

Fall 2021 Newsletter



CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER



Dear San Diego Parks Foundation Supporter:

This Fall the San Diego Parks Foundation celebrated its third anniversary. As Chair, I am incredibly proud to share our accomplishments and excited for what we plan to achieve in the New Year.

Since November 2018, the San Diego Parks Foundation has raised nearly \$2 million to support recreation programs that have served more than 20,000 youth and families, invested in facility upgrades at neglected recreation centers, planted more than 200 trees in parks located in communities that lack green space, and worked to close the digital divide by installing free public Wi-Fi at more than fifty City recreation centers and pools.

The Fall was a busy time as always. We celebrated the grand opening of two beautiful new facilities with community celebrations – the J Street Mini Park in the neighborhood of Stockton, and the grand opening of Park de la Cruz, a brand-new facility in City Heights that will serve as the new home for the City of San Diego Age Well and Recreational Therapeutic Services.

We recognized key City Parks & Recreation staff for their incredible support in implementing Come Play Outside, an initiative to provide summer enrichment activities at parks for youth and families. We are proud to share that in collaboration with the City of San Diego and funding partners, more than 16,000 youth and families participated in summer activities.

Our development committee is hard at work on our annual fundraiser that is held at the world-famous Torrey Pines golf course, the 4th Annual Undertow Charity Golf Classic on February 2nd. It is my pleasure to report we sold out in just twenty days! We are still looking for sponsors - the proceeds will support the revitalization of the Linda Vista Recreation Center.

This November, we joined the San Diego Public Library Foundation to announce the beginning of a community effort to bring a measure that would create a dedicated public revenue source to support parks and libraries to voters in November 2022. As advocates, we believe a dedicated revenue stream that is restricted for maintenance, operations, programming, staffing, and capital upgrades will ensure San Diego has the public parks and libraries required to create a healthy, sustainable, and thriving City.

We can't do this work without the support of our donors. As you consider your charitable giving for the remainder of the year, please consider continuing to support our work with a year-end contribution.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we continue to grow this new organization! Have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Michel Anderson
Chair



Happy Holidays!

From the SDPF team

PROGRAM *Updates!*



SPONSOR A GREAT CAUSE:

Join us for the 4th Annual Undertow Charity Golf Classic! Tournament is sold out but there is still room for sponsors to play! For sponsorship information, contact Martha Phillips, mjpsandiego2018@gmail.com, 619-300-1961

[See sponsorship opportunities >>](#)

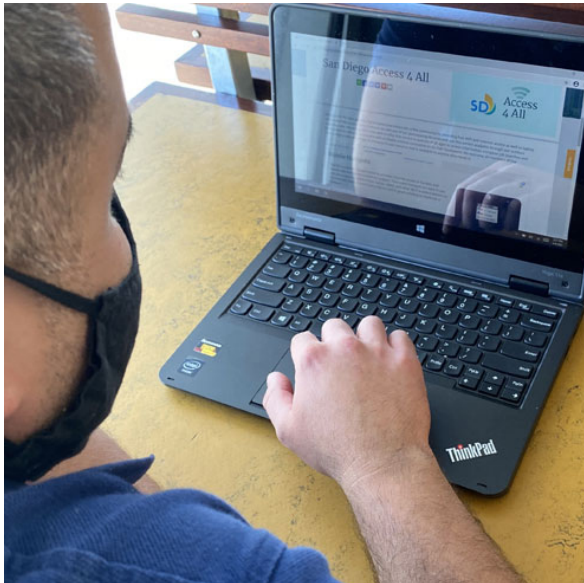
[For event information >>](#)



CITYWIDE TREE PLANTING PROGRAM UPDATE:

With support through the SDG&E Environmental Champions Initiative, SDPF planted its 150th tree this fall. With additional plantings occurring this month, will ensure nearly 200 trees are planted by the end of the year.

[For more information >>](#)



FREE WI-FI EXPANSION CONTINUES:

In collaboration with Lokket Free Wi-Fi San Diego, we continue to expand digital access across the City making free public Wi-Fi available at every recreation center.

[For more information >>](#)

COME PLAY OUTSIDE – THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Thanks to a collaboration with City of San Diego Performance and Analytics Department, we were able to track program participation and results from our summer programs. More than 16,000 youth and families were served!

[For more information >>](#)



ADVANCING POLICY SOLUTIONS:

Chair, Michel Anderson, joined CEO of the San Diego Public Library Foundation and other members of the community to advance a ballot initiative that will create a dedicated, public revenue source for parks and libraries.

[For more information >>](#)

SDPF PARKS *Superstar!*



MEET THE COME PLAY OUTSIDE TEAM!

The San Diego Parks Foundation set an ambitious goal of reaching 16,638 San Diegans for Come Play Outside 2021. In partnership with the City of San Diego Performance and Analytics Department, we analyzed registration and survey data, and are pleased to report we exceeded our goal, and served 16,680 attendees! Additionally, more than 90% of care givers were extremely satisfied with the quality of programs. To recognize the hard work of the City staff in collaborating with the Parks Foundation to implement programming this summer, we held a recognition ceremony honoring their contribution.

Join us in Congratulating the Following Recreation Teams!

Most Attended Teen Nite – Robert Egger Sr. South Bay Recreation Center

The Robert Egger Sr. – South Bay Recreation Center team was recognized for expanding attendance at teen nite from just over 50 a night to more than 100. In total they served more than 700 teens!

Rookie of the Year – Montgomery Waller

Montgomery Waller Teen Nite Team was recognized for hosting teen nite for the first time and exceeding enrollment expectations.

Best Overall Aquatics Pool Team – Martin Luther King Junior Pool

Martin Luther King Jr. Pool and Recreation Center was recognized for

conducting personal outreach by walking door to door to recruit youth.

Super Team of 2021 – Nature Camp

We want to congratulate Michael Boardson, Jordan Raby, and Isa Partida for their work leading Nature Camp. Pulling a new program together at the last minute and executing it flawlessly should not be understated. The team traveled to 16 centers sometimes two sessions a day!

Fun Team Award – Linda Vista Recreation

It shouldn't be just about measured results all the time, right? It's also about creativity, enthusiasm, and fun! The Linda Vista team provided flexible programs using all park assets like skateboard lessons, tennis camp, and theater camp, and held extra activities during movie nights and events and events.

Celebrating the success of the Come Play Outside program. More than 16,000 youth and families were served.

Congratulations to all!



Congratulations to the Ira Patron, Area Manager, for leading the “Most Fun” team. He even got into the dunk tank to raise money for park programs!



SDPF IN THE *News!*

Mayor Todd Gloria, Community Members Open J Street Mini Park: *“Every San Diegan deserves access to a quality park,” said Katherine Johnston, executive director of the San Diego Parks Foundation. “For decades, the city neglected to invest in the public spaces that build safe and thriving communities. “The San Diego Parks Foundation would like to thank the community and Mayor Todd Gloria for fighting to improve our neighborhood and community parks to ensure every San Diegan can receive the health and community benefits from these important community projects,” Johnston said.*

[Times of San Diego Article here](#)

New Ballot Initiative to Improve San Diego Libraries, Parks: *"The effort to put the "Libraries and Parks For All" community initiative on the November 2022 ballot is being spearheaded by the San Diego Public Library Foundation and the San Diego Parks Foundation. "There is an urgent need to ensure adequate and ongoing funding for parks and libraries," said Michel Anderson, chair of the parks foundation. "The community is united behind this ballot measure because these public spaces belong to the public, they belong to you and me, and the public deserves better. "Many of our parks are wonderful, but there are so many others that are falling into disrepair," he added. [See ABC 10](#)*

[News Story](#)

City Parks and Rec Vacancies Throttle Reopening Efforts: *Johnston said the park’s recent staffing challenges – along with a recent analysis that recommended nearly \$213 million in various fixes and upgrades in city parks – underscore the challenges facing the city’s park system.*

[See Voice of San Diego Article](#)

RECENT *Happenings*



Chair Michel Anderson, City Council President Sean Elo-Rivera, and Mayor Todd Gloria celebrating the grand opening of Park de La Cruz in City Heights, the new center for Age Well and Recreation Therapeutic Services.



SDPF Vice Chair Vicki Granowitz celebrating the grand opening of the J Street Mini Park with with community leader Claudia Dunaway, Chairperson for Stockton Recreation Center Advisory Group, and Kim Mathis, District Manager, Parks and Recreation.



Thank you to our partners the San Diego Padres for helping us show our appreciation to hard working staff of Parks & Recreation employees such as Albert Sais, who with his team has helped us plant nearly 200 trees!



We were thankful for the opportunity to support Councilmember Vivian Moreno and the community of Stockton at the J Street Minipark Community Celebration by providing nourishing Thanksgiving meals for nearly fifty families.

NEW GRANTS *Thank You!*

- Children's First Collective at Jewish Family Services | \$5,000
- COX Communications | \$1,600
- Rancho Bernardo Community Foundation | \$1,000
- REI | \$1,200
- Samuel I & John Henry Fox Foundation at Union Bank | \$3,500
- Superpedestrian | \$5,000

Thank you to our Undertow Charity Golf Classic Sponsors!

- Presenting Sponsor: Energy Impact Partners
- Reception Sponsor: Tovi Health
- Hospitality Sponsor: The Lodge at Torrey Pines
- Golf Cart Sponsor: Greenfields Outdoor Fitness
- Beverage Cart Sponsors: Presidio PAG, Inc & Intessa Communications
- Contest Sponsors: San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance & Lokket

NEW DONORS *Thank You!*

Thank you to the following new supporters for their enthusiasm and confidence in our work:

Laurie Burgett
Dolores A Donovan
Benjamin Gandomani
Barbara Gamer*
Robert Hemphill*
Scott Lewis
Candance Wo*

*Founding Circle Members



Call For

VOLUNTEERS!

SKILLED IN PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY OR WEBSITE DESIGN?

We are looking for volunteers with professional experience in photography, videography, and website design to help us tell engaging stories and narratives.

KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT GIS MAPPING?

We are looking for a volunteer with professional expertise or who is tech savvy and willing to learn GIS Mapping to support our urban greening initiatives.

To learn more, email info@sandiegoparksfoundation.org

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!



Thank you to the [Retired Employees Association](#) for your volunteer support with the upcoming 4th Annual Undertow Charity Golf Classic!



Please support our projects and help San Diego's communities - thank you!

[CLICK TO DONATE](#)

For any questions, please email: info@sandiegoparksfoundation.org

EQUITY PROMISE

The San Diego Parks Foundation's mission is to provide a world-class inclusive park system that strengthens communities and provides equitable access to recreation for *all San Diegans*. Please see our [Equity Promise](#).

San Diego Parks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization #83-2553368



SUPPORT SDPF SIMPLY BY SHOPPING ON AMAZON!

Just go to smile.amazon.com, and choose San Diego Parks Foundation as your charity. Most importantly, when you shop, be sure to go to smile.amazon.com, rather than directly to the main Amazon website. For every eligible purchase, AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to SDPF! [Click here](#) to read more!



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