBS reporter Alison St John has more. Balboa Park is one of the most visited city parks in the United States, but only about a quarter of the visitors are city residents.

Vicki Granowitz chairs the committee that's held nine months of public hearings into how to support the park financially in the future. Granowitz says [their recommendation](#) is to form a new non-profit task force, including the County, to explore future ways of funding Balboa Park.

Granowitz: The committee's view is that we should invite the County to join us: have the County be a little more involved in looking at the future of the park.

Granowitz says though individual County Supervisors sometimes contribute to the park, the County as a whole does not. She says private investment will also have to play a bigger role if Balboa Park is to remain a regional asset.

Deferred maintenance at the park is estimated to be well over a quarter of a billion dollars. City Councilman Todd Gloria, who represents the district that includes Balboa Park, says he hopes a more regional solution is found to funding park maintenance before the Centennial in 2015

The advisory committee introduces its report at a meeting tonight (Thursday) at the War Memorial Building. Alison St John, KPBS news.

