



Office of Child
and Youth Success

Parks and Recreation Board

May 18, 2023

Item 203

Pre-Kindergarten Camps & Child Care Models

PURPOSE

The Office of Child and Youth Success aims to address child care scarcity and increase recreational and engaging programs for young children and their families in San Diego through alignment with the City's strategic plan.

PROTECT & ENRICH EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD

Increasing child care supports building neighborhood assets that anchor community life, foster interaction, and promote well-being.

Increasing options for recreational programs for young children, contribute to accessible, convenient, safe, and comfortable recreational spaces in communities.

FOSTER REGIONAL PROSPERITY

Increasing child care options supports San Diego residents to engage in a strong local community, with well-paying jobs, economic activity, and opportunities for their community

The City's pathway for career growth and development must include increasing the supply of affordable and accessible options for child care.

PRE-KINDER CAMPS & CHILD CARE MODELS

OUTDOOR PRESCHOOL NATURE CAMPS

Outdoor nature camps for preschool-age children are unlicensed and not connected to a facility. They currently operate without oversight and often without a Park Use Permit on City park spaces and/or open parklands.

To ensure the health and safety of children participating and a clear process, operators will be required to be "pre-qualified" through an RFQ and will then complete the existing Park Use Permit process.

PLAY ALL DAY STEM PRE-KINDER CAMP

Recreation camps for preschool-age children (ages 3 & 4) are unlicensed and short-term. They are not considered child care. Sessions will run 12 hours/week for 12 weeks at identified recreation centers.

An expansion of the current Play All Day program, the STEM Pre-Kinder Camps will operate in a shared-space manner, coordinating schedules and operations with the site and considering needs of the community.

Programs will be operated by service providers who have a license agreement with the City of San Diego.

LICENSED CHILD CARE (MEASURE H)

Use of existing park and recreation facilities for licensed child care programs, potentially serving infant/toddler, pre-K, or school-age (under 12) children.

Programs will be licensed and operated by contractor/leasee, through RFP. Necessary facility improvements will be the responsibility of leasee. The area leased for operation will be dedicated for the use of the child care center.

Outdoor Preschool Nature Camps

Outdoor nature camps for preschool-age children are unlicensed and not connected to a facility. They currently operate without oversight and often without a Park Use Permit on City park spaces and/or open parklands. These programs operate in a "gray area" with regard to Licensing requirements, as they are not connected to a facility. CA Health and Safety code outlines the following requirements for programs exempt from Licensing requirements, for the preschool age group for non-public programs, including:

- Child care programs that operate only one day per week and less than 4 hours on that day.
- Programs that provide activities of an instructional nature in a classroom-like setting and satisfies both of the following:
 - Operated only when K-12 students not in session
 - Not to exceed 15 days when children younger than school-age are enrolled

Target Locations:

- City of San Diego parks and open spaces, as identified by camp operators
- Parks & Rec to identify restricted locations, for safety issues (e.g., water, restrooms)

Age Groups:

- Unlicensed recreation camp
 - Preschool age (three- and four-year olds)

Operator:

- Private operators
- Through RFQ and Park Use Permit

Operations:

- Based on operator's program, according to RFQ response & Park Use permit

Facilities Improvement:

N/A

Project Timeline



Outdoor Preschool Nature Camps

Clarify community process & requirements for Park Use Permit application

- Clarify current process, park/space types, fees, and information/documents
- Document process for outdoor nature camps

Partner with Parks & Rec

June - July 2023

Issue RFI

Gather information on best practices and standard operating procedures for outdoor nature camps

April - July 2023

Aug - Sept 2023

Issue RFQ

- Issue RFQ "pre-qualify" programs

Partner with Parks & Rec, Risk Management, Contracts, Legal

April - July 2023

Develop process for "pre-qualifying" programs

- Review RFI responses
- Review regulations & safety considerations

Partner Contracts, Legal

Park Use Permit

- Document qualifying operators
- Operators apply for Park Use Permit

Aug 2023-ongoing



Play All Day Expansion STEM Pre-Kindergarten Camps

Recreation camps for preschool-age children are unlicensed and short-term. Sessions will run 12 hours/week for 12 weeks at identified Recreation Centers.

CA Health and Safety code outlines the following requirements for programs exempt from Licensing requirements, for the preschool age group for Public Recreation Programs (operated by the state, city, county, LEA, etc):

- Program is provided to children under the age of 4 years, 9 months with sessions that run 12 hours per week or less and are 12 weeks or less in duration.
- A program may permit children to be enrolled in consecutive sessions throughout the year, but not in a combination of sessions more than 12 hours per week.

Target Locations:

- Existing park and recreation facilities
- Primarily Recreation Centers
- Target Promise Zone & south bay
- Shared-space with site, based on existing programming and community need

Age Groups:

- Unlicensed recreation camp
 - Preschool age (three- and four-year olds)

Community Input:

- Present to Park & Rec Board for input
- Meet with Area Managers & Community Groups

Operator:

- Community service provider
- Through RFQ and license agreement?

Operations:

- 12 hours/week (varying schedules)
- 12 week sessions
- Registration process TBD

Facilities Improvement:

- City may explore funding to improve sites

Project Timeline

STEM Pre-Kinder Camps

Issue RFQ

- Issue RFQ for service providers
- Create space license agreement per site with providers

Aug -
Sept
2023

Aug -
Sept
2023

Set up registration

- Clarify the family registration and payment process, and identify potential scholarship or subsidy opportunities

ITB

- Issue ITB for site construction

TBD

Identify locations

- Review the Site Visits & Master List
- Meet with Area Managers & Community Groups
- Partner with Parks & Rec, Community Groups, Councilmembers, Economic Development

Jan -
July
2023

May -
July
2023

Identify revenue/ funds

- Identify funds to cover program costs, increased staffing
- Identify funds to improve sites
 - Indoor/outdoor space
 - Furniture & equipment, TBD

Licensed Child Care (Measure H)

The City Manager may, without a vote of the people, authorize childcare at recreation facilities and buildings on real property owned in fee by the City heretofore or hereafter formally dedicated in perpetuity by ordinance of the Council or by statute of the State Legislature for park or recreation purposes.

For purposes of this section, childcare means any State-licensed childcare facility, other than in-home family day care, in which nonmedical care and supervision is provided for children under age 18 in a group setting for less than 24 hours per day, excluding educational or instructional use provided by public, private, home, or charter schools.

Target Locations:

- Existing park and recreation facilities
- Primarily Recreation Centers
- Dedicated space for child care center (lease)
- Target "child care deserts" and other high-need areas

Age Groups:

- Licensed child care
 - Infant/toddler
 - Preschool
 - School-age (OST)

Community Input:

- Present to Park & Rec Board for input
- Meet with Area Managers & Community Groups

Operator:

- Licensed community provider
- Through long-term lease and contract

Operations:

- Part-day or full-day programs
 - Non-traditional hours?
- Preferred subsidy types

Facilities Improvement:

- City may explore funding to get sites "license ready"
- Long-term lease to specify tenant is responsible for improvements

Project Timeline



Licensed Child Care (Measure H)

Identify revenue/ funds

- Prep sites to be "license ready" (Refer to licensing regs & RFI recommendations)
- Potential fund sources, TBD

Ongoing

TBD

RFP

- Long-term lease to operate
- Tenant to make any necessary improvements

Work with DREAM to develop lease

ITB

- Issue ITB for site construction

TBD

Identify locations

Jan - July 2023

- Review Site Visits & Master List
- Meet with Area Managers & Community Groups

Partner with Parks & Rec, Community Groups, Councilmembers, Labor, Economic Development

April - July 2023

Identify target program & operations

- Age groups (infant/toddler, preschool, out of school time)
- Hours
- Preferred subsidy operation
- Refer to YMCA and LPC reports on child care availability and priorities

