



## **Open Space Division Profile**

### **DEPUTY DIRECTOR Erika Ferreira**

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***FISCAL YEAR 2024***

## Overview

**Open Space Division** provides land and resource management for over 27,000 acres of open space parkland Citywide. Approximately 21,000 acres of these lands are within the Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) and are managed in accordance with the 1996 Implementing Agreement.

As the largest custodian of lands in the Parks and Recreation Department, Open Space Division offers a myriad of programs and operates and maintains multiple parks and facilities. Open Space Division manages lands across all nine Council Districts.

Regional parks, open space canyons, habitat areas, and related facilities within Open Space Division include:

- Black Mountain Open Space
  - Crest Canyon
  - Gonzalez Canyon
  - Lusardi Creek
  - Mount Woodson
  - Clevenger Canyon
- Chollas Creek Watershed and Chollas Park
  - Chollas Lake
  - North Chollas Community Park
  - South Chollas
- Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
  - Carmel Mountain Preserve
  - Del Mar Mesa Preserve
  - McGonigle Canyon
- Mission Trails Regional Park
  - Cowles Mountain
  - East Elliott
  - Field Station
  - Kumeyaay Campground

- East Fortuna Field Staging Area
- West Sycamore Canyon
- Visitor Center
- Otay Valley Regional Park
  - Beyer Ranger Station
- San Diego River Park and Tributaries
  - Adobe Falls
  - First San Diego River Improvement Project
  - Mission Valley Preserve
  - Navajo Canyon
  - Riverwalk (*future*)
  - Ruffin Canyon
- Tri-Canyon
  - Marian Bear Park
  - Rose Canyon
  - Tecolote Natural Park
    - Nature Center
- Urban Canyons and Other Open Space Parks
  - City Heights Urban Canyons
  - Encanto Expressway
  - Juniper Canyon
  - Radio Canyon
  - Switzer Canyon

The Division also administers:

- Brush Management
- Gas Tax Median Program (84 locations)
- Maintenance Assessment Districts (55 districts)
- Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Monitoring and Reporting
- Partnerships with non-profit and affinity groups, including “Friends Of” groups and citizens advisory committees
- Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan (VPHCP) Monitoring and Reporting
- Volunteer Program

**Open Space Division**  
**OPEN SPACE OPERATIONS AND PARK RANGER DISTRICT**  
**DISTRICT MANAGER: ED CHRISTENSEN**  
Telephone: (619) 685-1311    Cell Phone: (858) 449-1708  
Email: [EdwardC@sandiego.gov](mailto:EdwardC@sandiego.gov)

**District Size:** Over 16,000 acres

**Council Districts:** Citywide

**District Areas:** Responsible for the Park Ranger Program, the Street Median Program, oversight and management of over 16,000 acres of existing open space including Mission Trails Regional Park, Tri-Canyons, Otay Valley Regional Park, Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, and other related duties.

Description of Facilities	Number
Campground (MTRP/Kumeyaay)	1
Field Station (MTRP)	1
Nature Center (Tecolote)	1
Ranger Station (MTRP, Los Pen, OVRP)	3
Visitor Center (MTRP)	1

**Advisory Groups:** Five

- Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee ( )
- Marian Bear Community Recreation Group
- Mission Trails Regional Park (CAC and Task Force)
- Otay Valley Regional Park (CAC and Policy Committee)
- Tecolote (CAC)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Area Portfolio</b> <b>Area Name: Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (LPCP)</b> <b>SENIOR PARK RANGER: GINA WASHINGTON</b> Telephone: (858) 538-8066 Fax: (858) 536-8334 Cell Phone: (619) 980-4541 Email: <a href="mailto:gwashington@sandiego.gov">gwashington@sandiego.gov</a></p>
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**Park Overview:** The Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve provides for the protection and enhancement of the natural features of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve while providing for passive recreation in accordance with the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Master Plan and Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Natural Resource Management Plan. The preserve is jointly managed by the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego.

**Council Districts:** 1, 5, and 6

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area) (Size: 4,059 Acres):** Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (LPCP) is located in the City of San Diego between the I-5 and I-15 freeways and south of the 56 freeway, approximately twelve miles north of the City's urban center. The Preserve is composed of two large coastal canyons, Los Peñasquitos Canyon, and Lopez Canyon.

Additional areas of responsibility include Carmel Mountain Ranch Open Space, Sabre Springs Open Space and weekend emergency response in Scripps Ranch Maintenance Assessment District Open Space, Sabre Springs Maintenance Assessment District Open Space, and Miramar Ranch North Maintenance Assessment District Open Space.

Other areas include Carmel Mountain Preserve and Del Mar Mesa Preserve.

**Adjacent Communities:** Carmel Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, Mira Mesa, Miramar Ranch North, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Peñasquitos, Sabre Springs, Scripps-Miramar Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, and University City

**Advisory Groups:** Two

- LPCP Citizens Advisory Committee – Meeting date: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, odd months, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Santa Maria de Los Peñasquitos Adobe.

**Non-Profit Affinity Group:** Two

- Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon: CD 1 and 6
- San Diego Mountain Bike Association

**Area Portfolio**  
**Area Name: Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP)**  
**SENIOR PARK RANGER: RYAN ROBERTSON**  
Telephone: (619) 668-3276 Fax: (619) 668-3282  
Cell Phone: (619) 980-8938 Email: [rrobertson@sandiego.gov](mailto:rrobertson@sandiego.gov)

**Park Overview:** Mission Trails Regional Park is operated and maintained by the City of San Diego in partnership with the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation. Park Rangers and volunteer docents provide a wide range of interpretive programming, including tours and hikes, as well as video and slide presentations. A joint exercise of powers agreement identifies roles and responsibilities between the City of San Diego and County of San Diego. Mission Trails is one of the largest urban parks in the country. It is also home to Cowles Mountain, East Elliott, East Fortuna Equestrian (Multi-use) Staging Area, Kumeyaay Campground, and West Sycamore Canyon.

**Council Districts:** 5 and 7

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area) (Size: approximately 8,000 Acres):** Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) is centrally located eight miles northeast of downtown San Diego, both north and south of the State Route 52 freeway. Cowles Mountain, the Visitors Center, Old Mission Dam, and Kumeyaay Campground just north of Mission Gorge Road. East Elliott is generally north of State Route 52. West Sycamore Canyon is located east of Stonebridge Estates and north of MCAS Miramar. Park rangers at MTRP also assist with Tierrasanta Open Space (Shepherd Canyon).

**Adjacent Communities:** East Elliott, MCAS Miramar, Navajo, Scripps-Miramar Ranch, and Tierrasanta; Cities of La Mesa and Santee

**Advisory Groups:** Two

- MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee – Meeting date: 1st Tuesday, odd months, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., held at the MTRP Visitors Center
- MTRP Task Force – Meeting date: 3rd Thursday, odd months, 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m., held at the MTRP Visitors Center.

**Non-Profit Affinity Group:** One

- Mission Trails Foundation

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Area Portfolio</b> <b>Area Name: Otay Valley Regional Park</b> <b>SENIOR PARK RANGER: MIKA SHIMADA-CICIRELLI</b> Telephone: (619) 424-0458    Fax: (619) 454-9671 Cell Phone: (619) 980-3984    Email: <a href="mailto:mikashimada@sandiego.gov">mikashimada@sandiego.gov</a></p>
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**Park Overview:**

A Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement with the City of Chula Vista, City of San Diego, and County of San Diego (adopted in 1990, amended in 2012) establishes a Citizen Advisory Committee and Policy Committee to coordinate Property acquisition, planning, design, and maintenance of the Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP). OVRP serves South Bay residents and visitors by providing a mix of recreation opportunities ranging from playing fields and picnic areas to hiking, biking, and horse trails while protecting open space, environmentally sensitive areas wildlife, culture, historic, agriculture, archaeological, and scenic resources.

**Council District:** 8

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area) (Size: 2,029 Acres):** From the Southeastern edge of lower San Diego Bay, east about 13 miles to the Otay Lakes Reservoir, generally south of Main Street in Chula Vista and north of the State Route 905 freeway. The OVRP is divided into three sub-areas for purposes of management and maintenance:

- Upper and Lower Otay Reservoirs are owned by the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department
- West of Otay Reservoir and east of Heritage Road is generally managed by the County of San Diego
- West of Heritage Road is generally managed by the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department

Additional areas of responsibility include Otay Mesa Open Space and weekend emergency response in Otay Mesa Maintenance Assessment District Open Space.

**Adjacent Communities:** City of Chula Vista, Egger Highlands, Otay Mesa-Nestor, Otay Mesa, San Ysidro, and Tijuana River Valley

**Advisory Groups:** Two

- OVRP Citizens Advisory Committee (supported by the County of San Diego), meeting dates: varies, 2 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- OVRP Policy Committee (San Diego’s Councilmember from District 8, Chula Vista Councilmember, and County Supervisor)

**Area Portfolio**  
**Area Name: Tri-Canyon**  
**SENIOR PARK RANGER: STEVEN SMITH**  
Telephone: (858) 581-9952 Fax: (619) 276-2409  
Cell Phone: (619) 665-8342 Email: [sgsmith@sandiego.gov](mailto:sgsmith@sandiego.gov)

**Park Overview:** Tri-Canyon consists of Marian Bear Memorial Park, Rose Canyon Open Space, and Tecolote Canyon.

**Council Districts:** 1, 2, 6, and 7

### Marian Bear Memorial Park

**Park Overview:** Marian Bear Memorial Park is a dedicated natural park that includes finger canyons and mesas and has a rich and diverse history. The park provides a natural setting in the midst of a bustling urban area. Park Rangers assigned to the park area provide interpretive programs, public assistance, guidance, enforcement, and protection. Volunteers are utilized to assist staff in the maintenance and operation of the park.

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area) (Size: 467 acres):** Marian Bear Memorial Park is located in San Clemente Canyon stretching from Interstate 5 to Interstate 805 running parallel along the south side of State Route 52.

**Adjacent Communities:** Clairemont, Linda Vista, Kearny Mesa, La Jolla, Mission Valley, and Pacific Beach

**Advisory Groups:** One

- Marian Bear Community Recreation Group – Meeting date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, monthly, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., held at the North Clairemont Recreation Center.

**Non-Profit Affinity Group:** N/A

### Rose Canyon Open Space

**Park Overview:** Rose Canyon Open Space Park has a rich history that brought the California Southern Railroad to this region in 1882. Rose Canyon has a very active Friends of group that uses volunteers to participate in projects that enhance the park experience.



**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area) (Size: 417 acres):** Rose Canyon’s boundary to the north is the MTDB tracks, on the south, interstate 52 running west from interstate 5 to 805. The Rose Creek watershed is local in nature extending no further east than Scripps Ranch.

**Adjacent Communities:** Clairemont, La Jolla, Pacific Beach, and University City

**Advisory Groups:** N/A

**Non-Profit Affinity Group:** One

- Friends of Rose Canyon CD 1

## Tecolote Canyon Natural Park

**Park Overview:** Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and Nature Center offers its visitors a variety of educational and recreational opportunities. The Canyon has approximately 6.5 miles of trails that can be used for jogging walking and mountain biking. Also available to visitors is the Nature Center which offers a host of exhibits on the animal and plant life of the Canyon. The Nature Center is also available for meetings, workshops, classes, and special events.

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area) (Size: 912 acres):** Tecolote Canyon Natural Park divides, by its southern half, the communities of Clairemont and Linda Vista and, by its northern half, the west and east areas of Clairemont. The mouth of the canyon is located a mile north of the San Diego River and is crossed by Interstate 5 at the intersection with Tecolote Road. Its northern tip nearly reaches Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. Genesee Avenue forms the Tecolote Canyon Natural Park eastern boundary. The western park boundary runs parallel to Clairemont Drive and Cowley Way.

**Council District Communities:** Clairemont, Linda Vista, Kearny Mesa, Mission Valley

**Advisory Groups:** One

- Tecolote Canyon Natural Park Citizen’s Advisory Committee - Meeting date: 3rd Wednesday, odd months, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., held at the Tecolote Nature Center.

**Non-Profit Affinity Group:** One

- Friends of Tecolote Canyon: CD 2, 6, and 7

**Area Portfolio**  
**Area Name: Gas Tax Medians**  
**GROUNDNS MAINTENANCE MANAGER: SALVADOR “SAL” SERRANO**  
Telephone: (619) 533-6742 Cell Phone: (619) 980-3813  
Email: [SSerrano@sandiego.gov](mailto:SSerrano@sandiego.gov)

**Program Overview:** The Parks and Recreation Department maintains over 80 street medians as part of the Gas Tax-funded Street Median Maintenance Program. These medians are scattered throughout the City. The program provides for the landscape maintenance of median improvements along City streets within the public rights-of-way. The required maintenance includes cleaning, sweeping, litter and weed removal, tree maintenance, irrigation installations and repairs, planting, and edging of curbs and sidewalks.

**Locations (80 sites):**

- 36<sup>th</sup> Street ROW
- 54<sup>th</sup> Place at Orange Avenue Interchange
- 54<sup>th</sup> Street ROW Slope at University Avenue
- Adams Avenue Park and Ride Lots
- Adobe Falls
- Balboa Avenue (Interstate 5 to Interstate 805 and east of Interstate 805)
- Chatsworth Catalina Boulevard
- Clairemont Mesa ROW Mt. Abernathy
- College Avenue Medians (Interstate 8 to Navajo Road)
- College Avenue Medians (State Route 94 Freeway to University Avenue)
- Del Cerro Boulevard Medians
- Del Sol Blvd. Median
- Elmhurst Median
- Euclid Avenue and 54<sup>th</sup> Street Medians (Federal Boulevard to Elm Street)
- Euclid Avenue and Groveland ROW
- Euclid Avenue and Imperial Avenue ROW
- Euclid Avenue ROW (Manzanares to Trinidad Way)
- Fairmount at Ridge View ROW
- Foothill Boulevard
- Frankfort
- Genesee Avenue
- Governor Drive (Center)
- Governor Drive ROW
- Grand Avenue
- Imperial Avenue and Interstate 805 Median
- Imperial Avenue Medians (61<sup>st</sup> Street to Flicker)
- Imperial Avenue, Marketplace Medians

- Interstate 15 Corridor (Adams to Wightman Terrace)
- Interstate 15 Overpasses from Monroe Ave. to Landis Street Park Boulevard
- Jackson Drive Median (Lake Murray to Navajo Road)
- La Jolla Boulevard
- La Jolla Parkway
- La Jolla Village Drive
- Lake Ashmere Drive ROW
- Lake Murray Boulevard (Navajo Road to Dallas Street)
- Lake Murray Boulevard ROW (San Carlos to Jackson Drive)
- Linda Vista Road
- Lombard Place
- Market Street (Three Medians at Interstate 15)
- Menlo Ave. Median (Thorn to Quince) 54th Street ROW (Pirotte to Streamview)
- Mira Mesa Park & Ride
- Mission Boulevard
- Mission Center at Friars Road
- Mission Gorge Road Medians (Golfcrest to Princess View)
- Mission Gorge Road Medians (Zion to Greenbrier)
- Mission View
- Mission Village Road
- Montezuma Avenue Medians
- Morena Boulevard and Balboa Avenue Interchange
- Morena Boulevard ROW
- Morena Crossroads Camino De La Reina
- Navajo Road (Parkridge to State Route 125 Freeway)
- Navajo Road at Waring Road
- Navajo Road ROW
- Nobel Drive
- North Harbor Drive
- North Torrey Pines Road near UCSD
- Pacific Beach Drive North
- Palm Avenue Medians (Across from Montgomery Waller Park High School)
- Palm Avenue Medians (Saturn Boulevard to Imperial Beach)
- Park Boulevard north of B Street
- Parkridge Boulevard (Hyde Park to Wandermere)
- Princess View Drive
- Regents Road
- Ridgeway Circle
- Rockhurst Median
- San Carlos Drive Median (Lake Murray to Bisby Lake)
- San Ysidro Boulevard Medians (Border Village Road to East Beyer at Picador)
- San Ysidro Business District ROW (Interstate 805 to Border Village Road)
- Siempre Viva

- Soledad Mountain Road
- Sorrento Valley Boulevard
- Sorrento Valley Road
- Streamview Median (Tree Planters in Median)
- Sunset Cliffs Boulevard
- Torrey Pines Road
- University Avenue (Shiloh to College Avenue)
- University ROW
- Waring Road and Navajo Road ROW
- Waring Road Medians (Interstate 8 to Navajo Road)

**Open Space Division**  
**OPEN SPACE LANDS COORDINATION**  
**SENIOR PLANNER: PAUL KILBURG**  
Telephone: (619) 685-1327 Cell Phone: (619) 857-5722  
Email: [pkilburg@sandiego.gov](mailto:pkilburg@sandiego.gov)

**District Size:** N/A

**Council Districts:** Citywide

**Overview:** Serves as a liaison to coordinate activities conducted by all City departments which impact the City’s approximately 36,000 acres of open space and park lands. Oversees the City-wide Open Space and Canyons Program, Chollas Lake Park, as well as the San Diego River Park Program.

Description of Facilities	Number
Chollas Lake Reservoir (fishing allowed for ages 15 and under)	1
Ranger Station (Black Mountain)	1

**Advisory Groups:** Two

- Open Space Advisory Committee – Meeting date: bi-annually 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month on April and October, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., held at the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC) Auditorium, 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa
- Chollas Lake Community Recreation Group - Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month (except December) at 7 p.m. at Holy Spirit Church Hall, 2755 55th St., San Diego
- Black Mountain Park Citizens Advisory Committee

**Area Portfolio**  
**Area Name: Black Mountain Open Space**  
**SENIOR PARK RANGER: ARACELI DOMINGUEZ**  
Telephone: (858) 538-8082 Fax: (858) 536-8334  
Cell Phone: (619) 846-5678 Email: ARDominguez@sandiego.gov

**Park Overview:** Black Mountain Open Space Park is made up of a series of chaparral and sage covered hills, ridges, and canyons. The center piece of the park is the 1,554-foot summit of Black Mountain which provides 360-degree views of the surrounding area. Access to the summit is provided by a 2.5-mile hike or bike ride up a dirt road that is near Hilltop Community Park.

**Council Districts:** 1 and 5

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area) (Size: 2,352 Acres):** Black Mountain Open Space Park is located in the Rancho Peñasquitos area of northern San Diego (north of the State Route 56 freeway), situated between Camino Del Sur to the west, Peñasquitos Drive to the east, Lusardi Creek to the north, and Carmel Mountain Road to the south.

**Additional Parks Managed by this Work Unit:** Crest Canyon, McGonigle Canyon, San Pasqual/Clevenger, Mt. Woodson Open Space, Battle Mountain Open Space, and weekend emergency response in Carmel Valley Maintenance Assessment District Open Space.

**Adjacent Communities:** Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Sur, Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Peñasquitos, Santaluz, Torrey Highlands, and 4S Ranch (County)

**Advisory Groups:** One

- Black Mountain Park Citizens Advisory Committee – Meeting date: 2nd Thursday, odd months, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., held at the Canyonside Recreation Center.

**Non-Profit Affinity Groups:** Three

- Friends of Gonzalez Canyon: CD 1
- Friends of McGonigle Canyon: CD 5
- San Diego Mountain Bike Association

**Area Portfolio**

**Area Name: Chollas Park, Chollas Lake, and Chollas Creek Watershed**

**SENIOR PARK RANGER: CAREY GOLDSTEIN**

Telephone: (619) 533-6211 Fax: (619) 235-5253

Cell Phone: (619) 247-2738 Email: [cgoldstein@sandiego.gov](mailto:cgoldstein@sandiego.gov)

**Park Overview:** As a reservoir built in 1901, Chollas Lake helped serve early San Diego's water supply. In 1966, it was turned over to the Parks and Recreation Department. In 1971, it was designated a youth fishing lake (for children ages 15 and under only). A 16-acre lake for free youth fishing (age 15 and under ONLY); an 8/10-of-a-mile dirt path around the lake for walking, jogging, and bicycling; picnic tables with barbecue grills; children's play equipment; a small basketball court; hiking trails; and a multi-purpose ball field in North Chollas Canyon.

This group also manages South Chollas Landfill, areas surrounding the Chollas Yard, the special use permit with Chollas Little League, and parks along Chollas Creek watershed (including Imperial Marketplace, Southcrest, Southcrest Trails, and Willie Henderson Sports Complex).

**Council District:** 4

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area) (Size: approximately 338 Acres):**

**Adjacent Communities:** Mid-City Eastern Area

**Advisory Group:** One

- Chollas Lake Community Recreation Group - Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month (except December) at 7 p.m. at Holy Spirit Church Hall, 2755 55th Street, San Diego

**Non-Profit and Other Affinity Groups:** One

- Friends of Chollas Creek CD 4 and 7 (2 groups)

**Area Portfolio**

**Area Name: Open Space Canyons Program**

**SENIOR PARK RANGER: ERIKA WEIKEL**

Telephone: (619) 235-5262 Cell Phone: (619) 453-3765

Email: [EWeikel@sandiego.gov](mailto:EWeikel@sandiego.gov)

**Park Overview:** The Open Space Canyons program oversees management of approximately 3,000 acres of open space and canyon areas city-wide. In the past several years, the Canyon Coalition has spearheaded the formation of many “Friends of” volunteer groups which have taken an interest in cleaning up and enhancing urban canyon areas. The Citywide Open Space and Canyons section takes the lead in coordinating with these groups and provides guidance and oversight for canyon related activities including litter pickup, non-native plant control, trail planning and maintenance, small scale native re-vegetation projects, and environmental education programs.

**Council District:** All

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area) (Size: approximately 3,000 Acres):** These canyons are located throughout the City and are generally within the urban-wildland interface.

**Adjacent Communities:** Citywide

**Advisory Group:** One

- Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee - Meeting date: 2nd Thursday, twice annually, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., held in the Metro Wastewater Operations Center Auditorium

**Non-Profit and Other Affinity Groups:** 18

- Friends of 32nd Street Canyon: CD 3
- Friends of 47th Street Canyon: CD 9
- Friends of Adobe Falls: CD 7
- Friends of Buchanan Canyon: CD 3
- Friends of City Heights Canyons: CD 3
- Friends of Chollas Creek: CD 4 and 7 (2 groups)
- Friends of Dove Canyon- CD 6
- Friends of Juniper Canyon: CD 3
- Friends of Manzanita (Lexington) Canyon: CD 3
- Friends of Maple Canyon: CD 3
- Friends of Mission Hills Canyons: CD 2
- Friends of Normal Heights Canyons: CD 3
- Friends of North Arroyo Canyon- CD 2
- Friends of Rancho Mission Canyon: CD 1
- Friends of Swan Canyon: CD 3



- Friends of Switzer Canyon: CD 3
- Friends of University Heights Canyons: CD 3
- I Love a Clean San Diego
- San Diego Canyonlands
- Groundworks San Diego

<b>Area Portfolio</b> <b>Area Name: Open Space Maintenance</b> <b>GROUNDS MAINTENANCE MANAGERS: JON LOTTA and CHARLES "SCOTT" SEYFRIED</b>	
<b><u>Jon Lotta:</u></b>  Telephone: (619) 235-5263 Fax: (619) 235-5252 Cell Phone: (619) 980-1062 Email: <a href="mailto:jlotta@sanidiego.gov">jlotta@sanidiego.gov</a>	<b><u>Scott Seyfried:</u></b>  Telephone: (619) 235-5259 Fax: (619) 235-5252 Cell Phone: (619) 980-0659 Email: <a href="mailto:CSeyfried@sanidiego.gov">CSeyfried@sanidiego.gov</a>

**Program Overview:** The Citywide Open Space Maintenance staff maintains approximately 23,000 acres of Park and Recreation Department open space. Duties of this role include: tree maintenance, weed management and non-native invasive plant control, litter clean-up, homeless abatement, erosion control, trail maintenance, and installation and repair of signage and fencing in compliance with the City Charter, the City Municipal Code, and MSCP regulations. The areas maintained include open space lots, canyons, and MHPA lands. Maintenance staff assists with various maintenance needs at the many open space parks and regional parks managed by the Open Space Division throughout the City.

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area):** Citywide

**Size:** Approximately 23,000 Acres

**Council Districts:** All

**Advisory Committees:** N/A

**Area Portfolio**  
**Area Name: San Diego River Park**  
**SENIOR PARK RANGER: TIFFANY SWIDERSKI**  
Telephone: (619) 525-8502 Fax: (619) 235-5253  
Cell Phone: (619) 804-1719 Email: [tswiderski@sandiego.gov](mailto:tswiderski@sandiego.gov)

**Park Overview:** The newly created San Diego River Park Program started with the hiring of one Senior Park Ranger in 2018. The position is responsible for collaborating and coordinating management of City owned lands inside and outside the City limits within the San Diego River corridor and its tributaries. The position is funded 50/50 between the Public Utilities Department and the Park and Recreation Department to begin implementation of the San Diego River Master Plan and coordinate efforts of the San Diego River Foundation and other volunteer groups interested in enhancing the San Diego River and its tributaries. The Senior Park Ranger takes the lead in coordinating with these groups and provides guidance and oversight for river related activities including enforcement, litter pickup, non-native plant control, trail planning and maintenance, small scale native re-vegetation projects, and environmental education programs.

**Council Districts:** 2, 3, 7, and 9

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area) (Size: approximately 800 Acres):** San Diego River corridor and tributaries leading into the City of San Diego from the City of Santee and unincorporated community of Lakeside

**Adjacent Communities:** Linda Vista, Midway Pacific Highway, Mission Valley, Navajo, Ocean Beach, Old Town, Serra Mesa, and Tierrasanta

**Advisory Group:** N/A

**Non-Profit and Other Affinity Groups:** Seven

- Friends of Navajo Canyon: CD 7
- Friends of Ruffin Canyon: CD 7
- Friends of Shawn Canyon: CD 7
- I Love a Clean San Diego
- San Diego Canyonlands
- San Diego River Foundation
- San Diego River Conservancy

**Open Space Division**  
**PROJECT MANAGEMENT, TRAILS PLANNING, BRUSH MANGEMENT**  
**PROJECT OFFICER II: LAURA BALL**  
Telephone: (619) 685-1301 Cell Phone: (619) 548-3231  
Email: [lball@sandiego.gov](mailto:lball@sandiego.gov)

**Size:** N/A

**Council Districts:** Citywide

**Overview:** Responsible for identifying and tracking unfunded projects. Manages capital improvements program, maintenance projects, and deferred open space maintenance projects. Coordinates and monitors the Open Space projects managed by other City project managers. Serves as project management liaison between the Division and other Departments. Also manages the brush management and trails programs. Coordinates Open Space encroachment issues with the Senior Land Development Investigator.

Description	Number
Miles of Trails	210
Brush Acreage Thinned Annually	Approx 460

**Advisory Groups: Two**

- OVRP Citizens Advisory Committee (supported by the County of San Diego), meeting dates: varies, 2 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- OVRP Policy Committee (San Diego’s Councilmember from District 8, Chula Vista Councilmember, and County Supervisor)

**Non-Profit and Other Affinity Groups: Two**

- San Diego Canyonlands
- San Diego Mountain Bike Association

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Area Portfolio</b> <b>Area Name: Brush Management Program</b> <b>GROUNDNS MAINTENANCE MANAGER: JOHN KLEINE</b> Telephone: (858) 581-9986    Fax: (858) 272-2847 Cell Phone: (619) 980-9388    Email: <a href="mailto:jkleine@sandiego.gov">jkleine@sandiego.gov</a></p>
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**Park Overview:** The Open Space Division is required to thin brush on 921 acres of city-owned open space at the urban/wildland interface. This acreage is within brush management “Zone 2” and is comprised of land between 35 and 100 feet from adjacent structures. All brush management acreage is scheduled to be thinned on an average of every 21 months. Current staffing consists of 20.00 budgeted positions and contractual crews, capable of thinning about 10 acres per week. Contract workers include for-profit vendors and local non-profit organizations. Residents who do not want to wait for City staff can obtain a Right of Entry permit to perform brush management on City land.

**Council Districts:** All

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area) (Size: approximately 921 acres of urban-wildland interface):** These canyons are located throughout the City and are generally within the urban-wildland interface.

**Adjacent Communities:** Citywide

**Advisory Group:** N/A

**Open Space Division**  
**NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**  
**SENIOR PLANNER: MARK BERNINGER**  
 Telephone: (619) 685-1314 Cell Phone: (619) 727-1215  
 Email: [mberninger@sandiego.gov](mailto:mberninger@sandiego.gov)

**Size:** Over 36,000 acres

**Council Districts:** Citywide

**Overview:** Responsible for implementation of the Multiple Species Conservation Program on over 27,000 acres of conserved open space, including a long-term rare species monitoring program and development of natural resource management plans.

In 1997, the San Diego City Council adopted the MSCP (R-28455) and entered into a 50-year MSCP Implementing Agreement (I.A.) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Through this agreement, the City received its federal Endangered Species Act Section 10 (a) incidental take permit (PRT-830421). To comply with the MSCP requirements, Natural Resource Management staff conducts annual biological monitoring of up to 35 species, develops and/or updates management plans for conserved lands and performs adaptive land management on over 36,000 acres. Natural resource staff also manages the Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan, implemented in 2019 as a subset of the City of San Diego MSCP Sub Area Plan. The vernal pool resources managed by Natural Resource Section include over 20 preserves and over 960 individual pools. Additional projects, such as habitat restoration, are implemented in coordination with the regional habitat conservation strategy. Natural resource team also researches, develops, and applies for resource management grant programs. Collaborates directly with the MSCP Planning Department to coordinate responses to development projects and property acquisitions and transfers. In addition to the management of open space, natural resource staff also administer the Open Space Divisions Right of Entry Permit (ROE) program.

**Council District Communities:** All

**Park Boundaries (Geographic Area):** City-Wide, and City Owned land throughout San Diego County. The Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) is the planned preserve of the MSCP. The MHPA includes core biological areas as well as linkages for wildlife movement and covers most City-owned open space areas.

Description	Number
Natural Resource Management Plans	13 and 4 in development

**Advisory Groups:** N/A

**Non-Profit and Other Affinity Groups: 8**

- Chaparral Lands Conservancy
- Regional Rare Plant Working Groups
- San Diego Audubon
- San Diego Canyonlands
- San Diego Habitat Conservancy
- San Diego Management and Monitoring Program
- San Diego River Park Foundation
- San Diego River park Conservancy
- San Dieguito River Valley Lands Conservancy